

Others back tribes in resort court dispute

Three other tribes are supporting the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in the appeal of an Oregon land use decision regarding a resort that would be built near Redmond. The Thornburgh resort project calls for nearly 1,000 new homes around a golf course and man-made lake, relying on groundwater.

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners approved this project, which has been held by earlier challenges for 17 years. The tribes appealed the approval to the state Land Use Board of Appeals, which approved the county decision. The Confederated Tribes are now taking this decision to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

The lack of tribal consultation, and the impact on the tribes treaty rights regarding water in the Deschutes River and beyond are among the points of contention.

Recently, the Oregon Court of Appeals received additional briefs asserting that the state Land Use Board of Appeals, or LUBA, discounted indigenous expertise, and erred in its conclusion regarding how tribes invoke and use treaty rights in land use proceedings.

The Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, and the Nez Perce Tribe are supporting Warm Springs. The Columbia River Gorge Commission is also in support of the tribal position.

In their brief, these tribes state that the LUBA decision failed to give equal weight to traditional ecological knowledge. Conclusions reached by indigenous expertise are distinct from those of Western science, and both are legitimate in their own right. They write:

“Presently, Deschutes County employs a top-down approach that marginalizes indigenous communities by dismissing their cultural traditions as groundless while simultaneously imposing external values, policies, and actions upon native communities, landscapes, and treaty resources. Not only does this disregard decades of tribal-federal-state collaborative management, it also discounts indigenous expertise.”

The Columbia River Gorge Commission, also supporting the Warm Springs tribes in the appeal, has worked with tribes for 40 years on land-use matters in the Columbia basin. In its supporting brief to the Court of Appeals, the commission said:

“LUBA erred in concluding that

the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs did not preserve its treaty rights issue because it did not express certain specific arguments before Deschutes County.”

In response to these recent filings in support of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Robert Brunoe, Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Operations Officer of the tribes said:

“We extend our appreciation to our relatives at the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and to the Columbia River Gorge Commission for supporting our request for the State Court to return the January 12 decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

“Their briefs speak testament to the long-standing, productive partnership Columbia River Basin treaty tribes have enjoyed with parties such as the Columbia River Gorge Commission in demonstrating that tribal expertise and collaboration remain essential to the future of the Deschutes Basin, and that we have Treaty-protected oversight of the region’s natural resources.”

Tribes, Bend reach cooperative agreement

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Bend City Council have for the first time formalized a formal agreement of cooperation.

The agreement says the two governments are to meet each year to discuss topics of mutual interest.

“Matters of common interest include water resources of the Deschutes Basin, responsible land use, cultural resource protection, and sustainable regional economic development,” the agreement says.

Tribal Secretary-Treasurer Robert Brunoe commented, “The agree-

ment is really about communication and respect for each other, and working together.”

Having regular meetings will let each party know what each is doing in terms of the resources that are important to both the city and the tribes, for instance the water.

State task force on tribal consultation

Corinne Sams of the Umatilla tribes has joined the Oregon task force on tribal consultation. Gov. Tina Kotek announced the appointment last week.

Ms. Sams joins Robert Brunoe, Secretary-Treasurer of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Shana McConville Radford, Tribal Affairs director for Gov. Kotek; and others on the tribal consultation task force.

The task force helps identify and clarify requirements for state agencies in maintaining a just and re-

spectful consultation process with federally recognized tribes in Oregon, and hold the agencies accountable when cooperating with the tribes.

The task force is developing a plan on how the state of Oregon can develop stronger government-to-government relationships with all the federally recognized sovereign tribal nations in the state.

State and federal law requires state agencies to consult with the nine tribes when making decisions that affect the tribes. However, state

Rep. Tawna Sanchez of Portland, Shoshone-Bannock and Ute, filed a bill to more clearly define what consultation is and how it occurs.

The bill passed and was signed into law last year, creating the task force to determine what meaningful consultation with tribes should look like, the specific situations when it should occur and with who.

The task force plans to submit a report that may include legislation recommendations to a Legislative Assembly interim committee no later than mid September.

Plan to remove sea lions to protect salmon

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says in the coming weeks they could start removing a large group of sea lions from the Columbia River in north Portland area.

The animals have gathered near a dock on Hayden Island. They’ve

wandered up the Columbia River looking for food to eat and that’s bad news for salmon and fishermen.

For years, the sea lions were protected under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, but those rules were amended in recent decades, in favor of the fish.

Data showed that sea lions were consuming up to half of the Columbia River spring Chinook run.

States and tribes can begin removing sea lions in a specific zone of the Columbia River in the first week of April.

Employment

The following are positions recently advertised with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. For information, contact the Human Resources office, located in the tribal administration building, 1233 Veterans Street, Warm Springs. Staff are available to answer questions related to the application process and can be reached at 541-553-3262 or hr@wstribe.org

Tribal Member preference is exercised in hiring processes as defined in Tribal Personnel Policy PER 202.

Mental health therapist. Head Start program manager. Day Care administrator. Head Start family service coordinator. Head Start health coordinator. Head Start lead teacher.

Fisheries biologist (multiple positions, various grades; and including at Hood River). Maintenance/Custodian (two full-time positions). Staff accountant. Project lead. Wildland fire module crew member. Sanitation

technician. Community Health Services driver. Assistant Prevention technician. Home visitor (two full-time positions). Purchasing agent.

Assistant engine operator (four positions). Wildland firefighter (HotShot: Three positions. temporary). Wildland firefighter (HotShot: Five positions).

Firefighter - Fuels (13 positions). Squad boss - Fuels. Watershed restoration coordinator.

Corrections officer (two positions). Police officer (two positions). Med Aid (two positions) and PSA (four positions). Lamprey program supervisor.

Hood River fisheries program supervisor. Controller, non-treasury. Registered Nurse. Hydrologist coordinator. Community Health program manager.

Surveillance observer (part-time). Director of Information Systems. Property management specialist. Treasury controller.

Conservation properties program supervisor. Project Archaeologist/principal investiga-

tor (two positions). Maternal child health Nurse.

Soil scientist/watershed planner. Community Health Nurse.

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Warm Springs Community Action Team Presents

YOUTH JOB FAIR

WSCAT is inviting multiple partners who have seasonal and full time jobs available to youth ages 14-24. Apply directly from the job fair and some onsite interviews will be conducted.

APRIL 12, 2024

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Old Elementary School Gymnasium

Email sara@wscat.org if you have any questions

List of Employers confirmed (updated daily)

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