



NPS-RTCA
Rivers, Trails and Conservation
Assistance Program



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON



ASLA
OREGON

BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE



OLD CAMP HISTORIC PARK

CONCEPT PLAN

BURNS, OREGON



Introduction

This conceptual plan presents the Burns Paiute Tribe's vision for the development of its Old Camp Historic Park, with the intention to deepen the Tribe's connection to this important place and expand and enhance the Tribe's existing RV Park at Old Camp as a destination for visitors to learn about the Burns Paiute People.

Old Camp is an important historical and cultural place for the Burns Paiute Tribe. It was from here that we began rebuilding our Tribe after a heartbreaking series of conflicts, violence, relocations, and the dispossession of the 1.8-million-acre Malheur Reservation promised to us by treaty in 1868.

Since being dispossessed of over 3.36 million acres of the Great Basin region during the period of white settlement, the Burns Paiute Tribe has been working to reclaim the land with whom we have been in relationship since time immemorial. Over time, we purchased land and later converted it to federal trust status. We continue to work very hard to meet the needs of our people including preserving our traditional way of life as best we can. The purchased land is now our Reservation.

Harney County has become a recreational destination for tourists and outdoor adventurers across the Pacific Northwest and High Desert region. Old Camp Historic Park offers truly unique recreational and cultural opportunities not currently available in the area, where visitors and Tribal members, especially our youth, can learn about how our ancestors lived in harmony with this land and how far they have come as a Tribe since dispossession.



Bitterroot (Kangecha) is a culturally significant plant to the Burns Paiute Tribe.

PLANNING GOALS

Improvements planned for Old Camp follow the Burn Paiute Tribe's economic development goals to increase revenues from the RV park, programs, and events, and to support preservation and cultural needs. They will advance two of the Tribe's economic development and cultural preservation goals outlined in its Community Strategic Plan, most notably:

- Increase the financial self-sufficiency of the Tribe.
- Strengthen Tribal sovereignty by conserving natural resources and perpetuating our culture.

Efforts to protect and restore Old Camp will preserve the historic orchard and house, seek historic landmark designation, and grow cultural programming for the Tribe and visitors.

PARTNERSHIPS

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA)

NPS-RTCA supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. As a collaborative partner, NPS-RTCA helps achieve successful project outcomes by engaging communities in the visioning, planning, and implementation of each project.

Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The National Park Service has a longstanding partnership with ASLA to collaboratively provide community assistance and bring design expertise to mutually selected NPS-RTCA projects as part of its mission to lead the stewardship, planning, and design of our built and natural environments. The ASLA-Oregon Chapter invited the University of Oregon's Landscape Architecture Department to represent the chapter and provided funding for a special two quarter class to work with NPS-RTCA and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

University of Oregon (UO) Department of Landscape Architecture

UO's Department of Landscape Architecture is internationally recognized for its research in landscape design history, theory, and critique. The department frequently partners with cities, government agencies, nonprofits, and community groups to address real-world issues.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

After the Burns Paiute Tribe successfully applied for assistance from NPS-RTCA, the Old Camp Planning Committee (OCPC) met in June 2022 to share visions for the site, establish scope, and identify possible community engagement activities to reach the Tribe and broader Burns community.

Collaborating with NPS-RTCA, the UO team began the research and site analysis phase of the Old Camp Historic Park project in January 2023. Based on resources shared by the Tribe, along with independent research by the UO team, a report was drafted and a community engagement workshop was held in April 2023. In June 2023, the UO team traveled to Burns with NPS-RTCA to co-present the final draft of the Old Camp Historic Park comprehensive conceptual plan to the Burns Paiute Tribal Council. The Council accepted the draft plan and authorized the Planning Committee to work with NPS-RTCA to prepare this summary concept plan.



Community engagement workshop, 2023.



Team visits Old Camp, 2023.

History of the Burns Paiute Tribe

Since time immemorial, the Burns Paiute people have lived in harmony with the land of what is now southeastern Oregon. Today, our descendants continue their work to preserve the traditional lifeways, language, and cultural resources that have been passed down for generations.

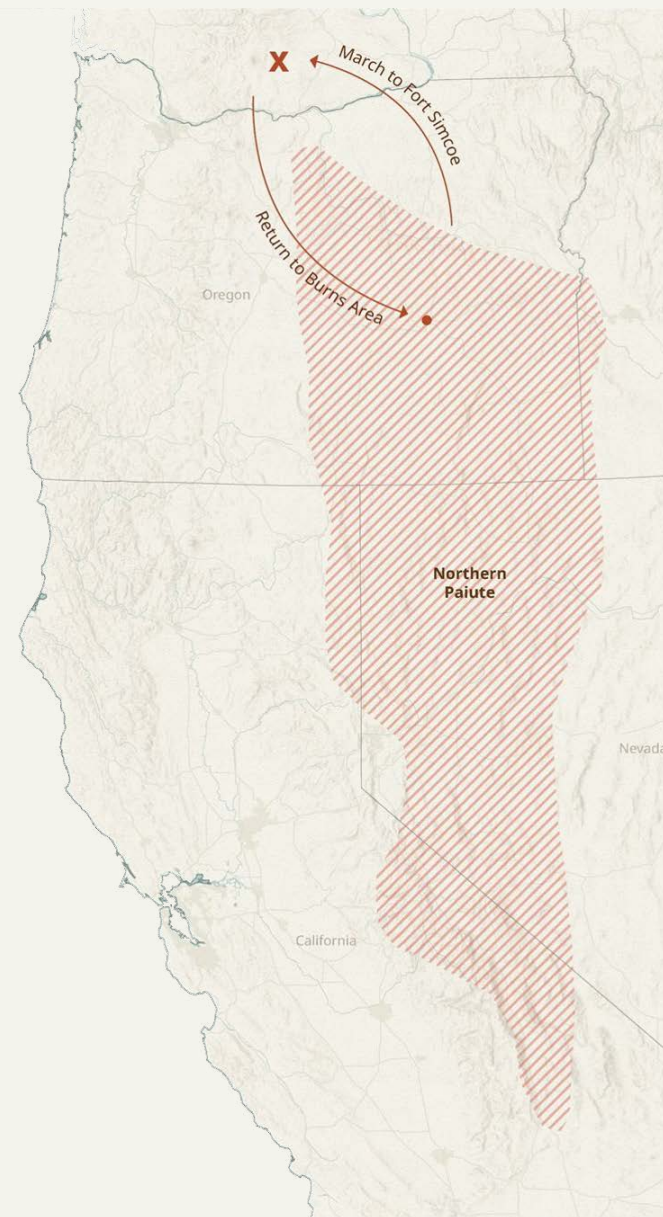
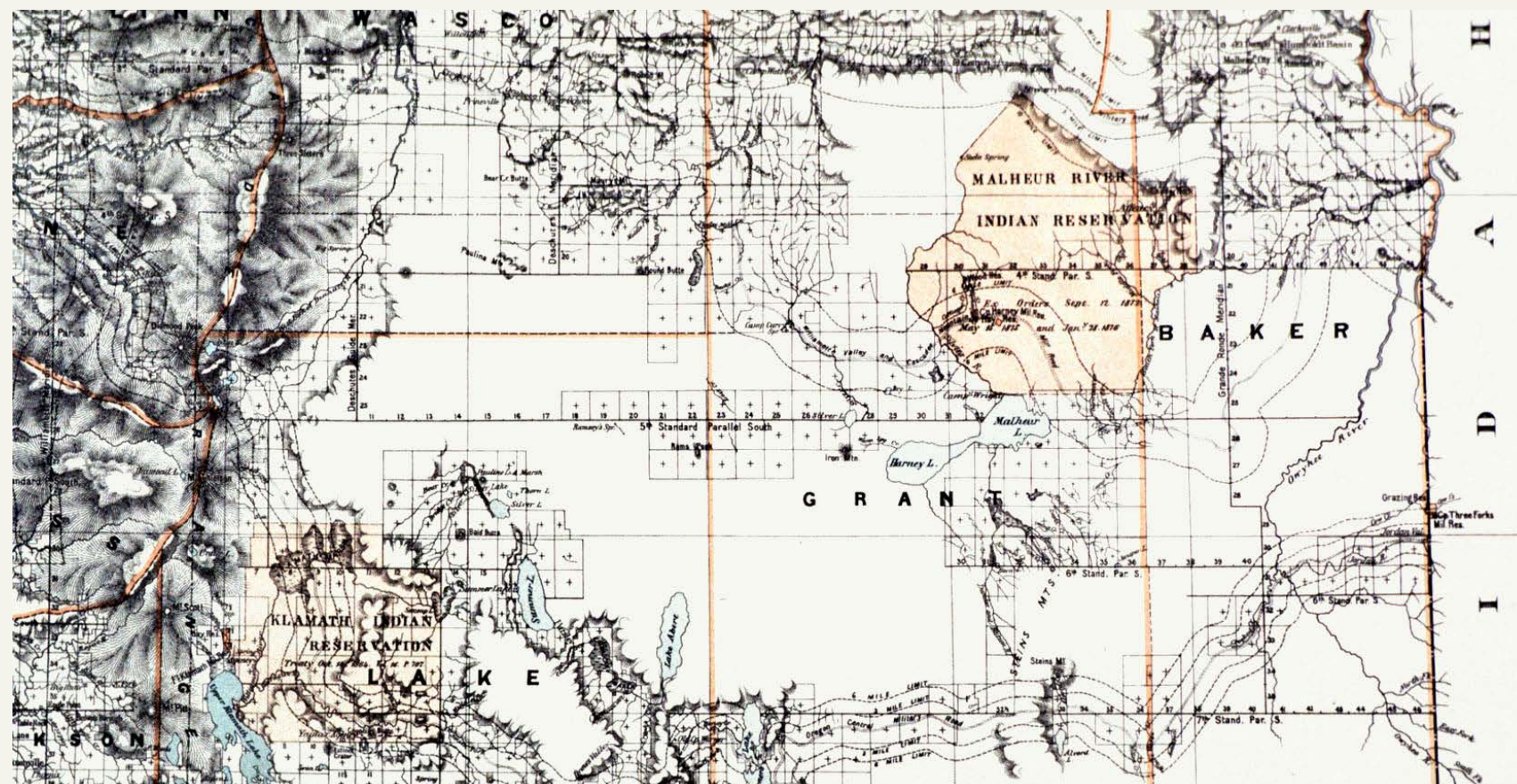
Members of the Burns Paiute Tribe are primarily descended from the Wadatika Band of the Northern Paiute people, whose traditional homelands included more than 5,250 square miles of the Great Basin region. Prior to the 1800s, our gathering and hunting practices guided our seasonal settlement patterns, social organization, and trade. We traveled according to optimal harvesting times based on land management considerations, quality of food flavor, efficiency of harvest labor, and social and spiritual considerations.

ENCROACHMENT AND CONFLICT

White settlers began encroaching on our lands in the 1860s. Our ancestors resisted the invasion of settlers, refused to cede any of our lands, and fought to preserve our traditional lifeways. Eventually a treaty of "Peace and Friendship" was signed in 1868, and 1.8 million acres were set aside as the Malheur Reservation for our people in 1872. But the Malheur Reservation was short-lived.

Gold was discovered in the area, and the influx of white settlers increased. In 1878, an uprising to the east, the Bannock War, came to our homeland, bringing more conflict and hardship. As conditions on the reservation deteriorated, many of our people left to escape further conflict.

This General Land Office map from 1879 shows the Malheur Indian Reservation created through an executive order by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872.



Original Northern Paiute territory.

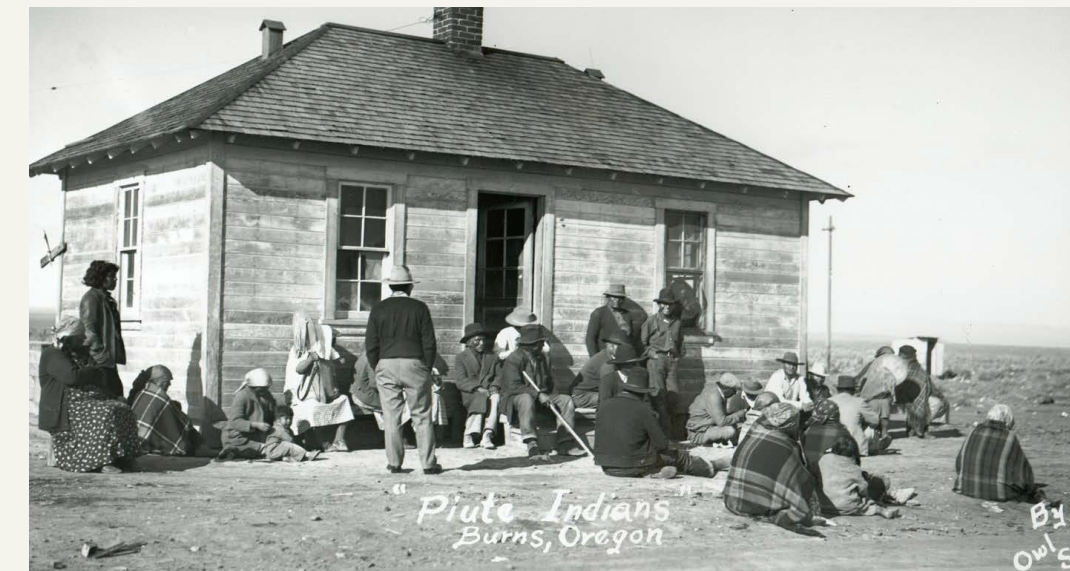
WALK OF SORROW

When the Bannock War ended, all Paiute, even those who didn't join in the fighting, were forcibly marched as prisoners of war for more than 350 miles to Fort Simcoe in Washington State during the winter without adequate clothing and provisions. Several adults and children froze to death on the trip. Others perished after being housed in stock sheds at the fort.

Old Camp will provide a space for the Tribe's Youth Program to participate in cultural practices, including building wickiups, traditional Paiute dwellings made from willows, tules, and sagebrush.

DISPOSSESSION

During the time of our imprisonment at Fort Simcoe, the Malheur Reservation was terminated and much of the land was opened up to white settlers through the Homestead Act. When the Paiute people were finally released from Fort Simcoe in 1887, many of those who returned to Harney County were confined to small camps on the outskirts of the area that is now the City of Burns.



Burns Paiute Chiefs Peter Teeman, front row, far right, and Chief Captain Louie to his immediate right, ca. 1930s.



OLD CAMP

In 1928, the Tribe acquired 10 acres from the Egan Land Company. The land, which at one time was the Burns City dump, was restored and 20 homes were constructed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



Bureau of Indian Affairs houses at Old Camp.

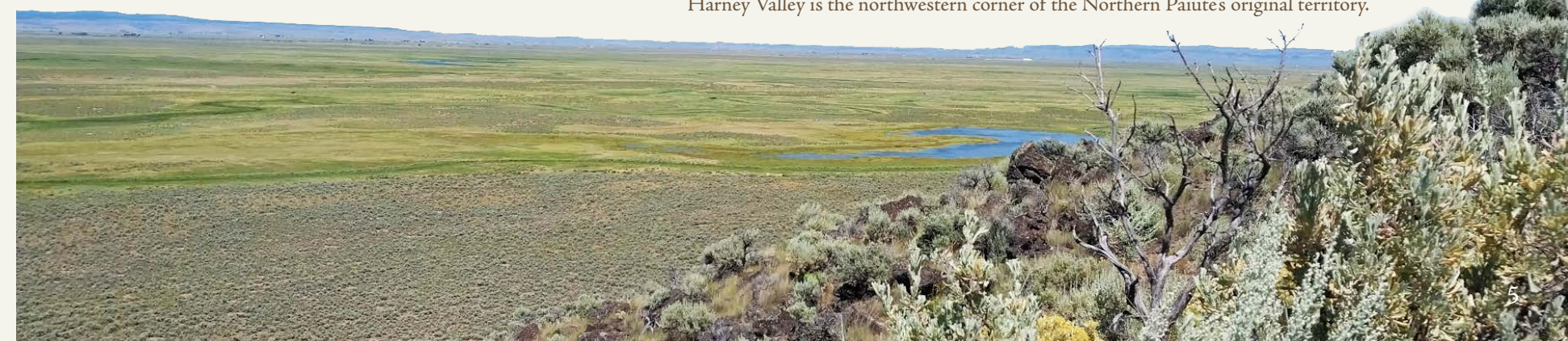
NEW CAMP

In 1935, a loan from the federal government allowed the Tribe to purchase an additional 771 acres, called New Camp, less than one mile north of Old Camp. More than 30 years later, in 1968, the Burns Paiute Tribe received federal recognition, and their combined 781 acres of land became the Burns Paiute Indian Reservation. The U.S. government officially recognized the Burns Paiute Tribe in 1972.

The Catholic church at Old Camp was dedicated in the 1930s. The church was later moved to New Camp.



Harney Valley is the northwestern corner of the Northern Paiute's original territory.



Burns Paiute Tribe Today

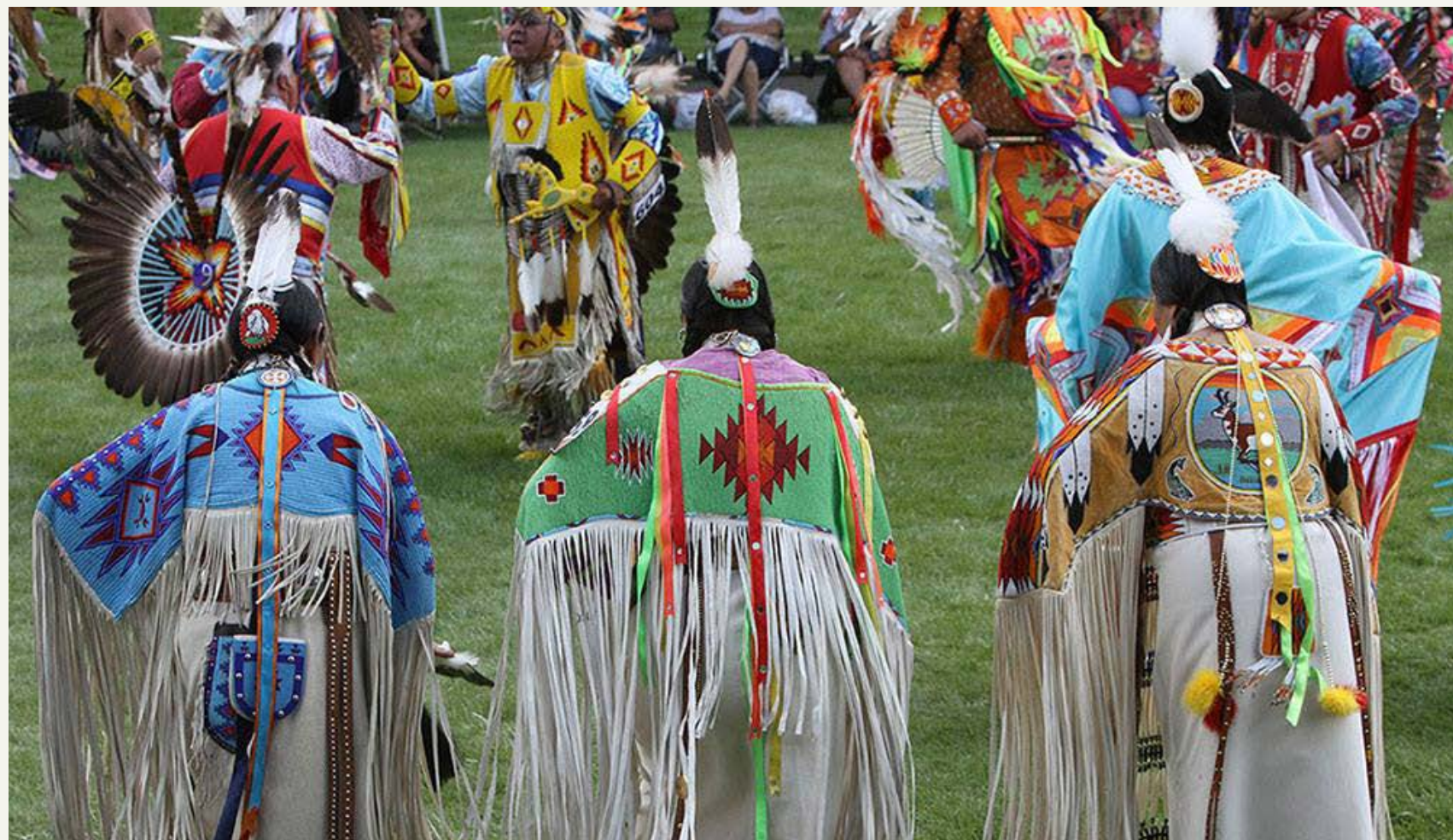
Today, the Burns Paiute Tribe has 437 enrolled Tribal members, with approximately 200 of them living on the Burns Paiute Reservation in Burns, Oregon. Several more members and their families live in the adjacent towns of Burns and Hines, Oregon, while others live in areas outside of Harney County.

In addition to our reservation land, we purchased land to give Tribal members access to culturally important resources and an opportunity to resume traditional practices. The Burns Paiute Tribe now owns nearly 14,000 acres in reservation and trust land throughout Harney County.

The Tribe is governed by a seven-member General Council. The Burns Paiute Tribe employs over 80 individuals who lead and serve programs related to cultural heritage, economic development, education, housing, natural resources, language revitalization, social services, and health and wellness. We continue to work very hard to meet the needs of our people including preserving our traditional way of life as best we can.

MISSION

The Tribe's mission is to *“Protect the inherent rights, resources, and sovereignty of the Burns Paiute Tribe and preserve our culture and tribal identity for the well-being of all Tribal members.”*



Natural Resources Department

The Burns Paiute Tribe is committed to restoring habitat for native Oregon species such as salmon, mule deer, and sage grouse. The Tribe does many restoration projects throughout their traditional homeland. Jonesboro, Logan Valley, and Beech Creek are Tribal properties where work is done to enhance habitat for many species that live in the sage-steppe, near rivers, streams, wetlands and meadows.



Calla Hagle, Eric Hawley, and Erica Maltz of the Burns Paiute Tribe discuss conservation strategies along Big Creek with Natural Resources Conservation Service conservationist Lorraine Vogt (far right), 2017.



Tribal members released hatchery-raised Chinook salmon into the Malheur River, and then harvested the salmon using traditional fishing methods such as spears, nets, or baskets.



Wadatika Neme Yaduan Nobi (Language House)

The Wadatika Neme Yaduan Nobi (Language House) program aims to retain and revitalize conversational Wadatika Neme fluency within the Burns Paiute community by providing classes, hosting language-based events and activities, and collecting digital audio recordings that preserve the verbal pronunciations of the Northern Paiute language.

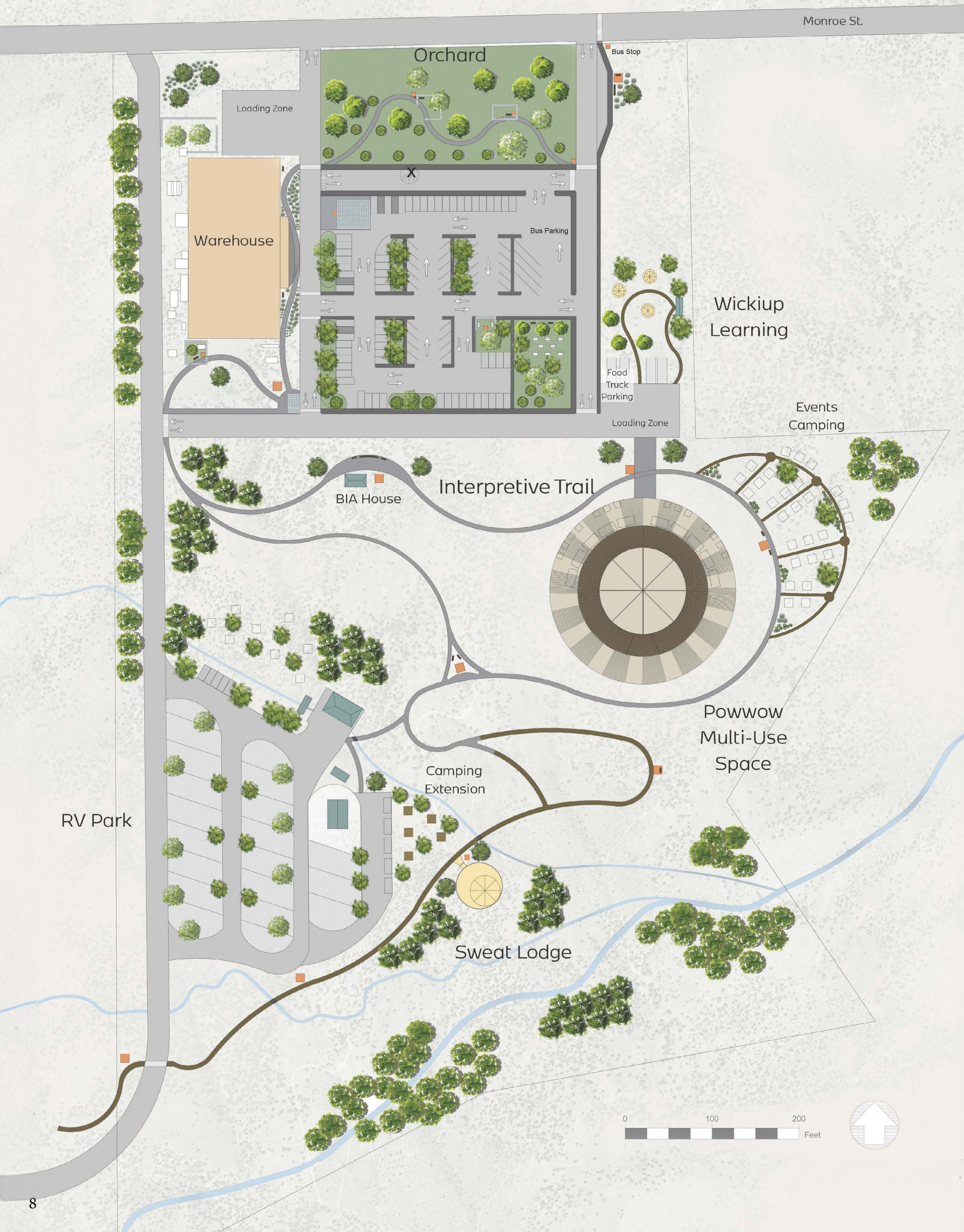
Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi (“Kid’s House”) Youth Center

In 2012, the Tribe opened the Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi (“Kid’s House”) Youth Center to engage young community members in learning about the Tribe’s cultural traditions and lifeways through after-school programs serving children and youth ages 5-18 years old. The center provides a safe and supportive learning environment where kids and adolescents feel empowered to embrace their cultural identity and practice a healthy lifestyle.

Tribal members make tule duck decoys and boats during Culture Camp in Logan Valley, 2018.



VISION FOR Old Camp Historic Park



This concept plan proposes developing adaptable spaces that can host a range of community activities and educational programs, while also highlighting historical features with interpretive signage and design elements that help to tell the story of Old Camp. The programmatic goals for the Old Camp Historic Park include a functional outdoor space for hosting Powwows, Tribal artisan fairs, farmers markets, and other cultural events. Near-term goals for the RV Park include upgrading infrastructure, increasing occupation rates, adding amenities like an outdoor pavilion and signage, and developing a long-term strategy for its success as a formal business.

The revitalization of Old Camp Historic Park will support and enhance many of the Burns Paiute Tribe's existing community programs, particularly those related to cultural heritage and youth education, including its Youth Center and Language Program.

In 1998, Old Camp became home to the Old Camp Casino, a 15,000 square foot building that stood at the northwest corner of the property. It was a popular destination until it closed due to structural issues in 2012. The outer shell of this warehouse remains on site today.

The southern half of the Old Camp property hosts Old Camp RV Park, a business owned and operated by the Burns Paiute Tribe and one of the Tribe's primary sources of income. Established in 2000, this area has become a symbol of survival and resilience for the Burns Paiute people.

RV Park



Improvements to the RV park facilities will enhance the economic viability of Old Camp and provide an entry point for visitors to learn about the Burns Paiute Tribe's history. This includes considerations for how the RV park might support increased tourism with future program additions to Old Camp like the memorial trail, Powwow grounds and museum.

The RV Park encompasses 21 acres, but the existing amenities and infrastructure occupy only about 2.5 acres of the space. It has 17 pull-through RV parking spaces with full 30-50 amp hookups, Wi-Fi, bathrooms, showers, and laundry facilities. A variety of accommodations, from large RVs to tent sites and from short term to long term rentals, can help Old Camp RV Park attract a diverse range of guests throughout the year, including sites that cater to the current "glamping" trend in outdoor recreation. Possible additional revenue-generating amenities include equipment rentals (bikes, gear), snack stations, and guided tours.

Historic House and Museum



Of the 20 houses built by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at Old Camp, only one remains on the site today. The school, church, and community center that were once at the camp were moved to the new reservation when the larger Burns Paiute Indian Reservation was established in 1972. The rest were either sold off, deteriorated, or lost to fire in the years following the Tribe's move. The remaining BIA-era home is a physical representation of the Tribe's unyielding strength at a time when the Paiute people were rebuilding following the devastating impacts of Euro-American settlement.

This significant building may be eligible for historic landmark designation through the National Park Service. Preserving and highlighting the house as a part of the Old Camp Historic Park is an opportunity to showcase this strength and share a narrative of resilience with members of the public, as well as future generations of the Burns Paiute Tribe. Listing the historic home on the registry would also have many other benefits, from promoting the value of heritage, increased grant eligibility, and tax incentives.

Powwow Grounds



Creating a multi-use outdoor space is also a top priority. The Tribe envisions this space to be used for many activities, including but not limited to, Powwows, Burns Farmer's Market, and an outdoor market space that can serve as a place for Tribal artisans to sell their wares. This space could benefit the Burns Paiute people and the wider community.

The central-eastern portion of the site is a good location for this outdoor space. The proposed area is 150 feet in diameter and is anticipated to hold approximately 500 visitors. It is accessible from the site's northern entrance, making it easy for vendors, Tribal members, and visitors to access the outdoor space. Visual screening is recommended along the eastern edge of the space, helping to create an intimate experience for visitors.

Conceptual image of the Powwow Grounds at Old Camp adapted from a rendering by Richard Kroeker/ Oxbow Architecture Inc.

Memorial Orchard & Trail



The northern edge of Old Camp is home to one confirmed historic pear tree likely planted sometime between the 1930s and 1960s when the Northern Paiute people returned to the area. Interpretive signage will tell the story of the families who planted and cared for the original fruit trees.

The proposed memorial walking trail is meant to provide an educational experience for the visitors of Old Camp to learn about the history of the Burns Paiute Tribe. The trail will bring visitors through the public zones of the site and highlight the Burns Paiute Tribal history through signage. The trail starts at the northeast corner of the site and ends at the southwest corner to utilize the length of the designated public

spaces. Both the beginning and end of the trail should suggest a continuation of the path and reference Paiute Tribal movement across the landscape through signage. Native plant species within the high desert have a significant cultural value to the Northern Paiute Tribe. Foraging and gathering, including events like the root camp or the seasonal rounds movement, contributed to the trading of these plant species throughout the basin and range. New plantings will have a native plant palette that references cultural values and promotes wildlife and pollinator habitats. Community and Tribal members visiting the site will be able to recognize or learn about these species for their value to the diet, medicinal, or spiritual contributions to the Tribe.

Next Steps

The improvements planned for Old Camp will meet the Burns Paiute Tribe's economic development and cultural preservation goals by increasing our financial self-sufficiency and strengthening our Tribal sovereignty through the conservation of our natural resources and perpetuation of our culture. The Burns Paiute Tribe is proud of our heritage and we look forward to providing a premiere outdoor recreational space where Tribal members and visitors can learn about the Tribe and ancestral lands.

To take the ideas in this plan through a design development process that moves from conceptual planning to design and construction, partnerships and funding are needed. Sharing this vision with the community and presenting these ideas to stakeholders and partners are crucial next steps towards gaining the momentum needed to make this a reality.



BURNSPAUTE-NSN.GOV

Acknowledgements

BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE, OCHP PLANNING COMMITTEE

Logan Hunt, Coordinator/RV Park Manager, Community & Economic Development Department

Tracy Kennedy, Director, Community & Economic Development Department

Manuel Mose, Tribal Planner, Community & Economic Development Department

Diane Teeman, Director, Culture & Heritage Department

James S. St Martin, Director, Social Services

Maunka Morgan, General Manager

Keith J. MacGeagh, Business Specialist

Carla J. Teeman, Transit Specialist

Darrell Stamps, Grant Writer

Elise R. Adams, Coordinator, Youth Services

Lindsey R. Dick, Coordinator, Language & Traditional Culture

Rhonda J. Holtby, Administrative Assistant, Natural Resources

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alexandra Stone, Community Planner, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Marie Naughton, Writer-Editor, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Arica Duhrkoop-Galas, Senior Instructor

Students: Cameron Coronado, Tressa Cummings, Grace Graham, Sarah Phillips, Candi Rosario, and Jenna Witzleben

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, OREGON CHAPTER



BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE



OLD CAMP HISTORIC PARK

CONCEPT PLAN

BURNS, OREGON



NPS-RTCA

Rivers, Trails and Conservation
Assistance Program



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON



ASLA
OREGON