

Toped law's studio
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THE FIGHT FOR LIFE

(MUSIC)

Indian tribes in the Pacific Northwest are engaged in a fight for life. Tribes are weary of spending most of their time and money fighting for minute legal points in the courts. They are actively seeking the support of the American public, the state and ^{the} federal government in their efforts to regulate ~~these~~ ^{tribal} lands and resources.

Using modern technologies, tribes are ~~attempting to~~ ⁱⁿ create a firm place for tribal government in the modern world. Many tribal governments, such as the Quinault Nation, hope to control their own resources. Tribal approaches to water, timber, land, wildlife and fish management may yet prove to be of great benefit to the entire region.

Why is this so?

Unlike the industrial giants, tribes cannot consume in one location and move on to consume someplace else. Industrial expansion in the name of progress has cost everyone dearly. Indian and non-Indian alike. Environmental scientists have exposed the dangers of pollution, erosion and over-consumption of natural resources. For several centuries, ~~Indian~~ ^{tribal} people have been forced to live in the economy of the white man...but the tribal approach is still quite different.

Tribes are ~~attempting~~ ^{working} to develop lasting economies for ~~Indian people~~ ^{peoples} on reservations. Instead of selling

cartoon #1

cartoon #1

out for quick profit, tribes are carefully planning and weighing the potentials of their efforts. ~~(X)~~ To the rest of the world, tribal governments are saying...Slow down. Use resources wisely. Allow nature to continue to provide for man's needs.

cartoon

Indian peoples have long respected the land they occupy. ~~(X)~~ In ancient times, they were fishermen, hunters, berry-gatherers and warriors. ~~(X)~~ ^{Today} ~~In the modern context,~~ ^{tribal} Indian peoples are still pursuing occupations which tie them closely to their own lands and streams. ~~(X)~~ Despite the limitations of treaties and boundary lines, tribes are working to build sound economies for future generations. ~~(X)~~

Tribes throughout the state of Washington are using the latest techniques of fisheries management, forestry, mining, agriculture and government administration. Their economic enterprises are aimed at providing jobs for Indians near their homes. ~~(X)~~

The ~~historic~~ ^{old} myth that Indians are primitive savages who are incapable of managing their own affairs has frequently been used as a basis for public policies aimed at depriving Indians of their lands and resources. ~~(X)~~

~~(X)~~ And yet, the tribal way of life in the Pacific Northwest has refused to disappear. ~~(X)~~ Strong tribal leadership in recent years has been building a sense of pride and hope for many Indian peoples. ~~(X)~~

Blatant mismanagement of Indian resources by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is being gradually replaced by tribal government management of tribal resources. ~~(X)~~

It is a new era in which tribal people ^{seek} ~~hope~~ to coexist with their neighbors. It is an era in which tribal, state and national governments will share the responsibility for management and preservation of the environment.

Under tribal sponsorship, forests are being replanted. Salmon and steelhead stocks are being replenished. Lands and waterways are being preserved and protected. There is a growing recognition that tribes will no longer simply sit back and let other governmental powers dictate policies on reservations. Federal and state governments are being forced to re-define their relationship to tribal governments.

Tribes won a fair share of the salmon harvest in the Boldt decision. *In the second phase of this decision* In Phase II, they are trying to win a voice in shaping and implementing public policies which impact tribal resources.

No longer are tribes out of sight. *achieve an equal influence* In order to ~~influence~~ *voice tribal governments are working to create* state and federal policies, the tribes are turning to the *a three-way relationship* ~~the~~ *between themselves, state government* American public for support. *and the federal government. The goal is to create new channels for inter-governmental cooperation for the* There is a growing realization that the answers to jurisdictional questions and conflicts should not always come from the courts. *management and enhancement of the environment* Rather than squabbling over points of law...tribes are fighting to save their resources and provide for future generations. *change* This means tribes must be able to manage their own affairs and resources.

It is not easy for industrial giants to understand why tribes do not want to exploit their own resources. Tribal lands once thought to be worthless are now recognized to contain vast natural resource wealth. Greedy industrialists and political forces are stepping up efforts to reduce tribal

authority. Tribes are challenging these efforts by quietly building for their future.. (X)

(PAUSE)

For treaty tribes of Washington State, litigation in Phase II of the Boldt decision is yet to be decided. (X) Phase II concerns itself with the regulation of the salmon and steelhead resources. But for ~~most~~^{many} tribes, the question of self-regulation relates to more than fish. (X)

To the Yakima Nation, for instance, the fight has taken the tribe into the arena of nuclear waste disposal. (X) Along with a number of tribes across the nation, the Yakimas are concerned about policy-makers who seem to always assume the best location for nuclear plants and waste disposal sites is near an Indian reservation. To the Yakimas, the fight for life may last a very long time....(PAUSE) (X)

Forestry management practices play a big part in the self-regulatory efforts of tribes who possess timber stands. Sustained yield programs are employed by most tribes. (X) This means selective cutting trees and thinning forests, instead of the clear-cutting methods used by some of the larger timber companies. Because of tribal planning, there will be trees for future generations. (X)

In some cases, the methods of tribal technicians have proved superior to those of federal and state

agencies. The most dramatic example of this is in the area of fish hatcheries. Both the tribe and the federal government have long agreed that the best way to assure strong, healthy salmon and steelhead runs is through single-stock management. By hatching and planting the salmon in streams of their origin, the fish are more likely to survive the rigors of their migration to the ocean and back. This is sharply contrasted to Washington State ~~mixed stock~~ ^{stock-transfer} methods. The state routinely takes eggs from one stream, hatches them in another stream and then plants the young salmon on yet another stream. The genetic weakness of these state-bred salmon has threatened many major runs and is strongly opposed by all treaty tribes.

To correct the problem, many tribes have developed fish hatchery programs of their own on rivers and streams within reservation boundaries. Millions of tiny salmon from tribal hatcheries are planted each year.

And yet, because of the failure of state, federal and international fisheries officials to control the non-Indian fishery, tribes are often forced to halt their catches to ensure future runs. Tribes are concerned that if they are not allowed to fight for the salmon in the political arena, there may be no fish to squabble about.

In perhaps the most famous ^{tribal rights} ~~Indian~~ court case in recent history, treaty tribes in Washington were ~~granted~~ ^{recognized}

to have

up to 50 per cent of the salmon harvest and guaranteed rights to fish in accustomed rivers and streams. But the questions of protecting and preserving the salmon have yet to be fully resolved. In Phase II of the Boldt litigation, tribes are seeking to force state and federal authorities to live up to their responsibilities. (X)

The tribes have mounted volumes of evidence in support of their methods. They are actively seeking avenues to share their findings with the American public and policy-makers.

In the salmon fight, the tribes are clearly on the side of the salmon. (X) Tribal policing of Indian fishermen and careful counting of salmon harvests have demonstrated to other governments what must be done to protect the salmon. (X) Tribes are ready and willing to work with federal, state and international agencies in limiting the numbers of licenses; regulating catch sizes of ocean fishermen; and re-examining management practices which directly impact the salmon runs of the Pacific Northwest. (X)

change

By slowing down the wheels of industrial expansion on tribal lands and waterways, Indians are building slower-paced economies which will assure jobs near their homes. (X) In this day and age, it isn't easy to pack up and move. Americans concerned about preserving their local environments might do well to think seriously about what the Indians have been fighting for. . . (PAUSE) (V)

Because of the confusing legal rhetoric surrounding

the issue of tribal authority, it will likely take years
for tribes to fully assume their rightful place in
the American political system. Meanwhile, tribes of
the Pacific Northwest are anxious to cut through the
costly and time-consuming processes of litigation. For
the salmon and for the Indians who depend on them, the
question of tribal authority over natural resources is
not a question of paperwork. It is a fight for life.

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(MUSIC)

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(X)
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