

Tribal leaders sign treaty to oppose grizzly bear delisting



Shoshone-Bannock tribal leaders FHBC Vice Chairman Darrell Shay (far right) and Sergeant At Arms Lee Juan Tyler (third from right) were at the signing. (Submitted photo)

JACKSON, Wyoming — A group of tribal leaders signed a joint treaty October 2 at Jackson Lake Lodge to oppose the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) proposed delisting of Yellowstone grizzly bears.

Fort Hall Business Council Vice Chairman Darrell Shay was in attendance, along with Lee Juan Tyler, sergeant at arms.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes has consistently opposed the delisting. The FHBC met with USFWS officials in late July 2015. At that time, USFWS said the grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species in 1975 when there were about 300 bears. Now there are three times as many bears anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 in the Yellowstone ecosystem. The grizzly bears occupy twice the range than when YNP officials began tracking them and they've expanded into all public lands in Yellowstone.

Shay said the discussion between the Tribes and USFWS has been hostile, "This treaty between numerous tribes is part of the strategy to force consultation by the US government and as soon as the bear is removed from the ESA protection, the states of Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, will permit hunting of the grizzly bear," adding the bear is mainly found in our ancestral territory.

"The profound spiritual & religious connection with the bear and our people makes this treaty significant," Shay said.

Eastern Shoshone Chairman Darwin St. Clair Jr. was also in attendance to sign the treaty.

Casino expansion groundbreaking Oct. 17



The Shoshone-Bannock Hotel & Events Center will be expanded to include the Fort Hall Casino. (Submitted photo)

By LORI EDMO-SUPPAH Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — Groundbreaking for the expansion of the Fort Hall Casino is Monday, October 17 at noon on the west end of the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel & Events Center.

The Fort Hall Business Council selected Ormond Builders out of Idaho Falls to be the general contractor. A total of four bids was received said Marlin Fellows, construction manager for the Tribes. In addition to the FHBC, a Tribes Project team consisting of Tribal Finance, Planning, TERO/TOSHA and Gaming staff did the selection.

The 72,984 square foot casino expansion will be attached to the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel & Events Center. An 8,084 feet bingo hall is being included that previously wasn't in the original plans at an estimated cost of \$2.7 million. The casino expansion project cost is estimated at \$35 million according to a press release.

However the loan to cover the cost of the casino expansion includes refinancing the existing hotel loan so the total cost is \$57 million. Tribal members were previously told the loan would be repaid though economic development funds from the gaming revenue distribution plan. The estimated payoff of the new loan is 5.2 years.

The project will also include a pre-function corridor with connected storage that will be located along the north side of the existing Chiefs Events Center.

Tribal members fulfill calling to support Standing Rock



The Cannon Ball River mirrors the North Camp during sunrise on Sunday, October 2.

By ROSELYNN WAHTOMY Sho-Ban News

CANNON BALL, ND – More Shoshone-Bannock tribal members journeyed to stand together in prayer with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The driving distance to Cannon Ball is about 12.5 hours. The caravan included Kevin Callahan, Carmen Yupe, Kyla Mosho, Alana Baldwin, Tess Ridley and Reynese Ridley, who left Fort Hall on Thursday, September 29 and returned on October 2.

According to the on-site Resource Center's media kit, there are several different camps in the area, the Sacred Stone Camp, Skangu Oyate Camp and the largest, the North Camp, which holds the Oceti Sakowin, Red



Kevin Callahan helps empty donations from a supply truck.

Warrior, Ihanktowans, Oglalas, Lower Brule, Crow Creek, and others.

The land where the main camp sits belongs to the U.S Army Corps of Engineers near the merging Missouri and Cannonball rivers, right next to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

The Dakota Access

Pipeline (DAPL) is a 1,172 mile project that would carry nearly a half million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota's oil field through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Illinois where shippers can access Midwest and Gulf Coast markets. It's a \$3.8 billion cost. The pipeline will



Shoshone-Bannock tribal members from left, Alexandria Alvarez, Kevin Callahan, Alana Baldwin, Tess Ridley, Kyla Mosho, Reynese Ridley, Carmen Yupe and Dr. LaNada War Jack at the Red Warrior Camp by the Cannon Ball River on September 30. (Roselynn Wahtomy photos)



Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault II and Sami people unite.

cross treaty lands of the Oceti Sakowin and will pass along the borders of the Standing Rock reservation. The pipeline would contribute 50 million tons of CO2 a year, which equals to about 10 million cars or 15 coal plants. The tribes in the area are concerned because they claim they were not properly consulted with on See SUPPORT, page A5