

Wasco Chieftainship nominees

Wissie Smith - Xupthwit

Greetings, Wasco People, Naika Ichxliu Xupthwit, my name is Wissie Robert Smith and I am respectfully requesting your vote. My parents are Alfred Smith Sr., and my mother is Lucinda Scott Smith who are also members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

I grew up on the reservation and reside in the Sidwalter Flat area. I have spent most of my time in the woods working for you the tribal membership. I started working for my late brother, Russell Smith Logging and later Zane Jackson Logging.

After Zane retired from logging, Zane sold me the company, which I have maintained and ran since 1980. Timber revenue is the source that funds the monthly per capita and senior pension each year and over the years logging and the mill have faced numerous challenges especially with the mill closure in 2016.

Now the tribe has to find ways to effectively market our timber by selling logs directly to purchasers, which is also a challenge because more and more mills are closing their doors. I would like to help find a viable solution to sustain our timber as well as the monthly per capita and senior pension so tribal members and elders will continue to have some sort of income coming-in.

I believe in hiring tribal members and since I took over for Zane in 1980, I have always practiced hiring tribal members, especially those with families so they can take care of their loved ones. Over the years I have witnessed mostly non-tribal members in management positions and now I believe it is time to start promoting our own tribal members into these positions, especially now that more and more tribal members are becoming educated.

Education is key to our identity and future, education on our language and culture as well



as western education that is taught in public schools. The tribal scholarship is an investment that funds continued education for tribal members each year, and it is important that we keep this investment intact to sustain this funding.

We must also remember that our Cultural and Heritage Department is just as important because this department maintains our history and language and I would continue to support their needs.

The Treaty of 1855 is the agreement we made with the United States and it is important that we protect the resources embodied in the Treaty for our future generations. Our hunting and fishing and gathering rights must continue to be protected not only on the reservation but also in our usual and accustomed and ceded areas off the reservation.

Equally important to our Treaty resources is our Trust resources, which include: Water, timber, minerals, and land. Even at my age 76, I believe in getting out there and helping fire fighters especially when there are threats to our Trust resources like wildland fires. I go out and help create fire line boundaries with a dozer to help mitigate these types of threats.

Now, I would like to close by talking about and sharing the Wasco Sub-Chief ceremony that took place on August 27, 2016 at HeHe Longhouse. This was a public event that was advertised publicly that included: Crowning ceremony, singing, a giveaway, and a meal with attendees. In attendance was the Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr., Chief Wilbur Slockish, and Chief Johnny Jackson. I was selected by Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr., as the successor and crowned by Chief Johnny Jackson and Chief Wilbur Slockish as shown in the pictures, which



was in accordance with our Constitution Section 3 Article IV. If you look it up on the Warm Springs website, it says the successors will be selected in accordance with 'Tribal custom.' Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr.'s wish was to get back to tribal custom and to get away from the political process of voting a chief in.

Between 2016 and 2022 there were no challenges or complaints about this ceremony, not until after Chief Smith's passing did people begin to protest and challenge his decision. The Agency District representatives have taken the word of a few complaints over Chief Smith's decision and given their complaint more weight than Chief Smith's decision. Chief Smith's decision was based on the Constitution whereas the complaints were based on opinion and a past vote. The only reason there was a vote when Chief Smith was selected was because there was no successor named, but that is not the case this time, so I am asking you the Wasco People to uphold Chief Alfred Smith's decision, which was selecting me as the successor as Wasco Chief.

Thank you, and very Respectfully.

Wissie Smith - Xupthwit

Jefferson Greene



We must be concerned about the Wasco (Wasq'u) Chieftainship, the future of our community, the efficiency of our tribal organization, and the survival of the Wasco culture, language, identity and heritage. The quote 'Everyone wants to be Chief' is not true in my case. Seeing how things are going, there are no clear requirements, obligations, or Wasco Customs clause to become the Wasco chief, and for this I am running for the Wasco Chief position to assure these obligations, stipulations, community services, cultural responsibilities, and expectations are adhered to. These were once well-known Wasco customs and responsibilities documented in the Treaty, the Declaration of Sovereignty, and the Constitution and By-Laws for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. We must develop a clearer Wasco Chieftainship process going forward for the Wasco people and families to have a unified power.

I feel it is important to establish the first Wasco Leaders Circle consisting of two representatives from every Wasco family (thirty-four) to govern and oversee the development of the Wasco Chief role, obligations, reporting and responsibilities. We can assure the Wasco Chief can be recalled, resign, and or be removed at the majority request of the Wasco Leaders Circle and by then we would have established together the requirements, stipulations, pre-requisites, and terms for any nomination to be made from here on. I would be the first to assure this is established for Wasco voices, people, and families to be united, heard and empowered.

There might be assumptions as to who will 'win' this election. Do not sit back and watch, as many elections have been decided by two or even one vote, and it most certainly could be yours.

We can assure the Wasco Chief has quarterly or annual meetings specific to the Wasco peoples' economics, culture, heritage, language and ceremony.

A Wasco Chief must work with all the Wasco families to assure the Wasco Chieftainship is passed to all Wasco families into eternity.

We need a chief capable and willing to include and bring all Wasco families together throughout his or her life to assure we are strengthening our nation together.

We need a chief capable of representing the Wasco people culturally, ceremoniously, professionally, humbly, and friendly amongst families, communities, and sovereign nations.

We need a Wasco voice at the table to speak to our needs, understand our struggles, and connect with our people.

We can assure the Chieftainship position is required to nurture and sustain a working rela-

tionship with all Wascos, tribes, villages, communities, and Confederated Tribes operations going forward into eternity.

We can assure the Wasco Chief has a physical cultural presence on the Columbia River to monitor water and habitat health, cultural subsistence, and strengthen fish and wildlife populations.

We can assure the Wasco Chief is capable of providing cultural assistance and funeral support in helping with grief, faith and spirituality to the Wasco people and community. The Wasco Kiksht language is near a sleeping state, but thanks to the Kiksht language teachers and warriors at the Culture and Heritage Department this issue continues to be at the forefront for these Wasco teachers. These teachers and students must be worked with for the life term of the position to speak culturally on behalf of the Wasco people having had positive working relations and or lifelong attempts to work with all the Wasco families for the entire life-term of the position.

Our Wasco Elders must be taken care of and assisted with monthly check-ins with noted assistance, requests and services.

Our community suffers from addiction and abuse. My background check shows my drinking and driving infractions I have gratefully recovered from and remain happily sober. Our Wasco Chief must remain completely sober for the remainder of their life-term to assist our addicted community members through cultural assistance, spiritual guidance, mentorship, motivation, and a sense of hope, pride and identity.

Wasco youth must be nurtured and mentored into adulthood with a stronger sense of place, purpose, and perspective that encourages and supports sobriety, growth, and role modeling.

We must provide our people with more traditional food and medicinal knowledge to reclaim our sovereign health, connection and living.

Our population exceeds our ability to house our people. Our Wasco Chief must work to provide and maintain housing, structures, sustainability, and safety.

The dog population far exceeds the community's interest to have such pets, and therefore have become unsafe for youth and adult walkers and joggers seeking healthy activity. We must enforce the ordinance immediately before more lives are lost on reservations due to out-of-control stray dogs.

Our tribal employees are viewed as expendable, devalued, and unappreciated. Our Wasco Chief must assure we keep employees appreciated, educated, supported, and promoted.

Turnover of staff and leadership stalls economic developments and it is worth keeping staff and tribal lead-

ership in place to assure we are not re-educating and bringing-up-to-speed when working to move forward faster. We must bring more people in rather than subbing people out. All-hands-on-deck is where we must go together.

We must seek more grant dollars to support community and economic development. Five collaborative grant writers shall be sought to partner with programs, departments, and enterprises quarterly. Since graduating from college, elders and I have raised over \$1 million for language, culture, and ceremony.

We must seek stronger investments that produce jobs and experience, maintain and increase revenues, diversify our investment portfolios, and partner with viable operations and enterprises nationally and internationally.

As we work to bring our people back to work, we need a strong volunteer base of community members working for positive community change including but not limited to cleaning, fixing, landscaping, and maintaining a positive community presentation and welcoming environment all community members and visitors can be proud of.

We need more traffic coming off of the local highway to support our events, businesses, tourism and artists.

We must work humbly, respectfully, and culturally together to bring unrelated families together in an attempt to strengthen our bloodlines so that future chiefs aren't but a fraction of Wasco.

A personal concern is a healthy balance with my family, the tribal organization, the community, and cultural services. I want my children and all Wasco children to have supportive present parents and family units to encourage and strengthen their educational development. I have strong healthy relationships with my three Wasco children and my beautiful supportive wife Misty Greene (Lummi). I hope all candidates and Chiefs have a respectable and loving family base they contribute to and nurture.

Although I am 40 years young, I believe we still have elders able and willing to contribute to the development, preservation, responsibilities, and heritage of the Wasco Chieftainship. I have a great interest in working with these elders and families before it is too late. Years from now I too will be an elder and much time would have passed then to learn from the elders to help steer, guide, and solidify requirements to uphold such a cultural political position for the Wasco people.

I truly believe this can all be accomplished.

Jefferson Greene - Wasq'u, Taxshpash, Nimiipuu, Paiute, ku Shivanish



OPEN HOUSE

Come Tour the MAC!
Thursday, May 2 | 4-6pm



If you've never been to the aquatic center, or if it's been a while, let us reintroduce you. View the facility, enjoy some refreshments, and ask us any questions you might have on the upcoming MACRD ballot measures.