

WALKING in ancestral FOOTSTEPS

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once were used by our people for trade and hunting. For tribal members they are a connection to the past. They provide an important sense of who we are as tribal people besides contributing to our understanding of the life ways of our people hundreds of years ago."

The Cultural Protection program works with other agencies on and off the reservation to identify and preserve traditional sites relating to the Grand Ronde Tribe and its history.

"Many of these sites show no visible evidence of Native American use. Spirit Mountain is a good example of this kind of site. Under federal law, it is enough that Native American people say the place is significant to their way of life for the site to qualify for additional protection."

Members of the Cultural Resources

team research and identify culturally significant sites then collaborate with agencies whose projects might endanger them such as construction firms, state road builders or loggers to develop more site-friendly ways to complete the projects.

Olson and fellow cultural specialist, Lindy Trolan, are currently working with the Tribe's Natural Resource Division to preserve remnants of the Hebo Mountain Trail that runs through two proposed timber sale sites.

"This year we've come in early in the planning stages of the timber sales to minimize any potential damage to the trails so that there would be no danger of an impact on the timber sales or the trails," says Olson.

"We have the flexibility to brainstorm alternatives to protect the site

and consider a number of different logging options when we are involved at the early stages of the planning process," explains Trolan.

However, the challenge to preserving the historic trails is finding them, according to Natural Resource Division Manager, Cliff Adams.

He says in the past the Tribe's foresters have outlined a buffer of about 75 feet of area to remain undisturbed on either side of trails running through a timber sale.

Since the overgrown foot trails are not easily distinguishable from old logging roads or even animal trails it takes an expert to identify them.

Foresters will collaborate with the Cultural Protection program to bring in an archeologist that can help identify Grand Ronde Indian trails. Together the two tribal programs

hope to preserve the valuable remnant of Grand Ronde history.

But Trolan, Olson and Adams say they have more in mind than just preserving a section of the old trail.

Traces of the Hebo Trail run northward through the center of the Tribe's timber reservation and were once part of hiking trails in the present day Siuslaw National Forest.

"We've been working with the Hebo Ranger District because the trail extends on their area," Trolan says. "They've already cleared the trail on their land and we're working on getting the two trails to meet."

"We want to keep our practice on line with theirs to preserve the trail," adds Olson. "We could potentially have recreational activities on our trail, including hiking and horseback riding."

PREPARING FOR POW-WOW

Feathers are important to Native Americans, particularly from birds honored by their tribe, and birds that carry messages for individuals.

You will see feathers everywhere at a pow-wow, and on everything, especially the regalia of the dancers. Feathers are used in ceremonies and are favored items for a giveaway. They are beautifully wrapped and decorated with beading, fringe and other things that are special to the person doing the wrapping.

From the earliest of times, feathers have been given as a symbol of honor and respect. Young people were often given an eagle feather when they completed their first vision quest. When you see old photographs of Native Americans holding the long lance with many feathers hanging down from them (coup sticks), and wearing feathers in their hair, or wearing the awesome full feather headdresses, keep in mind that each one of those feathers was earned by its owner. Each feather represents an outstanding deed of kindness or contribution to the village or tribe, or outstanding bravery (such as fighting a wild animal), or distinguishing oneself in the hunt, or in battle.

Horses were also honored with feathers. The nations took great care of their horses, for they knew that their lives depended upon the speed and dependability of the horse. Horses gave them freedom of movement and allowed them to track their enemies and find their food. They painted their horses with sign language and outfitted them with fancy blankets and beadwork. A horse could earn its own feathers which were carefully tied into the mane and tail.

Many of the feather headdresses and other feather decorations you see on regalia have been handed down through the generations, and some have a value that cannot be measured. Here are some of the most commonly seen feathers, and the meanings they have to many Native nations.

EAGLE FEATHERS

Eagle feathers are the most prized feather of all. The eagle is man's messenger who flies closest to the Great Spirit and who carries man's thoughts and prayers. The eagle is a warrior bird who will fight for food and protect its young. He represents clear vision and keeping the mind and eyes open for the big picture without becoming opinionated or developing tunnel vision.

The bald eagle is a fishing bird who is found near the oceans, lakes and large streams where fish are plentiful. The tail feathers of the adult bald eagle are white.

The most sought after eagle feather is from the golden eagle sometimes called the spotted eagle because the young birds have white tail feathers with markings of dark brown, or dark grey, or black. Once the bird matures, its tail feathers match the rest of its body, a warm golden brown. It is a hunting bird found where there is a plentiful supply of snakes, gophers, rabbits and other small game.



THE OWL

The poor owl has gotten a bad rap, for some people look upon it as a bad luck omen. Truth is, the great majority of Native nations honor the owl, and only a very few tribes consider it a signal of impending death. Those who fear it believe that when an owl is seen or heard, someone is about to die. They say the owl comes to carry the soul of the recently deceased safely to the Great Spirit.

Owls range in size from the very small ones that live inside desert cactus, to the very large and mighty Great Horned Owl. They are considered by some tribes to be a symbol of wisdom and the ability to see into a situation to find the truth; they are a sign of strong intuition and the courage to follow that intuition, and are seen as being alert and aware of what is around them.



THE HAWK

The hawk is the messenger, the carrier of signs and messages from the Great Spirit. Hawks remind us to pay close attention to details of what is around us and to be aware of the consequences of what we do. They also are a messenger in our thoughts, words and actions. The shrill scream of the hawk is a reminder to be alert and to experience the wonder of the people and things in our lives.

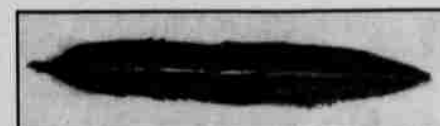
Hawks live among us and have the ability to survive in the cities, suburban areas, as well as the country. Are they telling us to look at what we are doing to the earth and to ourselves? A tail feather of the great Red Tailed Hawk is a prized possession and is truly beautiful.



THE CROW

In some Native beliefs the crow is a powerful creature, for it is the keeper of the Sacred Laws of the Universe. It has the power to blend darkness and light, and sees the past, present and future, along with both inner and outer reality. It is the sign of change.

The crow is also a great trader. They love bright, shiny objects, and if one takes something, it will often leave something in exchange. Of course, you might not like what it leaves, but it has traded with you!



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