

Courtesy photos by Kathy Kentta

Tre Jackson: "I learned a lot about my culture and the past and I am thankful I was able to go."



Yampah seeds



Courtesy photo by Jeanine Moy

Front row: Kathy Kentta, Agnes Pilgrim and Nadine Martin

Middle row: Brandon Larrabee, Felisha Howell, Nevaeh Jackson, and Maranda Garrett

Back row: Corey Strong, Jacob Reid, Luke Garrett, Tre Jackson, Jon Duarte, Sharla Strong, Matt Garrett, Apolinar Howell, Shadow Jackson and Joshley Howell



Joshley Howell: "Our people are strong and so are we."

Grandma Aggie is one of the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers and travels the world promoting environmental causes. As a gift, the youth dug Yampah roots to give to Grandma Aggie and Nadine and gave them necklaces.

The group received a visit from Rogue Climate representatives and learned about local community organizing efforts to stop a potential LNG pipeline project. The Siletz Tribal Council passed a resolution in March in opposition to the proposed 229-mile liquefied natural gas pipeline and the Jordan Cove LNG export facility in Coos Bay, Ore.

Hannah Sohl, director of Rogue Climate, and Isabella Tibbetts, No Pipeline Fellow of Rogue Climate and Honor the Earth, did a presentation on the long fight to stop the Jordan Cove LNG pipeline and terminal. The youth assisted with writing statements to be submitted in support of protecting ancestral waters.

Many traditional Tribal territories, cultural resources and burial grounds are threatened by the pipeline. The Siletz, Klamath, Karuk and Yurok Tribes

have all come out in strong opposition to the pipeline.

The youth also collected seed near Lower Table Rock, located north of Medford, Ore. Much of the land around Table Rock has been managed as agricultural property and some wild plants are being protected through conservation on slopes.

The youth group joined Molly Morrison with The Nature Conservancy and a few local volunteers to collect seed that will be processed, saved and stored through the Siletz Tribes' participation in the Rogue Native Plant Partnership. This partnership is successfully rescuing native plants in the region from disappearing from the landscape.

Our purpose in visiting the site was to salvage seeds for relocation to another local site due to upcoming construction of a power substation by Pacific Power on that property. The youth joined volunteers from the Rogue Native Plant Partnership to collect seed that will be saved for future planting at another site protected from construction.

Lower Table Rock is the location of one of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz's

treaty signings in 1853. Felisha Howell shared that, "Being able to come home and experience the beautiful land our people once lived on was an unforgettable moment. We finally got to come home, something our ancestors never had the chance to do."

The dry climate of our Southern Oregon ancestral homelands is dramatically different from the cold and foggy Oregon Coast climate. When our ancestors were removed to the Siletz Reservation, they could no longer access some foods because they did not naturally occur within the reservation boundary, such as yampah root. It is only in recent times that our Tribal families have been able to return to our homelands and reunite with these foods.

When asked why educational trips like this are important, Shadow Jackson said, "Because if the youth don't learn now everyone will forget and won't be able to learn."

In our Nee-dash ceremony, our families pray for our traditional foods and it fills my heart to see our youth finally able to know these foods and nourish their

bodies like our ancestors. Apolinar Howell shared that, "It was an experience that transcends just our physical senses. It was healing on a spiritual level. I felt like our ancestors were watching over us."

Our ancestors ate these foods for thousands of years and were incredibly healthy. It gives me hope that someday we will be able to protect gathering places so more of our Tribal people and families will have access to these foods.

The Healthy Traditions Youth Leadership Camp was coordinated in conjunction with the Native STAND Youth Group. Native STAND (Students Together Against Negative Decisions) is a prevention curriculum that has been hosted by the Siletz Community Health Clinic for nearly a year and will finish in October.

Native STAND is coordinated by the Siletz Prevention, Tobacco Prevention, Youth Development, Community Health and CARE programs. We would like to thank the youth and staff who supported the mission of Healthy Traditions to restore our traditional foods culture.