

Tribal fire crews are keeping busy

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

With historic hot and dry temperatures across much of the Pacific Northwest, the Tribe's firefighters have been keeping busy.

The Tribe recently dispatched two 400-gallon engines with six wildland firefighters to the Hualapai Reservation in northwestern Arizona on a 21-day assignment to assist with wildfire suppression efforts. Those crews returned Sunday, July 11.

"We also have a type six engine out on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest helping with the Star Ranger District," Interim Natural Resources Department Manager Colby Drake said. "We have a great partnership with them and help out as needed with fire patrols. Our crews get a patrol district and wait for a fire so we can assist immediately."

There also was a 20-person wildland crew working down at the Jack Fire just outside of Glide, Ore., located east of Roseburg in the Umpqua National Forest, who returned to Grand Ronde on Monday, July 12, after 21 days of battling the 11,000-acre blaze. According to information from inciweb.nwcg.gov, the fire is only 10 percent contained.

Additionally, the Tribe's Emergency Management Department has two volunteer firefighters as well as manager Steve Warden assisting with the 150,000-acre Bootleg Fire near Klamath Falls. The volunteer firefighters are working on structural protection, while Warden is part of the State Fire Marshal's incident management team. They are expected to be on site for at least another week and potentially two, depending on fire conditions.

Oregon's wildfire season began early this year due to drought and record-high temperatures.

In late June, Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency because of what she called the "imminent



Photo courtesy of the Grand Ronde Emergency Management Department

The Grand Ronde Tribe has dispatched three employees to help fight the 150,000-acre Bootleg Fire near Klamath Falls, Ore.

threat" of wildfire across the state and has emergency orders on both the Jack Fire and the Bootleg Fire.

"Most all of our resources are out in the field right now," Drake said. "We do have one type six engine here and are expecting to go to Washington state next, where we will be assigned. We definitely have a partnership with the Reservations in that state, and will assist them as needed."

In Grand Ronde, Drake said that Emergency Management and Natural Resources are trying to get out as much information as possible to the community about fire safety regulations.

"So far, we still have camping open on the Reservation and are asking people to carry a gallon of water or a fire extinguisher if possible," he said. "If you see smoke or a fire, please call 911, not the Tribal Police or the Natural Resources Department. It's the fastest way to get a response. Things are somewhat calm now, but it will be getting active soon." ■

This article contains information from the Salem Statesman Journal.

Public Notice Open For Comment

This notice is for comment on the Grand Ronde Tribe's 2021 application for Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) funding. The Grand Ronde Tribe has operated the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program from the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for many years to help income-eligible Tribal members with energy assistance (electrical and gas bills). Congress approved funding to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills as part of the American Rescue Plan emergency assistance and now there is LIHWAP. Tribes and other eligible entities can model much of their Grant Implementation Plans on their LIHEAP plans as far as eligibility documentation and applications.

The Tribe's LIHWAP (& LIHEAP) service area includes Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Multnomah, Washington, Tillamook and Clackamas counties.

The Tribe is taking public comment on the 2021 LIHWAP application and plan and the associated policies which are to be submitted by Aug. 9, 2021. The latest draft will be available for review at the Social Services Department at the Community Services Center starting July 15, 2021. If you would like to comment on the Tribe's plan, please contact Social Services at 800-242-8196 or Planning & Grants Development at 503-879-2250 with your comments on the plan or to obtain more information about the plan. ■



GRAND RONDE TRIBAL MEMBERS RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE FUNDS GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Grand Ronde Housing Department has been awarded Treasury dollars that are available for Tribal members that have been adversely affected by Covid-19. These funds will be able to be used for rents and utilities that are past due and/or additionally for those that are currently affected by and continue to be affected by Covid-19. In addition to past-due rent and utilities, applicants may request assistance with current month rent/utilities and up to three (3) months Prospective (future) rent and/or utilities. Prospective assistance can be requested in three (3) month increments at a time. If you need to request additional assistance, you may do so for an additional three (3) months, providing you still meet the qualification requirements.

**Funds will be applied to past-due balances before applying assistance to current or future payments which cannot exceed 12 months total.

These grants are available to enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal members throughout the United States who qualify under HUD income guidelines.

For more information or to apply please contact the Grand Ronde Housing Department at 503-879-2401 or email the Housing Department at grhd@grandronde.org or download the application paperwork from the Housing website at <https://www.grandronde.org/services/housing/covid-19-emergency-rental-assistance/>

Clothes Closet open Friday mornings

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon Fridays during the summer on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances, small pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■



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For more information, contact Kamiah Koch at 503-879-1461 or kamiah.koch@grandronde.org



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