

Jim Manion is running for re-election to the Tribal Council representing the Agency District. Three years ago Jim was elected to the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council, following a career of 42 years with Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises. In time, through experience and knowledge of the Power and Water operation, Jim served as the enterprise manager.

His years with Power and Water saw the growth and many changes with the business. The hydro project re-licensing some years ago was one noteworthy project, as this happens only once every 50 years, involving federal and state agencies—water resource, fish and wildlife, and energy production—plus the tribes’ Pelton-Round Butte partner Portland General Electric. The re-licensing led to the tribes acquiring a large ownership share in the operation, now and into the future providing increasing dividends to the tribes.

Councilman Manion was born and raised on the reservation. As a youth he ran cattle, and hunted and fished around the expanse of the reservation, giving him a working knowledge of the tribes and their land. An important part of tribal policy-making, he says, “Is to what know we have, and identify what we should be pursuing.”

An area of growth for the tribes is the renewable energy industry, such as the projects with Power and Water Enterprises. There are challenges, of course, “We recognize many things are out of our control, but this is an opportunity for us to advance as a tribe,” Jim says.

The people and the resources of the tribes as always hold the promise to a better future. “We need to move into a self-sufficient mode, instead of relying too much on state and federal funding,” he says.

“We have almost 6,000 tribal members, many are younger and looking for jobs.” Employment opportunities also go a long way toward helping address alcohol- and drug abuse problems: “The first thing a person needs is a reason to get up in the morning,” Jim says. “We have great programs now, and we need more opportunities for people to go to work.

“The biggest opportunity to create jobs is to utilize the land base wisely, following the Integrated Resource Management Plan.” The guiding document, he says, was developed and reviewed by the people and the committees before approval at TC. The resource team is still working on the ‘Residential’ development section of the IRMP, a very important area, Jim says.

Another possibility for growth is through the tribes’ designation of “economic development zones,” a means to provide the incentive for an outside employer to bring jobs to the reservation, just as another example.

*Stay vigilant, stay strong, pray to the Creator that he gives us strength as individuals to make the right decisions and support the right causes. **Jim Manion.***