



And The Development Goes On
by Kim Logan

Yes, we have yet another situation needing grave attention by all, especially those unwilling to let the continual scramble for money swallow up and digest the sliver of culture and original biosphere remaining

The situation is this: Native Americans (Klickitat/Cascade tribe) fighting for recognition of their treaty rights and Freedom of Religion are occupying Lyle Point on the Columbia River Gorge. Since September 27, 1993 they have been nurturing a sacred fire and peacefully protecting this usual and accustomed fishing site from the ongoing development of 33 half million dollar homes by the Columbia Gorge Investors Limited Partnership.

The completion of this development would deny access to fishing platforms (some of which were knocked down by beginning stages of development) and halt traditional activities such as the erection of lodges for shelter, sweats and the curing of fish. All of these rights were given to them first by Mother Earth and second by Treaty. Treaty rights have already been broken, along with incorrect geological surveys and potential onsite toxic waste. Lyle Point is a roosting site of the bald and golden eagle, and identified with two layers of Indian burial sites, both of which would be severely impacted with the development of this land.

Developers have made access to the fishing scaffolds nearly impossible due to installation of a gate, roads, fences and utilities. The encampment has been threatened with eviction and told by developers that they are trespassing. A representative of the developers questioned why his development would have to be held up, "just because of the Indians."

These are the kind of people we are dealing with, folks.

The Support Group for Nanainmi Waki 'Uuktt (Lyle Point) is asking for support in the way of food, wood, office supplies, a fax machine, and your physical presence around the sacred fire.

For more information contact: The Oregon Coast Support Group (503) 436-2420 Margaret Palmer (509) 365-2287 Rob Bailey (206) 633-6027 Greenpeace, Seattle. And by all means, write to Governor Lowry and Senators Patty Murray and Slade Gordon.

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