

Senate Indian Affairs Committee advances Reservation Act fix

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs advanced on Wednesday, July 29, a bill that would correct an error made in a 1994 piece of legislation that adversely affected the Grand Ronde Reservation Act.

The legislation would allow the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to address any future survey errors discovered on its original Reservation with the federal government.

Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy testified before the House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples in early February seeking to correct the mistake written into the Grand Ronde Reservation Act in 1994. The Tribe submitted written testimony to the Senate because of the current COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

The Bureau of Land Management discovered a survey error on the Grand Ronde Reservation that dates back to 1871. The error was discovered after passage of the Grand Ronde Reservation Act in 1988 that returned 9,811 acres to the Tribe.

Surveyor David Thompson had incorrectly surveyed the eastern boundary of the Reservation, missing 84 acres that should have been included. The land also was excluded from a 1904 sale of unallotted lands within the Reservation and Grand Ronde was not compensated for it.

Until the error was discovered, BLM treated the land as Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands and permitted private companies to harvest timber on the acreage.

After being informed of the survey error, the Grand Ronde Tribe determined the parcel, called the Thompson Strip, was unmanage-

able because of narrow boundaries and divided ownership interests. The Tribe agreed to accept a 240-acre parcel of grant lands adjacent to the Grand Ronde Reservation in exchange and surrender its claims to the Thompson Strip.

However, the Department of the Interior in 1994 “developed broad language that relinquished any future claims of this type within the state of Oregon” by the Grand Ronde Tribe.

“In agreeing to this land exchange in 1994, the intent of the parties was for Grand Ronde to relinquish its rights only to the Thompson Strip,” Kennedy testified in February. “There was no intention by BLM or BIA officials involved in this land swap to extinguish the Tribe’s land claim rights for the entire state of Oregon.”

Kennedy said the Tribe only discovered the issue recently while working on a different amendment to the Reservation Act.

House Resolution 4888 was sponsored by Oregon Reps. Kurt Schrader, Suzanne Bonamici, Peter DeFazio and Earl Blumenauer. It would replace the phrase “state of Oregon” with the phrase “84 acres known as the Thompson Strip” in the Grand Ronde Reservation Act.

The companion bill in the U.S. Senate is supported by Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. The bill now goes to the full Senate for possible approval.

“The United States made errors in surveying Grand Ronde lands, and it then took away from Grand Ronde its right to be compensated for these errors. That’s not fair. I’d like to thank Sens. Merkley and Wyden for working to correct this injustice,” Kennedy said. ■

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STUDY CHINUK WAWA

Fall 2020 - Lane Community College
 CW101 Beginning Chinuk Wawa
 CW201 Intermediate Chinuk Wawa
 Online course via Zoom
 Tu/Th 4-6pm - 4 credit hours
 These courses will be online all year – please join us from wherever you live!



PHOTO BY: AMIRAN WHITE

Oregon – Idaho – Washington Tribal Self Response Rates – July 21, 2020 | National Response Rate 62.3%

Oregon – 62.3%	Idaho – 65.9%	Washington – 67.7%	Washington – 67.7%
Coos Lower Umpqua 60.0%	Kootenai 84.8%	Port Gamble 77.9%	Hoh 51.6%
Coquille 58.0%	Nez Perce 45.1%	Upper Skagit 69.7%	Shoalwater Bay 51.2%
Celilo 55.0%	Coeur D’ Alene 38.9%	Puyallup 69.0 %	Squaxin Island 50.0%
Umatilla 52.4%	Fort Hall 37.2%	Lower Elwha 66.4%	Chehalis 50.5%
Siletz 50.0%	Duck Valley 11.6%	Port Madison 63.2%	Yakama 49.7%
Grand Ronde 49.1%		Swinomish 60.9%	Sauk-Suiattle 47.8%
Burns Paiute 39.7%		Tulalip 59.2%	Skokomish 47.0%
Warm Springs 38.1%		Muckleshoot 57.7%	Quinault 44.1%
Klamath 34.6%		Nisqually 57.2%	Makah 43.9%
Cow Creek 30.9%		Nooksack 54.2%	Kalispel 39.7%
		Quileute 52.8%	Colville 32.1%
		Lummi 52.6%	Spokane 31.0%



Deadline to Respond: October 31, 2020



2020 SUMMER CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAM

This summer, the CTGR Youth Education Program will be offering Summer Credit Recovery on the Tribal campus. Students and parents will work with certified teaching staff to develop days, class time and assistance until credit completion.

Who is it for: For local CTGR Tribal, descendant and Native students from a federally recognized Tribe who are currently enrolled in the 9th – 12th grade.

(9th – 12th grade CTGR Tribal member students out of local area are eligible.)

Online programs: Acellus (Parents and student must check with school staff to see if courses will transfer before signing up.)

Dates: July 6 (Tentative) – August 21

Times: Days and times will be set by teacher and student.

Location: CTGR Adult Education building refundable deposit: \$50 is required for each course. Deposits are refundable if student completes course.

For more information, call 503-879-2101
 Never give up!

grandronde.org



2020-21 Back to School SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM



School is around the corner and the CTGR Youth Education Department will be providing school supplies to CTGR Tribal member students this coming August! Here’s the scoop:

WHAT:

This year, the school supply program will be different. Parents of Tribal member students needing school supplies will sign up online. A box of basic supplies (Backpack, paper, writing utensils, etc.) will be available at CTGR on a select date or will be delivered or mailed to your home.

WHO:

The program is for all CTGR Tribal member students entering into Kindergarten through 12th grade (2020-21 school year)

REGISTRATION / SIGN-UP INFO:

• Open registration starts on July 13 and closes at 5 p.m. Aug. 5

• How do I register? Simply type the URL link below into your web browser <https://bit.ly/CTGR-SchoolSupplyDistribution> and register your child.

WHEN:

Boxes will be available Aug. 18 (8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.) for pickup at the Tribal campus Youth Education building. Boxes not picked up on Aug. 18 will be delivered or mailed at a later date. Students living out of the local service area (Grand Ronde, Willamina, Sheridan) will have their boxes mailed.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact YED staff member Devon Mercier 503-879-2101 or Devon.Mercier@grandronde.org



Ad by Samuel Briggs III