

Additional hunting tags will be available soon

Tribal members will once again enjoy an additional hunting opportunity as part of the Grand Ronde Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Management Plan.

In September 2014, Tribal Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the Tribal Fish and Wildlife Management Plan. This approval delegated authority to the Tribe, regaining sovereignty over natural resources on the Tribal Reservation and trust lands.

An administrative rule was developed as part of the approval process that provides additional hunting tags to the Tribe outside of the state-issued regular hunting tags already allocated to the membership. The new tags will be valid on the Reservation only.

In 2015, 46 new tags were available to the membership for two black-tailed deer seasons and two Roosevelt elks. Seasons were selected to occur days before the state-regulated open season hunts. Four animals were harvested, including two deer and two elk.

In 2016, these new hunting tags will be available again for Tribal hunting seasons. There will be a limited number of tags available. Seasons will be posted on the application forms. This is a hunting opportunity for living and enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal members only.

Applications and rules for the new tags will be posted in a future *Smoke Signals* publication, with an anticipated print date of Aug. 1.

If drawn for the new tags, hunters will be required to pick up tag(s) in person, receive associated materials, and receive an educational tutorial course discussing new tag rules, regulations and appliance. Any hunter who has previously completed the tutorial will be exempt from this requirement in 2016.

For questions, please see the Sept. 15, 2014, *Smoke Signals* or contact Tribal Wildlife Biologist Lindsay Belonga at 503-879-2387. ■

'Underlying gaming right now is really good in Oregon'

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announced a National Tribal Energy Summit that will be held in 2017 after the new administration takes office in Washington, D.C.

David Redhorse, division chief of Natural Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Northwest office in Portland, stepped in for Regional Director Stanley Speaks and talked about how the local office is trying to help Tribes be resilient in the face of climate change.

On Wednesday, presenters talked about implementation of new Indian Child Welfare regulations, the recently re-authorized Every Student Succeeds Act, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to recognize Tribal governments so that Tribal representatives can help Native American veterans in preparing and presenting their benefit claims, natural disaster response on Tribal lands and the American Indian Tourism Conference.

During a Northwest Gaming discussion, Grand Ronde Gaming Commission Executive Director Michael Boyce said that gaming in Oregon is healthy, citing a 20-year low unemployment rate, a booming housing market in the Portland metro area and low gas prices.

He also said communication with outside regulators – Oregon State Police and the National Indian Gaming Commission – is outstanding and praised Oregon Tribes for working together in such organizations as the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance.

"Underlying gaming right now is really good in Oregon," Boyce said.

"There really are not too many issues facing gaming Tribes in Oregon right now."

In the afternoon, ATNI held its first annual InterTribal Youth Suicide Prevention Summit, where four Lummi youth discussed "I Choose Life: Embracing Your Sacredness."

ATNI wrapped up on Thursday morning with reports from its numerous committees and adoption of resolutions.

Many Grand Ronde Tribal members and employees worked behind the scenes to help the convention go off without a hitch by preparing welcome packets, typing, photocopying and delivering informational packets, taking phone messages, greeting attendees and helping with directions inside the casino.

Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Martin, Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Shannon Simi and Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Chelsea Clark worked with ATNI Executive Director Terri Parr in coordinating the event.

The Grand Ronde Tribe and Spirit Mountain Casino provided a continental breakfast each morning and the Tulalip Boys & Girls Club provided coffee.

Tribal Elders who attended all or part of ATNI included former Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison, Betty Bly, Petite and Gladys Hobbs.

Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center offered extended hours for ATNI attendees to tour on Monday and a Culture Night was held Tuesday at achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse.

The Mid-Year Convention also featured a concurrent tradeshow held Monday through Wednesday. ■

New powwow seating



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Vladimir Svistunov, with Tony & Sons Construction, builds a new seating structure at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Tuesday, May 17. Tribal Council approved a contract to build bleachers at the powwow grounds during its May 4 meeting.



Two sections of permanent seating, built out of cedar, have been added at Uyxat Powwow Grounds.

Canoe Journey 2016 – Paddle to Nisqually

Upcoming Grand Ronde Canoe Family Meetings

June 12, Canoe Meeting: Noon – 3 p.m. (lunch is provided)

For more information contact Jordan Mercier at 503.879.2185 or jordan.mercier@grandronde.org

The Nisqually Tribe welcomes and celebrates all nations and visitors to Canoe Journey 2016! The Tribal Canoe Journey - Paddle to Nisqually - will take place July 30 through Aug. 6, 2016.

Canoe Journey Events

July 30 - Port of Olympia Landing

July 31 - Medicine Creek Treaty Ceremony

Aug. 1-6 - Protocol

Visit www.paddletonisqually.com for the Countdown to Landing

