

# Paddle to Quinault begins July 20

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family will paddle on its ninth canoe journey – Paddle to Quinault 2013 – from July 20 through Aug. 6, taking the Tribal canoe, Stankiya (“coyote”), up to the Quinault Indian Reservation at Point Grenville, Wash.

Tribal canoes will travel down the Willamette River to where it meets the Columbia River at Kelly Point Park, 101 miles from where the river enters the Pacific Ocean at Astoria. The river travel continues around Sauvie Island and up to Tokeland, Wash., where the river enters the Pacific Ocean.

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family will meet up with five other canoe families at Kelly Point where the Willamette enters the Columbia River. Together, an estimated 350 paddlers and support staff will head out together to the Pacific Ocean.

Paddlers will spend two or three days on the ocean, traveling northwest and meeting local Tribes along the way. Among them will be the Confederated Tribes of the Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Chinook Indian Nation and the Suquamish Tribe. The journey will cover 225 miles and participants will spend more than two weeks on the journey.

Like other years, this year’s Paddle to Quinault begins with a launch at Rogers Landing in New-

berg on Saturday, July 20, and a landing and protocol at Champoeg State Heritage Park later that day.

The Northwest Shells and Cedar Summer Event at Champoeg – sponsored by the Grand Ronde, Coos Lower Umpqua, Coquille and Cow Creek Tribes – will be a welcome and sendoff for the paddlers.

From noon to 4 p.m. that day, Northwest Shells and Cedar will offer cultural children’s games, drum making, basketry weaving, flint knapping and other demonstrations, traditional music, fry bread and non-alcoholic beverages, all in support of the canoe landing and protocol.

The itinerary takes the group from Champoeg to stops at Clackamette Park, Cathedral Park, Kelly Point Park, St. Helens, Rainier, Skamokawa (Cathlamette), Chinook, Bay Center, Wash., and possibly Tokeland, depending on weather, all river travel, where they will enter the Pacific Ocean with Washington state stops at Shoalwater Bay and Ocean Shores Marina, and landing on Aug. 1 at Point Grenville where the host Tribe, the Quinault, will welcome some 100 canoes from across the Northwest. Canoes will arrive at Quinault from the north and the south.

From Aug. 1-6 at Point Grenville, Tribes will participate in five days of protocol.

Three guests from the Maoris of New Zealand will join U.S. Tribes



Map created by George Valdez

and Canadian First Nations for this year’s event.

“In 1989,” according to the Paddle to Quinault Web site, “Emmit Oliver, a Quinault Tribal Elder, organized the ‘Paddle to Seattle’ as a part of the Washington State

Centennial Ceremony revitalizing a tradition that was lost for many years, and that is canoeing.”

The Grand Ronde Tribe’s initial participation in a Canoe Journey was in 2005 during the Paddle to Elwha in Port Angeles, Wash. ■

## Interior plans consultation meeting in Canyonville

Department seeking input on federal recognition rules regarding Native American Tribes

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will hold a Tribal consultation meeting regarding the Department of the Interior’s federal recognition acknowledgement process at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 23, at the Seven Feathers Casino Resort in Canyonville.

The Department of the Interior is seeking Tribal and public comment on a discussion draft of potential changes to the department’s Part 83 process for acknowledging Indian groups as federally recognized Tribes.

The federal recognition acknowledgement process is the department’s regulatory process by which petitioning groups that meet the criteria are “acknowledged” as federally recognized Indian Tribes with a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Currently, there are 566 federally recognized Tribes in the United States with nine in Oregon.

“The discussion draft is a starting point in the conversation with federally recognized Tribes, petitioners and the public on how to ensure that the process is fair, efficient and

transparent,” said Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn.

“We are starting with an open mind and no fixed agenda, and we’re looking forward to getting input from all stakeholders before we move forward with a proposed rule that will provide additional certainty and timeliness to the process. In many parts of the discussion draft, we have made no fixed recommendations in order to have the benefit of that input in formulating a proposed rule.”

The discussion draft is available for review at [www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/index.htm](http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/index.htm). The department will accept written comments on the draft until Friday, Aug. 16.

Tribal consultation will run from 9 a.m. to noon and public input will be accepted from 1 to 4 p.m. Seven Feathers Casino Resort is located at 146 Chief Miwaleta Lane in Canyonville.

The meeting is one of five scheduled throughout the United States with additional stops in California, Michigan, Maine and Louisiana.

Washburn said the department will seek additional public comment and consult further with Tribes after issuing a proposed rule. ■

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