

# Specialty Outfit Logs Boulder Canyon



Operating the controls is a yarder operator for Cody Logging and Construction. Thru the left window a log can be seen nearing the landing site. (Sandy Rangila photo)



Cody Logging and Construction, specialty cable loggers, have two yarders operating on the reservation. With Boulder Canyon in the background, this scene shows a log attached to the carriage and cable being hoisted out of the canyon up to the landing site. (Sandy Rangila photo)



Dust flies as logs attached to the carriage reach the landing site at the top of Boulder Canyon. (Sandy Rangila photo)

In the haze of the early morning hours when dawn's light filters through the trees, the peace of the forest is broken as loggers make their way into the woods for another day's work.

Most of the logging done on the Warm Springs Reservation is done with cat and skidder and these outfits are all owned by individual Tribal Members. But there is one new outfit this year that operates a bit differently.

Throughout the summer Cody Logging and Construction, an outfit from Tygh Valley, will be doing specialty cable logging along Boulder Canyon on the Warm Springs Reservation.

After a 55 mile drive each morning, they fire up their saws and machinery at 6:30 a.m., then work ten hours straight without a stop even for lunch.

Job superintendent Al Niemi explained that there is so much travel time involved that it wouldn't be economically feasible for them to work just an eight-hour day.

The Boulder Canyon area where Cody is working is especially rough, steep terrain which cannot be logged in the conventional tractor-skidder manner used in other areas on the reservation.

Selective cable logging offers a number of advantages besides enabling loggers to work in rugged, brushy areas, according to Niemi.

"One of the benefits is that specialty logging saves reproduction, leaving smaller trees standing," says Niemi. He also explained that it protects the stream at the bottom in areas such as Boulder Canyon.

In addition, erosion control is an important advantage in

cable logging. Because logs are suspended in the air instead of being dragged on the ground, the earth is not torn up as in conventional logging methods.

Cody currently has two yarders in operation on the reservation. A yarder looks somewhat like a small crane, and it is this machine that spools the cable which pulls the logs out of the canyon and up to the landing site.

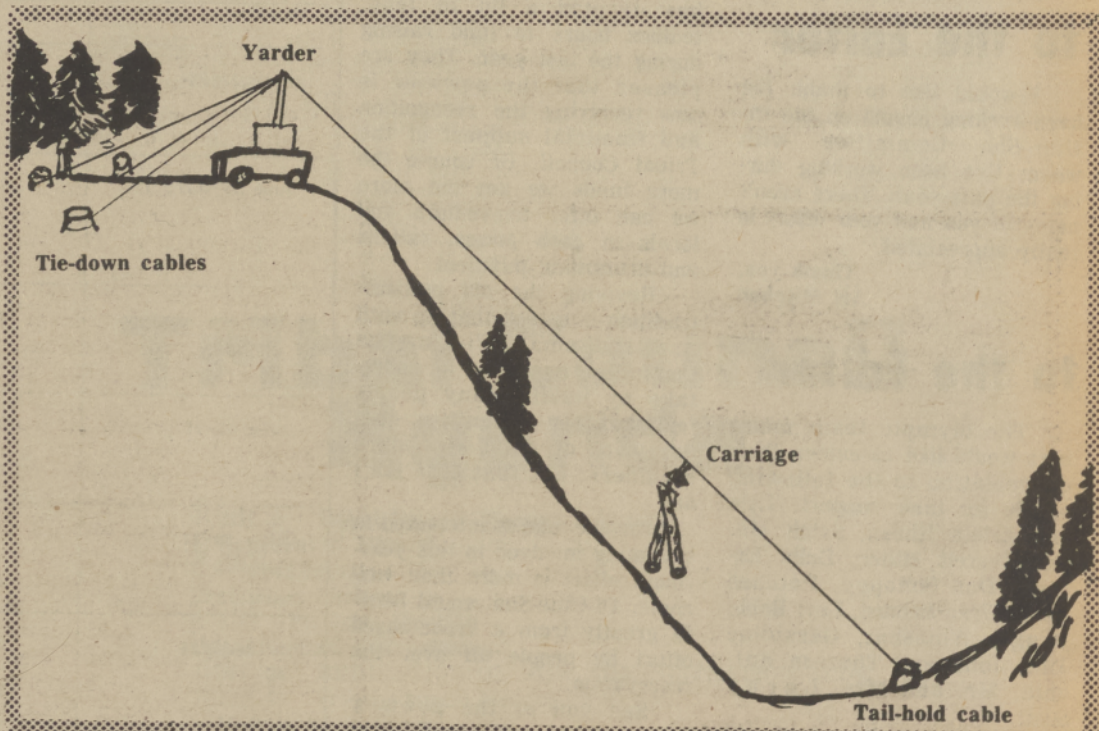
An amazing array of cables are affixed to the yarder. A tail-hold cable is hooked to a stump down in the canyon below the area to be logged. Then three tie-down cables are hooked to stumps to the sides and in back of the yarder. (See drawing).

Chokers are attached to a carriage which moves on the cable from where the trees have been fallen to the landing site. The carriage can be stopped at any point on the slope, and communication between the choker setters and yarder operator is accomplished with loud whistle blasts. "That's how they talk to each other," Niemi said.

Niemi explained that in the cable logging process, it's most economical to log from 1000 to 1200 feet, though at their present site they were logging only about 500 feet down the slope. The cable has the capacity to haul logs from as far as 1700 feet.

"We'll be working along Boulder Canyon, probably until September," said Niemi, "and I expect we'll bring in about six million board feet of timber before the summer is out."

By 4:30 in the afternoon, the hot, dusty, and sunburned men pack up their equipment, shut down the machinery and head for home, leaving the forest once again to its solitude.



Since without a helicopter it was impossible to get a close shot of this cable logging site, this simplified chart shows the entire operation. Heavy brush on the steep, rugged slope makes one wonder how the choker setters and fallers manage. (Sandy Rangila photo)