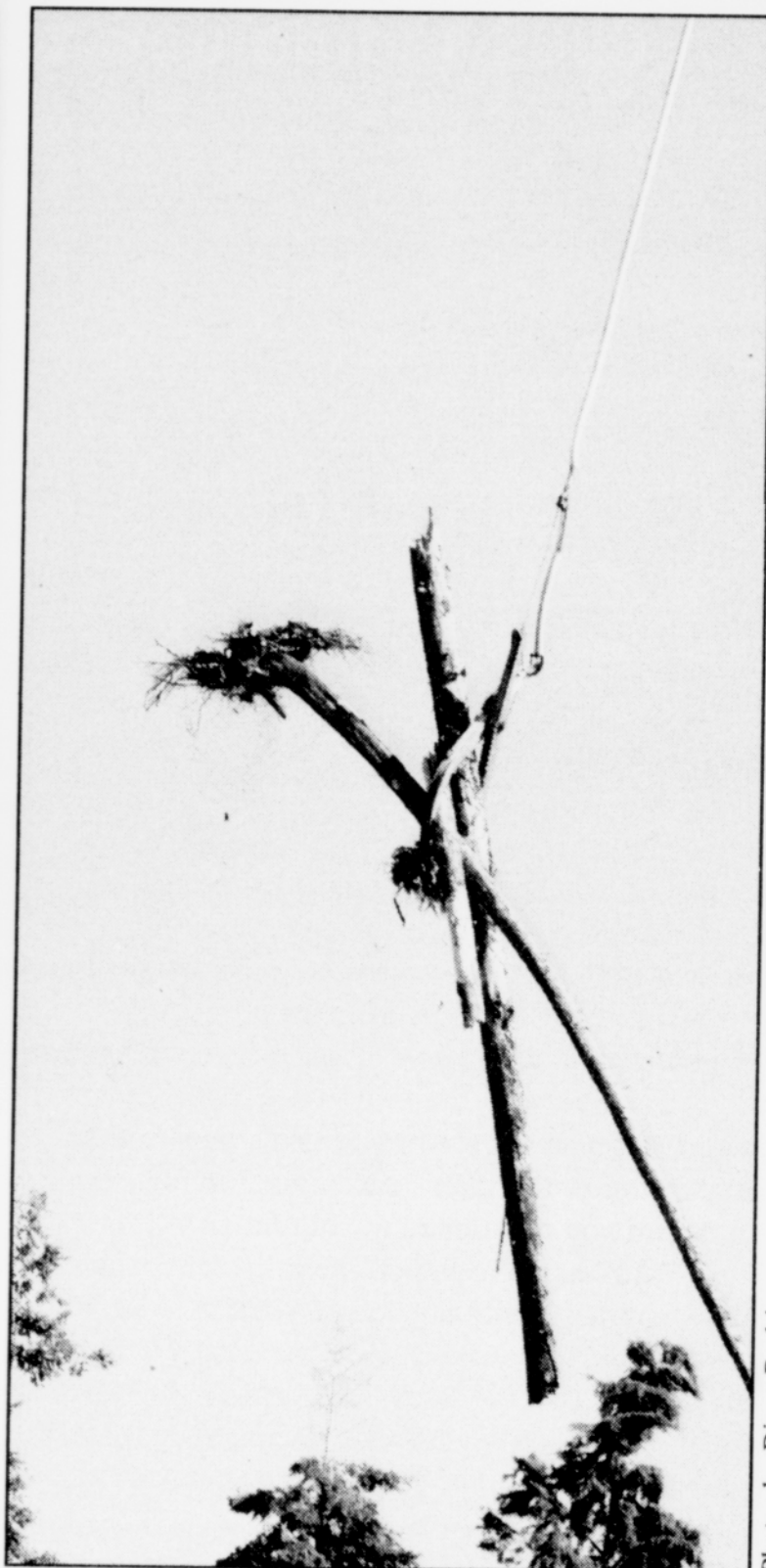




Photos by Diane Rodriguez

FLYING THINGS – The helicopter hovers over downed trees (left) as the pilot decides which ones to pick up (center), then flies away with the trees in tow (right).

Addition of Trees Enhances Fish Habitat on Cedar Creek

By Diane Rodriguez

The sound of the helicopter – soft and distant at first then building to a loud roar – was unmistakable as the chopper approached a stand of trees in the western part of the Siletz Tribe's Reed Creek property near Lincoln City.

In surprisingly quick succession, the helicopter hovered over the trees, lowered a cable with a giant claw attached to the end of it, plucked two or three downed

trees from a pile and flew off with them dangling under it.

Chunks of dirt from the trees' rootwads blew off as the helicopter headed for Cedar Creek to place the trees at 43 sites along a seven-mile stretch that will enhance the habitat of salmon, steelhead and other fish.

For several days in early October, pilots from Columbia Helicopter flew between Cedar Creek and two spots to pick up trees – 304 trees with intact rootwads

from a "blow down" that occurred during previous winter storms and 126 whole trees from U.S. Forest Service land in the Siuslaw National Forest.

Other partners for the project included the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, which funded the project with a \$364,780 grant, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The funding covers the placement of the trees and three years of monitoring

afterward to see how the fish respond to the changes to their habitat.

The U.S. Forest Service also was involved in similar activities in several areas in Western Oregon in October, including Harvey Creek in the Lower Umpqua drainage; Upper Knowles Creek in the Siuslaw River drainage; Prindle Creek and Upper Buck Creek in the Alsea River drainage; Sampson Creek and Drift Creek near Lincoln City; and Little Nestucca and South Fork Little Nestucca near Pacific City.

477 Self-Sufficiency Program Receives \$63,514 in Recovery Act Funds

By Kurtis Barker, 477 Administrative & Monitoring Specialist

The 477 Self-Sufficiency Program recently received funds under the president's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The "Recovery Act" established an Emergency Contingency Fund for state and Tribal TANF programs.

The Emergency Fund is intended to build upon and renew the principals of work and responsibility that underlie successful welfare reform initiatives. Like other provisions of the Recovery Act, the Emergency Fund provides resources to states, territories and Tribes to support work and families during this difficult economic period.

This legislation provided up to \$5 billion to assist states, territories and Tribes in fiscal year (FY) 2009 and 2010 that have an increase in assistance caseloads or certain types of expenditures. The Recovery Act also made additional changes to TANF by extending supplemental grants through FY 2010 and expanding flexibil-

ity in the use of TANF funds carried over from one fiscal year to the next.

Both states and Tribes could qualify for funds in three different categories:

1. The average monthly caseload and expenditures in the quarter are higher than corresponding quarters for either a base year in 2007 or 2008 (whichever is less).
2. The expenditures for non-recurrent short-term benefits in the quarter are higher than such expenditures for such benefits in corresponding quarters of the Emergency Fund base year.
3. The expenditures for subsidized employment in the quarter are higher than such expenditures in the corresponding quarter of the Emergency Fund base year.

Our program qualified for funds under category one. We were able to show that our caseload and expenditures in FY 2009 were greater than our base year in

FY 2007. The Emergency Fund allowed Tribes to apply for 80 percent of the total increase of expenditures per category.

Our program didn't qualify for funds under categories two or three.

The 477 program is unique because it allows us to take funds from different federal/state agencies and combine them into one budget. The Emergency Fund was created only to assist those families on a TANF program.

We were not able to break out the funds spent on TANF clients and our other clients to qualify for the other two categories. Our program will look internally to resolve this issue just in case funds become available in the future.

At this time, we plan to use these funds for cash assistance payments to our current TANF clients, but they may be used for the four purposes of TANF. The reporting requirements are quite extensive, but we are pleased to be able to better provide for our clients with these additional funds.

The Self-Sufficiency Program also was awarded \$1,380 early this summer to assist our Summer Youth Program. That program has now ended and those funds have been expended.

The president guaranteed that Recovery Act funds will be transparent and spent separately from other funds. The Self-Sufficiency Program is doing just that. Our funds have been awarded, but not yet received. We hope to have them by the time you read this.

The Siletz Tribal 477 Self-Sufficiency Program offers a variety of services to all American Indians enrolled with a federally recognized Tribe who live within the 11-county service area. Our program only offers cash assistance (TANF, GA) services to those who are Siletz Tribal families or Siletz Tribal single adults.

If you have any questions about the services we offer, you can contact me or any Tribal service specialist. We can be reached at 800-922-1399, ext. 1247, or 541-444-8247.