



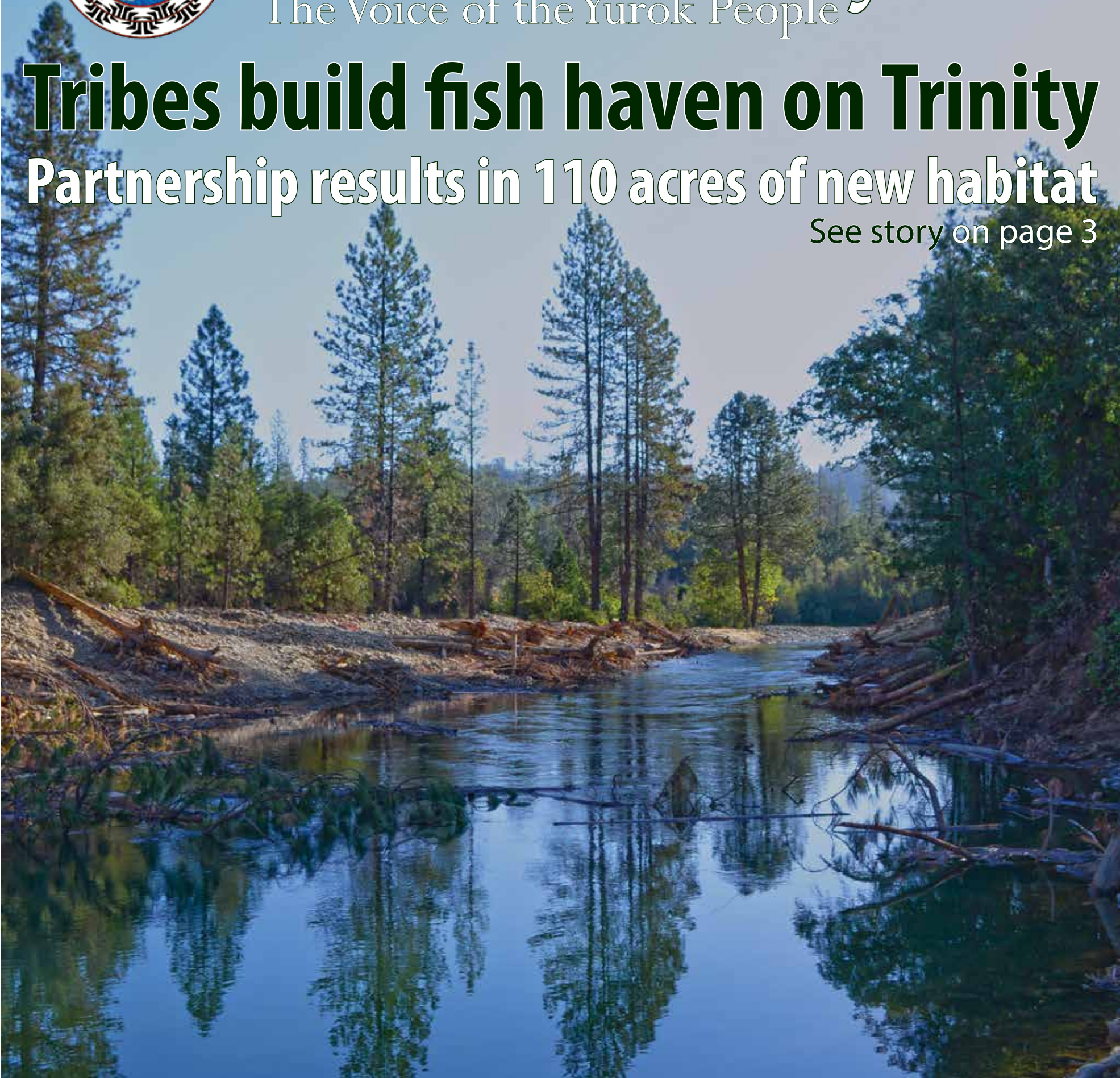
Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Tribes build fish haven on Trinity

Partnership results in 110 acres of new habitat

See story on page 3



2016 ELECTION RESULTS



MINDY NATT



JOE JAMES



LANA MCCOVEY

The Election Board on October 17, 2016, certified the election of the following people:

PECWAN DISTRICT	
Mindy Marie Natt	4 (100.00%)
EAST DISTRICT	
Laura A. Borden	50 (24.63%)
Joseph L. James	153 (75.37%)
SOUTH DISTRICT	
Lana M. McCovey	163 (69.66%)
Sarah M. Smoker	71 (30.34%)

There were no challenges in any of the Council positions for the Primary Election. No Run-Off Election will be held.

The Installation of Mindy Marie Natt, Joseph L. James, and Lana M. McCovey, will be held October 26, 2016 at 11:00am at Morek Won.

Important Dates

Tribal Council - Action - 10am - Weitchpec - Oct. 27

Halloween Carnival 6-8pm - Margaret Keating School - Oct. 28

Halloween Carnival 2-4pm - Worthington site - Oct. 29

Tribal Council - 1pm - Finance - Klamath - Nov. 1

Fall Feast - 5-7pm - Weitchpec - Nov. 8

Tribal Council - Planning - 10am - Klamath - Nov. 9

Fall Feast - Worthington - 5 - 7pm - Nov. 9

Fall Feast - Klamath - 5-7pm - Nov. 10

Tribal Council - Action - 10am - Klamath - Nov. 10

Veteran's Day - All Tribal Offices Closed - Nov. 11

Violence Against Women Conf. - Klamath - Nov. 16-18

Social Services Budgeting Class - Klamath - 10am - 3:30pm

Tribal Council - Planning/Action - 10am - Weitchpec - Nov. 22

Tribal Offices Closed - Thanksgiving - Nov. 24

Tribal Offices Closed - Thanksgiving - Nov. 25

Yurok Phrase of the Month

Keet hegehpa!

The water is rising.

SUBMIT A STORY IDEA

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A TOPIC COVERED IN YUROK TODAY? To submit a story idea via email, send a short note describing the topic to [mmas@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us). To suggest subject matter over the phone call (707) 482-1350. Also, please feel free to stop by the Klamath office, during normal business hours, to talk about your idea.

Contents

Page 5.....Dam surrender app filed

Page 7.....Court starts prison reentry program

Page 10.....Veteran THPO reflects on long career

On The Cover

This recently built side channel is part of the Bucktail Project. The new habitat occupies a former mining disposal site on the Trinity River, the Klamath River's largest tributary. The Trinity now has 110 acres of additional fish habitat.

Yuroks/Hupas collaborate on Bucktail

Former dump transformed into prime habitat for fish and wildlife

For Yurok Watershed Restorationist Roger Boulby, building new salmon habitat on the Bucktail Project is instantly rewarding work.

“As soon as we finish each new feature the fish find their way in,” said Boulby, a veteran heavy equipment operator for Yurok Tribe’s Watershed Restoration Program. “I like doing these kinds of jobs because it’s immediately gratifying to see salmon move into the habitat as we make it.”

Boulby is part of a multiagency crew, including the Yurok Tribe and Hoopa Valley Tribe, which has been constructing the Bucktail Project, an extensive river restoration undertaking on the Trinity River. On several different days during construction, the Yurok Tribal member and others in the crew saw salmon, both smolts and adults, and even Pacific lamprey, entering a freshly made side channel. Within a week of the channel’s completion, Chinook salmon were seen spawning in the new gravel bed and jumping over a human-made beaver dam to enter a wetland. Beavers moved into a wetland and began building a new home two-weeks later.

“The Yurok and Hoopa Tribes worked together to create more than a hundred acres of high quality salmon habitat on the Trinity River,” said Richard Nelson, Director of the Yurok Watershed Restoration Program. “In terms of its potential to increase fish populations for future members of both tribes, this was the most phenomenal project that we’ve ever completed. It was amazing to see these results in such a short period of time.”

The Bucktail Project, located about ten miles east of Weaverville, is funded by the Trinity River Restoration Program. The Yurok Tribe and Hoopa Valley Tribe collaborated on the construction project, which aims to improve salmon and steelhead habitat within the 110 acre project area.

The Trinity River, the Klamath River’s largest tributary, was completely altered after the erection of two dams in 1956 and 1963. More than half of the Trinity River above Lewiston Dam is currently shipped to the Central Valley for power production, agricultural, and domestic uses. For the first few decades following dam construction up to 90% of the water was sent to the Central Valley. More than a half a century of reduced flows has caused the river to lose numerous components of a natural/healthy river that previously supported substantial runs of salmon and steelhead. The Trinity River Restoration Program’s focus is to restore salmon population abundance through flow management, and restoration of habitat in the upper 40 miles of the Trinity, as well as in tributaries.

The combined restoration team used cutting-edge



Yurok Tribal member Roger Boulby works on the Bucktail Project.

technology and heavy equipment to create the natural features, such as beaver dams, split channels and large wood jams, found on intact river systems. The Yurok crew sculpted a cascading side channel that delivers water into an impressive wetland, which spills back into the main-stem of the river. New alcoves, low flow channels, floodplains, and gravel bars were strategically placed along the central part of the river. These interconnected elements serve salmon and steelhead throughout three crucial stages of the fishes’ lifecycle: egg incubation, rearing and reproduction. They also produce the diverse dynamics, including varying water flow, increased ground water storage, and a broader range of temperature regimes, encompassed in a pristine riverine ecosystem.

The river flows for an approximate total of one mile through the horseshoe-shaped Bucktail site. Before the project started, the gap in the middle of the crescent contour was filled with refuse from an old mining operation. The flow velocity and temperature of this section of river, much like most of the present-day Trinity River, was nearly homogenous. Now, it contains diverse habitat conditions, including

thermal and flow gradients needed for it to become a biodiverse ecosystem. In other words, the stage is set for the formation of a broadly populated, self-sustaining food chain — the hallmark of healthy fish habitat. To speed up this natural process, the Hoopa Valley Tribe's Fishery Department will be planting numerous native plants after the heavy machinery work concludes.

All of these attributes were designed, over a period of three years, to function during a wide set of circumstances, ranging from a drought to a 100-year flood event. To fine-tune in the new fish habitats, Yurok Fisheries biologists used a real-time kinematic device, or RTK. An RTK is basically an extremely accurate GPS that can be programmed with the design plans of a restoration project. This highly sophisticated instrument has the capacity to show the operator exactly how deep to cut a channel, so that it performs under the ever changing conditions on the river. The digital tool can also be employed to dial in the depth a wetland and for many other purposes. The RTK enables watershed restorationists to be more efficient, and complete significantly more work in a shorter period of time.

Each of the restoration attributes installed on the Bucktail project have undergone rigorous scientific research and are proven to produce specific benefits for native salmon and steelhead. The fortified beaver dams and large wood jams provide places for juvenile fish to hide from high flows and protection from predation. The purposefully positioned stores of course gravel will gradually deliver substrate, during high water events, to established spawning beds, and cause geomorphic evolution of the physical habitats. The alcoves and wetlands will produce a buffet of bugs for baby fish to feast on, as well as provide refuge from high velocity areas during high flow events.

While the primary goal of the project is to improve salmon and steelhead habitat, many of the fish-friendly features simultaneously benefit migratory waterfowl and other birds, as well as resident mammals and amphibians. For example, the mallards and geese that frequent the Trinity each fall will use the wetlands to rest and feed. The US EPA calls wetlands, the foundation of many cold-blooded vertebrate, plant and bird populations, one of "the most productive ecosystems in the world." More than 90 percent of all wetlands, in California have been destroyed due to dams, housing encroachment and farms, according to NOAA. In addition to salmon and steelhead, Tribal biologists believe there is no doubt the new marsh will soon be occupied by Western pond turtles, yellow-legged frogs and myriad other native creatures.

On a recent morning, in the three-day old wetland at Bucktail, songbirds stood on logs — put in place by Roger Boulby — protruding from the water, while migrating Canadian geese honked as they passed overhead. A doe and her two fawns sipped from the edge of the cool, clear water. From the deer's vantage, those adult salmon could be seen spawning in the current. It was easy to imagine, great blue herons, bald eagles and many other animals making a future appearance at this biological oasis.



An adult salmon jumps over this analog beaver dam within days of its completion.

The Yurok Tribe is a partner in the Trinity River Restoration Program, and is working to rehabilitate and restore habitat for fish populations that support the Yurok Tribe's federally recognized fishery in the Lower Klamath River. All TRRP projects are conducted in accordance with the 2000 Trinity Record of Decision.

The Yurok contingent working on the Bucktail project included: Rich Nelson, David (DJ) Bandrowski, Roger Boulby, Aaron Martin, Tony Alameda, Dewey Myers, Randy Mattz, Daniel McQuillen, Will Bowers, Eric Wiseman, Arnold Offins, Timbo Ulrich, and interns Dara Gaeuman and Gabe Hayden. Aside from the interns, these restorationists lived at the work site, during the week, for the entire summer. ✨

A big "Thank You" from Roberta Lindgren

Having been ordered by the hospital to rest in bed for 5-6 weeks following an accident at home, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Donna Matilton, Bertha Peters, Victoria Carlsen and Lucinda Myers for their heart-warming visit. It brought tears to my eyes as they stood by my bedside and sang Yurok songs to make me feel good inside and to heal. As a Tribal Elder, I would like everyone to understand just how important such visits are to those who, from time to time, suffer and hurt. Words can not explain just how helpful their kindness to me was.

Thank you! Roberta ❤️❤️❤️

Klamath dam surrender app filed w/ FERC

Tribe supports dam removal process moving forward

In late September, PacifiCorp and the newly formed non-profit Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC), filed motions with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that seek to transfer the lower four Klamath dams to the KRRRC for the purpose of decommissioning and removal. FERC is the congressionally authorized agency that licenses and oversees power plans and hydroelectric dams.

“Today we reached yet another milestone along the path to restoring the Klamath River,” said Karuk Councilman Joshua Saxon. “This is great news and there’s no time to waste. We are suffering from one of the worst salmon runs in history this year.”

“The deplorable water quality, back-to-back disease outbreaks and bottomed-out fish runs have taken a tremendous toll on our people. We welcome this major step toward restoring Klamath fish populations and providing salmon once again to our upstream neighbors, the Klamath Tribes,” said Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe.

The progress towards the largest dam removal in US history comes after years of deadlock for Klamath parties. Originally, dam owner PacifiCorp, Tribes, conservation groups, and irrigation districts negotiated a larger settlement agreement that would not only remove dams but balance water use between the Klamath River, Upper Klamath Lake, wildlife refuges, and the Klamath Irrigation Project. This agreement would have invested millions in habitat restoration and irrigation efficiency. Despite broad bi-partisan support at the grass roots level, Representatives Walden and LaMalfa tanked the deal.

Now dam removal is proceeding anyway under the jurisdiction of FERC.

“It’s a shame that congress would not move the larger Klamath legislative package. Dam removal is a huge leap forward, but we still need to resolve water disputes between river communities and farm communities,” adds Saxon.



Irongate Dam is the first of four large dams on the Klamath River.

Although FERC is still a long way from approving dam removal plans, dam removal advocates are optimistic that it process will indeed lead to dam removal. KRRRC Board Member Wendy George notes, “Much of the environmental analysis has already been completed. The Final Environmental Impact Statement released by the Department of Interior in March of 2013 concluded that dam removal is safe, cost-effective, and will lead to improved fisheries and water quality. That analysis went on to recommend full removal of PacifiCorp’s lower four Klamath dams.”

Links to filings and FEIS can be found at <http://www.klamathrenewal.org/> ✪

“The deplorable water quality, back-to-back disease outbreaks and bottomed-out fish runs have taken a tremendous toll on our people.”

• Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe

Tribe seeks elders over 100

The Yurok Tribe is looking for photos and names of Yurok Elders/Ancestors who lived to be 100-years-old or greater at the time of their passing. The pictures will be framed and posted in Tribal office buildings to honor them.

Please contact Krystel Patapoff at (707) 482-1350 Ext. 1320 or by email at krystel@yuroktribe.nsn.us

WEWIN honors HSU grad



The Northcoast Chapter of WEWIN (Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations) is a group of like-minded women who believe in service to our community for the strength of our community. We believe in education, sharing, and promoting positive leadership. As a part of our mission, we are committed to recognizing the strong women of this community. This month, Northcoast WEWIN is proud to recognize Natalie VanPelt Scott.

Natalie is the wife of Brandon Scott and mother to Mark, Peyton, and Cooper Scott. Her father is the late Duane "Zeke" VanPelt and her mother is Julie Farnum.

Natalie is a very determined and loving mother and wife. She is very family oriented with a big heart. Natalie has found success in both her personal life and career. Her ability to balance both with grace is inspiring to her family and peers. Natalie simply "does it all".

As Natalie has always had a passion for helping at-risk youth, she served as a social work intern at College of the Redwoods Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site for two years. She graduated there as the valedictorian of her class in Spring 2012. Soon after, Natalie graduated from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in Fall of 2015, with a 3.01 GPA.

Natalie continued her journey as the administrative assistant for the Behavioral Health Department, where she oversaw mental health referrals for AOD/substance abuse services. Recently, Natalie accepted the role as the Life Skills Coordinator at Hoopa Valley High School. Her role is to provide emotional support and socio-emotional support to at-risk youth. Natalie is part of an intervention team tasked to counsel kids getting into a little bit of trouble and helping them to make better decisions and lead them on a better path. With her specialized training, she will be part of the school's plan to build positive life skills for kids; also providing someone to talk to when having a bad day.

Natalie is very encouraging and approachable, supportive, and charismatic. She has overcome great obstacles in life and persevered. We know she will make a great impact and find ways to affect the children in a great and positive way. Thank you, Natalie, for your great example!

Do you know of a local Native woman who leads by positive example? Send us a nomination with a brief explanation of why you think she deserves recognition along with a high-resolution picture to northcoastwewin@gmail.com. Please note that we honor woman of all ages.

Join us on Facebook at www.fb.com/northcoastwewin ✨

YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

October 3, 2016

TO:

All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:

Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Rachel Provolt. Let it be known that Rachel Provolt is a employee of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Rachel Provolt meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Down Payment program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully

Diane Bowers
Executive Director

Court developing re-entry program

The Yurok Tribal Court is partnering with Root and Rebound, a well-known inmate advocacy group, to create a re-entry program for incarcerated Tribal members and their families.

Root and Rebound, staffed mainly by Bay Area attorneys, has helped hundreds if not thousands accomplish a successful shift from prison to society. The nonprofit's mission is "to increase access to justice and opportunity for people in reentry from prison and jail, and to educate and empower those who support them, fundamentally advancing and strengthening the reentry infrastructure across the state of California."

"When we started Root & Rebound, we set out to understand how a group of lawyers could effectively reduce the devastating impacts of collateral consequences, and help clients navigate a complicated system that they were not at all prepared for during incarceration," according to the Root and Rebound website.

For recently released individuals, following parole and probation rules is only one of many hurdles, including: finding a job, securing housing, paying court ordered debt, cleaning up a criminal record, and for some, catching up on child support and/or foster care payments.

The Tribal Court and Root and Rebound recently put on three, all-day workshops in Weitchpec, Eureka and Klamath for the families of incarcerated Yuroks and Tribal staff. The facilitators of the in-depth training imparted to attendees all of the actions that imprisoned individuals can take to prepare for their release, solutions to common problems that may arise during the probation period and what their relatives can do to support them through the lengthy process. Each participant was given a publication called the Roadmap to Re-entry, a step-by-step guide geared toward the following audience: people preparing for re-entry and their families, social workers and case managers, teachers, community supervision officers and attorneys.

"The trainings were very well attended," said Laura Woods, a Yurok Tribal Court family law mediator and paralegal. "We handed out boxes and boxes of Root and Rebound's Guide to Re-entry books."

The Roadmap to Reentry guide book is available upon request online at <http://www.rootandrebound.org/roadmap>. According to Root and Rebound, the book's creator, Roadmap to Re-entry "is designed to reach, educate, and empower those trying to prepare for and navigate difficult barriers in reentry. This guide covers critical legal issues of reentry, including:

- Navigating probation and parole rules and terms
- Getting official identification and important legal documents
- Acquiring housing
- Finding and maintaining employment
- Accessing education and vocational training
- Applying for public assistance and other benefits
- Managing credit & debt issues

- Working through common family law issues
- Understanding and clearing your record

In addition to working with Root and Rebound, the Tribal Court also hired a staff law trained advocate, Maggie Poffenbarger, who works in the Civil Access Program. Poffenbarger is available by appointment only on most Wednesdays at the Tribe's Eureka office and the remainder of the week at the Civil Access Center located at the Yurok Justice Center.

The Tribal Court is also identifying existing services offered by the Tribe's various departments, available to jailed or recently released Yuroks. The Court's goal is to make it easier for Yuroks to obtain these resources, while in prison and/or after release from a correctional institution.

"Our goal is to create a team, on behalf of reentering Yuroks, of Tribal departments, such as TERO, Social Services, Education and Yurok Indian Housing Authority," said Woods, who is a Yurok Tribal member. "When our Tribal members get out of jail or prison, we want to help them reintegrate into society in a good way. We want to be ready for them"

Woods sent letters to all of the Yuroks incarcerated the California correctional system to let them know about the burgeoning reentry program and collaboration with Root and Rebound. She is looking for addresses for Yurok Tribal members detained in institutions outside of the state. Please contact her at (707) 482-1350 Ext. 1395 or by email lwoods@yuroktribe.nsn.us to share a friend or relative's contact information.

The Tribal Court intends to schedule additional reentry workshops in 2017. The dates of the trainings will be published in Yurok Today. Meantime, Root and Rebound offers free legal advice related to reentry, to incarcerated individuals and their families. The Reentry Hotline is open every Friday from 9am to 5pm PST. The phone number is (510) 279-4662 and they accept calls from incarcerated individuals during that time. ✨

YUROK TRIBAL COURT PO Box 1027 / 230 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548 (707) 482-1350 phone (707) 482-0105 fax	Court File Number: <u>YTCV2016-060</u> Case Type: <u>FAMILY CODE</u> FILED YUROK TRIBAL COURT SEP 06 2016 BY: <u>YIS</u> YUROK JUDGE/PRESIDENT
In re: <u>Alay Lee Hill</u> (Write current name of person's to be changed)	NOTICE OF PETITION for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:	
1. PETITIONER: <u>Alay Lee Hill</u> has filed a petition with this court for decree changing a name as follows: a. Present Name: <u>Alay Lee Hill</u> b. Proposed Name: <u>Ayla Lee Hill</u>	
2. THE COURT REQUIRES that all persons interested in this request shall appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least three (3) court (business) days before the hearing date and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.	
3. HEARING DATE, TIME AND PLACE (At least 90 days from filing date). a. Date: <u>12/15/16</u> b. Time: <u>10:00 AM</u> c. Location: <u>Klamath</u>	
4. NOTICE: A copy of this NOTICE OF PETITION for Change of Name shall be published in TWO (2) consecutive issues of the Yurok Tribe Newsletter.	
5. ISSUED: Clerk of the Court: <u>Natasha Powell</u> Date: <u>9/06/16</u>	



BUCKTAIL PROJECT PICS





THE YUROK TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM
POLLUTION PREVENTION DIVISION

Community Assistance Survey

As a Tribal member and resident of the Yurok Reservation, YTEP would like to receive feedback from you on what types of community assistance programs are most needed. Please choose the top 3 disposal events from the list below that will benefit you, the community, and help protect natural resources of the Reservation.

Abandoned Vehicle Removal

Tire Disposal

Dumpster Donation and Hauling

Regular Garbage Pickup

Recycling Workshop / Education

Composting / Green Waste Collection

Clothing Collection

Abandoned Trailer Removal

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Electronic Waste Disposal

Mattress Disposal

Appliance Disposal

Free Dump Day

Burn Barrel Removal

Other-Please Describe

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please cut out and return this survey to one of the Offices in Klamath or Weitchpec, a drop box will be located near the entrance. Or you can mail this survey to:

Attn: Community Assistance Survey

YTEP- Pollution Prevention Division

P.O. Box 1027 Klamath CA, 95548

Return this survey and be entered to win a prize ! Your name _____ Phone number _____

Yurok Tribe

Environmental Complaint Form

Please fill this form out completely, use additional sheets of paper if necessary, and attach any supporting documentation.

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Describe environmental concern, exposure, or damage (include who, what, when, where, how time, date, etc...):

Please mail this form to: Attn: Complaint Forms
YTEP - Pollution Prevention
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

This form can also be delivered in the drop box at the Main Tribal Offices in Klamath and Weitchpec. A drop box will be located at each entrance. Online this form can be located at:
http://www.yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep/ppd/environmental_complaint_form.htm

Return this survey and be entered to win a prize ! Your name _____ Phone number _____

Longtime THPO takes job with CFMC

McConnell reflects on 20 years as Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer

Longtime Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer Bob McConnell resigned from the Tribe after 20 years of service to his people.

In those two decades, he drove 600,000-plus miles to protect traditional sites, provide consultations to managers of massive wildfires and advocate for the removal of the Klamath dams. The Tribal member has walked almost every road on the Yurok Reservation and located several previously unidentified cultural sites. More than 45,000 emails reached his inbox, and a near equal number his outbox. Around 10,000 letters asking for approval to begin projects crossed his desk. He conducted well over 100 formal interviews with elders, not including the countless conversations on traditional topics that he's had with Tribal members and staff. At 67, he is taking a job as the executive director of the Cultural Fire Management Council, where he will build upon an effort to heal the Tribe's aboriginal lands by the careful application of fire. At the CFMC, he will be better positioned to share with the local community the lessons that he's learned along the way.

"I appreciate all of the knowledge that was shared with me from everybody that I've worked with," said McConnell. "I've gotten to a point where I think it is my duty to give some of that back."

McConnell started his career with the Tribe in 1996 as field technician, under Dr. Tom Gates, the Tribe's first THPO. It was just three years after the Tribe had formally organized. The Cultural Program and Culture Committee were already in place, but they were both in the beginning stages of their development.

"I pursued the field tech position because I wanted to figure out where I stood as far as being a traditional Yurok," said McConnell, whose mother was a Jesse Short activist and grandmother a plaintiff. "I wanted to figure out how I compared to other Yurok. I got beat up a little bit by the traditional people on the river, but I think I did okay."

When McConnell reported to work on his first day in Eureka he quickly realized that he had been in the building before. He worked briefly for PG&E in 1970 and his old office was nearly in the same spot as his new one. While he was based in Eureka, McConnell, a former reforestation contractor, spent most of his time working on the east side of the Reservation, where he monitored Tribal construction projects and timber operations for impacts to cultural resources. The area from Weitchpec to Wautec was also where many Tribal elders lived. During this period of his career he also recorded, via video camera, more than 100 interviews with elders on wide variety of topics, ranging from traditional trails to the purpose of prayer seats.

"I really feel gifted that I was able to gain the trust of those elders who imparted their knowledge to me and to the Tribe. That is where



Bob McConnell contributed to many of the Tribe's most significant initiatives.

I received a great deal of my cultural knowledge — those elders," McConnell said.


At the time, the Culture Program consisted of tribal members Tony O'Rourke (also a field tech), Tracy Melendy, Linda O'Neil, Sue Burdick and contract archeologist Janet Eidsness. McConnell gives credit to these individuals for increasing his comprehension of local native plants and their uses, Geographic Information Systems and archeology.

In addition to his cultural resource protection role, McConnell was selected to be one of the Yurok delegates at the first dam removal discussions in Ashland, OR. The Klamath dams are part of an antiquated hydroelectric project that dislocates the Klamath River from its headwaters. It was 2001 and the project's 50-year license was up for renewal. Presenting a unified front, the Yurok and Karuk Tribes started meeting with representatives from the upper Basin irrigation districts and the power company to talk about restoring the integrity of the river.

"I remember being in meetings up in Ashland and not being very comfortable," McConnell said. "There were a lot of people who did not want that to be an option."

In 2003, McConnell became the Yurok Environmental Program's the Archeological Field Coordinator. At YTEP, he continued the work of guarding significant cultural sites.

In 2008, McConnell became the Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer. The THPO has a diverse range of responsibilities that are related to



the protection and proliferation of Tribal culture. The position requires a unique set of skills, varying from report writing to cartography. Fluency in the Tribe's history and traditions is also fundamental to the role. McConnell's broad background covered all of these key attributes.

One of the THPO's main functions is to facilitate the monthly Culture Committee meetings. The Committee is the official Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act body for the Yurok Tribal Council. The advisory board is comprised of Tribal elders and makes recommendations to the Yurok Tribal Council on a diverse array of issues. The formal board also counsels Tribal departments and even individual community members, who are working on cultural projects.

Another of the Heritage Preservation Officer's main priorities is making sure that ground disturbing activities, such as road building and logging, do not harm cultural resources. On the Yurok Reservation, the THPO has signatory authority over all projects, a responsibility that is governed by the Tribe's 2009 Cultural Protection Ordinance. For example, when the Tribe proposes a construction project, the draft plan is sent to the THPO, where it will be evaluated for its potential to damage cultural resources. If it is a substantial proposal, the office will bring the contents to the Culture Committee. After the Committee vets the plans, the THPO may give the green light, deny or approve the project with mandatory conditions.

"Name a sizeable project and it's been scrutinized by the Culture Committee," McConnell said.

The office receives inquiries every single day from within the Tribe, federal and state agencies and for-profit corporations. Boxes filled with files containing such requests surround McConnell's desk.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal entities, such as Redwood National Park, consult with the THPO when working on projects that could affect historic properties.

"I have worked with Bob for nearly 14 years now. Over that time, we've addressed some very positive and some very difficult issues regarding National Park Service management of park resources and Yurok Tribal concerns regarding ancestral territory and rights," said Karin Grantham, Acting Chief of Resource Management and Science for Redwood National Park. "Bob has a way about him that is reassuringly calm and diplomatic, yet still decisive in asserting Yurok rights. I've learned so much working with Bob. I especially have appreciated his help in facilitating communication with the Yurok Tribe's Culture Committee, which is integral to successful communications and consultations between Redwood National Park and the Tribe. I wish Bob many happy years in his next job, and I look forward to his continued role in communicating Yurok concerns to the park in a differing capacity."

When analogous activities happen on state lands, McConnell works with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Within the greater Yurok Ancestral territory and outside of the national park, the THPO has the ability to provide recommendations on similar undertakings.

For major projects, McConnell is mandated to schedule public, informational meetings for the purpose of capturing the community's input on the prospective endeavor. In 2012, the State of California attempted to extend a lease for its Red Mountain Telecommunications

compound. The unsightly complex sits on 4,500 foot Red Mountain peak in a sacred area known as the Helkau Ceremonial District. In the mid-1990s, the US Forest Service made a decision, based on the G-O Road case, to remove the telecommunications site by 2022. The state aggressively attempted to overturn the US Forest Service's determination for Red Mountain. Behind the scenes and at the forefront, the Yurok THPO did everything in his power to protect the site. At scoping meetings in Klamath, Weitchpec and Eureka, the THPO presented the Tribe's perspective on the controversial project.

"I tried to present the history of the area and the decision of the forest service — that the site would be gone by 2022," McConnell said. "It wasn't a popular decision in everyone's mind, but the Native folks held on to what was decided in the G-O Road case. The Forest Service made the right decision to tell everybody to vacate by 2022."

Plans to remove the Red Mountain site are currently being crafted and all of the unsightly telecommunication equipment is expected to be removed by 2022.

In 2005, McConnell was asked to be one of a group representing the Tribe on a tour around the western and mid-western United States to raise national awareness about the Klamath River and put pressure on Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway to remove the Klamath dams. Buffett's investment group owns Mid-American Energy, PacifiCorp's parent company. Traditional canoe in tow, McConnell made the 4,700 mile round trip from Yurok Country to Omaha, Nebraska, stopping for events in the Bay Area and Salt Lake City. He was joined by more than two dozen Yurok, Karuk and Hupa people, as well as environmentalists and commercial salmon fishers from the North Coast. The coalition's first stop was a press conference at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, where the contingent made a case in front of television cameras and print journalists for tearing down the dams.

The Klamath allies then headed to Salt Lake, where they received a pleasant surprise. A large number of Native Americans and environmentalists from around the state of Utah had heard about the historic journey and joined the group at a protest in front of Mid-American Energy's headquarters. After the successful event at the power company's central office, the group left the Beehive State for the annual Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders meeting in Omaha, NE.

At the time, Berkshire Hathaway allowed the first people, who made it to the six microphones surrounding the arena, to ask Buffett a question. The 30,000-strong shareholders meeting is held at CenturyLink Center. The Klamath River crew waited outside all night in the rain for a chance to speak directly to Buffett and the Berkshire shareholders.

"Standing outside the facility in Omaha watching the people walk by and their different attitudes was an experience — mostly positive," said McConnell. "There were some people that didn't want to interact with us, and you could tell they really didn't want to interact with us."

The two-week trip resulted in hundreds of news stories published in every where from USA Today to Indian Country Today. It brightened the national spotlight on the Klamath and the people who depend on it. Despite being away from his family for fourteen days, McConnell looks

back on the trip fondly.

“I think what I remember most about that trip was coming home. Coming over Oregon Mountain into the Trinity River valley, smelling the forest and that clean air. I realized that rest of the country is beautiful, but this place is just so special,” McConnell recalled.

Recently, the states of Oregon and California, in partnership with PacifiCorp, announced a promising deal to dismantle the Klamath Hydroelectric Project.

A massive lightning storm in 2008 ignited fires all over Yurok Country and the surrounding area. When the complex of conflagrations, known as Blue 2, began to run toward the high country, the Tribe sent McConnell to consult with the US Forest service. The THPO tallied 52 days on the front lines, working with fire managers to protect the culturally critical mountain peaks. The Forest Service heeded most of his recommendations and those from other tribes.

“Every year, the US Forest seems to be getting better about consulting on a government-to-government basis with the Tribe,” McConnell said.

On another important trip the Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer took on behalf of the Tribe, McConnell trekked across the entire US to the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian. The THPO was tapped, along with four others, to travel to Washington DC to bring home 219 sacred items. Driving a large U-Haul, he and three others made the 3,100 mile drive home in less than four days.

“Being chosen as one of the drivers of the first wave of regalia coming back—that was an honor,” he said.

The repatriation from the Smithsonian Museum was the largest in the Tribe’s history. The 2010 repatriation was followed by another large one in 2014. Now, all of the most important items that the Smithsonian had are in the Tribe’s hands.

McConnell is quick to give others credit for his accomplishments. However, he does believe that these achievements are

an indication that the Tribe is on the right path. The Tribal government, which has only been formally organized for about 20 years, has become a leader in natural resource management, fisheries restoration and cultural protection. The Tribe’s land base has more than doubled since 2011. Many of the big caches of ceremonial items have come home. The Tribe is restoring the river and its tributaries, readying these waterways for healthy fish runs. The strategic use of fire has been brought back to the landscape on a limited scale. The forests and prairies, surrounding the Lower Klamath River, are slowly but surely on the mend. Clandestine cannabis growers are being removed from the reservation. The condor will soon fly over Yurok skies. McConnell is optimistic that the dams will come down by 2020.

“I think the battles that the Tribe has fought and won, in the two decades since the tribe was formally organized, are starting to yield fruit,” McConnell said. “The dams are coming down. The out of hand commercial grows on the reservation are hopefully going to be a thing of the past. We’re restoring our watersheds. In the not too distant future we are going to see an increase in the fish coming into the river.”

After the dams come down salmon, steelhead and sturgeon will begin to populate the Klamath River in much greater numbers. The quantity of eels will escalate, too. As the frequency of cultural burns increases on Yurok lands, so will the deer and elk numbers..

“Kids today are growing up in a far different world than the one I experienced. Someday, I’d love for them to see fish come up the river the way that I saw them when I was a kid. I’m sure it will happen. Having people experience that, along with a healthier environment, particularly from the application of fire, is going to contribute greatly to Yurok people being able to be Yurok. I think once we all have an opportunity to become practicing Yuroks, we’ll all be better off,” concluded McConnell. ✨

Tribe adds to reward, seeks info re: arson

The Yurok Tribal Council doubled the reward - now \$20,000 - for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for igniting the Tully Fire.

To anonymously submit information, call the BIA/We-tip Arson hotline at 1-800-472-7766. It is open 24 hours a day.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Fire Prevention Office/ WeTip Arson Hotline goes to great lengths to protect the anonymity of those who supply information about suspected fire starters. When a person calls the WeTip number, the first thing he or she is told is this: “Please do not give your name.” Those who submit details to the crime fighting organization never have to testify at a trial. WeTip labels the caller’s phone number with a code, rather than a name, so even if the Program is subpoenaed, the person’s identity will remain secure. Law enforcement officers use the information to begin investigating the suspected arsonist.

Those who provide accurate information about the origins of an arson fire typically receive up to \$10,000. The Yurok Tribal Council contributed \$10,000 to the Tully Fire reward, which is now \$20,000.

The WeTip Arson Program also has a sophisticated protocol to protect the person’s identity during the disbursement of the monetary award. Here’s how it works. The Program first gives the caller a numerical code. The two people then select a bank or post office, which can be outside of the town where the information provider lives. WeTip will then send a money order, along with the special digits, to the establishment. The reward recipient then goes to the preselected place and recites the code in exchange for the cash. No identification card is required.

BIA Fire Prevention specialist Soledad Holguin recommends that recipients of the large sum of money also take measures to protect their identity, such as refraining from telling anyone, including family members about the financial gain and not purchasing uncharacteristically expensive items.

“Don’t drive into town in a new car,” Holguin said. ✨

Fire training begins in Weitchpec area

CFMC facilitates much needed, hands-on cultural burning exercise

The Cultural Fire Management Council, in partnership with the Yurok Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, and Terra Fuego, put on an in-depth training for 30 firefighters.

The Yurok Training Exchange (TREX), is a hands-on course designed to teach local residents, with varying degrees of firefighting experience, how to execute a successful, cultural burn. The participants will learn this multifunctional forest management tool by working side-by-side with veteran fire instructors to implement four, meticulously planned burns on the Yurok Reservation.

“We are building our capacity to conduct cultural burns and reestablish within the community a complex, time-honored skill that has sustained Yurok people since time-immemorial,” said the Cultural Fire Management Council’s Elizabeth Azzuz, who is a Yurok Tribal member and will serve as Communications and Logistics Officer and Tribal Liaison for this year’s TREX. “This collaborative effort has yielded many positive results, such as improved habitat for wildlife, increased abundance of traditional basket materials and the potential of living wage jobs for local people.”

The Cultural Fire Management Council is working in partnership with the following entities to carry out the in-depth course and implementing the four cultural burns: Yurok Wildland Fire Department, the Nature Conservancy’s Fire Learning Network, Fire Storm Inc., Terra Fuego, and Cal Fire. This is the third year of implementation of a Yurok TREX, and the first time Cal Fire will participate.

The CFMC was formed in 2013 to facilitate cultural burns within Yurok Ancestral Territory, for the purpose of building healthy ecosystems, promoting ample materials for basket weavers and insuring long-term fire protection. The Cultural Fire Management Council represents the first firmly established movement, in more than 100 years, to reintroduce the traditional use of fire in Yurok Country.

Trainees will learn about fire behavior, fire line safety and the incident command system. Beginning on September 25, the group will assist in performing the cultural burns, alongside and under the watchful eye of professional fire fighters. Veteran Firestorm burn boss Larry Wright will lead the carefully planned Yurok TREX. Fires will take place in different environments, such as hazel and bear grass patches, prairies, and under tan oak trees.

The TREX was specifically tailored so that those who complete the training, depending on their current position, will increase their qualifications/earning potential, which enable a firefighter to apply for a job at any wildland fire station.

For millennia, Yurok people have used fire to manage and maintain



Yurok Wildland Firefighter Andy Lamebear ignites a hazel patch.

one of the most biodiverse places on the planet. Here a just a few examples of the seemingly endless benefits brought about by cultural burns. Periodically burning off meadows produces the succulent green grasses that deer, bears and other mammal populations need to thrive. The prescriptive use of fire in hazel stands prompts the shrub to produce strong, straight sticks that are used to make traditional basketry. Controlled fire in tanoak-dominated forests keeps acorn pest populations in check. Currently, up to 90 percent of acorns are destroyed by a weevil, according to a recent, local study performed by Arielle Halpern a Ph.D. candidate from UC Berkeley.

In the early 1900s, the federal and state governments, which have only just recently recognized the positive results produced by prescribed fire, banned burning and began the current fire suppression effort. Prior to European contact, the frequent low intensity fires, created optimum conditions for all life and drastically decreased the potential for large wildfires by controlling the amount of fuel on the forest floor.

During last year’s TREX, fire was used to treat acorn gathering spots, remove thick brush surrounding reservation homes and renovate old hazel patches. This spring, Yurok basket weavers collected the stout hazel sprouts to make baby baskets. In order for hazel to be available each spring and to maintain the positive gains furnished by the smart use of fire, these places need to be burned at regular intervals. The Yurok TREX is part of a greater plan to build capacity within the local fire agencies, including the Yurok Wildland Fire Department, to burn more

areas on routine basis.

“We are developing a long range plan to treat much of Yurok Country with a therapeutic dose of fire. We have a long path in front of us, but we know that if we take care of the land, it will take care of us,” concluded Bob McConnell, the CFCMC’s Executive Director and Yurok Tribal member.

The mission of CFMC is to facilitate the practice of cultural burning on the Yurok Reservation and Ancestral lands, leading to a healthier ecosystem for all plants and animals, long term fire protection for residents, and provide basket weaving materials to weavers that will in turn be a platform for restoration of a Yurok cultural life way. For more information about Terra Fuego, please visit www.terrafuego.org ✨

ERB finds no violations

The Yurok Tribe convened an Ethics Review Board Hearing on Oct. 10, 2016. The board determined that there were no violations of the Tribal Council Ordinance. Here is a summary of the alleged violations and the board’s findings.

1) Councilmember Mattz:

a. Alleged violation of 6201(o)

b. There is no express definition of “appropriate manner” upon which the Board could evaluate this conduct. As such, based on the information provided and the existing language of the Council Ordinance, the Board concludes there is insufficient evidence to establish a finding of violation. However, the Board acknowledged that a definition of “appropriate” for purposes of addressing councilmember-to-councilmember issues is needed, and such definition should require councilmembers to approach each other privately before presenting allegations of this nature publicly. The Board recommends that Council direct OTA to develop a proposed definition of “appropriate manner” to be discussed with Council at the next Council meeting.

2) Councilmember McCovey

a. Alleged violation of 6201(b), 6201(o), 6401(a), 6403(e), 6405(b)(6)

b. Based on the information provided, the Board concludes there is insufficient evidence to establish a finding of violation of the Council Ordinance. The Board raised concerns about the manner of councilmember social media postings on specific funding amounts, and recommended that this be included in the consideration of a definition of “appropriate” for 6201(o)

3) Councilmember McCovey

a. Alleged violation of 6201(o)

b. Based on the information provided, the Board concludes there is insufficient evidence to establish a finding of violation. The Board also recommends that Council works on a way to incorporate the Tribe’s existing Social Media Policy into Council obligations under the Council Ordinance. ✨

Land buy-back update - Part 2

The Yurok Tribe is working in collaboration with the United States Department of the Interiors (DOI) Land Buy-Back Program toward actual participation within the next five (5) to ten (10) years. The Buy-Back Program was created to implement the land consolidation component of the historic Cobell settlement, which provided for a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund to consolidate fractional trust or restricted land interests across Indian country. So far, the Buy-Back program has paid more than \$550 million to individual landowners and restored the equivalent of approximately one billion acres of land to tribal governments. The Buy-Back Program allows interested individual owners to receive payments for voluntarily selling their land. All lands sold will immediately be held in trust for the Yurok Tribe. In the mean-time, the Yurok Tribe Realty Department is actively providing informational brochure’s that have been developed by the Department of the Interior to help facilitate the beginning stages of communication with tribal members regarding land consolidation. The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations A LANDOWNER’S GUIDE For You, Your Land, Your Community brochure’s will be available at all the tribal offices. The tribal membership is encouraged to use the information and call the Special Trustee’s (OST) Trust Beneficiary Call Center (888)678-6836 the call center is the primary contact responsible for receiving inquiries from the landowners regarding the Program. Land Owners are encouraged to inform the OST of any changes of personal information. This is vital in the effort to contact people in the Whereabouts Unknown list. In addition to broad outreach concerning the Buy-Back Program, the DOI will conduct more extensive communication with the tribe once the program is active. Individuals owning fractional interests within the reservation should be informed that the Buy-Back Program will be actively valuing the fractionated tracts of land within the reservation and that they may be able to sell their fractional interests. The DOI will work with the tribe to determine tribal priorities for acquisition Tribal priorities could be identified in a number of ways, such as by specific tract identification; geographic regions within the reservation (i.e., county; chapter; district; specific section, township, and range designations; or aliquot parts); tract type (e.g., tracts that fall within a certain land use planning area or zone); or ownership status (e.g., in which the tribe already has some ownership interest regardless of location; or other factors). The DOI is preparing to exchange maps with the tribe to help the tribe to identify acquisition priorities. The DOI is preparing mapping data for the reservation and will include maps in each offer package to the individual landowners. All sales will be voluntary. As landowners make contact with the Realty Department, their information will be updated and stored within the willing sellers files, contained within the Realty Department. For further information: Please call Marion R. Frye, Realty Officer @ (707) 482-1350 ex: 1373 or by e-mail mfrye@yuroktribe.nsn.us, or by mail PO box 1027, Klamath CA 95548 ✨

Tribe/community work together on fire

The response to this summer's Tully Fire was truly a Tribe-wide effort. Members of the Yurok Tribal government and the local community worked closely to minimize the loss of property, cultural resources and lives threatened by the forest fires.

The Tully Fire, a combination of 3 blazes, began at about 4pm on August 22. Each of the three forest fires were adjacent to Hwy 169, near numerous Tribal and non-Tribal residences. Arson is believed to be the cause of all three fires, which threatened 40 homes and outbuildings, according to Cal Fire.

Cal Fire, contracted by the BIA, quickly responded to the blaze, and set up a command center in Hoopa. The Cal Fire-led contingent of wildland firefighters quickly contained the two smallest fires. A larger fire in the Kepel Creek watershed continued to burn out of control. On the day that the fire started, Cal Fire firefighters told all residents in the fire area to immediately evacuate. The incident commander for the state fire agency also closed the highway below Martin's Ferry Bridge.

In total, 28 people used a shelter set up by the Red Cross at the Hoopa Neighborhood Facility. Many more sheltered in place and were unable to leave their homes for three days. Within hours of ignition, three structures were burned to the ground. No community members were harmed during the incident. The fire incinerated four power poles and several private water lines, cutting off power and water to many of those living downriver from the bridge. The lack of electricity for running refrigerators and freezers threatened many community members' food stores in an area, where there is no grocery store. Many locals' protein comes from stockpiled salmon, wild game and other traditional foods.

Within 18 hours of the fire's ignition, and as soon as approval was obtained from the Cal Fire Incident Commander to pass through the CHP operated road block at Martin's Ferry Bridge, the Yurok Tribe's Public Works Director and Emergency Manager, Dean Baker, a military veteran and FEMA-trained emergency manager, other designated tribal staff and a UIHS volunteer, began performing door-to-door welfare checks. This response team also disseminated information regarding evacuation orders and emergency sheltering options as well offering transportation to the Red Cross Emergency Shelter at the Hoopa Neighborhood Facility. In response to the fast growing fire, the Yurok Tribal Council declared a State of Emergency, concerned at the potential this fire had to devastate homes, land and sensitive cultural sites.

A group of citizens and tribal staff, comprised almost entirely of Yurok Tribal members, put their own lives on hold to assist the residents stranded by the fire. While it was not possible to create a complete list, the following people contributed greatly to the safety and wellbeing of those beyond the road closure: Elizabeth Azzuz, Cheriku Blake, Onna Joseph, Benton McCovey, Annelia Hillman, Celinda Gonzalez, Joe Tyner, Dana Norton, Bobby Kane, Shawn Fernandez, Carlton Gibbens, Steve Sanderson, James Kleinhans, Lance Bates and the Yurok Trail Crew.

"Without these people many things could have been much worse these past few days," Elizabeth Azzuz said to the Yurok Tribal Council. "They helped

feed people, make phone calls, as well as deliver fuel, medications, food, and life-saving water."

This crew spent multiple days making sure that everyone in the evacuation zone had food, water and medicine. The group worked from early in the morning until late at night, providing these much needed supplies even after the evacuation order was lifted. They also distributed 140, \$200 food vouchers, which Yurok Tribal Councilperson Mindy Natt requested from the United Indian Health Services. UIHS's Community Health and Wellness Division donate food, which was delivered by Onna Joseph, a Yurok Tribal member. The UIHS Medical Department donated food the family that lost their home.

On Aug 26, PG&E sent six construction crews and eight line trucks to replace eight poles that appeared to be damage by the flames. After assessing the poles it was determined that only four needed to be replaced. Power was back on before the day was over. On the same day, the 1,400-deep Cal Fire crew moved to the old mill in Orick because it had outgrown the Hoopa site.

The evacuation orders were lifted on August 25 and residents were permitted to travel freely on the highway. However, Cal Fire encouraged people to remain vigilant because the fire could shift direction if the wind changed.

By August 29, firefighters had constructed a line around more than half of the fire and achieved complete containment of the 600-acre fire on September 2.

Forest fires during the dry season have the potential to expand rapidly, and threaten lives and property. These wildfires are also particularly damaging to the dry forest floor. High intensity fires destroy the soil food web, a primary component of forest health, and cause landslides later in the wet season, according to a recent USDA study, titled Soils under Fire. The information contained the research paper is also embodied in Yurok traditional ecological knowledge.

At the peak of operations there were 1,396 personnel, 69 engines, 18 dozers, 14 water tenders, 10 helicopters, two airplanes and 52 hand crews. The cooperating agencies included: Yurok Tribe, CHP, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services, Caltrans, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Cal OES, Hoopa Tribe, BIA, CCC, PG&E, Nevada Department of Forestry and the North Dakota Interagency Dispatch Center.

Officers from the BIA are conducting an investigation to determine who was responsible for setting the fire. Cal Fire officials stated that these kind of inquiries typically take up to a year. The Yurok Tribe would like encourage anyone who with information about the arson to contact the WETIP Arson Hotline at 1(800) 472-7766. Callers will remain anonymous. The Yurok Tribal Council added \$10,000 to the reward for anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest of the arsonist(s). The total award is now \$20,000. Please see the story on page 12 for a complete description of the great lengths that WeTip goes through to protect the identities of those who contribute information. ✨



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