

# Video project gives tribal views on climate change

Native people see and experience climate change more than most. This is because of the traditions that come with the changing seasons, from root, berry and other harvests, to fishing and hunting.

In recent years members have noticed how the start of these harvest seasons have changed, coming earlier by weeks or more.

Eight tribal members have produced videos on the effects of climate change on the community, tribal culture and local environment.

"These stories address the very local impacts of climate change, and show what is happening in the Warm Springs community," the StoryCenter introduction

says of the videos.

The stories address environmental degradation, loss of traditional resources and livelihoods, and health challenges related to extreme weather events.

"As a collection, the stories serve as an urgent call to action for climate change preparedness and mitigation."

This was a project in partnership with the Oregon Climate and Health Program, with the Oregon Health Authority.

Tribal members who participated are:

Brenda Scott, video title *Traditions*.

Danny Martinez, *Cycle of Life*.

Karlen Yallup, *Survival*.

Neal Morningowl, *Changing Seasons*.

Edna Gonzales, *Much to Learn*.

Tamera Calhoun, *Through the Eyes of a Native Veteran*.

Scott Kalama, *Water is Life*.

Lorena Medina, *Ready*.

The videos range between two and three minutes in length.

This effort is part of the Oregon Health Authority Climate and Health Program 'Resilience Plan,' released earlier this year.

The plan identifies storytelling as an important method for increasing awareness and building community partnerships to better prepare, plan, and re-

cover from climate risks.

Creating videos that highlight the concerns of community members is one way to work together and lift the voices of people on the frontlines of climate change.

The videos were created in a workshop co-facilitated by the nonprofit StoryCenter.

Each participant developed their own story, picked out their own images, and put it all together using a digital editing software program.

There was a screening of the videos last week in Warm Springs. You can see them all on Youtube at:

[youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2zMrq22-Y2uED5WqdwMJUiMZXMw4ZSMN](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2zMrq22-Y2uED5WqdwMJUiMZXMw4ZSMN)

## Clothing drive for Back to School BBQ

The Papalaxsimisha Program at Health and Human Services is hosting a clothing drive, with all items to be donated to the Warm Springs Back to Barbecue.

The clothing drive will be through August 30. The drop box is at the Family Resource Center.

Papalaxsimisha is recommending new or gently used clothing, shoes, new socks and new underwear for all ages.

For more information contact

Ervanna LittleEagle at:

[ervlileagle@gmail.com](mailto:ervlileagle@gmail.com)

Or call Jaylyn Suppah at 541-280-1933.

## Wild Horse Race Memorial in Simnasho next month

The Jamie "Chili Guy" Tohet Wild Horse Race Memorial is coming up in September at the Simnasho rodeo grounds.

Events include the Wild Horse Race (two head and final), 2+1 Wild Horse, ranch bronc riding, team roping, junior wild colt race (ages 7-12; two head average); senior wild colt race (ages 13-17; two head average); mini buckers (8 and under); junior broncs (ages 9-11), and senior broncs (12-14).

Extra kids events: AUJ's junior barrels (10 and under); Blade's wild sheep race (6 and under); Rubyanna stick horse race (5 and under, bring your own stick

horse).

There are entry fees for the events, except for the stick horse race, with 100 percent payout to contestants.

Books open September 15 and close on the day of the event, September 30. To enter call either Gladys at 541-460-9290; or Angela at 541-325-2518. To enter team roping, call Dustin Suppah at 541-325-6347.

The president of the Jamie "Chili Guy" Tohet Wild Horse Race Memorial is Jimmy Tohet Jr.; vice president Daniel Gilbert; secretary-treasurer Gladys Graybael, treasurer Angela Tohet.

## Fair, memorial race Aug. 25-26

The Wasco County Fair and Rodeo is next Friday and Saturday, August 25 and 26.

Friday night is the Vernon Ray Spino memorial kids match race: Half track for

8-12 year olds. The race is limited to six riders.

Saturday night is the Vernon and Nellie Spino three-quarter mile memorial race - \$1000 winner take all.

### These are the preview summaries of the member climate change videos:

'Water is Life' by Scott Kalama:

Scott remembers when Warm Springs residents didn't give a thought to whether or not their drinking water sources were safe, and contrasts this with recent events that have suggested blue-green algae is making the tap water in the area undrinkable.

He recalls how his



grandfather told him he needed to "choose his battle," and shares that he has found it, in the form of his ongoing concerns about access to clean water.

'Changing Seasons' by Neal Morningowl:

Neal recalls his love of the huckleberry season, when as a child he went with his family up into the mountains to pick berries. He remembers the ceremonies, to honor various foods, and he sadly reveals the destruction of the huckleberry fields. Neal wonders how the community's traditions will continue to shift, as the impacts of climate change continue to play out.



'Survival' by Karlen Yallup:

Karlen shares her desire to protect the land in and around Warm Springs, which for her is a

way of also protecting tribal culture.

She talks about the impact of increased wildfires and air quality on children and elderly residents, and how her efforts as a firefighter led her to get involved in documenting local greenhouse gas emissions.

'Much to Learn' by Edna Gonzales:

A story about salmon, the wisdom of elders, and family bonds.

Edna reminisces about her experiences as a young girl in Warm Springs, when the salmon were bountiful and every part of the fish was put to practical use.

She talks of the warnings made by elders about what would happen when the rivers in the area were dammed, and she ends by appreciating her mother for passing along so much traditional knowledge.

'Traditions' by Brenda Scott:

A story about the loss of traditions, the importance of ceremonies, and efforts to bring back the old ways.

In this powerful story, Brenda paints a vivid picture of life in Warm Springs when she was a girl.

Horses were the only form of transportation, foods were gathered rather than bought in markets, and children were honored for their accomplishments.

Brenda sees hope in efforts within her family and within the community, to revive aspects of a vanishing way of life.

'Cycle of Life' by Danny Martinez:

Danny talks about his lifelong love of salmon fishing, which continues to be a major source of sustenance for his family and the broader Warm Springs community.

He touches on the changes he is witnessing and adapting to, as water temperatures rise, and he



reflects on the importance of addressing what's happening with the local environment, before it's too late.

'Through the Eyes of a Native Veteran' Tamera Calhoun:

In this story Tamera talks about her work in the Warm Springs community to ensure everyone has adequate heat during the winter and air conditioning in the summer. She has witnessed the impacts of extreme heat and cold snaps on the community.

She also points to the infrastructure that is likely to fail during longer periods of use. She challenges those who refuse to believe that climate change is real, and urges viewers to acknowledge what is happening.

'Ready' by Lorena Medina:

Lorena is a young woman who works with the Warm Springs Emergency Preparedness program. In her story, she shares the challenges her step-father has faced in finding agricultural work due to changes in the seasons, and the impact this has had on her family.

She also talks about rising food prices and



concerns about water shortages. Lorena ends by acknowledging she never expected to see impacts of climate change so close to home.

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**2017 Solar Eclipse**

Museum Activities  
 August 19 & 20  
 10 am - 4 pm

Artist Village  
 Local Artist vendors will sell their artwork

Tribal Members will demonstrate their artwork, family heirlooms, regalia, basketry and Native American Dance performances

Hands on activities for the family  
 Learn the basics of weaving  
 Make a beaded item

P.O. Box 909/2189 Hwy. 26 Telephone (541) 553-3331 [www.museumatwarmsprings.org](http://www.museumatwarmsprings.org)

Solar Eclipse: August 21, 2017  
 Museum Activities: August 19 & 20