



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People



Yurok Pursues Wildlife PhD

Western Science, Traditional Knowledge applied in research

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Tribe initiates plan for fall salmon run

The Yurok Tribe is working diligently to minimize the likelihood of a fish kill during the coming fall run by advocating that sufficient flows be provided during this extremely dry time to accompany the anticipated large run of chinook salmon.

In 2002, more than 33,000 adult salmon died in a catastrophic fish kill, the root cause being low flow conditions, combined with a sizeable run of fall-run salmon.

The drought conditions this year and the forecast for an even larger fall-run of fish concerns the Yurok Tribe that there is a possibility of a repeat of that terrible tragedy. The Tribe is doing everything it can to help the fish.

Urged by the Yurok Tribal Council, DOI's Bureau of Reclamation recently proposed releasing an additional 62,000 acre-feet of water from Lewiston Dam to be delivered as the fall run of fish begins advancing upriver to spawn.

"We are encouraged by the proposed supplemental flows which will lessen the likelihood of a fish kill," said Yurok Fisheries Manager Dave Hillemeier. "In addition to seeking the extra water, we are also involved with technical discussions and monitoring efforts to determine the best time to deliver the water."

In the past two years, record runs of salmon were predicted to return to the Klamath. Accurate accounts of spawning salmon on the Klamath exist only since 1978. In 2012, the Yurok Tribe compiled a technical report that supported the release of an additional 39,000 acre-feet of Trinity River water for the 302,000 fish that came back to the Klamath. In 2013, the Yurok Tribe's existing technical

analyses were used again to support increased flows in the lower Klamath River. This year, 272,000 fall-run salmon are expected to return to the river.

Tribal staff members are working with other co-managers to develop recommendations to the Department of Interior regarding when additional releases should be made and how much water would be necessary to significantly increase the chances of fish survival.

Furthermore, Fisheries crews are closely monitoring the river to detect and correct problems before fish health is compromised. The increased vigilance will enable the Tribe to make a request for additional emergency flow releases from the Trinity River if evidence mounts of looming fish mortality event. This prophylactic measure is designed to interfere with the lifecycle of the disease organism that caused the fish kill in 2002.

Yurok Fisheries and Environmental Program staff members are also planning a response if all of these preventative measures fail to avert a fish kill. If fish die prematurely, even on a minor scale, highly trained Yurok personnel will collect the right kind of data that can lead to a better understanding of what caused it, and what can be done to prevent it in the future.

The Yurok Tribe is also part of the Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team. The function of the technical workgroup is to provide advanced warning and a coordinated response in the event of a fish kill. The advisory group includes tribes, federal agencies, state agencies, watershed councils and recreational fishing advocates.

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On The Cover

Yurok tribal member Seafha Tuttle combines Western science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge in a wildlife study that will double as her doctoral dissertation.

The Tribe's efforts to acquire supplemental water for the fall-run began early this spring. On April 25th, shortly after it became apparent the Klamath Basin was going to experience the troubling combination of dry conditions and a substantial run of fall chinook, the Yurok Tribal Council sent a letter to the Secretary of Interior, alerting the agency of the situation and requesting that the Department of Interior commit to providing supplemental fall flows to minimize the risk of another fish kill.

This year is a particularly difficult year for California and Oregon-based water managers as the both states are experiencing some level of drought. Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber officially declared, a "drought emergency" in Klamath County, the headwaters of the Klamath.

Despite broad, regional support of the additional flows, Central California's agricultural industry, backed by some of the most well-moneyed lobbying firms in the state, is threatening to sue the Bureau of Reclamation if the Trinity water deliveries are made on behalf of Trinity River salmon. In fact, they have filed a sixty day notice of intent to sue if the Bureau of Reclamation releases additional flows down the Trinity River.

The Yurok Tribe is prepared to address any and all efforts that may jeopardize the fall run of salmon, which are vital to the Tribe culturally and commercially.

How to get involved?

Some salmon mortality is normal and occurs every year. However, if large numbers of dead or dying fish are observed, or even if the number of dead fish is small but increasing, call **CALTIP @ 1-888-334-2258; press "3"** for an attendant. The Tribe has been coordinating with CALTIP, and they have the correct contact information so that the Yurok Tribe can take immediate action.

To learn more about the Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team visit: <http://www.kbmp.net/collaboration/kfhat> ✘

Large Run, Big Fish, Good Price in 2013

The Tribe is looking forward to one of the largest fall chinook runs in recent history; second only to the 302,000 fish that were estimated to return to the river last year. These fish are also expected to be big; given that a large component of the run is age-4 fish (2012 was primarily age-3 fish).

The Tribe has also received relatively high minimum bids for the Tribe's commercial allocation; \$4.82 and \$5.00 per pound. Combined, all these factors indicate that Tribal commercial Fishers will have substantial economic opportunity during the coming season.

Approximately 276,000 adult fall chinook are projected to return to the river over the next couple months; this is the second largest run since records were first kept in 1978. The Yurok Tribal allocation is 91,862 fish, of which the Tribal Council has allocated 74,326 to the commercial fishery and 2,000 fish for the Tribal Elders Program. Elders fishing will begin on July 28th and the primary commercial fishery will begin on August 10th. Specific regulations regarding this year's fishery can be found on the Tribal Website or at the Tribal Offices in Klamath or Weitchpec.

Post cards have been distributed to Elders letting them know that if they want to receive fish this year they should call 707-482-1350 (ext. 1450) and leave a message stating their name, tribal ID #, physical address, and a phone number where they can be reached. They can also leave this information via email at fish@yuroktribe.nsn.us. ✘

YTEP conducts trio of summer studies

The Yurok Environmental Program will have a visible presence in the Klamath River Estuary this summer.

The award-winning, tribal program is conducting three estuary-related, scientific research projects. The trio of complimentary studies will help the Tribe better understand the main drivers of water quality in the brackish body of water that is so critical to native fish health. The quantity and quality of the water in the tidally influenced area directly affects the abundance of culturally and commercially important fish species. All of the three research projects will take place from early summer to the beginning of fall.

“This data will be extremely useful in evaluating the effects of river management decisions and the many restoration projects all of the stakeholders in the Basin have completed for the benefit of native fish species,” said Ken Fetcho, Assistant Director of the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program’s Water Division.

The first scientific investigation, the Klamath River Estuary Nutrient and Phytoplankton Dynamics Study, involves taking samples from the upper, middle and lower sections of the estuary to test for a host of nutrient concentrations, like Nitrogen and Phosphorous. These nutrients are the building blocks of life, however, if there is too much or too little it can be devastating to the ecosystem. This study will also document the turbidity or water clarity of the estuary at different river flows and ocean tides.

The Klamath River Estuary begins at Highway 101 bridge and ends to the river’s confluence with the ocean. The estuary is an area of extreme biodiversity. There is a large amount of food for baby salmon to become large enough to enter the ocean and the blend of salt and fresh water enables adult salmon to become acclimated before their run up the river to spawn.

The purpose of the Estuary Nutrient and Phytoplankton Dynamics Study is to further test the predictions regarding the long-term benefits of dam removal to water quality. The Klamath River Estuary Continuous Water Quality Parameters Study, the second of three studies, will analyze a different set of characteristics, also related to the health of the briny water body. Using a high tech, digital monitoring device, called a data sonde, YTEP will take samples at the surface and near the bottom level of the water column. A data sonde is a highly specialized, football-shaped water quality sampling and monitoring device. The data sonde will measure the following river attributes: salinity, water temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen.



YTEP’s Micah Gibson deploys a data sonde in the Klamath Estuary.

To date, there has been very little scientific research on these critical components of a healthy estuary. YTEP conducted a similar study in 2004-5 and the United States Environmental Protection Agency performed one in 2009.

“To completely understand the ever-changing estuary, it is imperative that we continue doing studies like these,” Fetcho said. “These studies will help determine how to return the Klamath to a river that consistently produces an abundance of all of the fish species.”

Based on the data collected, YTEP’s Water Division staff will create a technical memo characterizing the results that will be published on YTEP’s website.

The Klamath River Estuary Bathymetry Survey, the final study, will provide an updated snapshot of the elevation of the estuary

floor and position of the mouth in relation to the Pacific Ocean.

“This information will help us understand the dynamics of the shifting river mouth and determine if the estuary is slowly filling with sediment or has scoured out after the large storm event that occurred in December 2005/January 2006,” said Fetcho. “It can help us better determine where areas of scour and filling occur when the mouth of the river is in its current position which is near the middle of the sand bar. The 1998 and 2004 bathymetric surveys both occurred when the mouth was located at the northern side of the sand bar. This information will also compliment the other two water quality studies.”

This survey will provide a baseline of estuary depths to compare to the most recent bathymetric assessments, which occurred in 1998 and 2004. It will also enable the Tribe to compare current conditions with those of post dam removal, if the hydroelectric project is removed, and the river becomes free flowing once again. The overall purpose of this survey is to improve the understanding of estuarine hydrology, morphology, and mouth closure dynamics. Additionally, this new information will help evaluate the effects of sea level rise caused by global warming.

“These studies represent nearly every single component of water quality in the Klamath River Estuary. Once we are finished we will have a significant amount of new information that can be used to assess the current conditions in the estuary and gage the effectiveness of management and restoration actions in the basin,” concluded YTEP Director, Dr. Kate Sloan.

These research projects were funded by United States Bureau of Reclamation, totaling \$220,507. While some of the scientific work will be conducted by outside contractors, YTEP staff will be learning how to conduct bathymetry surveys, which they will most definitely do in the future. The Yurok Information Service’s Geographic Information System and Yurok Fisheries Program staff will be helping collect and process the estuary bathymetry data. ✨



UNITED INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

Respecting Health and Wellness, Harmony and Tradition

Date: June 04, 2013

Released by: United Indian Health Services, Inc.

To Be Released: Immediately

Contact Person: Liz Lara-O’Rourke,
HPE Manager, 707.825.5070

NEWS RELEASE

Conquering “The Rock”

By, Trudy N. Adams, Health Promotion Technician, United Indian Health Services, Inc.

The United Indian Health Services, Inc. (UIHS) Teen Advisory Group (TAG) believes in protecting their tribal lands from environmental harm. In their selfless pursuit to protect their community they spent the day picking up cigarette butts down by the river in Weitchpec, around the Nix Community Center, “The Rock” and Pearson’s Grocery. Of all the areas “The Rock” was the most challenging; aged cigarette butt litter along with wrappers and broken glass. These items over time can be absorbed into the ground or be washed into the river causing harm to our salmon and other river life. Please be mindful of the negative impact cigarette butts have on the environment. The cigarette butt seems harmless, but it in fact packs a punch on the river, soil, trees, and wildlife causing toxicity which poisons our rivers and the ambers of the cigarette butt start forest fires.

TAG wants you know,

- 135 million pounds of cigarettes are discarded a year, almost a half a pound per person.
- The number one item picked up during roadway and beach cleanups each year are cigarette butts.
- Each year Cal Trans spends \$40 million dollars cleaning up litter and one third of that total weight collected is cigarette butts.
- Cigarette filters are not biodegradable. They are made up of a plastic called “Cellulose Acetate.”
- Cigarettes are toxic and are made up of nicotine, ethyl phenol, and arsenic.
- Cigarette butts are carelessly discard on the ground and end up in storm drains which then pour out into the lakes, rivers and oceans.
- In a scientific test, one cigarette butt was put in a liter of water for 48-hours which produced enough toxins to kill fish in that water.

Remember it takes a community to keep our earth, the water, and forests safe to provide for us to live healthy traditional lives.



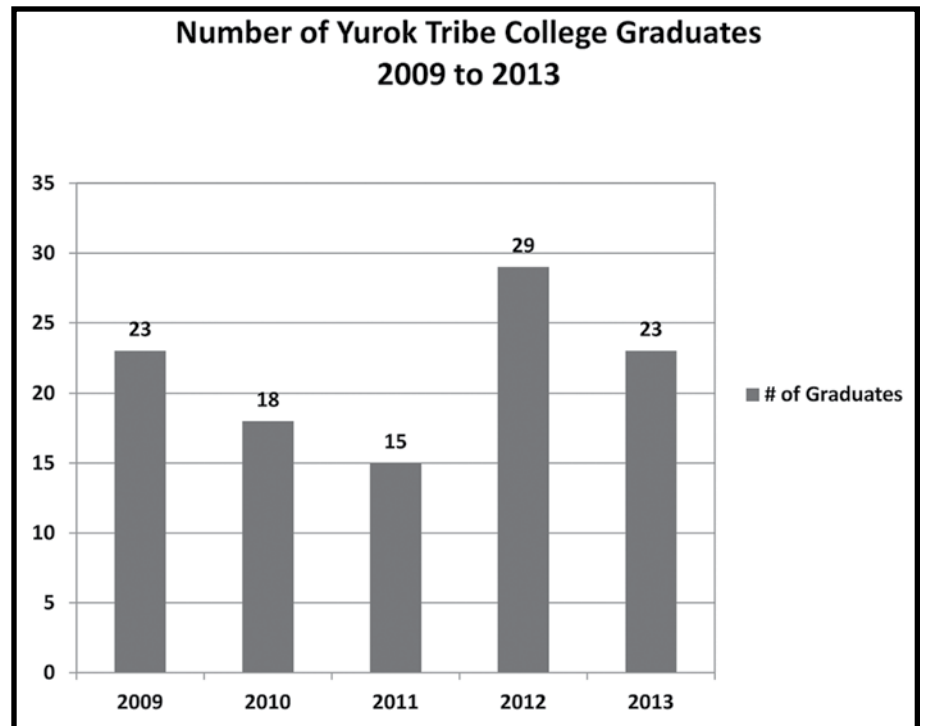
“The Rock” located on the northwest side of the Weitchpec Bridge.



UIHS: TAG Yurok Tribal Members conquering “The Rock”

Tribe helps 23 with education fees

The Yurok Education Department is proud of the 23 Yurok Tribal Members who graduated from several universities, community colleges, vocational and technical schools in 2013. The Education Department believes that the small scholarships offered by the Yurok Tribe are a great investment in terms of future economic development for the Tribe and its members. Earning a college degree assists an individual and the family they support by doubling their income earning potential, according to 2012 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. We are proud of these students' accomplishments. These individuals can now, either come home and work for the Yurok Tribe, or make us proud pursuing their occupational passions wherever they may choose. The small cash scholarships and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's assistance given in the past clearly pay dividends for these individuals and their families. The Education Department is hoping and praying that future investments of the Tribe will support tribal members going into higher education, earning a college degree or attending a vocational technical certificate program. These investments do pay off! Here are stories about three of the twenty-three 2013 graduates. ❄



2013 graduate of Georgian Court University

Teresina grew up with her mother, older brother, and with a lot of support from her very large extended family. She is an enrolled Yurok Tribal member and a descendant from the Karuk and Hupa tribes as well. Her paternal family is from the villages of Pecwan and Sregon and her maternal family is from Katamiin. She is currently living on the Hoopa Valley Reservation.

In preparation for college Teresina worked on high school general education requirements, maintained good attendance, community volunteerism, and worked hard in sports. It was also important for her to stay involved and active in cultural activities, ceremonial dances, and Yurok language classes. Additionally, Teresina went on college tours while in high school, applied to colleges, completed her FAFSA application online, and applied for scholarships.

Teresina chose Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey because she was offered a scholarship and also to prove that American Indians can strive, achieve, and have academic success in mainstream society. She wants to encourage the younger generations to see the world beyond

the reservation boundaries and not hold back from their dreams and aspirations. If her story can influence others to take risks and seek to fulfill their dreams, then she has lived by setting an example. Her greatest challenge while attending Georgian Court University was being so far away from her family and tribal community. It was especially challenging for her to be the only American Indian student on campus. There were many times that she found herself challenging the negative mainstream stereotypes about American Indians, but she was proud to have the honor of being a positive representation of her tribal community.

Her greatest experience while attending college was enjoying many of the cultural diversities that make up the communities of the east coast. She had the opportunity to travel to New York, Atlantic City, and Philadelphia. She had several opportunities to attend discussion forums on education, hunger, and poverty with world leaders at the United Nations in New York. She met with national and international leaders that inspired her leadership development.

While attending college, she had student work study jobs. Teresina appreciated the financial support she received from the tribe when the funding was available. She received \$500.00 each semester and used the money to pay for books and school supplies. She indicated it was appreciated when she did receive the money; however there were times that the funding ran out so she could not always depend on the funding. Teresina stated that she attended college so far away she was not able to receive housing and other educational support services. Most of her educational and academic support came from her family and the staff at Georgian Court University through scholarships, financial aid, work study, and academic advising. She expressed thanks to the Yurok Tribal Council and the Education Department staff for providing the scholarship award when the funding was available. She says, "Every little bit helped to attain my college degree".

Teresina is the first to graduate from college on her paternal side. Her future plans are to attend graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley or Fordham University in New York. After attainment of her Master's degree in Social Work, she will return to live and work in the tribal community. Her goal is to provide leadership in administrative and program management to implement effective change at the local, state, and federal levels on behalf of tribes. Teresina hopes to one day serve on the Yurok Tribal Council as chairperson. ✨

2013 graduate University of Utah

Alanna Lee Nulph is the daughter of Jennifer George and Robert Nulph. Alanna graduated from Hoopa Valley High School in 2008. To help her prepare for college, Alanna took a couple college courses at the College of the Redwoods Hoopa campus while attending high school. After graduating high school, she attended Shasta College making the Dean's List all three semesters she attended there and earned All-American honors in track and field.

She was ranked #4 in the nation among all junior college throwers. One of Alanna's greatest challenges while attending Shasta College was her financial need.

Money was tight while in college and she had to work to help make ends meet and learn to live on a tight budget. After obtaining her Associate of Arts Degree in Social Science from Shasta College, Alanna accepted an athletic scholarship offer from the University of Utah for Track and Field. The scholarship paid her way through school while in Utah. She did not have to work while in Utah so she was able to stay focused on her studies and athletics.

Alanna appreciates the financial assistance she received from the Yurok Tribe's Higher Education Program. Although not a huge amount, she says it did

help her to get by.

While attending University of Utah, she made the Dean's list for two semesters and was a member of the Pac-12 All-Academic Team in 2011 and 2012. Some of the classes she enjoyed most were law courses such as civil rights law and environmental and government classes. While competing

in track, Alanna was named All-Mountain West Team and competed in the Pac-12 Conference championships. Alanna ranks #6 on the University of Utah Track and Field all-time list for shot-put.

One of the greatest experiences she had in college were the friends she has made from as far away as Germany, Ireland, Sweden, and Finland - people from all walks of life. She continues to stay in touch with many of them.

Alanna graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Utah on May

2, 2013. She returns home to improve her community by mentoring the next generation of scholars and athletes. She is currently working for the Hupa Tribe's Education Department in the College Success Program to promote a college bound culture and encourage high school students to go on to college after graduating from high school. Alanna tells the students anyone can go on to college. You just have to put your mind to it and make the commitment. ✨

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Alanna Nulph graduated from the University of Utah.

Yurok woman strives for wildlife PhD

Dissertation will inform future, tribal land management decisions

Yurok tribal member Seafha Tuttle, an Ernr', Ahpah, and Weitchpus descendant, is part of a vanguard of scientists bringing Traditional Ecological Knowledge to the forefront of the wildlife field.

"Utilization of both TEK and Western Science can provide a powerful and holistic approach to wildlife research and management," Tuttle said.

TEK is an academic term, describing a uniquely Native American understanding of the natural world, generally defined as "the time-tested knowledge of plants and animals, water and soil, and the interconnections among these elements and the human societies that depend on them for livelihood". Native peoples often refer to it as the way of life, according to Tuttle.

The University of Arizona doctoral student is currently using TEK in a culturally sensitive wildlife study that will double as her PhD dissertation. The raw data and final dissertation will be given to the Yurok Tribe to be used by managers as they see appropriate. Prior to putting pen to paper for her research proposal, Tuttle asked the Yurok Tribal Council, Natural Resource Committee and Culture Committee what kind of research would be useful for the Tribe. She will be working closely with the above listed tribal entities throughout the duration of her project

The study is taking place in Yurok ancestral territory, covering parts of the reservation, the acquisition lands, and Green Diamond Resource Company land. The species of interest are the Humboldt marten (Woh-pe-roks), Pacific fisher (Le'goh), gray fox (Wer-gers) and bobcat (Chmuuek). These four mammals were selected based on their importance to Yurok people and the need for wildlife data on the Yurok Tribe's growing land base. Currently, little is known about the condition of these carnivorous creatures in the study area. The Pacific fisher is a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act and the Humboldt marten is listed as a *Species of Concern* in the State of California. Tribal and non-tribal land managers can use the study, and companion studies taking place on National Park and Green Diamond land, to inform forest management decisions significant to the restoration and protection of habitat for these and other animals. As wildlife species, the four furred subjects do not observe political and/or private property boundaries and require an effort spanning across the spectrum of land ownership to ensure their survival.

This summer, Tuttle and her technician will be hiking numerous 500-meter sections of road transects in the forest to collect



Seafha Tuttle will be using genetic analysis for the laboratory part of her mammal study.

samples of every predatory mammal scat that can be found. She will employ genetic analyses to determine what species deposited each scat and which mammalian species were consumed by bobcats and gray foxes. Along with recording locations of scats with a GPS unit, assessing forest age class along the transects, and the fact that Humboldt martens and Pacific fishers have been detected in the study area, the project will provide insights on forest use and potential dietary overlap between the four species of interest. Once the project is complete, the samples will be given to the Yurok Tribe to be stored for potential further analysis. With more time and funding, different sets of genetic studies could be conducted to identify the sex and individual of each scat depositor.

As an example of potential dietary overlap, all four of these mammals eat woodrats. Populations of the Dusky footed and bushy-tailed woodrat, endemic to this corner of California, have been impacted by historical logging operations. While habitat loss caused by clear-cut logging has caused dramatic habitat loss for the marten and fisher, it has led to an increase in the dusky-footed woodrat populations in 5 to 20-year-old forest stands.

Tuttle seeks to uncover if there is possible competition for prey between the four species and if the diet of the mid-sized mammals changes in specific forest stand ages. Her proposal ponders: "What is the diet composition of gray fox and bobcat in relation to stand age class in coastal redwood forests, where the at-risk Humboldt

marten and Pacific fisher have been detected? The hard-working Yurok woman also hopes to find suggestions for forest management that can be made for the benefit of all four species of interest.

As another component of her research, Tuttle has begun interviews with Yurok people in order to draw upon Yurok TEK regarding wildlife.

“In this project, traditional knowledge is recognized and respected on equal footing with Western science as a valid source of knowledge to be applied in environmental governance and management,” Tuttle explained.

She is asking questions about beliefs and values toward wildlife as well as peoples’ in-depth understanding of the species of interest. The interviews of those who give permission are being recorded and archived for future tribal use. From the interviews, she will develop a chapter of her dissertation that will include TEK, Wildlife Value Orientation and Human Dimensions of Wildlife as they pertain to Yurok land management. Wildlife Value Orientation defines the beliefs, attitudes and commitment to wildlife. Human Dimensions of Wildlife is how humans interact with wildlife. These concepts are important for managers to consider because they signify the contemporary cultural standards by which our people live.

Guiding document for culturally sensitive wildlife research

Concurrently to her dissertation research, Tuttle is developing a report to inform the National Park Service on the issues to be considered in conducting culturally sensitive wildlife research and management. Tuttle works part-time as a Pathways Intern for the NPS Biological Resources Management Division, a stewardship and science division of the agency. BRMD staff work with individual parks, the park system as a whole, and NPS leadership to provide the expertise needed to manage biological resources and related ecosystem processes in the national park system. Tuttle will provide her own approach to TEK and wildlife research as a case study for the report

Path to a PhD

In most cases, university professors find research funding for a specific project and then select a student to conduct the study for his or her doctoral dissertation. In many ways, the path is already cleared for the doctoral student to perform his or her study. Tuttle’s course was very different. All she had to start with was a massive supply of motivation and an equally proportioned desire to serve her Tribe.

She had to overcome several hefty hurdles before she could start the dissertation. First, she had to come up with a scientifically and culturally relevant idea that was suitable to the Tribe and her four-member doctoral committee. She did and both are on

board. The second was to find funding for the study and for her continuing tuition fees at U of A. She applied for and received funding from numerous entities. Some of them are: UA/Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership Fellowship, NASA Space Grant Fellowship, American Indian Graduate College Fellowship, Peter Likins Fellowship, Yurok Tribe Education scholarship, and the Inter-Tribal Timber Council scholarship. She received funding from the National Park Service and Wildlife Conservation Society, through a Cooperative Agreement between the two, for research equipment and to hire a field technician. Her tuition and research are funded. She also had to learn how to navigate tribal, university, and agency processes for important legal documentation, such as the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, a federal requirement intended to protect interview participants and researchers. One of the final challenges was to gain support from Green Diamond Resource Company to access their lands. An agreement is currently underway. She has completed all required coursework for her program and must take her comprehensive exams upon her return to U of A. Once she passes her exams, she will advance to a PhD Candidate and will need to complete the research and defend it in order to graduate.

Tuttle decided to pursue a doctorate — while still an undergrad — following a conversation she had with a biologist from the Yurok Tribe’s Environmental Program, where she was interning at the time. The fateful dialogue was about the Tribe’s critical need for wildlife research.

“I am so excited to be doing this! I feel like I have come full circle. In the past three and half years so many people have helped me pursue my goals for this research and I am sincerely grateful to each and every one of them. I could not have come this far without their help,” she concluded.

Tuttle would like to thank the following, who have graciously shared their time, energy and resources so that she may follow her dreams. She gives her apologies to anyone she might have missed.

Wok-hlaw’ (thank you) to all of my loved ones who have supported me. Wok-hlaw’ to the Yurok Tribe (especially Dr. Kate Sloan and the Environmental Program), The Wildlife Society, National Park Service, The Wildlife Conservation Society, Green Diamond Resource Company, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA Forest Service (especially Dr. Bill Zielinski and Keith Slauson). Wok-hlaw to my academic advisors (Dr. Culver, Dr. Koprowski, Dr. Trospen, and Dr. Colombi), mentors (especially Dr. Michael Hutchins) and peers (especially the Koprowski Lab and Culver Lab at U of A). And, wok-hlaw’ to the Yurok community for keeping our culture alive. ❄

Plans for 2013 Salmon Fest take shape

This year's festival will take place near Cat's RV Park

The Yurok Tribe is already working on making the 51st Klamath Salmon Festival the best yet. The annual, family friendly event will take place on Saturday, August 17, 2013 in Klamath, CA.

The theme of this year's salmon celebration is "Celebrating the 20-year anniversary of the Yurok Constitution".

Attendees of the all-day, free event will have an opportunity to learn more about Yurok culture, dance to live music, shop for authentic handmade gifts from more than 100 vendors and enjoy a delicious, traditionally cooked salmon feast.

The ten dollar meal includes a hunk of fresh salmon, bread from Arcata's Brio, a delicious salad from Ocean Air Farms in Fort Dick and a side of fruit.

The Salmon Festival is also the venue for an annual highly competitive Stick Game Tournament played between the region's tribes. There will be a traditional Indian Card Game Tournament and a number of cultural demonstrations.

Automobile enthusiasts from throughout the region will be showing off their vehicles at the "Classic Car Show". Yurok tribal member and vintage vehicle owner George Smoker is organizing this event, which is sure to be a hit with car buffs.

There will also be a cribbage tournament for the first time. Yurok tribal member Robert R. Kinney will be overseeing the card game.

The Klamath Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a breakfast free for veterans and open to all.

The Veteran's breakfast will start at 8 a.m. at the Klamath Community Center on Salmon Blvd. The breakfast will be followed by a parade at 10 am. The famously delicious salmon lunch will start at 11:00 a.m.

For more information contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1306.





Q and A with Employee of the Month Planner IV **Nicole Wright.**

1. How long have you been working for the Tribe? **13 years**
2. Why did you decide to work for the Tribe? **I came to work for the Tribe in 2007 as the Cultural Collections Assistant. In 2008, I left for about a year and came back in 2009 to work as the grant writer in the Planning Department. In 2010, I accepted the Planner IV position.**
3. What does your job entail? **Everyone in the Planning Department plays multiple roles. I manage projects, write tribal plans, like that**

Land Use Plan, and work with consultants to develop specialized procedural documents, like the Safety Plan. I still write grants whenever needed.

4. What is the most satisfying part of your job? **The most satisfying part of my job is being a part of a project from start to finish that positively impacts the community. Some of these projects include: the purchase of the Worthington School for the Education Department, and working with Tribal membership on the Housing Rehabilitation Project for the upper Reservation.**

5. How does your position serve the tribal membership? **My position serves the tribal membership directly and indirectly. The direct aspects are easy to point out like the purchase of the Worthington School. But there are also many aspects of my position that serves tribal membership indirectly such as the vegetation mapping project. Vegetation mapping can assist the Tribe with monitoring potential areas for basket materials and sites considered erosion prone or hazards for building.**

6. What do you do outside of work? **I have two children and another one due in October so I spend much of my time taking them to the beach, sports, cultural activities, and simply being a mom.**

7. What are your plans for the future? **To continue to grow and expand my knowledge as a Planner, a mother, and responsible community member. ✨**

Yurok Today now offering free birth notices and obituary service

Yurok Today is now publishing birth notices and obituaries. The cost-free feature includes a notice comprised of 400 words or less.

Yurok Today is also offering space for a 3.5" by 5" photo to be published along with both birth notices and obituaries, also at no cost. The notices must be written by the participant. The deadline is the 10th of each month and will be published the following month. For example, if a notice is submitted on May 10, it will run in the June edition of Yurok Today.

Yurok Today is sent to nearly 3,000 households and is published online at yuroktribe.org. To participate in the free service contact Matt Mais by email at mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us or by phone at (707) 482-1350.

Tribe announces new Dial-A-Ride service

Transit service will benefit all Del Norte County residents



(left to right) Yurok Tribal Council Members Larry Hendrix, Sid Nix, Bonnie Green, Vice Chairperson Susan Masten, Jack Mattz, Lyle McKinnon, David Gensaw and Richard Myers perform a ribbon cutting, marking the opening of the new service.

The Yurok Tribe announces the start of a new Dial-A-Ride transit services set to begin, Monday, July 15, 2013. The Yurok Tribal Transit Service will provide a new transportation option for community members in the Klamath area. The transit vehicle is an 8-passenger, 4x4 van equipped with a hydraulic wheel chair lift. The Yurok tribal transportation department has received funding to offer these transit services from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Authority. The new Dial-Ride service will provide transit services to all residents in and around the Klamath area including services to Crescent City.

The Yurok Tribe has been working on numerous projects to provide jobs and opportunities in Klamath to improve transportation infrastructure and mobilization services that benefit the region. "We are pleased to offer and expand our efforts to improve transportation to the community of

Klamath," said Yurok Tribe's Vice Chair Susan Masten.

The new transit services are the direct result of the Yurok Tribe's innovative approach to work cooperatively with community partners and funding agencies. The Yurok Tribe continues to provide a multifaceted approach for the Klamath community's growing transportation needs." states Joseph James, Yurok's Transportation Manager.

"We look forward to continue to work for partnerships and the ability to offer more transportation infrastructure improvements and transit services to all who use and depend on it," concluded Peggy O'Neill, the Director Tribe's Planning & Community Development Department.

For the Dial-A-Ride service, call the Yurok Tribal Transit Service at (707)482-0731 for more information about location and pick up times. The one-way fare is \$1.00 for all riders. ✨

Yurok UOP graduate

Yurok tribal member Zak Conger graduated on May 4th from the University of the Pacific with a Bachelors of Arts in psychology and minor in music composition. He will be pursuing a masters in counseling in Portland at Pacific University. Conger was selected as a Gates Millennium scholar and that provided scholarship help that made it possible for him to achieve his educational goals to date.

During his time at UOP, Conger also earned his first degree black belt, played field hockey, Ultimate Frisbee (UOP went to the NCAA semi-finals losing to Cal-Poly), and even had a chance to pitch for the UOP baseball team. Probably his greatest moment pitching for them was an inning of scoreless relief against the Stockton Ports, one of the Oakland A's minor league affiliates. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Pi, a national honor society that requires an invitation from teaching staff in order to join. The society selects students who show promise in terms of leadership and a commitment to bettering society in general, and provides them with intensive leadership training. Because



Zak Conger recently graduated from University of the Pacific.

no scholarship, even Gates, covers all expenses, Zak also was employed for more than 2 years as a Behavioral Intervention Therapist with the Central Valley Autism Project, one of the most respected organizations in the field of treating autistic children. He will begin grad school in August. ✨

Yurok Tribe Annual Membership Meeting

The Yurok Tribal Council would like to invite you to the Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for
Saturday- August 3, 2013

Where: Klamath Tribal Office
190 Klamath Blvd.
Klamath, CA 95548

Agenda: Meeting begins at 11:00am
Lunch from 12:00-1:00pm
Break-out discussion groups will begin at 1:00pm
Adjourn at 4:00pm

Tribal Member comment will be heard throughout the meeting. The Tribal Council would like to share with you the exciting projects and developments the Tribe is involved in.

2013 Election Schedule

OCTOBER 9, 2013	PRIMARY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 6, 2013	RUNOFF ELECTION

JUNE 17 (8:30AM)	FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE
JULY 10 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)
JULY 19 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS
AUGUST 9, (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)
AUGUST 9	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (54 DAYS)
AUGUST 14	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words) AND NEWSLETTER (750 words)
AUGUST 23	LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)
AUGUST 26-28	ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
AUGUST 30	MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 13	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (26 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 19	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)
OCTOBER 2	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS)
OCTOBER 9, 2013	PRIMARY ELECTION
OCTOBER 18	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) <i>ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION</i>
OCTOBER 18	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)
OCTOBER 30	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS)
NOVEMBER 6, 2013	RUNOFF ELECTION

Learn more about My Social Security

Amanda Donahue

Social Security District Manager

Independence Day is a good time to declare your independence from heavy traffic, long lines, and visits to crowded offices by taking important matters into your own hands. When it comes to doing business with Social Security, you can!

Anytime, anywhere Social Security's website is waiting to let you take care of important matters yourself, independently, without the need to visit or call an office.

All you need to do is visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to set up a my Social Security account so you can do business with Social Security the easiest, fastest, and most convenient way.

We're only halfway through 2013 and, already, more than six million people are registered for a my Social Security account. They use it to easily get information and service — without needing to visit an office or make a phone call. That's a great reason to set off some fireworks!

The things you can do using your account are as varied as the menu at a Fourth of July picnic! For example, you can use my Social Security to obtain a copy of your Social Security Statement to check your earnings record and see estimates of the retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you and your family may be able to receive.

If you are already receiving benefits,

you can join the parade. We recently expanded my Social Security for those receiving benefits; now you can use your account to view, save, and print a benefit verification letter, check your benefit payment information, and even change your address and your phone number in our records. You also can start or change your direct deposit information. You can do this all from the comfort of your home.

Whether you are currently getting

Social Security benefits, or you are planning for that day in the future when you do, you can easily access all your important Social Security information by creating a my Social Security account. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Before you go to your Independence Day picnic and fireworks, declare your independence from traffic and lines by saving a trip to the office and going online to www.socialsecurity.gov ✘

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), codified at 42U.S.C. 4321 et seq., a Draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared for providing Federal financial assistance to the Yurok Tribe. The project is subject to NEPA review because it is being funded, in part, with Federal funding available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Proposed Action

The purpose of this funding is to construct a 3,500 square foot Tribal Justice Center. The proposed Tribal Justice Center would be used for Tribal court proceedings, drug screening, legal aid, and family and civil justice issues. These activities currently occur in the Tribal Administration Building.

Location

The proposed Tribal Justice Center would be located on Klamath Boulevard in Klamath, California; located next to the Tribal Administration Building on the Yurok Reservation.

Finding

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance has determined that the proposed facility would no significantly affect the quality of the human or physical environment. It is not expected that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for this project.

Public Comments

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment from or may submit written comments relating to this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact to the following address: Yurok Tribe PO Box 1027, Klamath CA 95548. A copy of the draft assessment and FONSI are available for review at the Yurok Tribal Administration Building located at 190 Klamath Blvd, Klamath CA 95548.

No administrative action will be taken on the project before **8/19/2013**, which is 30 days after the public notice of this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact.

Yuroks barter salmon fillets for bison

The top quality buffalo meat will be distributed to elders at no cost

Steven Sanderson, Paul VanMechelen and James Dunlap braved a blizzard and white-out conditions to deliver 1,000 pounds of fresh salmon fillets to elders of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Idaho.

“It’s a good thing we had a load on,” Sanderson explained. “Or we might have tipped the rig.”

VanMechelen, Sanderson and Dunlap, all part of the Wild Rivers Fish Kamp, were on their way to meet up with members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at a halfway point between the Yurok Reservation and the Fort Hall Reservation to exchange the savory salmon for 1,000 pounds of lean buffalo meat. This was four years ago and the trade of healthful, traditional foods has gone on ever since, except now the two groups don’t meet halfway anymore. The Yurok and Shoshone tribal members make the trip on alternating years.

With the help of the Yurok Social Services Food Distribution Program, Dunlap and others give the bison meat for free to Yurok elders on an annual basis. The Shoshone-Bannock’s grass-fed buffalo is some of the highest quality and nutritionally beneficial food on the planet.

“The elders really like the meat once they try it,” Sanderson said. “It’s a good feeling being part of group that helps elders from both tribes and it’s fun for us. We get to make the trip this year.”

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are located on the Fort Hall Reservation in Southeastern Idaho. The Tribes are comprised of several Shoshone and Bannock bands that were forced to the Fort Hall Reservation, which eventually became the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Their enrollment is nearly identical to the Yurok Tribe with approximately 5,680 enrolled tribal members with a majority living on or near the Fort Hall Reservation. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Yurok Tribe have more in common than population. Both tribes are working hard to stop extremely high rates among their memberships of Type 2 Diabetes and other diseases caused in part by a lack of access to whole foods. These diseases were nonexistent prior to the arrival of the European’s and were exacerbated by unhealthy commodity foods supplied by the federal government. Buffalo is to the Shoshone-Bannocks what salmon is for Yurok people, a staple food, healthy for the body and mind.

“Our tribe was very excited to get fresh salmon from the river,” said Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Bison Range Supervisor Lance Tissidimit. “This exchange has allowed my tribe greater access to healthy foods. I hope that this relationship continues.”

The bison/salmon trade was spawned in 2008 when Dunlap met Range Supervisor Tissidimit, while he was working on a job building the Shoshone Bannock Bands Fort Hall Casino.

“Both he and I thought it would be a good fit for our respective

tribes,” Dunlap said. “We’ve enjoyed a great relationship ever since.”

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Bison herd was established in 1966 with 21 buffalo acquired from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. The current herd ranges from 200 to 300 head, which roam on 5,000 acres of wild lands. The buffalo herd grazes in their native habitat, complete with multiple natural springs, making it a superior meat both in terms of taste and nutritional value. Grass fed buffalo has fewer calories, fat and cholesterol than chicken. It has 40 percent more protein than beef and is high in antioxidants and vitamin E. Salmon is one of the few meats that can stand up to bison in terms of health benefits. Salmon is also packed with high quality protein, low in fat and cholesterol. Both meats are ideal for maintaining a healthy heart, lessening the chances of contracting Type 2 diabetes and reducing the risk of some mental disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease and depression.

“If we can get our young people to eat traditional foods like salmon and buffalo, as they get older they will make far fewer visits to the clinic,” Tissidimit said. “I know elders who have stuck with this diet. They are pushing 80 and are in better health than people half their age. It might be easier and faster to eat processed food, but in the long term it’s not worth it.”

Yuroks have bartered since time immemorial, although probably not with people as far away as Idaho. In exchange for the freshly harvested, vacuum-sealed salmon fillets, Yurok elders receive a number of buffalo cuts as well as cured meats. The Wild Rivers Fish Kamp group bring back and disperse the following: buffalo steaks, roasts, stew meat, hamburger, heart, tongue, jerky and bratwurst.

“The turn out is very heart warming, when it comes time to cut up fillets and vacuum pack the salmon” says James. “Volunteer Bob Ray, brings his children, as well as numerous others volunteers that show up at the Crescent City Yurok Food Distribution Center. It’s a good thing on many different levels.” James adds. “Over the past years we’ve had numerous fisherman donate fish and they’re the ones that make it all possible.”

The Wild Rivers Fish Kamp is looking for Yurok volunteers to help process fish. Each year, the group fillet and vacuum seal about 100 fish for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. To participate in this positive project, contact James Dunlap by phone at (916) 224-2824 or by email at yurokjames@hotmail.com. Elders who live anywhere on the Yurok Reservation can call Yurok Food Distribution Manager Chris Peters to sign up for bison delivery. Peters can be reached at (707) 464-5492. ✨



Yurok Tribe

Office: (707) 482-1350
mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us
www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today
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Land Assignment Committee Meeting

Where: Weitchpec Tribal Office

Date: August 12, 2013 @ 10:00am

Final Review for Applications:

**Sheryle Mabry - Janet Bates – Barry McCovey - Cindy Henderson–
Preston Ruiz-**

Discussion on, Kathy McLaughlin - Harold Kinney - John Logan - Richard
Myers Sr - Susan Nix - Rose Thompson - Benjamin Hunsucker -

Alexis Garcia - Andrew Hunsucker