

# KARUK TRIBE

KDNR 2025 Edition

**FEATURING**

IKXARIYÁTUUYSHIP

ISHYUUX

PIKYAV FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

COUNCIL UPDATES

...AND MUCH MORE

64236 SECOND AVE • HAPPY CAMP, CALIF. • 96039 • 530-493-1600



# AYUKÎ

## Greetings from your Tribal Council



**Russell Attebery**  
Happy Camp  
Chairman  
TERM: Nov. 2023–Nov. 2027



**Kenneth "Binx" Brink**  
Happy Camp  
Vice-Chairman  
TERM: Nov. 2022–Nov. 2026



**Jennifer Goodwin**  
Happy Camp  
Member at Large  
TERM: Nov. 2024–Nov. 2028



**Scott Quinn**  
Happy Camp  
Secretary/Treasurer  
TERM: Nov. 2023–Nov. 2027



**Arch Super**  
Yreka District  
Member at Large  
TERM: Nov. 2021–Nov. 2025



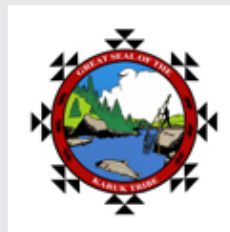
**Laura Mayton**  
Happy Camp District  
Member at Large  
TERM: Nov. 2024–Nov. 2028



**Robert J. Super**  
Yreka District  
Member at Large  
TERM: Nov. 2025–Nov. 2029



**Kristen King**  
Orleans District  
Member at Large  
TERM: Nov. 2025–Nov. 2029



**VACANT**  
Orleans District  
Member at Large  
TERM: Mar. 2026–Nov. 2027  
Partial Term

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## From the Chairman

Buster Attebery

# Ayumi koovura



*Chairman and others meeting Vice President Vance in Washington*



*Chairman accepting award*

I hope all is well in Indian Country. I know you have all heard me talk about Tribal Sovereignty and how important it is to educate the outside world that Tribal Sovereignty is real. Sovereignty is the supreme power or authority of a state to govern itself and its territory without external control. Tribal sovereignty is the inherent right of Indian Tribes to self-govern, meaning they have the authority to determine their own form of government, citizenship, and laws. It is recognized by the U.S. Constitution and is not a power granted by the government, but rather an inherent power that pre-dates the United States. Who holds sovereignty in the United States? The United States has sovereignty, each state has sovereignty, and Indian Tribes have sovereignty.

"You're only as Sovereign as you act", those are the words of the late great Tribal Leader Bo Mazzetti. Council Member Jennifer Goodwin and I attended the Tribal Leaders Forum on September 25th, preceding Native American Days. I was honored to receive the first ever "Mazzetti Award" for "Preserving, Protecting and Advancing Tribal Sovereignty".

There are a couple of reasons I am so adamant about protecting Tribal sovereignty, one is we need the outside world to recognize Tribes are political entities the same as states and other countries. The other is honoring the legacy of former Indian Gaming Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. Chairman Stevens passed away earlier this year, he was a good friend, and he was instrumental in the Karuk Tribe receiving their determination to build Rain Rock Casino.

I learned from Chairman Stevens that as a Tribal Leader you should establish a standard of leadership rooted in humility, compassion and service to your people. It was not about politics but about protecting our sovereignty, strengthening our communities, and ensuring opportunity for future generations. Chairman Stevens believed that the greatest strength of Indian Country was our unity. He often said, "We may all be from different Nations, but our hearts beat as one". He proved that through decades of partnership building, through his dedication to the Indian people that progress comes when we walk together. We will also continue our commitment to mentoring the next generation—our Tribal Youth—who are watching us and learning from how we act now and how we carry ourselves through transition. Our responsibility is to show them that leadership is not about titles but about service to our people.

### In Washington DC

I recently attended the Tribal Whitehouse Summit. I was able to talk with Vice-President J.D. Vance, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr, Whitehouse aid Rodger Stone and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials. My message was that we need funding to manage our lands and create a sustainable economy here in Karuk Country; in particular, a specialty sawmill, a plan to manufacture walls, for housing using a wood wool and cement compound, and a Bio-Mass project that will produce enough energy to supply a small town.

Taking things a step further, at the last National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Vice-Chairman Brink made a presentation with evidence that the Karuk Tribe managed these lands since time immemorial with great success in living in harmony with Mother Nature. We have traditionally burned thousands of acres a year for our foods, our medicines, the wildlife, the water, to protect our communities and manage the land. The federal government outlawed these practices and moved to fire suppression instead of fire prevention. We need to switch back to fire prevention, and the way to do that is to let Tribes lead the way. The Tribes can lead if they receive the necessary funding.

I am always available to take calls or emails from Tribal Members and Descendants.

Feel free to contact me any time, any day.

Suva nik,  
Russell "Buster" Attebery  
Karuk Tribe Chairman  
Office: (530) 493-1600 ext. 2019  
Email: [battebery@karuk.us](mailto:battebery@karuk.us)



*Chairman and others meeting Vice President Vance in Washington*



*Chairman and others meeting HHS Secretary Kennedy in Washington*

## From the Vice-Chairman

### Kenneth Brink



*Vice Chairman at NCAI*

Ayukii, I am thrilled to share some exciting updates on the work the Tribe has been doing the last few months. I serve the Tribe as its Vice-Chairman, but I also engage with our community as the Chairman of the Housing Commission, the chair of the TERO commission, and I serve on other committees and the Board of Commissioners (BOC) as needed. Recently, I've been getting more involved with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), where I have been learning the policies and procedures for the resolution process.



*Colleen & Vice Chairman at the Capital*



*Colleen Rossier & Michael Boring*

*One day the Karuk Tribe will have our sovereign rights restored, and our ability to self-govern and manage the land fully actualized.*

NCAI is a great organization which enables us to gather knowledge from the other tribes across the nation. This is a place where Government officials from the states and federal level meet with the tribes. I will continue to advocate for the Karuk Tribes rights and to fight on behalf of our mission to manage our ancestral land. One day the Karuk Tribe will have our sovereign rights restored, and our ability to self-govern and manage the land fully actualized.

On a note of land management. It's been a great mushroom year, and I'd like to encourage our membership to think about traditional practices while harvesting mushrooms. It is known that we did not pick buttons, button mushrooms were picked to be sold in the commercial market, this was usually done when the button is a very immature mushroom. When this happens, it does not release its spores, taking away spores for future generations of mushrooms. Always remember to leave some buttons to flower out so they can spread the spores

I also wanted to provide an update on the Fix Our Forests Act (S. 1462) which passed out of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee with a bipartisan 18-5 vote on Tuesday, October 21st. We advocated for proposed changes to the bill that would make it better for the Karuk Tribe. Our Department of Natural Resources along with the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) worked together so that a portion of changes were offered in amendments by Senator Smith, one of which passed as is now a part of the bill.

The next step will be for the bill to come to the Senate floor for a vote before it gets reconciled with the House bill, and then it will go to the President's desk for signature.

While the Tribe has not issued an official position on the bill, we knew it was moving and likely to pass into law, so we wanted to make some modifications that would make it better for our People, and while we'd still like to see some additional changes, we're glad that Congress has incorporated some of our recommendations.



*Lion's Mane Mushroom*



*Llons's Mane*



# Respectful Conduct Guidelines

In the summer edition of the Karuk Tribal Newsletter, a story was run titled ***New Tribal Member Code of Conduct***, the placement of this story lacked proper context and may have caused some of our readership to feel unduly singled out. We apologize for this miscommunication and would like to provide our intention for in-

cluding this story. The Karuk Tribal council has an obligation to fulfill its mission statement, which includes "To promote the general welfare of all Karuk people." This charge is a call to protect and serve our entire community. In the pursuit of this mission, the Tribe faces many shared challenges throughout our community including

# Respectful Conduct Guidelines ---



high drug use, mental health related behavioral issues, and increased political volatility. The Karuk Tribe is committed to preserving the safety and wellbeing of its entire membership. This commitment is not something Tribal Administration can achieve alone, it must be a collective effort, a Tribal imperative to maintain standard of respect and shared consideration. On our new website, this has been renamed to the **Respectful Conduct Guidelines**

and is located right next to the Tribal Government Code of Conduct

Regretfully, we did not include the reasoning or context for our inclusion of the new guidelines in the previous newsletter. We admit it may have seemed like we were singling out individuals, and we sincerely apologize for this poor communication.

# Notice of Special Election

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** that on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**, the Karuk Tribe will conduct a Special Election for the recently vacant Orleans District Member at Large position. Candidate packets will be available at Tribal Administrative offices in Happy Camp (Admin), Yreka (KTHA Office), and Orleans (DNR) on **Friday, December 12, 2025**.

Polling places will be open from **7 AM to 7 PM** at the following locations:

**Happy Camp:** Headway Building (Senior Nutrition), 64101 Second Avenue  
**Yreka:** Kahtishraam Wellness Center, 1403 Kahtishraam  
**Orleans:** DNR Community Center, 39051 Highway 96

**TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE:** you must be an enrolled member of the Karuk Tribe, who is at least eighteen years old, and has registered with the Karuk Voter's Registration Office (*you may register to vote before the election or at the polling place on Election Day, you must bring a valid form of ID to register at the poll place.*)

## **SUBJECT MATTER OF ELECTION:**

**Orleans District Member at Large PARTIAL TERM: December 2025 - November 2027**

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Absentee Ballots will be mailed out as soon as candidate background checks have cleared. **The last day to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, February 10, 2026 by 5 pm.** Please contact the Enrollment Office if you would like to request an absentee ballot. If you are already an absentee voter, please make sure your address is up to date with the Enrollment Office to ensure you receive an absentee ballot.

It is highly recommended that absentee ballot requests be received by the Voters Registration Office before the above due dates for those members who live outside the Aboriginal Territory due to the amount of time it takes for the mail to reach Happy Camp. Contact the Enrollment Office at (530) 493-1600 ext. 2039 or visit [www.karuk.us/](http://www.karuk.us/) to obtain required form(s).

**Send Absentee Ballot Requests to:**  
**Karuk Voters Registration Office**  
**PO Box 815**  
**Happy Camp, CA 96039**

**CANDIDATES:** Must submit their completed candidate packet and pay the processing fee to the Karuk Election Committee by **Tuesday, December 30th, 2025, at 5pm.** An appointment must be arranged in advance with the Human Resources Office in Happy Camp to have fingerprints taken and submit to a drug screening test **PRIOR to 5pm, Tuesday, December 30, 2025.** Please contact Chelsey Cook, Enrollment Specialist for any questions at (530) 493-1600 ext. **2039.**

## **Un-official Candidates for Member at Large Orleans March 2026-November 2027**



**Crispin McAllister**



**Alma Mendoza**



**Talonna Marshall**

## PRC ELIGIBLE PATIENTS ONLY

If you have been referred to an outside provider (i.e. specialist, hospital, etc.) you **MUST** contact the PRC department **BEFORE** your appointment.

If **YOU** have been to the ER you **MUST** notify the PRC department within 72 HRS of being released. This will **HELP** ensure your **ELIGIBILITY** for Purchased Referred Care Services. If you **DO NOT** this may **IMPEDE** possible **PAYMENT** for services.

Friendly reminder PRC is **NOT** an **ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM** and an **IHS REFERRAL DOES NOT** imply the care will be paid.

If HIS funds are requested to pay, then the patient must meet the residency requirements, notification requirements, medical priority, and use of alternate resources.

You may contact the PRC department between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm.

This is very crucial to our process.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Anna Myers – PRC Supervisor @ 493-1600 ext. 2156

Cat Turner – PRC Clerk @ 493-1600 ext. 2155

Meranda Rasmussen – PRC Clerk @ 493-1600 ext. 2151



# How to Take Care of Your Mental Health Through the Fall and Winter Season

As the vibrant energy of summer fades into the crisp calm of fall and the quiet chill of winter, many people experience a mental shift. Not just in weather, but in mood, energy, and emotional well-being. Shorter days, colder temperatures, and the pressures of the holiday season can contribute to feelings of sadness, isolation, or fatigue. But with intention and care, you can navigate this seasonal transition with resilience and warmth.

## Understanding the Seasonal Shift

The fall and winter months often bring about changes in our routines and biology:

- **Reduced sunlight** can disrupt circadian rhythms and lower serotonin levels, contributing to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)<sup>2</sup>.
- **Colder weather** may limit outdoor activity, reducing physical movement and social interaction.
- **Holiday stress** and end-of-year reflections can heighten anxiety or loneliness.

Recognizing these shifts is the first step toward managing them.





## 1. Prioritize Sunlight and Fresh Air

- Aim for daily exposure to natural light, especially in the morning.
- Open blinds, sit near windows, or take short walks outside—even on cloudy days.
- Consider a light therapy lamp if sunlight is scarce.

## 2. Stick to a Consistent Sleep Schedule

- Go to bed and wake up at the same time each day.
- Avoid screens before bed and create a calming nighttime routine.
- Quality sleep helps regulate mood and energy.



## 3. Stay Physically Active

- Exercise boosts endorphins and reduces stress.
- Try indoor workouts, yoga, or brisk walks bundled up in layers.
- Movement combats lethargy and improves mental clarity.

## 4. Nourish Yourself with Seasonal Foods

- Embrace warming, nutrient-rich meals like soups, roasted vegetables, and whole grains.
- Omega-3s, vitamin D, and complex carbs support brain health and mood.





## 5. Practice Mindfulness and Self-Compassion

- Journaling, meditation, or deep breathing can ground you during emotional dips.
- Acknowledge your feelings without judgment—it's okay to slow down and rest.
- Focus on what you can control, not what you can't.

## 6. Stay Connected

- Schedule regular check-ins with friends or family.
- Join a club, take a class, or volunteer—community fosters belonging.
- Even virtual connections can ease feelings of isolation.



## 7. Embrace Cozy Creativity

- Use the season as a chance to explore hobbies: painting, baking, reading, or crafting.
- Creative outlets offer joy and a sense of accomplishment.

## 8. Seek Support When Needed

- If you notice persistent sadness, fatigue, or withdrawal, consider speaking with a mental health professional.
- Therapy, support groups, or counseling can provide tools and validation<sup>2</sup>.



**Fall and winter are seasons of reflection, rest, and renewal. By tuning into your needs and nurturing your well-being, you can transform seasonal challenges into opportunities for growth and comfort.**

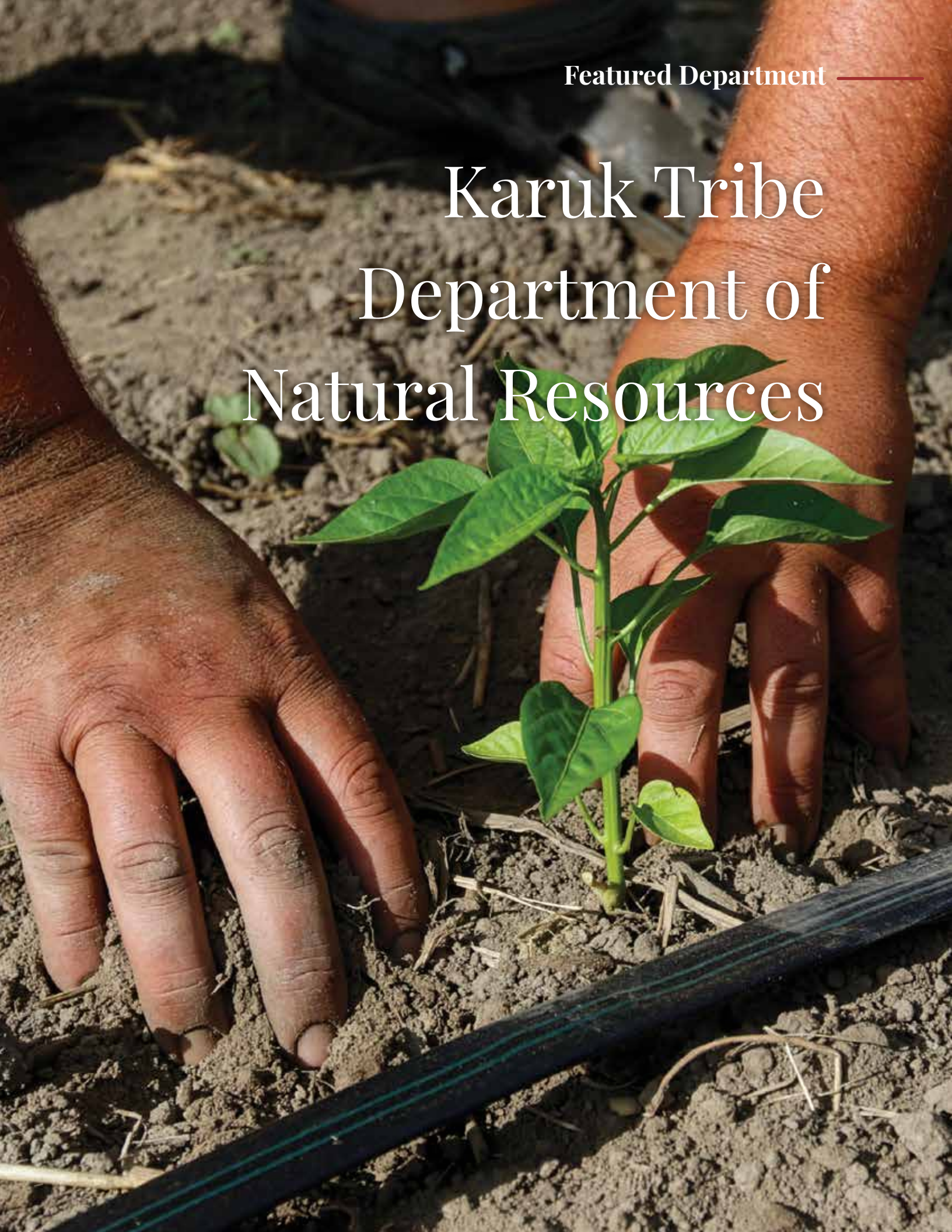
Have questions about this piece? Please reach out to  
Ray Elliott, MS, DBA-C  
Director of Karuk Tribal Human Services  
1515 S. Oregon St. Suite C, Yreka, CA. 96097

O: (530) 841-3141 ext 6304  
F: (530) 841-5150  
E: ray@karuk.us

Featured Department

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# Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources



# Ikxariyátuuysip Integrated Fire Management Project



*Ikxariyatuuyship*

## **Ayukii koovúra (hello everyone)!**

This letter is to inform you of the Ikxariyátuuysip Integrated Fire Management Project (IKX Project) currently being planned on Offield Mountain, and invite the community to provide feedback. The Project area is 10,014 acres, 211 acres of which are under the administrative jurisdiction of the Karuk Tribe and the rest lies within the Ukonom Ranger District (Klamath National Forest), now administered by the Orleans Ranger District (Six Rivers National Forest). The project boundary lies within Townships 11, 12, 13 north and Range 6 and 7 East, Willamette, Humboldt, and Mt. Diablo meridians (see Figure 1. Project Area Vicinity Map). The Project Area is centered within the Karuk Tribe's Aboriginal Territory, adjacent to the Karuk people's center of the world, and is located within the Katimiin Cultural Area (Management Area 8 – Klamath National Forest Plan 1995).

The term "Ikxariyátuuysip" is the true name for what is commonly referred to today as "Offield Mountain" and roughly translates to "spirit people mountain." Ikxariyátuuysip is a significant cultural landscape where annual ceremonial and cultural burning once took place at larger scales than they do today. Through joint planning with the Karuk Tribe and other partners of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, this project will promote cultural focal species, human gathering activities, cultural practices, and place-based socio-ecological relationships, which are reliant upon a healthy ecosystem.

## Purpose and Need

Fire exclusion practices over the past century have impacted conditions conducive to maintaining the Indigenous fire regime. The high concentration and broad distribution of vegetative fuels in and around the project area is likely to promote high intensity flames that are difficult to contain, as has been seen in recent wildfires. The purpose of the IKX Project is to implement forest management activities on lands administered by the National Forest System and to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act for federal actions within portions of the recently transferred Sacred Lands area. The project would restore conditions conducive to revitalizing cultural burning of the Karuk Tribe, which itself is not a federally proposed action, but rather the treatments necessary to facilitate cultural burning conditions are proposed. Enabling the conduct of Indigenous management principles as a cultural standard and practice, and as outlined in the Karuk Tribe's Eco-Cultural Resources Management Plan, will help restore biodiversity, as well as ecosystem process and function across the project landscape, reduce risk to the community from wildfires, and increase resilience to future fires.

Treatments are needed to: reduce fuel loading to allow for ceremonial and subsistence burning for ecological maintenance and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire; and restore, protect, and maintain culturally significant species.



*The project would restore conditions conducive to revitalizing cultural burning of the Karuk Tribe*



## Proposed Action

Forest management actions are proposed on the following land allocations: Matrix, Klamath Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Katimiin Cultural Area, Developed Recreation, Late Successional Reserve, and Riparian Reserve.

To improve watershed and forest conditions, commercial and non-commercial silvicultural thinning treatments are proposed. Treatments such as variable density thinning would increase crown spacing, increase vertical and horizontal heterogeneity, reduce ladder fuels, decrease competition, promote fire safe landscape conditions, and increase forest health for stands to better withstand wildfire.

The proposed action will include the following activities: manual treatments (e.g. cut, pile, prune, coppice), terrestrial invasive species treatments (non-herbicide), mechanical thinning using ground-based and helicopter equipment, unit preparation for intentional fire, intentional fire, wood loading in streams and gulleys, meadow restoration, oak restoration (e.g., fencing, girdling, selective topping), and native plant seeding. Intentional fire would include managed wildfire and prescribed fire as well as actions to create fire safe landscape characteristics conducive of revitalizing indigenous fire regimes. The following treatment types were identified as appropriate for implementation across parts of the planning area.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is a co-lead on this project. As such, the SRF Forest Supervisor, the Karuk Tribe Chairman, and the Pacific Regional Director of the Pacific Region of the BIA will decide whether to implement the proposed actions, implement an alternative action that meets the purpose and need, or take no action.

## How You Can Be Involved

Read about the project, planned activities, and final decision as they become available on the USFS Project webpage (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/sixrivers/projects/68351>). You may also provide an official comment on the draft Environmental Assessment during an upcoming 30-day comment period (anticipated for December 2025 or January 2026); check the 'Get Connected' tab on the webpage linked above.

Project information can also be read on the WKRP Project webpage (<https://www.wkrp.network/ikxariyatuuysip>).

Share your thoughts, concerns, or recommendations with us.

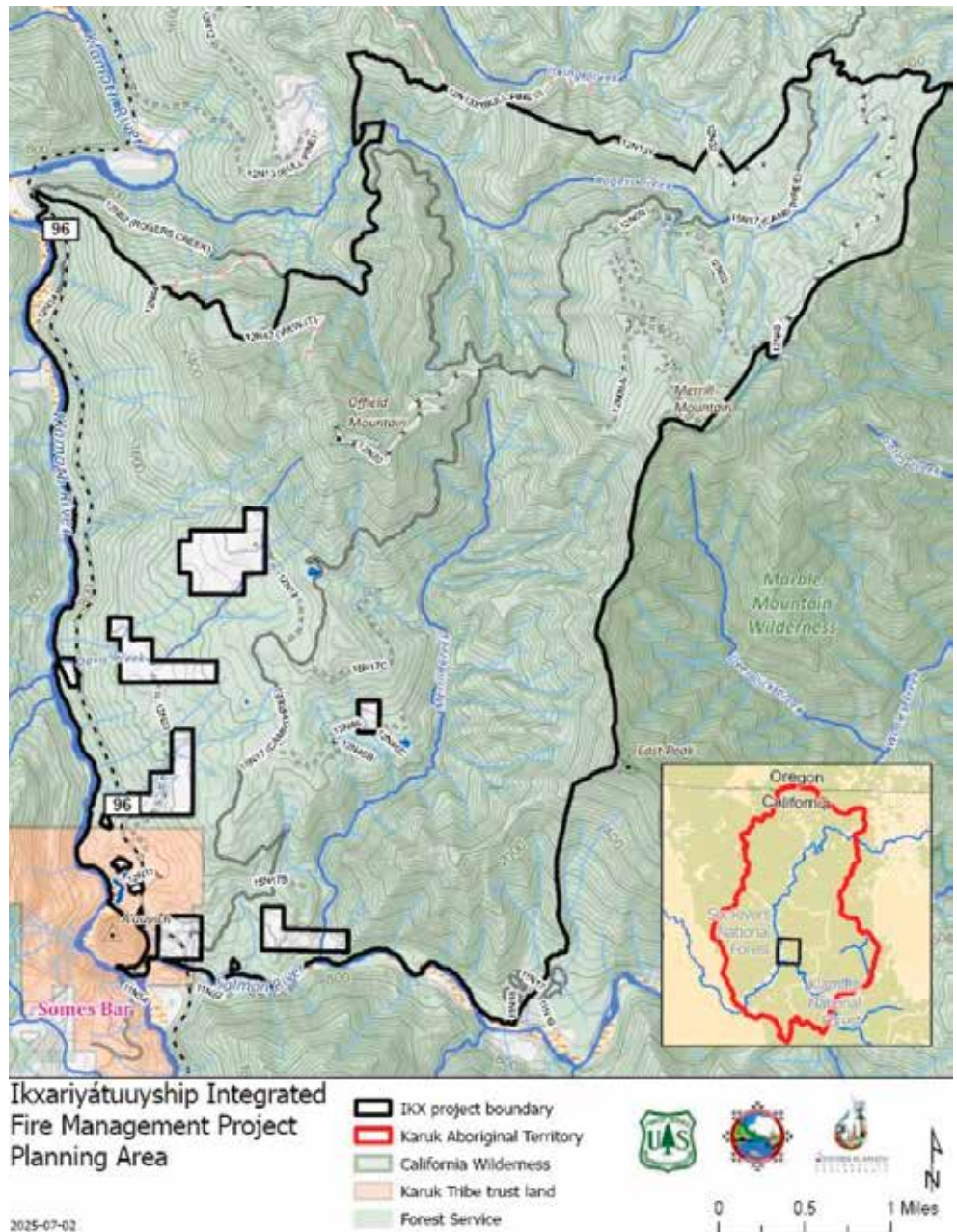
Ask questions and let us know what matters most to you and your family.

Your voice is important to us, and we would like to hear your comments while we are in the planning phase of the project. Please contact: [IKXComments@karuk.us](mailto:IKXComments@karuk.us)

Yôotva (thank you) for taking the time to consider the Ikkariyatuuysip Integrated Fire Management Project, we look forward to hearing from you.

Yôotva,

Karuk Department of Natural Resources



# Big Springs Youth Days Make a Big Splash!

In late October as the Chinook salmon were spawning in the upper Shasta River, California Trout and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife set out to accomplish a lofty goal. In years past, community members were able to visit Big Springs to see the salmon spawn, and learn more about the property, formerly owned by the Nature Conservancy. Between the transfer of the property and the covid-19 pandemic, the event had been on hold since 2015. This year, a team of dedicated individuals set out to bring the event back, better than ever.

450 students from local schools were invited to CDFW's Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area. There, they learned from natural resources professionals about local ecology, natural history, juvenile salmonid monitoring, nature journaling, macroinvertebrates, and salmonid anatomy. Three Karuk DNR employees were present to dissect steelhead trout for the students, fisheries biologist Colton Dixon and fisheries technicians Christy Wheatley and Rachel Kayen.



*Photo: Colton Dixon, Rachel Kayen, and Christy Wheatley (left to right) showcase fish prints and fish dissection. Location: Big Springs Ranch. PC: Ann, California Trout.*

CalTrout and CDFW brought together volunteers from their own organizations as well as the Karuk Tribe, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Scott River Watershed Council, Nature Conservancy, Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, Siskiyou Field Institute, Grizzly Corps, and Weed High School students. This diverse array of teachers allowed students to gain knowledge from a variety of viewpoints, and specialties.

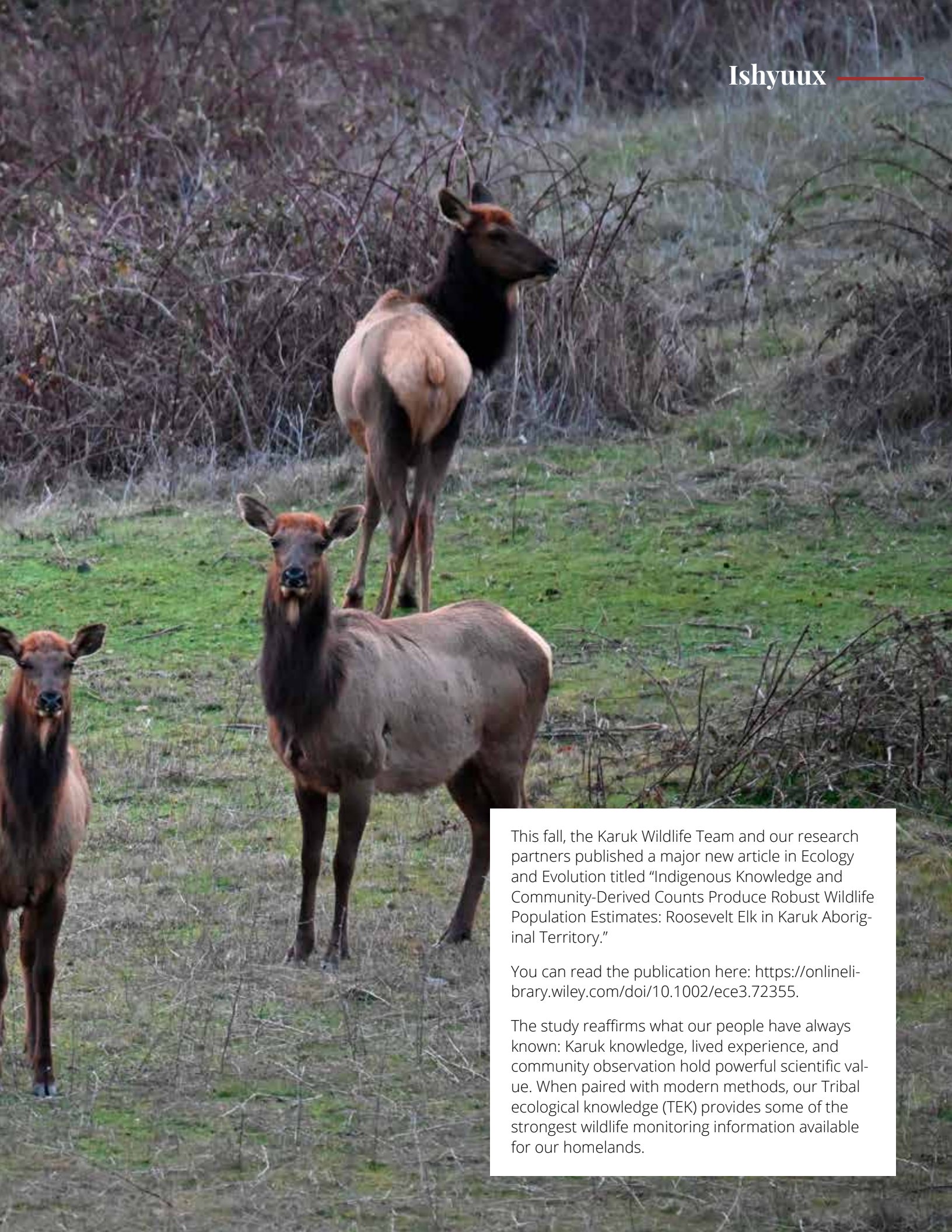
Outreach events like the Big Springs Youth Days inspire the next generation to become stewards of the land, and protect the valuable cultural resources present in our ecosystem. Their field trip experience leads to conversations within the home about the importance of our riparian ecosystems, and can foster change on a wide scale.

Although CalTrout and CDFW hoped to bring this event to even more community members with a day open to the public, their plans were foiled by stormy weather. Despite the frustration in the change of plans, this storm promised to bring droves of rain, benefiting the fish the kids learned about that week. And although the event was modified, the rain brought the first coho salmon of the season to the Klamath River. Even without the final community day, the event was a success, with hundreds of students reached, and excitement built for Big Springs Days to continue into the future.



Ishyuux

# New Article Demonstrates the Strength of Karuk Knowledge and Community Science in Wildlife Monitoring



This fall, the Karuk Wildlife Team and our research partners published a major new article in *Ecology and Evolution* titled “Indigenous Knowledge and Community-Derived Counts Produce Robust Wildlife Population Estimates: Roosevelt Elk in Karuk Aboriginal Territory.”

You can read the publication here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.72355>.

The study reaffirms what our people have always known: Karuk knowledge, lived experience, and community observation hold powerful scientific value. When paired with modern methods, our Tribal ecological knowledge (TEK) provides some of the strongest wildlife monitoring information available for our homelands.



*Ishyuux in a recently burned area.*

## Our History With Ishyuux (Roosevelt Elk)

Ishyuux were once abundant throughout Karuk Aboriginal Territory (KAT), playing a key role in our culture, our food systems, and the health of our ecosystems. But between the 1850s and 1870s, during the period of violent invasion, warfare, and genocide against our people, Ishyuux were extirpated, meaning they were completely removed from these lands. During this same period, Ikxâavnamich (Wolves) and Pirishkâarim (Grizzly) were also extirpated, disrupting the ancient predator-prey relationships that shaped these mountains and valleys since time immemorial.

In the mid-1980s, a reintroduction effort for Ishyuux began, and by the end of the 1990s, 232 elk had been released in Karuk Aboriginal Territory, forming the foundation of the herds we see today.

With Ishyuux now returning to their homelands, we have an important responsibility: to care for them, protect their winter range, and restore the habitats damaged by the neglected historic logging units and fire suppression that has caused reduced habitats for them. At this time, our primary focus is on ungulate health and on restoring these critical habitats for the reintroduced herds.

## Community Knowledge Leading the Way

Although elk are now reestablished in KAT, robust monitoring across this landscape has not consistently occurred through Western scientific approaches alone. That is where our community has stepped in with extraordinary dedication.

For more than seven years, the Karuk Wildlife Team has coordinated a community elk-sighting effort, and what has emerged is the most robust elk dataset ever created for Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Community members have shared sightings, seasonal movement information, stories, and interpretations of elk behavior that reflect generations of place-based experience and cultural knowledge.

These community reports, combined with our Wildlife Team's field monitoring and GPS collar data, were used in the recent scientific publication to evaluate whether Indigenous knowledge paired with modern modeling could reliably estimate elk population density. The answer was a strong yes.

Community-derived information and Karuk TEK produced elk density estimates that aligned with traditional Western scientific tools, including camera-trap surveys. In many



*Shyuux browsing in a meadow.*

cases, our community's intimate landscape knowledge filled gaps that Western surveys struggled to capture due to terrain, access, or resource limitations.

A special yôotva goes to **Mike Polmateer**, who has contributed more elk reports than anyone else to date. His consistency and care helped inspire our continued commitment to collecting community data and building a Tribal-led wildlife monitoring system that reflects the strength of our people.

## Renewing Balance in Karuk Homelands

The loss of Ishyuux, Ikkâavnamich, and Pirishkâarim more than a century ago fundamentally altered the balance of our mountains and river corridors. As elk herds grow and return to old pathways, and as we continue to restore their winter range, we are also helping restore the ecological relationships that were disrupted during colonization.

This recent publication shows clearly that Indigenous-led, community-rooted monitoring is not only culturally grounded, it is scientifically strong. By weaving together TEK, community observations, GPS collar data, and modern ecological models, the Karuk Wildlife Team is setting a national example for resilient, place-based wildlife stewardship.

Our people have always carried the knowledge needed to care for these lands and relatives. This study simply shows the world what Karuk people already know: when we lead, the monitoring is stronger, the management is more effective, and the results reflect the values of the community and the land itself.

## Keep Sharing Your Wildlife Reports

As we continue monitoring Ishyuux, along with Sah-pihniich (Beavers), Ikkâavnamich (Wolves), Kaschiip (Porcupines), and all other beings who are returning or increasing across the territory, we invite the Karuk community to keep sharing what you see on the land. Your reports help protect these relatives and strengthen the future of wildlife stewardship in our homelands.

To share wildlife sightings, concerns, or questions:

wildlifeteam@karuk.us  
530-627-3446

Yôotva to all who continue contributing to this work and supporting a future where Karuk knowledge guides wildlife management in Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Yôotva!

# Pikyav Food Sovereignty Updates Food Security Division



*Isha Goodwin sharing her knowledge with Food Preservation Workshop in Yreka.*



*Tishaniik Garden Pumpkin Patch with local schools*

This year, our Food Security team proudly distributed 26,706 pounds of fresh produce through our weekly year-round farm stands and pop-up farm stands at community events such as the Tribal Reunion and Back 2 School Night in Happy Camp.

We've also expanded our Farm Field Trip Program, partnering with six schools within Karuk territory. Participating schools include Seiad Elementary, Orleans Elementary, Junction Elementary, Happy Camp Elementary, and Orleans Head Start. These hands-on learning experiences continue to connect youth with traditional food systems and the importance of growing and gathering local foods.

To strengthen community food access, Wellness Centers in Happy Camp and Yreka continue to host food distributions, and our Food Pantries remain active in:

- Orleans – Karuk Department of Natural Resources (KDNR)
- Somes Bar – Salmon River Outpost (SRO)
- Happy Camp – Wellness Center

We're also exploring new prospective pantry locations in:

- Orleans – Senior Nutrition Center and Tribal Housing
- Yreka – Tribal Garden site

If you know of a good spot for a future food pantry, we'd love to hear from you!\* These efforts continue to ensure that all Tribal Members have access to healthy, culturally significant foods year-round.



*Happy Camp Community Smoke House*

## Food Sovereignty Division Highlights

The Food Sovereignty Division has been busy expanding opportunities for community engagement and food sovereignty. Our Community Lending Program now offers access to food preservation appliances such as dehydrators, pressure canners, ladders, and rototillers to help families strengthen their own food preservation and gardening efforts.

We're also proud to announce the development of three new community smokehouses located at:

- Yreka Garden
- Happy Camp RV Park (near TANF building)
- Orleans DNR

## Community Contacts

Yreka:

1. Jack Lantz- (707) 458-5814

Happy Camp:

1. Ellen Johnson (530) 493-1600
2. Isha Goodwin- (530) 627-3446 ext. 3032

Orleans:

1. Isha Goodwin- (530) 627-3446 ext. 3032



*Orleans Smoke House*



*Yreka Community Smoke House*

*We have interviewed seven elders to help guide the project's direction and ensure our most cherished plants are protected for future generations.*



*Karuk Tribal Member-Bessie Munson receiving her seasonal food box!*

### **Elder Food Box Project**

Our Elder Food Box distribution happened on December 19th. To register for the next one, please contact Isha Goodwin at [igoodwin@karuk.us](mailto:igoodwin@karuk.us) :

- Must live within the service areas of Orleans/Somes Bar, Happy Camp, or Yreka
- Each area serves approximately 15 Elders per season (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)
- Distribution prioritizes eldest Tribal Members/descendants to youngest Food Preservation Workshops

### **Preservation Workshops**

A huge Yootva to the 65 participants—including 44 Karuk members/descendants—who joined our recent pressure cooking and water bathing workshops! We look forward to continuing to host more food preservation workshops in each service area soon.

### **Native Plant Nursery Development**

The Food Sovereignty team is also developing a Native Plant Nursery at the Tishaniik Tribal Farm. This community-led research project is focused on addressing climate change impacts on native plants and restoring culturally significant species. So far, we have interviewed seven elders to help guide the project's direction and ensure our most cherished plants are protected for future generations. A final presentation of this work is expected in March 2026, with the next phase focused on greenhouse construction and cultivation of native species for local restoration efforts.

**For any questions, inquiries or suggestions please reach out using the following methods. Yootva, Pikyav Food Sovereignty Program**

**Contact Us:**

**[foodsov@karuk.us](mailto:foodsov@karuk.us)**

**Phone: (530) 627-3446 ext. 3029**

## Pikyv Food Sovereignty



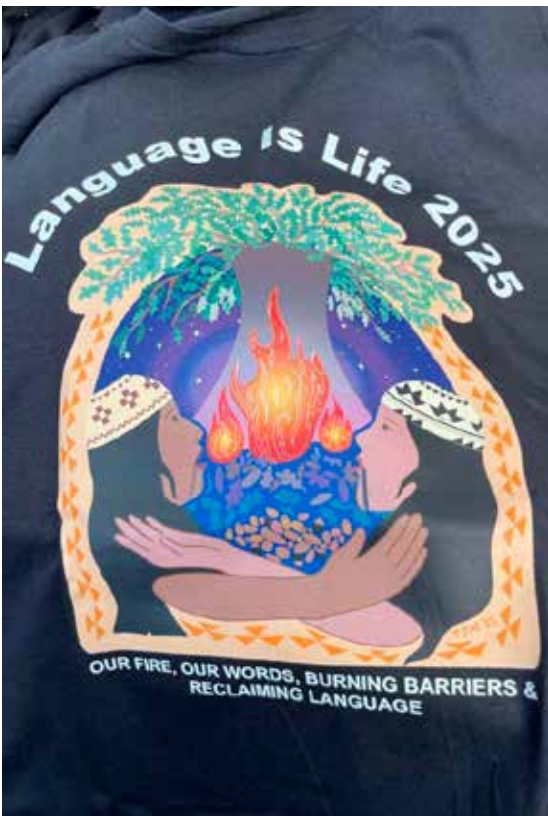
The Tribe remains committed to reclaiming what has been lost or taken from us and our community. There is a sacred commitment in preserving and sharing the full story of our history with the next generation. We must remember it's not a stoic or lifeless act, but one articulated in loving intention and commitment to honoring the past and advocating for the future.



There are many opportunities for the community to become involved and spaces for our children to grow, learn, and mature into leaders who will help guide the Tribe for the years to come. To all those who helped and supported the Tribal mission or the Karuk Tribal community, we thank you. To all those who continue to practice Pikyv in their daily lives, regardless of the circumstances, Yôotva!!



# Karuk Year of the Language Continues Strong at the 2025 Language Is Life Gathering



Language is Life- "Our Fire"

Ten dedicated Karuk youth—Gail Wilson, Ivan Super, Isaac Super, William Potter, Isiah Arteche, Elijah Smith, Maliki Taylor, Jacob Grant, Lavina Grant, and Austin Grant—devoted their Halloween weekend to language learning at the AICLS (Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival) Language is Life Gathering held at Wonder Valley Ranch Resort in Sanger, California.

Throughout the weekend, students participated in a wide variety of cultural and language-focused activities. Highlights included a campfire with scary stories, a visit to a model language house where they learned Karuk through games and interactive activities, the launch of the Youth Leadership Development Committee, and lively rounds of Ka'tim'ŋin Schmidt, a modern card game beloved by Karuk people.

Students were deeply inspired by keynote speaker X'unei Lance Twitchell, who spoke about creating safe spaces for language acquisition and building language reclamation movements rooted in the love, brilliance, and resilience of the Ancestors—while confronting and healing from the lasting impacts of colonization.

This gathering was made possible with the support and supervision of chaperones Florraine Super, Frank Snider, and Roseann Ritchison, whose commitment ensured a safe, encouraging learning environment for the youth. There was a strong Karuk presence throughout the conference. Julian Lang and Nancy Steele, both Karuk representatives on the AICLS Board, were instrumental in supporting and guiding the gathering. In addition, Julian's language pod was present with apprentices offering demonstrations, encouragement, and immersion opportunities.

A special acknowledgment goes to Maymi Preston-Donahue, now in her 10th year of Karuk language learning. Wearing multiple hats, Maymi helped organize the gathering in her role with AICLS, participated alongside her family, and facilitated meaningful language-learning opportunities for our youth.

Her dedication continues to strengthen the momentum of the Karuk Language revitalization movement. If you would like to become more involved with our Karuk Language, please contact: Scott Aseltine Karuk Language Coordinator (530) 493-1600 ext. 2034 Araráhih um ichúup-hithih? – Do you speak our language? Mánik vaa vuraheesh! – I will!



*Florraine Super's trunk or treat with Ivan and students Gail, Lavina and Austin.*



*Participants of the 2025 Language is Life Gathering at Wonder Valley Ranch Resort in Sanger, California.*



*Yáan'ijftihan- Maliki, James, Isaiah, Elija and Ivan.*



*Karuk Tribe participants*



*Language learning with Julian and students.*



*Maymi Preston-Donahue and family.*

# Employee of the Year Awardees

**The Karuk Tribe recently honored five outstanding employees for their service and commitment. These individuals were awarded employee of the year for 2025. The Council is honored to share their achievement with the community, and looks forward to continuing to honor our dedicated employees for the years to come.**

**Danci Harris** leads with authenticity, steadiness, and genuine care for her team. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure every staff member succeeds. She is always willing to offer guidance, training, and encouragement to her coworkers. Her leadership shined during the rollout of the new electronic health record. She supports colleagues with her continued patience, clarity, and a positive attitude, and she advocates for patients with the same dedication. Danci keeps the clinic moving forward and models the kind of teamwork and compassion that inspires everyone around her.

**Scott Aseltine** has dedicated himself to creating a safe and supportive place for our youth, ensuring their basic needs are met and their voices are heard. He has worked tirelessly to strengthen the education department, writing grants, expanding

programs, and spending countless hours bringing the youth house to life. He now leads the language program with the same tenacity. His commitment often extends into weekends, but he always carries a good attitude and is focused on giving young people a space where they feel valued and uplifted. Scott's efforts have made a lasting impact on the youth in our community, and his leadership, compassion, and determination reflect what it means to build up our community.

**Tawnia Johnson** embodies collaboration, accountability, and exceptional dedication. She ensures tasks are completed across departments and consistently follows through with care and precision. Long before her position was formally created, she was already supporting KDNR operations and providing vital HR assistance in Orleans, helping community



*Tawnia Johnson, Danci Harris, Chairman Attebery, Scott Aseltine. Winners not shown (Jamie Orge, Terra Gaytan)*

members access services they might not otherwise have. Tawnia is the quiet strength behind KDNR, always willing to help, always kind, and always working to uplift others through her commitment to excellence and accountability.

**Jamie Orge** has excelled in her role with the Tribe. Jamie has consistently demonstrated punctuality, reliability, and a strong commitment to timely fiscal processing. Her troubleshooting skills are invaluable, often resolving complex issues with impressive expertise. She communicates clearly and fosters positive working relationships across departments. Jamie's impact reaches the entire Karuk Tribe. Whether arriving early or staying late, she ensures our operations continue smoothly. Her dedication, efficiency, and professionalism make her an essential part of our success.

**Terra Gaytan** Embodies dedication, heart, and positivity and has made a remarkable impact on their KTHA tenants and co-workers.

Since joining the KTHA team in September 2024 she has brought compassion into every interaction and consistently goes above and beyond to support everyone who walks through her door. She leads with kindness, handles challenges with calm professionalism, and shows every day what it means to truly care about the people she is serving.

Her willingness to pitch in wherever needed, thoughtful approach to problem-solving, and genuine commitment to making the KTHA communities stronger do not go unnoticed. She can lift your spirits just by being in her presence. We are incredibly grateful to have her on the KTHA Team.

# KDOT Updates!



*New guardrail on Apsuun Road*

In early 2023 the Federal Highway Administration's Tribal Transportation Program (FHWA TTP) awarded the Karuk Tribe \$673,935.00 in Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds for the application submitted by the Karuk Department of Transportation (KDOT) for the Traffic Calming and Roadway Departure Improvements on Virusur, Yellowhammer, Kahtishraam and Apsuun Roads Project, which is located within tribal housing in Yreka. These improvements included new metal-beam guardrail, striping, additional speed humps, curve warning signs, and a seasonal gate for closing off upper Virusur Road for when icy conditions are present. Safety is KDOT's number one goal for all road users and we hope this project will help to deter any further crashes or fatalities in this area.

**If you have questions about this story, please contact the Karuk Department of Transportation Director, Misty Rickwalt, [mrickwalt@karuk.us](mailto:mrickwalt@karuk.us)**



*New guardrail & curve warning signs*



*New curb, guardrail, signs & striping*



*New speed hump and striping*



*New guardrail & signs*



*Winter gate for when Virusur Road is icy*

# Ayukii from the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO)!



I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new TERO Director for the Karuk Tribe. My name is Michelle Cook, I am a proud Karuk Tribal Member and daughter to Frank Cook Sr and Barbara Croy, and was born and raised here in Siskiyou County. I started working for the Karuk Tribe back in 2012 as a CHR and have worked in different positions over the years. Working in these various positions over the last decade has given me the skillset needed to assist our membership with a variety of needs. I graduated from California State University Chico earlier this year with my Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. Having received mentorship over the last five years from the former TERO Director, Dion Wood, I step confidently in this position knowing I have the skills, experience, and knowledge to further build on the great foundation of Karuk TERO that was laid before me.

Yootva Dion Wood for your 20+ years of hard work and dedication to the TERO Office!

***The Mission of the Karuk Tribe TERO is to promote and establish self-sufficiency and equality in hiring Karuk Tribal members and descendants through enforcement of the Karuk Tribe Workforce Protection Act.***

***The Vision of the Karuk Tribe TERO is for all members to be self-sufficient, having gainful employment free from discrimination for all future generations.***



The Karuk Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) is dedicated to empowering Karuk people by creating equitable employment and contracting opportunities, advancing workforce training and readiness, and removing barriers to fostering self-sufficiency. Through Indian and Karuk preference in employment, certification of Karuk-owned businesses, and partnerships that strengthen economic growth, TERO ensures that Tribal members have the tools, skills, and support needed to thrive.

## **Duties of the TERO Office:**

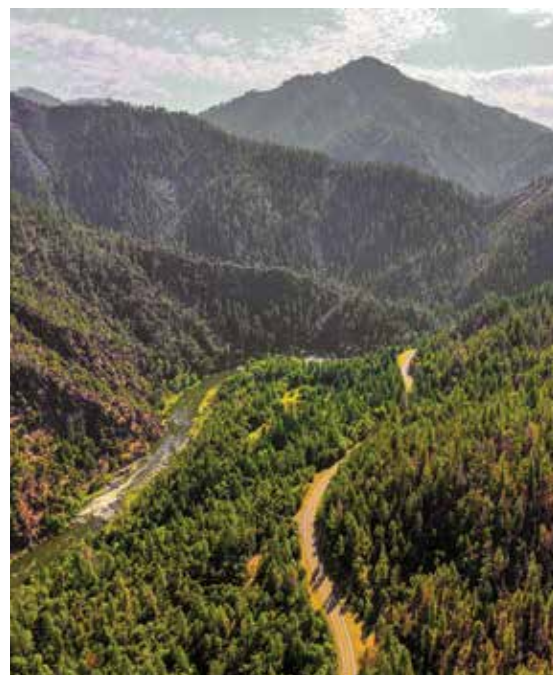
- Establish procedures, forms, and internal policies necessary to carry out the purposes of the Karuk Tribe's Workforce Protection Act and TERO Ordinance
- Maintain a Tribal Skills Bank to refer membership with the appropriate skillset to projects based on contract or project needs
- Investigate any violations of the Karuk Tribe's Workforce Protection Act (WPA)
- Monitor the Karuk Tribe's internal hiring and contracting processes, ensuring fairness and consistency with adherence to the Tribal Preference Policy
- Ensure a TERO Fee is assessed and recovered on all applicable contracts. A 2% TERO Fee is assessed on contracts totaling \$2,500 or more. Fees generated will help fund workforce training and readiness programs, helping tribal members gain the skills and education needed to secure employment and achieve self-sufficiency

## **TERO Commission:**

Kenneth Brink, Council Representative  
 Laura Mayton, Council Representative  
 Deborah Whitman, Yreka District  
 Barry Hockaday, Yreka District  
 Renee Stauffer, Orleans District  
 Daniel Effman, Happy Camp District

## **Contact the TERO Office**

Michelle Cook, TERO Director  
 Happy Camp Administration Complex 64236 Second Avenue  
 PO Box 1016  
 Happy Camp, CA 96039  
 Phone: (530) 493-1600 ext. 2031  
 Fax: (530) 493-5322  
 Email: mcook@karuk.us



# Axmayikyav from the Enrollment Department



**Mildred Grant**  
Chair



**Jeanerette Jacups-Johnny**  
Vice Chair



**Sammi Jo Jerry**  
Secretary



**Charlene Naef**  
Member At Large



**Kenneth Brink**  
Council Vice Chairperson

Axmayikyav from the Enrollment Department, We currently have 3,627 Enrolled Tribal Members and 6,283 Enrolled Descendants.

Our enrolled membership numbers have declined in recent years, largely due to the delayed reporting of deceased family members. Several of these cases came to light during address updates conducted during the stimulus period. With our deepest sympathies and condolences, we respectfully ask families to notify the Enrollment Office of the passing of loved ones when possible. We also ask that you inform us of any address or name changes as soon as they occur, so you do not miss important mailings or future communications.

— Enrollment Committee

## Enrollment Office Services

Our office provides the following services

- Enrollment and Descendancy applications for review by the Enrollment Committee
- Tribal verifications for enrolled Members and Descendants
- Processing of mailing lists for Tribal mailings
- Please ensure your address is current so you do not miss important notices or newsletters
- Free California Fishing License applications (income-eligible)  
Members may also apply directly through the state website using a copy of their Tribal ID
- Family tree issuance
- Tribal ID cards  
Email is preferred for all renewals (photo and form submissions)
- DMV and Sales Tax Exemption forms for Tribal Members living on Trust Lands living on Trust Land

Please feel free to contact our office at (800) 505-2785 Ext. 2028 & Ext 2039. You can also reach us by email at [rattebery@karuk.us](mailto:rattebery@karuk.us) & [ccook@karuk.us](mailto:ccook@karuk.us) Robert Attebery Enrollment Officer

Tribal Members & Descendants, if you have news, articles, events, or announcements that you wish to submit for publication in the Karuk Tribe's newsletter, you can submit online (preferred) or via direct mail. To submit online, go to: <https://www.karuk.us/category/newsletters>

If you need assistance, please reach out to [newsletter@karuk.us](mailto:newsletter@karuk.us). If you wish to submit via direct

mail, hard copies of content are also accepted by mailing articles to Karuk Tribe Newsletter Articles, PO Box 1016, Happy Camp, CA 96039.

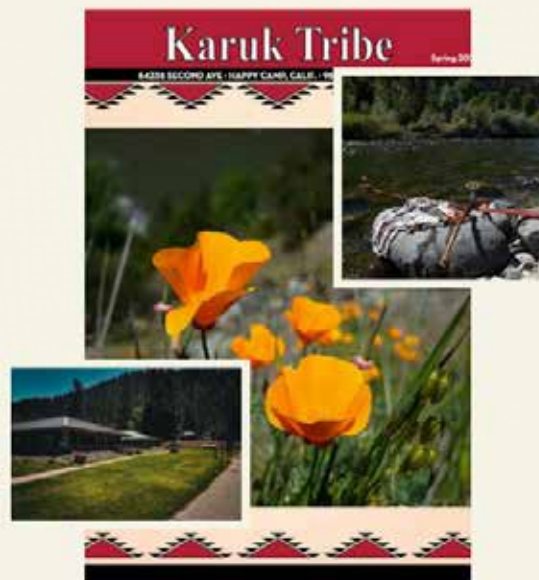
Newsletters are also uploaded on our website for your convenience. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to [twhittaker@karuk.us](mailto:twhittaker@karuk.us).

## The Karuk Newsletter

The Karuk Tribe publishes a quarterly newsletter to distribute to Karuk Tribal Membership. The newsletter features updates from Tribal Departments and Programs on upcoming events, activities, and services offered. Content is not limited and we encourage anyone who has information to submit articles for print.

Summer 2025

View All



# Xay Huun U'viishriheesh nanu'myah. (Let's all defend our hearts.)



The Karuk Tribe's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Program is entering its second year, continuing its work to protect, empower, and support our community to prevent and respond to the epidemic of MMIP.

Over the past year, the program has made major strides in outreach, partnership, and direct community impact. Through our efforts, we've provided thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of time and effort in direct aid to local families who have been affected by violence or who are at risk. This support helps ensure that those in crisis have access to immediate resources and a network of care within our own community.

Our program has also been collecting data through community surveys, helping us better understand the needs and experiences of our people. This data will guide our future planning, ensuring that our strategies reflect the realities faced by Karuk tribal members both on and off reservation.

To strengthen collaboration, we've been hosting monthly MMIP Roundtable Meetings that bring together tribal representatives, service providers, and law enforcement from across the region. These meetings provide space for open discussion, relationship-building, and coordinated action among all who share the goal of justice and safety for Indigenous peoples.

*Together, we are taking real steps  
toward healing, justice, and safety for  
our community and future generations.*

We are also proud to announce that the Karuk Tribe has established a new agreement with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department, under the leadership of Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue. This partnership affirms our shared commitment to implementing and upholding recent federal and state laws addressing the MMIP crisis, and it lays the groundwork for joint trainings and outreach efforts in the months ahead.

Looking toward the new year, the MMIP Program is expanding its focus on personal safety and empowerment. We've partnered with Cass Bell of the Institute of Combat to offer self-defense classes beginning January 2026. These classes will be open to the community and are designed to promote confidence, awareness, and practical safety skills for all participants.

The Karuk MMIP Program remains dedicated to honoring and protecting our people, supporting families, and fostering partnerships that lead to lasting change. Together, we are taking real steps toward healing, justice, and safety for our community and future generations.

**Questions about this story? Contact the Karuk MMIP Coordinator, Jasmine Harvey at [jharvey1@karuk.us](mailto:jharvey1@karuk.us)**



*Jennifer Goodwin, Council Member, at MMIP event.*

# Walter Morton



McKinleyville High School senior and Panther football standout Walter Morton was selected to participate in the 2025 Native All-American Football Game in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This prestigious honor recognized Walter as one of Indian Country's top high school football athletes, celebrating not only his exceptional talent on the field, but also his academic excellence and strong leadership in the community.

Hosted by the Native American Athletic Foundation in partnership with the National Football League (NFL) and the Minnesota Vikings, the game took place on December 14th at U.S. Bank Stadium. The Native All-American Game serves as a national platform to elevate Native youth achievement, spotlighting athletes who exemplify dedication, resilience, and cultural pride. As a selected participant, Walter represented his school, his community, and his tribal heritage with distinction. He is a proud member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and is of Karuk, Yurok, and Quinault descent.



Walter will attend a weeklong training camp leading up to the event, where he will work with professional coaches, participate in advanced position drills, and engage in leadership development sessions led by community leaders and mentors. The game featured coaching from former NFL athletes including Derek Fine, Ahman Green, Levi Horn, and Chase Johnson. National media coverage provided Walter with important exposure and opportunities to connect with college recruiters and professional organizations.

Beyond the field, Walter is an accomplished youth leader. He has volunteered as a peer mentor for incoming freshmen, participated in a Native Environmental Stewardship Program in Washington, D.C., and organized a community cleanup effort on Clam Beach. He demonstrates unwavering commitment to excellence, maintaining a 4.12 GPA and continues to serve as a role model through his actions in the classroom, in athletics, and throughout the community. Walter also honors his identity as an Indigenous youth by actively participating in and helping prepare for cultural ceremonies each summer.

Walter is the son of Walter Morton Jr (Karuk Tribal member) and Brandy Morton (Hoopa Tribal member). He is the grandson of the late Walt Morton Sr. (Karuk Tribal member) and Carol Morton, the late Gary Colegrove Sr. (Hoopa Tribal member) and Kathy Colegrove.

# Mason Snopl

Mason is a proud Karuk Descendent, the son of D.J. and Michelle Snopl, and the Grandson of Mike Attebery. He has been earning well-deserved recognition on the baseball field this season. Snopl was named to the **All-World Series team**, an honor that highlights his standout performance at the tournament and is a major milestone in a season filled with success. Playing with intensity and leadership, Mason helped lead his squad to victory and was singled out for his contributions both at the plate and on the mound, underscoring his versatility as a key two-way player.

Beyond his World Series accolade, Mason's story is featured in *The Athletic* in an article titled **"A former major-leaguer's next pitch: Develop a bright baseball future for Native American players,"** which celebrates his role in the broader movement to expand opportunities for Indigenous athletes in baseball. The piece situates Snopl not just as a rising talent, but as part of a growing community of Native American players drawing attention in elite youth baseball circles and inspiring others from tribal nations to pursue the sport at the highest levels.



# Preston Willson



Preston Willson Retires After 26 Years of Dedicated Service After an impressive 26 years of service, Preston Willson retired from his position as Maintenance Engineer with the Karuk Tribe Housing Authority (KTHA) in Happy Camp on October 30, 2025. As a Maintenance Engineer, Preston played an essential role in inspecting and repairing housing units and maintaining the grounds and facilities. His ability to troubleshoot issues made him an invaluable member of the maintenance team.

Beyond his technical skills, Preston was respected for his dependability and willingness to lend a hand wherever needed, including several occasions when he was asked to step up and cover while the Maintenance Supervisor position was vacant. The Karuk Tribe Housing Authority extends its heartfelt gratitude to Preston for his many years of service and dedication. His hard work and kindness will be missed, along with his smile and sense of humor. We wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

# Honoring & Remembering

Lauris John Dobbins passed away surrounded by loving family at home in Redding, California on May 26, 2025. Lauris and his twin brother Lairy were born in Happy Camp to Lauris Ellis Dobbins and Viola Sylvia (Humpreys) on November 16, 1935.

The family moved to a dairy farm just outside Orland, CA when the twins were only a year old. As a boy, Lauris would get up at 44 a.m. to milk the cows before he went to school. He was active in the 4H club and showed Holstein cows at the State Fair several times, earning awards from Future Farmers of America.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1956 and spent most of his active military time in Japan. After his discharge in 1958 he found his father had sold their ranch and moved into Orland, CA and his mother worked as a nurse in the Willows Hospital as his father lingered for several strokes. He continued to serve in the National Guard for another 8 years even though he and his wife Patricia Deming moved to Santa Rosa and he became a barber. They had two sons, Lauris (Jae) Dobbins and Jeffrey Dobbins. Later

in life he met and married Shari Brewington. After he sold his barber shop they lived in Tempe, AZ and their daughter Angela was born in 1970.

In 1972 Lauris graduated from Universal Technical Institute located in Phoenix, AZ specializing in Refrigeration, Heating and Air Conditioning. He worked in this field in major hotels as well as for the Department of Defense at Edwards AFB and Alameda Naval Air Station.

He taught himself how to fix electrical problems as well as many other types of handyman work. He built a waterfall and pond in the corner of their backyard when they retired and moved to Redding, CA after living in Concord for 20+ years. He was proud of his Karuk Tribe membership and liked to visit Happy Camp as well as making many RV trips to state and national parks as both he and Shari loved the outdoors. His sense of humor and kindness to others resulted in being liked by many.

Lauris is survived by his wife of 55 years, Shari, his two sons, daughter, three grandchildren Jason, Jeremy and Jennifer and 6 great grandchildren.

# Harold “Littleman” Tripp



The Karuk Tribe honors the life and mourns the passing of Harold “Littleman” Tripp, a respected Karuk Elder and cultural practitioner. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

Harold carried deep cultural knowledge. When Harold spoke, his words were powerful. And, for those who listened, they walked away knowing something more about our culture, our land, our past, and our people. Harold’s connection to the Salmon and Klamath Rivers and the Oak Bottom area near Somes Bar, California, was a defining part of his identity. These homelands shaped him and rooted him.

Harold contributed significantly to the establishment of the Karuk Tribal Constitution while serving as the interim tribal Chairman through the restoration of tribal recognition. He is highly respected for his work in tribal forestry, fire, and fuels management, and served as a fire program leadership, cultural resources specialist, and Designated Tribal Government Representative. His efforts to educate fire and forestry personnel about the cultural significance of our mountains and rivers, and our traditional practices to manage them, helped bridge gaps in understanding and brought recognition to the values we hold sacred. Harold was a proficient traditional dipnet fisherman. We will remember Harold for his humor, his stories, his values, and his advocacy for the Karuk people.



# Shirley Ella Jackson

Tribal Member SHIRLEY ELLA JACKSON (60 yrs) passed away May 2, 2025 at Willamette-McKenzie Medical Center, Oregon.

(She Beat Cancer 3 Times) Born in Nevada City, CA and lived most of her life in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Her two daughters, Brittany Jackson and Breezy-Ann Jackson are her survivors. She has 2 beautiful grandsons also – Baylen Krzyewski and River Cadlong Dean Jackson.

Her son Shawn Louis Sharp passed away at the age of 13.

Shirley at a young age went to Happy Camp at the request of her Grandmother (Lena Orcutt) for a Vision Quest. During this adventure she experienced a vision that her future – her son Shawn – was to be born with special needs.

At one of the Karuk Reunion Gatherings on Indian Creek – Shirley and her friend Forrest Hawk pulled out their drums – the rain clouds had appeared, and they wanted the sunshine back – it worked –

She had such strength and belief in the Creator. We will always remember her laughter and willingness to “tell it like it is.”

My favorite words of hers: “No one gets out alive!”

Yet her faith said – “I will see Shawn first (my son) when I get to the Other Side,” like Mom said: The Happy Hunting Grounds.

She was the baby sister to: Terry, Sharon, Bobbie, and Ronette Warren – lots of love – lots of family – lots of friends. (especially Tracie Jones)

You will be missed everyday



# Karuk Tribe

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