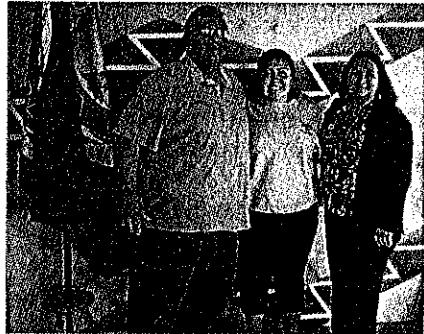


# THE DA'LUK

## Wiyot Tribe Support for Standing Rock

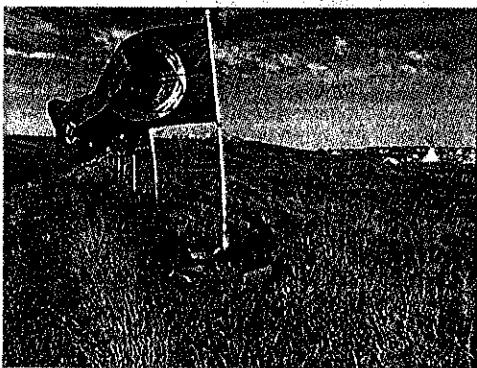
On September 12, 2016 the Wiyot Tribal Council voted to support the Stand Rock Sioux Tribe in their opposition aimed at blocking the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which would carry oil from the Bakken shale in North Dakota across several states and under the Missouri River. The Wiyot Tribe, as a Sovereign Indian Nation wishes to make decisions about the historic and cultural resources of its ancestral lands and supports the rights of other Tribes to do the same. The Dakota Access Pipeline is a direct threat to human burials, sacred sites, and other cultural resources as well as a direct threat to the waters, and thus the people, fish, livestock and animals that depend on those waters. In addition to the Resolution the Wiyot Tribe voted to send the Wiyot Flag to fly in unison with other Tribal Nations from around the country. Tribal Member Pilar James (who had plans to travel to Standing Rock with another group) offered to take the flag to North Dakota on behalf of the tribe.



*Tribal Chairmen Ted Hernandez, Pilar James, and Tribal Administrator Michelle Vassel*

## Wiyot Youth Stand With Standing Rock

Wiyot Youth, Tribal Member Pilar James and family friend Christopher Crook traveled to Cannon Ball, North Dakota and Stood in Solidarity against the pipe line.



*Pilar James and Christopher Crook raising the Wiyot flag at Oceti Sakowin Camp*

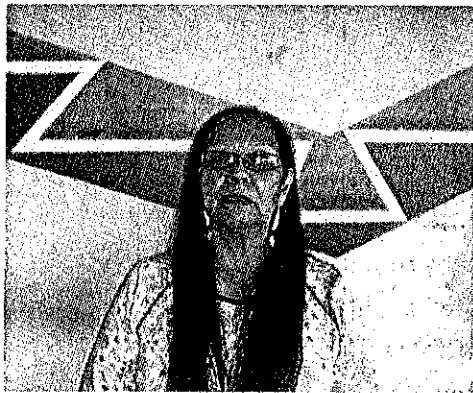
While she was there she got to talk with some of the Elders and learned what the effects the pipeline could have with the Sioux tribe and surrounding states, she since has been spreading the word about the affects the pipeline will have for future Generations to come. Pilar is currently a Senior at East High School and plans on attending College of the Redwoods next fall, we are very proud of Pilar and she is a true leader, with a bright future ahead of her.



## Loleta Holiday Craft Fair

The Loleta Holiday Craft Fair is looking for vendors. The event has moved to the Loleta Fireman's Pavilion so there will be additional space for new vendors. The event has also grown from a 1 day event to a two day event due to popular demand. If you are interested in a Table please contact Lee Ann Moore at (707) 273-7425

## Welcome new staff members



*Mryna Rivera Director  
Health and Human Services Department  
Gou'wil da lalouluwuk  
"Taking Care of People"*



*Josefina Cortez  
Youth Program Manager  
Tsek Houdaqh  
"Where the children are at"*

o, my name is Myrna Rivera and I would like to introduce myself to you.

I am an elder enrolled in the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA (1/2) my mother's side and Wiyot (1/2) on my father's side.

I started my employment with the Wiyot Tribe on October 11, 2016. I am very excited to be here. My experience has been in public service, as a TANF case manager, tribal court clerk, victim services advocate and victims' program manager of ITCC field office advocates throughout California.

I have grown up on a reservation, gone to boarding school, lived and worked on and off the reservation. My life experiences as well as my work experiences will help me assist you.

My first week of employment has been busy with the painting of my office and familiarizing myself with the ICWA cases, LIHEAP Program, reading the Constitution and my personnel policies, generally learning all the rules.

#### TSEK HOUDAQH

"Where the Children Are At"

Greetings Wiyot Tribal Members,

My name is Josefina Cortez and I am proud to announce that I am your new Youth Program Manager here at the Wiyot Tribe. I recently started this position and have been employed with the Wiyot Tribe since September 27<sup>th</sup>, of 2016. I am glad to be here and honored to be given the opportunity to work with your children.

Things so far have been a work in progress, establishing relationships with the youth, planning daily activities from arts and crafts, to outdoor play, and tutoring as needed. Every month there will be a calendar of events/activities, these will be posted at the Boys and Girls Club, and a copy will also be sent home with your child, so you know what is happening and when ☺

Here are some things we have done so far:

Arts and Crafts-Making moon sand, making slime, reading, outdoor physical activity, puzzles, board games, homework and tutoring, on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> we pressed apples and the youth made apple juices. The week of October 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> the older youth participated, and were taken to Sacramento, CA, for a Native Youth Leadership Conference. One Tribal Youth has also been accepted into the McLean Foundations Program "Youth Engaged in Philanthropy"; this is an excellent opportunity for this young lady!

My number one priority is to see that your child thrives while working with me. I have the utmost respect for our youth, and all that they can accomplish in this lifetime. It is my duty to see that they are nurtured, respected, and always given the opportunity to see what this world has to offer them.

I promote education for our youth, and will be working very closely with your High School Students for whatever educational needs they may have whether it may be visiting college campuses, applying for FAFSA etc.

All of your comments, concerns, and recommendations will be greatly appreciated.

The hours for Boys and Girls Club will be from 2:00PM-5:30PM Monday through Friday

Respectfully,

  
Josefina Cortez



Dear Elder,

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at Blue Lake Elementary School would like to have you for a Pen Pal. It is one of their school assignments for this year. They are hoping you will want to correspond with them by mail for the school year. 18 Elders are needed for this wonderful program~

If you are interested in becoming a Pen Pal to one of these students, contact Deb Winkle, Title VI Director at Blue Lake Rancheria ~

668-5101 x 1039.



## Completion of Wetland Program Development Grant

The Wiyot Tribe's Natural Resources Department (NRD) has wrapped up a two year grant that allowed us to take a very close look at the wetland resources found on Wiyot property. Goals of this Clean Water Act (CWA) 103(b)(3) Wetland Development Program Grant (WDPG) were to 1)

further the Tribe's understanding of their wetlands by conducting biological monitoring; Avian surveys, wildlife monitoring, macroinvertebrate surveys, botanical surveys, wetland delineation, and California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) for monitoring wetland conditions, 2)

Create a Wetland Program Plan (WPP) outlining acitvities and goals the Tribe wishes accomplish in the next 6 years,

3) build tribal capacity by providing training to staff, and purchasing equipment (i.e., Trimble GIS unit), to enable NRD staff to map and inventory wetland resources, and 4) educate Wiyot tribal members, particularly youth, through field activities and the creation of a "Wiyot Wetland Field Guide" highlighting the importance of wetlands and native

plants in Wiyot territory.

Fulfilling the commitments of the WPDG has given NRD staff the amazing opportunity to spend a lot of time getting to know the Wiyot wetland properties. These properties include a depressional wetland located on Table Bluff Reservation (TBR) which is described as a fresh-water forested/shrub wetland, an estuarine and marine wetland located on Indian Island consisting of salt marsh and mudflat habitats, and an estuarine intertidal wetland located on Cock Robin Island (CRI) with riparian woodland and exposed gravel bar habitats. All field work conducted under the WDPG was completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. Previous articles outlined the types of studies and monitoring that have taken place on the properties, in this article we will look at of some of the highlights.

Using trail cameras, 8 mammalian species were detected including coyote, bobcat, and black bear. A very high number of black tailed deer and brush rabbit were observed with sightings of raccoon, striped skunk, opossum, and black rat. Also, sightings of mountain lion by tribal members and local community members are reported occasionally, as well as the rare sighting of long tailed weasel. Avian surveys on all three properties revealed a very large number of birds utilizing the numerous habitats

found on Wiyot properties. Avian surveys comprised one of the most comprehensive studies performed under the WDPG with NRD specialist and bird expert Tim Nelson heading up the design and implementation of the study.

1) An immense amount of avian data was recorded on the three Wiyot wetlands with 460 individual birds counted at TBR, 11,869 counted on Indian Island, and 5,302 individuals counted on CRI. Well over 100 different bird species were recorded; predominantly shore birds and geese on Indian Island the three most commonly observed being Western Canada goose, marbled godwit, and black-crowned night heron; the most common species on the upland portion of CRI were European starling, song sparrows, tree swallows, and Pacific wrens, with a large number of species, including shore birds, occupying the vegetated gravel bar, riparian woodland, and Eel River riparian vegetation; while the three most common species recorded on the TBR property were house finch, song sparrow, and American robin.

Vegetation surveys revealed several unique communities including a rare and beautiful mature black cottonwood forest mixed with non-successional red alder occurring on the most upland areas of CRI. The understory and gravel bar rare and threatened community types include Sitka willow, Hookers willow, and Pacific willow as well as mixed willow. Also, many plants important for subsistence gathering occur on the island including Salmon berry, Thimble berry, Black berry, and Stinging nettle. Indian Island is home to two rare plant species, Point Reyes bird's beak and Humboldt owl's clover, the latter of which being endemic to Humboldt Bay. Of great concern on Indian Island is the invasive cord grass *Spartina densiflora* which grows taller than all native salt marsh plant species and has taken over a large area of the property in much the same way that it has taken over most of the marshes in Humboldt Bay and the adjacent Mad River and Eel River estuaries. The Tribe is working with other agencies to plan and carry out removal of this invasive species on Indian Island, as well as other areas in Humboldt Bay, with the hope that important native plant species such as Humboldt Bay owl's clover and Point Reyes bird's beak will recolonize those areas.

One crucial outcome of the Wetland Development Program Grant is the creation of a Wetland Program Plan (WPP). The WPP articulates specific goals that the Tribe would like to accomplish in the next 6 years. The aforementioned activities completed through the Clean Water Act grant allowed NRD staff to identify specific activities vital to the restoration, management, conservation or Wiyot wetlands. This plan should be considered an adaptive management plan that can and will be updated based on emerging data and analysis. The plan will use traditional ecological knowledge along with our own departmental expertise in water quality, botany, and environmental monitoring to further the restoration and protection of Wiyot resources. Some of the planned activities included in the WPP are restoration of the TBR wetland buffer which contains dumped fill and invasive plants, the transfer of the Tribes "Fee Status" land on Cock Robin Island and Indian Island into "Tribal Trust" lands, pursue ongoing efforts to eradicate the invasive cord grass *Spartina densiflora* from Indian Island, establish long term water quality monitoring stations on both Indian Island and Cock Robin Island, develop and expand the NRD Native Plant Nursery to provide plants for restoration efforts as well as provide plants to Wiyot citizens who wish to establish native plants on their properties.

Most importantly, the Wiyot Tribe NRD is grateful for the opportunity to serve Tribal citizens by committing to protect the natural resources found on Wiyot lands for

the benefit of the community and future generations. One important aspect of this commitment is our continued efforts to educate tribal youth by incorporating both traditional environmental and institutional-based knowledge to ensure that Wiyot youth have a strong desire to care for their environment. NRD staff has conducted youth field activities which focused on flora and fauna identification, the use of GPS mapping, and the importance of wetlands in Wiyot culture. Also, NRD staff has created a field guide titled "Wiyot Wetland Field Guide" to help the Wiyot community become more familiar with wetlands occurring within their landholdings. All Tribal members are encouraged to visit the NRD website found at [www.wiyot.us](http://www.wiyot.us) where all reports detailing data and findings from the WPDG can be found. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community!



Image of coyote captured by trail camera on Wiyot Tribal property on Cock Robin Island

## 1850 Settlers arrives in Humboldt

Since 1850, when white settlers first arrived in Humboldt Bay, there have been significant changes to the landscape. Far from the healthy landscape that the Wiyot people managed for over 2000 years, today the area surrounding Humboldt Bay – while still beautiful – has been heavily impacted by urban development. As a result, we see an area with cities and associated infrastructure sitting side by side with agriculture and ranching. From this has come less savory effects, such as invasive species, habitat loss, and toxic waste sites. When European settlers first came into the area, they did not bother to document what the area was like before they began fill in the wetlands and clear cut the forests. As a result, the only community to have knowledge of what this area was like before the ravages of western culture is the Wiyot people.

For that reason, the Cultural Department has been working with a number of agencies to help bring this knowledge to bear in restoring the ecological health of Wiyot ancestral territory. Our first project was to bring this knowledge to bear in the Marine Life Protected Areas in Wiyot ancestral territory. From this project, we learned a great deal about using traditional ecological knowledge in conjunction with western ecological knowledge. Some of the issues that arose included preserving the rights of tribal members to engage in traditional use of places and resources, and preserving the confidentiality of the information that was shared.

Currently, we are working with the BLM and Humboldt State University to develop a program to integrate Wiyot knowledge of this landscape to bear at the Headwaters Preserve – the only remaining old growth redwood forest in Wiyot territory. This is a much longer term project that will affect the parts of the Preserve that are being restored. As it moves forward, the department will be developing a program to reach out to the community to find people who have knowledge of traditional forestry practices. If there are people who would like to share their knowledge of redwood forests, please contact Tom Torma at 733-5055 x.107 or [tom@wiyat.us](mailto:tom@wiyat.us).

# Wiyot Tribe Green Cleaning Policy

By Patty Torres, Natural Resources Assistant Grants Manager

This past September, the Wiyot Tribal Council approved the Wiyot Tribe Green Cleaning Policy written by the Natural Resources Department (WNRD). Through this new policy, Tribal staff will adopt healthier alternatives to common household cleaning products and learn how to properly use and store products that contain hazardous chemicals. This policy is meant to reduce employees' exposure to harmful chemicals, and protect the health of vulnerable occupants such as elders and children.

Common household products such as disinfectant sprays, toilet bowl cleaners, and air fresheners contain substances that can harm human health. As a result of spending so much of our time indoors, we're exposed to many different chemicals on a daily basis. When there is little ventilation in a building, fumes concentrate indoors and our risk for experiencing adverse health effects increases. Symptoms can be as mild, such as skin or eye irritation, or can be more severe, such as asthma attacks and nausea. Certain chemicals found in cleaning products have also been known to cause cancer and birth defects.

Last year, the Wiyot Tribe Natural Resources Department was awarded a grant from the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). With these funds, the WNRD developed a project to address pesticide and household product use in the Tribal community. One of the project goals was to create an administrative policy to guide the Wiyot Tribe staff on various aspects of cleaning product and pesticide use, storage, and

safety. Shortly after Council approved the policy, staff from the WNRD held a presentation for the rest of the staff to give an overview on upcoming changes related to the Green Cleaning policy. Below are a few highlights:

Staff will look for third party certification on cleaning products, such as EPA Safer Choice® and Green Seal®.

Staff learned about the differences between cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.

There will be no more use of air fresheners or other aerosols in the administrative building.

Staff will apply principles of Integrated Pest Management for addressing issues with pests, using pesticides only as a last resort.



cleaning products.

For more information, feel free to contact Patty from the Natural Resources Department at [patty@wiyot.us](mailto:patty@wiyot.us).

The aforementioned changes are only a few of many other new processes and procedures to be followed by all Wiyot staff. In the next several months, the staff will transition into the new set of guidelines, as we plan to phase out of the use of traditional



<i>Diane Wilson</i>	<i>Rina Biovin</i>
<i>Virginia Miller</i>	<i>Hailey Mead</i>
<i>Levi Clark</i>	<i>John Keisner</i>
<i>Brian Mead</i>	<i>Justin Scriven</i>
<i>Anthony James</i>	<i>Autumn Johnson</i>
<i>Bruce Raymer</i>	<i>William Mead</i>
<i>Kelly Cook</i>	<i>Daniel Stephenson-Ramirez</i>
<i>Wesley Mager</i>	<i>Canyon Martin</i>
<i>William Mager</i>	<i>Brenda Aubrey</i>
<i>Albert Atwell</i>	<i>Alyssa Evenson</i>
<i>Scott Johnson</i>	<i>Shay Rogers</i>
<i>Rosa Pullis</i>	<i>Shell Harper</i>
<i>Matthew Lange</i>	<i>Braydon Johnson</i>
	<i>Suzanne Atwell</i>
	<i>Jill Kovacovich</i>
	<i>Bobbie Gunn</i>
	<i>Elizabeth Hernandez</i>
	<i>Marilyn Rocha</i>
	<i>Angeleah James</i>
	<i>Tiffany Fuentes</i>
	<i>Carol Pastori</i>
	<i>Christine Nicholson</i>
	<i>Robyn Norman</i>
	<i>Bailey Beauchamp</i>
	<i>Steven Comarsh</i>
	<i>Eugene Kathman</i>
	<i>Alicia Morgan</i>
	<i>Deon Crawford</i>
	<i>William Sundquist</i>
	<i>Gayle Ransom</i>
	<i>Hugh Preston</i>
	<i>Aarika Brown</i>

# November 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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	1	2	3	4	5	
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Daylight Sav- ings Time Ends		Election Day	Elders Lunch & Bingo 12-1 pm		Tribal Office Closed Veter- ans Day	35th Annual In- tertribal Elders Gathering Redwood Arces

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Business Council Meeting 4pm		TBR Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner 12-2pm			

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Elders Lunch & Bingo 12- 1pm	Tribal Office Closed	Tribal Office Closed	
				Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving	

27	28	29	30
	Continuance Meeting 4pm		Elders Lunch & Bingo 12- 1pm

#### Wiyot Staff

##### Da Rou Gawok "Everyone working Together"

Michelle Vassel.....Tribal Administrator  
Fawn Lopez.....Assistant Administrator  
Sarah Lopez .....Receptionist / Assistant Enrollment Coordinator  
Tammie Bettis.....Receptionist



##### Gou'will da lalouluwuk "Taking care of People"

Myrna Rivera.....Health & Human Service Director  
Alberta Wilson.....Health & Human Service Assistant  
Dr. Rita Wafler.....Licensed MFT

##### Tsek Houdagh "Where the Children are"

Josefina Cortez.....Youth Program Manager

##### Hiwechk "Money"

Marie Essig.....Fiscal Director  
Ashley Peterson.....Accounting Manager

##### Lhatsik Houmoulu'l "House of Tradition"

Thomas Torma.....Cultural Director  
Ted Hernandez....Assistant Cultural Director

##### Shawir Darrudafuluk "we belong to the Wilderness"

Stephen Kullman.....Natural Resource Director  
Patti Torres.....Natural Assistant Grant Manager  
Tim Nelson.....Natural Resource Technician  
Eddie Koch.....Natural Resource Technician  
George Buckley.....Water Operator

#### Wiyot Tribal Council

Ted Hernandez .....Tribal Chairman  
Brain Mead.....Vice Chairman  
Leona Wilkinson .....Secretary  
Vincent DiMarzo.....Treasury  
Cheryl Seidner.....Council Member  
Alan Miller.....Council Member  
Madison Flynn.....Council Member

#### Seeking Input for Constitution Revisions

During the Annual meeting held on April 1 2016, a Constitution Committee was formed to amend the Wiyot Tribe's Constitution. The Committee is seeking input from Tribal Members. The Committee is working on an election ordinance and seeking to change the annual meetings to ballots with the addition of absentee ballots. The Committee hopes to have these changes ready to vote at the April General Council Meeting. If you have input for the committee please send your ideas in writing to: Attn: Constitution Committee, Wiyot Tribe, 1000 Wiyot Dr., Loleta, CA 95551. Copies of the current constitution are available upon request. The next convention meeting will be held on November 9 2016, at 9 am please feel free to call the Tribal Office and ask for Fawn (707) 733-5055. The Committee will be submitting articles to the Newsletter to update the membership on the proposals as they are developed.



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Wiyot Tribe  
1000 Wiyot Dr  
Loleta, CA 95551

## Change of Address Request Form

This is to confirm that my new mailing address is as follows:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Names Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Children who will be effected (legal name and Date of Birth):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_