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## CONFEDERATED TRIBE OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS

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**Project Title:** Peacegiving Court  
**Award Amount:** \$280,059  
**Type of Grant:** Social and Economic Development Strategies  
**Project Period:** 09/30/2004 - 06/30/2006  
**Grantee Type:** Tribe

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

- 3 jobs created
- 20 elders consulted
- 15 people trained
- 3 partnerships formed
- 5 governance codes/ordinances developed
- 5 governance codes/ordinances implemented

### BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians are comprised of a tribal population totaling 761 members. Their federal recognition was terminated in 1956 and restored in 1984. Upon restoration, the Tribe began rebuilding their tribal government, including the judicial system. In the 1990s, the Tribe established their judicial branch and protocols for exchanging information between the Tribal Court and Tribal Council. In 2001, the Tribe successfully established permanent rules and procedures for their Tribal Court and has since developed the Tribal Court's administrative processes.

### PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Peacegiving Court (Project) purpose was to develop a restorative judicial model that resolves disputes, addresses

anti-social activities and addresses actions that harm the community or its members. The Project's three main objectives were to revise the Tribes' Violations Code, to create a Community Service Ordinance and to develop a Peacegiving Court that incorporates traditional problem-solving processes. The Project planned to, and did, partner with the Coquille Tribe, which had created a Code of Violations and had initiated a Peacegiving Court prior to the grant application.

The restorative justice model empowers individuals and creates personal accountability in the community. The Peacegiver and/or mentor, Court judge and offender decide what the offender must do to "right their wrong." For example, a youth in the Coquille Tribe was required to help build the community's new cedar plank house. This restorative process may take months or years to complete, but the Court monitors the progress. It is a non-punitive form of justice that works with the youth or adult until they are rehabilitated through the efforts of the entire community.

The Project successfully developed and implemented five governance codes and

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ordinances including a violations code, Community Service/Peacegiving ordinances for each tribe, juvenile court procedures and a juvenile court delinquency code. The violations code was revised to include chapters on such issues as truancy, tobacco and alcohol use, and provisions for handling these matters in the Court. The Project also developed a Community Service/Peacegiving Ordinance that provided the Court with a tool for engaging juvenile and adult tribal members in positive programs that benefit the community.

Elders will serve as either Peacegivers or mentors and the entire community was involved in their nomination. Ten candidates attended the first orientation, indicative of its support. The Project also trained Peacegivers/mentors.

The Project had many delays, including the lengthy recruitment of a Project coordinator and a delayed response from the General Council regarding surveys. The Project successfully overcame these challenges, but had an overall schedule slippage. The Project requested and ANA approved a no-cost extension through June 2006. The extension was used to begin court operations and two cases had been referred to the Court by the Project's conclusion.

#### **PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**

Both tribal communities benefited by enhancing their knowledge of the culture and traditions of their respective tribes and by developing an understanding that they share a common history. Tom Yonker, a Coquille Tribal Council member and elder explained, "It is an organic process and still developing. I've been involved for over three years, learning about other programs and working to make this program happen

here. Bringing our two tribes together is a good thing."

The Project has had a positive impact on building cohesiveness among generations. Elders involved in the Peacegiving Court are regaining their traditional place of importance within the tribes, giving subsequent generations access to their wisdom and experience, both of which are highly valued by the Court. Dan Krossman, Confederated Tribes Councilman and elder, stated "It is going to be a great avenue to help kids. Other tribes are looking to us as a model." Judge Costello echoes that thought: "Part of the success of the 'court process' is having the support of the whole family/community."

Judge Costello stated that the Project created a space for a dedicated person to bring all the pieces together. It might have taken several years longer if Project funding had not been secured to turn this vision into reality.

*"This has been the most exciting initiative I've been involved in, in all my years in law. This system encourages honesty and caring. We ask what can we do for you, not what he or she can do for us or the Tribe."*

Judge Costello

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## CONFEDERATED TRIBE OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS

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**Project Title:** Protecting and Managing Restored Reservation Lands

**Award Amount:** \$216,222

**Type of Grant:** Environment

**Project Period:** 9/1/2004 – 2/28/2006

**Grantee Type:** Tribe

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- 2 Native American consultants hired
- 3 elders involved
- 11 people trained
- 8 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribe of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians is comprised of a tribal population totaling 761 members. At one time, the Tribe's traditional homeland spanned more than one million acres in the central and south-central coast of Oregon. In the late 1800's, the tribes were removed from their aboriginal homelands, held on various reservations in Oregon, and in 1940, six acres of land located in Coos Bay were given to the Tribe. This land constitutes the site of the Tribe's modern-day reservation.

Over the years, the Tribe has been able to increase its land base and currently possesses 130.5 acres in federal trust status. The Tribe's current land includes the estuaries, tributaries, and upland forests of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Rivers. In 1997, the Tribe began reclaiming some of their traditional land from the

United States. Recently, federal legislation was submitted that would return 62,865 acres of Siuslaw National Forest to the Confederated Tribes.

### PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Protecting and Managing Restored Reservation Lands Project was to assist the Tribe in managing and protecting its existing and future land base resources. The Tribe proposed to draft environmental and resource management policies that would be used to create tribal codes and ordinances.

The Project started by successfully identifying issues with the respective government agencies and community stakeholder organizations. Partnerships with the government, forestry department, resource managers, environmental groups, consultants and the general public were formed to provide a diversified base of support for the Tribe's planned stewardship of the forest lands.

The Project developed a GIS Natural Resource Inventory and database. This Inventory was a thorough listing of the reclaimed lands and served as the basis their Resource Management Strategy. The Strategy constituted a total forest management system, encompassing

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everything from stream habitats to forest canopies. With the Resource Management Strategy, the Tribe had developed a credible, formal process to manage their reclaimed land, restore degraded watersheds, thin sections of second growth timber to allow for the maturation of old growth trees, and restore habitats.

The third and final completed Project objective was their environmental protection and resource management ordinance and administrative rules. The Project had drafted an Environmental Protection and Resource Management Ordinance that was ready for implementation, pending the Tribe's approval.

Despite the aforementioned successes, the Project encountered two obstacles during implementation. First, the Project's start was delayed due to a misunderstanding about the Project's timeframe. This was clarified during the ANA post-award training, after which the Project's activities were immediately initiated. A major obstacle was an on-going disagreement between the Tribe and the United States Forest Service about the Tribe's land base definition. This obstacle was still being addressed at the Project's end.

#### **PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**

Through the creation of the GIS Inventory and Resource Management Strategy, the Tribe developed positive relationships with the external community, which resulted in support from that community. The general tribal membership, especially the Tribal Council, also increased its awareness and knowledge of natural resource management through the development of this tool and plan.

Tribal Council members and Project staff shared the Tribe's perception that the grant has profoundly and positively affected the

community and given many tribal members hope for future development. Ron Brainerd, Tribal Council Chairman shared that "[The Project] has helped us get back on our feet."

The reclamation and resource management planning for the land has also revitalized Tribal pride and culture. Tribal members appeared enthusiastic about the revitalization of their culture and pride through this process.

As reported by respondents, the local community supports this project. The land transfer could potentially lead to an increase in Tribal jobs which would help counter the high unemployment rate experienced by the Tribal community. They shared that Tribal members and non-Tribal individuals are looking forward to the potential jobs that may result from this Project, including land restoration and timber-related jobs.

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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

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**Project Title:** Chinuk Wawa Elementary Immersion Project

**Award Amount:** \$350,000

**Type of Grant:** Language

**Project Period:** 9/1/2004 – 8/31/2006

**Grantee Type:** Tribe

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

- 3 jobs created
- \$3,169 in resources leveraged
- 2 people trained
- 2 partnerships formed
- 114 products developed
- 6 elders involved
- 40 youth involved
- 1 Native American consultant hired
- 236 Native language classes held
- 55 Native Americans have increased their ability to speak a Native language
- 2 Native Americans have achieved fluency in a Native language

### BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon is comprised of more than 20 tribes and bands. Traditionally, each individual tribe was linguistically-distinct, resulting in seven languages and 25 dialects being spoken. The Native American pidgin language called Chinuk had developed in the Pacific Northwest, giving tribes a common language in which to conduct trade and intermingle.

Upon establishment of the Tribe's reservation, this language became the vernacular, making the Chinuk language the only living Native American pidgin language.

The Tribe's elders have made a concerted effort to revitalize the Chinuk language. The language can be heard at tribal events, funerals, community gatherings, and in tribal classrooms, offices, and community homes. Also, there is an existing kindergarten Chinuk immersion classroom.

### PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the two-year Chinuk Wawa Elementary Immersion Project was to develop a first-fourth grade Chinuk immersion curriculum and begin a combined first and second grade immersion class. The plan was to hire two tribal members with elementary teacher certifications and immerse them in a master/apprentice program with fluent Chinuk speakers. The trained teachers, Project staff, and fluent elders would then develop first and second grade Chinuk curriculum in the first year and instruct the first and second grade Chinuk immersion class in the Project's second year. A third and fourth grade

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curriculum would be authored during the Project's second year.

The Project successfully hired and trained one teacher who participated in training twice a week with a Chinuk linguist and a fluent speaker. She continued her training during the two year period and achieved advanced fluency. Translating 114 Chinuk language lessons and stories aided the successful completion of first and second grade curriculum and gathered material for third and fourth grade curriculum.

The Project was unable to find a second tribal member certified in elementary education. In addition, an unforeseen asbestos problem at the Willamina Public School required the School to consolidate available space, leaving no room for the first and second grade Chinuk classroom. The Project amended the Memorandum of Understanding between the Tribe and Willamina School District, leading to the continuation of a Chinuk immersion kindergarten.

The Project also developed an after-school Chinuk curriculum and class which it operated for the Project's full two year timeframe. Due to their inability to institute the first and second grade classroom, the Project expanded the intake of the after-school program and 34 students from K-5<sup>th</sup> grade participated. However, the various levels of Chinuk language proficiency necessitated the use of English and Chinuk in the after-school program. The Project included a language component into the Tribe's two week youth summer camp in an effort to maintain the language skills of the youth during the summer months.

Project staff identified tribal members interested in entering the education field and will begin to engage them in a master/apprentice training with the fluent Chinuk speakers.

The Tribe will fund a K-fourth grade immersion classroom within their own tribal school system and will retain the trained teacher.

### **PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**

The Chinuk language and this Project continues to link the Pacific Northwest tribes. Partnerships with neighboring tribes were nurtured to help revitalize Chinuk.

For the Grand Ronde youth involved in the Chinuk immersion classroom, the Project provided a chance to be taught by a certified teacher and fluent Chinuk speaker. Their classroom experience also involved an intense cultural component, leading to personal discovery and a strengthened sense of identity with their Tribal community.

Kathy Cole, the kindergarten's immersion teacher, shared, "These children are the next generation of speakers, and we're quite proud of our efforts." This sentiment is critically important to the Grand Ronde community members due to their previous experience with termination. Tony Johnson, this Project's director and a fluent Chinuk speaker, explained, "Language is inextricably tied to culture. So if we allow ourselves to lose our language, there is no reason why the Federal Government couldn't step in again and tell us we're terminated because we would be just like everybody else."

Elders partnered with the Project to develop words for modern concepts and ideas, illustrating that Chinuk is indeed a living language. Mr. Johnson concluded, "Language is a living thing, and this project has allowed us to breathe life into our language."

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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

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**Project Title:** Steelhead Protection and Regulation Project

**Award Amount:** \$80,254

**Type of Grant:** Environment

**Project Period:** 9/30/2005 – 9/29/2006

**Grantee Type:** Tribe

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- \$7,070 in resources leveraged
- 3 people trained
- 4 partnerships formed
- 2 products developed
- 4 elders involved
- 27 youth involved

### BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon occupies a reservation in northwest Oregon. Upon restoration as a federally-recognized Tribe in 1983, the Tribe did not retain their traditional hunting and fishing rights. The State of Oregon governs hunting and fishing laws on their reservation.

The steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey eel and coho salmon currently spawn in the reservation's South Yamhill River and Agency Creek. All are traditional food sources. Due to the steelhead trout's endangered species status, the State has designated the reservation waters as catch-and-release streams.

In 2002, the Tribe completed a ten-year Natural Resources Management Plan to address the economic, wildlife and cultural issues on their reservation. To expand recreational activities and to solidify their environmental governance, the Plan required research of all species present on their reservation.

### PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Project's purpose was to document the steelhead's active breeding stock in the Tribe's waters. This would provide a base measure from which the Tribe could implement policy to protect the prime spawning areas. It would also allow the Tribe to determine if the waters have steelhead carrying capacity. If so, then the Tribe would propose that the State lift the steelhead and coho fishing ban. If not, then the Tribe would implement policy to protect and revitalize the steelhead population. Overall, this Project sought to establish a permanent supply of fresh fish in tribal waters for their recreational fishing and consumption needs.

The Project's first objective was to trap and assess ten coho, ten steelhead and an unspecified number of lamprey during each of their spawning runs, and then tag and

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track at least eight coho and eight steelhead to their spawning grounds. During the Project's fourth month, rainfall exceeded three times the area's average rate. The South Yamhill River's high flow rate impacted the coho's initial spawning run. Although 13 coho were eventually trapped and assessed, none could be tagged with transmitters. (Staff biologists state the coho in early spawning runs are healthier and able to accept intestinal transmitters. The high rainfall prevented this possibility.) The Project did trap and assess 12 steelhead. Six steelhead were tagged and tracked to their spawning grounds. The Project trapped and assessed two lamprey. Both were egg-laden females, necessitating the biologists to release them. Overall, the Project did not produce a comprehensive data set for tracking the three species. However, the limited findings indicate continued justification of the catch-and-release policy.

The Project's second objective was to compare their data set with a State study on the Willamette Falls fish population. The Project created a database and GIS layer to analyze the fish trapped, assessed and tracked in the South Yamhill River. Then the Project studied a recent survey of the nearby Willamette Falls fish population. The correlation of the data proved difficult, as the Willamette Falls reports were incomplete and did not adhere to professional standards.

The high rainfall created another unexpected Project challenge – continuous and labor-intensive fish weir maintenance. (A fish weir is an enclosure built for taking fish.) The high rainfall damaged the fish weir. To overcome this challenge, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service worked with the Project engineer to revise and adjust the fish weir, and interns from Oregon State University and the Grand Ronde Tribal

Mentorship Program helped maintain the fish weir throughout the Project.

### **PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**

This Project advanced the Tribe's ability to govern their natural resources. The findings indicated that the South Yamhill River and its tributary Agency Creek do not yet have a significant steelhead population, thereby justifying the State's ban on steelhead fishing. Now, the Tribe can provide quantifiable answers to community members' queries about why they cannot fish steelhead and coho on their reservation.

The tagged steelhead tracking revealed that steelhead migrated further upstream than previously thought, necessitating the Tribe to undertake a targeted improvement plan for the expanded habitat areas. Overall, these two significant findings allow the Grand Ronde Fish and Wildlife Department to more effectively coordinate Tribal efforts to protect and revitalize the steelhead population in the South Yamhill River.

By August 2006, the Project had drafted a report to the Tribal Council. Project staff had included recommendations to create a brood stock program that would develop steelhead numbers, and to improve and expand habitat areas. With funds acquired through the Pacific Coast Steelhead Recovery Program, the Fish and Wildlife Department intended to reconstruct the fish weir. In addition, ANA awarded another grant to focus on the lamprey. Staff biologists also believe the results support an argument for a native steelhead population in the South Yamhill River – findings which can garner federal funds for the species' protection. Most importantly, the Tribe can now take the necessary steps toward fulfilling their constituents' desire to engage in recreational fishing and incorporate the steelhead back into their traditional diet.

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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS OF OREGON

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**Project Title:** Siletz Tribal Cultural Center Planning Project

**Award Amount:** \$167,488

**Type of Grant:** Social and Economic Development Strategies

**Project Period:** 9/30/2005 – 9/29/2006

**Grantee Type:** Tribe

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- \$3,500 in resources leveraged
- 13 people trained
- 4 partnerships formed
- 7 products developed
- 83 elders involved
- 39 youth involved
- 1 Native American firm hired

### BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is comprised of 4,000 members who are descendants of approximately 25 tribes. In 1955, the United States terminated its relationship with the Tribe, dissolving all trust properties and tribal assets. Tribal members formed a non-profit organization in 1973, and through their efforts, the Tribe regained full recognition in 1977.

Upon restoration, the Tribe began to restore their culture, traditional arts and healing practices. During this process, many community members bestowed upon the Tribe their family artifacts, baskets and regalia for safekeeping and Siletz culture preservation. The Tribe hired a Cultural

Resource Director to inventory and catalog these items and to negotiate repatriation of other Tribal artifacts. In 2000, the Horner Collection became available for repatriation to the Siletz Tribe with the stipulation that the Tribe provide safe and secure storage. This collection would triple the Tribe's current collection. While the Tribe was working on a plan to temporarily hold the collection, the space was inadequate and does not ensure appropriate display or interactive learning.

### PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Project was to prepare a plan for the preservation and protection of Tribal artifacts and for hosting cultural activities. This Project will result in completed plans for the design of a Tribal Cultural Center on the Siletz reservation.

The Project visited the Makah Tribe's Cultural Center to gain insight into planning and designing a museum. The Project then developed and distributed a Request for Proposals to 42 architecture and engineering design firms, inviting them to submit their plans and costs for completing the Center's design. The Tribe received three proposals, and selected Cascade Design Professionals, a Native-owned company based in Oregon. Throughout the process, the Project ensured

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community involvement; regional community meetings were held in Portland, Salem, Eugene and Siletz to ensure broad outreach. The Project also presented the design at the annual cultural camp, eliciting feedback from the Siletz youth.

To accommodate the Horner Collection, the design team adopted a phased construction approach. First they will erect a storage site, and then construct an adjacent 20,000 square foot Cultural Center. Once the Collection is housed in the Cultural Center, the storage site will be converted into an archive and artisan studio.

The design and site plans for the Siletz Tribal Cultural Center were finalized and endorsed by the tribal community; Siletz Tribal Council accepted the concept and design in August 2006.

In a sign of sustainability, the Tribe has committed gaming profits to be used as matching funds, created an endowment and the Project's coordinator position will be retained in the Siletz Tribal Business office. However, the Tribe will need to raise \$6.5 million to construct the Center.

#### **PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**

Siletz tribal members expressed positive feelings about the success of the Project. Agnes Pilgrim, a Siletz elder shared, "The museum is going to make us proud as a people. We will have a place to see who our ancestors were and what they accomplished, and in turn this will tell us who we are as a people. It will be the backbone of our community." Agnes also framed the importance of a permanent Cultural Center in reference to the Tribe's experience with termination: "The Center will allow us to preserve what we have now and then revitalize our culture for our future generations. Our bodies and minds will sigh with relief that we will have this place. Our

people will now know that when they leave this earth, their culture will continue on. And that is very important to us."

The efforts to include the community's voice and vision in the design of the Cultural Center also proved to be a positive endeavor. Brenda Bremner, General Manager of the Siletz Tribe, shared, "This project was the catalyst that brought us closer together as a people. Agnes Pilgrim added, "Thank you for listening to our people's suggestions. At every step you have included us."

The benefits of this Project also extend to the Native youth of Siletz reservation. Based on community feedback, a classroom has been incorporated in the Cultural Center's design plans to provide a forum for the sharing of cultural knowledge and activities. Project staff also noted that numerous youth have expressed their desire to be involved in the planning and implementation of the museum's exhibits and presentations, ensuring the future vitality and germaneness of the Cultural Center.

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*"We will not just have a museum, but a living place to teach and to learn. It will be a place where we can be ourselves. This cultural center will be the cornerstone for building back much of what had been taken away from us. It will bring the Siletz culture back into our everyday life. It will be a place for us to grow every day, every year, forever. Without ANA funds, this dream would never have been realized."*

Tina Retasket  
Assistant Manager

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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON

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**Project Title:** Preservation and Implementation of the Three Distinct Languages of the Warm Springs Tribes

**Award Amount:** \$162,252

**Type of Grant:** Language

**Project Period:** 9/30/2004 – 9/29/2006

**Grantee Type:** Tribe

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

- 2 jobs created
- 5 partnerships formed
- 5 products developed
- 10 elders involved
- 100 youth involved

### BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs of Oregon governs the Warm Springs Reservation in north-central Oregon. The Tribe represents three distinct tribes, the Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiutes.

In 1997, the Tribe successfully inaugurated a native language curriculum for kindergarten through fourth grade students attending the local Warm Springs Elementary School. In 2002, the State of Oregon allowed fluent native language speakers to secure teaching certifications, and seven speakers, enrolled in the Tribe, were granted their licenses. When the No Child Left Behind Act was implemented, the Warm Springs Elementary School decided to discontinue the native language program. As a result, the Tribe's Department of Education decided to build an integrated language initiative to revitalize the

Ichishkiin, Kiksht and Numu languages of which there remained 18, 3 and 2 fluent speakers, respectively.

### PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Preservation and Implementation of the Three Distinct Languages of the Warm Springs Tribes (Project) planned to launch a language program in an off-reservation middle school; establish a Head Start immersion classroom; develop an intergenerational mentoring program for elders and youth; and establish a community-based language program for adult tribal members. The Project also planned to develop textbooks and multimedia language-learning tools for the three languages; issue the tools to all interested tribal members; and store and display resources at the Warm Springs Museum. They also planned to stage a Native Language conference to network and strategize with other tribes endeavoring to preserve and revitalize their own languages.

Despite a prior agreement with the local middle school to implement a native language program, turnover in the school board and No Child Left Behind Act regulations led to the school board's decision to maintain the school's existing

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curriculum. Without a school-based program, the Project developed an after-school curriculum and program for third to sixth grade students. Tribal elders and parents tutored the 12 youth and these classes also served as the planned intergenerational mentoring program.

Due to a five-month delay in hiring Wasco and Paiute teachers and the limited classroom experience of those hired, the Project was also unable to institute an immersion Head Start classroom. Instead of the planned four hours of instruction, only 30 minutes of native language were taught daily. However, the Project did reach 90 students over the two-year Project timeframe.

The Project successfully produced lesson plans for all three languages as a single textbook, complete with audio CDs. (The DVD format was not completed as planned since the Project did not have requisite technical skills to produce the DVDs.) The Project created language kits which were given to Head Start students for home use. The kits were available to any interested tribal member and the Project distributed 300 kits within the Project's timeframe, exceeding their planned milestone of 125 kits distributed.

The Project also successfully conducted community-based language classes for the three languages once a week for any interested tribal member. These classes attracted a core group of ten adults.

The Project had planned to have the Warm Springs Museum showcase the language resources and create a self-study language program for interested tribal members. The Museum failed to receive an anticipated grant and this objective was not fulfilled. Finally, while the Project planned and advertised a language conference, only 16 people responded and the Project cancelled the conference.

This ambitious Project was continuously beset by challenges which required the Project to readjust its immersion strategy. Despite these setbacks, the Tribe has committed funds to retain the Head Start teachers, and the Project planned to continue the after-school program for the following academic year.

### **PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**

The Project created an opportunity for every tribal member to reconnect with and increase their knowledge and skills in the Ichishkiin, Kiksht and Numu languages. Jodi Orr, one of the program's teachers, shared, "Parents have been asking for this type of project for years. They are proud that their children are learning their ancestors' language. The program is now here to stay, and the parents expect it." Kirsten Hisatake, a teacher and parent of a Head Start student, added, "My son loves learning the languages. He and his sister can speak to their grandparents in their language."

The inability to successfully build an integrated language program weighs heavily on the Project staff. Wendell Jim, the Education Manager for Warm Springs, said, "Unfortunately, we could only control our own Head Start program. We could not administer control over the other partners to any degree. But our languages are a part of our heritage, and we have leaders and employees and tribal members who now realize and understand that."