

(Editor's Note: this is the second half of a letter submitted by Melvin Green, printed in two sections due to excessive length. The first part of this letter was printed in the March Newsletter)

It's sad when I read or hear things like this. I see a lot of that here from the prison administration. They don't like us skins being spiritual or hanging on to our old ways. I guess we should be asking these apples to come work for the administration to help kill off the Red Nation and destroy the Red Road.

Now I haven't come to prison and switched up to claim that I'm some Joe Medicine Man. I'll leave that up to the apples who do claim to be some Hollywood Shaman.

I'm still young. I was 17 years old when I fell and am now 19 and I do have a long way to go walking the Red Road. But, at least I can say that for myself, that I am walking the Red Road. I may not know too much specifically about the Siletz Indian's culture but I do know how to treat a feather, how to pray and behave in a sweatlodge, and how to smoke during the pipe ceremony, and most important of all, I know how to respect our peoples resting grounds.

I just wish our Council would make it mandatory for people to smudge themselves down or at the very least no one at all should go up there with bad feelings toward anyone, and if they do, I just pray that they remember that, that can come back on you. Everything that happens in life evolves in a circle. I'll keep on praying for the Red Nation while I remain walking the Red Road strong and proud! Aho!

Melvin Green

Dear Title U,
I liked the Drug and Alcohol Prevention class you guys gave, because I learned more about drugs and how not to use them. I learned more about the culture I am in.

Sincerely,
Josh Morrow

Title V,

Thank you for putting on the Drug and Alcohol Conference. It really helped myself to understand drugs and alcohol and it also helped me to understand my culture. I also wanted to say thank you for the lunch.

Thank you
Stephanie

SILETZ NEWS DEADLINE
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mail articles and photos to:
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C.T.S.I. Area Offices
Exercise Challenge
March thru May 1994

Great Prizes awarded in each area for the most minutes of continuous exercise. Record only those sessions of 15 minutes or more of continuous exercise. Turn in your calendars at the end of each month to Amy at the Clinic.

Elder Wisdom

Submitted by: Walt Klamath

Brothers, here is one thing you yourselves are to blame very much in; that is you rot your grain in tubs, out of which you take and make strong spirits.

You sell it to our young men and give (to) them, many times; they get very drunk with it (and) this is the very cause that they oftentimes commit those crimes that is offensive to you and us and all through the effect of that drink. It is also bad for our people, for it rots their guts and causes our men to get very sick and many of our people has lately died by the effects of that strong drink, and I heartily wish you would do something to prevent your people from daring to sell or give them any of that strong drink, upon any consideration whatever, for that will be a great means of being free from being accused of those crimes that is committed by our young men and will prevent many of the abuses that is done by them through the effects of that strong drink.

Hagar-or-Aratswa (Catawba) Principal Leader of the Catawba who spoke to the authorities of what is now North Carolina on August 29, 1754--More then 239 years ago.



Welcoming Home Ceremony Planned

Tribal Elder Agnes Pilgrim had a vision of the people returning to the land. Agnes is a Rogue River Indian of the Takelma band, recognized member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon and member of the Sacred Lands Committee. Many of our Tribal members are descendents of the old ones who were forced from their homelands in Southern Oregon over 150 years ago. Believing that a healing can begin as we once again become in touch with the land of our ancestors, Agnes began a one-woman crusade to enable our people to access ancient ancestral lands for cultural purposes. She got the ball rolling and waded through the government bureaucracy with a determination for which Agnes is well known.

All the hard work and determination paid off with the result being that Agnes is in the process (with the concurrence of Tribal Council and Sacred Lands Committee) of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Forest Service in regard to approximately 17,000 acres along the Applegate River. The agreement will allow the Tribe to implement traditional Native American forest management practices and begin research on indigenous plants and animals. The "cool burn" explained in the following excerpts allows for cultural plants to flourish and provides vegetation in more abundance for wildlife.

An excerpt from the MOU reads: "Indian culture, like the larger society, is in need of generational healing. As Native elders in possession of traditional knowledge continue to pass from this earth, and as young Indians continue to leave Indian communities for the bright lights of America's cities, (as is also happening all over rural America), the culturally critical link between elders and youth is now stretched to the breaking point. A healing needs to take place for traditional culture to be passed from the old to the young. Cultural diversity is at stake as much as biological diversity, for all Americans. TIP offers a place and an opportunity for youth and elders to come together with land as healing common ground. For the original Indian people of the Siskiyou Mountains, it is a culturally important coming back after 150 years of enforced exile, a homecoming which will strengthen cultural ties to ancestral lands, permit traditional caretaking to resume, and provide a rich cultural legacy for unborn generations.

The Takelma Intertribal Project proposes that the Forest Service, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and descendants of the original Takelma and Shasta peoples as well as other interested tribal and community people unite in a partnership effort to restore the historic oak/pine savannah as both a "cultural landscape" restoration project from which a variety of general or non-timber forest products could be generated, and a model of ecosystem management which could serve as a kind of control or check on other ecosystem management strategies in the Applegate AMA. TIP would be involved with the Forest Service in on-going inventories, research, monitoring, and evaluations of the response of wildlife populations and plant communities to oak/pine savannah fire management."

On May 14 the "Welcoming Home Ceremony" a one day celebration will be held to celebrate a return to tribal homelands and the opportunity to access ancient sites for cultural purposes. A pot luck is planned and more information will be made available in the next Newsletter including a map to the site on the Applegate River. For further details, contact Bev Youngman at 444-1030 or Agnes Pilgrim at (707) 464-4557.