



YUROK TRIBE- SELF GOVERNANCE

INTRODUCTION

The Yurok Tribal Council regrets to inform the membership of the resignation of Dr. Thomas Gates, the tribe's Self Governance Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, effective June 13, 2008. Over the last 18 years, Dr. Gates has been involved with the Yurok Tribe as a volunteer, consultant and employee. Dr. Gates and his wife are moving to the Sacramento area to move closer to their parents, and to take on new career, academic and educational opportunities.

During the past 18 years, Dr. Gates contributions to the reputation of the Yurok Tribe as a leader in cultural resources management and in self governance have been immeasurable. In concert with Tribal leaders, community members and other staff, Dr. Gates helped create a cultural resources program that (covers) such areas as site mapping, archeology, repatriation, archiving, and information center and cemetery restoration. For the last several years Dr. Gates has been one of the primary leaders in the tribe's efforts to reclaim reservation and ancestral lands, including the development of a Tribal Park and Sustainable Forest that would cover over 50 thousand acres in the Klamath River Basin. Most recently, Dr. Gates has been heavily immersed in efforts to restore the Condor to the Northern California and to establish a marine sanctuary along the coast that will protect the tribe's resources.

The Yurok Tribe deeply appreciates the contributions of Dr. Gates and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

As a result of this staff departure the Tribal Council and Executive Department have divided the various functions of Self Governance, Tribal Park and Heritage Preservation into separate units as further reflected below.

OFFICE OF SELF GOVERNANCE

The Office of Self-Governance mission is to protect the sovereign rights of the Yurok Tribe in relation to other Governments. This mission is accomplished through various programs and activities that promote Memorandums of Understanding and Annual Funding Agreements, capacity building, government-to-government relations with federal/tribal/state/local agencies and non-governmental organizations and tracking of the social/political/economic climates that determine the Tribe's strategies in various intergovernmental negotiations. This important Tribal function has been moved into the Executive Office of the Tribe and the Officer reports directly to the

Executive Director.

An important task of this office is to communicate regularly with federal/state/tribal/local governments and non-governmental organizations and represent Yurok interests at meetings, conferences, and other forums. In addition, this office processes many of the Tribe's agreements with governmental agencies, which include: U.S. Department of Interior, Redwood National and State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Indian Health Service, Other Tribal Governments, Tsurai Ancestral Society, California Department of Transportation, Department of Fish and Game, Coastal Conservancy and Commission and others.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions, comments or need further information please contact staff at the following number:

Self Governance Officer (707) 482-1350

TRIBAL PARK, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FOREST, LAND ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER, CO-MANAGEMENT, CONDOR RESTORATION

This complex project has been transferred to the Executive Office (and supporting Departments) and will be coordinated by the Assistant Self-Governance Officer.

The Yurok Tribal Council reauthorized the Tribal Park Taskforce, consultants and staff to develop a Tribal Park Business Feasibility Plan, Hunting and Gathering Plan and Interpretive Plan and species specific biological assessments.

A Tribal Park Business Plan has been developed and vetted with tribal membership through six tribal community meetings. This document is useful for expressing the Tribe's management intent to the membership, congress, governmental agencies, environmental groups, and potential funders. More specific management plans will be drafted as different units of the Tribal Park System are brought under tribal control.

A Tribal Hunting Concept paper has recently been developed by





Tribal Consultants Destry Jarvis and Troy Fletcher and is being provided to the membership for initial review.

An Interpretive Plan has yet to be developed.

With funding from the Ford Foundation, The Yurok Tribe hired the consultant group Ecotrust to conduct a socioeconomic analysis for approximately 27,000 acres of Green Diamond Resource Co land (Phase I Lands – Weitchpec, Cappel, Pecwan) to help identify potential economic and management scenarios related to a sustainable community forest designation for those GDR lands that are separate from the Tribal Park lands.

A proposed boundary and supporting document for the marine portion of the Tribal Park, funded by the Lannan Foundation, has been determined and mapped. The establishment of this boundary will serve as a stepping stone for increased Yurok authority over and use of the ancestral marine environment as the Tribe continues to pursue a National Marine Sanctuary in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency.

Western Rivers Conservancy and the Yurok Tribe have signed agreements which will initiate the purchase of Green Diamond Resource Company land in two phases. The Tribe should own all of the Phase I lands (Weitchpec, Cappel and Pecwan) by December 2011 and all of Phase II lands (Blue Creek) by December 2013.

Legislation has been/will be introduced that will transfer to the Tribe: 1) all National Park lands overlapping the reservation boundaries, 2) the Yurok Experimental Forest, 3) Miscellaneous Bureau of Land Management lands.. These lands will all be units of a Yurok Tribal Park System. In addition, the Yurok Tribe in partnership with the Tsurai Ancestral Society, is aggressively negotiating for the transfer of the Tsurai Village site to the Tribe for inclusion in the Tribal Park System.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has recently funded the start of an exciting new endeavor to determine the viability of Yurok Ancestral Territory as a new California condor reintroduction site. This is a long term project involving the National Park Service, Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management. It will potentially serve as starting point for a future wildlife

program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions, comments or need further information please contact staff at the following numbers and email addresses:

	Phone	
Email		
Assistant Self-Governance Officer	(707) 482-1350 ext.	@
yuroktribe.nsn.us		
Condor Project: Jessica Stauffer	(707) 482	@
yuroktribe.nsn.us		
Condor Project: Tiana Williams	(707) 482-1822 ext 202	
Tiana@yuroktribe.nsn.us		

Tribal Park Task Force Members

Patricia Bailey, Paul James, Frank Lara, Susie Long, Donna Matilton, Alan McCovey, Glenn Moore, Dale Webster, Newly appointed members

HERITAGE PRESERVATION

TRIBAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION OFFICER (THPO)


Cultural and historic resources are protected through programs and activities that record and manage information about cultural resources, restore and monitor such resources, and provide consultation to minimize impacts to resources. The THPO has assumed from the State Office of Historic Preservation, jurisdiction for the Yurok Indian Reservation concerning historic preservation. Additionally the office maintains the Yurok Tribal Inventory. The THPO assesses and comments on projects for impacts to cultural, historic and archeological properties within the Yurok Indian Reservation. The THPO also facilitates the Yurok Tribe Culture Committee.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INFORMATION CENTER

This program assesses projects for potential impacts on cultural, historical, or archeological resources in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Projects may include building sites, timber harvest plans, road projects, power lines, and subdivisions that are required by state and federal law to undergo this type of review.

TRIBAL ARCHIVE (will this remain with THPO or be transferred?)

A collection of historical and contemporary documents, tapes, videos, news articles and other materials about Yurok.





LODGE RESTORATION

Over the course of the last year, the lodge that houses the Tribal Archive and Northern California Information Center has undergone and successfully completed restoration and improvement to the roof, siding of the lodge and structural integrity, wiring and telecommunication systems, and the heating system, and has put in a new concrete deck with railings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions, comments or need further information please contact staff at the following number and email address:

Phone

Email
Vicky Bates, Interim Director (707)482-1822 ext. 201
vbates@yuroktribe.nsn.us

CULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (any new appointments?)

DISTRICT	NAME			
East District	Glenn Moore Sr.	Jimmie James	Jacqueline Winter**	Theresia Ross*
Pecwan District	Georgiana Trull	Henrietta Lewis**		
North District	Fawn Morris	Archie Thompson	Richard Blake**	
South District	Elsie Bacon	Allen McCovey**	Alberta West (alt)**	Kay Lundy*
Orick District	Blanche Blankenship	Jeanette Jones-Lara**	Kenny Childs	Aileen Figueroa*
Requa District	Fern Bates	Lavina Bowers (alt)	Lena Nicholson	
Weitchpec District	William Wilson	Rachael Knight		

*Deceased over the course of the year

**New member of Culture Committee this year

