

KARUK TRIBE

LETTER OF INTENT FOR CANDIDACY

Name of Candidate: Paula L. McCarthy
Tribal Roll #: 2676
Candidate For: Happy Camp District Member at Large, Partial Term through Nov. 2020

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

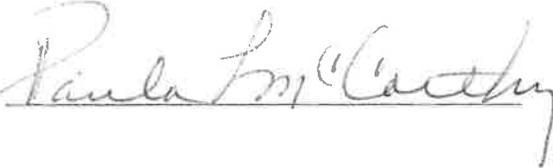
My name is Paula L. McCarthy, and I am running for Happy Camp District Member at Large. I am a Karuk Tribal Member and have lived on the Klamath River my entire life. I was born in Hoopa and spent my early years at Forks of Salmon, where my father worked for the Forest Service building roads. My family and I moved to Happy Camp in the 1940s, and I have lived here ever since.

I am an active supporter of Tribal sovereignty and rights. When the Karuk Tribe was first seeking federal recognition in the 1970s, I volunteered my services to support our people. From 1979 to 1987, I worked for the Karuk Tribal Health Program. From 1987 to 1997, I worked for the USFS Klamath National Forest, where I was nominated as Native American liaison. As the liaison, I was able to aid conversations between the Forest Service, the Karuk Tribe, and other area Tribes to reintroduce prescribed cultural burning practices to our forests, supporting our way of life, basketweaving, and a healthier forest for plants and wildlife. I have also worked for the Karuk Community Development Corporation, assisting with the economic development of our Tribe.

I have previously served on the Karuk Tribal Council for 12 years representing the Happy Camp District. As a returning Council Member, I would bring with me a wealth of experience. When I was on the Tribal Council I participated in the Health Board and the Housing Board, helping to build the programs that are very important to the well-being of our people today. I also participated in many of the Department of Natural Resources' meetings to support our Tribal rights to dip-net fishing.

As the Happy Camp District Member at Large, I would work hard to ensure that our Health and Dental programs are fully funded and staffed, working to expand the clinic in Happy Camp. I would also prioritize Education programs, helping Karuk Tribal members to get the education they need and deserve. One of my other goals as Council Member is to provide more housing and assistance for our Elders. Finally, I have been a basketweaver for over 40 years, so I know first-hand the importance of cultural programs, like Karuk basket weaving and language. As your Council Member I would do my best to help fund these programs and our cultural center, the Karuk Tribe People's Center, so that we may preserve our way of life for future generations.

It would be my honor to serve our people again. Please remember to vote for me on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Yôotva!

Signature: 

Date: 12/16/19