

For better broadband in Indian Country—*Have your say, Speak Up!*

The U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration has awarded a Broadband Planning Grant to Jefferson County to develop a broadband plan. The Confederated Tribes are participating in this project, and the membership is asked for input.

The plan will provide a strategic roadmap in updating the broadband system for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the county.

The funding for the program will help identify communities on the reservation, and within the off-reservation local governments and municipalities, that are in need of improved broadband access.

The plan will also identify obstacles standing in the way of enhanced connectivity.

When each plan is completed, the outcomes will lay out an implementation strategy, and what steps are required for the tribes and Jefferson County to reach the goal

of developing a comprehensive broadband approach, including a roadmap identifying how to connect communities with fast, reliable, and affordable broadband availability.

A real challenge today is that in rural areas the service when available is often much less than needed.

Based on fundamental barriers to deployment in Indian Country, the tribes and county find it critical to continue efforts to collect, monitor, and analyze any relevant data on tribal lands of the reservation.

Strategic Networks Group—SNG—has been retained to perform the consultation and outreach for the Confederated Tribes Broadband project.

Complete an assessment

Every Warm Springs resident and business is asked to complete the assessment.

Why is this important? Economic barriers on tribal lands continue to raise deployment costs and suppress indigenous communities.

Like other tribes across the U.S., the Confederated Tribes have had less access to telephone and broadband service than other segments of the population.

There are a number of reasons, such as the high build-out costs of the infrastructure necessary to provide ubiquitous telephone and broadband services to residents on tribal lands, and the limited financial resources of many of the people.

In addition, the rural nature of many tribal lands deters businesses of all kinds, including communications service providers, from investing in businesses on tribal lands due to the lack of an adequate return on investment, which in turn contributes to high unemployment.

The Confederated Tribes' application to take over the local ex-

change on the reservation illustrates this point.

Warm Springs has built a Telecom that serves most of the population at this time, and the tribes and Telecom are still working to improve the broadband service coverage in the reservation.

Your valued time in completing the assessments and insights into how broadband is currently used, and what is needed for the future, will help to plan for better broadband services and to support applications to secure funding.

In November 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law and provided \$65 billion for broadband.

Again, you can help with the data collection by getting involved. Please complete the broadband assessment today. It takes about 20 minutes, unless your internet is slow, then closer to 30 minutes.

You have nothing more to lose and a huge advantage to gain.

Complete the eCheckups by scanning below with your photo camera on your smartphone. If you have questions please contact **1-844-WSTRIBE**

eHousehold



eBusiness



PGE moves to condemn property at Willamette Falls

Portland General Electric took legal action in April against the state of Oregon to condemn a piece of property alongside Willamette Falls that is critical to tribal fishing access.

The move, together with a notice of condemnation, could allow the utility to control access to roughly five acres of land at the base of the falls, exacerbating tensions between Northwest tribes with ties to the landmark.

PGE has been mired in an ongoing dispute over who has authority over the property where the

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have permission from the state to operate a fishing platform.

Officials with PGE said the utility has spent three years trying to resolve the property dispute with the Oregon Department of State Lands, which granted a permit to the Grand Ronde on land that the utility argues is part of its licensed hydroelectric project at the falls.

Other tribes have said the state's decision to grant permission to the Grand Ronde interferes with their treaty fishing rights at the falls.

Warm Springs Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti said PGE has worked "in good faith" to resolve the property dispute...

In response to PGE's filing, Sara Thompson, communications director for the Grand Ronde tribes, issued a statement accusing the utility of trying to "steal one of Oregon's gems from the

public trust" to protect its "business relationships" with other tribes.

Raymond Tsumpti, chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, said PGE has worked "in good faith" to resolve the property dispute and "unfortunately, the Grand Ronde tribes stepped away from those discussions some time ago."

Mr. Tsumpti said the Grand Ronde blocked a proposal supported by other tribes, PGE and the state to start a new round of talks to resolve the ownership dis-

pute.

Delano Saluskin, chairman of the tribal council for Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, said his tribes support PGE.

"PGE's need to safely operate and maintain the area within the boundaries of its federally licensed power plant is unassailable," he said.

"We support PGE's action to move forward now, secure its property and its ongoing efforts to facilitate a safe and equitable way for all tribes to have everlasting access to the site," he said.

Willamette Falls remains a place of spiritual, cultural importance for Northwest tribes

Willamette Falls, one of the greatest waterfalls in Oregon and a cherished natural area for thousands of years, is in the midst of a historic change-of-hands, as local Indigenous communities regain a year-round presence at the waterfall that has been withheld from them for generations.

And while only one tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, currently owns land at Willamette Falls, four other tribes—including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs—also cite ancestral connections to the falls and have had an increasing role in redeveloping it, working with local and state officials to offer public access to the waterfall that has effectively been inaccessible for more than 150 years.

Davis 'Yellowwash' Washines, government relations liaison for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, said while he, too, is looking forward to Willamette Falls reopening to the public, it should not be forgotten that it will be the result of the Pacific Northwest tribes all fighting for their rights.

"It's moving in the right direction of restoring the land as best as we can back to what it was," Washines said of Willamette Falls. "Not just for tribal members – for all members of the community, from all walks of life."

Riverwalk remains on hold

Anyone hoping for a new public riverwalk to Willamette Falls in Oregon City will need to hold out hope for a little—or maybe a lot—longer.

Last month, the partnership received a blow when the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announced it was leaving the Willamette Falls Legacy Project



Scene at Willamette Falls, where the tribes have fishing rights.

The remaining partners include... the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

because of bureaucratic gridlock.

The tribe owns the property where the public riverwalk will be built using an easement, and is working on a multiphase development that will include a separate

cultural and community center of its own at the site.

The remaining partners, which include Oregon City, Clackamas County, Metro and the state of Oregon, as well as the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, have said they plan to continue work on the riverwalk—though details for that plan remain elusive.

Salmon not returning from ocean

A research expedition involving American, Canadian and Russian scientists is trying to understand salmon booms and busts in the "black box" of the high seas.

During her three decades as a government scientist, as climate change has intensified, Laurie Weitkamp has watched fluctuations in salmon numbers become bigger.

Meanwhile, the models that predict how many salmon will return from sea become more unreliable.

"Salmon will go out, in what we think is a really good ocean, and then it collapses," said Weitkamp, a fisheries biologist with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration based in Oregon.

"They don't come back."

The pressures salmon face in their home rivers, and their experience in coastal waters, are well documented.

But less is known about what they endure on the high seas.

Below Bonneville dam fishery

The following regulations will govern the fishery below Bonneville on Sunday, May 1. The regulations will be strictly enforced.

Warm Springs tribal members may harvest salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, carp, catfish, yellow perch and bass in the area described below for subsistence purposes only on Sunday, May 1. The bag limit is five fish per person, fishing must cease after the bag limit is reached. Fish must be caught by and for the fisherman not others. Only two days will be allowed due to the size of the predicted spring chinook run. No ceremonial fishers can participate. Caretakers can help fishers or handicapped to participate in fishing activities but cannot fish for themselves unless over 55 years old.

Sale of fish is strictly prohibited this is a subsistence fishery only.

Retention of any sturgeon that may be caught incidentally while fishing for allowed species within the prescribed area shall be prohibited.

The fishery shall be open for elders only, 55 years and older. Fishing times may be limited by the location fished such as Hamilton Park, access gates open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Only one pole and pole holder allowed per person.

Any Warm Springs tribal members fishing below Bonneville Dam pursuant to this resolution shall carry an official tribal enrollment card and produce it upon request by state or tribal enforcement officers. Any person who produces a Warm Springs tribal enrollment card will not be required to produce a state fishing license.

Gear restrictions: Tribal fishing gear shall be restricted to bank subsistence gear, which is defined by the 1-year agreement reached among the parties of *U.S. vs. Oregon* in 2008 as:

Dipnet or bagnet, spear, gaff, club, fouling hook, hook and line or other methods as determined by

the management entities. This fishery will be with hook and line only.

The geographic scope of this fishery covers the banks of the Columbia River in the area bounded by a deadline marker on the Oregon bank, approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse No. 1 in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island, to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock up the river to a point 600 feet below the Bonneville dam, but excluding the following four areas:

(A) Between markers located 150 feet upstream and 450 feet downstream from the mouth of Tanner Creek out to the center of the Columbia River, during the period August 16 to October 15;

(B) Inside the south navigation lock at the Bonneville Dam from a marker on the western-most point of Robins Island to a marker on the Oregon mainland shore;

(C) From Bradford Island below Bonneville Dam from the south shore between the dam and a line perpendicular to the shoreline marker at west end of riprap and from north shore between fishway entrance and a line perpendicular to the shoreline marker 850 feet downstream; and

(D) From Robins Island below Bonneville Dam downstream to a line perpendicular to the shoreline marker on mooring cell.

(E) Fishing from boats or other floating device is not permitted.

The CTWSRO Branch of Natural Resources will be responsible for the biological monitoring of the CTWSRO fishery. Reports will be provided to the Fish and Wildlife Committee. Fishery may be closed if there is excessive harvest or the run is deemed too small.

Conduct of tribal fishers shall be consistent with Warm Springs Tribal Code 340.310 which defines Off-Reservation Fishing by Tribal Members.