



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

*Yurok opens shop with HUSA check*

*see story, page 3*





Chairperson

# Maria Tripp

*In light of the recent financial crisis and the many questions tribal council and staff receive regarding the minors account we have asked Jason Barr from Morgan Stanley to respond. While there are never guarantees, the council has been able to increase the value of these funds through prudent investment in low risk assets. In 1992, the council took over investment of the \$29 million HYSAs settlement funds from the BIA and through wise investment grew the fund to \$92 million by 2008. We will continue to provide information throughout the year*

The Yurok Tribe recently finalized the Yurok Minor's 2008 Irrevocable Trust, which will benefit our youngest members.

The beneficiaries of the Trust are duly enrolled living Yurok Tribal Members as of December 5, 2007 who are less than twenty-one years of age.

The Trust is irrevocable and cannot be changed by the current Council or any future Tribal Councils.

The only funds that can be removed from the Trust are for the beneficiaries after they reach twenty one years of age. If a member passes prior to reaching the age of twenty one, the Trustee will distribute the share for the benefit of the heirs.

The value of the members' share shall be equal to the value of the Trust on the last day of the month the member turns twenty one, divided by the total number of remaining members.

Each beneficiary owns an equal share of the Trust.

The Trustee for the Yurok Minor's 2008 Irrevocable Trust is Morgan Stanley.

All assets in the Trust will be held by Morgan Stanley as custodian. Assets held in the Trust are segregated from both the Yurok Tribe and Morgan Stanley for the safety of the beneficiaries. Assets held in the Trust are also covered by FDIC, SPIC and CAPCO insurance. Assets held in the Trust are managed under the standards of the Uniform Prudent Investors Act.

The current assets held in Trust consist of US Government Agency Bonds, US Government T-Bills and short term money markets.

All interest and dividends have been credited to this account from the date of the original HYSAs payment made to adult members of the Yurok Tribe. We are pleased to report that the trust has held a positive rate of return year-to-date and that each members share has increased during that time.

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# Beverly Jean's living legacy

Janel Scott penned a personal promise to the Yurok Tribal Council on her Yurok Settlement Fund ballot.

"I said that I would not let the Tribe down with the money, I would spend it on my future," Scott explained.

Scott, who recently turned 21 and received her money, kept her promise. On October 10, she opened a business in downtown Crescent City. Her new store, Beverly Jeans Gift, sells personalized presents and decorative appliances. The store is located near the top of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

"It's got fun, young vibes but it is going to cater to adults," Scott said.

Scott is no newcomer to running a business. She is a third generation Yurok business owner. Her shop is actually named after her late grandmother Beverly Jean Johnston. Aawok Johnston passed on the skill to Scott's mother, Terri Tell, who is now taking the time to instill the entrepreneurial geist in her daughter.

"All of the knowledge my mom has, she's giving me right now. She's training me with everything she knows," Scott said. "She learned the same things from her mom."

The name of Scott's shop is a reference to her appreciation for her grandmother's contribution to her mother. "Basically it's my grandmother's gift to me." Scott said.

Tell is also throwing her confidence behind her daughter in the form of a small business loan because the Yurok Settlement money was not enough to start the business.

For the last six months Scott has been researching and purchasing her inventory.

"I'm bringing in brands from Ashland to Arcata," Scott said. The store is selling everything from jewelry and greeting cards to candles and designer lights.

While Scott was taking care of the finer details attached to owning a business she was also working as a supervisor at Starbuck's in Crescent City. "That door will always be open," Scott said.

Scott wants other Yuroks to get involved with her store as well. She is accepting top quality art that she will sell on consignment. Tell will also sell some of her high-end jewelry in the store. Just across the street from Scott's new store, her grandmother's last name adorns another business, Johnston's Gift, Garden and Home, run by Scott's uncle Michael and Aunt Sherri Johnston.

"They have been supportive of me from the beginning," Scott said.



**Janel Scott stands with her mother Terri Tell.**

The Yurok Settlement Fund money originated from resources extracted from the Reservation. The fund was released from the federal government last January. The Tribe voted to distribute 90 percent to tribal members and the remaining 10 percent was voted to go to the Tribal government. "I would not be able to do any of this without the money," Scott said.

Tell, who shares the same infectious smile with her daughter, explained that the fact that her daughter and others are able to use the money, which was long ago generated from Yurok resources, to benefit this whole community is an affirmative sign for the future.

"Yuroks have the tools to make a positive impact in this modern society. It is time we do it because the world needs it," Tell concluded.



**Executive Director**  
**Ralph Simon**

While our tribal staff continue daily to provide a variety of vital programs and services to meet ongoing needs and the occasional emergency, sometimes we need to stop and acknowledge the achievements reached through the tribal government’s strategic planning and hard work. Below, are several of the infrastructure improvements that have been recently completed which benefit our community.

The Wildland Fire and Fitness Center building is located on Tulley Creek Road about a mile downriver from the Martin’s Ferry Bridge. Starting at the end of October, the building will house the Wildland Fire Department’s equipment and several staff members, as well as the Land Management/GIS group, both of which are presently working out of the Weitchpec office. The new building has a large bay area for vehicles, and several offices on the first and second floor, as well as a small kitchen unit and a large community meeting area on the second floor.

Another much anticipated project was



photo by Sophia Lay

The new fire house stands at Tulley Creek

improvement to the tribe’s Requa Resort. The Tribal Council pushed to complete this project by the beginning of this year’s commercial fishing season and that goal was accomplished. The Council hired Yurok tribal member Keith Parker as the interim Yurok Economic Development Corporation Manager in late spring to bring the various components of this project together. He finished the project under budget. Parker was later selected by the YEDC Board for the permanent position. Tribal members who have had the opportunity to visit and use the improved camping facilities have been very complimentary of the renovation. **For more information go to page 11.**



The Requa Resort Campground gets renovated.

As this issue goes to press, work to repair and improve the Requa Resort’s boat ramp, damaged by the 2006 flood, is also taking place. The project will include placing “Armorflex” matting out from the ramp to make it more convenient and usable under a variety of conditions.



photo by Keith Parker

The new boat ramp goes in at Requa.

The third implemented project that I want to mention is the Yurok Transit System. Operated by KT-NeT under contract to the tribe, the affordable bus and van service will soon begin running between Wautec and Weitchpec and Weitchpec to Hoopa-Willow Creek. The tribe is also seeking funding to operate additional service to/from the Eureka-Arcata area and the Happy Camp area.

And, coming off the drawing boards in the coming year, look for announcements regarding completion of the new Child Care and Head Start building on the west side of the reservation and the Morekwon Recreational Center on the east side of the reservation.

The Council and I want to thank the Planning Department, the Tribe's Environmental Program and the Finance Department and others for their hard work in bringing these projects to life.

In order to keep these facilities in good condition, the tribe recently hired Adam Briggs for its newly created "Safety and Facilities Manager" position. Adam will provide professional management of the daily maintenance and long-term upkeep of all tribal facilities. He will also develop and implement safety programs for tribal vehicle drivers and provide training to prevent or reduce employee on-the-job injuries.

Also on the topic of public safety, I strongly encourage qualified community members to serve in the volunteer fire departments within the reservation boundaries.

Lastly, and ending on a high note, I am pleased to announce that tribal member Robert McConnell Sr. has agreed to accept the position of Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the tribe. Robert brings a great amount of knowledge and experience in cultural issues with him that will help us in protecting the tribe's resources.

**Volunteers needed now**

The Klamath, Weitchpec and Wautec volunteer fire departments urgently need individuals available day and night to respond to emergencies on the reservation.

Please contact Ralph Simon at 707-482-1350 if you are interested and he will put you in touch with the appropriate fire district representative.



# SIX FOR NIX

Councilmember Sid Nix of the Weitchpec District will serve a sixth term on the Yurok Tribal Council after overtaking Frankie Joe Myers in the primary election.

"I am grateful and proud to serve the Weitchpec District for a sixth term," Nix said. "Thank you for the confidence you have shown me with all of your votes."

The North District and Requa District will go to a run-off election.

Incumbent, Marjorie Bucksin will be running against Jack Mattz in the North District.

Incumbent Ray Mattz will be running against David Gensaw Sr. in the Requa District.

**See election results below.**

North District	Results	Percentage
Majorie Bucksin	105	43.93%
Jack Mattz	70	29.29%
Yvonne Miller	27	11.30%
Hector Natt Sr.	18	7.53%
John Oliphant	19	7.95%
<b>Total 239</b>		
Requa District		
Ron Bates	26	20.31%
David Gensaw Sr.	56	43.75%
Sam L. Gensaw Jr.	7	5.47%
Ray Mattz	27	21.09%
John Oliphant	12	9.38%
<b>Total 128</b>		
Weitchpec District		
Frankie Joe Myers	7	11.67%
Sid Nix	53	88.33%
<b>Total 60</b>		

# Tribe explores benefits of Marine Sanctuary

The Yurok Tribe is exploring the possibility of establishing a Marine Sanctuary in proximity to its ancestral territory along the Klamath coast.

A team of scientists from the Yurok Tribe, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and CSU Monterey Bay recently collected an array of oceanographic data off the mouth of the Klamath River, which is a step forward in this process of forming a Sanctuary.

"Right now, we are working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to determine what a Marine Sanctuary would look like in our region," said Yurok Tribal member and Yurok Deputy Executive Director/Self Governance Officer, Shaunna McCovey.

One of the benefits a Marine Sanctuary has is that it would block all off-shore oil drilling.

"It's incredibly important to protect the nearshore ocean from pollution since that's the where our salmon go to grow up," said Yurok Fisheries Biologist Josh Strange.

Josh spent five days on the vessel on behalf of the Tribe conducting tests and helping the other scientists aboard the ship collect data.

Aboard a new research vessel, the 85-foot SRVx, the crew used sophisticated gear, including a camera sled with a live video feed and sediment grabbing equipment to study the Klamath River plume, while Josh deployed an acoustic monitoring system to detect tagged fish. The Yurok Tribe has embedded sonic tags in adult green sturgeon that spawn in the Klamath River. The acoustic monitoring system, moored near the mouth of the Klamath River, can detect the acoustic signals sent from sonic tags surgically implanted in the sturgeon and other tagged fish species such as great white sharks.

"We are collecting data that is going to be important to researchers up and down the coast and as well as to our green sturgeon here in the Klamath," Josh said.

Making a port-of-call in the Crescent City Harbor, the vessel worked for two weeks during the end of September and the beginning of October. The primary goal of a Yurok Marine Sanctuary would be to



photo courtesy of Lorraine Anglin/NOAA

Yurok Fisheries Biologist Josh Strange deploys a monitoring device that can detect the acoustic signals sent from sonic tags surgically implanted in sturgeon and other tagged fish species such as great white sharks.

protect shared natural and cultural resources through co-management. The sanctuary would not place any additional restrictions on fishing, thus allowing continued recreational sport fishing, diving and commercial fishing.

Some of the Tribe's most sacred places are located on the coast and in the Pacific Ocean. Yuroks have always sustainably harvested seaweed, shells, fish and mollusks from the ocean for subsistence and for ceremonial needs.

An official proposal for the Marine Sanctuary is still being considered. Tribal officials will continue a conversation with the public via meetings with stakeholders in the region including: the tribal membership, private businesses, other tribal and non-tribal governments, commercial fishers, ocean recreational groups and environmental organizations. The Tribe will also use these meetings to share its vision of what a Marine Sanctuary in the area might entail and to decide if it is the right fit for the Tribe.

The National Marine Sanctuary System includes 13 sanctuaries and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument.

The west coast sanctuaries include: the Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, Monterey Bay and Olympic Coast.

If you would like further information regarding Marine Sanctuaries please visit [www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov) or contact Shaunna McCovey at (707) 482-1350.

# Tribe restores troubled tributaries

by **Dan Gale** • *Senior Yurok Fisheries Biologist*

The Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program has been actively restoring damaged streambeds at a feverish pace this summer. Two of the projects on McGarvey Creek and Tectah Creek are designed to rehabilitate historically degraded salmon and steelhead habitat in these two Lower Klamath tributaries. These projects involve placing large woody debris such as logs and root wads in the stream channel and throughout the stream floodplain to aid in restoring high quality fish habitat that was lost in these drainages due to past land management practices.

“The overall objective is to turn these creeks back into their natural condition, which will optimize the productivity of wild salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout,” said Fisheries Manager Dave Hillemeier.

This large woody debris increases habitat diversity, which improves fish habitat for all life stages of fish. Some of the fish habitat benefits from placing logs in the stream channel include: 1) promoting scour of pools that is important for juvenile and adult fish, 2) providing cover for juvenile and adult fish, 3) providing spawning gravels by sorting sediments, and 4) storing sediments to reduce inundation of downstream habitats by excessive amounts of sediment.

Historic logging, road construction, and stream clearance activities throughout the Lower Klamath tributaries have resulted in a loss of these deep pools and diverse fish cover that juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead depend on to maximize their growth and survival. This included habitat loss through excessive sediment flow from upslope erosion, as well the removal of wood from the stream channels. The Tribe’s Watershed Restoration Department is also working simultaneously in these drainages to decommission unwanted logging roads, which immensely helps reduce sediment from entering the stream channels and burying the once prime habitat.

Meanwhile, the Fisheries Program has also been working to plan and implement more concurrent projects to improve stream habitat conditions to aid in naturally sorting sediment that has already entered the channel.

In the case of McGarvey Creek, Fisheries has been working for the past two summers reintroducing logs and root wads back into the stream channel using an



The Yurok Fisheries Department restores salmon and steelhead habitat.

excavator. The wood placed in the creek was salvaged from nearby road decommissioning projects and logging sites and transported via dump truck to the restoration work areas.

The wood is then positioned in or adjacent to the stream channel in such a way to optimize pool scouring, stream bank protection, and fish cover formation. Crews placed approximately 60 pieces of large wood in the lower ½ mile of West Fork McGarvey Creek during summer 2007 and approximately 120 pieces of large wood in a ½ mile reach of main stem McGarvey Creek above the West Fork during summer 2008. The crew will be conducting similar habitat restoration work in the ½ mile reach downstream of the West Fork during the summer 2009. Tectah Creek’s larger size and remote access prevented the possibility of using an excavator or



similar heavy equipment to reintroduce large wood back into the stream channel. As a result, the Fisheries Program contracted with Columbia Helicopter to use a twin-prop Chinook helicopter (typically used for logging operations) to transport logs from a stockpile site in upper Bear Creek to the lower Tectah Creek restoration site. Fisheries crews stockpiled over 200 logs and trees that were provided by the Tribe's Forestry Department. The logs were flown and placed by helicopter in the lower three miles of Tectah Creek over a two-day period in September.

In addition to the actual restoration work, the Tribe has been conducting extensive stream surveying to document stream channel conditions before and after wood placement in each tributary, as well as surveying the exact location and position of each piece of placed wood. This survey data will enable us to measure project's success over time by tracking changes in pool depths and habitat complexity, as well as track any wood movement that may occur under high flow conditions. This data will then be used to improve design effectiveness of similar projects we undertake in the future.

Fisheries is continually pursuing funding to implement similar restoration projects throughout the Lower Klamath tributaries, with upcoming projects in the works for Waukell and Hunter Creeks, as well as extensive planning for habitat restoration work in and adjacent to the Klamath estuary. Funding for the McGarvey and Tectah Creek projects were provided in part by the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and the Bureau of Reclamation's Native American Affairs Program.

Any Tribal Members interested in a position with Yurok Tribe Fisheries Program conducting in-stream restoration work should contact the Human Resources Department at the Klamath office. The Tribe will be hiring several individuals for the fall/winter period to plant trees and assist with other follow-up restoration activities at both project sites.

## Salmon fest success



**Andrew Dorgan steps off the stick field at the 46th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival.**

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Klamath Salmon Festival was another screaming success.

More than 1,000 people attended the salmon celebration, patronized the many booths, checked out the stick games and ate traditionally cooked Klamath salmon. The Tribe sold over 500 salmon dinners.

The highlight of the event came in the form of The Merv George Band, which rocked until the event came to a close.

## Announcements

### Donate Christmas presents for Yurok foster youth

Christmas is just around the corner. While many of us will be spending this time with our families, there are many Yurok foster youth that will be alone. To brighten the holiday season for these children, donate a gift. Gifts should be limited to a maximum of thirty dollars. We encourage gifts that will keep the youth connected to their Yurok culture. Contact Sarah Lindgren Yurok ICWA for more information at (707) 445-2422x1006.

### Cultural Monitoring Training Opportunity Coming Soon!

The Yurok Tribe is planning a cultural monitoring training for tribal members who are committed to sacred site protection, understanding the laws associated with sacred site protection, and fieldwork activities.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Robert McConnell Sr. at (707) 498-2536 or email [rmcconnell@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:rmcconnell@yuroktribe.nsn.us). Your name will be placed on a list and additional details will be provided to you as the training develops.

(left) Jayme Lynn Norris and Rishondra Bates sold an equal amount of raffle tickets making them both Co-Queens of the annual Klamath Salmon Festival. The money from the raffle will be used to put on next year's festival.



# Co-Queens of Klamath Salmon Festival



The Yurok Tribe's Executive Director Ralph Simon serves salmon at the festival.



Merv George Sr., of the Merv George Band, rocks the Klamath Salmon Festival.

## Ho laiy-yo-lew kee ne se-gaa-a-go-che-moh

*Translation: She taught us to always speak Yurok.*



Georgiana Trull, a Yurok elder, passed away on October 16, 2008. Georgiana was born May 11, 1916 in Indian house at the village of Sregon. She was an important member of her family, the tribe, the local Pecwan community and the world. For more than four decades Georgiana dedicated her life to the revitalization of the Yurok language. She has taught teachers, students, grandchildren, and friends about the language and culture.

In the early 1970's Georgiana worked at Jack Norton School through the Humboldt State University's Northern Indian Community Education program. At the time there was no Yurok alphabet so all the language instruction and learning was oral. Georgiana also taught language through the Center for Community Development at Humboldt State University and then for the Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District.

Georgiana was a member of the Yurok Tribe Culture and NAGPRA committees. She also spent countless hours recording the language and working with linguists, and apprentices in an effort to ensure the continuance of what she believed to be the very core of Yurok culture. In 2003, at the age of 87, Georgiana published her highly acclaimed book, "Georgiana Trull's Conversation Book."

## Early College gets big grant



**Shante' Scott will be graduating from KRECR this fall.**

The Walton Family Foundation has a lot of confidence in the Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods.

The foundation recently contributed \$487,000 into the charter high school-college hybrid.

The goal of the grant is two pronged. The first objective is to provide three years of operational support to the school. The second purpose is for the school to provide a "replicable model for creating public charter schools in other Native American communities based on mentorship and knowledge transfer that is rooted in community engagement, and building internal capacity of these communities" to produce leaders for these schools, according to the letter approving the grant.

"We have been getting a lot of inquiries from other Tribal communities asking us how to meet similar education needs," said Yurok tribal member Geneva Wiki, the school's Executive Director. "We feel that is a good sign."

The Klamath River Early College was started in 2005 after an outpour of community support for a culturally-focused educational institution. The high performing school is one of only a handful in Indian country.

While standardized testing is only one component of how the school measures its success, it should be noted that all of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students have passed the high school exit exam this year in both Math and English.

The school recently completed the last year of a 3-year start up grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Early College Initiative. The purpose of the Early College Initiative is to increase college enrollment. While at the Klamath River Early College students can earn up to two years of college credit for free while completing high school.

The charter school, which is located in Klamath, is a formal partnership with the Yurok Tribe and College of the Redwoods. The school is currently accepting enrollment for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders for next fall. Please visit [www.klamathriverschool.org](http://www.klamathriverschool.org) or call (707) 482-1737 for more information.

# Requa Resort renovated

The Requa Resort received a much needed face-lift just in time for this fall's Chinook season.

The Yurok Tribe completely transformed the prime piece of Klamath River front property into an all-amenities included campground, expected to become a consistent revenue stream.

"This is a smart investment on the Tribe's behalf," said the Tribe's new Economic Development Director and Yurok tribal member Keith Parker. "The property is one of the most scenic on the entire west coast . . . it truly was one of the Tribe's diamonds in the rough and the Council let me make it sparkle," Parker added with a glimpse of pride in his smile. "I devoted nearly three months to the project and am very pleased with my results."

Parker was initially hired on as an interim Economic Development Manager with marching orders to get this project done before the fishing season, which he did under budget. In late Summer the YEDC Board selected him to fill the position on a permanent basis.

Previous to the remodel, the Requa Resort was basically a simple dirt campground with bathrooms. Now the Resort boasts 29 campsites complete with water, electrical, and sewer hookups, paved roads and parking lot, full landscaping, locking gate, picnic tables, campfire rings suited with grills, a net drying and cleaning station and a fully stocked convenience store with hot cooked meals. There is also a new fire pit and redwood benches in the middle of the Resort for campers to cook salmon and gather.

During the fishing season a security service was hired to make sure all Resort campers were safe. Two office trailers were also purchased and placed to house the Fisheries and Law Enforcement staff. The campground also rents dock space during the fishing season. A new boat ramp is also under construction and is scheduled to be completed by mid-October.

The campground has a full-time caretaker and hostess, Jackie Nix, who is also a Yurok Tribal member.

Even before the refurbished Resort was open there was a waiting list. "During the months of August and most of September we remained completely full and kept names on the waiting list," Parker said. "The occupancy was excellent." The Resort financials show that for the season, it was profitable after all the bills were paid. "For the first time ever, Requa made a profit," Parker added.

During the off season the Resort will remain open and the caretaker will live



(left) Evelyn Fowler and Ayla Hill eye their set net from a new table at the Requa Resort Campground.



Keith Parker oversaw the renovation of the Requa Resort Campground. The YEDC recently selected him to be the Tribe Economic Development Director.

on-site to maintain, protect and manage the resort.

In the future, the plan is to continue marketing the resort as a fisher and camper destination with stunning views and modern amenities. The Tribe is currently in the process of installing a wireless internet connection as well.

"Watch for even more improvements in the future," Parker concluded.

# Clean water hearings held in Klamath

The California State Water Quality Resources Control Board is beginning to examine the environmental feasibility of installing fish ladders on the Klamath River dams and the environmental impacts of removing one or all four Klamath River dams.

The clean water regulating agency is also exploring the environmental effects of removing some of the dams and putting fish ladders on the remaining structures.

The Water Board is taking this action as part of the process of determining whether or not it can grant PacifiCorp a clean-water permit to operate three of the four dams on the Klamath River. J.C. Boyle dam is in Oregon.

The Water Board took public statements in Klamath on October 20, which is the first step on the path toward forming the Environmental Impact Report that will accompany the permit.

During the Water Board's introduction, serendipity poked her head in on the meeting in the form of Yurok tribal member Allen McCloskey. Just as a representative from the board began discussing water quality issues facing the Klamath, and specifically toxic blue-green algae, McCloskey walked in with a five-gallon jug of the putrid, eerie green water and set it down front and center.

The toxic blue-green algae's effect on the Tribe's ability to continue traditional Yurok practices such as fishing, gathering basket making materials and participating in ceremonial activities was a main topic of the evening.

"Our medicine people have to get in that water," said Bob McConnell. "They don't do it for themselves, they do it for everybody."

The four dams on the Klamath block 300 miles of prime salmon habitat, alter the river's natural temperature regimes and create the perfect habitat for toxic blue-green algae. Every seat was filled in the packed community room at the Yurok Tribal headquarters.

"All of these people are here to speak for the river, for the salmon," said Yurok Councilmember Dale Ann Frye Sherman. "We are interconnected with the salmon. They belong to us and we belong to them."



**Yurok Councilmember Dale Ann Frye Sherman addresses the California State Water Board.**

Since 2004, when PacifiCorp's 50-year license to operate the four dams expired, the Tribe has ramped up its effort to facilitate the removal of all four dams. The company must obtain another 50 year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to continue the operation of the decades-old hydro-electric project. Procuring a clean water permit from the states of California and Oregon is a necessary part of the relicensing process.

The company has been able to generate power off the backs of the salmon under a yearly license.

The Tribe has always been opposed to the dams because of their detrimental impact to the entire Klamath River basin.

"Our ancestors made a decision to fight to stay here and we're still here," said Yurok tribal member Per-gish Carlson. "We are going to fight until these dams come down."

Written comments can be sent to the addresses below. When submitting written comments, please identify a contact person so the Water Board can contact you if they have any questions about the comments.

Attention: Jennifer Watts  
P.O. Box 2000 Email: [jwatts@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jwatts@waterboards.ca.gov) or  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

# Tribe eyes Green Diamond property

The Yurok Tribe has entered into an agreement with the Western Rivers Conservancy that would considerably increase the Tribe's land base.

Since 1993, the Tribe has been negotiating with Green Diamond, formerly Simpson Timber Company, to acquire 47,100 acres located between Blue Creek and Weitchpec. The land is all part of Yurok ancestral territory.

Agreements signed by the parties allows Portland-based Western Rivers Conservancy to purchase the land and transfer it to the Yurok Tribe following the sale.

Once the land is turned over to the Tribe, the tribal membership will be consulted in the process of deciding how to manage it.

The purchase will also provide lasting critical habitat for all species in the Lower Klamath Basin, while at the same time opening up access for tribal members to a portion of one of the most pristine and sacred areas of the Klamath watershed.

Western Rivers Conservancy is a non-profit whose goal is to preserve significant wildlife habitat, open up access for compatible use and enjoyment, and to work with appropriate agencies and organizations to secure the health of whole ecosystems.

Located in the 47,100 acres are Cappell Creek, Pecwan Creek and the magnificent Blue Creek. All three are spawning grounds for wild steelhead, Chinook and Coho Salmon and Cutthroat Trout.

Blue Creek boasts some of the most important anadromous fish habitat in the Klamath Basin. Its stunning, cool blue water comes from deep inside the Siskiyou Wilderness and is the first cold water refuge for fall Chinook making their way up the Klamath to spawn.

The forest within the land purchase is comprised of a several generations of Redwood, Spruce, Douglas-Fir and various hardwoods. Several species of large and small animals such as black bear, elk and deer call the land home.



Blue Creek is the most pristine tributary of the Klamath.



Yurok Chairperson Maria Tripp takes a tour of the property with reps from Green Diamond and Western Rivers.

# Tribe rolls out wide plan to fight meth

The Yurok Tribe is preparing to launch its first comprehensive campaign against methamphetamine, a debilitating drug that is becoming increasingly common on the Reservation. "There is not one family on this Reservation that has not been touched in some negative way by this horrible drug," said tribal member Patti Norton, Meth Program Manager. "We are taking a full-circle approach to eradicating the drug and all of the problems it creates for its users and the community."

The methamphetamine epidemic is having a devastating effect in Yurok Country. Meth addicts are increasingly committing crimes such as theft to support their addiction, and sadly we are seeing a growing number of children in out of home placement because of parental addiction, child abuse and neglect. Children who are exposed to meth use in the home are more likely to suffer from attachment disorders or behavior problems, be malnourished and be physically or sexually abused. The number of children in foster care has risen rapidly and can be largely contributed to the meth scourge. "It's an equal opportunity bomb to families, everyone around it gets hurt," said Yurok Superior Court Judge, Abby Abinanti.

Meth creates a multifaceted problem that will take more than one solution.

The Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety received a U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Methamphetamine Initiative Grant which will run for two years and will address the primary components of Education, Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Community Policing Strategies to eradicate methamphetamine from the reservation. According to Public Safety Department statistics, nearly half of all crimes committed on the Reservation are related to meth use. "The only thing this drug stimulates is crime and despair," said Yurok Public Safety Chief of Police, Dave Parris.

Methamphetamine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that has a high potential for abuse and dramatically affects the central nervous system. It is a unique drug because it is easy to obtain and relatively cheap to buy. Meth can be manufactured literally in a person's backyard from relatively inexpensive, over the counter ingredients.

Meth can make a user awake and alert and can keep him or her up for hours and even days. At first it can give him or her a rush and a sense of euphoria, decrease their appetite and provide feelings of confidence, which is a mental hallucination that does not last. After a "binge" a user will inevitably crash, and can become severely depressed and even suicidal. Prolonged meth used will lead to the rapid degradation of the user's entire body until he or she dies.

Currently, Norton is working to find out exactly what tools the Yurok community needs to fight the meth problem. "We need to know what kind of education is needed, what type of intervention methods will best fit the Yurok community, what prevention measures are the most effective and how much

energy needs to be focused on treatment," Norton said. A survey geared toward determining what types of solutions are needed is already being circulated. All tribal members are encouraged to complete the survey.

Norton has also been busy the past few months gathering data and statistics on meth from numerous local, county and state agencies.. "In order to go forward, we had to collect data that will be needed at the conclusion of this grant, to determine the overall effectiveness of our anti-meth campaign."

Kevin Pearson, GIS Analyst has also been hired to work with Norton on the Meth Project and has started a meth webpage for the community to link up and learn about the campaign. The web site will be [www.yuroktribe.org/meth](http://www.yuroktribe.org/meth).

In addition to a meth webpage to the Yurok Tribe's existing web site, the Meth Project has entered into a contract with the We Tip program to implement a 1-800 number requirement. The We Tip number is 1-800-78-CRIIME. The calls go to Sacramento and then tips are sent to the Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety to ensure anonymity. All tips generated through the We Tip Hotline that spur an arrest or conviction will result in a reward to the tipster through the We Tip Program.

Norton and Pearson will be working with several tribal departments and members of the tribal community in accomplishing their project's goals. Some of the proposed projects include a Meth Watch Program which operates similar to a Neighborhood Watch Program, a Meth Curriculum with Cultural and research based emphasis, establishment of a drug court, media outreach and the creation of a GIS Crime Database.

The Meth Project will be undertaking several performance measures during the duration of the grant. The results of these performance measures will serve to benefit the tribe for future funding opportunities. "If we receive numbers that document our need for treatment we will be able to go after increased funding for a drug court that focuses on traditional health, wellness and family re-unification," said Norton.

In order to eclipse meth use on the Reservation the whole community must play a role in the comprehensive healing process.

"Nothing gets fixed on the Reservation until the community comes together to find a solution," Norton said.

The Meth Project is looking for tribal members interested in participating on a Community Advisory Board to address the Meth Project goals and objectives, to collaborate on new and innovative ideas and strategies for implementing a drug prevention program, and for providing assistance by volunteering to help in any one of the many areas the Meth Project addresses.

Please feel free to contact Patti Norton, Meth Program Manager or Dave Parris, Chief of Police for questions or if you have an interest in participating on the community advisory board. Parris and Norton can be reached at the Yurok Department of Public Safety Office's number, which is (707) 482-8185.

**"It's an equal opportunity bomb to families, everyone around it gets hurt."**

**• Yurok Superior Court Judge, Abby Abinanti**

The Traditional Indian Health Conference sponsored by the California rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) focuses on traditional approaches to health and wellness. The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference theme, "Healing Native Communities through Traditional Ways," was held at "Cha-se", Indian Grinding Rock State Park.

There were traditional workshops on soap root brushes, digging sticks, traditional medicines, and milk weed twining. Other workshops included community gardens, waste programs, solar projects, alcohol and drug talking circles, abuse, and information about recovery. There was a particular workshop about abuse that really touched me. The presenter talked of how parents who abuse alcohol and drugs put their children at risk for abuse. Not necessarily by the parents, but by those people they expose their children to. It reminded me of an ancient story from home that addresses the issues of abuse, so I told it.

Here is an excerpt.

In ancient times, there was once a man who came from a very wealthy family. The family had many redwood canoes, regalia for every dance and a very large family. The young man's Aunties decided it was time for him to marry so they set out in search of a good wife.

He was a spoiled young man so they had to search up and down the Pacific coast to find the perfect wife. The Aunties heard of a very special young woman who was kind and patient. They sought her out and bought her for their nephew.

The girl was not only beautiful, but talented too. She could make beautiful baskets and delicious acorn soup. She lived with her new husband at his village. Soon the husband became jealous of her connection with her father's people and refused to allow her trips home. Later he became jealous of her popularity among his people and forbid her to associate with her new friends. After a short period, he began to abuse her. To show honor to her family, she remained silent. Unable to tolerate the physical abuse, she fled in the night.

She ran along the ocean towards her home. Breathless and frightened, the woman noticed she was leaving foot prints in the sand, so she climbed from rock to rock along the ocean water. The rocks were so sharp that they cut the bottoms of her feet. Finally, she rested on the furthest rock out in the ocean called, Tsewena, where she prayed that women would always be resilient, strong, independent beings. As she prayed, she cried and the oval shape tears formed into abalone shells all about the rocks. These tears gave the shell an iridescence. The back side of the shell turned red from the blood that dripped from her badly cut feet. It is not known what became of her but in ceremony we are reminded that the iridescence is a woman's vision of strength, endurance, and self-respect. We are also reminded that it is my responsibility, as a man, to treat women with honor and respect.

Through my visits to cha-se, I have come to an understanding of "Healing Communities Through Traditional Ways". While I was in the service, 1952, I visited with the families of my comrades at Cha-se, since the three-day passes were not enough time for me to make it home to Humboldt County. During those early years, I made lifetime friends who taught me different, yet similar ways of traditional beliefs. Later in the 1980's I sat on the Native American Heritage Commission with my good friend, the late Bill Franklin, who was also from Cha-se.

His people invited me to help build their traditional round houses. Years later in 2008, during the evenings of the conference we sat in the Roundhouse watching the traditional dancers, I watched my granddaughter mover her body to the music and the singing. Soon, the head singer announced that any little girls who wanted to, could come out and dance. An elder woman sitting next to us said, "Now is her chance. Let her dance." My granddaughter asked me, "Can I dance?" I told her, "Go ahead." She was so happy. Like me, they invited her in, shared their knowledge and she felt welcome. These experiences made me think about how important it is to teach everything we can and not to keep information to ourselves. The solutions to our problems rest right in our own communities. If we want to heal our communities through traditional ways, we need to share our history, beliefs, traditions, creation stories and our time freely.

***We need traditional healing***  
**by Walt "Black Snake" Lara Sr.**



2008 Yurok Tribe

Yurok Tribal member Merk Robbins holds down an opponent on the Stick Game field at the Klamath Salmon Festival. The Stick Game is an aggressive, full-contact sport. However, when players leave the field it is expected that they show respect for their opponents.



# Yurok Today

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