

The Great Spirit created Man and Woman in his own image. In doing so, both were created as equals. Both depending on each other in order to survive. Great respect was shown for each other; in doing so, happiness and contentment was achieved then, as it should be now.

The connecting of the Hair makes them one person; for happiness or contentment cannot be achieved without each other.

The Canyons are represented by the purples in the middle ground, where the people were created. These canyons are Sacred, and should be so treated at all times.

The Reservation is pictured to represent the land that is ours, treat it well.



The Reservation is our heritage and the heritage of our children yet unborn. Be good to our land and it will continue to be good to us.

The Sun is the symbol of life, without it nothing is possible – plants don't grow – there will be no life – nothing. The Sun also represents the dawn of the Hualapai people. Through hard work, determination and education, everything is possible and we are assured bigger and brighter days ahead.

The Tracks in the middle represent the coyote and other animals which were here before us.

The Green around the symbol are pine trees, representing our name Hualapai – PEOPLE OF THE TALL PINES --

## HUALAPAI TRIBE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Sherry J. Counts  
Chairwoman

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Philbert Watahomigie, Sr.  
Vice Chairman

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Dear community members,

Greetings to everyone as we enter the Christmas holiday! I hope and pray for a prosperous 2015 New Year. I would like to inform you of some of the things we have been working on as we come to the end of the year. I have been busy attending meetings in the state as well as Washington, DC addressing Water Rights and Gaming Issues.

We have been working on a Water Rights Bill agreement last week while in DC our bill passed the House and the Senate now it goes to the President for his signature. When I was elected this agreement was already in process so the tribe was meeting with many business, state and federal officials. I was very impressed by the amount of work that had been done. Our Water Rights bill has been supported by the whole Arizona delegation it has moved quickly since July. The bill protects the water rights of those that own land on the Big Sandy and protects the Coffey Hot Springs. This agreement gives the tribe funds to buy more water rights. Currently there is a limited amount of water in the state of Arizona so we must take this opportunity to obtain water.

We have been through many battles and have been successful and the hope of the Hualapai Tribe is strong and we should all be proud of our achievements. The tribal council has worked together to move on these important issues. The things we have accomplished are so important for the future of the tribe but more importantly to establish hope for our children.

The Gaming is another issue that we are still working on as well. The Tohono Oodham tribe has broken ground in Glendale for their resort. The impact to Hualapai would really cause significant financial issues. The Gaming money we use to assist tribal members in utility, school clothing, emergency assistance, medical travel assistance, computer assistance, and disability and

elder utility assistance. The "Keep the Promise Bill" that is in Senate has not moved they do not want to interfere with a gaming issue that should be settled at the State level. If T.O. builds the resort the citizens of Arizona could say that the tribes lied to the state of Arizona by building the casino resort. In the compact the 17 tribes promised not to "build another casino in the Phoenix metropolitan area". The state could move to no longer allow tribes to "exclusively" have gaming on the reservations.

We have been going to meetings in Washington, DC to discuss with Congressmen and Senators to ask for their support in Bill 1410 (gaming issue). We have gone there many times to request the support and moving forward with the bill so the discussions will continue on in 2015. It is so important to have our voices heard and that "keeping the promise" is important to all of us.

The tribal council has supported the renovation of the store we have authorized for GCRC to include in their budget. The old building was in disrepair the roof had leaks, there was asbestos and black mold found, many fixtures did not run properly. The council decided to move forward on promoting something better for the community. The Planning department held community meetings providing surveys asking what kind of food should be sold in the store so this input is how we structured the store. It was also decided to add a gas station that supplies gas for programs and community members.


When I was elected I believed that I was to work on the big issues to address and resolve them. The tribal council has worked diligently together to solve many issues. We will always have issues that come against us but we must do what is right for **all** tribal members and make good decisions. I know that people have personal issues against me I hope that those things don't ruin the progress that we as the tribal council have made so far. It is important to me to ensure that all 2300 tribal members are treated fairly across the board. I have been honest, truthful and made decisions for the "best interest" of all tribal members.

We will have to decide as a tribe to continue to move forward on very important issues or we can choose to stop the progress. Some of our issues are time sensitive if we don't act now or continue to act on these opportunities they may never come our way again. Remember there is two sides to every story so get both sides of the issue then you can make an informed decision. The decisions we make could impact the future of our children, grandchildren, parents, nieces, nephews and those yet to be born.

While I will never be perfect my heart and soul belongs to Lord God almighty and I pray for direction constantly. The blessings I have received in my life have come from Him and my trust is in His ability to take care of me and my family. I cannot deny that some days are challenging but I find at the end of the day I love my job.

If you have questions please contact my office I am glad to answer any tribal member's questions. Merry Christmas and Happy 2015 New Year!!!

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherry J. Counts, Chairwoman