



## Wissie Smith - Xupthwit

Greetings, Wasco People, Naika Ichxliu Xupthwit, my name is Wissie Robert Smith and I am respectfully requesting your vote. My parents are Alfred Smith Sr., and my mother is Lucinda Scott Smith who are also members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

I grew up on the reservation and reside in the Sidwalter Flat area. I have spent most of my time in the woods working for you the tribal membership. I started working for my late brother, Russell Smith Logging and later Zane Jackson Logging. After Zane retired from logging, Zane sold me the company, which I have maintained and ran since 1980. Timber revenue is the source that funds the monthly per capita and senior pension each year and over the years logging and the mill have faced numerous challenges especially with the mill closure in 2016. Now the tribe has to find ways to effectively market our timber by selling logs directly to purchasers, which is also a challenge because more and more mills are closing their doors. I would like to help find a viable solution to sustain our timber as well as the monthly per capita and senior pension so tribal members and elders will continue to have some sort of income coming-in.

I believe in hiring tribal members and since I took over for Zane in 1980, I have always practiced hiring tribal members, especially those with families so they can take care of their loved ones. Over the years I have witnessed mostly non-tribal members in management positions and now I believe it is time to start promoting our own tribal members into these positions, especially now that more and more tribal members are becoming educated.

Education is key to our identity and future, education on our language and culture as well as western education that is taught in public schools. The tribal scholarship is an investment that funds continued education for tribal members each year, and it is important that we keep this investment intact to sustain this funding. We must also remember that our Cultural and Heritage Department is just as important because this department maintains our history and language and I would continue to support their needs.

The Treaty of 1855 is the agreement we made with the United States and it is important that we protect the resources embodied in the Treaty for our future generations. Our hunting and fishing and gathering

rights must continue to be protected not only on the reservation but also in our usual and accustomed and ceded areas off the reservation. Equally important to our Treaty resources is our Trust resources, which include: Water, timber, minerals, and land.

Even at my age 76, I believe in getting out there and helping fire fighters especially when there are threats to our Trust resources like wildland fires. I go out and help create fire line boundaries with a dozer to help mitigate these types of threats.

Now, I would like to close by talking about and sharing the Wasco Sub-Chief ceremony that took place on August 27, 2016 at HeHe Longhouse. This was a public event that was advertised publicly that included: Crowning ceremony, singing, a giveaway, and a meal with attendees. In attendance was the Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr., Chief Wilbur Slockish, and Chief Johnny Jackson. I was selected by Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr., as the successor and crowned by Chief Johnny Jackson and Chief Wilbur Slockish as shown in the pictures, which was in accordance with our Constitution Section 3 Article IV. If you look it up on the Warm Springs website, it says the successors will be selected in accordance with 'Tribal custom.' Wasco

Chief Alfred Smith Jr.'s wish was to get back to tribal custom and to get away from the political process of voting a chief in. Between 2016 and 2022 there were no challenges or complaints about this ceremony, not until after Chief Smith's passing did people begin to protest and challenge his decision. The Agency District representatives have taken the word of a few complaints over Chief Smith's decision and given their complaint more weight than Chief Smith's decision. Chief Smith's decision was based on the Constitution whereas the complaints were based on opinion and a past vote. The only reason there was a vote when Chief Smith was selected was because there was no successor named, but that is not the case this time, so I am asking you the Wasco People to uphold Chief Alfred Smith's decision, which was selecting me as the successor as Wasco Chief.

Thank you, and very Respectfully. Wissie Smith – "Xupthwit "