

ATNI conference held



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Miller

Over 100 leaders representing most tribes from throughout the northwest gathered at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Portland for the mid-year Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians meeting held January 11-13.

The conferees discussed many issues including natural resources, fish and wildlife,

environment and water, human economic development with Indian education, health and the high unemployment rate among Indians throughout the Northwest.

Celebrated at the meeting was the restoration of the Grand Ronde tribe at banquet. Guest speaker was David Matheson, Coeur d'Alene tribal chairman. Master of

ceremonies was Nathan Jim of Warm Springs who also serves as ATNI sergeant at arms.

The high turnout will hopefully help get the "issues across" on a national level with better results.

Officers of ATNI are: President, Delbert Frank, Sr.; First vice-president, Henry Sijohn; second vice-president, Al Hewankorn and third vice-president, Art Bensell.

Projects to create jobs

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with the understanding that management define the Project Identification spending, the number of people affected and the effect the project would have on reservation resources.

Department heads have found no difficulty in submitting suggestions for projects that would enhance resources. In many cases they have been waiting for the opportunity to utilize manpower for these various projects.

Some of the project ideas include: huckleberry management, body and fender work, audio-visual training, food catering, prescription burns, Kah-Nee-Ta trail system, communications technology and banking services.

Other project ideas include: water development, assembly plant expansion, archeological trainees, livestock skill development, home based crafts, stream enhancement, soil conservation, crayfish enterprise greenhouse, rafting service and many more.

Tribal Council has already approved the organization of a 20-man hotshot fire fighting team and a six-man forestry intern program.

Funding for this job opportunity program has a variety of sources to total \$700,000. Much of the \$100,000 appropriated by Tribal Council for range use will be used for manpower as

well as \$100,000 for enterprise development geared toward skill development.

Both stream enhancement and employment opportunities are available with \$163,000 from Bonneville Power Administration.

Some of the \$200,000 from uncommitted 10 percent money can be justifiably used for positions. This must, first, be approved by Tribal Council, adds Sanders.

The total funding will be reached with additional matching monies applied for through the Tribe and from youth services money used in the summer work program.

Project identification does not offer permanent employment. It is a skills development program only.

"The projects that utilize this manpower will fit in the tribal structure," emphasizes Sanders. Youth and adults working in the project will be assigned to tasks for the "overall good" of the reservation.

Criteria for applicants is in the stage of development. The primary focus for job placement is centered on people between the ages of 18 and 35. Single parent households and especially women who are in need of training are particularly affected.

Project Identification is slated to begin in March 1984

Additional input sought for range plan

The pending range management plan being developed by the Tribes is designed to enhance and increase the productivity of reservation rangelands and income and employment for tribal members. With improvement of range practices, the economic return is estimated to be as high as five to six times its present level.

To best determine tribal needs, a survey was conducted which was completed in September. Also, at various district meetings held throughout 1983, input was

gathered to determine further range needs on the reservation.

Attendance of these meetings was low, thus input, through good, was limited. The Agriculture, Range and Irrigation committee is currently seeking more input so that the views of all tribal member livestock owners, farmers and ranchers are well-represented in the plan.

The following issues were identified from comments by those tribal members who attended the district meetings during 1983. The issues were discussed at the last of the

district meetings held in December. The issues and recommendations were drawn from public comments, the tribal constitution, applicable ordinances and BIA regulations. The recommendations are tentative and are by no means final.

Issue: Should authorization be required for all livestock on reservation range areas?

Recommendation: To assure that both tribal and allotted range resources are protected, all stock grazed on reservation range areas should be covered by grazing authorizations issued jointly by the Tribal Council and the Superintendent.

Issue: To whom should grazing authorizations be issued?

Recommendation: Grazing authorizations should be issued to the grazing group approved by the Tribal Council for each range area, with the group determining membership, participating in the development of grazing plans and making other group decisions.

Issue: How should grazing groups be organized?

Recommendation: Livestock owners on each range area should form an organization of the type they want for approval by the Tribal Council and to receive the grazing authorization for their range area.

Issue: What should the Tribal Council require from grazing groups for approval of their organizations?

Recommendation: Each grazing group should prepare in writing their operating plans and procedures for review and approval by the

Tribal Council. Assistance in organizing should be provided to grazing groups if they request it.

Issue: Should the Tribal Council specify minimum requirements for membership in grazing groups?

Recommendation: The Tribal Council should specify the following requirements for membership in grazing groups, with the exception that age and tribal enrollment requirements will not apply to 4-H members using the 4-H range area.

1. Only enrolled members 18 years of age or older would be eligible for membership in grazing groups.
2. All livestock must be owned by a tribal member and registered under their brand.
3. Have shown that they can take care of their stock or have someone who will do it for them.
4. Agree to follow the rules of the grazing group.
5. Have had stock on that area in the past.
6. Have not owned stock but would like to graze on the area.

Issue: Should a grazing fee be charged?

Recommendation: The Tribal Council should continue the policy in Ordinance 48 of waiving grazing fees on tribal lands and appropriating funds to pay fees on allotted lands covered by grazing authorizations, both for an initial five-year period

under the new plan, with a review of the policy at the end of that period.

Issue: How will horses be managed under a range management plan?

Recommendation: The annual grazing plans developed for each range area by the grazing group and Tribal/BIA staff should state the seasons of use and other operating plans for both horses and cattle and should include winter feeding plans for both kinds of stock.

Issue: Who will construct and maintain range improvements?

Recommendation: The following should be considered to be the major source of funds for construction and maintenance of range improvements:

1. BIA or other Federal funding—Major improvements and range area boundary fences. Tribal funding is a secondary source when the project is considered to be essential and no federal funds are available.
2. Tribal funding—Fences for which the tribe is already obligated under agreements or legislation. The tribe would be a secondary source of funding as described above.
3. Grazing group funding—Improvements within a range area and benefiting primarily the users of that area.

Any and all comments are welcome and they can be taken to the OSU Extension office, Tribal Natural Resources department or BIA Land Operations department. All offices are located on the second floor of the old administration building.

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Coyote News

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FOUNDED IN MARCH OF 1976

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Subscription Rate: \$6.00 per year