



AUGUST EDITION

Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

OPERATION YUROK A SUCCESS

Yurok-led effort nets more than 15,000 illegal pot plants

See story on page 4





VICE CHAIRPERSON
SUSAN MASTEN

Dear Tribal Members, this column is meant to keep you updated on the activities of the Tribe. Please let me know what type of information you want or concerns you may have about our Tribal government, programs or services. You will also be able to see this column on the Tribe’s website and Facebook page in an effort to reach out and provide information to you in a timely way.

Redwood Hotel Casino

The Holiday Inn Express has been open for nearly three weeks now and we’ve already received rave reviews from many who have stayed there. We knew from the start that if we built a hotel in such proximity to the Klamath River, Redwood National Park and one of the most scenic stretches of coastline on the planet, it would be a success. The 60-room hotel has had nearly 100 percent occupancy for the past two weeks and there is no sign of slowing down.

We are putting the finishing touches on the Abalone Bar and Grill, which will be serving fresh, delicious food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. In the region, there is nothing like this restaurant. The opalescent walls are adorned with large murals, depicting salmon swimming in the Klamath River and traditional dip net fishing. The ceiling is an iridescent blue, resembling the inside of an abalone shell. The interior design and décor of the Abalone Bar and Grill is magnificent and unforgettable.

Marijuana Eradication

Operation Yurok, which took place from July 21-29, was a great success. During the week and a half long, the Yurok Public Safety-led effort removed 15,000 illegal pot plants from the Yurok Reservation and surrounding area. Public Safety was supported by the California National Guard Counterdrug Taskforce, Humboldt County Taskforce and many other state and federal law enforcement agencies. Many of the growers were unlawfully tapping into creeks that feed the tribal and private water systems, causing major problems in this third year of an extreme drought. Irrigation infrastructure was dismantled and many of the creeks are flowing better now.

In recent years, despite a tribal law prohibiting all drugs, including medical marijuana, a spate of non-Indian cannabis cultivators of moved to the Reservation, where there is inadequate funding for law enforcement. The Tribe is working hard to halt the illegal practice, which is responsible for diverting million of gallons of water from Klamath River tributaries and many horrendous environment abuses. The unlawful grows, mostly perpetrated by non-Indians, threaten every aspect of life on the Reservation. We will be going after the growers again next year and every year after, until they’ve stopped stealing water from the Klamath.

Visitor Center and Amphitheater

Construction is well underway on the Yurok Visitor Center and Amphitheater. The undertaking is part of the Tribe’s multimillion dollar effort to revitalize the town of Klamath. The 2,500 square-foot facility will showcase tribal businesses and offer tourists a culturally appropriate glimpse into our rich history. The Amphitheater will be a great place for traditional story telling, small concerts and other fun functions.

Arbitration/Gaming MOU with County/State

There is an element in the Tribe’ gaming compact which requires sign-off from the local county. This is a common part of all Tribal compacts in California. For three years, we have negotiated in

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On The Cover

Yurok Public Safety leads a massive coalition of law enforcement agencies in eradicating 43 illegal mega marijuana grows.



good faith with Del Norte County. The county, since the first day of negotiations, has asked the Tribe for a quarter of a million dollars a year and has refused to change its position to one that is actually realistic. Del Norte County Sheriff Dean Wilson is the leader of this anti-business crusade, which is holding back the Tribe's investment in the revitalization of Klamath and becoming financially independent. The Dean Wilson Tax, as we have taken to calling it, is simply implausible and unfair, given the venture's projected earnings. We are the most populous federally recognized Tribe in California and have the smallest casino. The county has asked for more, percentage wise, than any other county in the state. The Redwood Hotel Casino is poised to put around 100 people to work and will significantly contribute to the economic growth of the county as a whole. The Tribe has entered into arbitration with the county in hopes of coming to a fair agreement and avoiding a full-blown court case. As a Tribe, we have overcome much greater obstacles (than the Dean Wilson Tax) and we will resolve this issue in positive way. Nothing will stand in the way of our vision for a healthy, happy and thriving Klamath community.

BOR Decision to withhold water for Klamath River Fish

In order to reduce the chances of another fish kill, the Yurok Tribe asked the Bureau of Reclamation to hold back from the Trinity River five percent of the 50 percent that the agency annually sends to the Central Valley. The Tribe and Bureau knew by March that the Klamath would be in a dire situation when the fall run of salmon began. There was no rain until very late and no snowpack in the mountains. The Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team, of which the Tribe is a member, has found that up to 100 percent of the juvenile fish in the river were infected with disease. Also, to make matters worse, the Klamath is currently loaded with toxic blue-green algae. We cannot have another repeat of 2002. We will never forget the sight of a half a million pounds of rotting salmon on the Klamath, just as we will never forget then Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton's role in it.

The Yurok Tribal Council is doing every thing it can to secure more water, including meeting with high ranking BOR officials to make a scientific and legal case for additional flows. The drought didn't sneak up on us and there is no good reason for our fish to sustain such severe threats. The Tribe is also organizing a protest on August 19 at the Bureau's Sacramento office. We encourage you to attend and to contact your congressional representative to voice your concerns about Klamath salmon.

To participate in the protest, please call Georgianna Gensaw at (707) 482-1350.

Wellness Court

I am happy to announce that construction has begun on Yurok Wellness Court. The wonderful new facility will house the following: a courtroom, two administration offices, judge's chambers, a clerk's filing window, a meeting room, kitchenette, and a holding room for those who need time to calm down. A fully functional legal system, based on the Tribe's traditional rules of law, is a part of our push toward complete sovereignty and independence.

I would like to acknowledge Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti's vision and perseverance in making the Justice Center a reality. Judge Abby, a Yurok Tribal Member, works tirelessly on behalf of Yurok people. I am so grateful for the judge's hard work and that of her staff.

Drought update

We are suffering through 3 years of record-setting drought and this year, by far, has been the most difficult. It is very likely that the Kepel system will likely run out of water in the coming weeks.

The marijuana eradication helped put more water in the creeks and the other water systems look somewhat stable, but this may not last. In early spring, the Yurok Tribal Council declared a state of emergency, as did Humboldt County (just recently) and the State of California.

We have instituted our Incident Command System to deal with this worrisome emergency. Tribal staff is implementing a plan to help residents deal with the impact of the drought. Currently, there is a water station at the Weitchpec Office and two more will be set up in the very near future. Those without water can pick up two 2.5 gallon containers to fill with water from the station.

In relation to the drought, we are headed toward very difficult times. All Reservation residents are encouraged to conserve as much water as possible. There are a number of elderly and disabled people living on the Reservation and it will be very challenging and uncomfortable living on only 5 to 10 gallons of water per day. Please do not under any circumstances boil water suspected to be contaminated with toxic blue-green algae. Boiling the water will only concentrate the toxins. Please help us get the word out, so that no one drinks tainted water.

In the coming days we will be working with Humboldt County, state and federal officials to get more help for those without water.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. We also send our prayers and thoughts to each of you who may have lost a loved one during this time.

Wok-hlew ✨

Operation Yurok takes down big grows

Multi-agency raids help drought-stricken Klamath River

The Yurok Tribal Council is extremely pleased with the results of a historic campaign to halt illegal water diversions and eradicate 43 illegal marijuana farms in the Tribe's ancestral territory.

So far, Operation Yurok, comprised of tribal, state and federal law enforcement officers, stopped irrigation to and destroyed more than 15,000 illegal pot plants. The team, which included 12 soldiers and airmen from California National Guard, served 43 search warrants, generated by Yurok Public Safety Department and Humboldt County Drug Task Force. A smaller version of the team will be serving search warrants. The properties were located on and above the Yurok Reservation and within the headwaters of several creeks that flow into the Klamath River. After the leaky watering systems were disconnected at all of the sites that weren't connected to houses, the flows in the creeks grew, and in some drainages the increase was dramatic.

"The operation was a huge success," said Thomas O'Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "Creeks that were dry on the first day were flowing by the second. It is almost beyond belief how much water was being stolen from the watershed. We are very grateful for the hard work put in by men and women of the California National Guard and all of the county, state and federal law enforcement officers."

Nearly a dozen agencies, including California Department of Fish and Wildlife officers, participated in week and half long effort to protect and restore tribal resources. In two weeks members of the California National Guard Counterdrug Taskforce are coming back to help remove marijuana growing infrastructure from the grow sites and clean up miles of plastic pipe used to irrigate the plants.

In the coming weeks, Yurok Public Safety and California Counterdrug Taskforce will be revisiting the properties clean up thousands of yards of plastic tubing, water tanks and other environmentally harmful debris.

During the 9-day operation, conducted from July 21 to July 29, growers were found to be stealing thousands of gallons water from the creeks that supply drinking water to residents



The water from this pipe, previously used to irrigate pot plants, is headed back into the drainage. and are running low as a result of the drought. These mostly year-round creeks support an abundance of fish and wildlife. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office served 20 of the warrants to property owners living off the Reservation and Yurok Public Safety Served the remaining 23 on the Yurok Reservation. Officers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife were on hand to assess environmental damage on off-Reservation properties.

The grow sites were spread out from the Bald Hills Road to Weitchpec. A large majority of the pot plants found either had not started budding or were just starting to flower. The premature plants needed at least another month of irrigation to produce a marketable crop.

Yurok ancestral territory, which spans from Damnation Creek in Del Norte County to the Little River in Humboldt County, is suffering from 3 years of record-setting drought. Residents will lose water for the first time ever in the coming weeks.

In addition to diminishing people's access to clean water, the ballooning number of grows is also causing large-scale environmental destruction. The marijuana growing season coincides with the spring and fall runs of Klamath River salmon. The river is already flowing at a historically low level and the amount of ceratomyxa Shasta and parvicapsula minibicorniss, both potent fish pathogens, is off the charts in the alarmingly

warm water body. The Klamath River tributaries that are being pilfered for marijuana production normally provide cold water refuges for the migrating salmon on the way to spawn. Instead, the important Klamath tributaries are barely making it to the main stem.

At one site off Bald Hills Rd., a four inch pipe, connected to a powerful pump, siphoned nearly all of the water from normally year-round stream. After the pipe was busted, the flow in the previously silent stream could be heard from 20 yards away.

It is estimated that the 15,000 plants would have conservatively needed 10.8 million gallons of water to produce a full crop. That is not taking into account all of the leaky pipes and evaporation from the makeshift storage pools encountered by law enforcement.

Many of the grows were planted on unpermitted clear cuts in forests that support dozens of mammal species. On one site, the property owner illegally felled more than five acres of forest in order to put 4,200 plants in the ground. There were two houses built with the wood. The rest was used to create an impenetrable barrier around the property. A number of snares were set around the hilltop grow to catch any animal that got too close to the crops. Two large swimming pools were filled with water pumped in from a nearby water creek. It is likely that the property owner will be held accountable for a number of environmental violations and for the plants.

On another site, a forest of beautiful Port Orford cedar and fir was downed to make room for a few hundred plants. The marijuana was planted in holes obviously dug by an excavator and filled with fertilizer-filled potting mix. About 700 bags of unopened Fox Farm soil was stacked in a pile just beyond the grow. In front of it, the grower dug a hole, reaching 20 feet deep, 15 feet wide and 35 feet long and lined it with a gray tarp. The enormous pool was being filled with water pumped in from a nearby spring. Piles of trash including a bullet hole-ridden, relative new Chevy Suburban were strewn around the property.

“It is clear that these people have absolutely no regard for the environment,” said Leonard Masten, Yurok Public Safety Chief. “These forests will take a long time to heal.”

While each of the marijuana plantations was set up differently, there were a few similarities between the 43 sites. One of the most common features was the 300 gallon, square-shaped container of fertilizer. It was clear that most of them were filled with high nitrate fertilizers. When it rains, these highly soluble

amendments contaminate drinking water sources. The chemical fertilizers also cause eutrophication or large algal blooms in the creeks and in the Klamath River. Nitrates, when spilled on the forest floor, harm the beneficial mycorrhizal associations between fungi and trees.

The Yurok Tribe-led effort began in early spring, following California Governor Jerry Brown’s response to a letter from the Tribe asking for assistance in dealing with a rapidly growing number of unlawful marijuana plantations. In this extreme drought year, the industrial-size pot farms, which illegally take water from the creeks and springs, were threatening the Klamath watershed and its inhabitants.

The Yurok Tribe has a zero tolerance law regarding all drugs, including medical marijuana. Despite the law, the number of unlawful marijuana growers moving on and near Yurok lands, where there is inadequate funding for law enforcement, has grown tremendously in the past five years. The large majority of the cannabis farmers have moved into the area from out of state.

In order to ensure, that the illegal production of pot on Reservation is abated, the Yurok Public Safety Department will be conducting a similar operation next spring. ✨



Mysti Dae Birks

Yurok tribal member Mysti Dae Birks, daughter of Billee Lynn Willson and Larry Eidman, granddaughter of William W. Willson of Weitchpec, graduated with Distinction on June 13, 2014 from College for Officer Training at Crestmont and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Salvation Army on June 15, 2014. She and her husband John Birks along with their daughter Lillianna Michelle Graham reported to their first assignment in Petersburg, Alaska on July 3, 2014 where they will be the Corp Officers. Over the past twenty-two months of training, John and Mysti took many courses including math, english, business, pastoral studies, theology, and counseling and then practiced what they learned in many Corps throughout the western territory of the Salvation Army. These have included six weeks in Hawaii, a week in Alaska and in Arizona, as well as various lengths of service in Corps in California. Becoming an officer in the Salvation Army is a high achievement and a lifelong commitment to serve people.

Native berries are nutritious, abundant

Healthy, abundant and delicious, native berries might just be the perfect food.

There are several, delectable indigenous berries that grow on the Yurok Reservation and the Tribe has harvested all of them since the beginning of time. Traditionally, Yurok people used berries and the plants they grow on in an array of ways. The berries were eaten fresh, mixed with other foods and dried for later consumption. The non-fruiting parts were used to make medicinal teas and the roots were used to make dyes along with many other uses.

Historically, berry patches were considered community and sometimes private property. Many varieties of small fruit, like the huckleberry (cheegeery), respond well to the culturally appropriate use of fire and pruning. Fire burns back old limbs that no longer produce and keeps pest populations in check. After a patch is treated with fire, the plants grow tall, strong and yield more fruit.

Berries are filled with flavor and beneficial nutrients. Some types of native small fruits even initiate the creation of new cells. On the Reservation, there are ripe berries of one assortment or another nearly all year long, according to Yurok elder, Frank Lara.

The first in the annual procession is the salmon berry. The watery and subtly sweet fruits come in orange, red and sometimes a grayish black.

The berry isn't the only part that is for eating. In late winter and early spring, the citrus-flavored new shoots can be peeled and eaten raw. The aggregate fruit is found primarily along the coast in March and April.

"Next thing you know it's May. Head toward the beach and you'll find strawberries at about the same time the surf fish are running," said Lara.

The indigenous strawberries (Kweys-cheen) are a miniature version of those at the grocery store, but what the wild strawberries lack in size they make up in flavor ten times over. The taste of a store-bought strawberry pales in comparison to its wild red cousin. The native strawberries grow along the coast and at relatively high elevations. The taste bud bursting berries can be found as late as July.

The next berry in the yearly progression is the thimbleberry (kerhpeen). Thimbles are a close relative of the raspberry. The

velvet-cake colored berries aren't as abundant as most others, but a handful of the tangy fruit is well worth the effort.

After thimble berries come blackberries (leychehl). There are at least three different kinds of blackberries that grow on the Reservation. The first to ripen and most savory is the native type. If a good patch is found, which is becoming rarer every year, it can be a special source of the smaller, clustered fruits with a sophisticated flavor. Also, there is more to this plant than the berry.

"The roots can be boiled to make tattoo ink and ink to paint on regalia," Lara said.

The organic colorant is what is traditionally used to make the 111 and other tattoos as well as to paint on dentalium (cheek).

The reason the indigenous berries are relatively rare has to do with the more common Himalayan blackberry. The Himalayan berry is a deserter from someone's backyard briar patch and has taken over much of the indigenous flora in many areas of the Pacific Northwest. The noxious weed out competes not only the original blackberry variety, but many other native plants as well, but it does make a big berry. The juicy berries are everywhere and come on just after the native blackberry, during the commercial and subsistence fishing season. It's easy to collect a gallon of the thumb-sized fruits in about the time it takes to strip a salmon.

"The only thing you have to worry about is who you're hanging out with," Lara said. "You have to watch out for that guy called the black bear."

To avoid an encounter with a bear, Lara advises to pick blackberries with a friend or in a group and make a lot of noise. When the blackberries are ripe, the black bears mow down all the berries they can stomach. Sighting purple scat is solid indicator the big black-haired relative is in the area.

The third variety, the evergreen blackberry, is also a garden escapee. Unlike the other varieties, this one has no thorns in most cases. The evergreen berry's flavor is not unlike the Himalayan's juicy sweetness.

In August, it's time for the blackcap raspberries (chkohpeen), thought by some to be the most delicious berry. The black raspberries have a sweet-tart and almost creamy taste. These superior tasting, garden variety raspberry relative only grows in the mountains.

As summer fades into fall, two types of huckleberry start to make their presence known on the coast and in the mountains. The first is a petite red orb that is reminiscent of fruity candy. The second is a diminutive, purple-black berry that tastes both astringent and sweet. This berry has more nutritional benefits than any of the others. In fact, it has more antioxidant power than any other fruit or vegetable in North America. Antioxidants are proven to help humans fight against aging, cancer and other damaging diseases. Huckleberries are also high in iron and vitamin C.

While huckleberry hunting, take a peak under the dark green shrub where there is a good chance to find more than a few chanterelle and hedgehog mushrooms.

The last but not least fruit of the year is the salal berry. The aromatic, blueberry-shaped treat grows just about everywhere. In late fall and early winter, large clusters of the deep purple berry can be found in substantial quantities on the coast and at low to mid elevations on the Reservation's mountains.

"They are delicious. I really like salal berries," Lara said.

Salmon berries, Blackberries and black caps can handle heavy harvesting because the brambles regenerate new fruit bearing canes every year, according to the Lara. The majority of the berry briars and bushes are only accessible to those willing to bushwhack for miles, which ensures there is plenty for birds and mammals. What will really diminish berry production is if the soil around the plants is disturbed, which dries out the roots.

"Whatever you do, don't muck with the soil," Lara concluded. ❄



Salmon Berries fruit abundantly in the late spring.



Native strawberries taste much better than those purchased at the market.

**NOTICE - UNSUB
YUROK TRIBAL COURT**

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

COURT CASE: YT-CV-2014-59
Public Safety complaint # 2014 0073
SEIZURE LOCATION: 300 feet down from Tully Creek (30')
APPROXIMATE DATE: 5/20/2014

COURT CASE: YT-CV-2014-64
Public Safety complaint #2014 0049
SEIZURE LOCATION: Tully Creek (40')
APPROXIMATE DATE: 4/08/2014

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.

**AFTER THE HEARING
DATE NETS MAY BE
FORFEITED AND SOLD!**

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, August 21, 2014; 10AM
PLACE: Yurok Tribe Council Chambers
190 Klamath Boulevard, Klamath, CA



Thimbleberries may not be the most abundant fruit, but the raspberry relative is worth the effort.

Redwood Hotel open for business

For the past two weeks there has been nearly 100 percent occupancy



The Yurok Tribe is thrilled to announce the opening of the new Redwood Hotel in Klamath. On July 22, doors opened on a new chapter in Klamath history. To those wanting to make a reservation, details are on the hotel's website, redwoodhotelcasino.com, and are also available by phone at 1- 888-HOLIDAY (1-888-465-4329.) This luxurious 60-room Holiday Inn Express—the number 3-ranked hotel brand in America in terms of customer satisfaction—is the only Hotel Casino property in the Redwood National and State Parks. The hotel features a full fresh start breakfast, an inviting pool, and a fully equipped fitness room. Surrounded by some of the world's most breathtaking natural beauty, the Redwood Hotel will be the perfect home base for anyone seeking world-class adventure. The area features many outdoor

activities, including hiking and recreational fishing.

"We are excited to bring new, comfortable lodging to the Klamath area," said Tribal Chairman Thomas O'Rourke Sr. "Dozens of new jobs are now in place, and, when the casino opens its doors, nearly 100 more new jobs will be created."

For the past two weeks the hotel has had nearly 100 percent occupancy.

Adjacent to the hotel, the Redwood Hotel Casino, still under construction, will attract gamers from far and near, and will feature 100 slot machines, a 50-seat restaurant/sports bar, an outside patio, and non-stop excitement.

For more information, read Vice Chair Susan Masten's column on Page 2. ✨

Tribe opens cemetery for veterans, families

Picturesque facility located on Bald Hills, will serve more than 450

A celebration was held Tuesday, August 12 to mark the opening of the new Yurok Tribe Veterans Cemetery.

“It is a great privilege to provide such an important service to the many Native American veterans, who have courageously served in the armed forces,” said Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “With great respect, we dedicate this new cemetery to the veterans, who volunteered to fight for our rights, our freedom and our country.”

The Veterans Cemetery Dedication Ceremony took place at the bucolic new facility, which is located on switchback nine of Bald Hills Rd. Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony and brief remarks by Chairman O’Rourke and Vice Chair Susan Masten, a reception was held at the Tribe’s Weitchpec Office.

The elegantly designed, \$3.3 million cemetery sits atop a rolling hillside with sweeping vistas of the Klamath River. The five-acre, beautifully landscaped site is situated on the east side of Bald Hills Rd. and is surrounded by a tranquil forest of tanoak and Douglas fir.

The Yurok Tribe Veteran’s Cemetery will serve more than 465 Native American veterans and their families. The peaceful and private facility is comprised of a committal shelter, full casketed gravesites, cremains gravesites, a memorial walkway and self contained restrooms.

A number of dignitaries, including Cynthia Gomez, tribal advisor for California Governor Jerry Brown and California National Guard’s adjutant general, Major General David S. Baldwin, attended the Veterans Cemetery Dedication Ceremony. Major General Baldwin graciously offered a California Guard helicopter to take VIPs on a tour of the recent and successful marijuana eradication operation that concluded Tuesday of last week.

During the week and a half long effort, the California National Guard’s Counterdrug Taskforce and Humboldt County Drug Task Force, along with Yurok Public Safety and many other county and federal law enforcement officers removed 15,000 illegal pot plants from the Yurok Reservation and surrounding area. Many of the growers were unlawfully tapping into creeks that feed the tribal and private water systems, causing major



The elegant facility is surrounded by a tranquil forest of tanoak and Douglas fir.

problems in this third year of an extreme drought.

In recent years, despite a tribal law prohibiting all drugs, including medical marijuana, a spate of non-Indian cannabis cultivators have moved to the Reservation, where there is inadequate funding for law enforcement. The Tribe is working hard to halt the illegal practice, which is responsible for diverting millions of gallons of water from Klamath River tributaries and many horrendous environmental abuses. The unlawful grows, solely perpetrated by non-Indians, threaten every aspect of life on the Reservation.

The Yurok Tribal Council is extremely grateful for the California National Guard’s help and for the agency’s contribution to the Yurok Veterans Cemetery Dedication Ceremony.

Since the First World War, Yurok men and women have valiantly served in the American armed forces. According to the most accurate statistics, approximately 90 percent of Yurok men of appropriate age served in World Wars I and II. A great number of Yurok women served too. Large portions of the Yurok population also served in Vietnam and are currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. According to the Department of Defense, more Native Americans serve in the United States military service per capita than any other ethnic group. Many of these veterans have already expressed a desire to call the

Yurok Tribe Veterans Cemetery their final resting place.

The Yurok Tribe Veterans Cemetery is the only one of its kind within 175 miles. The closest national cemetery is VA's Eagle Point National Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon, which is 175 miles away. There is a State Veterans Cemetery in Igo, California, which is 125 miles away.

The Yurok Tribe is grateful for the attendance of numerous dignitaries, including: California Governor's Tribal Advisor Cynthia Gomez, George Eisenbach Jr., Director of the Veterans Cemetery Grants Serve Program and Terry Bentley, California Office of Emergency Services, the Eureka Veterans Center and a number of military service representatives.

The Tribe's Planning and Community Development Department was awarded a \$3.3 million grant from the U.S. Office of Veterans Affairs to construct the Veterans Cemetery. The Yurok Tribe was the second tribe in the nation to complete the qualification process.

The California National Guard Task Force supports local, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies throughout California in order to reduce the supply of and demand for illegal drugs. ✨

Chairman issues statement re: harmful BOR decision

The drought of 2013-2014 didn't sneak up on us. For the first half of the winter it simply didn't rain. Sparse rains arrived late in the season and there was meager snowpack in the mountains. The Yurok Tribe and California Governor Jerry Brown declared a major drought emergency.

Water managers scrambled to figure out how to best allot a limited amount of Trinity River water, which flows into the Klamath, amongst many competing interests. Despite the knowledge that migrating Klamath salmon would be in peril from low flows when the fall-run started, the Bureau of Reclamation sent an entire year's worth of cold fish-sustaining flows from the Trinity to the Central Valley. The Yurok Tribe, and others, including the Hoopa Valley Tribe, sent letters to the agency warning that salmon will face a desperate situation by late summer — if preventative flow were not available.

The Federal government responded by sending more water south. Cold water stores were depleted in Trinity and Shasta Reservoirs. There were no discussions with the Tribes or other groups who depend on the river for survival. Last week, a hastily convened technical meeting was held, but it appeared as if the decision had been made already, as requests for follow-up meetings were not heeded. Water managers pointed to limited cold water supplies left in the reservoirs and said that the Trinity salmon would have to

go without. There was no mention in their press releases of the huge volumes of water previously sent to the Central Valley

The 2014 fall salmon run is beginning to enter into the Klamath River, which is running at about 75 degrees. The low flows have created a perfect environment for fish pathogens to thrive and up to 100 percent of the juvenile fish in the river have been infected by disease, according to the Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team, a coalition of tribal, federal and state scientists.

The amount of water required, and shown to be needed by even the Federal Government's scientists, was less than 5% of what was sent to the Central Valley. Federal water managers were unwilling to hold back even a tiny fraction of the available water from well-connected agribusinesses. As a result of this risky gamble, the threat of a fish kill is now considerably higher. Before the Klamath water exportation, a fish kill was a preventable calamity. Now, if the unthinkable happens (again), the responsibility will sit squarely with the Bureau of Reclamation.

As hard as it is to contemplate, there is a significant chance this year might turn out to be a repeat of the 2002 fish kills. We are readying response crews, making emergency plans, and increasing vigilance on the river. We may get through this drought year

without a catastrophic fish kill, or we may not. Regardless, the risk is unacceptably high because of Reclamation's refusal to allow Trinity River water to save Trinity and Klamath River fish. One thing that is for certain is the fact that if a large number of fish perish prematurely, the impact will last for more than a fishing season.

The smell in 2002 of more than a half million pounds of rotting salmon, and then Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton's role in the catastrophe, will never be forgotten. The fish kill was caused by a decision to send the water elsewhere, during a drought.

In the years after the fish kill, the best scientists from the federal government, the Tribes and the State of California gained a collective understanding of what caused the fish kill and how to best prevent one from ever happening again. The multi-agency team found that increased flows disrupt the parasite/host relationship that is necessary for a massive outbreak similar to 2002. The science is clear. We know how to lower the risk of another catastrophe and that is to ensure the flows on the lower Klamath do not get dangerously low.

The Bureau of Reclamation's current plan allows for additional water in the event of a fish kill. This is proven to be ineffective. We need more water now to prevent another disaster.

The Yurok Tribal Council is doing every thing it can to secure more water, including meeting with high ranking BOR officials to make a scientific and legal case for additional flows. The Tribe is also organizing a protest on August 19 at the Bureau's Sacramento office. We encourage you to attend and to contact your congressional representative to voice your concerns about Klamath salmon. ✧

BECOME ONE OF OUR ADVENTURE GUIDES!

Want a great job? Redwood Hotel Casino is hiring. We're now accepting applications for:

- Maintenance Technician
- Accounting Specialist
- Cage Cashier
- Drop/Count Team Member
- Payroll Specialist
- Revenue Auditor
- Vault Cashier
- Bartender
- Beverage Server
- Busser
- Cook
- Food and Beverage Supervisor
- Prep Cook
- Server
- Steward
- Guest Service Attendant (assists with hotel front desk, PBX, Gift shop)
- Housekeeper/Engineer
- Human Resources Assistant
- Adventurers Club Lead Representative
- Adventurers Club Representative
- Security Officer
- Security Officer II
- Security Supervisor
- Slot Attendant
- Slot Floor Supervisor
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Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

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30 Day PUBLIC NOTICE RECOMMENDATION FOR YUROK TRIBE RESIDENTIAL LAND ASSIGNMENT PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

The following Tribal Members have applied for a Land Assignment on the Yurok Reservation. Any Tribal Member wishing to comment on any of the following land assignment applications may submit written comments to the Yurok Tribe's Planning & Community Development Department. All comments must be in writing and include the name, address and signature of the person making the comments. Comments must specify which land assignment they are addressing and must be received by the Planning Department by September 1, 2014. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- (Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Lineal Descendant (Daughter) Sunni Fawn Albers: Prior Assignee (aawok) Barbara Jean Kasper.
Yurok Tribe # MCKH-018 APN:534-132-013 Located on McKinnon Hill.
- (Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Lineal Descendant (Nephew) Gordon Ralph McCovey: Prior Assignee (aawok) George McCovey. Yurok Tribe # NCK-011 APN: 532-142-007 Located on Brushie Prairie Notchko

Submit all written comments by the above deadline to the following address:

**Attention: Samantha Myers
Planning & Community Development Department
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548**