

Tribe joins in the protection, restoration of Forest Corridor

By Ron Karen

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Grand Ronde Tribe has joined a wide-ranging group of Tribal, public and private interests in a plan to protect, restore and enhance the South Santiam Community Forest Corridor.

On March 10, the Tribe joined other stakeholders in signing a Declaration of Cooperation for the project. David Harrelson, interim Cultural Protection manager, is the Grand Ronde Tribal lead on the project. At the signing, Harrelson was represented by Michael Karnosh, the Tribe's Ceded Lands manager, because he had bronchitis. The Tribe's Public Affairs Department also funded a reception for signers.

The Willamette National Forest has been seeking federal protection for this South Santiam corridor for about 15 years, said Karnosh. The culturally significant area is 12 miles long and covers more than 2,500 acres in Linn County in the

foothills of the west Cascades.

The effort takes an "All Lands Approach," an initiative of the U.S. Forest Service. It was defined in the 2008 federal Farm Bill as recognizing that "public benefits as well as forest threats cross boundaries and are best addressed through integrated partnerships."

As a result, stakeholders include the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Siletz and Warm Springs, Linn County, the city of Sweet Home, the Sweet Home Economic Development Group, the South Santiam Watershed Council, the Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon State Parks, Willamette National Forest and Cascadia Timber Consultants, which represents the private timber company owning important parts of the area.

The project is backed by all the stakeholders as well as the state of Oregon and stake-holding federal agencies.

There are shared interests among

participants and individual interests.

For Willamette National Forest, this development will be the fulfillment of a 15-year effort to bring this special area, virtually inaccessible, minimally protected and privately held back into the hands of the public to be protected and to provide many public uses not now available. Virtually all of the stakeholders, including the private owner, are fully behind the effort.

For Linn County and the city of Sweet Home, a community with 22 percent unemployment where 67 percent of students receive free or reduced cost lunches, the benefits are economic first, but also include the chance for the city to be re-branded as a hub of recreational opportunities and cultural tourism.

This timber town that has fallen on hard times has been losing its connection with the forest for years. The protection, restoration and development of the many valuable public uses of this forest corridor will provide jobs in educational and recreational tourism, and stewardship for the people of Sweet Home and Linn County.

The interest of the Grand Ronde Tribe is for greater protection of this culturally significant and historically relevant area.

The project will reconnect the

Foster Reservoir in Sweet Home to the upland national forest in the South Santiam River corridor. The community forest will create public access along the picturesque clear, opal-colored South Santiam River as well as upland forests through the acquisition of private, industrial timberlands.

The acquisitions will reconnect the community of Sweet Home to historic Fish Lake Stagecoach and Remount station and Clear Lake resort, according to a project white paper. Plans will position the historic Santiam Wagon Trail to the top of the pass as backbone of the reconnections.

The Tribe's Land and Culture Department is working with the group toward "gaining federal ownership of key parcels of land that hold significant cultural resources and are in need of greater protection in the project area," said Harrelson.

The Tribal involvement in the project coincides with the Tribe's ongoing strong relationship with Willamette National Forest, which was reinforced in February with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Grand Ronde Tribe and Willamette National Forest.

As a result of that MOU, said Karnosh, "The Tribe has a seat at the table, plus a really, special direct line with the national forest." ■

Harrison to receive honorary degree from Willamette University in May

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Former Tribal Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison will receive an honorary doctorate during the Sunday, May 11, commencement ceremony at Willamette University in Salem, said the university's Director of Special Projects and Events Colleen Kawahara.

Harrison will be honored for her outstanding accomplishments, particularly her leadership in achieving federal recognition for the Grand Ronde Tribe and her continuing dedication to serving the community.

"One of the members of our selection committee called her 'an Oregon treasure,'" Kawahara said.

Harrison was born March 28, 1924, the descendant of an Alaskan Native (Eyak) mother, Ella, and Henry William Jones (Molalla), in Corvallis. She was named Kathryn May Jones in honor of her great-great-aunt Molalla Kate.

She graduated from Chemawa Indian School in 1942 and subsequently married Frank Harrison, with whom she had 10 children.

In 1972, she became the first Native American graduate of the nursing program at Lane Community College and worked at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene. Eventually, she became an alcohol rehabilitation counselor for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, where she became instrumental in helping the Tribe regain federal recognition in 1977.

In the early 1980s, Harrison returned to the Tribe of her father – the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde – and became involved in her second Restoration effort, helping



Kathryn Harrison

Grand Ronde regain federal recognition in November 1983.

Kathryn, her son, Frank, and her daughter, Karen, testified before Congress about

restoring the Grand Ronde Tribe, which was terminated in 1954.

Following Restoration, Harrison served on the Grand Ronde Tribal Council from April 1984 through September 2001, never losing an election. She served as chair of the Tribal Council for six years and was vice chair for nine years. She oversaw the Tribe's resurrection from Termination and guided the development of gaming as a revenue source to fund Tribal educational, health and cultural efforts.

Harrison, 90, continues to be an occasional spokeswoman for the Grand Ronde Tribe. Her life was detailed in a book, "Standing Tall: The Lifeway of Kathryn Jones Harrison."

In September 2012, she was named a History Maker by the Oregon Historical Society and received the Betty Roberts Woman in Leadership Award from Emerge Oregon, a Portland-based training program for Democratic women.

In May 2013, she received an honorary degree from the University of Portland. She also received an honorary doctorate from Portland State University in 2003. ■

Important notice to full-time students

All full-time students must submit verification that they have applied to a scholarship outside the Tribe before funding will be released for the term/semester. Verification can include a scholarship award or denial letter, e-mail verification that an application was submitted, a copy of the application or the financial aid award letter that lists an outside scholarship. Please contact Education at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2275, if you have any questions. ■

Ceremonial Hunting update

First off, I would like to congratulate our four hunters who have harvested deer this year. They are Tracy Howerton, Kevin Ruggles, Andrew Freeman and especially Brennon Bobb for his first deer ever. We are off to a great start and feel our hunters are putting a lot of effort into providing meat for the Tribe.

We will be hunting elk starting April 1 and I look forward to a good harvest of them this year. We have more than 100 pounds of venison available for request for cultural activities. Forms are available at Natural Resources.

To those hunters who don't know, there are maps of our hunting areas available through the GIS Department that you can pull up on your computer or phone.

Anyone with questions, please feel free to call Marline Groshong at 503-474-7000. Thank you. ■

Help wanted

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's 477 Employment and Training Program and Land and Culture Department have resources that can be utilized along with community members who have a passion for gardening or want to learn the art of agriculture. If you are a Grand Ronde Tribal or community member and want to be a part of the planning, preparation and cultivation of the Tribal garden and orchard site for this year's planting season, contact Barbara Gibbons at 800-242-8196, ext. 2135, or e-mail barbara.gibbons@grandronde.org. ■

Emergency Management meet and greet slated

New Tribal Emergency Operations Coordinator Jamie Baxter will hold an Emergency Management meet and greet from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 7, in the Community Center.

For more information, contact Baxter at 503-879-1827 or by e-mail at Jamie.baxter@grandronde.org. ■