



Letters and opion

from Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises

How the W.S. Power Pathway meets federal objectives

by **Cathy Ehli**,
General Manager, Power & Water Enterprises

In our last column, Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises explained how we are watching for updates from the federal government about our work to upgrade the Bethel-Round Butte transmission line. For this project we have already secured a \$250 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

As we continue to move forward with implementing the project and monitor for updates, we want to provide an update and outline how this project aligns with the priorities of the federal administration.

Because the project will involve a new partnership between the Confederated Tribes and Portland General Electric, the project now has a new name: 'Warm Springs Power Pathway.'

The Warm Springs Power Pathway benefits the tribes, and advances important regional and national priorities.

By upgrading the transmission line so that it can transmit more power to the Willamette Valley from the Pelton Round Butte hydro-power project and other energy generation projects, we will not only generate funds for the Warm Springs government to exercise its inherent sovereignty, but will also help meet other critical needs of the tribes' neighbors and our nation.

Here is how the Warm Springs Power Pathway can accomplish this:

1. By investing in the Warm Springs Power Pathway, the federal government will bolster U.S. economic and military security.

As investment continues in national security installations largely on the west side of the Cascade Mountain range, our project will help to supply reliable, abundant energy.

By increasing the capacity of transmission lines with more robust steel instead of wood structures, it will also improve Oregon's and other states' ability to withstand weather or cyber-attack events.



Cathy Ehli

2. The Warm Springs Power Pathway will also support the prosperity of the tribes, our region and nation.

It will create job opportunities and open the door to abundant sources of energy, helping provide power to densely populated areas and attract businesses to the region.

The fiber optic lines that we intend to integrate along the transmission route offer another economic boost.

3. The Warm Springs Power Pathway furthers the federal government goal of establishing the United States' global technological supremacy.

Data and AI facilities, crypto operations, and semiconductor manufacturing are expanding in the region, and they can rely on the increased power that will come from expanding the Bethel-Round Butte line's capacity.

Integrating fiber optic lines serves this goal as well, because it facilitates high-speed internet and data transmissions and keeps connections secure and reliable.

You can read more about how the benefits of the Warm Springs Power Pathway will extend to the tribes' neighbors at: wspwe.net/blog

Please stay tuned for more updates in the future.

As the federal administration continues to communicate its priorities, and Power and Water's conversations proceed with the Department of Energy, we are encouraged that the Warm Springs Power Pathway so clearly serves important policy objectives of the new administration and our national interest.

As always, we will keep you informed. **Cathy Ehli.**

No W.S. pet clinic in May

I am reaching out to let you know that we have made the difficult decision to cancel our second Warm Springs pet clinic, initially scheduled for May. We were having a hard time getting the first one filled up. Since this is our third year in a row doing the clinics, we are optimistic that means that most of the people who needed the service have done so in the previous years!

The April clinic is still on as scheduled.

New pet project

We also have another exciting project that is now open for Warm Springs residents. It's called Fix Ticks. After noticing many pets with ticks during our clinics, we decided to find a way to make better access to prevention.

Anyone with a Warm Springs P.O. Box or address can order flea and tick prevention for the whole year. Our aim is to help protect pets from tick-borne illnesses and keep families safe! All participants need to do is sign up on our website.

firstnationsvet.com

As the warmer months approach, we're hoping this program can help tackle ticks when they're at their worst. We know how expensive tick treatment can be, so we're excited to offer this new service to make it more accessible.

Ali Peterson, Content & Clinic coordinator, First Nations Veterinary.

The 2025 Elders' Fair



Samiakin Allen/KWSO

The Elders' Fair this year saw a great turnout of Elders and caregivers. There were many information booths, like Community Health, Jefferson County Public Health, the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, the Alzheimer's Association, National Suicide Prevention, High Desert Food & Farm Alliance, Fire & Safety, Oregon Department of Human Services, The American Red Cross, the Health and Wellness Center Medical Department, New Horizons In-Home Care, Victims of Crime Services, Veggie RX, and more.

About measles

There are currently no measles cases in Oregon. However, being one of the most contagious viruses in the world, measles activity elsewhere in the United States has public health officials in Oregon concerned about the future.

Measles vaccination rates in Oregon, and nationwide, have been dropping slowly and steadily in recent years, which can lead to more outbreaks that are harder to contain and, potentially, a major public health problem.

An outbreak is defined as three or more related cases.

As of late March, a regional measles outbreak in the Southwest U.S. includes 280 cases in Texas and 38 cases in New Mexico. Also, nearby Oklahoma has reported four measles cases — nearly all unvaccinated and originating from the Texas-

New Mexico outbreak.

In Texas, 36 cases have been hospitalized, including one school-aged child who died, the first measles death in the U.S. since a person died of it in 2015. Among all Texas cases, only two are

known to have gotten any doses of measles vaccine; the remaining 277 cases are either unvaccinated against measles, or their vaccination status is unknown. The child who died was unvaccinated.

Impacts on tribal colleges from federal funding cuts

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium is concerned about the implications of the recent federal executive orders impacting education.

The executive order is called, 'Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities;' and instructs the Secretary of Education to "take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education."

Tribal colleges and universities, like many other educational institutions, rely on federal funding administered through the Department of Education.

The funding is essential for supporting programs that serve not just American Indian communities, but low-income, remote, and rural students, as well as other underserved communities.

The Department of Education distributes billions of dollars annually to schools and colleges to support these programs. The American Indian Higher Education Consortium advocates that this commitment helps fulfill the federal government trust and treaty obligations, providing education to American Indian students.

Dismantling the Department of Education, the consortium says, could

severely impact the government's ability to meet these legal and moral commitments to Tribal Nations, and others.

Any path forward must prioritize uninterrupted funding for vital education programs, the consortium advocates: Closing of the department risks creating funding gaps that would disproportionately harm rural and low-income communities, they say.

Many tribal colleges and universities operate in areas where alternative funding sources are scarce, making federal support indispensable, advocates are warning.

Tribal colleges and universities help preserve sovereignty, The schools were established in the 1960s to address the growing need to preserve our culture, Natove language and lands, and sovereignty.

While primarily serving tribal communities, tribal colleges and universities are open to students from all backgrounds.

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium provides a support network to the nation's accredited tribal colleges and universities, and works to influence public policy on American Indian and Alaska Native higher education issues.

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Step 3:
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For Warm Springs Residents

Requirements To Participate:
Pets must reside within the boundary of a reservation we serve, be over eight weeks old, and have medication sent to an address on a reservation. Both PO Boxes and physical addresses are acceptable.

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