

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES

In Brief November 2005

VOLUME TWO, NUMBER EIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **PUBLIC LECTURE: Context is Everything: History & Culture in Contemporary Tribal Life**
Wilma Mankiller, Morse Chair
November 9, 2005 – 7:00PM
Erb Memorial Union Ballroom
University of Oregon
Details: (541) 346-3700
- **SYMPOSIUM: Women in Tribal & Community Leadership**
November 10, 2005 – 9-4:00PM
Many Nations Longhouse, U of O
Details: (541) 346-3700
- **TRADING AT THE RIVER**
November 15-16, 2005
Embassy Suites Portland Airport
Details: <http://www.onaben.org>
- **A STORY TELLING GATHERING**
November 16, 2005 – 7:00PM
PSU Native American Center
710 S.W. Jackson Avenue
<http://www.multcolib.org/events/tales/gatheringflyer.pdf>

Legislative Commission on Indian Services

State Capitol, Room 167
(503) 986-1067

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis>
Karen.M.Quigley@state.or.us
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Commission Assistant



GOVERNOR'S STATE-TRIBAL ANNUAL SUMMIT

Photo taken at Portland State University on October 21 by Toby McClary of Smoke Signals. Pictured (L to R) Warm Springs Tribal Chair Ron Suppah, Klamath Tribal Chair Allen Foreman, Coquille Tribal Chair Ed Metcalf, Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Chair Ron Brainard, Umatilla Board of Trustees Chair Antone Minthorn, Burns Paiute Tribal Chair Dean Adams, Siletz Tribal Chair Dee Pigsley, Cow Creek Tribal Chair Sue Shaffer, Governor Ted Kulungoski, and Grand Ronde Vice-Chair Angie Blackwell

TRIBAL PERSPECTIVES

Allen Foreman, Klamath Tribes

A new segment of In Brief Newsletter, Tribal Perspectives aspires to pass along the outlook of current tribal leaders on sovereignty, on the next generation, and on themselves. Allen Foreman is Tribal Chair of the Klamath Tribes and has served as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Indian Services since 2002. The following is an excerpt from the speech he gave on October 21 at the Governor's Eighth Annual State-Tribal Summit.

The choices we make today, whether good or ill, may well shape our Tribal-State relationships for generations yet to come. And today, having witnessed in recent years a heightened respect for our combined purpose and goals – having seen a steady improvement in the opportunities and well-being of all our citizens, both Tribal and non-tribal – I can tell you that the current relations between the State and the Tribes are good.

Continued page two

TRIBAL PERSPECTIVES *continued*



Allen Foreman is Tribal Chair of the Klamath Tribes and was appointed to the Commission on Indian Services in 1999. He has been elected Vice-Chair annually since 2002.

In short, both at home and throughout the state, there may now be a temptation to relax. For Tribes the road has been long, the burden heavy, and the pace consistently urgent. But we cannot be satisfied to rest here. This is the side of the hill, not the top. We have made a beginning – but we have only begun.

Now the time has come to make the most of our gains – to translate the renewal of our combined strength into the achievement of our common purpose.

First, we need to strengthen common goals by investing in our youth: The future of any people is damaged, and irreparably so, whenever any of its children are not educated to the full extent of their talent, from grade school through graduate school. Today, an estimated 4 of every 10 tribal students in the 5th grade will not even finish high school – and that is a waste we cannot afford.

Second, we need to strengthen our relationship by safeguarding our joint health programs: The Oregon Health Plan has been beneficial to tribal and other state citizens as well. We cannot afford to let this program go by the wayside. For many of our low-income families it has been the needed helping hand through difficult times. Moreover, all our miracles of medical research will count for little if we cannot make them available to those who need them the most.

Third, we need to jointly strengthen our region by protecting our rich array of natural resources: We believe that everything from the mountaintop to the ocean has its purpose in the environment. We must work together to strengthen and enforce our environmental regulations to protect first of all the quality of our air and water. We must have a process for sharing available data both scientific and anecdotal so that we can begin charting a course to clean up polluted conditions where

we find them. The health of all of our citizens depends on this. The health risks of eating Salmon in the rivers are a good example. We must work together to improve both the quality and quantity of the diminishing habitat for our wildlife, and further we need to enact and enforce stricter land use regulations to protect what little wildlife we have. We also need to have more forward thinking and collaboration on ways to protect wildlife from its inevitable clash with progress. On highway 97 between the junction of highway 58 and Klamath Falls, there are between 5 and 6 hundred deer killed annually during their normal migration across the highway. This is not only a terrible waste of our natural resources, but also very dangerous to motorists and very costly to individuals and insurance companies. It would seem to me that the insurance companies could be enticed to pick up a large portion of the cost of installing fencing and passageways for the animals. This would make that stretch of highway safer for motorists and save the companies untold millions in future claims. As we speak the process is underway to widen portions of highway 97 to accommodate four-lane traffic, which is not a bad thing. This leads me to my next point:

Fourth, we need to strengthen our state and our reservations by making the best and the most economical use of their resources and facilities: Our economic health depends on healthy transportation arteries; nearly three-fourths of our tribal citizens live in rural areas. Good roads are as essential a community service as hospitals. In many cases tribes are able to bring in federal transportation dollars to help defray the costs. Coordinating our efforts could only improve our transportation system.

Oregon’s Tribal Casinos have greatly increased the standard of living in their respective areas. Together we need to protect this valuable resource from those who would open the entire state to gaming.

The state tourism industry will have twice as many visitors 10 years from now as we do today. If we do not plan today for the future growth, protection of all of our natural assets – not only forests but also wildlife – our children and their children will be poorer in every sense of the word.

Finally we need to protect and preserve to the extent possible our underground water supply. In many areas our aquifers are sadly depleted to the point that our natural springs are not longer flowing. These springs are a life source not only for the wildlife but for the watersheds as well.

Despite all of our achievements, the continued progress of our mutual cooperation requires a persistent discontent with present performance. We need to continually monitor our progress or lack thereof. In either case we must not stop our progress.

So we go forward today, strengthened in our purpose. With our alliances strengthened, we look forward to a relationship rich in possibilities. And all this because we have worked and acted together....