

Settlement of Puyallup Land Claims all but in the Bank

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is about to issue \$20,000 checks to its 845 adult members, tribal officials announced Wednesday, the last step in translating the tribe's huge land-claims settlement into reality.

Tribal officials said the checks will be issued April 26, 27 and 30 at the tribal administration building. Puget Sound Bank, which the tribe selected to handle its large trust fund, will set up a portable office at tribal headquarters to handle distribution.

The payments are part of the tribe's \$162 million land-claims settlement, in which the tribe relinquished legal claim to hundreds of acres of prime real estate in the Tacoma Tidelands and other parts of the county in exchange for cash, land and social-service programs.

The settlement was completed last month, but the cash payments were postponed while the tribe determined its exact enrollment and a tribal committee selected a bank to manage the trust fund.

Tribal leaders said they are glad the money is about to be distributed.

"It's a relief to me, because there's been pressure on the tribal council to get the money out," said the tribal chairman, Henry John.

The money will mean much to many tribal members, some of whom are poor, live in run-down homes and piece together livelihoods by fishing and selling fire-works. The tribe's unemployment rate is 67 percent, tribal officials say.

Tribal member Patty Butler said she'll open her first bank account in 20 years and will buy some basic necessities - a used car, for instance, and appliances that work. She says she also plans to buy a computer for her daughter.

"It's nice to know the money is here now," she said. "We can finally start making plans."

Some tribal members, however, are still unhappy with the claims they relinquished in exchange for the cash and said they are not looking forward to the day the checks are issued.

"Just another sad day in the life of Puyallup," said tribal member Alan Miller, a fisherman and the owner of a fish-buying company.

Altogether, 1,545 tribal members will receive the payments. But because a tribal member must be 21 to receive a check, only about half of them will receive payments in two weeks.

At one point, tribal officials feared the checks would not reach the \$20,000 suggested in the settlement because the tribe's enrollment was larger than expected. But because the money has been collecting interest,

tribal officials said, they were able to issue payments of exactly \$20,000.

Meanwhile, many still worry that some tribal members will misuse the money or slip into an underworld of drugs.

John said he shared some of those concerns but for the most part believes tribal members will use the money wisely. Puget Sound Bank, he added, will offer investment advice to members.

"Naturally, there are worries," he said. "But for the majority of the people, it will be a good benefit to them."

Major Programs and Activities Funded by the Settlement

- * \$24 million -- One time cash payment to all Tribal members.
- * \$22 million -- Permanent trust fund, that will pay out an estimated \$88 million over the next 50 years to meet the Tribe's social, health, and welfare needs.
- * \$37 million -- Total value of 900 acres of land going to the land going to the Tribe (including 240 acres of Port of Tacoma land, 118 of which is on the Upper Blair Waterway.
- * \$3.5 million -- Job training program for 265 Tribal members and jobs for 115 Tribal members in Pierce County private sector businesses.
- * \$9.5 million -- Fund for providing economic development and land acquisition assistance.
- * \$2 million -- Fund for starting or expanding small business enterprises.
- * \$10 million -- Enhancement of Tribal fisheries.

Major Contributors to Settlement

Federal Government	\$77.25 million
Port of Tacoma	\$43.00 million
State of Washington	\$21.00 million
Private Businesses	\$11.46 million
City of Tacoma	\$ 6.10 million
Pierce County	\$ 2.60 million
City of Puyallup	\$ 250,000
City of Fife	\$ 100,000

While boating or fishing, make sure that your wastes don't end up in the water. Carry a litter bag and use it! It is illegal to "litter" in the water, just like it is on the land. Bait bags and trays, fishing line, plastic wrappings and styrofoam cups are some of the wastes that people have thrown overboard in the past. Besides being unsightly, wastes in the water pose threats to marine life and fellow boaters.

Discarded plastic waste can harm or kill marine life. Animals that become entangled in fishing lines and nets may drown or be wounded by the cutting action of the debris. Birds, fish and sea turtles have mistaken plastic particles for food items. Ingesting plastic causes them to feel full, yet they can die of starvation. Birds, fish and marine mammals swim or dive into six-pack yokes, causing them to choke or drown.

Plastic debris can also endanger human lives and property. It can get tangled up in boat motors or props and clog up the intake valves, causing engine failure. This can put a boater in a dangerous situation, not to mention causing costly repairs.

Proclamations

On April 10, 1990, Governor Neil Goldschmidt signed two proclamations; one recognizing the government-to-government relationship between the State of Oregon and the Oregon Tribes; and the other declaring Oregon American Indian Week 1990:

Government-to-Government Relationship:

Whereas: It is the intent of the Governor of the State of Oregon to affirm the government-to-government relationship between the State of Oregon and the Oregon Indian Tribes; and

Whereas: The State of Oregon recognizes that there are nine separate and distinct federally recognized Indian tribal governments located within the boundaries of the state; and

Whereas: The State and tribal governments acknowledge that tribes and the State have historical relationships and unique rights shaped by federal and state constitutions, statutes and treaties with the United States government and executive orders of the President.

Now Therefore, I, Neil Goldschmidt, of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim that the State of Oregon accepts the fundamental principle and integrity of the government-to-government relationship between the State of Oregon and the Indian Tribes.

Oregon American Indian Week Proclamation:

Whereas: It is a deeply held belief of the Indian people that their ancestors have welcomed the changing of seasons forever in this land; and

Whereas: They attach special significance to the passing of Winter as a signal for the return of abundance and giving by Mother Earth; and

Whereas: The sharing of their wisdom in the protection and preservation of those bounties has served to enrich the lives of all Oregonians; and

Whereas: The spring of each year is the propitious time for acknowledging and celebrating the continued importance of that historic endowment.

Now,

Therefore, I, Neil Goldschmidt, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim May 13-19, 1990 as **Oregon American Indian Week:**

in Oregon in recognition of the countless past and present contribution made to our State by these historic peoples.

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Keep marine debris out of the water for the safety of all boaters and marine life. Come up with a system for your wastes that will keep them on board. A litter bag that is weighted down will do the trick, as will a small plastic pail with a lid. Whatever method you choose, make sure that your best attempts don't get blown away! Empty your litter bags onshore and set a good example for others. Make it boat policy that nothing goes overboard. Try to retrieve any trash that has blown away or that you see floating. The best way to combat marine debris is for us all to stop throwing our waste in the water.

Free litter bags and other information on waste reduction can be obtained by calling the Washington State Department of Ecology's Litter Hotline at 1-800-LITTERS.

Courtesy of The Trout & Salmon Leader.



The Water is not a Dumping Ground

By Patricia Jatzcak, State Parks and Recreation Commission

Garbage is something we don't usually talk about, but we always seem to hear about. We hear that we each throw away 2.2 pounds of garbage per day, and that the landfills are getting full. We hear that garbage thrown in the water causes problems for wildlife and for humans and that we shouldn't do it. At home, the garbage can is there, but what do we do with garbage we create while out boating and fishing?

There is no reason to discard wastes overboard. Parks, launch ramps, piers and marinas usually have cans available for garbage. Marinas often have sewage pump-out stations for holding tank wastes and collection points for oil recycling. If we use these facilities, we will help keep the water clean.