



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

February 26, 2009 Vol. 34, No. 5

P.O. Box 870
Warm Springs, OR 97761

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1230 SW PARK AVE.
PORTLAND, OR 97205

ECR WSS
Postal Patron

U.S. Postage
PRSR STD
Warm Springs, OR 97761

50 cents



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The Simnasho community this month hosted the Thirty-Second Lincoln's Birthday Powwow. Attendance at the powwow this year was good. "We had a full house," said Mackie Begay, who was master of ceremonies. The number of drum groups was down some from previous years, he said, probably because of a number of factors including the weather. Still, guests from Detroit, Mich., and some from Manitoba, Canada, made it to the powwow. Pictured above is dancer Ardell Scaplock from the Blood Tribe, Alberta Canada; and at right, Grand Entry on Saturday afternoon.



Tribes support protection of Metolius basin

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal officials are in support of a proposed state law that would declare the Metolius River basin an Area of Critical State Concern.

The designation, which has the support of Gov. Kulongoski and some state lawmakers, would prohibit large-scale development projects, such as destination resorts in the basin.

The proposed law could affect two development proposals, one in the Metolius basin and one on the border of the basin.

One development proposal, on 627 acres, calls for 450 new homes. The other, on 10,000 acres, could involve 1,500 new homes.

The tribes are concerned that housing and related development in and adjacent to the basin could impact wildlife, fisheries, water and cultural resources.

A hearing on this issue, before the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), is scheduled for 5 p.m. this afternoon, Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

The tribes are encouraging LCDC to recommend to the state legislature to apply the very rarely used designation Area of Critical State Concern to the Metolius basin.

Tribal concerns

At previous hearings, Bobby Brunoe, manager of the tribal Natural Resources Branch, and Jody Calica, tribal secretary-treasurer, testified in favor of the protective designation.

They explained that deer and elk populations from the reservation migrate in the winter off the reservation to the Metolius basin area. The tribes, they said, are concerned about building large housing developments in the middle of the winter range area.

Another serious concern is fisheries. The tribes and Portland General Electric are investing over \$108 million in fish restoration above the Pelton-Round Butte dams, including in the Metolius River.

Also, housing development would require the use of water in the basin, whether ground or surface water.

How this would affect the in-stream flow of the Metolius and its tributaries is not clear, said tribal attorney Ellen Grover.

"We don't know for sure whether there would be a significant impact," she said, "and the current permitting system may not allow us to determine that or to ensure localized mitigation."

The tribes have a reserved in-stream water right in the Metolius and downstream in Deschutes river.

The tribes are also concerned about the possible impact to cultural resources in the Metolius basin.

There have been no significant reviews of cultural resources in that area, and there is currently no cultural resources management plan for the area, said Grover.

The Confederated Tribes support the Area of Critical State Concern designation, she said, "because development has the potential to impact more than just the development site. It could impact federal forest land, waterways, and cultural resources. It has the potential to impact resources of statewide, federal and tribal concern," she said.

"We don't believe the existing local land-use approval would either adequately assess or require appropriate mitigation of those impacts," she said.

Jefferson County officials believe the county has planned adequately for the development, and that the state should not interfere in the local planning process.

The county tax base could increase significantly if a destination resort were allowed to proceed, they have said.

Tribal officials emphasize that they are not against development in the county, but believe that, in this sensitive location, it is only appropriate to ensure comprehensive impact analysis and mitigation, which is what the tribes do when they undertake development on the reservation and off the reservation.

Development can be done in a way that meets the interests of all parties, the tribal officials say.

Collage of Culture suspended

The Collage of Culture, which the Confederated Tribes have helped sponsor over for the past 15 years, has been cancelled this year.

The tribes—along with Bright Wood Corp. and Yarrow—were a main sponsors of the Collage of Culture last year. And the tribes have played a major role

in the Collage since its inception.

Tribal dancers were a regular feature of the Collage, which began in May of 1994 as a celebration of the region's diverse cultures.

The plan is for the Collage, held in May, to return next year, when the economy may be stronger.

No Deschutes spring chinook season

(AP) — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says there will not be a spring chinook fishing season on the Deschutes River.

According to biologist Rod French of the state fish and wildlife department, fewer than 400 wild chinook are expected to return to the Warm Springs River to spawn. The predicted run must

be at 1,000 wild fish before state managers open a sport fishery on hatchery fish in the Lower Deschutes River. Fishery managers from Oregon and Washington set spring chinook salmon fishing seasons last week for March and April only for the Columbia and Willamette rivers during a joint state hearing.

Association promotes Native boxing

Gerald Smith, chief operations officer of the Confederated Tribes Warm Springs, was recently named president of the newly-formed Native American Amateur Boxing Association.

Smith, who managed the 1996 U.S. Olympic boxing team, said he had retired from boxing-related duties.

But he could not refuse when approached about the new position by Jim Millman, chief executive officer of U.S. Amateur Boxing Inc. (USA Boxing).

"It was the only thing that could have gotten me involved again," Smith said.

An initial project of the Native American Amateur Boxing Association (NAABA) is a boxing tournament tentatively planned in June at the Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas.

From this tournament, Native American boxers may be invited to

participate in an October international boxing event in Finland.

Eventually, qualifying Native boxers for the Olympics is an ultimate goal of the NAABA, said Smith. NAABA was formed late last year, and last month entered into a group membership agreement with USA Boxing.

USA Boxing has the authority and recognition as the national governing body of amateur boxing in the U.S., and is a member of the International Association of Amateur Boxing and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Through the agreement, USA Boxing will assist the NAABA in creating a program of athletic excellence for Native American amateur boxing, said Smith.

The program will be on both the national and international levels, he said. Further, said Smith, NAABA pro-

poses to provide a platform for developing the sport through communication and education; through leadership in its promotion; by maintaining a role as a leader in the development of boxing equipment and safety rules; and complying with all required officials rules, regulations and policies of USA Boxing.

The NAABA invites all Natives to submit proposed logo and emblem ideas for consideration and use. All Native boxing coaches, boxers, officials and clubs, please call Dave Lubs, NAABA secretary, at 877-426-9464, ext. 870. Or email DaveL@ringside.com.

Or contact Gerald Smith at (541) 553-3228.

Email gerald.smith@wstribe.org to be included in address listing/communications.