

Karuk Tribe of California

Tribal Government Profile and Summary

"Social and Economic Development"

1995

Compiled by the Office of the Tribal Chairman

Alvis Johnson, Tribal Chairman

Karuk Tribal Chairman's Mission Statement

The following mission statement has been developed by the Tribal Chairman for use by all Tribal Employees to assist and guide them in the management of their contracts and the day-to-day activities of the many programs and services offered by the Tribe to the Members and the community at large.

"The mission of the government of the Karuk Nation is to promote and sustain the culture, language, health, welfare, and self reliance of it's members. All programs will strive to develop an individuals pride and independence by enhancing his or her knowledge, skills, and self-responsibility, and by providing services in an appropriate cultural context.

KARUK TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA
Chairman's Report
on the state of
Social and Economic Development

1995

INTRODUCTION

The Karuk Tribe is one of the largest Indian Tribal governments in Northern California. The Karuk Tribal community covers all of Siskiyou County and Eastern Humboldt County from the Siskiyou County/Oregon border, to Bluff Creek encompassing approximately 4000 square miles. The service area has been divided accordingly, because the traditional land boundaries of the Karuk Tribe once included over one million acres of sacred grounds, hunting areas, and Indian communities along the Klamath and Salmon Rivers. The Tribe's governmental authority was established by Federal Recognition in 1979 and by the adoption of the Karuk Tribe's Constitution on April 6, 1985.

The Tribe's purpose is to promote the general welfare of all Karuk people to establish equality and justice for our Tribe, to restore and preserve Tribal traditions, customs, language and ancestral rights, to secure to ourselves and our descendants the power to exercise the inherent rights of self-governance.

The Karuk Tribe, while not having been given a formal reservation, has instead, a large number of individual Indian Allotments as well as public domain allotments and has continuously occupied our ancestral village sites for at least 10,000 years (based on archeological research). The Karuk Tribe's aboriginal territory includes over 4,000 square miles, most of which is currently held by the US Forest Service and includes three wilderness areas. The Tribe has maintained its culture, art and language throughout the times of disruption and adverse conditions. We have also managed to continue the necessary dances and ceremonies. While we have lost several significant pieces of land and have limited access to gathering and ceremonial sites, we have made considerable strides in reacquiring land, providing housing and services to Tribal members and trying to create the economic conditions that will allow our members who live in other areas to return home.

I. Tribal Organization

The Tribal Council is composed of nine members with staggered 4 year terms of office. The current Council members are as follows:

Alvis Johnson	Chairman
Barry Davis	Vice Chairman
Carol Day	Secretary
Paula McCarthy	Treasurer
Vera Arwood	Member at large
Robert Super	Member at large
Viola Silva	Member at large
Dolores Voyles	Member at large

The Karuk Community Development Corporation (KCDC) was chartered on July 24, 1994 and the Board of Directors is currently made up of seven members, both Indian and non Indian, and includes a CPA, banker, business consultant, planner, a building contractor and a business developer with over 20 years experience.

II. Report of Past Activities

We have gone from having no land or housing in 1979, to owning approximately 300 acres, having built two community centers, operating three IHS clinics and having completed 80 units of housing through the Karuk Tribal Housing Authority HUD contracts, with an additional 25 funded and scheduled for construction in the next two years.

The Tribe has increasingly pursued Tribal Business Opportunities. The first business started was a laundromat at the Karuk Tribal Housing Authority (KTHA) in Yreka. The KTHA is still responsible for the financial records of this business, however the day-to-day management has been turned over to the Resident Management Corporation (RMC) which is made up of KTHA tenants (the tenants played a key role in starting this small business). Any future profits made by the laundromat are to be used by the RMC for youth activities, sporting equipment, educational materials for their adult literacy project and other community needs as necessary.

We have several construction projects funded and scheduled in 94/95 including a new Community Center in Happy Camp, new modular classrooms for Head Start in Yreka and Orleans, and the renovation of the Orleans Clinic and Community Center. There will also be a new housing development in Orleans. The construction projects scheduled for 94/95 total approximately \$1,400,000, not including the cost of modular Head Start classrooms. Of that amount, 40%, or \$560,000 is for building materials. The Tribe has received funding for a building materials business that will be operational and eligible to bid on these projects by December 1994. This will create 5 full time jobs as well as generating revenue for other Tribal businesses.

We have MOA's and contracts with the State Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, and USDA Forest Service that result in direct employment of 15 Tribal members on water temperature and fisheries management, as well as funded watershed restoration projects that will add an additional 15 seasonal jobs.

In the last three years, the Karuk Tribe has had a 1600% growth rate in both funding and service delivery, gone from 4 contracts and grants to 30, and grown from a staff of 13 to 68 permanent employees, plus a seasonal and contract staff of approximately 25, excluding the nine employees that are projected to be hired for the building materials and willow furniture manufacturing businesses.

In the past five years, the Karuk Tribe, in its efforts to address the poverty and social needs of its tribal members, have focused on meeting their immediate needs. We have completed 80 units of new housing with 22 more scheduled for 1994, completed 49 home rehabs under our HIP program, added two drug and alcoholism counselors and a therapist. We have also implemented additional programs such as Adult Vocational Training, Higher Education scholarships, AIDS prevention, perinatal services for substance abusing young mothers, an Indian Child Welfare program, a child care center, two Head Start programs, Title VI Elders program, and a pilot Family Self Sufficiency program funded by the State that includes basic life skills, adult literacy, job training and GED prep components.

The Karuk Tribe contracts programs under P.L. 93-638 with both Indian Health Service (IHS) and the BIA, including a set-aside and mature contract status within the BIA, as well as State and Local grants and contracts that include:

IHS "638" contract for the operation of:

3 Medical clinics,

2 Dental offices,

Public/Community Health Outreach Services,

Mental Health Services,

Drug and Alcohol Counseling Services,

Continuous Quality Improvement Activities (funded through an IHS Tribal Management Grant)

BIA master "638" contract which includes:

Aid to Tribal Government,
Adult Vocational Training,
Higher Education,
Realty,
Fisheries,
Child Protection,
Community Fire Protection

Other BIA Contracts Include:

BIA Business Acquisition Grant
BIA Home Improvement Program
BIA ICWA Program
BIA Roads Maintenance
BIA Johnson O'Malley Program
BIA Water Technician Training Program

Other Contracts Include:

Perinatal Program OSAP
Two Head Start Classrooms
State of Calif. DEO Direct Emergency Assistance
State of Calif. DEO pass-through (administered for other tribes)
State of Calif Family Self Sufficiency (Pilot Program)
Karuk Tribal Housing Authority (HUD)
ICDBG (HUD) Community Center (Happy Camp)
ICDBG (HUD) Community Center (Orleans)
LIHEAP- (ACF) Energy Assistance
Child Care Grant - (ACF)
Title VI - Elders Program
County Mental Health (substance abuse)
US Fish and Wildlife (Water Monitoring Project)
USFS GIS
NCIDC Fish rearing project
FEMA Planning Grant
EPA General Assistance Program
USFS Resource Diversification Program
State of California Indian Health Program

The majority of these grants and contracts have been written and administered during the last 5 years, and include mature status on most of the BIA components. I am pleased to report that, as usual, during that time frame we have had no audit exceptions or disallowed costs.

III. Changes in the Economy

The Tribe developed an Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) in 1991 that required revision due to changing economic conditions including the loss of timber-related jobs and the new funding available for tribal business and economic development such as the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative, and this revision was completed in 1994.

The primary sources of income in our area have traditionally been related to a declining timber industry resulting in seasonal work and high unemployment. We are considered an economically depressed area and with the local sawmill having shut down resulting in the loss of 80 jobs (8% of the Happy Camp population) and National Forests being closed to logging, due to spotted owl habitat protection, conditions have deteriorated rapidly. As the local economy has declined there has been additional stress put on families resulting in increased alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse.

This means that for most of the families living in our aboriginal territory, they find it extremely difficult to find

employment, to have access to support services or even communicate in a timely manner with the agencies that some are required to deal with, (unemployment, social services, JTPA etc.)

The problem is further compounded by the lack of amenities throughout most of our service area which is extremely remote. Many families live without electricity, telephone or mail delivery and for over half of our service area there is no public transportation. Unlike most urban areas, public services are only available along the Interstate transportation corridor (I-5) which is a two to three hour drive from most of our population centers.

In addition, many of the available programs for family support have either experienced funding cuts, such as the LIHEAP (Low Income Heating And Energy Assistance), or are slated to be discontinued (JTPA).

IV. New Problems and Potentials

As the Tribe develops its infrastructure and technical capacity, we are moving into the position of contracting services and administering programs from the Federal Government as the cognizant local agency for the entire community, including provision of services to non-Indians. These opportunities include President Clinton's Economic Recovery Plans, Option 9, and the Bureau of Reclamation Klamath Basin Recovery Project.

In these times of declining governmental resources, economic development is viewed as a main priority in addressing the poverty and unemployment of our tribal members which remains the underlying cause of our social problems. In the course of developing our economic strategies, our research has indicated that we must first develop the infrastructure to manage Tribally owned business, to provide sound economic development advice to our Tribal Council and to of tribal members on business start up and management. It has further become apparent that the health and well being of our Tribal members is directly related to the economic and social conditions of the communities in which they live, and that if we want to drastically improve the conditions of our Tribal members, we also have to expend every effort to do the same for other, non Indian, community members. The Tribe and the non Indian communities can no longer function independently and we are ushering in a new era of cooperation that will be mutually beneficial.

The recently formed Karuk Community Development Corporation (KCDC) will begin researching and developing new economic development opportunities. Each new project will contribute capital towards the operation of the corporation and in turn will receive services. An example is the building materials business. This business is not large enough to warrant a full time fiscal staff and sales and inventory control are taken care of by an electronic perpetual inventory register. With our scattered site incubator model, this business will contract for professional services from KCDC which may include accounts payable, receivable, inventory control, payroll, taxes and technical assistance on bidding and contracting Federal contracts. The business will only pay for the actual amount of professional services necessary to provide these functions as opposed to each business having to maintain full time clerical and fiscal staff. In addition, each business or project would become a part of a single annual KCDC audit. The level of professional expertise available to businesses will be very broad, and the cost will be shared resulting in individual businesses that have access to services without being subjected to unaffordable consultant fees.

These support services may also include access to FAX machines, copiers, answering services, pooled shipping expenses, bulk mailings, word processing, graphics, and publishing of brochures or flyers. In addition, KCDC will order various electronic services such as access to our GIS census data for marketing, Internet, and electronic links to other economic development services. None of these specialized services and equipment would normally be available, or affordable, to small businesses.

KCDC will be an incubator for tribal and community entrepreneurs who have the desire to start businesses but who lack the technical skills required for market analysis, developing business plans, marketing, financial management and arranging for financing. These services will include one-on-one technical assistance with specific projects from feasibility studies to financing, and curriculum has been developed that will allow us to offer courses in business development when additional funds are identified. It is estimated that in addition to our Small Business Center providing services to local businesses, that we will create four new businesses, employing at least 25 people, in FY 95.

The Tribe recently received a \$125,000 grant from the BIA to start a Tribal hardware/building materials business that will employ five tribal members. This grant was followed with a proposal to the Rural Development Administration for a \$150,000 grant which has been recommended for funding contingent upon the remaining financing coming from a guaranteed low interest loan (SBA) which is currently being processed. It is anticipated that the necessary paperwork will be completed and the business will be in operation in January of 1995.

We have also submitted a proposal for a willow furniture manufacturing business under the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative. That proposal was ranked number four (4) in Siskiyou County and we have received a commitment of \$52,000 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This proposal has also been referred to the Rural Development Administration as the lead agency. The marketing and financing plan have been completed and we are awaiting a stock inventory from the U.S. Forest Service that will allow us to determine the amount of raw materials we may harvest in any given year, the projected regeneration rate, and the estimated annual harvest under a sustained yield plan.

In addition we have entered into joint agreements with the U.S. Forest Service for contracting trail and brushing work as a manpower development project, and negotiations are underway on additional contracts for stream restoration projects.

The Karuk Tribe also received a \$96,200 grant from the USFS under Option 9, for a feasibility study of alternative uses of forest resources which will also be used to develop new businesses utilizing readily available forest products.

It is our belief that there are numerous opportunities for small tribal and individually owned businesses that can be developed in the short term, with a minimum capital investment, utilizing the skills, motivation and resources available to us and by providing training and technical assistance in planning, financing and managing small businesses by Tribal members. All of these projects relate directly to the Chairman's mission statement that you read at the beginning of this document regarding the development of self-reliance as a primary objective. That mission statement concludes with the following

"The mission of the government of the Karuk Nation is to promote and sustain the culture, language, health, welfare, and self reliance of it's members. All programs will strive to develop an individuals pride and independence by enhancing his or her knowledge, skills, and self-responsibility, and by providing services in an appropriate cultural context.

The health, education, social, cultural, language restoration, and economic development activities and plans that are described above are the direction we have taken to achieve that mission.

Sincerely



Alvis Johnson-Tribal Chairman