



Watchlist: Handing over national park land to Tribes not a ‘crazy idea’

(Editor’s note: It is estimated that there are approximately 149 billion videos on YouTube, and the number continues to grow. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch sifts through those myriad videos twice a month to recommend a worthwhile Indigenous video to watch. Follow her bimonthly recommendations and enjoy!)

By Kamiah Koch
Social media/digital journalist

Seattle news channel King5 published a video in Nov. 8, 2021, interviewing Billy Frank III while on the homelands of his people, the Nisqually Tribe.

His father, Billy Frank Jr., was a well-known activist for Native American fishing rights.

Billy Frank III is chairman of the Nisqually Tribe and his contemporary, Nisqually Tribal Council member Hanford McCloud, also is interviewed in for the video.

“We come from fighters. Fighters fought for the treaty right, fought for the fishing right and will continue to fight for the fish here in this river in Nisqually,” McCloud says in the video. “And also fight for not that land acknowledgments, but land back.”

The video explains the Nisqually Tribe is supporting the return of National Park Service property to Tribal communities.

Greg Dudgeon, Mt. Rainier National Park superintendent, says there is room for improvement for Tribal relations. The video shows the park has established various Tribal-focused activities like a designated area for Nisqually Tribal members to cook fish in their traditional way and Indigenous info-centers for visitors.

The video explains the park’s interpretive staff members are trained on Tribal issues by McCloud. However, McCloud says nothing could match what the park could be like if it was operated by those who have been here for generations.

“It’s unfortunate that we still have this battle going with the federal government to try to get our land back that was originally ours,” Billy Frank III says at the end of the five-minute video. “But I feel like with this administration, this is going to be one of the best shots we have at it.”

You can watch (and read) the full story at www.king5.com/article/news/community/facing-race/tribal-land-national-parks-washington/281-fec522a5-cb26-45f2-9d61-9c95d7030294 or find it linked in the “Watchlist” playlist on the *Smoke Signals* YouTube channel. ■

Community Fund seeking Hatfield Fellow applicants

Applications for the 2022-23 Hatfield Fellowship are being accepted through May 16 by Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The Community Fund annually sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in a congressional office. Placement of the Fellow rotates through the Oregon congressional delegation to enhance the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

The Hatfield Fellow begins his or her Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association. It is then followed by an eight-month term in an Oregon congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend, as well as relocation and travel expenses.

Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon are eligible to apply, as well as members of Tribes in the Pacific Northwest. However, preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree or be graduating in June, and be at least 21 years of age.

The Hatfield Fellowship was created in 1998 to honor Sen. Mark Hatfield’s public service to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. For more information or to apply, go to thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship/ or visit youtu.be/7T0nNoFgUYS to watch an informational video. ■

Mak-Mak-Mania

A celebration of local food, farmers, hunting & gathering

Saturday, May, 7th

10AM-2PM

Tribal Gym
(THERE WILL BE SIGNS)

FREE & OPEN TO ALL
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

FREE LUNCH!

There will be activities for the whole family!

- ✓ Cooking demonstrations
- ✓ Educational workshops
- ✓ Informational booths
- ✓ Free community meal

FAMILY-FRIENDLY!

Organized by Grand Ronde’s Food Access and Community Team, sponsored by Marion-Polk Food Share & the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

LOOKING FOR WORK?
SIGN UP FOR THE TERO
SKILLS BANK!

CARPENTERS, GENERAL LABORERS,
CONCRETE MASONS & LABORERS,
ASPHALT LABORERS, AND MORE!

HOW? Contact the TERO Office at 503-879-2188 or email tero@grandronde.org

WHO CAN SIGN UP? Grand Ronde Tribal members and members of other federally recognized Tribes. Must be 18 years or older.

WHAT IS NEEDED? TERO Skills Bank application and Tribal ID

A photograph of a construction site. A red crane is in the center, lifting a large concrete slab. Two workers in yellow safety vests are visible in the foreground. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.The logo of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, featuring a circular design with the text "THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE" around a central emblem.

TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

Support wherever
and whenever
you need it.

Text Native to 741741.

#WeNeedYouHere

An illustration showing two hands holding a smartphone. On the screen of the phone, there is a green speech bubble containing a white heart icon, and another green speech bubble with three white dots below it.