

Chairman comments on article

By Ron Suppah

Chairman, Warm Springs
Tribal Council

I was disappointed to read the recent article in the Grand Ronde newspaper entitled "Grand Ronde Continues Outreach to Warm Springs." Not only is the article a breach of the confidentiality agreement regarding our recent discussion, it is also factually wrong.

The article starts out with the statement: "The Grand Ronde Tribe has consistently opposed off-reservation gaming." That statement is flatly untrue. The article should have said: "The Grand Ronde has consistently opposed any other tribe becoming involved in off-reservation gaming, except for the Grand Ronde Tribe." That statement would have been true.

Let's look at the record here. In 2003 and 2005, there were several articles in *The Oregonian* describing the Grand Ronde's efforts to build a casino in the Portland area. On March 12, 2003, the following quote appeared in *The Oregonian*: "The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has proposed helping finance a baseball stadium in exchange for permission to build an off-reservation casino in the Portland area."

Later that same year, on December 5, 2003, *The Oregonian* again reported: "For the second time this year, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has proposed building a casino to help pay for a big-ticket Portland construction project that otherwise doesn't pencil out."

On March 10, 2005, *The Oregonian* reported a third Grand Ronde proposal for a casino in Portland, this time at the Portland Meadows racetrack.

As *The Oregonian* noted: "This is not the first time the Grand Ronde has looked at building a casino in Portland. Previously it offered to help finance a major league baseball stadium or a headquarters hotel near the Oregon Convention Center in exchange for operating a casino in the city. Neither idea got off the ground."

These hardly appear to be the actions of a tribe that "has consistently" opposed off-reservation gaming.

It is true that the Grand Ronde proposed to meet with representatives of our tribe and offered to finance the construction of a casino along Highway 26 on the Warm Springs Reservation.

It was agreed by both parties that those discussions would be kept completely confidential until both parties agreed otherwise. Grand Ronde has unilaterally sought to make this a public matter.

Grand Ronde refused to provide our representatives with a copy of their proposal until our tribe provided them with copies of our studies, showing that an on-reservation casino was not economically viable. We did not feel that we were obligated to provide Grand Ronde with copies of our confidential and proprietary studies of gaming on our reservation.

On August 24, 2006, a meeting was held among representatives of the Grand Ronde Tribe and representatives of Warm Springs, including our gaming economist, Bob Whelan, from the economic firm of ECONorthwest in Portland. At that meeting, the Grand Ronde presented their economist's figures on the projected results of a casino constructed on our reservation and financed by the Grand Ronde.

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Plan for fish to get passed Round Butte dam

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

The Round Butte Dam is on its way to some major improvements—but not without a little heavy construction and a long-term plan for restoring fish populations.

The tribes and Portland General Electric are partnering to complete a project that will include a new fish passage facility as part of the Round Butte Dam Selective Water Withdrawal project.

It's a project that has been in the works for approximately 20 years, according to Michael Gauvin, the tribes' fisheries management supervisor.

But the project is actually just be-

ginning, said Jim Manion of the Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprise.

Right now those involved with the project are initiating what was agreed to in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing agreement.

"We have now, with PGE, hired a contractor who will begin work this spring to begin the construction of the facility," Manion said.

"It is hoped during the course of the next three years that construction will be complete and the introduction of salmon above the project will be starting," Manion added.

When the Pelton Round Butte dam was constructed in 1964, fish passage facilities were included.

However, the downstream system failed due in large part to the confu-

sion in downstream currents—something that the new design is expected to fix.

Because of that problem, hatcheries were constructed as a solution. The new project aims to restore fish to their natural habitat and create a long-term plan for their survival.

The fish passage facility will come in the form of a 270-foot-high underwater tower arising from the bottom of the lake behind Round Butte Dam.

A 130-foot-wide disc at the top of the tower will draw in most of the surface water, turning the current and fish back downstream toward the dam, according to information from the PGE website.

Fish will be screened at the intake and trucked downstream of the dams

for release so they can make their way to the Pacific Ocean.

According to Manion, several agencies have been involved in assisting with the design of the tower.

The design addresses two issues, he said.

"The first is a collection facility for allowing the passage of the salmon above the project and getting them back down through the project," Manion explained. "The second is going to be to address the water quality concerns that were identified during the re-licensing process."

Manion said the design of the tower will allow for the project to adjust the water withdrawal patterns out of the Round Butte Reservoir.

See FISH on 8



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Rico Thompson is retiring after 37 years of working as a maintenance mechanic with IHS. He has been at Warm Springs IHS for over 31 years, having transferred here from Chemawa. His wife Ellen attended his retirement party last week at the clinic. At the same time, Roberta Queahpama, administrative officer, is also retiring. She has been with IHS for over 30 years.

Museum to honor leaders

The Museum at Warm Springs Fifth Annual Honor Dinner has named W. Richard West Jr., executive director of the National Museum of the American Indian, as winner of this year's Twanat Award.

The museum named Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum, and the late Warren R. Clements as recipients of the Museum At Warm Springs Lifetime Achievement awards.

Each year the museum presents the Twanat Award to an individual whose efforts on behalf of Native Americans can serve as an example for all Americans.

West is the founding director of National Museum of the American Indian.

"His visionary leadership led to the creation of the National Museum of the American Indian, the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Maryland, and the George Gustav Heye Center in New York City," said Dora Smith, of the Museum at Warm Springs.

The World is a better place because of W. Richard West Jr., and the indigenous people are the beneficiaries of his devotion and his tireless work on cultural, educational, legal and governmental issues, said Smith.

At the end of 2007, West will be leaving the National Museum of the American Indian as its executive director.

Lifetime Achievements

Chief Nelson Wallulatum is the lifelong Chief of the Wasco Tribe. Chief Wallulatum has served as the Wasco Chief and on Tribal Council for over 40 years.

In choosing him for the Lifetime Achievement Award, the museum points out that Chief Wallulatum has time and again made the difference in the battle to protect and retain treaty rights such as fishing and water rights.

He has testified many times before Congress on issues—such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act—significant to all tribes.

Chief Wallulatum is a traditional leader, an elder statesman, an historian, and one of the greatest leaders of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, said Smith.

"This year the other recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award is the late Warren R. "Rudy" Clements.

In choosing Mr. Clements for the award, the museum points out that Clements truly inspired all who had the privilege to know him, adding that "He was a blessing to the people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs."

He championed projects such as the update of the tribe's Comprehensive Plan, the Museum At Warm Springs, Kah-Nee-Ta, the Bridge of the Gods, to name a few.

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Fish Passage Center afloat

A federal appeals court has ordered the government to continue funding an agency that counts young salmon and other fish in the Columbia River Basin and recommends water flows at hydroelectric power stations to protect endangered fish.

The ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals—recognizing salmon and steelhead as "two of the great resources of the Columbia River"—was a victory for Indian nations of the Columbia and other fish advocates.

Fish Passage Center

Since 1982 the Bonneville Power Administration has funded the operation of the Fish Passage Center, based in Portland.

The center provides technical assistance and information to fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes, and the general public on matters related to juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead passage through the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Scientists from the Fish Passage Center monitor 20 dams and fish traps, collect data on Chinook, steelhead,

coho, shad, sockeye, pink salmon and lamprey.

They monitor river conditions, including temperatures, and use the information to make flow and spill requests to the power administration and operators of the dams to improve the survival rates of migrating fish.

Dam spillage

In 2005 U.S. District Judge James Redden of Oregon took control of hydroelectric dam operations along the Columbia and Snake rivers after concluding the Bush administration failed to protect endangered salmon.

Data from the Fish Passage Center figured in Redden's order to spill more water over the dams to help young salmon reach the ocean, rather than running the water through turbines to generate electricity. The spillage cost an estimated \$60 million in lost hydroelectric generation.

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, then inserted a provision in a spending bill directing BPA to find another organization to count fish.

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Members enjoy day at Meadows

Tribal members had a chance to enjoy a day of wintertime fun with a "Tribal Member Ski Day" sponsored by Mt. Hood Meadows.

This year, tribal members also saw some familiar faces because of a new employment program that makes it possible for tribal members to travel between Warm Springs and Mt. Hood Meadows for seasonal employment.

The children, who had the day off for a teacher in-service day for Jefferson County Schools, enjoyed perfect mountain sunshine during the trip on Jan. 26.

In addition to transportation, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort provided lift tickets, equipment, and lessons from professional ski and snowboard instructors, as well as lunch for all participants.

The trip was enjoyable for all tribal

members, according to Wayne Miller Jr., a chaperone for the trip.

He said, "After a full day of snowboarding at Mt. Hood Meadows, we are very happy that the tribal ski day-program is available to Warm Springs Tribal members."

Miller added, "Vista Express ski lift was the highlight of his day. The view from up there was breathtaking, I could even see Warm Springs and Mt. Jefferson from there."

For Miller, the trip includes the added bonus of spending time with his children.

"My sons have come up here each year with the Meadows-Warm Springs Kids Ski program and love it," Miller said. "Being able to be here with them, seeing how happy they are and being part of it means a lot to me."

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Care packages awaiting addresses

Care packages are ready for mailing to tribal members who are serving in the armed services.

In order to send all of the packages, the mailing addresses of all those who are serving are needed, said Charlotte Herkshan, volunteer coordinator of the care package program.

To anyone whose family member is serving, this is a request to please contact the Spilyay with the mailing address

information. Please come by the office at 1100 Wasco St.; or call at 553-3274. Or write to P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761; or send an e-mail to spilyay@wstribes.org.

Also, the Winter Nights Culture Club is making items for those who are serving. The items will be included in the care packages, said Herkshan.

"We have a lot to send. We're just waiting for the addresses," she said.