



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

COUNCIL TAKES STAND ON O'KAA

Tribe plans to work with State to find alternate to **Red Mountain** • **See Story on Page 2**





Tribe wants to move O’Kaa comms site

Tribal membership agrees site should be removed from sacred territory

The Yurok Tribal Council recently took a united position against a California project to relicense and expand the footprint of a communications site in one of the Tribe’s sacred places.

“The Council decided that we strongly oppose the plan to continue the desecration of O’kaa,” said the Yurok Tribe’s Chairman, Thomas O’Rourke Sr., following several meeting with staff and the Tribal Membership. “There is enough time to develop a plan that honors our religion and ensures emergency communications. We can have both.”

O’Kaa or Red Mountain is located just outside the Yurok Reservation boundaries on Six Rivers National Forest land in southwestern Del Norte County. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the Helkau (Heyhl-kew) Ceremonial District, which includes Chimney and Doctor Rocks and other sacred places.

The U.S. Forest Service leases the mountaintop site, which contains a complex of commercial and emergency response-related communication equipment such as towers and power generators, under Special Use Permits (SUP). CalFire holds one of the temporary permits from the U.S. Forest Service, overseer of Six Rivers, to operate a telecommunication system at the summit. The temporary permit was issued in 1993 and expires on December 31, 2022. When it issued the SUP, the USFS informed all users that upon expiration of the permit, they would have to dismantle and remove their equipment in accordance with the land use plans for the area. The State wants to do complete overhaul of the antiquated equipment and expand the site for the benefit of CalFire and the commercial users.

“We believe the communication sites should be torn down and the land returned to how it was prior to the Forest Service’s involvement,” Chairman O’Rourke Sr. said. “State agencies have had more than 15 years to develop a plan that maintains emergency communications and is not located in a sacred place and they have failed to do so.”

The Forest Service’s current Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan calls for the closure of the site after the permit ends. The peak and the surrounding area is all part of the Helkau Ceremonial District, which is recognized in the forest management document for its historical and contemporary tribal uses.

The complex of sacred peaks crowns the Blue Creek watershed. These indescribably important places were threatened first during the Gasquet-Orleans Road debacle in the late 70s when the Forest Service attempted to construct a road for logging companies from Gasquet in eastern Del Norte County to Orleans in eastern Humboldt County. The Forest Service improperly executed a project in the Helkau area which directly and adversely affected Chimney Rock, Peak 8 and several other religious prayer sites which include Red Mountain. Members of all of the local tribes’ fought the road on every available front. Following a decade of fighting to stop the project, which included acts of civil disobedience, the area was eventually turned into a wilderness area by the United States Congress.

During public meetings concerning Red Mountain, a great number of Tribal Members likened the G-O Road battle to the current situation on Red Mountain and view the agency’s attempt

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On The Cover

Cover photo by Rosie Clayburn, Tribal Archaeologist/Cultural Resources. The Tribal Council opposes a proposed project on Red Mountain. The Council wants the communications site moved to a non-culturally sensitive spot.

to keep communications site operation as a threat to religious freedom.

During the G-O Road controversy, the U.S. Forest Service commissioned a number of exhaustive ethnographic and archeological studies on the area. The reports concluded that the “most effective management technique would be the prevention of interference with Native American religious activities by prohibiting those activities that would bring physical harm to the sites...no permanent Forest Service or other government installation be established in the vicinity of any of these sites.”

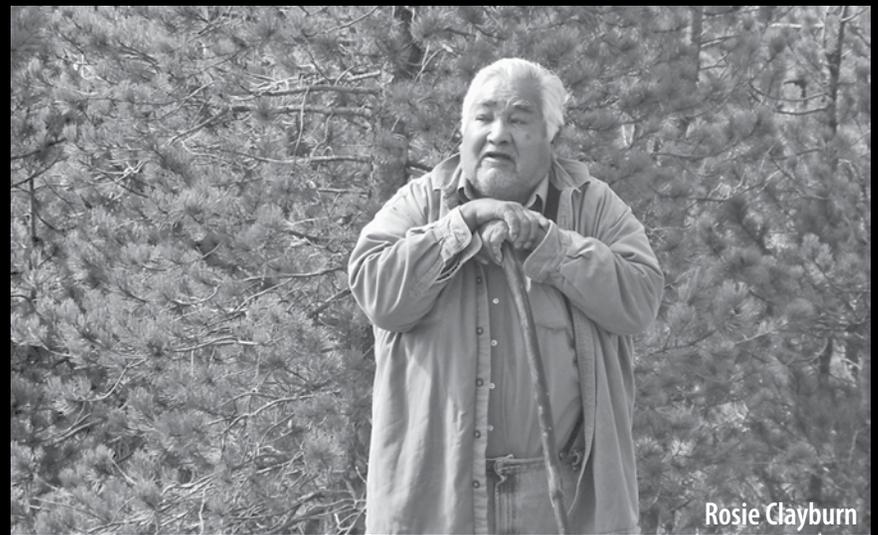
Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor Tyrone Kelley has publicly stated that the Resource Management Plan outlines the best path forward and the unsightly infrastructure should be removed from the site.

Red Mountain was first disrupted as a place of prayer in the 1920s when the Forest service erected a fire lookout to watch for fires in the heavily wooded area. In the 1940s, an 850-foot airstrip was constructed on the west side of Red Mountain, possibly as part of the WWII effort. It was first used for communications purposes in 1955. In 1958, CalFire, then the California Department of Forestry, was issued its first Special Use Permit to operate a telecommunications system. In 1979, the federal government determined that Red Mountain was eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It was listed in the Register in 1981. The Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was approved in 1995 and does not acknowledge Red Mountain as a telecommunications site, but rather a part of the Helkau Ceremonial District. This recognition is because of the contemporary Native American use.

In addition to the commercial uses the towers provide communication capability for emergency responders in certain areas west of the mountain in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

The Tribal Council recently sent a letter to the California Governor Jerry Brown detailing the concerns about the proposed project.

“It is a serious concern to the Tribe that after fifteen years the



Yurok elder Walt Lara Sr. advocates for a communications site not in a sacred area.

State has not completed a comprehensive analysis of alternative sites which would provide the same level of communication services without disruption to the public. Why has the State not conducted this analysis? When will the State undertake the necessary studies to address the basic questions?” the letter states.

Before making its decision, the Yurok Tribal Council held four meetings in an effort to gather tribal membership input. By and large, every Yurok who spoke stated that it is not an option to keep the communications complex atop Red Mountain, and at the same time conveyed that the State should have come up with an alternative plan.

“It was very clear that a large majority of the Tribal Membership does not want this there,” Chairman O’Rourke concluded. ✘

The Yurok Tribal Council is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the California governor’s office, the site’s users and other local tribes to begin working on finding alternative sites. A date will be announced when it becomes available. It will most likely occur in May of this year.

“THE COUNCIL DECIDED WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE PLAN TO CONTINUE THE DESECRATION OF O’KAA.”

Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr. ~ Yurok Tribal Chairman

Important MLPA meeting April 11

The California Fish and Game Commission is currently soliciting public input on its Draft Environmental Impact Report for the North Coast Marine Protected Areas. The deadline for comments is April 16th.

This is one of the last steps in the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process for the North Coast Study Region, which aims to further regulate the harvest of marine resources within select Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in an attempt to protect fish and other aquatic life. Unfortunately, MLPA reserves do not protect salmon or prevent oil drilling and other forms of pollution. The North Coast Study Region begins at Alder Point near Point Arena and ends at the California/Oregon border.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report reviews, under the California Environmental Quality Act, two different proposals. The first is a "No Project Alternative", which compares "the impact of approving the action against the impacts of not approving the action." The Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, crafted and supported by a wide array of coastal stakeholders including all of the city, county and tribal governments in the study area, was taken off the table by the BRTF, despite much opposition from most of the stakeholders and supporters including the Yurok Tribe.

There are no reserves proposed within the boundaries of the Yurok Reservation.

In the Enhanced Compliance Alternative, there are two proposed protected areas within Yurok ancestral territory at Reading Rock and False Klamath Rock. At Reading Rock, there are two options before the Commission. The first, and current preferred alternative, is an offshore State Marine Reserve (SMR) status that calls for zero human take of any marine species. The second option is a State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) designation, both on and offshore, which would allow some commercial and recreational harvest, while authorizing access to Tribal members with a valid Tribal ID card.

The proposal also calls for a Seasonal Special Closure for False Klamath Rock. In this area there would be a 300-foot seasonal closure around the rock from March 1 to August 31 for avian nesting.

The Yurok Tribe's position is that Yurok people are a vital part of the marine ecosystem and the Council supports Yurok



Yurok Tribal Member Richard Myers Jr. harvests mussels, a traditional food.

Tribal members traditionally harvesting marine resources for subsistence or ceremony in a way that is culturally appropriate.

The next public meeting where written comments can be submitted or presented orally will be held on **Wednesday, April 11, 2012** at the Red Lion Hotel at 1929 Fourth St. in Eureka. Yurok Tribal Members are encouraged to attend.

Written comments can be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game at the following address: MLPA North Coast CEQA Comments, California Department of Fish and Game c/o Horizon Water and Environment, P.O. Box 2727, Oakland, Ca 94602. Comments can also be emailed to MLPAcomments@HorizonWater.com ✕

Klamath River Clean Up April 28

Come ready to pick trash, remove invasive weeds and have fun

Spring is the time for gathering hazel sticks, catching sturgeon and cleaning up the Klamath River.

The 11th annual Klamath River Cleanup will be held this year on April 28th, 2012. The Klamath River Cleanup is brought to you by the Yurok Tribe's Environmental Program, the Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods, the Yurok Tribe's Fisheries Department, the Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety, and the California Conservation Corp Watershed Stewards Project.

"We are excited to see the community come together to restore the river," said Sarah Gossman, a California Conservation Corp Watershed Steward. "There's nothing better after a hard day's work than a nice piece of salmon and all of the home-cooked fixins'."

Every year, there is less and less trash on the Yurok section of the Klamath. The Tribe's Environmental Program has been working hard removing illegal dump sites, reducing trash from the waste stream by making recycling and composting easily accessible and working with the Tribal Council to enact ordinances that hold polluters accountable.

This year is not different. There is not as much trash as last year, which was fairly minimal. Being the farthest downstream resident, the Tribe receives all of the trash and other debris that float down hundreds of miles of river during winter storms.

Participants will meet up at Yurok Tribal Headquarters located at 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA. for the clean up effort. The day starts at 9 a.m. with a free breakfast in the Community Room. Participants are encouraged to wear appropriate clothes. Water and gloves will be provided. The actual clean up and invasive weed pull begins at 10am and ends at 12:30pm.

The event includes a free breakfast and a salmon lunch for volunteers at the end of the day. The salmon lunch will be served at 1pm.

All volunteers will receive a t-shirt to commemorate their participation in this event. ✨



Oscar Gensaw Sr. and his son Thayallen enjoy the 10th Annual Klamath River Clean Up.



Teens at much greater risk for crashes

By Danielle Logan

Buckle Up Yurok Program

Learning to drive can be an exciting time for a teen, but along with this new-found freedom comes grave responsibility. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, teen drivers are four times more likely to crash than older drivers. In 2009, 8 teens died each day from motor vehicle injuries, totaling a massive 3,000 motor vehicle related teen deaths. While looking at these statistics, one must keep in mind that American Indian/Alaskan Native youth are 3 times more likely of being injured in a motor vehicle crash than whites the same age. In light of this information, it is important to be aware of WHY teen drivers have such a high risk of being involved in a motor vehicle crash.

Major factors that put teen drivers at risk include:

- Lack of experience and inability to recognize hazardous situations
- Increased rates of risky behavior such as speeding and driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol
- Low rates of seat belt use
- Distracted driving (other teens in the car, texting/talking on the phone and eating)

The California Rural Indian Health Board, together with the Yurok Tribal Police Department, received a four-year grant titled “Buckle Up Yurok” (2012-2014) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement effective

strategies to address the issue of low seat belt and child restraint use on the Yurok Reservation.

As the program moves into its second year of the four year funding cycle, Yurok teens are being recruited from the Klamath area and will serve as Youth Leaders to provide education to their peers on topics such as California’s Provisional License Law, Zero Tolerance, and Leadership/Advocacy. These teens will get the unique opportunity to gain invaluable leadership skills while positively impacting their community by saving lives. Activities include gathering data on seat belt use, developing a social media campaign, holding a teen specific poster contest and finding creative ways to engage and have fun while being involved in the program.

The poster contest will be open to all Yurok high school teens residing within the Yurok Tribal boundaries. Students will be asked to make a poster addressing a topic related to teen driving safety. Some examples include drinking and driving prevention, seat belt use, dangers of speeding and distracted driving. The purpose of the poster is to create message that will encourage young drivers to be safe behind the wheel. The first place winner will receive a grand prize to be announced!

For more information about this contest or the Buckle Up Yurok Program, please call (916) 929-9761 and ask for Danielle Logan or Barbara Hart. ✘

“AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE YOUTH ARE 3 TIMES MORE LIKELY OF BEING INJURED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH THAN WHITES THE SAME AGE.”

RLA travels to Selva • Part 2

A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT BY ROBERT R. KINNEY

I received a phone call from my supervisor letting me know that a project was in the works to develop an education curriculum that explores the similarities and major differences in rainforests.

The redwood rainforest was near where I grew up, and the Amazonian rainforest, I only heard about on television and National Geographic. I was eager to learn more about the program, so James Gensaw and I traveled to the California Science Center in Early December. I was introduced to the four Los Angeles teachers Tita, Grace, Nian and Parish along with three program directors, Diane Perlov, Anna, and Ron Rohovit. In addition, I was introduced to the most kindest, open-hearted and open-minded group of people who had similar interests in learning about the redwood forest as I had in learning about the Amazon (The Columbian Group that traveled from Bogota and Leticia.)

I realized quickly that there was going to be a “Language hurdle” as opposed to an “obstacle”. I have had two years of Hoopa Valley High School Spanish and two years studying Spanish at UC Davis. I found that I was only able to communicate the basics and a few good humored jokes in Spanish. In addition, Mr. Luis Carlos and Mr. Omar were speakers of the language that is currently still utilized in the rainforest below Bogota, Ticuna. One of the first questions I had was how to say the word for “muchas gracias,” and it happens to be “Moe-enchee”. Through the Rainforest Leadership Academy process I gradually learned more words in Ticuna and Spanish.

The Bogota trip began simple enough. Our gracious sponsors [The California Science Center/Maloka Science Center] broke up the flights from the US to Columbia in two days, so leaving Arcata with my malaria pills and all necessary shots was an exciting time. We flew from Miami, Florida and arrived in Bogota at 8:30pm(6:30pm



California Time). The three passport stations was only the beginning of the language ‘hurdle’ because once I left the airport, it was time for dinner, and as luck would have it I remembered most of what our class discussed when it came to food items.

The following day was interesting to say the least; arriving to the Maloka Science Center, it was great to see the ‘Rainforest Leadership Academy’ group reassembled once again. After learning again what the term “Maloka” means the director of the program welcomed the group with open arms. Maloka is a special word indicating a Central Hut within a given rainforest community (Special Events, Prayer, Community functions and a general all purpose center for the whole community to utilize as needed.) The Center arranged for another interpreter [English to Spanish and Spanish to English] but by this time I was able to at least understand half of what was being said in Spanish. Also the altitude was not as harsh as I thought it would be. In addition, the vast city of Bogota is completely different than what I expected. With all the warning about serious crime, the fact that we were always in groups of four or five or more and the program laid out to us by the Maloka Center was helpful to everyone who traveled from the US.

The Second day was focused on Project ideas and



strategies. Traveling to a Bogota community school was beneficial to the group because it was the first time we asked a classroom to do one of the pre-activities to the Curriculum that we were developing. The question that Claudia's classroom received was, "What does a Rainforest look like to you?" Then the students had a chance to draw their ideas and thoughts. It was interesting that a few students had asked the US participants if we spoke Italian, instead of English. So in which case, I spoke the only four Italian words that I know.

The fourth Day, Airplane ride to Leticia, two nights and two days in Amazon Rainforest.

The moment that the group landed in Leticia, the humidity being 100%, was noticed right away. I was anxious to see the Sinchi institute, a place where countless Amazonian experiments are done. The small rural town of Leticia is known as the wonderful "Gateway to the Amazonian Area". The following day we were greeted by a Ticuna village and had the end of our noses painted black with a dye made from crushed fruit. The dye represented our welcome from the 'Vaca Clan' or Vaca which is translated into English the Cow people. Our distinguished host Luis Carlos was given three dots on his right and left cheek indicating he was from the Heyr-puech or Ant Clan.

The welcome from the local tribe was amazing. As we sat down to a wholesome meal of beef stew, we were given a type of mashed up grain. The grain added to the wholesomeness of the stew and was similar in texture to mashed up corn nuts. After a well-prepared meal, James Gensaw, Ron Rohovit and I seen a remarkable site. There was an elderly woman walking by and she had on the exact replica of a Yurok burden basket and walking stick. We were unable to take a photo out of respect of the head man of the village, who had earlier explained to the group that there would be only one camera and one person using this camera. Unfortunately, the young

lady(whose picture is seen in this issue Marisol Roncancio.) designated to taking photos was not quite done with her meal. However, we saw many similarities like that one and also learned that fishing was a large part of the Ticuna way of life as we traveled through the rainforest and other rural Amazon villages.

In closing, I would like to paraphrase a Rainforest Leadership Academy participant as he was explaining what the Amazonian trip meant to him. Augusto said "... people who travel into the Amazon go into it one type of person, and leave a completely changed person..." I believe that this statement is a good summary of the trip I took, I highly recommend anyone who is able to find a way to Leticia, Bogota and further, to take it, and realize that there are groups of people who will welcome you with open arms just as James and I were. I was not expecting to be overcome with a sense of appreciation for what the Creator has blessed me with here in my small corner of Humboldt County. I will continue to communicate with Mis Amigos de Columbia and I know that I will always be as welcomed as they are here in Northern California. As stated in the previous article, we are putting all of our group findings into one cohesive project that can be used in schools both here in United States and in Columbia and it will be a great undertaking. I feel the time coordinating with the Rainforest Leadership Academy to complete and institute the curriculum in as many classrooms as possible is well worth it. As part of a group of educators, the project will be a tremendous stepping stone for classrooms to engage in further discussion and research into how both rainforests can be preserved and protected.

California Science Center can be found at <http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/> and Maloka Science Center at maloka.org. See photos on next page. ✘

" I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE MOST kindest, OPEN-HEARTED AND OPEN-MINDED GROUP OF PEOPLE."

Robert R. Kinney



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1. A ceremonial demonstration to welcome the "Vaca Clan" to the Ticuna village, which was 45 minutes west of Leticia on the Amazon River. Photo by Marisol Roncancio

2. Robert R. Kinney and Marisol (the photographer) Roncancio travel through Colombia with the Rainforest Leadership Group

3. Robert R. Kinney stands atop the Maloka in Bogota, Colombia

4. James Gensaw Sr., Kamilla Sierra, Robert R. Kinney and Diane Perlov at a local Bogota School. Photo by Marisol Roncancio.



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Wildlife Program lands outreach grant

Hunting is the most essential part of the California condor puzzle. Whether these magnificent birds soar the open Pacific Northwestern skies again or are relegated to a failed recovery and a future only in zoos may rest in the hands of hunters.

Condors receive a lot of food from human hunters, now the most abundant apex predator in California, who commonly leave gut piles from large game they have killed such as deer, elk and bear in the forest. If the hunter uses non-lead ammunition, it amounts to a great benefit as a clean and healthy part of the food chain. If lead ammunition is used and the bird or any other animal for that matter eats it, it is detrimental, as lead is a dangerous poison.

The Yurok Tribe's Wildlife Program recently received a \$192,217 Tribal Wildlife Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help phase out the latter and promote the former through Tribe's Hunters as Stewards Campaign.

"Lead poisoning is the greatest limiting factor in the reintroduction of Condors," said Chris West, the Yurok Tribe's Senior Wildlife Biologist and an avid hunter. "There are only a handful of reintroduced birds in the current California flock that haven't been treated at one time or another after becoming sick from ingesting the terrible toxin."

The Wildlife Program will be using the money to talk face-to-face with the hunting community. The first educational events, in the form of shooting demonstrations, will take place this summer. Participants will fire lead and non-lead bullets from their own guns to assess accuracy. There will also be demonstrations showing the wound channel formation and both fragmentation and penetration potential of lead and non-lead bullets. The Wildlife Program will also be trading non-lead ammo for lead, bullet for bullet.

When a large caliber lead bullet enters a big game animal it fragments into pieces so small it cannot be seen by the naked eye. The dust-sized particles of lead can be found up to a foot deep in the animal, even a foot away from the path made by the main part of the bullet.

"In order to better educate hunters, we will be using an x-ray machine to examine deer, elk and bear," West said. "The x-ray generated slides are sobering to anyone who sees how much lead ends up in the edible parts of the animal."

When eaten, lead accumulates in the tissues of humans and

animals. Once levels get too high in a human, it can degrade the vascular, renal, nervous and reproductive systems. In other words, it compromises nearly every important system sustaining the human body. More sinister is the effect lead has on children's cognitive development. Kids with only 0.0001 grams of lead per liter of blood have an average IQ 6.2 points lower than children with 0.00001 grams of lead per liter of blood. This can be the difference of only a couple of lead ammunition harvested meals per week.

The Wildlife Program will also be putting on events for youth hunters that will cover hunter safety, environmental stewardship and traditional hunting rules and practices. The Program will also reach out to the hunting community through Public Service Announcements containing scientifically proven information about the use of lead and non-lead bullets.

Those who attend the events will most likely meet Wildlife Technician Sam Gensaw Jr. and Mike Palermo, a recently hired Wildlife Biologist with a background in raptor research. Both are also hunters.

The Yurok Tribe launched the Hunters as Steward's Program in 2010. The purpose of the Program is to provide hunters with the most timely, accurate and useful information relating to hunting in a sustainable way. Last summer, the Program put on several similar events which culminated good results as many hunters switched on-the-spot to non-lead ammunition.

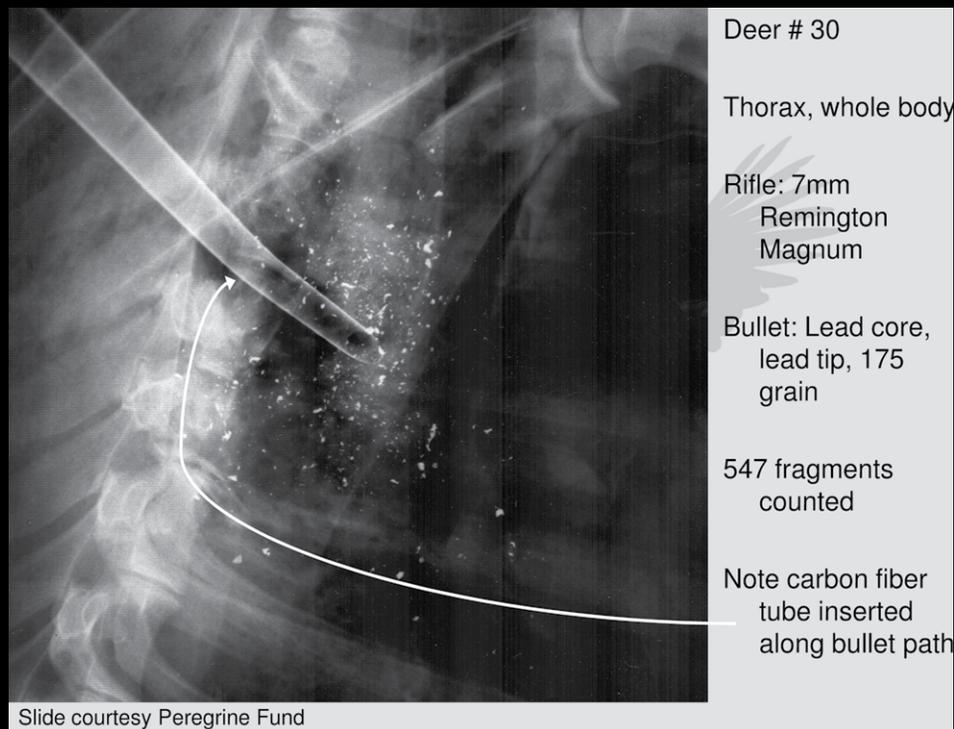
"We hope the hunters come with their toughest questions and open minds. That's all we can ask," West concluded.

Currently, the Tribe is still in the process of studying the feasibility of returning condors, which once ranged from Baja California, Mexico to British Columbia, Canada to their prior Pacific Northwest homeland. Prey-go-neesh is one of the most culturally

"LEAD POISONING IS THE GREATEST LIMITING FACTOR IN THE REINTRODUCTION OF CONDORS."

Chris West ~ Senior Wildlife Biologist

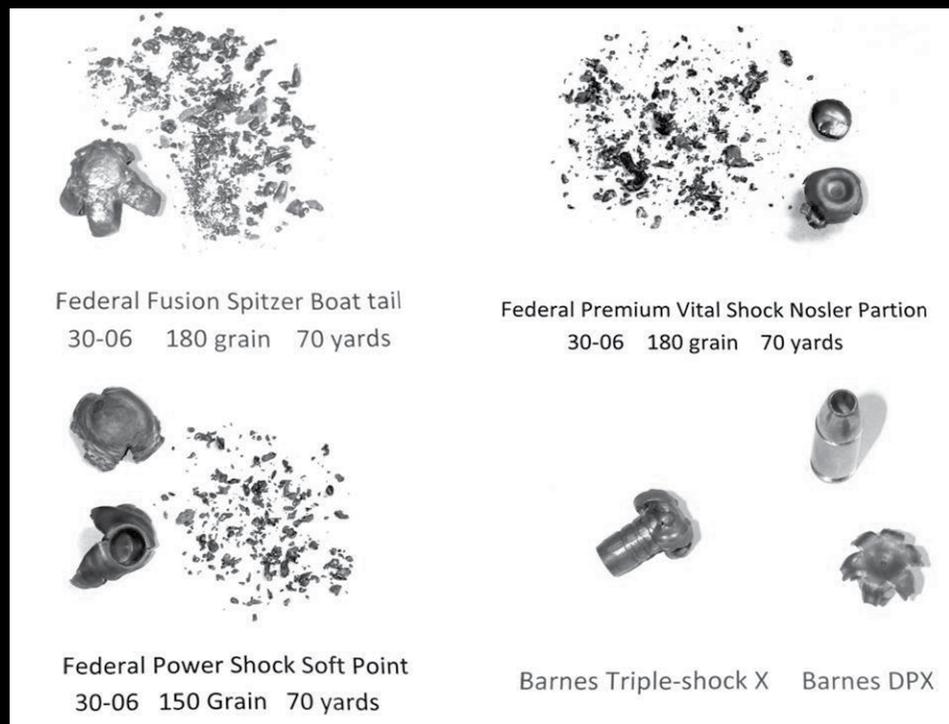
significant animals to the Yurok Tribe. The bird carries prayers to the Creator and its feathers are used in ceremonies. The decision to determine if Yurok ancestral territory could sustain a reintroduced condor population was made by the Yurok culture committee, a group of cultural bearers working to protect and promote Yurok values. ✘



Deer # 30
 Thorax, whole body
 Rifle: 7mm Remington Magnum
 Bullet: Lead core, lead tip, 175 grain
 547 fragments counted
 Note carbon fiber tube inserted along bullet path

Slide courtesy Peregrine Fund

Microscopic toxic lead particles can travel more than a foot beyond the wound channel, often times getting into the parts of the game that are commonly consumed.



Federal Fusion Spitzer Boat tail
 30-06 180 grain 70 yards

Federal Premium Vital Shock Nosler Partition
 30-06 180 grain 70 yards

Federal Power Shock Soft Point
 30-06 150 Grain 70 yards

Barnes Triple-shock X Barnes DPX

Copper ammunition fragments much less than lead if at all. The rounds flower out on impact creating a large wound channel in the animal enabling a quick and humane harvest if the shot hits any standard kill zone. The graphic above shows how different ammo fragments.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual assault and child sexual abuse is a real problem in our communities. Studies reveal that native women and children in tribal communities experience higher incidents of sexual assault.

The Yurok Tribe has a sexual assault program funded through the Office on Violence Against Women to respond to Sexual Assault in our tribal community. A crisis worker is available to handle response to calls and provide support services to victims of rape and sexual assault (any age, male or female); support may be provided to family members affected by the crime.

In cases of rape, survivors are encouraged to call 911 and immediately go to an emergency room for an exam for their own well being and for the collection of evidence. It is extremely important to obtain DNA samples before the victim showers. The Crisis Worker/Advocate may transport and accompany the victim to the hospital for support.

If you are an adult survivor of child sexual abuse you may also receive help and support from the Victim Advocate.

- The Crisis Worker/Advocate may also provide:
 - o Assistance in filing for a Temporary Restraining (Protection) through the Yurok Tribal Court or the County Court/ District Attorney's Office.
 - o Transportation and/or accompaniment to court or legal services.
 - o Referral to local counseling services and support groups
 - o Assistance to obtain help from the Victim Witness Program
 - o Material resources such as emergency sheltering, food, clothing, transportation, and relocation assistance may be provided upon need.

To Access Services:

Call the Toll Free Helpline is 1-855-WIL-HELP (1-855-945-4357)
 Yurok Tribe (707) 482-1350 Social Services Department
 Or, you may be referred by:

- o Tribal Court
- o Yurok Tribal Police
- o Other agencies ✘

Wautec kids finish mural project

By Monique Sonoquie (Chumash/Apache/Yaqui-IYF Board Member)

The Indigenous Youth Foundation, with funding by the Humboldt Area Foundation - Native Cultures Fund was honored to create the first mural at Jack Norton Elementary School. Jack Norton is a small two-room school with 35 students, on the upper Yurok Reservation, 20 miles down a windy road along the Klamath River, literally "The End of the Road" in Wautec. The mural project, was planned by Monique Sonoquie (Chumash/Apache/Yaqui-IYF Board Member) with guidance from Master Artist Debbie McConnell (Hupa Artist/Basketweaver), and assistance from Melissa Myers (Yurok/Volunteer).

The mural was part of a larger grant for Storytelling, Books and Mural. Last Spring local Storyteller Louie Myers (Yurok) did the storytelling, while several other Tribal members/elders of the Yurok community taught drawing techniques and basket designs. The students then created their own artwork for books of traditional Yurok stories.

The mural theme was the concept of the students who not only wanted to show the beauty of the Klamath River they live on, the diversity of wildlife all around them, but wanted to make it a learning mural and include the Yurok names for all the animals they researched, drew and painted themselves, such as Ney-puy/Salmon, Paauhl' wrp/ Dragonfly, Plee'wes/Squirrel, and Per-geesh/Bald Eagle. The Yurok Tribe provides Yurok language teachers twice a week at all schools on the Reservation so the students were very familiar with the Yurok animal names. The mural project was planned by Monique Sonoquie who worked with Melissa Myers on a weekly basis teaching all the applications of the mural process to the students.

Along with the mural, classrooms received a video storybook DVD of making the of mural, with script co-written by Monique Sonoquie, Tanaya French and Tristan Perry. Yurok pronunciations of all animals narrated by Brett Crutchfield and Tristan Perry.

"The first step, was for all the students to sand the 8x10 plywood, and 6x6 inch cut boards. Then we applied primer



Taura Cosce, Tanaya, Keenan O'Rourke, Marina Cosce, Allison Kilby, Jose Lopez Duarte, Justin Vanlandingham and Kayla worked on the mural.

on to the wood. The younger class painted the black and yellow triangles, representing the sturgeon basket design, for the name plates. The older students, researched the animals they each wanted to draw and paint, along with the Yurok names of each animal. It took a few weeks to complete the painting of each animal, as each student did 3 to 6 animals each equalling 45. As the older students were painting the animals, the younger students worked on painting the background board, which included the mountains, trees, grass and river. Next we glued each animal onto its appropriate place on the background.

Quail, snakes and butterflies in the grass, dragonflies on the banks, and eel, sturgeon and otters in the river. Then we had to match the background colors, with the individual animal blocks, with slight variation to place focus on the animals. One of the last things we did, was to paint the Yurok names onto the blocks. After we hung the mural, we painted a glossy finish, to protect the mural from the weather. We are very proud of our mural, and enjoyed learning about art and murals and Yurok names for animals. Our School would like to thank everybody who helped us with our accomplishment. We learned social skills, art and teamwork, and we especially had fun.”

The Indigenous Youth Foundation is a non-profit organization centered on cultural and environmental education, www.chumash.org.

Monique Sonoquie (Chumash/Apache/Yaqui) is an artist, book author (The Beginning of the Chumash), Film maker, Basketweaver and Activist. She works for the International Indian Treaty Council and is a Freelance Native Videographer. Monique also gives presentations and workshops on Chumash Culture, Native Ecology, The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Book Self-publishing, language videos and Video Documentation Training for youth. sonoquie@hotmail.com. ✨

Q and A with Macy Bommelyn, a Police Records Specialist for the Yurok Public Safety Department and Employee of the Month.



- 1. What is your title?** Police Records Specialist.
- 2. How long have you been working for the Tribe?** I have been working at this Department for 10+ years.
- 3. Why did you decide to work for the Tribe?** This job came to me as an opportunity that has been a true learning experience. I have gained a wealth of knowledge in the time I have been employed here.
- 4. What does your job entail?** My job entails serving the public and many tribal members including working with a number of other law enforcement, emergency and public safety personnel. Some of my job duties include but are not limited to answering phones, dispatch, filing records, compiling crime statistics, assisting with grants, budgets, procurement and providing administration for our department.
- 5. What is the most satisfying part of your job?** Working in a law enforcement setting is sometimes challenging because you never know what each day is going to bring. I can say working here gives me a sense of achievement at the end of the day, knowing that I have helped someone or did something good for my tribe.
- 6. How does your position serve the tribal membership?** My position serves the tribal membership in many ways. I enjoy interacting and serving my fellow tribal members in any way that I can.
- 7. What do you do outside of work?** Outside of work I wear many hats... I am a mother of four beautiful children and a wife of a wonderful husband all of whom I love to spend time with. As a family we participate and attend many cultural events. I am a Consultant for Pampered Chef and Pink Zebra Candles and one of my new favorite sports is Roller Derby. I play Roller Derby on the Tsunami Sirens North Coast Roller Derby Team.
- 8. What are your plans for the future?** My plans for the future are to continue to work for Yurok Tribe Police Department. I value being a member of the Yurok Tribe, my fellow co-workers and working as a family within and for the Yurok tribe. I enjoy the diversity in my job and maybe someday I will replace one of my hats to further my education in the area of law enforcement. ✨

Become a tribal Watershed Steward

Every year the Yurok Tribe's Environmental Program offers two individuals, through the California Conservation Corp's Watershed Steward's Project, the opportunity to gain experience in nearly every aspect of environmental protection as it relates to the Yurok Reservation.

This year, Sarah Gossman and Mia Wapner received the honor and have been learning from YTEP's professional staff about everything from water sampling to compiling reports based on the data they have collected. The two recent college graduates are also teaching local students in Klamath a science-based curriculum that includes the lifecycle of salmonids, fish that are closely tied to Yurok culture.

"I'm hoping to get a full-time job in a science-centered field — hopefully doing field work," said Sarah Gossman. "The work that we do, the experience that we are getting will definitely help in landing a job."

"I have learned the process of collecting data and have received training in several other aspects of environmental work," echoed Mia Wapner. "Prospective employers want to hire people with experience. I'm getting that experience and it's fun too."

Gossman and Wapner's work also benefits the Tribe. They are extra hands in the field. So far the pair has collected flow and sediment samples from five Klamath tributaries. They've collected water samples for bacteria and nutrients on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers and completed data sonde work measuring water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and blue-green algae. In the summer, the duo will be collecting samples in the lower Klamath wetlands for macroinvertebrates. Both know that the quality of the data collected must be at the highest caliber.

"The data we compile must be able to withstand a court process," Gossman acknowledged.

The work they do benefits Yurok people as well. For example, the sediment studies will help drive watershed restoration work in turn creating more salmon. The blue-green algae sampling will aid in determining if the river is safe for humans or not. They are also helping organize the



(left) Sarah Gossman and Mia Wapner take data sondes on the Klamath River.

11th Annual Klamath River Clean Up.

"That is one of the reasons why I like working for the Tribe," Wapner said. "The work we do is not just for the environment, it's for the local community."

Gossman and Wapner are also living up to the mission of the California Conservation Corps Watershed Stewards Project, which is "to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high-quality scientific practices."

This Project is a great opportunity for Tribal Members looking to bolster their resume or get a foot in the door working for the Yurok Tribe. Four current Yurok staff members are former Watershed Stewards. The Program is also great for young people like Wapner, who is trying to figure out a career path that best suits her.

"While there is a lot of responsibility and hard work, the commitment is limited to one year, which was great for me because I am trying to figure out what I want to do," Wapner said.

The hiring process for next year's Watershed Stewards has already begun and all applications will be due by Friday June 15th, 2012.

Here is a basic breakdown of the job. Applicants must have some college credits, be 21 or older and be prepared to work full time. Members serve under the mentorship of natural resource professionals at federal, state, county, tribal, and non-profit agencies/organizations to work on scientific watershed assessment, monitoring, restoration, and conservation projects. Members also implement a six-lesson watershed-based curriculum in local K-12 grade classrooms and coordinate outreach activities, which include the organization of watershed restoration projects, presentations to community members and service groups, and public information booths at environmental fairs and other events, according to the WSP website.

Program Benefits: Childcare assistance if eligible, Education award upon successful completion of service, Health Coverage, Living Allowance, Stipend, Training.

Terms: Car recommended, Permits attendance at school during off hours, Permits working at another job during off hours.

Service Areas: Environment

Skills : Community Organization , Computers/Technology , Education , Writing/Editing , General Skills

Qualifications: Minimum of 25 semester units of science and/or equivalent scientific fieldwork/study; strong interest in natural resources; dedication to serving the community

Duration: 10.5 months and a minimum of 1,700 hours total

Stipend: \$13,600 total (approximately \$1,295 per month)
Benefits: No-cost Medical Insurance, Child Care (eligibility requirements for child care benefits apply), Student Loan Forbearance, and Numerous Training and Professional Development Opportunities

Educational Award:
 \$5,500 upon completion of the 10.5-month / 1700 hour term

For more information contact Kristin Kovacs at (707) 725-8601 or email wsp.recruiter@ccc.ca.gov ✨

Yurok Tribe Social Services




Yurok Tribe Social Services Elder Program:

- Reduce Elder isolation Wellness in home checks Youth/Elder Mentors
- Monthly Elder Events Provide Advocacy to Elders Provide referrals

Increase awareness of what is considered Elder abuse

- Abuse includes Financial, Neglect, Physical, Emotional, Verbal and Intimidation. Notify the Program and or your local authorities when Elders are being taken advantage of. Services to families are available.

Contact Information

Social Worker,
 Yurok Tribe Social Services
 190 Klamath Blvd
 Klamath, CA 95548
 (707) 482-1350 Ext: 329

Elder Program Advocate

Robert R. Kinney
 Yurok Tribe Social Services
 Weitchpec Office
 (530) 625-4130 Ext: 1610
 (707) 834-1443 Work Cell
 Email: rrkinnev@yuroktribe.nsn.us






Yurok Tribe

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2012 Yurok Tribe

**\$300 CASH AWARD FOR THE
BEST LOGO DESIGN FOR THE
YUROK CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

DESIGN LOGO REQUIREMENTS:

1. RELATED TO YUROK CULTURE
2. FAMILY THEMED
3. TRADITIONAL OR MODERN IN APPEARANCE

THE LOGO SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY **5PM**
ON **MAY 30, 2012** PLEASE CONTACT DENISE
BAREILLES AT **707.441.3236**

The Yurok Tribe was awarded a child support enforcement planning grant in August 2011.

The Program is currently in the development stage.

The Yurok Child Support Enforcement Program expects to begin providing direct services on or about August 2013.

Services shall include locating missing parents, establishing paternity, pursuing reasonable child support orders, monitoring support payments, and when necessary enforcing child support obligations.

The Yurok Child Support Enforcement Program reserves the right to continue the length of the contest to solicit additional applicants.

For more information contact Denise Bareilles at (707) 441-3136