

Smoke



signals

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE

GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON · MAY 1987

PROPOSED RESERVATION TO BENEFIT LOCAL AREA

The proposed Grand Ronde reservation will result in economic and employment benefits for the local West Valley economy, according to the Tribe's General Manager, Jim Willis.

Willis projects the proposed reservation could generate \$1.2 million annually in timber revenues, and create many new jobs for the local West Valley area of Sheridan, Willamina and Grand Ronde.

The local economy will be affected in several ways. Changes in ownership and administration of the current BLM forest lands to tribal reservation lands will result in changes in where and how the timber revenues from the land are spent. Fees now paid to the federal treasury will be retained in the local area as payments to the Tribe.

These funds represent an injection of "new" money into the local economy, which will affect direct spending and, increase employment associated with the higher levels of spending at the local level. Depending on the amount of money re-distributed locally, the effect of the added funds is expected to be about double the initial direct spending.

In other words, the estimated 1.2 million expected in timber revenues will have an impact on the local economy of approximately \$2.4 million. For each new job created as a result of the added spending, another job can be expected to result from indirect impact.

Second, the operation of the new reservation will result in increased spending for the administration of Tribal affairs. Based on Tribal estimates, approximately \$1.1 million annually will be spent, a large portion of which will be spent in the West Valley area economy.

While the impacts on spending will not be as great as those associated with forest management, it is expected that salaries of \$1.1 million will have an overall impact on area incomes of \$2.2 - 2.4 million. In terms of employment, it is expected that for every new job created in conjunction with Tribal administration, another six-tenths of a full-time position would be generated in other sections of the economy.

Also, to provide comprehensive services and programs for Tribal members, including an economic development and

(see Reservation, page 2)



Far left to right: Dean Azule, Mark Mercier and Neil Goldschmidt

TRIBES MEET WITH GOLDSCHMIDT

Tribal and urban Indian representatives held a luncheon meeting with Governor Neil Goldschmidt on April 15, 1987 at the State Capital Building.

The meeting, set-up by the Commission on Indian Services, provided Indian leaders the opportunity to meet the new Governor and discuss Indian and state-related issues.

Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier attended on behalf of the tribe. Mercier reviewed the progress being made on the tribe's Reservation Plan and updated the Governor on timber company concerns relating to exporting timber from the proposed reservation.

Mercier explained that the tribe is willing to put a ten year ban on exporting timber, but that timber companies want a permanent ban on exporting.

"We'll see what we can do to help," Goldschmidt said.

Dean Azule, Grand Ronde education specialist, also attended the meeting as the Willamette Valley representative to the Commission on Indian Services.

Azule reported that Indian Education leaders were concerned about Board of Higher Education proposed changes. The Board seeks to raise entrance requirements (from a current 2.5 Grade Point Average to 2.75 GPA) and require a 5th and 6th year teaching certification process.

The extended certification process, and proposed federal cuts in higher education grant and loan programs would eliminate prospective Native American teachers, Azule said.

Goldschmidt recommended that Indian representatives meet with the Oregon Scholarship Commission on ways to get additional funding sources.

Several tribal representatives requested information on how tribes could access state lottery dollars. Goldschmidt explained that he was recommending some changes in how lottery funds are distributed. He would like to see the dollars funneled through fewer channels with larger grants given.

Under his proposed changes, \$25 million dollars would go to regional economic strategies developed by counties and cities. The cities and counties would be expected to involve tribes, Goldschmidt said.

Another \$14 million in lottery funds, set aside for site-specific projects, could also be accessed by tribes, according to Goldschmidt.

Many tribal representatives also requested that a liaison person be established in the Governor's office that could work with tribal representatives. Floyd McKay, chief assistant to the Governor, would probably be the liaison, said Goldschmidt.

In concluding, Goldschmidt asked the tribal representatives to formulate some very specific issues that would impact tribes.

"If you say it makes a big difference, we'll commit the time and talent to get it done," Goldschmidt said.