Yurok Today
The Voice of the Yurok People

Economic development tour

Council tours casinos, hotels and a fish processing plant. See story on page 3

The Tribal Council recently traveled to Washington State with Executive Director Ralph Simon, Economic Development Director Keith Parker, and two of our Gaming Commissioners, Ray McQuillen and Jackie Winters. The Quinault Tribal Council graciously shared their forty years of experience with us about their fish processing operation. Please read page three for more information about their successful fish processing operation.

MARIA TRIPP
CHAIRPERSON

We also visited the Squaxin Island Museum Library and Research Center on the Squaxin Island Reservation as part of the planning process for our own cultural center. As a visitor, I was impressed with their center from the start of the tour to the end. There is an intricate "Raven" design on the entrance that has to be seen in order to fully appreciate it. The halls of the center are lined with informative story boards from floor to ceiling. There are also a number of classrooms as well as a gift shop and a circle-shaped presentation area with more displays. The Squaxin Island Tribe honors its military veterans with traditional paddles placed in the ground outside the center. Each paddle has an insignia and name to honor the deceased veteran. We also visited several casinos to gather ideas for our first gaming venture which will be connected to the Pem-Mey Fuel Mart. We will soon be doing an article about the progress the tribe has made on the casino front.

My final trip to Washington, D.C. as your Chairperson was for the historic tribal leaders consultation meeting with President of the United States, Barack Obama. The President addressed the leaders of almost 400 federally recognized tribes attending the hour and a half town hall-style meeting. His message was to inform tribal leaders that his administration will honor the federal government's commitment to consult with tribes on a government-to-government basis. He committed to continue holding listening sessions around the country to hear directly from tribes. President Obama signed a Memorandum at the meeting directing every cabinet agency to provide to him within 90 days each agency's detailed plan of how it will establish regular and meaningful consultation between tribal nations and his administration. He also discussed his concerns about health care, education, jobs and energy and the need for a comprehensive strategy in Indian Country. Please see the letter below that sets forth the three issues that I was able to get into the White House binder given to the President.

Last week, I attended, with Vice Chair Bonnie Green,

YUROK TRIBE
190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548

November 4, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

President Obama:

We are in strong support of Health Care Reform and the first step for us is the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). HR 3962 The Affordable Health Choices Act has include the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and we hope the Senate will do the same. We respectfully request your administration do what is necessary to ensure that the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act stays in the Health Care Reform legislation; thus, this will fulfill the President's commitment to support reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Indian tribal governments continue to grow in their capacity to effectively manage internal affairs through the power of self-government. This is recognized by the Federal Government via the consultation process, but not always recognized by State governments. States claim they have no authority to allow a government-to-government consultation process, yet some State Agencies actively involve tribes in matters that impact tribal sovereign rights and tribal jurisdiction. State guidance from the Federal Government and the ability of States to enter into formal consultation with tribes will ensure that cooperative government interactions between states and tribes and strengthen tribal sovereignty in the eyes of the states.

The Yurok Tribe also asks for your support of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement ("KBRA") an the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement ("KHSA"). These two agreements lead to the removal of four dams along the Klamath River and the restoration of the Basin's natural resources. Goals of the agreement include ending decades long water disputes; reallocating water resources so that farming, tribal, recreational, and commercial ocean interests are protected; restoring fisheries i the Basin; providing affordable power for agricultural communities, and improving habitat and wate quality to avoid further degradation of Basin resources and the precious Klamath River.

Respectfully,

Maria Tripp, Chair
Yurok Tribe

the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting for a presentation on the Klamath Hydro-Electric Settlement Agreement. Our own Troy Fletcher, the Tribe's Policy Analyst, Senior Biologist, Mike Belchik and Senior Attorney, John Corbett, gave compelling testimony as to why the agreement is in the best interest of the Tribe and the County. You will soon receive an informational DVD on the issue. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors will vote on the issue Dec.1, 2009 and the agreement has to be signed by January, 2010.

I truly believe the Tribe is moving in a positive direction and fighting the good fight to advance Yurok rights and fulfill its tribal government responsibilities.

I wish you all the best,

Sincerely,

Maria Tripp.

I would like to thank every Yurok tribal member for all the support you have given me throughout the years. I have been fortunate enough to serve as a tribal councilmember for 14 years, many of them challenging. Looking back at the successes and growth of the tribe is amazing. The construction and grand opening of our Klamath Tribal Office was one our proudest moments. We now employ nearly 250 people.

BONNIE GREEN
VICE CHAIR

I look forward to the completion and continuation of the many projects now moving forward including: the acquisition of land for a Yurok Tribal Park, the fish processing plant, dam removal (supporting KBRA/KHSA), a gaming facility, a cultural center and museum, establishing power and communication on upper reservation, our Pey-Mey Fuel Mart, the Requa Resort, Elder Care Services, and legislation that will regain the rest of what is designated to us in the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act. The passage of this legislation will give us additional land and natural resources, housing dollars, economic development dollars, etc. The Tribe's Minor Trust Fund (HYSA) is growing incrementally as it should. It is my hope that the tribal government continues to wisely use the 10% it received of the HYSA, which was voted on by the tribal members.

The Yurok Tribe is respected and recognized at the local level as well as the national level and I believe we will succeed with the many goals we have set for ourselves. Thank you again to a lot of hard working and dedicated staff.

I wish you all the very best of health and happiness.

God Bless You,

Bonnie Green

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On The Cover

(left to right) Yurok councilmember David Gensaw, Executive Director Ralph Simon, Councilmember Marjorie Buckskin, YEDC Director Keith Parker, Councilmember Sid Nix, Chairperson Maria Tripp, Councilmember Larry Hendrix, Quinault Chairperson Fawn Sharp, Quinault CEO David Martin, Yurok Councilmember Richard Myers, Quinault Councilmember Philip Martin, Yurok Councilmember Dale Ann Frye Sherman, Quinault Treasurer Lawrence Ralston, Yurok Gaming Commissioner Jackie Winters and Yurok Gaming Commissioner Raymond McQuillen.

Council, staff go on info tour

The Yurok Tribal Council, YEDC, and Gaming Commission toured several Washington reservations to assist in the economic development planning. The delegation visited Cultural centers, casinos, a factory, and a fish processing plant.

The group visited the Quinault Reservation, which shares similar attributes with the Yurok Reservation. Both are in rural areas, have rivers capable of producing a commercial volume of salmon, fishers gill net for their fish, and both are prime tourist locations. Another similarity is the Quinault Chairwoman, Dawn Sharp, is part Yurok (Masten family). The Yurok Council and Staff toured the Quinault's beach front tribal casino, cultural center, restaurant and fish processing plant. The Quinault's casino management discussed gaming operations from the perspective of having seasonal fluctuations in a tourist resort environment, similar to the environment for the Yurok Tribe's planned gaming operation.

The more than 50 employees at the 50,000 square foot Quinault fish processing plant were very busy because it was the start of their salmon season. Salmon delivered by tribal fishers were sorted by species, cleaned, processed and packed into totes for shipment. The majority of salmon are shipped fresh, in tribally owned trucks, and often delivered to Seattle within hours of being netted. They are then flown overnight to major East Coast cities like New York. The Yurok delegation learned that the Quinault tribe was paying their fishers $1.10 per pound for Chinook and Coho salmon, which was about to be lowered to 80 cents per pound because the "run" came in. Coincidentally, the Yurok delegation ran into Chairperson Maria Tripp's cousin, William Valenzuela and Councilmember Lyle McKinnon's nephew, Willie Nelson at the plant. Both have worked there for several years.

The Quinault Tribe also operates two fish hatcheries that allow them to maintain a sustainable run. They place the young salmon and steelhead in holding pens in Lake Quinault before releasing them into the river to allow them to gain size which reduces mortality. The Quinault also time their release so that the hatchery fish come back to spawn before the native fish in successive years. This enables the tribal fishers to target mostly hatchery fish while the native fish get through later by pulling the nets. Regarding nets, the Quinault call each fishing hole "grounds". Grounds are GPS surveyed and recorded with the Tribe. They are passed from family member to family member upon death but can also be sold to another tribal member. The nets are left out for weeks on end. Per tribal regulations, a 150 foot wide opening in the middle of the river must be maintained for the full length of the river to allow fish escapement.

The Quinault Tribe also maintains a large ocean fishing fleet for tribal members to fish and crab. Tribal members also gather clams and sell them commercially. Much of the beach on the reservation is for the exclusive use of tribal members only. A couple of streams on their reservation, including the Quinault River, are also for use by tribal members only unless a license fee and the services of a tribal guide are paid for.

The Quinault representatives' hospitality and helpfulness during the day-long tour was deeply appreciated by the Yurok delegation. The Yurok delegation also toured the economic development operations of three other tribes in the Seattle area, including the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Chehalis Tribe. The Squaxin Island Tribe graciously gave the Yurok delegation a tour of its cultural center and cigarette factory, the Skookum Creek Tobacco Company. Their factory produces 60,000 cartons of cigarettes monthly without the Federal cigarette stamp. They also recently obtained an import license and purchased a 51% share in a South American Cigar Company which allows them to also offer hand rolled premium Dominican cigars.

The Yurok Tribal Councilmembers and tribal staff met with Larry Echohawk, the United States Department of the Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs. Echohawk, a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. (left to right) Yurok planner, Joe James, Yurok Councilmember Richard Myers, Larry Echohawk, Yurok Councilmember David Gensaw Sr, Executive Director Ralph Simon and Yurok Transportation Manager Javier Kinney.

Looking to the future

Ralph Simon
Executive Director

By the time you read this, the Yurok Tribe will have a new Chair and Vice Chair of its Tribal Council. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve the current Council, chaired by Maria Tripp since I began my employment with the tribe over two years ago. During that time, programs and services for tribal members have been expanded, the removal of the PacifiCorp dams on the Klamath is much closer to reality as the federal government, states and PacifiCorp have finally negotiated a **Hydro Settlement Agreement**, the tribe's land holdings have increased substantially and the future looks bright for the tribe and its members as a result of the decisions made by the Tribal Council and action plans being implemented by the staff. These accomplishments take time, money and determination, and I am proud to say that the tribe met these challenges. In the end, the many nights away from home, the weary travel, and the long, contentious meetings attended by Council and staff have not been in vain as important milestones have been reached by our team's efforts

I look forward to working with a new Chairperson who will lead the tribe for the next three year term. In that time, we anticipate that the tribe will move forward with the plans established by Chairwoman Tripp and the current Council, such as continuing to increase the tribe's land holdings, improving and expanding its infrastructure (including roads, electric service and by bringing broadband to the Reservation), increasing its economic development base with a fish processing plant, gaming facility and other revenue generating endeavors, continuing on to the next phases of constructing a first-class cultural center on the Reservation, building upon our efforts to protect and enhance the quality of the tribe's natural resources, and tailoring the tribe's programs and services to provide the highest benefit to tribal members within our funding capabilities. We anticipate that President Obama will be supportive of these tribal initiatives and that is a refreshing change from the past administration. President Obama's recent meeting with tribal leaders from across Indian Country was a welcome shot in the arm and we look forward to the President and his administration bringing a new attitude and a new commitment to treating Indian tribes as sovereign nations and fulfilling the federal government's trust responsibilities toward our nations.

> ***"I can easily see a 20% increase in tribal jobs in the next two years."***
>
> **Ralph Simon, Executive Director**

Even though we can claim the successes mentioned above, as well as others, the challenges ahead are many and will require the same hard work and wise decisions that got us this far. As an example, the state is in the midst of establishing marine protected areas for territory claimed to be within its jurisdiction along our coast under authority of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). The MLPA has been used in other areas of the California coast to severely limit or prohibit Indian people from exercising their established gathering customs. These decisions were made with great haste in the other areas and with too little attention to local input. Our staff and Council are determined to join with our allies to do all that we can to make our voices heard and our opinions counted when the state's officials decide whether to establish protected areas along our coastline, what kind of protected areas to

establish, and to make those decisions consistent with the rights of tribal members to continue their centuries-old customs.

Employment is a big issue in any community and no less so for Yurok Tribal members. Recently, we hired Jennifer Elk, a Yurok Tribal member, as our Employment Assistance Officer. Jennifer will administer the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO), which gives employment preference first to qualified Yurok Tribal members and other Indians before other applicants can be considered, and which gives contracting preference to qualified Yurok Tribal businesses before considering other contractors. I have also directed Jennifer to develop meaningful training programs and opportunities for Tribal members so that members can develop and improve upon their job skills. With intense competition for jobs in the current economy, being a tribal member is simply not enough to get a job, not with the tribe or with any other employer; the member must be "qualified" for the job and that is where we will focus much of our efforts through Jennifer, our Human Resources Department staff and others. These training programs will cover the entire spectrum of employment opportunities, whether it is basic job skills needed to get an entry level job or whether it is learning executive level specialties required to get a top managerial job. With all of the efforts nationally to turn around the economy, with our acquisition of more lands with abundant natural resources, with our expansion of economic development on the Reservation, and in light of a host of other initiatives, I can easily see a 20% increase in tribal jobs in the next two years. We intend to make sure that tribal members are qualified to take on those jobs.

2009 Election

(top left) Marjorie Bucksin will serve her first term as Vice Chairperson. (top right) Tom P. O'rourke, Sr. will serve his first term as Chairperson. (bottom) Larry Hendrix will serve his sixth term as the Orick District representative.

The seats for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Orick District Representative were up for election this fall.

Incumbent Larry Hendrix, kept his seat, defeating Allen McCloskey 17 to 12 for the Orick District spot. Hendrix, who will be serving his sixth term, was sworn into office in October.

Maria Tripp, the incumbent runner for the chair seat, was outvoted in the primary election. It was Tripp's first term. In the runoff election on November 12, Thomas P. O'Rourke, Sr. beat out Dr. Michael Ward 613 to 488 for the chair seat.

The contest for Vice Chairperson also required a runoff election. North District Representative, Marjorie Buckskin, overtook incumbent Bonnie Green in the runoff race 749 to 337. Green served four terms as the South District Representative and one as Vice Chair.

The North District seat is now open. A special election will be held on February 3, 2010. The nomination period for candidates will open December 14, 2009 and end on December 30, 2009 at 5pm. The candidate will serve the remainder of the term, which ends in 2011.

O'Rourke, Sr. and Buckskin will be sworn in on December 9, at the Klamath Office at 11am..

Renewable power

In an effort to further reduce its carbon footprint, the Yurok Tribe recently started a study to determine if harnessing electricity from wind is a possibility on the Reservation.

To initiate the year-long analysis, the Tribe's Planning Department installed a 170-foot meteorological tower on Mckinnon Hill. The tower is equipped with four anemometers — wind measurement tools — placed at different heights on the tower. The data collected from the devices over the period of a year will also give researchers the ability to gauge wind speeds above the structure. There are two directional wind vanes attached to the tower, which detect and store wind direction information.

"The goal of the project is to determine if there is a viable wind resource on the Reservation," said Yurok Planner Austin Nova, who is heading up the project. "The first step is to determine if we have enough sustainable wind to generate power and if so, how much electricity we can generate."

The Tribe is working with the Schatz Energy Research Center in Arcata to pursue not only wind, but solar renewable energy projects and small hydroelectric projects to reduce pollution, generate revenue and reduce non-renewable energy consumption. The Department of Energy recently funded $147,000 to install photovoltaic solar panels on the Weitchpec Tribal Office.

"Renewable energy is the new wave of the future and the Yurok Tribe could save valuable tribal funds by incorporating renewable energy into our governmental facilities. A wind tower may just be an option to help offset some of our current energy expenses," Nova said.

Planning based its decision to install the tower on Mckinnon Hill using wind maps, which show the most wind on the Reservation, passes over the hill.

"It was difficult to find a mountaintop within the boundaries on the reservation," Nova said.

The tower is on loan from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL is a Colorado-based organization, internationally known for its innovative work in the field of renewable energy for both homes and large industries.

The feasibility study was paid for using a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

photos by Austin Nova

The tower measures and stores wind direction and velocity data.

Frequently Asked Questions about dam removal agreements

The Yurok, Klamath, and Karuk Tribes, Klamath Water Users Association (representing Klamath Reclamation Project irrigators), States of Oregon and California, and conservation groups respond to questions about the intent and effect of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. PacifiCorp responds to those questions pertaining to the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. Currently the stakeholders are taking public comment on the agreements, which are expected to be finalized in January, 2010. For additional facts and information, please visit http://www.yuroktribe.org/departments/fisheries/damremovalinformation.htm

1. What is the overall purpose of the two agreements?

The Parties have multiple goals, all of which revolve around restoration of the natural resources of the Klamath Basin while sustaining the people and communities of the Basin. The goals include: ending the Klamath water wars; allocating water resources so that farming, tribal, recreational, wildlife, and commercial ocean interests are protected; restoring the fisheries of the Basin; providing affordable, renewable power for agricultural communities; improving habitat and water quality; and avoiding further degradation of Basin resources. Both agreements are essential to achievement of the Parties' goals.

2. What is the linkage between the two agreements?

The measures contemplated by the two interdependent agreements, working in concert, are needed to accomplish Basin restoration. Removal of the dams is one of the most important, but not the only action necessary to restore the Klamath Basin. Other important restoration activities are provided within the framework of the KBRA. Accordingly, parties to the Hydro Agreement are also expected to sign the KBRA.

3. How will the public be involved in the implementation of the Agreements?

Both Agreements are intended to work within the existing legal framework of applicable environmental and other law. Consequently, programs and decisions under the Agreements will be subject to both (in California) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, and in Oregon to any applicable state law review. These environmental review statutory obligations include extensive public input. In addition, Siskiyou County, California, has been expressly designated as a Cooperating Agency for NEPA in the Hydro Agreement itself. Siskiyou, as well as Humboldt and Klamath Counties have been invited to all of the meetings where these issues have been discussed and have been given extensive opportunities for participation in drafting the final language.

4. What Congressional approvals are needed to implement the agreements?

This will be the largest river restoration project in the history of the United States. It is a complex Basin, geographically and politically. The Parties will seek legislation to assist in assuring that the restoration projects will be implemented in compliance with applicable law, and with due regard for impacts of removal on affected communities. Among other things, the Parties will propose legislation that will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate and to confirm or reject dam removal as the preferred means of restoring the fisheries and promoting the public interest; authorize the Secretary to perform removal or identify another entity capable of doing so; protect PacifiCorp from liability arising from removal which will be conducted by others; and increase the levels of federal funding to jump-start basin restoration efforts in coordination with state funding for dam removal.

5. Why should supporters of dam removal not involved in these negotiations wait for implementation of this agreement?

The settlements are the best chance for dam removal. The settlement provides greater certainty that dam removal will happen, and will happen more quickly, than any other option available to those who support dam removal. Litigation in the FERC relicensing process to compel dam removal would take, under educated estimates, between 20 and 30 years to conclude, Litigation would be enormously expensive for all participants. The outcome of litigation is, by definition, uncertain. Further, both the dam removal and the Basin restoration agreements in tandem address habitat and other resource issues in a holistic way (instead of focusing on darn removal alone), providing greater assurance that fisheries restoration will succeed. In addition, PacifiCorp's promise for early implementation of an adaptive management plan and a series of interim measures to immediately benefit aquatic habitat; remove stream barriers; improve water quality; change ramp rates and flows; increase hatchery support; fund road maintenance on federal lands and protect cultural resources, would have been delayed for years under normal FERC relicensing.

6. How will this agreement change the operations of the Klamath Reclamation Project?

The Parties' intention is that the Reclamation Project will continue its operations with a greater degree of certainty of water deliveries, a reduction in actual diversions (especially in dry years), increased efficiency of operations, and access to affordable renewable sources of energy. For the first time ever, Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge would receive firm deliveries of water, through irrigation districts in the Project. The Project will support wildlife program on public and private farmland; and will support fishery restoration in the Basin.

7. Will the Basin Restoration Agreement or Hydro Settlement waive the Tribes' sovereign immunity?

No. Section 1.63 of the Hydro Settlement provides: "Nothing in this Settlement is intended or shall be construed as a waiver of sovereign immunity by the United States, the State of Oregon, the State of California, or any other Public Agency Party [including Tribes]."The Basin Restoration Agreement contains similar provisions. The parties do expect that the critical commitments of the Basin Restoration Agreement will be binding and enforceable through the Agreement or authorizing legislation.

8. Do the agreements violate Tribal Trust obligations ?

No. On the contrary, the participating tribes and the U.S. Government strongly believe that the agreements are in furtherance of the Government's trust responsibility, since they take major steps to restore tribal sources of sustenance and culture.

Big year for Tribe in 2009

This year was a highly productive for the Yurok Tribe. Under the guidance of the Yurok Tribal Council and the Executive Director, the Tribe made many significant strides in education, habitat restoration for fish and wildlife, tribal job creation and infrastructure and transportation development. Additionally, the Tribe hatched an effort to restore condors to Yurok ancestral territory, started a new program to aid victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and is in the process of adding 47,000 acres to tribal ownership.

Environmental Program crew manager, Yadao Inong, cleans up the last large illegal dump site on the Reservation.

Despite the world-wide economic downturn, the Tribe was able find innovative ways to grow, while most other governments and businesses have had to make painful cutbacks. In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Tribe hired 48 new employees and created 68 new positions.

Here is a brief synopsis of the Tribe's achievements in 2009.

The Yurok Education Department provided services to over 600 Yurok students. The Department put ten tribal members through various vocational schools. Every one completed their respective programs and went on to find jobs in the shrinking economy. Education also put on a very successful cultural education camp at the mouth of Klamath River.

The Yurok Tribe's Fisheries Program accomplished critical restoration work in Klamath River tributaries such as McGarvey, Waukell, Terwer and Tectah Creeks — all important salmon and steelhead spawning tributaries. To augment the restoration work, Fisheries secured funding to expand its native tree nursery, which is used to cultivate tens of thousands of saplings. Fisheries continued to grow its massive body of knowledge pertaining to the Klamath River and its tributaries. Fisheries also provided technical support for the Klamath Dam removal negotiations, which are nearing completion.

The Watershed Department hired a road maintenance foreman and road maintenance worker. The two will be working to enhance all BIA and Yurok tribally owned roads. The road maintenance program is the outcome of collaboration between the Watershed Department and the Planning and Community Development's Transportation Program.

Planning's Transportation Program also secured $2.5 million to improve the Bald Hills Rd., a main thoroughfare on the Reservation, and launched a bus service between Weitchpec and Willow Creek. The Planning Department also oversaw the completion of the Kenek Fire Station in Tulley Creek, the extension of power and telephone lines to Ke-pel, the installation of a new boat ramp in Requa and the construction of a nearly 6,000 square foot child care facility in Klamath.

The Tribe's Environmental Program removed the last of the large, active illegal dump sites on the Reservation. With the hard work of nearly a dozen temporarily employed

Senior Wildlife Biologist Chris West and Wildlife Technician Tiana Williams capture turkey vultures in a study geared to determine if Yurok ancestral territory can once again sustain a condor population.

tribal members, the Environmental Program removed thousands of tons of unlawfully dumped material and over 200 inoperable vehicles. Following the massive clean-up efforts, illegal dumping stopped at all of the sites. YTEP continues to be a leader in water quality monitoring on the Klamath and air quality monitoring in the basin.

The Tribe's Self Governance Office's Wildlife Program made significant forward steps in studying the possibility of returning the California condor to Yurok ancestral territory. The two biologists working on the project trapped over two dozen turkey vultures — a fair surrogate for condors — to test lead levels. The two also took numerous samples from deceased seals and sea lions to determine organochlorine levels in the potential condor staple. If the results of the two studies come back showing

The Fisheries Department restores critical fish spawning and rearing habitat in many of the Klamath River's tributaries.

low levels of the toxins it will greatly increase the chances of reestablishing a self-sustaining condor population here.

In addition to providing services to Yurok tribal members who need help the most, the Social Services Department recently launched the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Project. The Project aims to work with Native women who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and to ensure the best recovery possible. The new Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Crisis Worker works with clients to navigate the civil and criminal courts and to obtain various protective orders. The Crisis Worker is also providing outreach and education related to domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Yurok Tribal Court continues to take shape. The Tribal Court submitted grant applications to start a family drug court program, the planning of correctional facility and for transitional housing for domestic violence survivors.

The Tribe will once again own a large portion of the Blue Creek watershed when the land deal is complete.

The Tribe's Office of Tribal Attorney is working to complete a deal that would bring back 47,000 acres of private timber company-owned land back into the Tribe's ownership. Working with the Tribe's policy analyst, the Office is also closing in on the finish line in the negotiation of two agreements to remove four dams from the Klamath and dramatically restore fish habitat on the river.

The Yurok Tribe is looking toward 2010 with ample optimism. The Tribe has already secured a number of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, totaling in the millions of dollars. The funds will be used to increase services or enhance existing services to tribal members, to restore the Reservation's fish and wildlife and to create new tribal infrastructure. Recently, the Tribe purchased a river-side property which will one day be home to a fish

The Yurok Tribe's new Fire and Fitness Center is one of several of the Planning Department's major contributions in 2009.

processing plant. It is projects like this that will guarantee a better future for Yurok tribal members now and in future generations.

$4,744,612 in stimulus funding received to date and counting

The following is a summary of grants received by the Yurok Tribe under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA" or "economic stimulus funding"):

This Yurok Fisheries Crew is doing river bank stabilization work in the Terwer Creek, a critical salmon spawning tributary, using American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding.

1. Fisheries Program

The Fisheries Program received $528,000 grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct riparian and in-stream restoration work in Lower Klamath Basin tributaries. This project began during the late summer of 2009 and will run through December of 2010.

This project will employ approximately 15 people to meet multiple restoration objectives, including planting native trees along Terwer, Waukel, and McGarvey Creeks in order to provide future large woody debris supplies to the streams, increase bank stability, and enhance stream shading, to expand the native tree nursery for ongoing and future restoration projects, to restore long-term habitat complexity and stream channel stability within lower Terwer Creek by installing willow siltation baffles, willow mattresses, and tree planting islands, to monitor and evaluate project effectiveness by establishing permanent geo-referenced, cross-channel vegetation transects, a detailed 3D topographic channel survey, photographic monitoring sites, and air temperature and soil temperature and moisture monitoring sites, to continue a community-based habitat restoration curriculum in conjunction with the Klamath River Early College of The Redwoods, and to restore and enhance two wetlands and off channel rearing ponds in Terwer Creek.

2. Transportation (BIA Indian Reservation Roads ("IRR") and Watershed Programs.

A $702,275.00 IRR grant to be used by the Transportation Program in partnership with Humboldt County to pave 4.6 miles of Bald Hills Road between Post Mile 23.1 and PM 26.7 (near Pine Creek road intersection). The work will also be supported by a $500,000 U.S. Dept. of Transportation grant to the project through Humboldt County. And, a $435,000 IRR grant to be used by the Watershed Program in their general road maintenance activities, including grading, brushing, surface improvements, visibility improvements and safety improvements for the period 2009 through 2011.

3. Planning Department

A. A $147,000 grant from the US Department of Energy will be used for the Weitchpec Tribal Office Renewable Energy Photovoltaic Project to install solar panels to reduce energy consumption.

B. Several Indian Health Service funded projects totaling $1,095,716, to improve the water systems on the Yurok Reservation, including $54,000 for extension

of the Requa Water System to Fizer Road residents; $404,868 for replacement of the Weitchpec Water Tank ; $107,497 for system enhancements and equipment; $121,000 for improvements to the Klamath Community Services District system – adding a new leach fields to assist the KCSD in being removed from the Cease and Desist Order issued by the State Water Quality Board; $61,200 to assist the Tribe in studying issues related to consolidation of the Requa Water System and the Redwood National Park System, including determining capacities of the combined system and exploring the development of a water system to serve other areas in Klamath that are currently served by surface water systems, wells, or community water systems; $198,000 for system enhancement and equipment; $67,000 for the Kepel Water Treatment monitoring system to allow remote monitoring of water levels so that staff receive advance warning when water levels become low; $82,151 for installation of remote water monitoring systems to Weitchpec and Wautec Water Systems to allow remote monitoring of water levels as described above.

4. Social Services Dept.

A $79,145 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Food Commodities Program for the purchase of a new refrigerated delivery truck.

5. Education

A. Child Care Program - The Child Care Program received $129,221 from the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Child and Families.

Yurok Public Utility District Superintendent Rob Nulph inspects a water line project funded in part by an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant the tribe applied for.

The majority of the funds will be used to help low income, working families or families looking for employment with quality child care through the voucher program. The rest of the money will be used to create two new jobs at the Ke'pel Head Start Center to provide child care at that site for families living up river, training for existing staff at the Yurok Tribe's Child Care Center and to continue quality child care for the children. The program will also use some of the funds to buy new playground equipment for the new child care center at the Margaret Keating School Site.

B. Head Start - The Head Start Program received a $29,775 grant award from the Office of Head Start. The funds are being used for Quality Improvement and Cost of Living Allowance. The purpose of the grant was to retain staff, to improve services for children and families, and to replace items of need. The funds are being used to extend the hours of operations to full day/full year services to the children and families at Ke'pel and Klamath, COLA for the staff at 1.84% to improve the wage compensation of the staff and retain qualified staff, purchase child restraint seats for the buses and to improve health and safety.

6. Yurok Indian Housing Authority

YIHA secured a $1,170,000 in ARRA funds to construct up to 11 new units designated in the annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Housing Plan.

7. Tribal Court

$165,825 grant from the U.S. Justice Department for planning activities for a potential detention and judicial services facility on the Yurok Reservation.

The tribe has submitted applications for millions of dollars more in stimulus funding for various other tribal projects or programs and hopes to have a positive response on those applications.

Fish for Elders Program catches praise

For many Yurok elders, going to the river and catching fish is just not an option anymore. Some are ill and for others getting on in age, catching fish is too labor intensive. Some can still fish, but can't put in the long hours it sometimes takes to catch a salmon.

Such was the case for Yurok elder Melvin Smith, who was unable to catch some salmon to bring back to his home in Hawaii, while he was on his yearly visit to Klamath.

"I'm fairly old and I can't get around like that anymore," Smith said.

Smith heard about the Fish for Elders Program, recently initiated by the Tribal Council, and contacted the Fisheries Department. Shortly thereafter, he was supplied with his two fish.

"They were really nice. It made me feel really good," Smith said.

Greg Williams and his granddaughter Kayla Seamans sell fish to the Fish for Elders Program.

The Yurok Tribal Council started the Fish for Elders Program as a way to get fish to elders and put fishermen to work. The Yurok Tribe program purchased 981 fish, weighing 12,794 pounds, for $19,192.

Currently, Yuroks eat only a fraction of the salmon compared to pre-European contact because of declining fish runs. Many elders, like Smith, attribute reaching their later years in relatively good health to all the fish they've eaten throughout their lifetime.

"Salmon is oily and fat, but it is the good kind, not the harmful to the body kind," Smith said.

By coincidence, one of Smith's sisters, Donna Eddy who is also an elder, had a broken foot during salmon season. Vivian Ulmer, another of his siblings, was suffering from the flu. So, Smith took their tribal ID cards to Klamath to pick up fish and deliver it to them.

"They were so thrilled," he said.

Smith even wrote a thank you letter to the Tribe and to Desma Williams at the Fisheries Department.

> ***"It made me feel really good."***
>
> **Yurok Elder Melvin "Buddy" Smith**

"I want to give a special thanks to Arnie Nova and Nikki McCovey for their great help and for treating me with such respect and friendship. The staff in the office in Klamath and at the river site at Requa were so helpful," Smith wrote.

In addition to providing fish for the Elders Program, the Yurok Tribe also conducted a commercial fishery during the recent fall Chinook season. Fishers harvested 14,784 fish. Of those, 12,223 were sold to wholesale buyers at Requa for $511,031. Commercial fishers sold the remaining 2,559 fish in markets they secured on their own.

Meet the new road crew

For the first time ever, the Yurok Tribe is doing year-round road maintenance.

The newly formed road maintenance crew is tasked with preserving and protecting all Yurok tribally owned and BIA roads on the Reservation, which are hit hard by torrential rains, hail and snow every year.

Yurok tribal members David Frye, the new road foreman, and road laborer, Dewey Jones, have been hired to grade eroded roads, fill axle-crushing potholes and do whatever else is needed to keep the roads in good, safe driving condition. Frye recently retired as a supervisor for the Trinity County Department of Transportation and plans to ensure that the newly formed program becomes permanent.

"What we enjoy most is seeing the smiles on elders' faces when we show up to fix the roads," Frye said.

"Some of these roads have never been worked on. We like seeing their faces light up when they see we are there to help," Jones added.

The Tribe's Watershed Program and the Planning Department's Roads Program worked together to secure funding and create a plan to restore and maintain the thoroughfares.

"We will be able to make a marked difference on the condition of the roads year-round," said Watershed Restoration Program Coordinator, Yurok tribal member Walt Lara III. "This means the roads will be safer and the wear and tear on your vehicle will be reduced."

The program is funded by the federal Indian Reservation Roads Maintenance Program. In addition to funding two full-time road maintenance positions, the Tribe also purchased a new road grader, backhoe and water truck to perform the important work of keeping the roads in good condition. The Tribe is also looking into purchasing a snow plow. Currently, the crew is working on roads, assembling a road maintenance schedule and creating new signs for the roads. The signs will assist emergency personnel when they respond to emergencies.

"What we want people to know is that when they see us we are there to help," Frye concluded.

Yurok Tribal Member Eldon Kinney was made an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boyscout's of America.

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Salmon Fest draws largest crowd in recent memory

The 47th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival was a spectacular success and drew the largest attendance in recent memory.

The sun shined brightly through a clear blue sky starting early in the morning for the Veteran's Breakfast and Parade, continuing through the last note played by the notorious Dr. Squid.

The new events, such as the Classic Car Show, Heavy Equipment Rodeo and Ney-puey Run were all very well received and the Yurok chefs perfectly prepared the salmon over open fires.

Master of Ceremonies, Javier Kinney, set the tone for fun-filled day, which felt like a giant family reunion with games, music and plenty of tasty treats.

"We'd like to thank all who participated in putting the event together and all who came and made it such a fantastic day. I'd especially like to thank all of the tribal employees who put in extra effort toward making everything run smoothly," said event organizer Dale Ann Frye Sherman. "It was you who made it such a memorable experience."

There were over 100 vendors selling everything from hand-crafted jewelry to fresh baked pie. The Tribe sold over 500 salmon dinners and the proceeds will go to making next year's festival even better.

"I'd especially like to thank all of the tribal employees who put in extra effort toward making everything run smoothly."

Salmon Festival Organizer, Dale Ann Frye Sherman

• **SEE PHOTO SPREAD ON THE NEXT PAGE**

LOST AND FOUND

To report or claim lost property call the Yurok Tribe's Public Safety Office at (707) 482-1885.

Klamath Salmon Festival

Rachel Knight was one of the elders honored as Grand Marshall of the Salmon Festival.

Zack T. Howard rides on the Yurok Indian Housing Authority float.

Javier Kinney was the Master of Ceremonies of the 2009 Klamath Salmon Festival.

Kokonow C. Kinney won the break dancing competition at the festival.

(left to right) Darrel Aubrey, Zach Brown, Roger "Bronc" McCovey, Harold Jones, and Jay-tuk Steinruck represented the Yurok Tribe at the Klamath Salmon Festival. The team won the Men's Division. The score was 2-0.

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