

Biden nominates Oregon tribal leader for park service director

By GARY WARNER and ANTONIO SIERRA
Oregon Capital Bureau and East Oregonian

President Joe Biden nominated Chuck Sams, a long-time tribal leader from Oregon, as director of the National Park Service.

Sams, 50, a former administrator of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, is the president's choice to run the service, which oversees a system that attracts 318 million visitors each year.

If approved by the U.S. Senate, Sams would be the first Native American to serve as director of the National Park Service. He is an enrolled member of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes, which are part of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in northeastern Oregon. He and his wife, Lori Sams, and their four children live there.

Sams would be the park service's first full-time director since the Obama administration. Former President Donald Trump nominated a candidate, but he was never confirmed by the Senate, and the agency has been overseen by a series of acting directors for the past four years.

The National Park Service, established in 1916, includes 63 National Parks, such as Crater Lake, Yosemite, Yellowstone and Grand Canyon.

In all, the park service administers 85 million acres at 423 sites in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

The park service has over 12,000 employees. Biden's proposed budget calls for \$3.5 billion for the National Park Service.

Sams will report to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a former New Mexico con-



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

President Joe Biden has nominated Chuck Sams to be director of the National Park Service.

gresswoman and the first Native American to hold the position.

Gov. Kate Brown praised the selection, saying Sams would be an excellent steward of the gems of America's natural beauty.

"Today is a proud day for Oregon. Chuck Sams is among Oregon's finest, and I can't think of a better person for the important role of National Park Service director," Brown said. "I have worked closely with Chuck for many years, and have witnessed firsthand his unparalleled devotion and service to his tribe, our state, and our nation."

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, had also endorsed Sams and said he was happy that Biden would submit Sams' nomination.

"I called my friend Chuck Sams today to congratulate him for earning this historic nomination for tribal communities," Wyden said. "I very much look forward to working with him in his new role to help the National Park Service here in Oregon and throughout our country."

The Trust for Public Land, a conservation group, said Sams would be a good steward of the nation's prime properties.

"Chuck Sams is a visionary conservation leader with a deep demonstrated commitment to natural and cultural resources and the communities that depend on them," said Diane Regas, the group's CEO. "His positive focus on land restoration, species protection, youth programs, and access — give him a uniquely valuable perspective on America's irreplaceable public lands."

Sams was chosen earlier this year by Brown as one of Oregon's two representatives to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. He previously held positions with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, including executive and deputy executive director, communications director and environmental health and safety officer and planner. He's a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Sams holds a bachelor's degree in business adminis-

tration from Concordia University and a master of legal studies in Indigenous peoples law from the University of Oklahoma. He's taught at Georgetown University and Whitman College. He sits on the boards of the Oregon Cultural Trust and environmentally-oriented Gray Family Foundation.

Sams climbed the ladder in tribal government after returning home in 2012, culminating in a second stint as interim executive director in late 2020. Despite the opportunity, Sams told the board he did not want to be considered as the permanent person in the position.

Sams said he was already starting to think about other opportunities outside tribal government prior to his appointment to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Sams is the only enrolled tribal member on the power council and only the second Native American in the council's 30-year-history.

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, an Oregon Democrat, also endorsed Sams' nomination. Biden had not yet taken office in January when Brown wrote him suggesting Sams for the National Park Service position.

"During your administration, I envision students — both young and old, tribal and nontribal alike — visiting Yellowstone, Arches, Mesa Verde or Oregon's Crater Lake, and hearing the stories of our past and present, including the important stories of the tribal peoples who have inhabited these special places," the governor wrote to the president. "Chuck is a consummate storyteller, and has the skillset and passion to inspire the dedicated staff of the NPS to tell those stories, and to find new and innovative ways to make our parks accessible to all Americans, while conserving and preserving those lands."

OBITUARIES

Donna Cooper-Searle

Dallas, Oregon

Nov. 24, 1944 — Aug. 5, 2021

It is with great sorrow that we inform the community of the passing of Donna Cooper-Searle, who passed away on Aug. 5, 2021, at the age of 76.

Donna was born on Nov. 24, 1944, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Kenneth and Kay Cooper. The family then moved to California, where she received her education, and she graduated from Lakewood High School.

After graduation, Donna made a name for herself as a secretary, leaving a lasting impact on various companies and several churches. She moved to Seaside in the early 1970s, and lived there for many years before marrying Bob Searle in 2011.

Despite already having several children from previous marriages, Donna embraced Bob's family like it was her own, and the two families united.

Donna is succeeded by her husband, Bob Searle; four children, two daughters, Ann (Doug)

Westerlund and Pam Edwards, and two sons, Chuck Smith, and Daniel

(Cheryl) Smith. Donna is also succeeded by 11 grandchildren, Ryan and Alex (Dana) Fritsch, Michelle West-erlund, Rylie Edwards, Sammi Smith, Eli Smith, Abigail Smith, Rachel Smith, Jonah Smith, Joshua Smith and Taylor Smith.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth and Kay Cooper, and her older brother, Ken Cooper.

Donna Cooper-Searle's memorial service will be held on Aug. 28 at 1 p.m. at the Lighthouse Christian Church, 88786 Dellmoor Loop Road, in Warrenton. The officiating pastor will be Dennis Sawyer, and the reception will take place in the church, immediately following the service.

The graveside service will be held on Aug. 28 at Ocean View Cemetery at 4 p.m. The family welcomes all people who wish to pay their respects to Donna's memory.



Donna Cooper-Searle

OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
68 55	66 52	67 51	68 52	69 54	68 54	68 55
Clouds breaking	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Variable cloudiness



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low 62/57
Normal high/low 69/54
Record high 98 in 2016
Record low 39 in 1973

Precipitation

Thursday 0.04"
Month to date 0.38"
Normal month to date 0.56"
Year to date 37.87"
Normal year to date 38.56"

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Waxing gibbous moon and Saturn are just 3.4 degrees apart. A must see!

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 6:22 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:14 p.m.
Moonrise today 8:26 p.m.
Moonset today 5:00 a.m.



TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
12:23 a.m.	8.4	7:35 a.m.	-1.4	
1:50 p.m.	7.0	7:28 p.m.	1.8	
Cape Disappointment				
1:33 p.m.	6.9	6:43 a.m.	-1.5	
	none	6:37 p.m.	2.2	
Hammond				
12:13 a.m.	8.7	7:01 a.m.	-1.8	
1:43 p.m.	7.2	7:01 p.m.	1.8	
Warrenton				
12:18 a.m.	8.8	7:19 a.m.	-1.3	
1:45 p.m.	7.4	7:12 p.m.	1.9	
Knappa				
1:00 a.m.	8.6	8:36 a.m.	-1.2	
2:27 p.m.	7.3	8:29 p.m.	1.5	
Depoe Bay				
12:46 p.m.	7.2	6:12 a.m.	-1.6	
	none	6:08 p.m.	2.3	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
Atlanta	85/72/t	88/73/t
Boston	84/69/pc	75/68/r
Chicago	86/68/t	84/65/s
Dallas	95/77/s	96/76/s
Denver	85/61/pc	93/59/s
Honolulu	88/76/pc	88/76/r
Houston	96/76/s	97/75/s
Los Angeles	100/79/s	104/80/s
Miami	91/81/pc	91/82/t
New York City	82/72/t	82/73/sh
Phoenix	100/79/s	104/80/s
San Francisco	69/57/pc	69/55/s
Wash., DC	85/73/t	89/73/c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorm, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
Seattle	70/55	71/53	Wenatchee	73/57	74/57
Tacoma	71/53	70/56	Moses Lake	76/53	74/57
Olympia	71/54	70/56	Yakima	76/52	74/57
Longview	70/56	79/58	Kennewick	79/58	74/57
Astoria	68/55	79/59	Walla Walla	73/57	74/57
Portland	75/59	79/60	Lewiston	74/57	74/57
Salem	77/55	79/60	Pendleton	62/45	74/55
Albany	76/53	79/60	La Grande	70/50	74/55
Corvallis	75/52	79/60	John Day	74/47	79/52
Eugene	77/52	79/60	Burns	75/38	79/52
Bend	72/44	79/60	Ontario	79/52	79/52
Medford	81/53	79/60	Caldwell	76/52	76/52
Klamath Falls	76/39	79/60			

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