



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People



## Dynamic Changes Ahead for Trinity River

*State Funds will Support Monumental River Restoration Project on the Trinity River*





# APRIL 2023 PUBLIC NOTICES



## YUROK TRIBAL COURT LEGAL NOTICES

Yurok Tribal Court is located at:  
230 Klamath Blvd.  
Klamath, CA 95548

### CIVIL SUMMONS

**CASE: CV22-040**

Hearing Date: **May 15, 2023**

Yurok Tribe v. One Hundred Foot Gill Net with White and Red Corks on Blue Line with One 18 Lb. Anchor (Property Tag #1582)

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that a Civil Complaint has been filed against in this Court.

**YOU HAVE 20 CALENDAR DAYS** to file a Response with the Yurok Tribal Court and serve a copy of the Response on the Petitioner or their attorney. **IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND**, the Court may make orders without you by **DEFAULT**.



## YUROK TRIBAL COURT LEGAL NOTICES

Yurok Tribal Court is located at:  
230 Klamath Blvd.  
Klamath, CA 95548

### CIVIL SUMMONS

**CASE: CV22-037**

Hearing Date: **5/25/2023**

Yurok Tribe v. William C. Moon

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that a Civil Complaint has been filed against in this Court. This Court will be holding a hearing to consider your continued exclusion from the Yurok Reservation and to make a recommendation to Tribal Council.

**YOU HAVE 20 CALENDAR DAYS** to contact Yurok Tribal Police or Yurok Tribal Prosecutor to arrange to be present in Tribal Court. You may also file a Response with the Yurok Tribal Court and serve a copy of the Response on the Petitioner. **IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND OR APPEAR IN COURT**, the Court may make orders without you by **DEFAULT**.

## YUROK TRIBE 2023 ELECTION SCHEDULE

<b>OCTOBER 11, 2023</b>	<b>PRIMARY ELECTION</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 15, 2023</b>	<b>RUN OFF ELECTION</b>
<hr/>	
<b>JUNE 12 (8:30AM)</b>	FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE
<b>JULY 14 (5:00PM)</b>	LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT <b>(89 DAYS)</b>
<b>JULY 14 (5:00PM)</b>	LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS
<b>AUGUST 11 (5:00PM)</b>	LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)
<b>AUGUST 11</b>	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION <b>(61 DAYS)</b>
<b>AUGUST 18 (5:00PM)</b>	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT <b>(250 words)</b> AND NEWSLETTER <b>(750 words)</b>
<b>AUGUST 28</b>	LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION <b>(44 DAYS)</b>
<b>AUGUST 29-31</b>	ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
<b>SEPTEMBER 1</b>	MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS <b>(40 DAYS)</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 8</b>	MAILING OF BALLOTS <b>(33 DAYS)</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 28</b>	LAST DAY TO REISSUE BALLOT BY MAIL <b>(13 DAYS)</b>
<b>OCTOBER 11</b>	LAST DAY TO PICK UP BALLOT IN OFFICE AT KLAMATH MAIN
<b>OCTOBER 11, 2023</b>	PRIMARY ELECTION
<b>OCTOBER 20</b>	MAILING OF BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF <b>(26 DAYS)</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 3</b>	LAST DAY TO REISSUE BALLOT BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF <b>(12 DAYS)</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 15</b>	LAST DAY TO PICK UP IN OFFICE AT KLAMATH MAIN
<b>NOVEMBER 15, 2023</b>	RUN OFF ELECTION

**2023 VOTING DISTRICTS**  
**NORTH, REQUA AND WEITCHPEC DISTRICTS**  
\*\*Election Schedule is subject to change\*\*

## Contents

- Page 4..... Yurok Tribe Hires MMIP Investigator
- Page 6..... Dept. Director Blake Re-appointed
- Page 10..... Threatened Species on the Mend

## On The Cover

*Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation heavy equipment operators Aldaron McCovey and Thomas Marceau remove historic gold-mining waste from the Trinity River corridor.*

# Judge Named Woman of the Year

## *California Senate Majority Leader Praises Yurok Judge Abby Abinanti*

Sacramento – Judge Abby Abinanti, a dynamic and effective leader for equal access to the justice system and expanded resources and programs for Native American residents across California, has been selected by Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire as the 2023 North Coast Woman of the Year.

Abinanti, known as “Judge Abby,” joined Senator McGuire for a ceremony this week on the Senate floor in recognition of the 42 “California Women Making Herstory” honorees.

Abinanti is trailblazer. She was the first tribal woman to pass the state bar and become a judge in California. Judge Abby has served as a Yurok Tribal Court Judge since 1997 and she has proudly held the title as Chief Tribal Court Judge since 2007.

A member of the Yurok Tribe, Abinanti is an alumnae of Cal Poly Humboldt and holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of New Mexico School of Law. Abinanti served as a Commissioner for the San Francisco Superior Court for over 17 years, assigned to the Unified Family Court and Dependency, a position she held in conjunction with her Superior Court assignment until 2015.

During her successful tenure as Chief Tribal Court Judge, Abinanti has been laser-focused in the Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) crisis, which has disproportionately impacted women in the Yurok Tribe. She has led the way to significantly expand services and programs available to combat the MMIP crisis along with creating Yurok culturally-centered court services including Child Support Court, Wellness/Diversion/Intervention Programs, Substance Abuse Recovery, and the Legal Access Center.

“Judge Abby’s commitment to fighting for families, women, and tribal justice is second to none,” said Senator McGuire. “She built the Yurok Tribal Court, which is nationally recognized and respected as one of the best in America, from the ground up. Known for her innovative and holistic approaches to criminal justice and her relentless pursuit to combat the MMIP crisis, Judge Abby has helped countless individuals and families access justice and rebuild their lives. She’s an inspiration to all Californians.”

During her career, Judge Abby has taught in law schools including UC Berkeley and Stanford University. In 2020, Abinanti was recognized with the Lawrence R. Baca Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Law Section of the Federal Bar Association for dedicating her career to integrating Native values in the justice system.

“I’m deeply humbled to Senator McGuire for this special recognition and for highlighting the amazing work of the Yurok Tribe and our Council,” said Abinanti. “It’s an honor to share the Senate floor with this group of change-making women. I also know there is much more work

ahead of us to ensure that our court systems reflect the values we hold important, including individual and community-based responsibility for those who err. As to the MMIP crisis, it is gift to know that Senator McGuire will not rest until we secure justice for all victims and their families and hold offenders accountable.”

The Senate Floor Ceremony can be viewed live at [www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov). Senator McGuire will celebrate with Judge Abby at a lunch on the North Coast in the coming months.



(left) California Minority Leader Brian Jones, Majority Leader Mike McGuire, Judge Abby Abinanti, Senator Nancy Skinner and President Pro Tem Toni Atkins.



(left) California Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire and Yurok Chief Justice Abby Abinanti.



# Yurok Tribe Hires MMIP Investigator

*Law Enforcement Veteran Brings Invaluable Professional Experience to New Position*



(Left) Yurok Prosecutor Rosemary Deck, MMIP Investigator Julia Oliveira, Yurok Tribal Police Chief Greg O'Rourke and Yurok Tribal Police Lieutenant Jacob Morris

The Yurok Tribe recently hired an accomplished law enforcement professional to investigate existing and new cases involving Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) in California's North Coast region.

MMIP Investigator Julia Oliveira brings to the new position 25 years of relevant experience. The Wyandotte Tribe citizen spent two decades with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), where she occupied a wide variety of positions, ranging from patrol deputy to school resource officer. During her career, she conducted missing persons and child sexual abuse investigations. Oliveira continues to serve on HCSO's Crisis Intervention Team and is its longest serving member. For the last four years, Oliveira led the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Police Department. She also occupies a leadership position within the United States Office of Violence Against Women's Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women.

"I applied for the MMIP investigator position because I am very passionate about this subject," Oliveira said. "Throughout the State of California, very few resources are allocated to cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous people. I was very

excited when I saw the opportunity to be the person who is solely focused on finding missing Indigenous people."

"We are so fortunate that Julia decided to accept the investigator position. She has the ideal background for this important job," said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "She will help bring closure and justice to the families of missing tribal citizens. The new investigator will be engaged in our MMIP prevention effort too."

Oliveira is the first fully dedicated tribal MMIP investigator in the State of California. She works within the Yurok Office of the Tribal Prosecutor, which is part of the Tribe's MMIP response team. The investigator will conduct inquiries into current and cold MMIP cases. Prior to accepting the position, Oliveira served on the Office of the Tribal Prosecutor's MMIP Roundtable. The roundtable group meets on a regular basis to discuss solutions to the MMIP crisis and is currently comprised of the following tribes: Yurok Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Trinidad Rancheria, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria and Quartz Valley Tribe. It is open to all tribes in the region.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians awarded the Yurok Tribe a grant to hire the MMIP investigator. In addition to funding the investigator position, the \$350,000 grant will support the creation of a database that will be employed to analyze patterns in missing persons cases and identify potential perpetrators. A portion of the San Manuel award will be invested in billboard space to raise awareness about specific cases. It will also support the deployment of canine handlers, human remains detection dogs and ground-penetrating radar when necessary.

In December of 2021, the Yurok Tribe declared an MMIP emergency in response to a spike in MMIP cases in Northern California, including the disappearance of Hupa citizen Emmilee Risling. Risling was last seen on the Yurok Reservation on October 14, 2021. The declaration mobilized a multidisciplinary team to build the Tribe's capacity to confront the many facets of this complex and indelible crisis. The Tribe formed the prosecutor's office and later hired a policy analyst to advocate for targeted legislation at the state and federal levels. In 2022, the Tribe started sponsoring state legislation to address specific aspects of the



MMIP crisis. In August of 2022, the California legislature passed the Feather Alert bill. The Yurok Tribe-sponsored bill established a system to get the word out when Native people are reported missing under unusual circumstances or are at risk. In October of 2022, the Tribe hosted the first Statewide Tribal MMIP Summit. Nearly 300 tribal leaders, tribal police and impacted families from every corner of the state, as well as state legislators and law enforcement, attended the summit.

Earlier this year, the Tribe made a \$200 million budget request to the State of California to combat the MMIP crisis. The proposal aims to support MMIP response plans and culturally informed prevention work in Northern, Central and Southern California. In February of 2023, the Yurok Tribe and U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) announced a new MMIP pilot project, which is part of USMS's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative. The cooperative project brings together personnel from the Yurok Tribe, including the Yurok Tribal Police Department and Yurok Office of the Tribal Prosecutor, and USMS to share information, identify goals, and develop strategies for improving public safety for the Tribe, its citizens, and the broader community. The government-to-government partnership with USMS will also enhance the new MMIP investigation program.

“We hope to leverage our relationship with the US Marshals to build out our investigative program,” said Yurok Prosecutor Rosemary Deck.

California has the fifth highest number of MMIP cases in the US. Nearly every one of the state's 110 federally recognized tribes are experiencing MMIP crises. On February 7, 2023 the Yurok Tribe organized the first MMIP Day of Action at the California capitol. More than 500 tribal leaders, tribal citizens from all over California and MMIP survivors participated in the day of action. Nearly a dozen democratic and republican state legislators also attend the historic event. The Tribe put on the MMIP Day of Action to educate lawmakers about MMIP and promote two proposed bills. Introduced by California Assembly Member James C. Ramos and sponsored by the Tribe, AB 44 (Tribal Public Safety) seeks to grant tribal police state peace officer status. The bill will also provide tribal law enforcement and tribal courts access to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). The computer network contains FBI and DMV-administered databases, criminal histories and many other essential records. Also introduced by Assembly Member Ramos, AB 273 (Protecting and Locating Foster Children Missing from Care) will require counties and courts to notify Tribes, key family members and attorneys when a child is missing from foster care.

# YUROK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

4.24 YEDC Board Meeting  
5.01 Casino Opens  
5.01 Summer Hours @  
Visitor Center  
Abalone Bar & Grill

NOW HIRING!!

Holiday Inn, Abalone Bar & Grill,  
Redwood Casino, Jet Boat Tours, Canoe  
Tours, and Visitor Center are all hiring!  
-Full time, part time, & seasonal  
positions now available.



SCAN HERE FOR JOB LISTING AND APPLICATION

5.25 Redwood Yurok Canoe Tours  
Klamath River Jet Boat Tours  
Opening Day

SUMMER SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!



# YUROK COUNTRY

www.visityurokcountry.com



# Dept. Director Serves on State Board

*Forestry Director Blake was Re-appointed to the CA Forestry and Fire Protection Board*

Yurok Forestry Department Director Dawn Blake was re-appointed to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be a caretaker of the state’s forests,” Dawn said. “As a board member, I hope to serve as a bridge between traditional and conventional forest management.”

Dawn is the first Native American woman to serve on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. She was initially appointed to fill a vacant position on the board in 2022. The new, four-year term will expire in 2027.

Dawn is a strong role model for Native women who want to become stewards of the state’s resources. The confirmation hearing for her second term is happening on March 28. This term will last five years.

Dawn is an enrolled Hoopa Tribal member and Yurok descendent. She brings to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection a Master of Science degree in natural resources and 20 years of real-world experience in land administration, fire prevention and forest restoration. Ranging from

wildlife research to cultural burning, Dawn is well-versed in all aspects of traditional and western forest management. As the Yurok Forestry Director, she manages more than 70,000 acres of Yurok-owned forest. These forests are managed for maximum biological diversity, climate change resilience and for the benefit of current and future generations of Yurok people. Dawn oversees the Tribe’s 15,000-acre Old-Growth Forest and Salmon Sanctuary on Blue Creek. The Tribe is restoring the forest surrounding this key Klamath River tributary back into an old-growth system. Dawn also administers sustainable and selective timber harvest and thinning operations on tribal lands.

Additionally, she is well-informed about the threats facing California’s natural resources and rural communities, such as the recent record-breaking wildfires. More importantly, she is passionate about resolving these ongoing threats to California’s residents and resources.

The State Board of Forestry is “responsible for developing the general forest policy of the state, determining the guidance policies of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), and representing the state’s interest in federal forestland in California.” Additionally, the board is responsible for continuously reviewing and revising forest practice rules. The board is also intimately involved in the state’s wildfire planning. Within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the board

has much influence over tribal natural resource issues.

Dawn’s appointment to the state board is consistent with the California Governor’s Executive Order N-15-19, which created the California Truth and Healing Council. Following the historic June 2019 order, Governor Newsom pledged to enhance the government-to-government relationship between the state and tribes and promised to include tribal voices at the highest level of the state policy-making process.



Dawn Blake, Yurok Forestry Department Director



# Tribe Secures New Water Tank for Klamath

*Tribe to Install New Drinking Water Tank in Klamath Townsite*



(Left) Yurok Tribal Council Member Phillip Williams, Tribal Council Member Mindy Natt, Tribal Council Member Wes Crawford, Tribal Council Member Ryan Ray, Chairman Joseph L. James, Vice Chairman Frankie Myers, Tribal Council Member Toby Vanlandingham and Tribal Council Member Sherri Provolt celebrate the signing of the agreement.

The Yurok Tribe signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Klamath Community Services District (KCS D) to install a new drinking water storage tank in Klamath. Once installed, the 150,000-gallon tank will double KCS D's water storage capacity. "This project will greatly improve water security in Klamath for the foreseeable future," said Yurok Tribal Council Member Ryan Ray, who represents the Requa District. "Right now, the Klamath community, the local economy and the tribal government are growing at a rapid rate. We desperately need the additional water storage to support the ongoing expansion in these areas." The Tribe secured a grant from the Indian Health Service to fund the project. In the first week of July, the project will begin with the fortification of the road leading to the tank site. The repairs are needed to accommodate the large, aboveground water storage container. After the road is fixed, the Tribe will install the new tank. Telemetry equipment will be mounted on the tank to allow KCS D to remotely monitor water delivery systems. The new tank should be operational by the first week of November. The increased storage capacity is the first step toward connecting the Aawok Ada Charles Community Center to the main water line.

# Yurok Restoration Effort Goes Global

*Hannah Fry Highlights Yuroks Working to Heal the Natural World*

This episode of Bloomberg Television's *the Future with Hannah Fry* presents a profoundly engaging representation of the Yurok Tribe's extraordinary effort to heal the natural world. The 24-minute show features the Tribe's work to restore salmon spawning streams, reintroduce critically endangered condors and remove the Klamath dams.

"We do these projects because we believe that humans were placed here on earth to keep the balance of the world around us. Just like salmon have a role to play in the ecosystem around them, and elk and deer and condor, humans have a role to play in the ecosystem as well. Humans are a part of this world. We are

supposed to be here," Yurok Vice Chairman Frankie Myers.

The show zeroes in on Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation's and Yurok Fisheries Department's substantive contribution to the collaborative Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration Project. The rewilding project is a collaboration with the Save the Redwoods League, California Trout and Redwood National and State Parks (NPS) and many others. Endangered coho salmon and red-legged frogs, not to mention many other wildlife species, are already taking advantage of the off-channel ponds shown in the episode.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2023-03-30/rewilding-the-future-with-hannah-fry-episode-6-video>



# Grant Set to Transform Part of Trinity

*State Funds will Support Monumental River Restoration Project on the Trinity River*



The Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation's remove historic gold-mining waste from the valley floor. The waste has impaired river function and harmed fish and wildlife for several decades.

The Yurok Tribe recently received a \$3,990,587 grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for an urgently needed, large-scale river restoration project on the Trinity River.

"These funds will help us transform a severely damaged section of the Trinity into diverse, dynamic and complex habitat for salmon and steelhead," said Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribe's Vice Chairman and President of the Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation. "I sincerely thank California Governor Newsom and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for investing in our effort to rebuild these invaluable fish stocks and make the Klamath Basin more resilient to climate change. These funds could not have come at a better time."

The Trinity River is the largest Klamath River tributary. The salmon and steelhead spawning stream plays a major role in the Klamath Basin's fish production and contributes much to the overall health of the interconnected watershed. Dams, widespread habitat degradation and water diversions have reduced the Trinity's salmon and steelhead runs to a small fraction of their former sizes. The Yurok Tribe is engaged

in collaborative, complementary efforts to restore habitat, improve water management and rebuild fish stocks on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant is funding a significant portion of the Oregon Gulch Project, which is the largest fish habitat construction initiative in the Trinity River's history.

"We are extremely grateful for the Newsom Administration's considerable investment in the Oregon Gulch project on the Trinity River," said Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James. "This project is part of our long-term plan to recover our fish runs and preserve an essential part of our culture."


The Yurok Fisheries Department's multidisciplinary team of restoration biologists, engineers and hydrologists, along with geomorphologists, wetland ecologists and botanists, designed the Oregon Gulch Project. The Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation is leading the implementation of the monumental rewilding initiative. Funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Trinity River Restoration Program and US Department of the Interior, the Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation-led Oregon Gulch Project aims to accomplish the following

goals:

- Restore complex floodplain habitat and natural river processes for the benefit of salmon and steelhead
- Increase habitat diversity for all riparian species (fish, frogs, turtles, birds, insects, etc....) year-round within an approximately one-mile river segment
- Remove for than 500,000 cubic yards of mine tailing and restore 32 acres of degraded floodplain, wetland and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife
- Increase juvenile salmon and steelhead habitat by up to 1000 percent within the project reach
- Increase groundwater retention and restore riparian corridor
- Establish conditions for the river to access its valley, allowing the channel to evolve as well as create new fish habitat for many years to come

For most of the last century, the Oregon Gulch floodplain, located near Junction City, has been buried in more than 35 feet of gold





mine tailings comprised of bowling ball-sized rocks, gravel and silt. The construction team will remove the dredge mining refuse and reshape the straight river channel into a sweeping arc or meander bend with large-wood elements, deep holes and wetlands. Over time, the approximately one-mile-long river segment is expected to evolve into a complex network of channels spanning a verdant floodplain within the 35-acre valley.

Numerous single logs and groups of whole trees with root wads attached will facilitate the evolution of this river reach. When seasonal high flows collide with the wood elements, the corresponding hydraulic pressure will produce new side channels and/or scour deep holes, where adult salmon and steelhead will rest during the spawning migration. The same pools and secondary channels will offer concealed places for juvenile fish to pick off prey without expending too much energy fighting the fast current. The large wood will also help restore the river's connections to its sprawling floodplains, where baby salmon and steelhead will find ample food, shelter and respite from high flows. The Oregon Gulch project site is immediately downstream of one of the Trinity River's most productive salmon spawning grounds. The restoration work will increase juvenile salmon and steelhead habitat by up to one-thousand percent within the targeted area.

In addition to smothering the riparian ecosystem, the towering mine tailings confine this river reach, which better resembles a ditch than a spawning stream. The Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation hired several local contractors, including Yurok citizen-owned V & P Services and Marrufo Trucking, to remove the 516,480 cubic yards or more than 1 billion pounds of rubble to clear the way for the restoration of the riparian corridor. The Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation used a special machine to sort out some of the spawning-sized gravel and alluvial silt from the mine tailing for later use in the restoration project. The majority of the rocky material will be crushed and incorporated into local road projects.

As a result of the removal of the mining refuse, the reconnection of the floodplains and reintroduction of large wood, this river segment will function more like a natural, self-sustaining stream. For example, the large wood elements will trap and store large quantities of fallen leaves and branches. Microbes and invertebrates will breakdown these organic materials and release nutrients back into the riparian environment. Many of the insects will become food for baby salmon and steelhead too. When the river spills onto the porous floodplains, water will recharge underground aquifers at a more rapid rate. This will allow more water to remain in the river for a longer period of time. Additionally, the underground storage system will later release clean and cold water back into the river. Restoring these natural processes will ensure the river valley continues to serve fish and wildlife as the climate changes.

Climate change has already started to reduce annual precipitation amounts in Northern California. The decrease in rainfall and snowpack is

contributing to increases in river temperatures and the frequency of fish-killing disease outbreaks in the Lower-and Mid-Klamath because there is often not enough water to flush pathogenic bacteria and parasites from the system. As juveniles and as adults, Trinity-born salmon are often exposed to elevated pathogen levels and water temperatures when travelling the lower 44 miles of Klamath to and from the ocean. After the four Klamath dams are removed in 2024, Klamath and Trinity-origin salmon will not experience such high water temperatures and pathogen densities.

Prior to the installation of the dams, at least one million spring and fall-run salmon spawned in the Klamath Basin each year. In 2022, less than 55,000 fall Chinook salmon (including hatchery fish) and approximately 4,000 spring-run fish returned to the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. In response to the 2023 fall Klamath salmon forecast, fisheries managers are poised to close the ocean commercial fishery in California this year. The Yurok Tribe will be cancelling its commercial fishery for the fifth year in row to protect salmon stocks. More restoration work is required on both rivers to help fish numbers rebound.

"Salmon and steelhead numbers will gradually improve on the Trinity and Klamath Rivers after the four dams are removed," said Yurok Fisheries Department Director Barry McCovey Jr. "I am confident that we can rebuild salmon stocks through dam removal, habitat restoration, and proper water management, to a level that would support tribal, ocean commercial and recreational fisheries."

The heavy equipment work on the Oregon Gulch Project will wrap up this fall. After the machines move out, a crew will establish a wide variety of well-adapted plants, including native grasses/forbs, shrubs and trees, at key locations within the project site. The vegetation will further improve habitat for salmon and steelhead as well as many different native wildlife species.

While increasing salmon and steelhead production is the primary goal of the Oregon Gulch Project, the restoration of the immense riparian corridor will benefit other culturally important fish species, such as Pacific lamprey and threatened coho salmon. The restored river valley will also aid a myriad of native amphibians, birds and mammals, due to the abundance of food, water and shelter.

The Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation is owned and operated by the Yurok Tribe. Informed by western science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, the tribally owned business holistically converts severely degraded aquatic ecosystems into highly productive habitat for salmon as well as many other native fish and wildlife species. The Yurok Fisheries Department regularly plans, designs and monitors the Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation's projects.



# Threatened Species Use New Habitat

## *Klamath River-Born Baby Coho Salmon Makes Ocean Trek to Prairie Creek Pond*

In less than two years, a diversity of native fish and wildlife species, ranging from migratory waterfowl to threatened coho salmon, are already using an off-channel pond and floodplain built by the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department & Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation as part of a collaborative project on Prairie Creek. According to a February 2023 report produced by the NOAA Restoration Center and Cal Poly Humboldt numerous juvenile coho salmon as well as many other native aquatic and terrestrial creatures are taking advantage of the new pond and wetlands. One of the baby coho had even travelled 23 miles from the Lower Klamath River, through the ocean, up Redwood Creek and into Prairie Creek. Fisheries researchers know the coho came from the Klamath because it has a tiny Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag under its skin. The Yurok Fisheries Department inserted the PIT tag into the small salmon on January 24, 2023, while monitoring fish populations in Salt Creek on the the Lower Klamath River. The presence of a Klamath-origin fish in Prairie Creek is indicative of the Yurok Tribe's long-held assertion that the restoration of each local river is essential to the long-term success of native fish species and the interconnected temperate rainforest biome as a whole. In addition to coho salmon, the NOAA Restoration Center and Cal Poly Humboldt team have encountered the following fish species in the new habitat: juvenile Chinook salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, three-spined stickleback, prickly sculpin, coast range sculpin, and suckers. They have also observed Roosevelt elk, red-legged frogs, and northwestern salamanders, not to mention black bear paw prints. Both amphibian species have deposited egg masses on planted vegetation near the edge of the new pond too. The bufflehead shown in the photograph accompanying this post was seen feeding in the off-channel pond on March 1. The new habitat was installed along the lower part of Prairie Creek, a Redwood Creek tributary, in the summer of 2021.

The two-acre pond and floodplain habitat are part of a long-term, cooperative effort to restore the coastal portion of the Redwood Creek watershed. A second pond and a new river channel were built last year, but these features won't be fully accessible to fish until this summer. However, juvenile coho salmon are already using the second pond via a culvert that temporarily connects Prairie Creek with the new off-channel pond. During high winter flows, juvenile coho salmon especially need access to slow-water habitat with

ample cover from predators and food in the form of small insects. The wood elements placed in the pond will provide attachment points for the larval-stage bugs that sustain salmon and other fish. Located on a Save the Redwoods League-owned property near Orick, the Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration Project aims to facilitate increases in floodplain connectivity, habitat complexity and riparian diversity as well as improve ecological function. The project will restore 0.8 miles of the stream, nearly 23 acres of floodplain habitat, up to 19 acres of wetlands and approximately 24 acres of diverse riparian flora. The restoration work will also make the creek more resilient to climate change. Several acres of the project site were previously covered in asphalt left by a former logging company. It has been removed.

For more information - <https://www.savetheredwoods.org/project/redwood-trails-gateway-and-prairie-creek-restoration/>



The Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation's Richard Bates works on the first pond.



# YFD Recruiting Female Firefighters

*Yurok Fire Department Seeks to Hire Four Native Female Firefighters*



Yurok Firefighter Faith Tracy, a Yurok citizen, performs a cultural burn on the Yurok Reservation.

Through the Yurok Tribe's partnership with Redwood National Park, the Yurok Fire Department was selected to train four female firefighters for the National Park Service's forward-looking Women in Fire Program.

"It is a huge privilege to train these firefighters for the Women in Fire Program," said Yurok Fire Chief Rod Mendes, who has trained hundreds of firefighters. "We look forward to providing four Native American women the skills and experience they need to acquire good-paying jobs with tribal, federal or state wildland fire departments."

"It is the goal of this program to recruit, train, and offer exposure to multiple aspects of wildland fire in addition to exposure to the planning and implementation of prescribed fire projects," said Redwood National Park Fire Management Officer Rick Young. "After completion of this program the participants

will not only be able to compete for a career in wildland fire as a crewperson, but hopefully be inspired to continue on to become future leaders in the fire service. I'm excited to partner with the Yurok Tribe in this effort and I hope to expand the program in the coming years, creating more opportunities for a large segment of our community that is currently underrepresented within the fire service."

With \$100,000 from the National Park Service (NPS), the Yurok Fire Department is recruiting four Native American women to participate in the paid program. Once hired, the Yurok Fire Department will put the women through an intensive wildland fire training academy focused on the fundamentals of wildland firefighting. Based out of the department's headquarters on the Yurok Reservation, the comprehensive training will be comprised of classroom instruction and hands on skill-building exercises. The classroom part of the course will cover a wide variety of topics, such as wildland fire behavior, firefighting tactics and the Incident Command System, as well as communications, fire line safety and situational awareness. In the field, the four trainees will perform exercises with many different forms of firefighting equipment, ranging from fire pumps to chainsaws. They will also learn to work as a team.

The in-depth training will prepare program participants to pass the written and physical tests required to receive an interagency-certified Incident Qualifications Card, or Red Card, and a Firefighter 2 credential, which will qualify them to land firefighting jobs anywhere in the United States.

After they complete the training and certification process, the four women will work out of the Yurok fire house in Tulley Creek. On a daily basis, the firefighters will be assigned duties and respond to calls for service as members of the Yurok fire crew until the end of the 2023 fire season. Their duties may include fighting local forest fires, participating in cultural burns on tribal lands and managing woodland fuels to protect elders' homes. The female firefighters will also spend stints with Redwood National Park and US Forest Service fire crews, which will further expand their skillsets.

The Yurok Fire Department is the first tribal firefighting organization to administer the transformational Women in Fire



Program in California. The National Park Service launched the program in 2021 in an effort to make its workforce more resilient and encourage more females to pursue leadership positions within the male-dominated profession. Women currently make up just 12% of the federal wildland fire workforce. The Yurok Tribe and the park service recognize that diversity drives innovation, which is needed now more than ever before as the land managers confront climate change, drought and longer, more severe fire seasons. Prior to partnering with the Yurok Fire Department, NPS implemented Women in Fire Programs with conservation corps in multiple states.

The Yurok Fire Department is an all-risk, all-hazard organization that focuses on fire detection, prevention and suppression in conjunction with traditional and conventional fuels management. The chartered tribal agency fights wildfires in the local area and across the US. In addition to extinguishing fires, the Yurok crew conducts cultural burns to moderate forest fuel loads, improve wildlife habitat and increase access to traditional basket-weaving materials on tribal lands. When they are not contending with fires or performing controlled burns, the Yurok crew works on projects that reduce fire risk on the reservation.

The Yurok Fire Department is led by Chief Rod Mendes. Chief Mendes has more than 35 years of fire officer leadership experience, including lengthy terms as a District Fire Management Officer for the Klamath National Forest and as the Chief of Fire and Office of Emergency Services for the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and over 20 years with Inter-agency Incident Management teams. He is also a governor-appointed member of California's Homeland Security Advisory Committee. Chief Mendes will design and oversee the Women in Fire Program training.

"I can say from experience Chief Mendes is a tremendous resource for new firefighters, especially those who want to climb the ranks. The park service couldn't have selected a better mentor for participants in the Women in Fire Program," concluded Yurok Firefighter and Yurok citizen Faith Tracy.

To apply for the Women in Fire Program on the Yurok Reservation, please fill out the Yurok Tribe employment application, which can be found here: <https://www.yuroktribe.org/job-opportunities>



# EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR FOUR NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

## PARTICIPATE IN THE WOMEN IN FIRE PROGRAM

The Yurok Fire Department will put the women through an intensive wildland fire training academy focused on the fundamentals of wildland firefighting. The firefighters will be assigned duties and respond to calls for service as **members of the Yurok fire crew until the end of the 2023 fire season.**

Duties may include fighting local forest fires, contributing to cultural burns on tribal lands and managing woodland fuels to protect elders' homes.

### CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

- Wildland fire behavior
- Incident Command System
- Communications
- Firefighting tactics
- Fire line safety
- Situational awareness

### HANDS-ON SKILL-BUILDING EXERCISES

- Work with Firefighting equipment (ie fire pumps & chainsaws)
- Learn to work as a team

**To sign up for the Women in Fire Program, please fill out the Yurok Tribe's employment application - <https://www.yuroktribe.org/job-opportunities>**



# Fire Cpt. Lamebear New Redding Hotshot

*Captain Lamebear Selected for 2023 Redding Interagency Hotshot*



Yurok Fire Captain Andrew (Andy) Lamebear executes a cultural burn.

Yurok Fire Captain Andrew (Andy) Lamebear recently received word that he was selected to serve on the highly regarded Redding Interagency Hotshot (Redding IHC) crew for the 2023 fire season. Redding IHC is one of the longest running and most well-respected hotshot crews in the United States. This hard-earned assignment will afford Andy an opportunity to accelerate his training as a hotshot before returning to the Yurok Fire Department. Andy elected to join the hotshot crew for the season because he wanted to expand his professional skillset and increase his capacity to serve the Yurok community.

Upon his return, all Yurok Fire Department personnel will have hotshot experience. That says a lot about the Fire Department and the Yurok Tribe as whole. Considered the special forces of the firefighting profession, Interagency Hotshot Crews are comprised of preeminently trained, diversely skilled and highly conditioned individuals. Incident managers deploy these elite firefighters to complete a wide variety of tactical fire assignments in remote and

arduous terrain. Within this challenging environment, hotshots fight fire with chainsaws, hand tools and fire. Every year, Redding IHC chooses a small group of proven firefighters to put through the rigorous hotshot training. To be selected for the assignment, Andy had to stand out among a large group of extremely talented applicants, who are driven to reach the pinnacle of their profession. It is very difficult to get a detail of this nature. The Yurok Fire Department thanks the USFS for selecting Andy and having faith in the quality of our personnel. Andy is a humble, hardworking firefighter and a strong leader, who embodies the highest professional standards. He is also a Yurok citizen, a traditional culture bearer and a father. He has spent nearly a decade with the department. The Redding IHC couldn't have selected a better person to invest their time, expertise and resources. Please join me in wishing Captain Andy Lamebear a safe assignment and a safe return home at the end of the season.

Yurok Fire Chief Rod Mendes



Yurok Fire Captain Andrew (Andy) Lamebear






# HOW CAN WE HELP?




## The Yurok Tribe Supports Its Members

This new Yurok Today segment is part of series containing a list of all of the services provided by the Tribe. There are too many services to list in one edition. The first installment was published in the last newsletter.

### YUROK TRIBE LIST OF SERVICES – COURT

#### COMING HOME HOUSES (WELLNESS & REENTRY)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**DEADLINE: NONE**

##### DESCRIPTION

Men’s and women’s sober living houses in Klamath; Case management through the Yurok Reentry Program or a Yurok Wellness program; Assistance with cultural engagement and food sovereignty; Supervision and support from house managers, including house meetings, transportation assistance, random and on-demand drug and alcohol testing, and enforcement of other House Rules.

##### ELIGIBILITY

- Enrolled Yurok Tribal member (exceptions may be made for non-Yurok applicants if approved by the Coming Home House Steering Committee); and
- Eligible and suitable to enter the Yurok Reentry Program or a Yurok Wellness program.

##### CONTACT(S)

Yurok Reentry Program at [ytcrp@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:ytcrp@yuroktribe.nsn.us), 707-954-2374  
James Kleinhans, Men’s House Manager at [jkleinhans@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:jkleinhans@yuroktribe.nsn.us)  
Eleonor Beall, Women’s House Manager at [ebeall@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:ebeall@yuroktribe.nsn.us)

##### ELIGIBILITY

Yurok Tribal members and descendants and families on and off the reservation and those in our service area. Court Diversion programs for diversion purposes. Presentations and workshops, special programs, and contracted cultural education and activities.

##### CONTACT(S)

Laura Woods, Outreach Manager [lwoods@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:lwoods@yuroktribe.nsn.us), work cell 707-458-4116

#### EDUCATION DIVERSION PROGRAM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**DEADLINE: NONE**

##### DESCRIPTION

Education Diversion Program works to encourage and support academic success among school-aged Yurok youth through collaborative relationships with Del Norte County Schools from kindergarten through high school graduation and beyond. The goal of the program is to advocate for Yurok youth by providing help navigating the school systems including but not limited to IEP and 504 compliance, student study team meetings, credit checks, waiver options, and grade modifications. Our caseworkers and attorney will work with students and families to increase high school graduation rates, improve attendance among all students, and eliminate barriers that contribute to chronic absenteeism.

##### ELIGIBILITY

Those eligible for the program include:

- Enrolled Yurok Tribal members, students eligible for enrollment ages six to twenty-four (6 – 24) years old.
- Students experiencing truancy-related issues(s) in the Del Norte County School District.
- Students with individual education plans (IEP), 504 plans, grade and credit deficits, other identifiable educational needs

##### CONTACT(S)

Jessica Cedillo, Education Caseworker, [jcedillo@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:jcedillo@yuroktribe.nsn.us), 707-951-0174.  
Joanne Carter, Education Attorney, [jocarter@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:jocarter@yuroktribe.nsn.us), 707-951-4108  
[Educationreferral@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:Educationreferral@yuroktribe.nsn.us)

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**DEADLINE: NONE**

##### DESCRIPTION

Outreach to community agencies and programs in both counties; outreach to schools, families, and individuals; women’s support and talking circles; occasional mediation services.



## YUROK TRIBE LIST OF SERVICES – COURT

### HEY-WECH EK' PROGRAM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEADLINE: NONE

#### DESCRIPTION

Domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and family violence victim/survivor services. Assistance with emergency assistance related to the victimization including housing supplies, food, relocating services, transportation, and connection to supportive services.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Yurok tribal members and households and others within the Yurok Tribe's service area if the program is not at capacity.

#### CONTACT(S)

Vicky Bates, DV Shelter Manager, vbates@yuroktribe.nsn.us, 707-954-8737.

---

### POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEADLINE: NONE

#### DESCRIPTION

A Yurok-specific, eight-week parenting class, available while funding lasts through a one-time grant from the East Bay Community Foundation to the Kee Cha-E-Nar Nonprofit. Participants may attend in person or virtually, transportation and food are available for in-person attendees, and a certificate is provided to participants upon completion.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Facilitators must be Yurok parents and undergo training through the National Indian Child Welfare Association (the program is seeking interested Yurok parents); Yurok Tribal members and household members raising Yurok children are eligible to participate.

#### CONTACT(S)

Amber Miller, amiller@yuroktribe.nsn.us

---

### REENTRY LEGAL ASSISTANCE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEADLINE: NONE

#### DESCRIPTION

Legal assistance through the Reentry Staff Attorney and partner organization, Root & Rebound, including record clearing, assistance with advocacy to Parole Board as appropriate, and other reentry-related legal advocacy and support.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Assistance from the Reentry Staff Attorney is limited to Yurok Tribal members, Root & Rebound services are available to all community members.

#### CONTACT(S)

Amber Miller, Reentry Staff Attorney, amiller@yuroktribe.nsn.us, 707-954-2374

---

### SAFETY NET RESPONDERS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEADLINE: NONE

#### DESCRIPTION

opioid Overdose reversal and response training to first responders, community members, and family members. Dispensing Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and referral to tribal wellness services and assistance

#### ELIGIBILITY

Yurok tribal community members and first responders.

#### CONTACT(S)

Lori Nesbitt, Wellness Program Manager, lnesbitt@yuroktribe.nsn.us,  
707-954-3552

---

### SERVICES TO INCARCERATED YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEADLINE: NONE

#### DESCRIPTION

Correspondence and outreach, including periodic mailings with intakes, descriptions of services, and cultural materials as available in permissible formats, including basket patterns and Yurok language Quizlets. Assistance with access to legal, enrollment, and other information and services; Funding for telephone calls, art supplies, books, and other means of connection for Yurok individuals and families.

#### ELIGIBILITY

All incarcerated Yurok Tribal members.

#### CONTACT(S)

Yurok Reentry Program at ytcp@yuroktribe.nsn.us, 707-954-2374

---





# Yurok Tribe

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

www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today  
190 Klamath Blvd.,  
Klamath, CA 95548

Address Service Requested

Presort Standard  
US Postage  
PAID  
Eureka, CA  
Permit No. 76



The Yurok Tribe was featured in the new Bloomberg series call The Future with Hannah Fry. The Yurok episode was filmed last spring at the Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration Project site. For additional info, please see page 7.

## YUROK TRIBE NOW HIRING!



The Yurok Tribe is currently offering dozens of exciting employment opportunities in a diversity of areas. The Tribe offers a highly competitive compensation and benefits package including health, dental, vision and life insurance. We also offer 401k, Employee Assistance Program, 13 paid sick days per year, 12-30 paid vacation days depending on longevity and 15 paid holidays per year.

The Yurok Tribe is currently the largest tribe in California with more than 6,300 enrolled members. The Yurok Reservation straddles the lower 44 miles of the Klamath River on the far Northern California Coast. The tribe provides numerous services in the local community and membership with its more than 400 employees. We are looking for individuals who are ready to work with our team on accelerating our nation's progress toward prosperity.

For more information contact us at  
(707) 482-1350 or

visit [www.yuroktribe.org](http://www.yuroktribe.org)