



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

## **Yurok women travel to high country**

### **Twenty-two participate in Spiritual Boot Camp**

See story on page 3



## 2016 INSTALLATION PICS



JOE JAMES - EAST



LANA MCCOVEY - SOUTH



MINDY NATT - PECWAN

### Yurok Phrase of the Month

*Nek kee kemeyek'*

I am going to go home.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tribal Council - Finance - 10am - Klamath - Dec. 6

Tribal Council - Planning - 10am - Klamath - Dec 7

Tribal Council - Action - 10am - Klamath - Dec. 8

Incredible Years Training- Klamath - Dec. 13-15

Annual Staff Meeting - Adorni Center - Dec. 16

CFMC meeting - 6pm - Weitchpec

Tribal Offices Closed - X-mas Holiday - Dec 26

Tribal Council - Planning - 10am - Klamath - Dec 28

Tribal Council - Action - 10am - Weitchpec- Dec. 29

Tribal Council - Finance - 10am - Klamath - Jan. 3

Tribal Council - Planning - 10am - Klamath - Jan. 4

Tribal Council - Action - 10am - Klamath - Jan 5

## 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 [mmais@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.....Tribe secures redwood for cultural projects

Page 7.....WEWIN honors Machel Bates

Page 11.....Tribe opens first youth center

## On The Cover

*Yurok women and support crew take trip to the sacred high country.*

Story By Christopher Peters, owner and principal consultant for Red Deer Consulting

Photos by: Christopher Peters, Julian Lang and Jon Luke Gensaw



# Journey to Doctor Rock: *A Spiritual Boot-Camp 2016*

By Christopher Peters

*Owner and Principal Consultant Red Deer Consulting*

This is a story recounting a recent journey to Doctor Rock, a sacred place for the Pohlik-lah or Yurok People. As the principal consultant for Red Deer Consulting, I had the honor of leading a multi-generational group, to this significant place for our People.

For many generations, the Pohlik-lah or Yurok People have told and have heard many stories about the sacred place, Doctor Rock. These stories have described ancestral pilgrimages and special protocols filled with prayers, sacred formulas, songs and dances, and most importantly, about a spiritual connection that could endow a person with the power to heal. Within Yurok tradition, the innate ability to heal another person from either spiritual or physical illness was mostly found within women therefore we have come to know Doctor Rock as a place where women go to acquire the special “power” to heal. From Grandmothers to mothers and then to daughters, Doctor Rock is enshrined into legends of the Yurok People. Such memories passed within Yurok families are as strong today as they were in many years past. Now these stories of power and healing provide the intrigue that motivated this exciting journey to Doctor Rock.

It was a cold and gray day; the fog was so thick that our vision was often limited to the tree line immediately in front of us. We had camped near the trailhead the night before and in the early morning, we gathered up our gear and started our journey to Doctor Rock.

Members of the Ancestral Guard, a burgeoning group of young Yurok tribal citizens led by Sammy Gensaw III, comprised a strong support team that traveled with me early up the mountain, and carried heavy loads of camping gear, survival food, water and supplies to our base camp at Doctor Rock Cabin - about a five mile hike. Other Tribal members would soon join us, mostly women and girls, who wanted to experience the history and spiritual energy of the sacred high country and the very special healing powers of Doctor Rock.

We walked on a green ridge pathway made for us by serpentine rock on the steeply sloped Mountain of Peak 8. There we stopped and gazed at the “Bad Rock” where the history and legends of its negative power and energy that was derived, used and abused from this place for thousands of years, briefly consumed our minds and filled our conversations. The power of the serpentine that surrounded us helped re-focus the clarity of our thoughts



and strengthen our personal powers. Quickly we returned greater focus to the positive spiritual energies that lay ahead of us at our destination.

Arriving at our base camp, we put up tents, gathered firewood and hung large tarps as shelters from the rainstorm that threatened. The Ancestral Guard had returned to the trailhead to gather additional supplies and guide the first group of adventurous women and girls to camp. Throughout the afternoon and evening others would arrive with backpacks filled with warm clothing and camping gear. By nightfall a total of 22 had arrived to take part in this exciting Journey. After a rough night of steady down pouring rain where only a few were able to keep their sleeping bags and clothing dry, we faced yet another day of heavy fog and drizzling rain. But this day would be different. There was increased excitement in camp because today we would complete the last few miles of our hike to a very special place of prayer.

At first the fog confused our direction and led us on a path of wet brush and steep ridges, but finally, as our vision cleared we found Doctor Rock. Terryn Alameda, "I feel that we are not lost — we kept going on all the confusing trails leading us in random directions, but somehow it took us in the right way. We thought we were going to the Bad Rock. But we ended up climbing the face of Doctor Rock, we prayed and got back to camp safely."

Doctor Rock to some is perhaps not as majestic as Chimney Rock or other large rocks in close proximity. Still, being in its presence and understanding the wealth of history and the many, many Yurok

ancestors that traveled here to experience the power of this place, made our long journey – which had been filled with rain, aches, pains and misguided directions a memorable event. Emily Masten (Yurok) said about the hike: "I felt rugged and cold but the little adventure strengthened me spiritually and emotionally, and in my opinion it felt awesome to feel Power!"

In preparation for the tough climb, Vicky McNeal walked the steep hills near her home in Pecwan. After each exercise session, she felt stronger. McNeal trained hard before the trip because she wanted to fully concentrate on the experience of following the same footsteps as her ancestors to the high country. When she arrived at the base of Doctor Rock, she immediately felt "big power". "It was beautiful, so beautiful," she said. Even now, more than a month after the voyage, the feelings and lessons that she learned continue to occupy the front of her mind. "I think the hike will stay with me the most." For McNeal, the journey was much more important than the destination.

The Journey to Doctor Rock was organized by Red Deer Consulting and sponsored by the Yurok Tribal Court, and, the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The primary purpose of the hike was simply to assist local Native women and girls to experience the healing powers of the sacred Doctor Rock and to participate in conversations of the social, spiritual and political importance of the Yurok High Country and the notorious Gasquet - Orleans Road.

The Yurok Tribal Court has played a key role in the development and implementation of a Cultural Intervention model for the healing and well-being of the Tribal citizens they serve. This model works to re-center the client back into the traditional culture and life-ways of the Yurok People and re-building a stronger personal identity and pride in Yurok ancestry. Consistent with the court's philosophy and all other services, the Intervention Model is steeped in cultural values and beliefs. However, for this model to be sustained, the Court recognizes the need to foster greater interest and engagement among Yurok People in traditional healing practices.

The Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, under the leadership of Stephanie Weldon, a Yurok tribal member, helped make this exciting cultural journey possible. Like the Yurok Tribal Court, DHHS has set forth a new program direction for local Native peoples, which build upon their rich cultural beliefs and the unique identities and sovereignty of each Native Nation. It is a goal of Humboldt DHHS to explore tribally-specific cultural healing remedies and provide care-giving services that better meet the needs of their Native service population. DHHS recognizes that such healing remedies are found within Native cultural lifeways, ceremonies, and the spiritual connection to place. The Journey to Doctor Rock provided an opportunity for local Native women and girls to explore a strong healing place and consider the importance of traditional healing practices in their own lives and in the well being of their

communities and Nations.

The Journey to Doctor Rock was one of several Court sponsored activities implemented under the methodology of a "Spiritual Boot Camp." Over the past three years, the Yurok Tribal Court has worked with Red Deer Consulting and sponsored several Boot Camps that focused on healing and re-building stronger cultural identities among Yurok men and boys.

In keeping with traditional legends, historically, Yurok men sought personal power and spiritual energy for World Renewal Ceremonies from the Chimney Rock section of the Yurok High Country. Therefore, most of the earlier camps were centered in engaging that area. The Journey to Doctor Rock was designed especially to strengthen the personal identity for women and build greater awareness of the healing powers of place.

On our final day at Doctor Rock Cabin, we woke to snow covered ground and loud rumbles of thunder in the nearby mountains. As we gathered our camping gear and began our trek to the trailhead it soon began to rain and then the rain turned to sleet and hail and before we reached our vehicles it was snowing again. One participant commented that during this hike we have experienced "all four seasons of the year". The adverse weather conditions prompted the participants to work together and it served to bond the collective in purpose and in spirit and proved to enhance the overall experience for all. The Journey to Doctor Rock was for many a once in a lifetime experience, some may not ever return, but for a select few the journey was a life changing event and for them, this will be only the first of many hikes to Doctor Rock and other sacred places in the Yurok high country. ❄️

\* More photos on page 8



**RED DEER CONSULTING** 920 SAMOA BLVD, SUITE 210, ARCATA, CALIFORNIA, 95521

Red Deer Consulting is an independent, Native-owned and operated consulting firm that provides traditional and culturally-sensitive intervention strategies and services in Northern California. Red Deer Consulting works with local and regional tribes to forward an identity-based cultural intervention and healing strategy (Cultural Therapy) that is intended to strengthen the cultural awareness and identities of Native participants. Our culturally focused intervention strategy has developed with encouragement from cultural leaders who note substantial positive changes from strengthening cultural identities and increased participation in cultural activities.

MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.REDDERCONSULTING.COM](http://WWW.REDDERCONSULTING.COM)  
OR (707) 845-9944



# Tribe, SRNF team up on redwood project

## Wood will be used for sweathouse, canoes and more

The Yurok Tribe and the Six Rivers National Forest recently collaborated on a historic project to harvest high quality redwood trees for an urgently needed ceremonial sweathouse and two traditional canoes.

“We are very appreciative of the Six Rivers National Forest, and particularly Forest Supervisor Merv George Jr.,” said Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “To have a good working relationship with the Forest Service has been a longtime coming. Merv George understands what we do and why we do it. It’s been a pleasure to work with him.”

“I was eager and willing to make this project a priority for the forest,” said Merv George Jr., the Supervisor for Six Rivers National Forest. “It was not lost on me how important this was to the Yurok people.”

The lengthy process involved in procuring the redwood represents the first time that the Yurok Tribe and Six Rivers National Forest have pursued a project of this magnitude. The combined crews completed a substantial amount of labor, beginning with an in-depth environmental analysis and ending with the actual retrieval of the redwood. The cooperative endeavor is emblematic of a much improved relationship between the Tribe and SRNF under George’s leadership.

George is the first Native American forest supervisor in the Pacific Southwest Region, which is comprised of California and the Pacific Islands. The Hupa Tribal member and lifelong ceremonial practitioner has spent his entire career as a leader in the field of natural resource management. In combination with his cultural role, the supervisor of more than a million acres of Forest Service land is the custodian of multiple canoes. “As a paddler and caretaker of four redwood canoes, I know exactly what the value of a canoe is to a Tribal community,” George explained.

The two trees came from the Redwood Experimental Forest, formerly known as the Yurok Experimental Forest. The Six Rivers National Forest-managed property sits squarely in Yurok ancestral territory. In 2012, the Yurok Tribal Council made a formal request to the US Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, overseer of US forest lands including the Six Rivers National Forest, for the redwood. The Tribe based the proposal on a federal law (2008 Farm Bill) that permits Native American tribes to procure trees—for ceremonial purposes — from US Forest Service lands.



PHOTO BY FRANKIE JOE MYERS

(left) Dewey George and Buck Peters from the Yurok Watershed Restoration Program.

However, no movement was made on the Tribe’s petition, until after George was named Supervisor of the Six Rivers National Forest. The Six Rivers National Forest’s involvement in the redwood acquisition started in late 2015. The first step was to complete a National Environmental Policy Act analysis for the harvest, and for the rehabilitation of existing road infrastructure, which needed to be completed for the undertaking to move forward. The NEPA team examined potential risks to owls, other wildlife and additional cultural resources. The selective removal of the trees, performed by staff from the Yurok Tribe and Six Rivers National Forest, did not

significantly alter any ecological or cultural features within the forest.

“This was truly a group effort between the Six Rivers NF, the Pacific Southwest Research Station, and the Yurok Tribe,” George said.

The Six Rivers National Forest found funding to fix the road and bridge, which needed to be repaired before the logs could be transported to a processing facility. Additionally, the Forest Supervisor incorporated input from the forest scientists at the Redwood Experimental Forest to ensure that the endeavor wouldn’t negatively influence their long-term research projects.

Traditionally, when Yurok people removed a tree from the forest, prayer songs were sung as a sign of respect for the redwood’s strong spiritual force and every piece of wood was put to a purpose. These trees are being treated in the exact same way. Yurok Watershed Program staff members, Dewey George and Buck Peters, who are also Yurok Tribal members, harvested the trees in accordance with the Tribe’s traditional principles. Richard Nelson, the Yurok Watershed Restoration Program Director, used an excavator to pull the log out and load it in truck. The Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, Frankie Myers, oversaw the project on behalf of the Tribe.

“Since time immemorial, we have used redwood to build our canoes, sweathouses and several smaller ceremonial items,” said Frankie Joe Myers, the Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer. “It is next to impossible to find the same high quality wood that our ancestors used to construct these invaluable cultural resources.” The sweathouse, a place of mental and physical healing, will be built by Yurok people in Weitchpec, where it will be used, in part, as a tool to assist the Yurok Tribe’s suicide prevention effort. On December 28, 2015, the Yurok Tribal Council declared a state of emergency after seven people, living on the east side of the reservation, took their own lives in an 18-month period.

The trees will also be used to build two, traditional canoes. These large, river-going vessels cannot be built with anything other than large-diameter redwood. This material is naturally resistant to rot and light. Once built, the boats will be available for Tribal members to use in the Boat Dance, a biannual ceremony on the Klamath River.

The smaller pieces of wood will be employed in the production of traditional stools and salmon cooking sticks for cultural events. The Yurok Tribe is developing a plan to include local students in every stage of the development of these cultural assets. The aim of this hands-on, educational endeavor is to teach traditional construction skills to local youth and young adults. The end goal is to pass on to participants the aptitude to build these items on their own and pass on this important information to others. Furthermore, the redwood will serve as the perfect platform from which to impart knowledge

about several traditional and contemporary topics, ranging from proper forest management practices to the protocols associated with a traditional sweat.

“Having this redwood opens the door to a wide variety of very positive actions that we can take on behalf of the Tribal community,” Myers said.

Approximately ninety five percent of the long-lived redwood trees that were here prior to European contact have been cut down. Private land owners possess more than three quarters of the remaining old-growth forests. Prior to receiving the trees from Six Rivers Forest, the Yurok Tribe did not have an avenue to access high quality redwood.

The Redwood Experimental Forest is on the coast in one of the most extensively surveyed sites in the redwood belt, which occupies coastal lands from Monterrey, Ca to the southern edge Oregon. Since 1958, scientists have completed numerous studies in the redwood dominated ecosystem, extending from canopy research to marbled murrelet population monitoring.

To obtain the logs, the Yurok Tribal Council called upon a provision in the 2008 Energy, Food and Conservation Act, otherwise known as the Farm Bill, to negotiate with USDA. The act has a stipulation that enables the Secretary of the USDA to dispense trees, originating on National Forest lands, to federally recognized tribes. Section 8105 of the Farm Bill states that the USDA “may provide free of charge to Indian tribe any trees, portions of trees or forest products from National Forest System land for traditional or cultural purposes.” ✨



#### Notice of Public Hearing

The Yurok Tribe will hold four public hearings to accept comments from Yurok Tribal members, employees, and community members a proposed amendment the following ordinance:

- **YUROK TRIBE WILDLIFE ORDINANCE**

**Dec. 10, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Klamath Office Admin., Klamath**  
**Dec. 15, 2016 - 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Sam Lopez Community Center, Crescent City**  
**Dec. 17, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Former Worthington School, Eureka**  
**Dec. 17, 2016 - 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Weitchpec Office**

*Written comments can be sent to:*

Yurok Tribe Wildlife Office, PO Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548.

*Questions or comments on the draft legislation can also be made by calling:*

(707) 954-8591 or e-mailing: [tiana@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:tiana@yuroktribe.nsn.us)

*Copies of the legislation are available at all Tribal Offices and at [www.yuroktribe.org](http://www.yuroktribe.org)*



# WEWIN Honors Machelles Bates



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 Native women of the North Coast.

This month, Northcoast WEWIN is proud to recognize Machelles Bates. Machelles (Smiley) Bates is a proud member of the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation and Yurok Tribe and is a great inspiration to many. Despite her very busy schedule, Machelles has dedicated herself to the younger generations. Machelles along with her husband and their seven children have begun the Klamath Stick Team which has quickly become a vital community building activity for Klamath-area youth.

A young, strong Native woman, Machelles has overcome many obstacles in her life. Today, Machelles has risen to be a leader through dedication, hard work, and love for her family and community. Machelles is a great example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish. In addition to her community work, Machelles works diligently to improve her own life. This last spring, Machelles graduated from College of the Redwoods. Join us in recognizing Machelles's strong spirit. Every day, Machelles balances working full time, supporting her kid's sports activities and assisting many community activities. Her can-do spirit is inspiring and a great example for us all.

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](mailto:northcoastwewin@gmail.com). Please note that we honor woman of all ages and tribal affiliations.

Join us on Facebook at [www.fb.com/northcoastwewin](http://www.fb.com/northcoastwewin) ✨



## YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548  
Phone: 707-482-1350 • Fax: 707-482-1377

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Yurok Tribe will hold three public hearings to accept comments from Yurok Tribal members, Tribal employees, and community members on the following draft legislation:

- **YUROK TRIBE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE:**  
Amendment to the existing ordinance to increase the water quality permitting fee from \$500 to 1000 for tribal and state departments conducting projects within the Yurok Reservation. **\*\* This fee is only issued to departments and agencies conducting projects within the Yurok Reservation, not individuals \*\***

The Yurok Tribal Council has referred the above draft legislation to public hearing in accordance with the Yurok Tribal Public Hearing Ordinance. Public hearings are scheduled for:

December 19, 2016 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Klamath Office Administration 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548	December 19, 2016 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Former Worthington School 3400 Erie St Eureka, CA	December 20, 2016 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Weitchpec Office Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA
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### DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Hard copies of the draft ordinances will be available at the Weitchpec, Klamath, and Worthington Site offices. You can also get a hard copy by contacting Chyenne Sanders at 707-482-1350 x1397 or email [csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us) to request an electronic copy.

### REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The Yurok Tribe is interested in receiving comments from members of the Yurok Tribe and Yurok Reservation community regarding all aspects of the draft legislation.

All comments must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, December 23, 2016.

Comment letters may be submitted by email at [csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us), by fax at (707) 482-1363, by phone at (707) 482-1350 x1397, or by mail addressed to: Public Comment, Yurok Tribe Office of the Tribal Attorney, PO Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548. Please indicate in your comment the draft legislation and specific section, if any, to which the comment is directed. If leaving a comment by voicemail, please leave your full name, whether or not you are a Tribal member, and a callback number.

## 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

November 1, 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 Evelyn Natt. Let it be known that Evelyn Natt is a relative of the Hector Natt that is an employee of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Evelyn Natt meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Elder Emergency Assistance Program.

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

Respectfully

Diane Bowers  
Executive Director



# 2016 SPIRITUAL BOOT CAMP



PHOTOS BY: CHRISTOPHER PETERS, JULIAN LANG AND JON LUKE GENSAW



Hundreds attend the South District Halloween Carnival

More photos available at <https://www.facebook.com/TheYurokTribe/>



# Fisheries finishes big projects

## Works with Fiori Geosciences, Watershed Restoration Prog.

Three recently completed stream restoration projects, spearheaded by the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, were specially designed to continuously create more and more fish habitat over time.

Similar to the Bucktail Project on the Trinity River, the habitat created on Terwer, Hunter and Hoppaw Creeks will provide immediate benefits for native fish and wildlife. In the long-term, these streams will accommodate increasingly larger populations of culturally important fish, mammal, bird and amphibian species. The innovative bioengineering elements embedded within the projects were selected for their capacity to evolve and expand with the ever changing conditions in these drainages.

“The streams that we are working on are vital to the salmon population,” said Aldaron McCovey, a Yurok Tribal member and fisheries habitat restorationist. “I like the fact that we’re helping to sustain the chinook population, which is the lifeline of the Yurok people.”

This restorative undertaking was largely implemented by highly trained Yurok Tribal members, such as Aldaron McCovey and Steven Nova (see complete list below), under the leadership and guidance of Fiori Geosciences, owned by Rocco Fiori. Fiori Geosciences employs holistic watershed restoration practices to improve fish and wildlife habitat. Fiori, the lead designer and engineer for this project, has worked with the Tribe and Green Diamond Resource Company on many large-scale, highly sophisticated habitat rehabilitation projects. The professional geologist also trains Yurok Tribal members in all aspects of river restoration.

The Terwer and Hunter Creek projects are located on the coast and are within the Tribe’s ancestral territory. Hoppaw Creek, also near the ocean, is on a Yurok Tribal member’s property.

The primary objective for all three projects is to restore riparian habitats, one of the most biologically productive places in the watershed. These special zones are fundamental to the success of native fish populations, as well as that of many terrestrial and aquatic animals. The strategic reintroduction of several types of wood structures is an essential part of rebuilding these unique ecosystems. These biodiversity building components mimic the natural features found in pristine riparian areas, and are nearly identical to those that supported the large fish runs that sustained



Yurok Tribal member Aldaron McCovey and Rocco Fiori build fish habitat on the Lower Klamath.


the Tribe prior to European contact.

The wood formations serve many purposes, ranging from the creation of prime fish rearing habitat to floodplain enhancement and the regeneration of old growth forests to the retention of spawning gravels.

The bar apex jam, a common site in intact creeks and rivers, is an ideal example of what these structures can do to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Here is a general description of what it looks like and how it functions. To begin constructing it, watershed restorationists strategically place in the stream, at an angle, a large log with its root wad attached. Oftentimes, other logs are used to anchor it. The action of the current crossing the root ball creates a deep crescent-shaped pool, where juvenile salmon can hide from fast water and feed with minimal pressure from predators. As water rushes against the wood it also separates small and large sediments. The fine silt is deposited on the bank and the larger rocks remain in the creek. Salmon use the quarter to half dollar-sized stones to build nests to house incubating eggs. Silt is harmful to fish, but on the shore it is an ideal growing medium for myriad plant species. The highly fortified apex bar jams can stay in place for decades, allowing for the establishment of long-lived trees.

Another element employed in the Terwer and Hunter Creek projects is the willow baffle. To create the baffles, Fisheries Program crews plant live willow cuttings within a conglomeration of logs, located at the water’s edge or on the floodplain. The large pieces of wood protect the native shrubs during root





development. These self-sustaining structures reduce water velocity and prevent streambank erosion. Aquatic insects, juvenile salmon and steelhead's primary food source, quickly populate these living configurations, which also provide cover for fish and produce shade to cool the creek. Too much sunlight, a result of historical logging, favors algal growth which can rob the oxygen that salmon and other fish need to survive.

In flood-prone areas, the crew buried logs which soak up water when the flows are high and release it gradually into the soil in the dry months. These water banks secure the success of the many herbaceous and woody plant species that will quickly colonize the new riparian area. The enhanced floodplains also serve as a safe haven for fish when the water is high.

Throughout times of heavy rainfall, the log jams and willow baffles will slow the flow of the streams and disperse water onto the improved floodplain. This important process increases water retention in the soil and boosts groundwater stores. Rather than going straight out to sea, the water will deeply penetrate the soil, causing it to stay moist later into the dry season, an essential function of a healthy forest ecosystem.

The wood structures also trap new logs, which are sent down stream each winter. Without these constructed jams, the wood would flow directly out to the ocean. The additional organic material will increase the amount of productive fish habitat and the lifespan of the structure.

A recent study, performed in Prairie Creek by the US Forest Service, determined that some of the large logs had been in the stream for "more than 100 years, some in excess of 200 years."

The local creeks were hit hard by past timber harvesting operations, which destroyed much of the riparian habitat on the lower Klamath. The historical clear-cutting of the coastal forests continues to cause problems for fish and wildlife. The many miles of roads that were used to move trees to mills are prone to collapse and still spill salmon-choking sediment into the creeks. The lack of big trees in the forest and the removal of logs from the streams in the 1980s significantly decreased the quantity of natural log jams in the creeks.

The loss of riparian habitat has had an immense negative impact on wildlife. More than 80 percent of all native mammals, ranging from beavers to bats, use this crucial habitat type during a part or all of their lifecycle.

The fertile soils, microclimates and variable water flows are what sustains the diversity of flora and fauna found in riparian areas. These dynamic restoration projects will improve forest health for many years to come. As the riparian woodlands continue to recover, so will the culturally significant animals that

were once abundant in these watersheds.

The above-mentioned, biological benefits are just a small portion of the actual improvements to the habitat in both creeks. The log jams also accomplish the following: streambank stabilization, nutrient and pollutant regulation, forage, breeding and shelter production (for fish), water temperature stabilization, forest fertilization and climate control. Even still, the habitat generated by the wood jams does much more to advance fish, wildlife and human populations, but there is not space to cover it all.

The Hunter Creek project, started in 2014 and resulted in the installation of 45 wood jams and four willow baffle/Roughness jams. 442 native trees, propagated at the Yurok Fisheries Program Nursery, were planted during the two-year endeavor, which was completed in August 22 2016.

In the Terwer Creek drainage, the crews installed 43 log structures and planted 252 trees. Construction in this reach began in 2015 and is currently still in progress.

The Fisheries Program planted several different species of native conifers and hardwoods within the two project reaches. The tree species were matched with those that naturally occur in the riparian zone and included: coastal redwood, Douglas fir, Western red cedar, black cottonwood, and big-leaf maple.

**The crew this year consisted of Rocco Fiori (Contractor – Fiori GeoSciences) Sarah Beesly, Project Manager/Fisheries Biologist Restoration Lead/Heavy Equipment Operating (HEO) Engineer/HEO Trainer/Mentor for Yurok staff), Aldaron McCovey (Fisheries Restoration Technician III/HEO), Steven Nova Jr (Fisheries Restoration Technician II/HEO), Josh Jimenez (Fisheries Technician II/HEO), Gill Calleja (Fisheries Technician II/Laborer), and two seasonal TERO crew members – Richard Bates (Fisheries Technician I/Laborer) & Paul Aubrey (Fisheries Technician I/Laborer). William Proctor (Yurok Tribe Watershed Restoration Department) and Chase Stockwell (Fisheries Biologist I) served as Foremen.**

*The Terwer and Hunter Creek projects are funded by a number of state and federal agencies, including: California Department of Water Resources (Proposition 84 Funds), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grant), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Partners for Fish and Wildlife), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Native American Affairs Program & Kamath Basin Area Office Funds). ❄*



# Tribe opens youth center in Klamath

## Council Representative Ryan Ray pushes project forward

Thanks to the vision of Yurok Tribal Council Representative Ryan Ray and contributions from nearly every Tribal Department, Klamath kids now have a positive place to recreate, work on homework and participate in many other productive activities. The Yurok Youth Center, located in Klamath next to the Book Nook, is now open.

“Our kids deserve a safe and supervised space to spend time after school,” said Requa Representative Ryan Ray. “I would like to thank all of the departments that participated in this important project.”

Building on the momentum of the movement to better serve local youth, the Education Department recently obtained a highly competitive \$345,000 Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation grant to open a branch of the Boys and Girls Club on the Yurok Reservation. The Education Department is currently confirming where the Club will be located, which may be the new youth center. The grant from the Department of Justice also has funds to expand the Boys and Girls Club to the other end of the reservation near Ke’pel.

“This is a step in the right direction for our youth,” said Council Rep. Ray. “The Education Department and the Planning Department deserve our gratitude for securing these much needed funds.”

Councilmember Ray is largely responsible for transforming what was once just an idea for a recreational facility into an actual place where Yurok youth can enjoy constructive activities with their friends after school. The positive advocate is a strong voice for youth activities on the Yurok reservation.

Inside the shiny new Yurok Youth Center are computer stations, a pool table, ping pong table, air hockey, a video gaming area and foosball table. Currently, the Yurok Social Services Department is managing and staffing the center. Social Services, with assistance from other Tribal departments, has plans to regularly provide youth-centered programs and services in the building. For example, after-school tutoring, health education and other knowledge building exercises will soon be available at the center.

Nearly two-dozen Yurok kids and their parents had an excellent time trying out all of the new games and video gaming station at the grand opening for the new center in mid-October.

The facility was remodeled by licensed contractor Matt



Williams, who worked with a half-dozen volunteers, including Yurok Tribal Council Representative Ray to transform the old market into the beautiful building that it is today. The former market now has brand new floors, cabinets and bathrooms. The crew also put a fresh coat of paint on the walls. Williams, a Yurok Tribal member, also installed the electrical system.

Requa District Representative Ray first proposed building the center and helped secure a \$25,000 grant from California’s Building Healthy Communities in Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal lands. He did everything from physical labor to coordinating the many Tribal departments that participated in this project.

In addition to the Yurok Public Safety Department and Yurok Economic Development Corporation, the following departments contributed to the center: Social Services, Education, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Planning and Community Development, Fiscal, Tribal Court, Information Services and Public Works.

The Yurok Economic Development Corporation, the owner of the building, waived the rent fees as well as the monthly water and electrical bills for the foreseeable future. YEDC also contributed the flooring, lighting, heating system and windows. The Yurok Planning and Community Development Department managed the construction part of the job and facilitated the furnishing of the various games and infrastructure within the building. Social Services contributed several Ipads for local kids to use. The Transportation Program is providing inexpensive bus rides for the children living in the subdivisions outside of the Klamath town site. ✨



# Social Services sponsors youth summit

## Yurok Youth Liaison Annelia Hillman facilitates 3-day event

Annelia Hillman, the Upriver Youth Liaison for the Yurok Tribe's Social Services Department, seeks to foster, within local youth, a firm sense of culture, identity and community. That is why the longtime activist and teacher organized October's Klamath Basin Youth Summit.

Approximately 30 students and 20 parents participated in the 3-day, experience-based forum, which was sponsored by the 7th Generation Fund, Klamath Justice Coalition, Ancestral Guard, and Yurok Social Services. The agenda for the youth conference was full of traditional activities taught by members of the tribes on the Lower Klamath River. The well-attended event also featured numerous hands-on, cultural workshops, including: dugout canoe paddling, creative writing, traditional fish cooking, acorn processing, wood working and edible plant identification. The theme of the three-day youth gathering was Indigenize and Organize.

"All of the events and workshops were designed teach youth what it means to be indigenous people," said Hillman, a Yurok Tribal member. "Every little step that we can take to reclaim our traditional practices — that is what is going to heal us. Our goal is to begin to dismantle the damage done by the westernized worldview."

The following is a summary of the positive exercises and productive discussions that Hillman packed into the first day of the summit. At the start of the youth gathering, Hillman encouraged each person in the group to make an introduction, including one thing they like about themselves and one activity they are good at.

"That's the goal today, to focus on our talents and things that we love about ourselves," Hillman told the eager teens.

Hunter Colegrove, one of the first to take the positive challenge, offered up two very valuable life skills.

"I can adapt to almost any situation," Colegrove said. "My talent is daydreaming."

After the introductions, Phil Albers, a Karuk ceremonial practitioner, led a guided art exercise, which examined the importance of local indigenous languages and perspectives.

"All art is an expression of emotion," Albers explained.

The participants were asked to select a word that represents their individual identity. He also requested that they create an image that characterizes their community.

"Pick a design that represents yourself," Alber said. "How do you identify with yourself?"

Yurok Tribal member Anthony Aguilar drew the Klamath River because its ever changing conditions reflect life.

"When the river gets wide it is slow and gentle, but there are also rapids," Aguilar said. "It represents life."



Hillman, the summit's organizer, led a talking circle, where discussions about several timely topics took place. Hillman asked the group of teens and adults to define the word sovereignty, in terms of their respective tribes.

"I think it is the freedom to form our own destiny," said Celinda Gonzalez, a Yurok Tribal member who was there to support her grandson Andrew.

Visibly engaged, all of the summit's attendees contributed to the conversation. The next prompt, decolonization, sparked another lively dialogue. The definition of the weighty word was placed on large piece of paper taped to the wall. It read: Decolonization is the meaningful and active resistance to the forces of colonization that perpetrate the subjugation and/or exploitation of our minds, bodies and lands. Decolonization is engaged for the ultimate purpose of overturning the colonial structure and realizing indigenous liberation.

"Before colonization, everything we ever needed came from the earth. We were not separate from our environment, we were a part of it," Hillman said. "We are one of the things that contributes to the balance. If everything we did revolved around taking care of our land and water, as our ancestors did, we could faster heal the wounds of colonization,"

The discourse then turned to spirituality. To begin, Hillman asked the group to raise their hands if they have a sense of spirituality. All hands rapidly rose. She then enquired: Is spirituality an important part of our community? The young Native Americans responded in the affirmative.

Rhiannon McCovey, a Yurok Tribal member, who also works for the Social Services Department spoke up about the importance of spirituality as it relates to mental health. McCovey is a trainer for a program called



Sources of Strength, which seeks to prevent suicide, substance abuse and bullying. Rather than focusing on singular risk factors, its model strengthens multiple sources of support around young individuals.

“Spirituality is a protective factor against suicide,” McCovey said. “We are very lucky to have such strong connection with our culture and ceremonies.”

Many of the students and their parents slept overnight at the Neal McKinnon Community Center. Lorenita McKinnon, one of those who opted to stay for the duration, was drawn to the summit because she knew that all of the different activities would enable her to delve deeper into her culture.

“I think my culture should be carried on,” McKinnon said. “It’s very important to me.”

**Hillman would like to thank the 7th Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples and Klamath Justice Coalition for facilitating several of the events. Debra Myers and Warrior Institute made sure the Summit’s attendees had ample access to healthy food for the three-day conference. ❄**

## Congrats Kokonow, Jasmine



Kokonow C. Kinney and Jasmine W. Kinney were honored to participate in the two-week 2016 American Indian Summer Institute in Earth System Science hosted by the University of California, Irvine. Kokonow (2nd year participant) and Jasmine were selected for a limited cohort from hundreds of applicants to participate in the program which provided one week on the La Jolla Reservation in Southern California and one week on the University of California, Irvine campus. At the UC Irvine campus, the students took classes, interacted with professors and professionals, and traveled on varying field trips relating to studying tribal environmental issues. This purpose of the program aim is to address the critical need for Earth and Environmental Science professionals within tribal communities. Kokonow is currently a junior student athlete at Hoopa Valley High School, participating in Varsity Football, Basketball, and Golf. Jasmine is currently a freshman student athlete participating in Volleyball, Cheerleading and Softball. Both Kokonow and Jasmine are 4.0 grade point average students. ❄

# CULTURE CORNER

The Yurok language was a major topic of conversation at the Yurok Culture Committee’s September meeting.

An agenda item, presented by Jalea Orcutt, a Yurok Tribal member who works for the Education Department, sparked the discussion about the many benefits associated with learning the Tribe’s dialect.

“When you teach the language to a young child it helps their brain develop new and different pathways,” said Committee member Mel Brooks.

Creating a strong neural network will help students succeed in the classroom, in athletics and in life, he said. Taking a Yurok language class will create an increase in a person’s “level of perception,” which can be applied in an endless number of ways. “If you want to be a football player you have to learn how to think. If you want to be a physicist, you have to learn how to read,” Brooks said. “Learning a language helps you think in a better way.”

The Yurok language is taught in the Tribe’s Head Starts, as well as public elementary schools and high schools in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The Yurok Education Department will soon be performing a study to determine if taking the language class helps students perform better in other classes, such as math, and if it improves specific, achievement-related outcomes later in life. The department hired a researcher to produce the survey, which will not be shared with outside entities.

Allen McCovey, another member of the Committee, wouldn’t be surprised if offering Yurok students an opportunity to learn about their culture would help them improve grades and achieve more when they become adults. “Our way of life, our way of thinking is a lot better than the people out there. What I’ve done, which isn’t much, is because of being Yurok,” said McCovey, a very humble and successful man, who worked in construction for 30 years.

Allen McCovey recalled a time when many Tribal members spoke very little English. Naïve teachers thought these students had a disability and held them back. During the same time period, Yurok students, such as Frank Lara’s classmates at the Sherman Institute, were beaten by teachers for speaking the language.

Committee member Betty Jackson pointed out that parents, as well as the schools, have a responsibility to teach children about the Tribe’s language and culture.

The Committee as a whole had one concern with the study. The group of elders wanted to make sure the researcher was able to determine if the current and former students were doing well scholastically and in a traditional sense. Orcutt said the survey will cover both.

After a lunch break the Committee reviewed five proposed Tribal ordinances, including: Yurok Tribe Building and Construction Ordinance, Yurok Tribe Sex Offender Ordinance, Casino Workers Compensation Ordinance, Stay in School Ordinance and Probate Ordinance.

The Committee took home drafts of the other ordinances to prepare for a discussion at the next meeting. ❄

# PG&E pledges funds to Yurok Condor project

In a major effort to restore the iconic California condor population, the National Park Foundation has teamed up with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), the National Park Service, and the Yurok Tribe to build a facility and monitoring program that will allow condors to be released into Yurok ancestral territory, within Redwood National Park. The donation is part of the National Park Foundation's \$350 million Centennial Campaign for America's National Parks.

"To see a condor in flight is breathtaking and thanks to our partners PG&E, the National Park Service, and the Yurok Tribe, people will be able to witness this wildlife at Redwood National Park in the near future," said National Park Foundation President Will Shafroth. "We are proud to work with organizations that protect our national parks and the wildlife that call these places home."

Due to a number of factors, including lead poisoning, the California condor was close to extinction in the 1980s, reaching an all-time low of 22 individuals. Over the last several decades, conservationists and scientists have committed themselves to saving the condor from extinction and reintroducing birds to the wild. As of December 2015, there are 435 condors both in the wild and in captivity. While this is good news, condors still face many environmental challenges.

"The park staff at Redwood National and State Parks is excited to work alongside the Yurok Tribe and our park neighbors to eventually return the iconic California condor to its historic range along the north coast," said Redwood National Park superintendent Steven Prokop. "This cooperative effort is required to restore the ecological and cultural vitality of the coast redwood forests, and expand the range of California condors, key factors in the long-term survival of the species."

In support of the recovery of this species, for the last decade the Yurok Tribe has spearheaded efforts to reintroduce condors in the Pacific Northwest, a region that North America's largest bird has not occupied in more than a century. Exposing a new population of condors to the profuse biological diversity found in Redwood National Park and the surrounding area has a very real potential to aid in the soaring scavenger's long-term recovery.

This project will allow condors to regain their foothold in their former northern California range and further strengthen the condor population overall.

The multiyear project includes:

- Construction of a condor release facility at a site in Redwood National Park.
- Development of a land owner GIS database for Humboldt, Mendocino, Del Norte, Trinity, and Siskiyou Counties in California, and Josephine and Curry Counties in Oregon.
- Design of a remote tracking and monitoring system to better



understand flight and habitat patterns.

PG&E has been a long-time partner of the National Park Foundation, and will provide funding and support for this project. The energy company has previously invested more than \$4 million dollars in its infrastructure in the Big Sur area to ensure that condor flight paths aren't obstructed by power lines, allowing the birds to prosper in their natural habitat. "In our role as energy provider to millions of Californians, we're committed to working in ways that protect the habitat for the majestic condors and all of our state's wonderful diversity of species," said PG&E Corporation Chairman and CEO Tony Earley.

The reestablishment of a condor population in far Northern California is especially important to members of the Yurok Tribe, which started the region's first condor reintroduction effort. Condors, considered sacred by Yurok people, serve an important role in the tribe's culture.

"The condor has played a major part in Yurok ceremonies and culture since time immemorial," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "It is through collaborative projects like this that we will bring balance back to our natural world."

**Public meetings for the proposed reintroduction of California condors in Redwood National Park will be held in January 2017 at the following dates and locations:**

- 1/23 Sacramento, CA - 6-8 pm - Federal Building, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento
- 1/24 Eureka, CA - 6-8 pm - Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka
- 1/25 Yurok Tribal Office - 10 am – 12 pm - Klamath, CA
- 1/25 Medford, OR - 6-8 pm - Jackson County Auditorium, Central Point, OR
- 1/26 Portland, OR - 6-8 pm - Oregon Zoo, 4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland ✪



# Legal Notice - Red Mountain comm. site relocation project

As lead agency, the Department of General Services–Real Estate Services Division (DGS), with assistance from the State of California, Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR/EA) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the relocation of the Red Mountain communication site (proposed project). In its role as the responsible agency with respect to authorizing use or occupancy of Redwood National Park lands at Rodgers Peak and Alder camp, the National Park Service (NPS) will participate in the environmental review in a manner that satisfies federal requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and ensures that the EIR/EA, and underlying administrative record supports the NPS decision on the proposed project.

In accordance with the Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, all facilities must be removed from Red Mountain by the end of their permit terms. Three new sites are being evaluated for installing new communications facilities to replace the functions of the facilities at Red Mountain. These sites are: Rattlesnake Peak, Alder Camp, and Rodgers Peak. New towers would be located on mountain peaks to provide adequate lines of sight. Year-round access is necessary for maintenance purposes, and there will be a reliable power source for all season operation.

DGS published the Notice of Preparation (NOP; 14 CCR 15082) for the proposed project. The purpose of the NOP is to inform responsible and trustee agencies and interested parties that Cal OES, with assistance from DGS, is preparing a Draft EIR/EA for the proposed project. DGS, as lead agency, is seeking your views on the scope and content of the descriptions of the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and

mitigation measures to be explored in the Draft EIR/EA. ccccdGS, in coordination with OES, will hold two public scoping meetings. **The first meeting will be on November 29, 2016, 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Yurok Tribal Council Chambers, 190 Klamath Drive, Klamath, CA 95548. The second meeting will be on November 30, 2016, 3:00 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Six Rivers National Forest Headquarters Office, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501.** The purpose of the scoping meetings is to present information about the proposed project, DGS’s process and timelines, and to solicit input, including written comments, on the scope and content of the Draft EIR/EA.

Interested parties, including public agencies, are encouraged to attend a meeting to learn more about the proposed project and the environmental review process, to express any concerns about the proposed project and to offer suggestions regarding the environmental impacts, including any mitigation measures and alternatives.

**All scoping comments must be received in writing by December 16, 2016, 5:00 p.m. (the end of the 30-day public scoping period). Please send all comments via mail to: Stephanie Coleman, Senior Environmental Planner, State of California Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division, Project Management & Development Branch, 707 Third Street, 4th Floor, MS509, West Sacramento, CA 95605, OR via email to: [environmental@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:environmental@dgs.ca.gov) (subject line must include “Red Mountain Communication Site Relocation Project NOP Scoping Comments”).** All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered and addressed in the Draft EIR/EA, which is anticipated to be available for public review in Spring of 2017. ✨



Cappell Creek “C” Timber Sale

Yurok Tribe

Environmental Assessment

## PUBLIC NOTICE CAPPELL CREEK “C” TIMBER SALE

As per requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), notice is hereby provided that the Yurok Tribe is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) document analyzing the environmental impacts of its proposed Cappell Creek “C: Timber Sale Project. This project will involve logging, reforestation, and associated forest management activities on a total of 80 acres located on two parcels of land held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) located in the southern part of the Yurok Indian Reservation, Humboldt County, California. The federal actions involved would need BIA’s approval of plans, contracts and issuance of permits associated with this project. Public comments and input regarding the federal actions can be submitted to: (Mr. Ron Reed, Assistant Forestry Director, HC 67 Box 96, Hoopa, California-95546. Office 530-625-4130 Ext. 1622, Cell. 707-498-1055) within 30 days of this published notice. Late comments cannot be accepted. Published November 20, 2016.





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**The Yurok Tribe opposes the Jordan Cove LNG terminal and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline projects. The proposed pipeline for fracked natural gas would cross 400 bodies of water in the Klamath, Rogue, Umpqua, Coquille and Coos watersheds. The 36-inch underground pipeline would travel from Malin, OR to the terminal in Coos Bay. It would also require a permanent 232-mile long and approximately 100-foot wide clear cut be created through these already impaired watersheds. The terminal, built in the tsunami zone, will ship liquefied natural gas to Asia. The impacts to salmon, other fish and native wildlife, in combination with the inherent risks to human populations is unacceptable.**

