

Basket Weavers plan 2015 gathering at Kah-Nee-Ta

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in 2015 will host the Northwest Native American Basket Weavers Association annual conference.

The association will hold its Twenty-First Annual conference at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa.

The Basket Weavers Association will work with the resort, the Museum at Warm Springs, the Culture and Heritage department and committee, the Education Committee, and other tribal entities for a successful gathering.

This is an economic development opportunity for the tribes, and has the support of Tribal Council.

The Basket Weavers



Wasco basket by Pat Courtney Gold.

Association pays for the gathering through registration fees, silent auction, and in-kind support.

Council approved a \$5,000 tribal match for the planning team that is bringing the conference to the reservation.

The date of the event is set for early October of next year.

River housing: 'crisis impacts fishing rights'

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The CRITFC clean-up crews pulled out tons of garbage, renovated bathrooms, and removed permanent structures from the sites where permanent dwellings aren't allowed.

As soon as clean-up was completed, people moved back onto the sites to live, the commission's executive director Paul Lumley said.

"Things have improved, the sites are safer," Lumley said. "But the problem remains. There is a housing crisis out there. You can't see these sites from the highway, they're out of sight, out of mind and the government wishes this problem would disappear, but it will only get worse."

Record salmon returns in recent years have drawn even more Indians to fish as a livelihood, something that would



Courtesy Gosia Wozniacka/AP

Home of Ranetta Spino and family at the river's edge.

have been impossible a few decades earlier when fish runs drastically declined, Lumley said. Fishery biologists say more than a million fall chinook salmon returned to the Columbia this year.

Because fishermen want to be near their nets, the abundance of fish means

more fishermen are camping at the sites during fishing season and more are staying year-round, making the housing problem worse.

The commission is pressing the housing issue, Lumley said, because "it's a crisis that impacts fishing rights." In some locations during peak

fishing times, the sites are so crowded that access to the riverbank is limited.

But the commission doesn't want the government to evict people, Lumley said. Many who live at the sites are older, have children, or had family members who once lived in a Native village on or near the site.

"We are not going to throw them out, because it would be cruel" and unfair, Lumley said. "We would like safe and sanitary housing available to them, so they no longer have to live that way."

Tribal leaders say solutions to the housing crisis could vary, from rebuilding or adding infrastructure at the sites where possible, to finding or building alternative housing—as long as it's near the river.

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- Fundraiser for the Elder's Canoe Journey
- NW Native American artist Lillian Pitt In attendance
- Intertribal Artists displaying and selling artwork, jewelry, and crafts

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