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# Smoke Signals

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## U.S. House passes Reservation Act amendment

*Hearings still awaited in Senate  
on measure that streamlines  
how Tribe takes land into trust*

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. House of Representatives passed on Monday, Jan. 13, an amendment to the 1988 Grand Ronde Reservation Act that would streamline how the Tribe takes land into trust.

Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno testified before the House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs in support of the amendment in May 2013 and during the previous Congress in July 2012.

The legislation, H.R. 841, was introduced by Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader and received bipartisan support from the entire Oregon congressional delegation.

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## Maintaining a connection

*General Council briefed on  
draft Ceded Lands Plan*

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

The land ceded by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in seven treaties signed in the 1850s totals more than 13 million acres.

The ceded lands encompass most of western Oregon, as well as part of southwestern Washington and northern California.

More than 160 years after signing those ratified treaties, the Grand Ronde Tribe continues seeking to maintain a connection to the land that has existed since time immemorial.

“It was part of the plan of Termination to rip us apart. It was part of the plan of Termination to cause a dysfunction within the Tribal communities. It was part of the plan of Termination to disconnect us from our actual aboriginal homelands,” Tribal Land and Culture Department Manager Jan Looking Wolf Reibach said.

“Since then, the Tribe has been working very strongly to connect both internally all of our people and connect with our external communi-

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## Still Standing Strong



*Smoke Signals file photo*

Leah Brisbois dances during Grand Entry of the fifth annual Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow held at the Salem Pavilion at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem in January 2013.

### Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow back for sixth time

By Ron Karten

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

SALEM — Native American drumming, dancing and crafts will return to the Salem Pavilion at the Oregon State Fair and Expo Center on Saturday, Jan. 25, with the doors opening at noon and Grand Entry scheduled for 1 p.m.

The sixth annual Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow, called “Standing Strong,” started as a one-time

event to coincide with Oregon's 150th birthday in 2009.

While Oregon was celebrating 150 years of statehood, the five federally recognized Tribes of western Oregon wanted Oregonians to know that they have called this land home since time immemorial.

Of the five Tribes that coordinated the first powwow, four continue an event that has become an annual tradition.

## If you go

“Standing Strong,” the sixth annual  
Gathering of Oregon's First Nations  
Powwow

**When:** Noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. Grand entry occurs at 1 p.m.

**Where:** Oregon State Fair & Expo Center's Salem Pavilion, 2330 17th St. N.E., Salem.

**Cost:** Powwow entry is free; parking costs \$3.

**What:** Traditional dancing and drumming, craft demonstrations, cultural information, Tribal vendors and hands-on activities for children.

**More information:** 800-422-0232.

The Tribes still cooperatively planning and participating in the powwow are the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians in Coos Bay, the Coquille Indian Tribe in North Bend and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians in Roseburg.

Reasons for carrying on the powwow, Tribal spokespersons say, include the suc-

cess of the original powwow and the recognition each successive one has brought to Oregon's Native peoples. Previous powwows have attracted as many as 5,000 attendees.

“The Grand Ronde Tribe has always stepped up to support spreading the message of Tribal sovereignty and promoting aware-

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