

Wisdom Project seeks Native youth mentors

Wisdom of the Elders is recruiting between two and four Native American youth to serve as mentors for The Wisdom Project, a Native American youth leadership initiative designed to engage Native youth in environmental and climate studies.

Youth will learn about their local ecosystem, consider higher education and careers in science, technology, engineering or math, and serve as peer mentors to middle school youth.

Peer mentors will assist a small team of Native youth during a one-month Summer Field Science Camp being held in Portland in July.

Training will be provided on some weekends March through June.

For an application or to have questions answered, contact Amanda Kelley Lopez at amanda@wisdomoftheelders.org or call 503-775-4014. Applications will be accepted through February.

Native high school and community college youth are invited to apply, including those enrolled in federally recognized Tribes and those who self-identify as Native American. Youth will receive a stipend for participating in the spring training sessions and the summer camp, and will be acknowledged at a community film screening in September. ■



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Michael Karnosh, Tribal Ceded Lands Program manager, gives the membership an update on the Ceded Lands Plan during the General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center on Sunday, Jan. 5.

Ceded Lands Plan will be released in three versions

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ties and maintain that connection within our aboriginal homelands and our ceded lands. It's part of our circle of culture."

In 2007, the Tribe created the Ceded Lands Program, which in March 2013 became part of the new Land and Culture Department. For almost a year, Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh has been working with his departmental colleagues, as well as employees in other Tribal departments, such as Legal and Public Affairs, to craft a Ceded Lands Plan for the Tribe.

At the Jan. 5 General Council meeting, Karnosh, Reibach and Tribal Planner Rick George gave the membership a brief overview of the plan and sought additional input from Tribal members.

In 2013, the Tribe re-acquired two conservation properties worth almost \$4 million in its ceded lands – Rattlesnake Butte near Junction City north of Eugene and the Chahpam site on the North Santiam River southeast of Salem. The Tribe used Bonneville Power Administration funds to purchase the properties. BPA funds also will pay for the Tribe's continued conservation work at the sites.

"The vision of the Ceded Lands Plan is to build on these successes and create ways for the Tribe to protect and recover its ceded lands," Reibach said.

The Ceded Lands Plan will be released in three versions: an executive summary for the general public, a consultation document that is still "public safe" that can be distributed to other agencies and a full plan more than 200 pages long that will contain sensitive cultural information that is for internal use only.

Karnosh said staff members are still seeking input on the Ceded Lands Plan, which gives people a basic understanding of what "ceded lands" are to the Tribe and how Tribal ancestors were forced off their lands under duress.

"It goes treaty by treaty," Karnosh said, with maps detailing each area.

George said the Ceded Lands Plan is a direct result of the 2010 Tribal Strategic Plan, which seeks to "assert Grand Ronde rights in its ceded lands and educate the public

about these lands."

By creating the document, George said, the Tribe can improve its relationships with city, county and state governments "to build awareness of the treaty Tribe status and work together." It also will result in improved exercise of Tribal sovereignty, he said.

"There's a huge opportunity to educate, to articulate the interests and culture of the Tribe, and to build partnerships with cities, ranch owners, small town leadership, federal agencies, the Governor's Office to talk about how to bring them into helping you protect your interests in the ceded lands," George said.

Karnosh said Tribal members had until Jan. 10 to provide input on the draft by either filling out a comment form at the General Council meeting or sending a comment via e-mail to CededLandsComments@grandronde.org. Commentators needed to include their name, roll number and a way to contact them.

Reibach thanked Tribal Council, the General Manager's Office, Land and Culture employees, the Tribal Attorney's Office, George, the Public Affairs and Natural Resources departments, as well as Tribal members and Elders for their help in crafting the Ceded Lands Plan.

"Even though it is away from our local community and reservation, we're maintaining our connection because they are our lands," Reibach said.

In other action during the General Council meeting, Linda Brandon, Richard Ray, Louise Coulson and Leonette Galligher were elected to four open seats on the Elders Committee.

Tribal Elders Dorothy Leno and Linda LaChance and Eric Bernando won the \$50 door prizes and Tonya Gleason-Shepek won the \$100 door prize.

The general membership in attendance also voted overwhelmingly to adopt a five-minute time limit for speakers at General Council meetings.

Tribal Council member Jon A. George, Bernando and Reibach provided the cultural drumming and singing at the start of the meeting.

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, in the Tribal Community Center. ■

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Register by Feb. 10

March 1

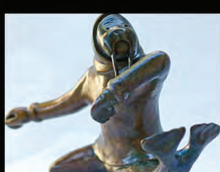
The Museum at Warm Springs
2189 U.S. 26, Warm Springs, OR
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WORKSHOPS ARE FREE. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Laura Grabhorn, (360)867-6413
or grabhorl@evergreen.edu



NATIVE ARTS & CULTURES FOUNDATION



From top left: *Recycled Flying Head* by Linley Logan, Alaska Kuteeyaa Dancers, Longhouse model canoe gifts for Paddle to Quinault, *Seaweed Gatherer* by Denise Emerson, *Purple Frost* by Alex McCarty, *Honoring Our Ancestors* by Joe Seymour, *Walrus Dance Transformation* by Teresa White