

Tribe adopts new Strategic Plan

'Living document' to evolve, guide Tribe over next decade

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

After almost two years of meetings and surveys, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has a new Strategic Plan to help guide Tribal development through the next decade.

The Strategic Plan was adopted by Tribal Council on Aug. 5 and is the first update since 1995.

"This summary of the planning process gives you a picture of the values, issues and goals that will guide the Tribe's development over the next 10 years," the new Strategic Plan says.

"It also describes some, but not all, of the initial actions that departments will take to implement the plan."

Among the Strategic Plan's adopted strategies and goals are development of a comprehensive Tribal public safety and law enforcement plan, creation of a 10-year Cultural Plan, increased prevention efforts and development of resources for addiction treatment, maintaining regular and open communication between Tribal government and

the membership, and development of infrastructure and resources for Tribal economic vitality and diversification.

The effort to update the Tribe's 1995 Strategic Plan started in October 2007, when the Strategic Futures Conference was held in Grand Ronde.

A draft plan was developed by Tribal Council with departmental input. Between November 2008 and June 2009, Tribal member comments were sought first from committees and then from the membership through a mailer of the draft plan along with a survey questionnaire. Also, input was received from those who attended community meetings held in Portland, Grand Ronde, Eugene, Bend and Yakima, Wash.

Tribal Council identified five overall strategies to be addressed by the Strategic Plan — Sovereignty and Self-Sufficiency; Tradition and Culture; Healthy Individuals, Families and Community; Community and Involvement; and Resources.

The strategies are intended to be "broad statements of intent" about key Tribal issues. The goals listed under each strategy are intended to be actions that will lead to accomplishments of the strategies.

Under the Strategies section, Sovereignty and Self-Sufficiency features

seven goals; Tradition and Culture, three goals; Healthy Individuals, Families and Community, four goals; Community and Involvement, four goals; and Resources, five goals.

A new element of the Strategic Plan, "Our Foundation," describes the ethic of mutual respect and contribution that is the foundation of Grand Ronde Tribal values, the plan says.

It reads, "The Umpqua, Molalla, Rogue River, Kalapuya and Chasta and all of the Peoples of the 27 Tribes and Bands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have kept and tended to certain traditions for centuries. Foremost among them is the spirit of caring for each other.

"According to Tribal tradition, the Tribe has a responsibility to look out for the well-being and interests of each Tribal member, especially in times of personal challenge or difficulty. In turn, each Tribal member has a unique contribution to make, and shares the responsibility to contribute to the welfare of other Tribal members and the Tribe as a whole.

"This tradition of mutual responsibility is a cornerstone of Tribal values. All plans and aspirations of the Tribe are built on and depend upon the active demonstration of caring, respect and responsibility

among all Tribal members."

The new Strategic Plan also lists Department Action Plans. For example, Education is charged with increasing the graduation rate of Tribal high school students and increasing student awareness of funding sources for college or vocational training.

Tribal Planning and Grants Manager Kim Rogers said that every Tribal member household will receive a copy of the adopted Strategic Plan in the near future.

"The strategies, goals and action plans contained in this plan represent the Tribe's current priorities and efforts heading into 2010," the plan says.

"As we know, conditions and circumstances change over time, and what makes sense today may not be the best thinking five years from now.

"Guided by the Tribe's long-term vision, principles and foundation, the Tribal Strategic Plan is intended to be a 'living document' that will evolve over the next 10 years to reflect the current issues and needs of the Tribe."

The Tribe also is in the process of developing a Community Development Plan, which will focus on the Grand Ronde community area. The detailed plan is scheduled to be completed later this year. ■

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