

Logging Season in Full Swing

Logging areas on the reservation are once again alive with the sound of chain-saws, axes, hooting whistles, heavy machinery, and the crack of falling timber.

Logging season starts about a month later on the reservation than in other areas due to the high elevation and late snow-melt. The season usually begins in May and ends in November.

Just about everyone involved in the logging business agrees that it is a risky occupation. Heavy equipment with moving parts, rough and sometimes steep terrain, falling trees and limbs, and huge logs being moved about combine to form the elements of danger.

According to Hank Palmer, logging manager of WSFPI, driving a log truck is hazardous and ranks high under bee stings. He said that he has been stung a number of times, and knew of one fellow who was stung 42 times while unhappily tangling with a bees nest.

Palmer said that just about everyone who has worked in the forest for a time has been stung. "We require those with allergies to notify us in advance so they can be properly cared for should they be stung on job," he said.

There is on-the-job training to reduce the risk of danger, and safety features are explained to the inexperienced. The possibility of the unexpected is always present,

though. "I saw one guy fall a tree with a bear in it," said Palmer.

A number of logging outfits are under contract with WSFPI (Warm Springs Forest Products Industries). The three largest are; Russell Smith Logging Company, Zane Jackson Logging, and Harold Barclay of Sisters.

Other outfits include; Albert Comedown, Alfred Smith (J.R.), and Johnnie Gurerin. YBY of Oakridge, Oregon does specialty logging (cable logging) for specific terrain and steep areas. Operators doing salvage work on the reservation are Bruce (Mickey) Brunoe, and Robert Couch.

All logging contracted through WSFPI is done within the "old reservation" boundaries, according to Palmer, and does not include the McQuinn Strip.

The logging process itself is an interesting and complicated procedure. Before any logging crews go out into the woods, aerial photos are studied to help determine the amount of each sale and location, and the areas where contractors will be working.

On the reservation, the BIA determines where sales will be. They are in charge of sale set-up, boundaries, and the type of trees to be harvested. After information about possible sales have gone through an Environmental Impact Study, and have been approved by the area office in Portland, they come back to be



JIM WOODWARD is shown falling a Douglas Fir in the South Fork Boulder Creek area. He works for Russell Smith Logging Company and his cutting contractor is Sam Danzuka.

Photo by Sandy Rangila

looked over by the Timber Committee.

When the go-ahead has been given, a logging plan is drawn up, and roads have to be put in. Often, temporary roads (logging spurs) for skidding or for easier loading are needed.

The harvestable trees are usually marked in the winter with BIA forestry officials trudging through the snow with their blue markers. All must be in readiness for May - the beginning of logging season.

Loggers start out as early as possible in the morning (usually at day-break) so they can quit early because of the heat and fire danger. Each contractor assumes the responsibility of "fire-watch", which generally lasts about two hours after the day's log-

ging operations have ended. according to a WSFPI spokesman, they are getting more into specialty logging because of conditional use areas where the topography consists of steep hills, gullies, and difficult terrain.

Helicopters and balloon yarders are used on slope percents of 40 - 100 percent, and "skyline" is needed for a slope of 30 - 90 percent. In both of these cases, the logs are moved through the air, off the ground, on a cable. In high-lead logging (30 - 70 percent slope), there is a cable, but the logs are dragged on the ground.

A jammer is used on a 30 to 55 percent slope, a heel boom on a 20 to 40 percent slope, and the skidder and

tractor are utilized from 0 to 25 percent and 0 to 35 percent slopes, respectively.

The species of trees brought into WSFPI are generally Ponderosa Pine (a lumber product), Douglas Fir - a peeler, plywood and chip product, and, recently, White Fir - also a peeler and chip tree. There are also other varieties of pine, fir, spruce, larch, hemlock, and cedar.

The whole logging operation requires skilled, experienced people as there is much more to the business than meets the eye, according to logging experts. It is not without its risks, but from the way those involved talk about it, it seems fascinating and worthwhile.



DRIVING A LOG TRUCK is a dangerous job and this is an example of what can happen. The stake broke on George Picard's truck as he rounded a bend, causing part of his load to come tumbling down. A very unhappy George is inspecting the damage, while the loader unloads the shifted logs.

Photo by Sandy Rangila

logging operations have ended.

The logger categories are; falling and bucking of the trees, skidding, loading, hauling, and slash treatment. There is road maintenance work including road grading, and water trucks help keep the dust down.

Tree cutters fall the trees, limb them, and buck them into specified lengths, then the scaler tallies the board feet. Choker setters come in next (a dangerous job) and prepare for the skidding with the cat.

The logs are then hauled to a landing site to be stacked and the knot bumper saws off remaining limbs, lumps, and knots. Next, the loader moves in and the timber is stacked on the log truck. Finally, the log truck driver hauls away the swaying load on the truck to the mill.

Most of the logging on the reservation is done with a tractor and skidder, but

A Good Will is an Up-To-Date Will

An out-of date Will can cause confusion and disappointment. Your Will should be reviewed every year or two to be sure it accomplishes what you want it to.

For your assets to be distributed according to your wishes, a good Will drawn by a competent attorney is necessary. A good Will is an up-to-date Will. Changed personal and financial circumstances often call for a revision in your Will.

Questions to answer when reviewing your Will: Has my family situation changed through marriage, divorce, death, birth, or disability? Have the needs of those named in my Will changed with time, e.g., children become financially independent? Have my assets changed due to inheritance, purchase or sale of property or insurance, increased - decreased valuation of property, job promotion pension or

profit-sharing plan? Have I already disposed of articles specifically mentioned in my Will? Does my Will take advantage of tax-saving plans? Will my executor have to sell property to pay taxes? Have tax laws changed that will affect my Will? Is my executor still alive, able, and available to serve? Have I made a decision to make a charitable gift through my Will?

Will review need not take long. It may be that your Will still achieves your purpose. However, if revisions are needed, see your attorney. If I can be of help to you as you review your Will, do not hesitate to ask. Remember, only by taking the positive action of maintaining a valid Will can you be assured your property will go to those you wish.

James E. Womack, Director of Planned Giving Northwest Christian College, Eugene, Oregon 97401 (503) 343-1641.