

Ayukîi. I am Philip Albers Jr. My parents are Philip Albers Sr and Rhonda Albers. My grandmother is Lucille Albers. Our family comes from Ishraam hírak, also known as McCash Ranch, located directly across the mouth of Stanshaw Creek on the Klamath River. My family occupied and lived on both sides of the river before a fire burned down the house on the side currently owned by the Fisher family. I grew up swimming each year, typically early spring through late summer, swimming in Stanshaw Creek, and in the Klamath River near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek when the creek had enough water to reach the Klamath. I recall the dropping of Stanshaw Creek water levels after the Coles purchased Marble Mountain Ranch and the decline of fish and life within Stanshaw Creek.

I plan to share my experiences and stories of my family using Stanshaw Creek for subsistence and recreation. I have many stories from my grandmother describing the use of the creek to catch fish in the fall and prove to be a valuable resource all year round. She also shared with me her experiences growing up and how water levels have altered the habitat and even changed the course of the river. As I grew older she shared with me games and stories of her family playing within the creek and the how they made bets and fished in the creek.

I grew up playing in Stanshaw creek with my brother and cousins, and fishing with my dad and uncles at the mouth of Stanshaw creek. I remember mostly clearly the difference in water levels and the decline of fish and other water creatures within Stanshaw Creek when I was about 16. As my grandmother grew older she insisted on drinking that water and explained how important it was for us to continue using Stanshaw Creek to strengthen our family and cleanse the body, mind, and soul. I would collect water in multiple 5-gallon water coolers to bring to her home in Yreka so that she would drink water and be healthy. She grew to the point where she couldn't cross the river and hike up the hillside to the place of her previous home. That did not stop her from traveling the winding road and resting along the cool creek edge where the younger children played and splashed while the older kids and adults rowed across to maintain the family cemetery. This cool and shaded place provided a safe and fun environment for our family to spend time together.

I have four children of my own now. We travel to Stanshaw Creek often to kayak in the pool, explore the creek, and learn about our family history and heritage. We share the stories of our childhood and our grandmother's stories with our children and hope to continue using our family's property and Stanshaw Creek as our place of sanctuary and family bonding. Our children become very excited and absolutely love going to our homelands and enjoying time in and around Stanshaw Creek regardless of the season.



Luzi Albers at pool on Stanshaw Creek, 2016



Gavyn and Sasi Albers at pool on Stanshaw Creek, 2016



Luzi, Sasi, & Ihaan Albers at pool on Stanshaw Creek, 2017



Gavyn, Luzi, Ihaan Albers at pool on Stanshaw Creek, 2017

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Philip Albers Jr.