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Tribal repatriation to ancestral land

By Roberta Kirk

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Coordinator

Repatriation of 272 Memaloose Island, Wasco and Wishxam ancestral remains

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs in 2010 made a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act claim to the Peabody Museum of Natural History, located in New Haven, Conn.

The claim was for the return of 272 individual ancestral remains and funerary objects that originated from the Memaloose Islands, The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon.

A *Notice of Inventory Completion* and *Notice of Intent to Repatriate* were published in the Federal Register on March 29, 2013, which recognized the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Yakama Nation as the recognized claimant tribes.

This repatriation was a combined Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act claim with the Yakama Nation, as Wasco and Wishxam descendants are now enrolled at Warm Springs and the Yakama Nation. Both the Wasco and Wishxam used the burial islands.



Members gather for the repatriation and reinterment.

Courtesy of Roberta Kirk

Background

In 2005 a report, *Latrogenic Molar Borings in 18th and Early 19th Century Native American Dentitions*, was published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology. The article mentioned a dental study that was conducted on Wasco and Wishxam ancestral human remains.

In 2006 a site visit was conducted by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Cultural Resources staff. From there, we started consultation with the Anthropology Division, Peabody Museum of Natural History.

We found that there were many ancestral remains that were at the Peabody Yale Museum that originated from The Dalles area. When we asked for further documentation, we asked them for anything from Memaloose and any similar spelling and eventually the number rose to 272 individuals that had come from the Memaloose Islands and The Dalles in the 1870s.

These ancestral remains all craniums and most of which were modified or flattened had been stored in boxes in a room for over 140 years.

The claim

These ancestral remains and funerary objects represent a shared group identity that can be reasonably traced to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Yakama Nation.

Our people lived and died on both sides of the Columbia River and used the area of The Dalles as a village site, camping area and cemetery. This land is also within the Ceded Lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

See **REPATRIATION** on 12

Hunting matter at Council

When hunting season opens the tribal Natural Resources Branch plans to issue hunting permits for members to use on the Ceded Lands.

The tribes will also have their own hunting season regulations for 2013, separate from the state of Oregon regulations.

This will be the second year in a row that the tribes issue their own regulations, said Bobby Brunoe, general manager of tribal Natural Resources. Brunoe recently updated Tribal Council on the Ceded Lands hunting season.

He said that last year was the first time in at least 30 years that the Confederated Tribes had hunting regulations different from the state regulations.

Last year the tribal deer season in some Ceded Lands units, for instance, was longer than the state season by a few days, he said.

Some state officials were not happy to see the tribes enforcing separate Ceded Lands hunting regulations, he said.

See **CEDED LANDS** on 6

Crews work on Sunnyside Turnoff fire

About 350 firefighters continue working on the 23,000-acre fire. As of Tuesday afternoon, no structures had been destroyed, said Luther Clements, assistant fire management officer of operations for the department. One firefighter injured his knee, Clements said.

The Simnasho-Hot Springs Road was closed from Warm Springs Road to U.S. 26.

The fire started about 9 a.m. Saturday, July on Simnasho-Hot Springs Road, Clements said.

Fire Chief Dan Martinez said a discarded cigarette appears to have been the initial cause of the blaze.

Kah-Nee-Ta had to be completely evacuated, as the fire burned around the resort area. The lodge had already been evacuated as the result of a kitchen fire at Kah-Nee-Ta (see page 3).

Phone lines were down at various offices and residences around the reservation, and power was out for a time. The casino had to close for a time as the machines were not working correctly, due to disruption of the server.

Charley Canyon residents were evacuated for some time.

Crews from federal agencies, nearby counties and private companies joined Warm Springs Fire



Flames from the Sunnyside Turnoff fire approach the lodge at Kah-Nee-Ta.

Sue Matters photos.

Management and Fire and Safety in the response. One helicopter was on scene. Fire camp was set up at the rodeo grounds.

Containment of the fire was estimated at 25 percent on Tuesday morning of this week.

The fire at the time was south of the Mutton Mountains, northeast of Upper Dry Creek road, and north and west of the Deschutes River.

Highway 3 was closed to public travel at milepost 15 (heading south from Simnasho) and near milepost 6.5 (north of U.S. Highway 26 out of Warm Springs).

Evacuations remained in place for the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Charley Canyon areas.

Firefighters were working night and day shifts. Oregon Interagency Incident Management Team 4, working for the Confederated

Tribes of Warm Springs, took over command of the fire at 6 p.m. Tuesday evening.

Team 4 Incident Commander, Brian Watts commended initial and extended attack resources for their safe and hard work. Watts attributed the protection of the facilities at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and homes throughout the fires' path to "aggressive firefighting."

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center is transitioning out of hospital care, effective August 15.

The reason for this transition is to improve access, scheduling, and the overall care at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center.

For many years the Health and Wellness Center medical doctors have provided 24-7 hospital care at St. Charles Madras Hospital. As of August 15, this will no longer be provided.

The Warm Springs physicians will be able to focus on outpatient care at the Warm Springs Clinic. Physicians in Madras will provide the care for all patients who are admitted to the St. Charles Madras Hospital.

The Warm Springs clinic staff wants to assure tribal members that this change will not adversely impact care received at the clinic. In fact, access to care received at the Warm Springs clinic should improve.

"The Health and Wellness Center wants to continue to be your primary medical home, and to meet your outpatient needs," said Carol Prevost, Health and Wellness Center chief executive officer.

See **CLINIC** on 8

INDIAN HEAD CASINO

GET YOUR KICKS ON HIGHWAY

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Warm Springs Oregon

The Heat is Rising!
MORE THAN \$50,000 IN CASH & PRIZES!

See page 12 for details