

Tribal members attend Meadows huckleberry outing

By Greg Leo
for the Spilyay

Anona Francis, age 6, doesn't hesitate when asked what she will do with her huckleberries.

"I like huckleberry pie!" she says.

Anona's great-grandmother, Charlotte Shike, explained to Anona and other young tribal members how important it is for them to understand that this area of Mt. Hood is part of the ceded lands.

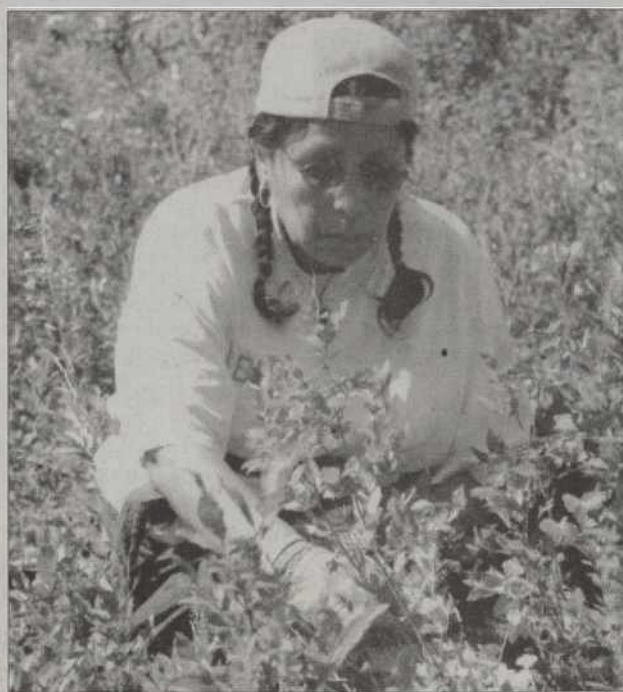
She said the area continues to be an important place for the tribes, because it is still a place to gather First Foods like the wild huckleberries.

Anona and her grandmother were two of 56 tribal members who were guests recently of Mt. Hood Meadows Ski area.

They picked huckleberries and enjoyed a day on the mountain. The fun-filled day included picking berries, a sandwich buffet lunch, and chairlift rides in the afternoon.

This event focused on continued efforts by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area and the Mt. Hood National Forest to improve the traditional tribal huckleberry fields on Mt. Hood.

The ski area posted signs around 30 acres of the best



Irma Wahnetah picks berries at Mt. Hood Meadows.

potential huckleberry lands, asking the public to honor the rights of the Warm Springs Tribes and not pick the berries in this part of the Mt. Hood, a traditional Warm Springs picking area.

The ski area sent a bus to Warm Springs and transported the tribal members to the Hood River Meadows area, where tribal members did the majority of their picking.

The event was well attended by tribal Elders, who appreciated the opportunity to pick, enjoy lunch and the views at the top of the chairlift ride.

Good huckleberry habitat is the same as good ski slope habitat, so cooperation between the tribal pickers and the ski area is a natural. The sun-loving berries need to have other competing foliage cut back or burned,

the same as the ski area need to make the slopes smooth for winter sports.

At the gathering, Louie Pitt, director of tribal Government Affairs, commented on the importance of the Mt. Hood area to the tribes' heritage.

"This is part of the 10 million acres of land that was ceded to the U.S. government in the Treaty of 1855," Pitt said.

"We need to remember that we still have rights to gather First Foods here, to remind our children of their heritage and to help remember the traditional ways."

He thanked the staff at Meadows for sponsoring huckleberry picking in the summer and introducing many tribal members to their first ski and snowboarding experiences during the past three ski seasons.

"Some of the tribal kids have really taken to the

snowboarding," he said. "It motivates some of the young tribal members to seek employment doing an activity that they really have a passion for. It also offers a great opportunity for employment of seasonal Kah-Nee-Ta employees."

Mount Hood Meadows Chairman and CEO Matthew Drake greeted the tribal members, who enjoyed a buffet lunch provided by Mt. Hood Meadows.

Huckleberries like warm sunny areas between 4,000 feet and 5,000 feet in elevation, with reduced competition from other foliage on the forest floor. In times past, fires would clean the forest floor, but current forest management practices discourages burning causing prime huckleberry areas to become overgrown, discouraging the growth of berries.

The first of the designated

areas visited, near the Hood River Meadows wetland — the largest wetland area on Mt. Hood, disappointed tribal pickers with the relatively small number of berries. Controlled burning of the brush in the fall, just before the winter snows would dramatically improve the huckleberry habitat in this area.

Tribal members attending the event on Wednesday, Aug. 22, said they appreciated Mount Hood Meadows for the efforts to protect these traditional tribal picking areas and hosting this annual event.

Tribal members needing more information concerning Huckleberry picking on Mt. Hood should contact Julie Quaid, who played a key role in organizing the event; or Louis Pitt, Jr. at Government Affairs and Planning.



Huckleberry pickers use the Mt. Hood Meadows ski lift to gain access to the higher altitude berry bushes.

Accents West



Awnings — Decks

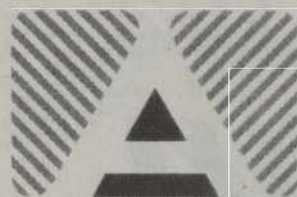
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On August 22, the first day of the Annual Ceded Lands tour, the Tribal Council and members of Tribal Government Committees on the Annual Ceded Lands Tour enjoyed an evening with Community Leaders from Cascade Locks. About 65 people, equally divided between both communities shared a meal, had the opportunity to socialize and discussed issues of common interest at the Cascade Locks Marine Park.

Cascade Locks Mayor Roger Freeborn greeted the Warm Springs leaders to the event and shared the occasion with Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah. The leaders from both communities then has the opportunity to hear about current Cascade Locks projects concerning the development of a sailing school and the possibility to creating, with the tribes additional

marina space in Government Cove, an inlet adjacent to the proposed casino sit and Government island, which is owned by the Tribes.

This presentation was followed by a presentation about Cascade Locks Community efforts to bring eight man football back to Cascade Locks. During the last year community efforts have resulted in raising over \$12,000 to bring back the football program to Cascade Locks High school after a five year absence.

The successful event which attracted 65 people was part of the continuing development of a strong relationship between the two communities. The Ceded Lands Tour visited the casino site in Cascade Locks and Hood River before leaving for Gorge for other points of interest within the Ceded Lands.

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