



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Monster Fish Visits Yurok Country

NatGeo show to highlight Tribe's fisheries management work • See photospread, Page 8



COMMUNITY PLAN CATCHES FIRE

KLOC, Tribe partner to come up with 10-year cultural burn program

Genuine enthusiasm about a community-created program to radically restore the landscape of the region is growing like bear grass after a controlled burn.

“We are working with the entire community in developing a comprehensive plan to restore our resources,” said Skip Lowry, a Community Organizer sponsored by the California Endowment’s Building Healthy Communities Initiative and part of the newly formed Klamath-river Local Organizing Committee(KLOC). “We are going to work with nature the way the old Yurok people did. We will take care of nature and it will take care of us.”

The first order of business for the Klamath-river Local Organizing Committee, comprised of more than 75 tribal and non-tribal families, is to bring back the use of fire as an instrument to revitalize forest health and a unique cultural tradition that involves balance and respect between humans and nature.

“Since time immemorial the Yurok community honored and obeyed natural rights, true ‘laws of the land,’ which our culture depended on for the continuation of the blood of our people, and only within that culture will we find the balance and harmony once again.” Right now, (outside of indigenous communities) fire is often considered a danger, not a tool,” Lowry intimated. “We are going to make long term systemic changes so we will not have to call Sacramento or D.C. to get permission to manage our own land, one of the community’s biggest barriers and offenses to Tribal sovereignty.”

The community group officially formed in April of 2012 in Weitchpec, Ca. Prior to the initial meeting, Lowry and likeminded folks started a nine-month “listening campaign” to learn from residents what changes should top the priority list, which became the birthplace of the 10-year burn program aspect of the Comprehensive Community Burn Plan.

The group intentionally integrated tribal and non-tribal people to reflect the shared land and the traditional Yurok value of inclusion. KLOC

also encourages tribal people from all of the voting districts to engage in this process and makes decisions based on the whole rather than by voting locality.

“We want everyone to feel comfortable participating,” Lowry said. “We’re working together with everyone on this comprehensive plan.”

Preventing catastrophic wild fires is a new danger and threat to this community.

“Catastrophic wildfire did not exist because of pre-contact fire practice,” said Yurok Tribe Heritage Preservation Officer, Robert McConnell emphasizes.

Prior to European contact the coastal mountain tops on and near the Yurok Reservation had vast prairies and timberlands without a dense understory that sustained large populations of animals like elk and deer and a myriad of small animals and birds of prey.

Over the past century timber companies have depleted once historic amounts of biodiversity in Northern California by planting over a large percentage of the once highly productive prairies with a monoculture of firs or redwoods. The remainder of the meadow land was lost because the federal and state government banned burning, allowing trees to encroach, abolishing the ability of the grasslands to support the diverse mega fauna that it once did.

The governments’ institutionalized ignorance of the mutually beneficial relationship between fire, forest and people remains today, making it extremely difficult to use fire. The fear and correlating bureaucracy are the main hurdles the community confederation seeks to overcome. Fortunately, Klamath-river Local Organizing Committee has already taken solid steps to remedy the dilemma.

Through forming partnerships with land owners and the Yurok Tribe, KLOC plans to secure the human resources necessary to navigate the regulatory quagmire. Recently, the Committee hosted a community action in which more than 50 community members attended in support

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On The Cover

Yurok Fisheries Technician Rocky Erickson and National Geographic’s Monster Fish host Zeb Hogan hold a green sturgeon on the Klamath River. Monster Fish will highlight Yurok Fisheries work in an upcoming episode. An air date has not been set.



of KLOC on this issue asking for official partnership of the Yurok Tribe by Yurok Tribal Chairman Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr. as authorized by Tribal Council, at the Libby Nix Community Center in Weitchpec. The Tribe's Chairman immediately agreed to partner with the community coalition and offered aid in the effort to develop and implement this comprehensive plan.

"It was a huge success. My hat's off to both our local tribal and non-tribal leaders and I thank all the people who came out to support us," said Lowry, who was still reeling with joy days after the positive turn of events.

In addition to the advantages fire perpetuates on prairieland, strategic, controlled burns also benefit the forest. Much of previously logged land on and around the Yurok Reservation look like a taller version of an untended garden choked by a jumble of giant weeds and it is seriously prone to truly dangerous fires that put people and property in danger on an annual basis. The damaged landscape is far less productive in terms of the abundance of traditional foods, basket and ceremonial materials than it once was.

"As tribal people we know how to work with fire in a way that benefits nature," Lowry said. "There are a lot of traditional foods and resources which our culture and community depend on that do not abundantly grow in the environment and habitat we live in right now."

"Our people know to work with mother nature in a way that benefits our environment, fire is a natural tool," echoed KLOC member Toby Vanlandingham, "We as a people are taking back that responsibility and will utilize that tool in a good way, for the benefit of our lands and our communities."

When the forest is thinned with fire and the life-depleting understory is turned to ash indigenous plant species like hazel, huckleberry and bear grass grow stronger and produce a much better crop. Fire, like sustained snow in other regions, also controls the life cycle of out-of-control pest populations and bad fungi. Following a cultural fire, the forest floor receives vital nutrients and will erupt with healthy plants and edible fungi, which are also food for the large mammals.

"The benefits of burning to nature and our community are endless," said Lowry.

There are social positives associated with a healthy forest. Much of the alcohol and drug abuse among native people in the region is directly linked to the loss of traditional activities such as burning, hunting, gathering and making potent medicine capable of curing life-threatening disease. The customary actions are all integral parts of developing a sense self and well being.

"When we get to the point of doing controlled burns annually we will be taking back our knowledge," Lowry lamented. "Indigenous cultures have all this knowledge about nature. We will revive healthy places where we will see, listen, and experience what nature is

showing and telling us."

Currently, the forest is in such an unhealthy state that it is extremely difficult to hunt and gather traditional foods. The lack of these nutritious whole foods and the near zero access to conventional vegetables on the rural reservation has caused the rate of diabetes to skyrocket to near epidemic proportions.

"The KLOC mission is to regain the health of our Reservation and the people in it," Vanlandingham, said. "We know that our people are only as strong and healthy as our aboriginal lands. Right now our Reservation is unhealthy."

A cultural burn program will also have an educational component. Historically unique indigenous knowledge of how, why, where, and when to burn in our community, will be respectfully saved for all future generations. Community members will apply with their own hands the stewardship skills needed to maintain a flourishing forest and productive prairieland.

"When you can own it like that it's empowering," Lowry said.


A number of real economic advantages are a collateral benefit of an intact ecosystem. Sustainable cottage industries like mushroom harvesting and wild food foraging are a definite possibility.

"We live in a once fully sustainable community full of resources desired by other communities," asserted Lowry. "If we respectfully utilize Northern California's Indigenous knowledge on natural resource management, specifically fire, I foresee there being enough natural resources, such as berries for jams and jellies, and enough basket weaving materials to sustain the needs of our community and enough left over to stimulate our local economy."

To take care of the land is one of the most significant Yurok values. Within the culture and world view lays the most sophisticated natural resource management system to date.

"You, me, we have the power to heal the world. There are indigenous people from every part of the world who have an immemorial cultural connection to their land. Nature can tell people what to do and when we listen and obey it will take care of us and that is global. We have great power and responsibility to treat the land right, then the land will treat us right until the end of ends," said Lowry.

"I view this effort as a giant key to restoring the landscape to the form it once was, allowing for the animals to regain their abundance and health because the land will also regain its health. The giant key will also go hand in hand with the overall goal of restoring traditional practices to the native community where we can collect healthy and abundant nuts, berries, herbs, and harvest healthy animals to feed our families. This will be something that generations to come will look back on and note that this group was instrumental in getting control of the community back to where it belongs-with the individuals of the community," Yurok Tribe Heritage Preservation Officer, Robert McConnell concluded. ✨



Forester wins prestigious prize

One of the Yurok Tribe's Foresters recently received one of the most prestigious awards in the field of native resource management.

The Intertribal Timber Council, a consortium of more than 60 tribes and Alaskan native corporations, bestowed longtime Tribe employee and Wild Land Fire Chief Robert "Bob" Blanchard with the highly coveted and competitive Earle Wilcox Award.

"One person alone cannot achieve this high recognition of achievement from the Inter-Tribal Timber Council," said Yurok Forester and Wild Land Fire Coordinator Bob Blanchard. "I have to recognize all the support that the National BIA office in Boise, ID, the Regional BIA office in Sacramento, Hoopa Wild Land Fire, the Yurok Tribal Council and most of all Walt Lara, Sr. for giving me the support and encouragement to move ahead with projects that benefit not only Yurok tribal members and employees but also offer training opportunities to Tribal and BIA employees throughout the West."

Just to be considered for the Wilcox Award the nominee must meet several strict criteria titled: tribal involvement, improvement of Indian resources or programs, individual effort, can be used as a role model, technical achievement and application, other government agencies or funds and originality. Nearly all of the criteria must be executed on a national, regional, and local level and must be described by character references.

"I am proud to recommend Mr. Bob Blanchard for the Earle Wilcox Award this year," wrote Dave Koch, Deputy Director/Training for the BIA's National Interagency Fire Center. "Professional foresters like Bob are 'service first' role models for Indian Forestry, string to do what is right for the land, based on the needs and vision of the people who call that land their home."

"Mr. Blanchard has always done an outstanding job of coordinating timber sale preparation activities including endangered species and cultural resources surveys and preparation of timber sale documents including National Environmental Policy Act documentation," echoed Ron Recker, Acting Chief of the Division of Natural Resources for the BIA



Yurok Forester, Bob Blanchard, gives a speech at the Earle Wilcox Award Ceremony.

Pacific Regional Office.

"Bob Blanchard is an example of a person persevering with style, who is an inspiration to us in Indian Country today, added Gary Risling, Hoopa Fire Chief.

Blanchard, who has worked for the Tribe for more than a decade, is responsible for starting the Tribe's Wild Land Fire Crew, which is comprised of Yurok tribal members and is capable of deploying all over Indian Country to help tribes fight large fires. He also advocated for the upriver fire station, which he and the Tribe's Planning Department submitted a grant for much needed facility.

The Yurok Tribe receives no base funding for firefighting even though Yurok Country is one of the most fire-prone places in the United States. To keep the fire crew working through the off season Blanchard has hatched several outside-the-box plans

to land necessary funding and keep tribal members employed.

For example, he collaborated with the Tribe's Road Maintenance Program to secure a \$1.15 million grant from the USDA to improve the Tribe's road system, reduce sedimentation in the river, reduce roadside fire hazards and encourage healthy timber growth.

The Forester/Wild Land Fire Coordinator worked with the Yurok Tribal Council to set aside a parcel of land to hold Faller C training in 2006. Every year since, Forestry has hosted 3 to 4 day training for timber fallers across the nation.

The Wilcox Award recipient also represents the Yurok Tribe on the Fire Planning Analysis team for Northwestern California and is on member of the BIA's Pacific Regional Team. In addition to his typical daily duties, Blanchard is currently working with Redwood National Park and CalFire to develop prescribed burn training and technical assistance.

"Bob is a huge part of the Yurok Tribe's Forestry/Wild Land Fire Department. He represents the Tribe in a truly honorable way on the local, regional and national level," conclude Walt "Black Snake" Lara.

For more information about the Intertribal Timber Council visit <http://www.itcnet.org/> or the Yurok Tribe's Forestry Program visit yuroktribe.org ❖

School board votes to offer Yurok at Eureka High School

The Eureka Board of Education recently voted to approve and offer Yurok language class at Eureka High School, a move that will no doubt benefit the Yurok Tribe's goal of completely recovering the dialect.

"The approval represents an accumulation of years of work from the Yurok Tribe's Language Program, elders that gave back to recover the language and the efforts of many others," said Yurok Education Director Jim McQuillen. "Yurok 1 will be a part of the main class menu along side of Spanish and French for Native high school students to take as well as others. The funding to make the class a go is still fragile but this is good reason to celebrate!"

The Humboldt Area Foundation and the District's Title VII Program also assisted in getting the course on the menu.

Taking on the difficult task of placing Yurok language classes in public schools is part of the Tribe's aggressive effort to once again speak in its native tongue. Public schools are supposed to reflect the community's that they serve and this is the best example of accomplishing this.

"I applaud the Eureka Board of Education for partnering with the Tribe," McQuillen said. "Our language is a vital part of our culture and it carries the knowledge of our ancestors

forward."

Yurok students who participate in the culture typically have higher attendance rates, achieve better grades and excel professionally once finishing school. This is most likely because hard work, independent thought and ambitiously seeking knowledge are all part of the Yurok cultural value system and are critical to succeeding in school.

Yurok students have a greater sense of belonging and a better chance to bond with the school environment when the language is offered on the menu. The course functions as a dropout prevention tool and it

is much needed in the local schools.

The Education Director also sees a direct link between the number of Yurok graduates succeeding and the impact of Yurok language courses being offered in the public schools.

"This year the tribe witnessed nearly fifty tribal members graduating from the area high schools and another twenty nine members graduating with a college degree," McQuillen said.

The best way to learn any language is to start early. The Language Program's hard work and vision has led to the language being offered to tribal members starting at infancy through Early Head Start and Head Start. Yurok is also taught at several public schools. Adults



Yurok Language Teacher, Barbara McQuillen, runs class at Del Norte H.S.

living in Yurok ancestral territory can further their learning in language pods at several locations taught in the evenings.

Every year 300 to 400 Yuroks take part in language classes and the number of intermediate or conversational speakers is forever growing.

Yurok classes at Eureka High School are expected to begin this fall and over thirty students have signed up already. Eureka High School will be the fifth secondary school to offer the language, along with Del Norte High School, Hoopa High School, Klamath River Early College and McKinleyville High School. Yurok Language meets the A-G college entrance requirement for the University of California system and California State University system.

In 2010, the California legislature and governor passed a law (AB-544) that allows tribal councils to credential instructors to teach native languages in public schools. The new law requires the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to give a teaching credential to those that are recommended by a tribe to teach a native language.

Currently, the Yurok Tribe has nine teachers who are certified to teach Yurok in public schools.

To sign up for a language class call (707) 482-1822 or visit www.yuroktribe.org ✨

Help make the 50th the best Salmon Fest

The Yurok Tribe is well under way working on the 50th Klamath Salmon Festival.

Judging by the number of vendors who have already signed up it's looking to be one the biggest salmon celebrations to date.

The Yurok Tribe is asking that all vendors and parade applicants sign up as early as possible.

To reserve vending space, contact Forrest Gregg at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1385. To participate in the Parade reach Jeremiah Swain at (707) 482-1822 or jswain@yuroktribe.nsn.us

The Tribe is also seeking volunteers to help the day of the event to help with parking, food preparation and food serving. All volunteers will be given a free salmon lunch. If interested in making this year's festival the best ever, please contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1306 or mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us.

This year the Tribe is working hard to add as many fun, family-friendly events as possible. There will be a myriad of options for kids and parents to participate in engaging activities.

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

There will also be a highly competitive Stick Game Tournament. The Stick Game is played by local tribes and is a full-contact sport that resembles lacrosse with a wrestling element.

The game is heavy on action.

A traditional Indian Card Games Tournament and a number of cultural demonstrations will be on hand. The Tribe is also putting on a 5k Ney-Puy Run. The run is free to enter and will start at 8a.m.

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

The Tribe is also putting on a Salmon and Pie Baking Contest, a compliment the full menu of festival activities. The competition will determine the best fish smokers and bakers in area.

The family-friendly, free festival will also include a multitude of kids' activities, including a bounce house, games and balloon bending. There will also be more than a hundred vendors selling high quality goods and passing out educational material, a breakfast free for veterans and a break dancing contest open to all.

For non-runners the Salmon Festival starts with the Veteran's breakfast, put on by the Klamath Chamber of Commerce at 8 a.m. at the Klamath Community Center on Salmon Blvd. The breakfast will be followed by a parade at 10 am. The famously delicious salmon lunch will start at 11:00 a.m.

For more information about the Yurok Tribe's Klamath Salmon Festival visit <http://yuroktribe.org/salmonfestival.htm> ✨



Tribe selling fast internet service

The Yurok Tribe is now a purveyor of high-speed, reliable internet.

“It’s awesome. It rocks,” said Rob Nulph, a tribal member and resident of the Redwood Subdivision on the south end of Klamath, who has been using the new service to work after hours at home, watch YouTube videos and play games. “It works really well.”

The Yurok Information Services Department has been feverishly installing broadband receivers on Requa Hill, and the Klamath town site and further south. The crew has also hooked up residents near Weitchpec.

There has never before been affordable high-speed internet available for residents and businesses on the Yurok Reservation. The new fast and dependable internet offers everything that traditional broadband does such as: online college courses, telemedicine and online commerce for residents and businesses.

The Tribe is offering two different internet services for residents and commercial users. The 800kbps version is good for one user at a time and is proficient for taking online classes, video conferencing watching movies (Standard Definition Quality), streaming and downloading music, live chat (Standard Definition Quality) and online gaming. The 2mbps service accomplishes everything listed above but the videos and live chat can be in High Definition Quality.

Previously, the only web service available was cost-prohibitive, slow satellite internet, telephone dial-up, or more recently, cell phone type connections. Each has its drawbacks. Private industry providers could not profit after setting up costly conventional infrastructure. The Yurok Tribal Council searched thoroughly to make the World Wide Web available on the Yurok Reservation and surrounding community, which led to white space wireless,

a cutting edge form of broadband perfect for rugged rural communities.

The new technology uses vacant television channels to transfer data. The TV wavelengths are a relatively low frequency capable of passing through trees and over mountaintops. Unlike other wireless systems, it does not depend on line-of-sight or multiple monstrous towers.

The wireless type of internet service also requires less expensive infrastructure for the provider and most users. All it takes to operate is a fist-sized box with a small antenna that sits near the computer. Some users may require an externally mounted antenna for reliable operation.

Unfortunately, the white space technology is, as of this writing, not quite “ready for prime time” and the currently offered versions of the service are using a more conventional type of system. The major differences between the types are the “reach” of the newer system as described above and type of installation required. For those that cannot be served with the current systems, the white space types will offer a second chance when they become available.

Like with every other new technology there have been a few glitches, all surmountable. The Klamath Glen is currently unable to receive the service, but the Information Services Department is looking into several viable solutions. Not all of the towers have all of their equipment installed so there are still some other areas that are not yet served.

To sign up or receive more information in the Klamath area, contact Jim Norton at the main Tribal Office at 707-482-1350, extension 1398. For Weitchpec and surrounding areas, please contact Duston Offins in the Weitchpec office at 530-625-4130, extension 1633. ✧

“IT’S AWESOME. IT ROCKS.”

Robert Nulph ~ *Internet Service user*

Monster Fish Features Yurok Fisheries Program Work With Green Sturgeon





1. Yurok Fisheries Biologist Barry McCovey gets mic'd up.
2. Yurok Fisheries Technician Rocky Erickson secures the sturgeon.
3. Monster Fish Host Zeb Hogan talks over a take with his crew.
4. Zeb Hogan and Barry McCovey.
5. The sturgeon is tagged with a transmitter.
6. Fisheries Technician Jamie Holt records the weight of the prehistoric fish.



DEPARTMENT PROFILE



TRIBAL ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

The Yurok Tribal Assistance for Needy Families is a one-stop resource for families.

TANF services help people with needs ranging from a temporary financial problem to larger crises like drug addiction or similar life shattering situations.

“We provide a wide variety of educational and financial resources geared toward helping families achieve stability,” said Teela Robison, a Yurok tribal member and manager of the TANF Program. “Our main function is to help families reach their goals.”

TANF’s culturally appropriate holistic and multifaceted approach works. There are many Yurok families that have overcome steep obstacles by working through the program and now live financially independent.

Yurok parents or parents of a Yurok child or children living equal to or under 135 percent of the federal poverty guideline are eligible for TANF services as are members of other federally recognized tribes living on the Yurok Reservation. TANF has offices in Crescent City, Klamath and Eureka.

How does it work for those who need a host of TANF services?

First, each TANF client is assigned a case manager. The case manager will work one-on-one with the client to create an individualized, goal-oriented action plan that covers the short and long term. The personalized blue print potentially includes: emergency financial assistance, childcare, payment of court fines, housing payments, transportation solutions, counseling, educational and training opportunities. The overall aim is for the client and case manager to develop a road map with the final destination being secure, lasting employment.

In order to receive financial assistance, clients must show forward movement toward achieving employment. For example, TANF clients agree to work 20 hours a week on landing a job. If education is a limiting factor to employment, the client will work pursue a diploma or trade school certificate. Clients

are also drug tested when they first sign up and at random.

“We are very flexible when crises arise and a client can’t meet the 20-hour requirement,” Robison said. “All we ask is that our clients communicate with us.”

How does TANF help clients find and keep jobs?

In order to make sure clients have the best shot at finding a job, Yurok TANF employs a person whose sole job is to help clients become employable and/or obtain employment.

“We take whatever steps are necessary to help our clients reach their goal,” said Employment Coordinator, Samantha Frick.

Clients determine the type of occupation and trained TANF staff helps him or her develop the skills to land the job. For instance, if a mother without a high school diploma wants to become a mechanic, Frick will help her pass a General Education Development test and enter the appropriate trade school.

“If clients pursue something that they are passionate about it will be good for their whole family,” Frick said.

One of the most common roadblocks to employment that clients’ face is psychological. While the person might be hard working and punctual, he or she might not have ever had a conventional job.

“I have had a great number of clients say to me, ‘No one would hire me,’” Frick said. “Almost every client is entirely employable and would be a great asset to an employer. We help them figure that out.”

TANF partners with the Del Norte Career Center, which offers training ranging from computer proficiency to hospitality.

Additional employment services include:

Job search, job placement childcare and transportation

- Resume writing
- Additional job training
- Transportation help

What services does TANF offer for children?

TANF offers services to the children of its clients. The kids in kindergarten through 4th grade receive money for 90 percent or better attendance. Youth from 5th grade to seniors in college get money for good grades, ranging from \$50 to \$2,000. Students also receive school supplies.

At the end of the summer TANF is putting on a Cultural Awareness Youth Activity. The objective is to engage 600 at risk youth between the ages of 5 and 18 years of age in a traditional activity. Studies have shown that youth engaged in their culture are more successful and less likely to become dependent on alcohol, drugs and be sexually active at a young age. This activity will provide for the introduction of cultural activities for male and female tribal youth. All who participate in the activity will receive a gift to help offset educational costs for the coming year.

How does TANF help clients transition from the program?

Living without a safety net for the first time is hard for everyone. In an effort to take some of the anxiety of the transition, TANF continues to offer support services, which gradually decrease over a year's time to cover mileage, child care, vehicle repair. The client will receive 100 percent for the first three months, 75 percent for the next three months, 50 percent for next 90 days and 25 percent for the remainder of the year.

For more information about the TANF Program contact Teela Robison at (707) 465-8305 or visit www.yuroktribe.org. ✨

Culture needs a volunteer cook

The Yurok Tribe's Culture Committee is looking for cook for its monthly meeting meals. The first Culture Committee meeting at which a new cook will be needed is September 28th in Weitchpec. The meetings are held on the 4th Friday of each month and alternate between Weitchpec and Klamath. All food is supplied-there is no cost to the cook. There is limited availability of cooking utensils. It is desirable that the cook prepare traditional foods, incorporated with a modern diet. Many of the elders need to watch their diets, salt and sugar intake. There is no pay. The Culture Committee is willing to look at individuals who can volunteer just one time, and would be ok with a cook for Weitchpec and a cook for Klamath.

If interested contact Bob McConnell at (530) 625-4130.

Tribal Court notice re: gill nets

The Yurok Tribe Public Safety Officers seized the following nets at the locations listed below.

COURT CASE: #12-64 (Complaint #20110266)

SEIZURE LOCATION: Merky Dock at Requa, Klamath River (100' Gill Net)

APPROXIMATE DATE: 07/28/2011

COURT CASE: #12-65 (Complaint #20110268)

SEIZURE LOCATION: Klamath River (100' Gill Net)

APPROXIMATE DATE: 08/14/2011

These nets were seized in accordance with Yurok Tribe Fishing Rights Ordinance Section 7(b). The nets will be forfeited if no claim or appearance is made. You may be held liable or charged for a violation of YTFO Section 7(b) upon claiming ownership of the nets.

To claim ownership, immediately notify: The Yurok Tribal Court: P.O. Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548. Phone (707) 482-1350.

Hearing for the above Cases will be held:

DATE: Thursday, July 26, 2012; 10AM

PLACE: Yurok Tribe Council Chambers
190 Klamath Boulevard, Klamath, CA

AFTER THE HEARING DATE NETS WILL BE FORFEITED AND SOLD!

Expect delays on Mouth of Klamath Rd.

Please be advised emergency work on the Mouth of the Klamath Road Slide will begin in early July 2012. The Yurok Tribe has secured funding to stabilize the slide with rip-rap material and to make necessary repairs to the road caused by the slide and necessary repairs. Due to construction, we recommend that people use caution in and around the construction zone.

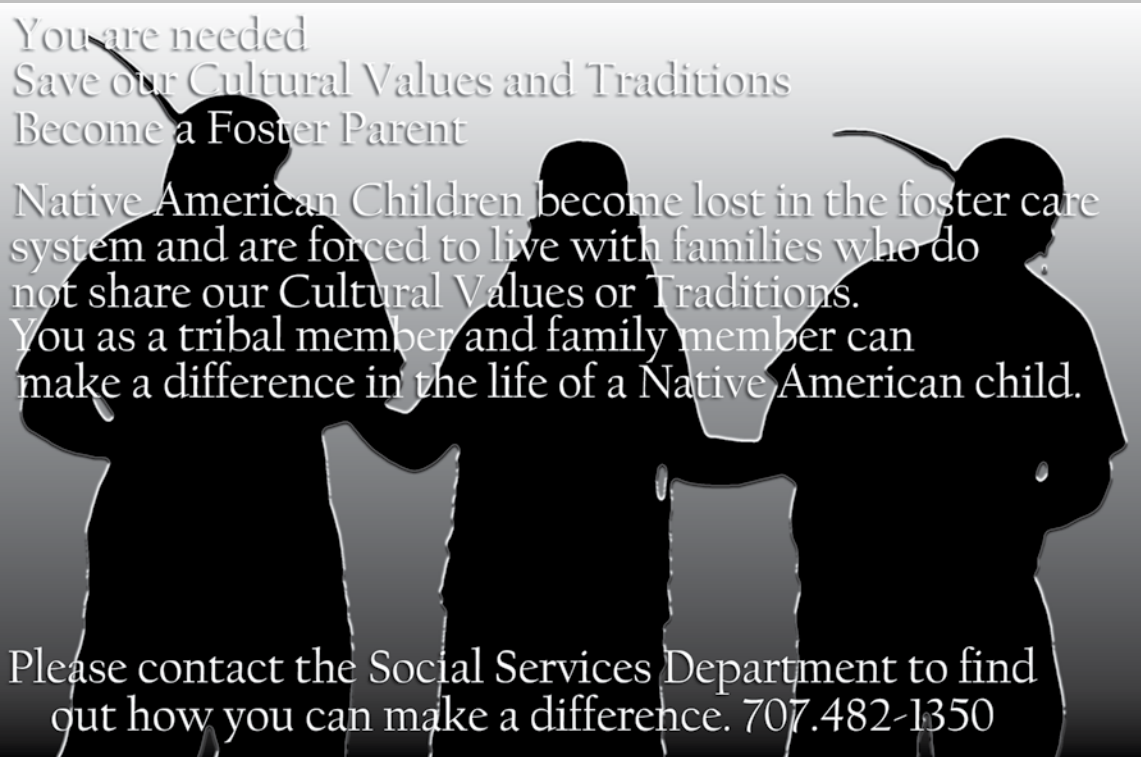
There will be restrictions on camping along the road to protect the safety of the public.

Expect delays and possible road closures. Requa Resort will remain open during construction; however it is recommended that boaters not camping in the resort use the Del Norte County boat launch across from the Klamath town site until construction ends. Every attempt is being made to finish construction before the commercial fishing season begins on August 19, 2012. We appreciate your cooperation. **If you have any questions, or concerns prior to, or during construction, please contact Isaac Kinney at (707)482-1350 ext. 1331 or at ikinney@yuroktribe.nsn.us** ✨

You are needed
Save our Cultural Values and Traditions
Become a Foster Parent

Native American Children become lost in the foster care system and are forced to live with families who do not share our Cultural Values or Traditions. You as a tribal member and family member can make a difference in the life of a Native American child.

Please contact the Social Services Department to find out how you can make a difference. 707.482-1350



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THPO works to address road issues

Partnership with Caltrans will also protect cultural resources and practices

The Yurok Tribe Heritage Preservation Office teamed up with Caltrans in developing an official plan to ensure road work does not harm cultural resources, ceremonial practices and funeral processions.

Through the staff level meeting the two groups created a map of cultural resource locations along State Highways 169 and 96 that Caltrans will use when conducting regular maintenance and emergency work.

“I want to stress that the map shows locations, not what the resource is,” said Bob McConnell, the Yurok Tribe’s Heritage Preservation Officer. “Crews are instructed in the limitations of the work that can be performed within the boundaries depicted on the map.”

Some of the areas delineated on the blueprint have a “do not touch” designation, while others state that actions beyond “regular and normal” maintenance will need consultation with the THPO.

“This map has already paid dividends during a high rainfall event this past year when a landslide occurred within one of the identified ‘environmentally sensitive areas’ or ESA’s,” McConnell said. “Because the Cal Trans crew working at the site had the map and my phone number, they were able to contact the office directly and clear the road, allowing for traffic to safely pass.”

Those living along either of the two routes and feel a certain section is not being protected should contact Robert McConnell at (530) 625-4130 to have it included.

“Remember, if we do not have the information on the site you want preserved, then it cannot be protected,” McConnell explained.

To keep the map current Cal Trans and the Yurok Tribe Heritage Preservation Office will continue to meet on an annual basis. The meeting this year identified three topics including: dates of upcoming coming ceremonies this summer, the need for an on-reservation disposal site for slide spoils, and notification of funeral dates.

“The maintenance crews voiced their desire to not impede traffic during any ceremony or funeral procession, but cannot unless they are notified in advance,” McConnell reported.

The landslide material disposal site issue has been a serious need for quite some time, as each rainy season new slides occur often dislodging cultural resources from the ground. The Yurok Tribal Council encourages Yurok tribal members to provide input as where the disposal sites should be located.

Both groups also affirmed that the primary function of both Cal Trans and the Yurok THPO is to ensure the safest road way possible for the traveling public under current conditions.

“I want to recognize the hard work, long hours, difficult working conditions, and little acknowledgement received by the maintenance crews from the traveling public,” McConnell stated. “With that in mind, try and let the crews know that their work is appreciated the next time you drive through a work area.”

To avoid traffic delays during a funeral, contact Caltrans tribal liaison Kathleen Sartorius at 707-441-5815. ✨

“ I WANT TO STRESS THAT THE MAP SHOWS LOCATIONS, NOT WHAT THE RESOURCE IS. ”

Bob McConnell~ *Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer*



LEARN FILMMAKING

Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods is now accepting applications for its first-ever filmmaking summer program. Students in the KRECR Documentary Institute will learn the latest techniques in video production, computer design, and new media distribution as they work collaboratively to create a film about an important community issue. The workshop will explore the power of media to create positive change in the Klamath community, and the finished film will be exhibited locally, online, and on television.

The KRECR Documentary Institute is the second youth media project developed through the school's partnership with Access Humboldt, a non-profit community media center and broadband access provider located on the campus of Eureka High School. The program is funded in part by Building Healthy Communities and ZeroDivide, a San-Francisco-based nonprofit that works to expand broadband access in low-income communities.

Students with an interest in creative arts and storytelling, technology, and community engagement are encouraged to apply. All accepted students will receive a full scholarship. Applications may be filled out at KRECR, 168 Klamath Blvd. in Klamath, until June 14. Students may also apply online until July 1, at <http://accesshumboldt.net/site/krecre2012> ✧

Submitted column re: Compassionate Allowance

By Amanda Donahue
Social Security District Manager
in Crescent City Office

In April, Social Security announced 52 new Compassionate Allowances conditions to the growing list of severe medical conditions that qualify for expedited medical decisions. The new conditions include many neurological disorders, cancers, and rare diseases.

The Compassionate Allowances initiative is a way of quickly identifying diseases and other medical conditions that invariably

qualify as "disabled" based on minimal medical information. Compassionate Allowances allow Social Security to quickly identify the most obviously disabled individuals for allowances based on objective medical information that we can obtain quickly.

The announcement of 52 new conditions, effective in August, will increase the total number of Compassionate Allowances conditions to 165. That list continues to grow as Social Security, the National Institutes of Health, and a number of patient organizations help identify new conditions that clearly warrant quick approvals.

“Social Security will continue to work with the medical community and patient organizations to add more conditions,” Commissioner Astrue said. “With our Compassionate Allowances program, we quickly approved disability benefits for nearly 61,000 people with severe disabilities in the past fiscal year, and nearly 173,000 applications since the program began.”

Social Security develops the list of Compassionate Allowances conditions from information received at public outreach hearings,

comments received from the disability community, counsel of medical and scientific experts, and research with the National Institutes of Health. Also, we consider which conditions are most likely to meet our definition of disability.

For more information on the Compassionate Allowances initiative, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances. ✨

2012 YUROK TRIBE ELECTION NOTICE

TO ALL YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RUN FOR THE:

**CHAIRPERSON
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
ORICK DISTRICT**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR ELECTION AS A REPRESENTATIVE (MUST BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OLD FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR AND 25 YEARS OLD FOR A DISTRICT SEAT) ON THE YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL.

YOU MAY PICK UP NOMINATION PAPERS BEGINNING JUNE 18, 2012 AT THE YUROK TRIBAL OFFICE IN KLAMATH. THERE IS A \$25 FILING FEE WHEN YOU PICK UP THE NOMINATION FORMS.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSES JULY 20, 2012.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT AT (707) 482-1350.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| SEPTEMBER 20 | LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS) |
| OCTOBER 3 OCTOBER 10, 2012 | LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS) PRIMARY ELECTION |
| OCTOBER 19 | LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) <i>ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION</i> |
| OCTOBER 19 OCTOBER 31 | MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS) LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS) |
| NOVEMBER 7, 2012 | RUNOFF ELECTION |

2012 Election Schedule

OCTOBER 10, 2012 PRIMARY ELECTION

NOVEMBER 7, 2012 RUNOFF ELECTION

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| JULY 11 (5:00PM) | LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS) |
| JULY 20 (5:00PM) | LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS |
| AUGUST 10, (5:00PM) | LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S) |
| AUGUST 10 | PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (54 DAYS) |
| AUGUST 15 | LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words) AND NEWSLETTER (750 words) |
| AUGUST 24 | LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS) |
| AUGUST 27-29 | ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS |
| AUGUST 31 | MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS) |
| SEPTEMBER 14 | MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (26 DAYS) |

2012 Polling Locations

East District
Hoopa High School
Hoopa, CA

Requa District
Yurok Tribal Office
190 Klamath Blvd
Klamath, CA

North District
Yurok TANF Office
207 Price Mall (Cross Streets –
Front & K Street – Behind Library)
Crescent City, CA

South District *New location*
Yurok Tribal Office
3400 Erie Street
Eureka, CA

Orick District
Orick Elementary School
Orick, CA

Weitchpec District
Libby Nix Community Center
Weitchpec, CA

Pecwan District
Wautec Fire Station
Johnson's, CA

For more information, please contact the Election Department at (707) 482-1350.



Yurok Tribe

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

Yurok Today
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2012 Yurok Tribe

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