

# Interior Secretary Deb Haaland visits Oregon

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Secretary Michael Langley traveled to Bend on Saturday, March 18, to meet with Secretary of the Interior Deb



Deb Haaland

Haaland, who was in Oregon to highlight federal investments to support wildland fire preparedness, water management and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Haaland was accompanied by Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget Joan Mooney and other Interior department leaders.

The group met with Oregon Tribal leaders from all nine federally recognized Tribes in the state to hear about ongoing priorities in their communities and how investments in Indian Country can continue to deliver support and resources across Indigenous communities.

Kennedy and Langley discussed the meeting during the Tuesday, March 21, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

Kennedy said Interior staff members were most interested in her requests to add budget lines to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for newly restored Tribes that address funding for law enforcement, public safety and fire management.

She also mentioned adding a line item regarding cultural restoration.

“That is what the effort was to begin with,” Kennedy said, “to remove our identity and culture.”

Kennedy said she also asked for an interdepartmental commission to focus on homelessness in Indian Country.

Langley added that the challenge of these types of meetings with high-level federal officials is that all Tribal representatives want to speak about the issues they are passionate about, but they only have a brief amount of time to do so.

“It’s kind of developing that el-



Cheryle A. Kennedy

evator pitch to make sure you hit everything that you need to hit,” Langley said.

Langley said he talked with Interior staff members about the Tribe’s work on the Willamette River and issues with removal of upper Willamette River dams.

“It makes so much sense to do something with these dams,” Langley said, adding the removal of the dams should appeal to both fiscal conservatives as

well as environmentalists.

Haaland also met with Bend Mayor Melanie Kebler during a roundtable discussion about the importance of outdoor recreation for the area economy. She then visited Crater Lake National Park to highlight the \$45 million in federal funds from the Great American Outdoors Act to rehabilitate sections of the East Rim Drive.

From there, Haaland and Merkley visited Klamath Falls and met with Tribes, irrigators and Interior Department staff to discuss the water and wildlife issues affecting the Klamath Basin.

To end her trip to Oregon, Haaland and Merkley visited Medford and met with wildland fire preparedness and response officials to receive a briefing on the state’s fire outlook in 2023 and discuss ongoing wildland fire efforts. The federal government is allocating more than \$21 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law this year for wildfire risk reduction efforts in Oregon.

Haaland became the first Native American Cabinet member in the history of the country in March 2021. ■

## INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the “Grand Ronde Road (North) Reconstruction” will be received on behalf of the Polk County Board of Commissioners by Todd Whitaker, P.E., Public Works Director at 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR 97338, until the bid closing time of 2:00 p.m. on April 20, 2023. Bids will be opened immediately after the bid closing time, but written bid tabulations will not be released until after 4:00 p.m. (the submittal deadline for the “First-Tier subcontractor Disclosure Form”). Bids shall be clearly marked “Bid for the Grand Ronde Road (North) Reconstruction” showing the date and time of the public bid closing, as well as the Bidders name, and shall be delivered to the location specified above, by or before the above bid closing time.

By no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on April 20, 2023 each bidder shall deliver to Todd Whitaker, P.E., Public Works Director at the same address as the bids were delivered to, the “First Tier subcontractor Disclosure Form” contained in the bidding documents. This form shall be submitted regardless of the bid total. Bidders who fail to submit the required disclosure form will be considered non-responsive, and their bid will not be considered for award. The disclosure form shall be submitted in a separate sealed envelope clearly marked “Disclosure Form for the Grand Ronde Road (North) Reconstruction” showing the date and time of the disclosure submittal deadline, as well as the Bidders name, and shall be delivered to the location specified above, by or before the disclosure submittal deadline.

The project is broken into two schedules. Schedule A and B scope of works include, but is not limited to:

Schedule A: Project area includes the right of way of Grand Ronde Road between Hwy 18 and the Polk County Limits. The work includes, but is not limited to, approximately 8,800 cubic yards of excavation, 17,500 square yards of geotextile fabric installation, 10,600 tons of base aggregate placement, 6,100 tons of ACP Wearing and Base Course (including overlay), 2,800 square yards of Cold Plane Pavement Removal (2.0 inch), and placement of longitudinal pavement markings. The surfaces to be cold planed are Grand Ronde Road, between Hwy 18 and North Street, and the bridge roadway surface. The rest of the roadway improvement consist of a full dig out that will require removal and replacement of all existing roadway asphalt subgrade.

Schedule B: Project area includes the right of way of Grand Ronde Road between Yamhill County southern limits and Hwy 20. The work includes, but is not limited to, approximately 2,500 cubic yards of excavation, 2,500 square yards of geotextile fabric installation, 6,000 tons of aggregate base placement, 1,700 tons of ACP Wearing and Base Course (including overlay), and placement of longitudinal pavement markings. The roadway improvement consists of a full dig out that will require removal and replacement of all existing roadway asphalt subgrade.

It is expected that the successful Bidder shall meet the highest applicable industry standards in providing this scope of work. For the purposes of the joint agency project between Polk County, Yamhill County and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, project administration will be conducted by Polk County as Owner. Owner reserves the right to award or not award the Schedule B scope of work.

Plans and specifications may be examined at:

1. Polk County Public Works, 820 SW Ash Street, Dallas, OR 97338
2. Civil West Engineering Service, Inc. 609 SW Hurbert St., Newport OR 97365

Contractor shall be currently prequalified with the State of Oregon to submit a bid for this work.

To be eligible to Bid and be listed on plan holders’ list, bidders must download Bidding Documents and/or purchase them from Engineer. Complete digital project bidding documents are available for **ebid Project#8428105** at [www.civilwest.com](http://www.civilwest.com) under “Current Bidding”. You may download the digital plan documents for \$22.00. Please contact QuestCDN at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free-membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. An optional paper set of project documents is available for a nonrefundable price of \$50.00 per set which includes applicable shipping and handling. Please make your check payable to Civil West Engineering Services and send it 486 E Street, Coos Bay, OR 97420. For questions regarding obtaining plans, please contact us at 541-266-8601.


All proposals shall be accompanied by a bid bond equal to ten percent (10%) of the total bid, to be forfeited to the Owner in the event of failure of the Bidder to execute the contract. A one hundred percent (100%) Performance and Payment Bond will be required to guarantee the faithful performance of the contract. It is required that the surety issuing such bonds be duly authorized and licensed to transact surety business in the state of Oregon.

This work is a public work subject to ORS 279C.800 through 279C.870 (Prevailing Wage Rates) and is subject to the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a).

A hybrid non-mandatory **Prebid Conference** will be held for this project. The conference will be held at Polk County Public Works Building at 820 SW Ash St., Dallas, OR 97338, on **April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:00 PM**. Prospective bidders may attend virtually at the following **Zoom Meeting ID: 891 2183 5998** **Passcode: Ysn2fG**. All prospective bidders are encouraged however to visit the site and familiarize themselves with the project.

The Owner reserves the right to postpone the award for up to 30 days, to delete certain items from the proposal, and to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. The Owner also reserves the right to reject any bid not in compliance with all public contracting procedures and requirements or for good cause upon finding by the Owner that it is the public interest to do so.

Questions from bidders should be addressed to Chris Janigo, P.E., at [cjanigo@civilwest.net](mailto:cjanigo@civilwest.net) or 541-982-4137.



## CULTURAL EDUCATION

Are you missing out on what Cultural Education has to offer? Follow us on Facebook to get detailed class information, photos from events, and updates.

Plus, check out the tribal calendar for a quick glance of upcoming events and classes.

Open to Tribal and Community members. Join us!

Search Facebook for Grand Ronde Cultrual Education  
Tribal Calendar // [www.grandronde.org/tribal-calendar](http://www.grandronde.org/tribal-calendar)

## WIFI HOTSPOTS

NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT AT THE TRIBAL LIBRARY!

For patrons without access to reliable internet, 10 T-Mobile hotspots have been made available for use. Devices provide access within the T-Mobile coverage area.

To borrow a hotspot library cardholders must be 18 years or older and have their library account in good standing. Parents/guardians are responsible for the use of the hotspot by minors.

For additional terms and agreements please contact the library  
[Kathy.Cole@grandronde.org](mailto:Kathy.Cole@grandronde.org)  
503-879-1488

These hotspots were made possible through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with the Chemeketa Community College and the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service.