

Possible Fire Sub-Station Sites Identified

by Sandy Rangila

Possible sites for future fire department sub-stations were toured and evaluated Thursday, March 8, in preparation for presentation at an upcoming public hearing set for March 20.

Visited and currently under consideration by the task force were four sites — Simnasho, the Simnasho-Highway 26 Junction, Kah-Nee-Ta, and an open area near West Island Road.

Although the task force project team identified West Island Road and Simnasho as the best locations for a sub-station, their recommendations are not final. According to tribal planner Uren Leonard, the task force's findings represent only a base from which to proceed. "It's just something to go from," he explained.

The public will have an opportunity to offer suggestions for rural fire protection and comment on the site recommendations at a special public hearing set for Tuesday, March 20. "We want to get the people's input," said Leonard. The meeting will be held at the Simnasho Longhouse at 7 p.m. that evening.

The four sites were evaluated on the basis of ease of access, land availability, response time, projected operational costs, availability of utilities, possibili-

ties for expansion, their impact on communities, problems related to soil condition, and the number of houses to be served.

Using a point system, on the basis of three considerations the area along West Island Road came out on top, the Simnasho site was rated second, the Simnasho-Hwy 26 location was third, and the Kah-Nee-Ta site was last.

But when considering housing conditions, projected three-year development, volunteer availability and insurance rating value, the Simnasho location came out ahead of He He and West Island Road.

Planners and task force members are quick to point out that any site selection would be pending Tribal Council approval.

Fire truck response times to rural homes at Simnasho, Schoolie and Sidwalter Flat were calculated for each of the sites evaluated. The response times were figured for both the best and worst road conditions.

FROM THE SIMNASHO - HWY 26 JUNCTION, the response times are as follows: To Simnasho, which has 17 homes, it would take 15 minutes under good road conditions and 25 under the worst conditions. To Schoolie (11 homes), 20 minutes on good roads and 30 minutes under bad conditions. To Sidwal-

ter (23 homes), 10 minutes under good conditions and 15 minutes on bad roads.

FROM THE SIMNASHO SITE, response time to Simnasho would be 2 minutes under good conditions and 4 minutes if roads are bad. To Schoolie, 10 minutes would be the best time and 20 the worst. To Sidwalter, the quickest response would be 28 minutes, and under the worst conditions, 45 minutes.

FROM WEST ISLAND ROAD, response time to Simnasho would be 8 minutes and under bad conditions, 15 minutes. To Schoolie it would take 20 minutes under good conditions and 30 minutes under the worst conditions. To Sidwalter, 15 minutes on good roads and 25 minutes under bad road conditions.

Task force members urge all those interested in rural fire protection to be present at the Simnasho Longhouse, March 20, for the public meeting which begins at 7 p.m.

Members of the task force project team include representatives from the Land Use Planning Committee, the Fire and Safety Committee, the tribal planning and grants office, the housing department, IHS, and BIA facilities manager, Bill Cassel.



ON LOCATION - Possible sites for rural fire sub-stations were toured and evaluated by a special task force march 8. Looking over the area near HeHe are Neda Greene (Land Use Planning), Dale Parker (planning), Art Tassie (grants office), and assistant fire chief Dave Spilyay photo by Rangila

Public Hearing Notice

Topic - Rural Fire Protection
Where - Simnasho Longhouse
When - Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

Making Way For The Future . . .

by Sandy Rangila

It looked like Spring cleaning on the reservation last week when the final phases of two clearance projects neared their finale.

Both the old Hollywood district and the Greenville area have undergone a major transition in the past few years — an upheaval resulting from the acquisition of the old houses, the relocation of former occupants, and then the actual clearance of the homes.

Last week, the remaining evidence of those two communities was bulldozed away, scraped into tidy piles, and burned.

All but the tar-paper roof of

Delford Johnson's old Hollywood house had been dismantled and, when an east wind finally came up last Thursday, that roof, too, gave way to the future.

The final phase of the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) block grant program specifies returning the soil or land to a stable state after clearance. Rejuvenation of the Greenville area will probably include seeding with grass and some tree-planting for protection to the soil, explained construction engineer official Bill Bennett.

This is not a landscaping project, stress tribal planners. But the prospect of grass and

trees along the Shitike where Greenville used to be has given fuel to rumors of a park there.

"It would be ideal," says some. "It's looking really nice, now." But nothing final has been determined yet for Greenville, although a community park has not been ruled out.

"Our task has just been a general cleaning job of the areas," noted Bennett. Meetings to discuss the future of Greenville will be coming up soon.



SHORT HOUSE - The roof of Delford Johnson's old Hollywood house went up in flames just behind the Longhouse March 8 during the final clean-up stage of the HUD clearance program.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Rangila



FUTURE PARK? - Witness to the burning and clearance of the other old houses at Greenville, Laura Crowe's vacated home (in the background) finally succumbed to the future on March 12. Now that the soil is being leveled and seeded for return to a stable state, speculation mounts as to whether or not the area will be developed into a community park.

Spilyay photo by Rangila

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News

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