



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Proposed Gorge Act change draws tribal opposition

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

The four treaty tribes of the Columbia River are opposed to a bill that would add the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

The act currently recognizes the four treaty tribes of the Columbia River: The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, the Nez Perce, and Yakama Nation.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act specifically recognizes the treaty and other rights of the four tribes in the gorge area; and the act recognizes the tribes' role in the management of the gorge.

U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader, whose district includes the Grand Ronde community, has introduced a bill to add the Grand Ronde tribe to the act.

The Grand Ronde tribe has been a main opponent of the Warm Springs and Cascade Locks proposal to build a

tribal casino at Cascade Locks at the Columbia. The casino plan is currently pending before the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The proposal to amend the Gorge Scenic Act presents an opportunity for Warm Springs and the other Columbia River tribes to present information as to the history and current unique status of the tribes, said Louie Pitt, director of government affairs of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes have a long history of cooperation in many areas, mainly fisheries, said Pitt. The tribes have disagreed on some things, he said, "but we always act civilly and openly toward each other."

The idea of including the Grand Ronde in the Gorge Scenic Act, he said, was not mentioned to the Warm Springs tribes prior to the bill being introduced into Congress.

Warm Springs, like the other treaty tribes of the Columbia, will oppose the idea based on the history and culture of the tribes, he said. "A big part of being Indian is knowing who you are

and fighting for who you are," said Pitt.

This statement from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission summarizes the relationship among the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Yakama tribes:

"The people of these tribes have always shared a common understanding—that their very existence depends on the respectful enjoyment of the Columbia River Basin's vast land and water resources. Indeed, their very souls and spirits were and are inextricably tied to the natural world and its myriad inhabitants... Despite some differences in language and cultural practices, the people of these tribes shared the foundation of a regional economy based on salmon."

The idea of including the Grand Ronde among the managing entities of the Gorge Scenic Area management plan or the Gorge Act is very risky, said Pitt. "You cannot open the door just a little ways, and have just the inclusion of another tribe," he said. Such a move would open the management plan to inclusion of any special interest, weakening the plan and the Gorge Scenic

act, he said.

The letter to Rep. Schrader from the four tribes, signed for Warm Springs by Council Chairman Ron Suppah, is informative, and reads as follows:

This letter is to express the unanimous opposition of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to an amendment of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, adding the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon to the definition of "Indian Tribes" covered by the Act.

The Gorge Act currently defines "Indian Tribes" to include the four Columbia River Tribes based on the four tribes' life-sustaining land and fishery management interests in the Gorge.

These interests are the result of cultures and livelihoods that predate pioneering settlement, and are secured by judicially confirmed off-reservation treaty fishing rights, among other rights.

Further contributing to these inter-

ests is the history of federal hydroelectric development on the Columbia River and associated "in lieu and access" fishing sites established by Congress in partial compensation for the Columbia River Tribes' lost traditional fisheries.

The reason for this opposition is that to include the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community (CTGR) as one of the "Indian Tribes" on the basis of ceded lands is inconsistent with the basis for providing special status for the Columbia River Tribes in the Gorge Act, which is premised primarily on the exercise of treaty reserved off-reservation fishing rights in the Gorge, irrespective of ceded land territories.

It is important to note that the Columbia River Tribes' off-reservation treaty fishing rights were reserved by Congressionally ratified treaties and have been judicially confirmed in a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions and the continuing jurisdiction case of *United States v. Oregon* that has been pending in U.S. District Court in Portland since 1967.

Please see TRIBES on 7

## Oregon is Indian Country

Panels of a traveling historical exhibit—*Oregon Is Indian Country*—are now on display in Jefferson and Deschutes counties.

The exhibit is a project of the Folklife Program of the Oregon Historical Society, in partnership with the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon.

There are three different panels in the *Oregon Is Indian Country* exhibit: Traditions that Bind, The Land, and Federal Indian Policy.

In Jefferson County, the panels are on display at the tribal administration building, the library in Madras, and the agricultural research center on Dogwood Lane. They will be on display through Aug. 23.

Yvonne Iverson (left) and Naomi Brisbois check out the *Oregon Is Indian Country* display at the tribal administration building.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

## Casino study update

The Environmental Impact Statement for the tribes' proposed casino at Cascade Locks is nearing completion, said Ed Manion, project development team leader.

The National Marine Fisheries Services in Seattle is completing their biological opinion on the effect of the project on storm water runoff and on a nearby creek, said Manion.

When the biological opinion is complete, the Fisheries Service is expected to forward the information to the BIA for inclusion by the engineering firm HDR in the casino Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The BIA will then send the EIS to the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

Once the EIS is at the Interior Department, the document will go through a signing process before inclusion in the Federal Register.

The tribes are hoping the EIS will be published in the Federal Register perhaps by October, said Manion.

There is a 30-day public review period after publication in the Federal Register. The tribes can address any significant issues that may be raised during the public comment.

## Music meeting sees impressive turnout

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

An idea to begin a community music program has drawn great interest from local young people and older adults.

At the first informal meeting of the group, held at Elmer Quinn Park, about 50 people showed up.

Another music gathering is scheduled for 5 p.m. this Thursday, Aug. 13 in the Fish Bowl Room at the Family Resource Center; and again next Tuesday and Thursday, Aug. 18 and 20, same time and place.

Warm Springs artist Richard Macy was inspired to begin the Warm Springs Community Music Program. He explained why he took the initiative with the program:

"I was tired of hearing all of the bad things going on with our youth, and I think there is talent out there that is unused," Macy said.

"And I love music—I think everyone does," he said. "Music has always been a social ambassador to bring people together. That's true of all cultures."

Macy wrote up a preliminary vision statement for the Warm Springs Community Music Program:

"Music is the oldest expression of human emotions. Music has been and is an expression of our identity and our feeling, first as individuals but also as a family, a clan, a people, or as a nation.

"We have used music as a form of communication and to preserve our history even before there was the written word. Music instills within the individual self-discipline and a sense of worthiness. Music is an innate part of our human existence; we enter this world to the rhythm beat of our mother's heart; and we depart from this life on the last beat of our own heart..."

The mission of the Warm Springs

*"I was tired of hearing all of the bad things going on with our youth, and I think there is talent out there that is unused."*

Richard Macy  
Program organizer

Community Music Program is "to establish a viable organization for the promotion and development of activities related to music."

Macy said the program is currently looking for a musical director. The position may have to be volunteer for a time, but the hope is to secure some funding to compensate the director.

Others who are needed are volunteer board or committee members, ei-

ther youth or adults.

As a purpose statement for the Warm Springs Community Music Program, Macy is proposing the following:

To provide encouragement and support to community members in their individual and group efforts in various activities related to music.

And to develop wholesome, healthy activities related to all aspects of music in an effort to provide for positive growth of character and personality in our community members.

Some initial tasks of the community music program are to gather information as to the interests and needs of those who are interested, and acquire the needed resources, such as instruments and a place to practice and play.

For more information, or to become involved, you can reach Richard Macy at 553-1241.

## Crews mopping up lightning fires

Fire crews this week are mopping up a series of 12 fires that were sparked by an Aug. 1 lightning storm.

No structures were destroyed by the fires, although some were threatened, said Ken Lydy, assistant Fire Management officer. Most of the fires were three to four acres in size. The largest was the Box Canyon fire, which burned across 856 acres.

The local agencies that responded were Warm Springs Fire Management, and Fire and Safety. Warm Springs Construction also helped, as a contractor with the U.S. Forest Services.

The Forest Service, and other private contractors also helped contain the fires. At the height of the response effort, a little over 400 personnel were on the scene, said Lydy.