

New forest manager looking at 10-year goals

Having a love for the outdoors is no pre-requisite for a forest manager but it is a characteristic of Bob Harned. If hunting and fishing were not first-rate in Oregon along with the forests, he may have decided against accepting a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Warm Springs.

But Harned did come to Oregon looking for the challenge of a new job and a new location and with interest in increasing forest production for the Confederated Tribes in mind. He feels that as forest manager "coordinating all programs and meeting the primary goal of improving resources for the land owner" is his responsibility.

After 21 years of forestry experience on the Flathead reservation in Montana, Harned decided Warm Springs would be a good change. Warm Springs offers a bigger forestry operation with its 638,000 acres of timber. Staying at the same job and location for too long "is a downhill run," Harned says.

The timber on the Flathead reservation is not much different than that around Warm Springs. Harned says the terrain is a little steeper in Montana. The trees around Warm Springs, though of the same variety, are larger and of higher quality which may be the reason Warm Springs (including McQuinn Strip) has an annual cut of around 100 million board feet as compared to the Flathead cut of 56.4 million. Both areas are "at about the same level of



Bob Harned

operation as far as state of the art and techniques. Warm Springs is a little more complex," according to Harned.

Unlike the Flathead reservation Warm Springs has its own mill. Harned hopes for a relationship of cooperation between the BIA forestry department and the mill. He says, "The mill needs a certain amount of timber to function. The BIA tries to supervise the

timber to meet these needs. Many people and the Tribe depend on the mill," Harned expressed.

Looking to increased production Harned feels he will concentrate on protecting the basic resource, the soil. Silviculture as he calls it is focused on "tending and growing trees for whatever reason," scenic or commercial. The environmental resources must be protected.

"Through harvest and thinning, if it is done right,"

production can also be increased. Yield must be kept at an optimum level. It is not feasible to cut more than is grown and increasing growth each year is the ideal way of meeting demands.

Increasing accessibility for a longer period of time is also a concern of forestry. With a longer working season production will increase so roads too are a part of the forest business.

The importance of the forest in Warm Springs is evident in the Tribe's concern for its industry. Harned comments, "It appears the Tribe takes a more active role in forest management here. The committees want to know all about what's going on. They are business oriented and like efficiency." Harned says he will make a concerted effort to present the facts to Tribal Council. He encourages information exchange between the Tribe and the BIA and will continue to furnish as much information as possible. Harned states, "It is not something you can quit working on."

Despite his love for the outdoors, Harned has not yet had a chance to visit the forest he manages. Having been on the job only since January 26 he has been involved primarily in paper work, becoming familiar with the forest only in terms of figures and reports. But it will not be long before he gets out there, he says.

Harned wants to make an in-depth survey of Warm Springs

forest. It is especially important now as this is a planning period. Forest manager Harned says, "We are writing the forestry management plan, now. This will determine the goals for the next ten years and includes every facet of forestry. A Continuing Growth Inventory has recently been taken which is a sampling of forest growth and conditions enabling the plan to be drawn up, but it takes time to write it."

Within the plan for forest management Harned says it is important to offer alternatives to make the plan workable and flexible. The plans for the entire reservation have their priorities—the forestry plans must be congruous with those. "We have to do it that way to make the plans useful for everyone," he says.

Learning about Warm Springs and its particular organization and its forest is one aspect to the new forest manager's job. Until he is more familiar with the system Harned will not be making changes. He feels that the forestry department in Warm Springs has evolved to its present state for one reason or another. He will adapt and offer changes only when he deems it necessary. And being outspoken as he is and honest in his feelings one cannot doubt that he will make any changes essential to maintaining and increasing cooperation between all forest enterprises along with efforts to increase forest growth for the benefits of the Tribe.

Tribal Credit plans temporary closure

1980 and now, 1981 have been a banner times for the Tribal Credit department. The New Greeley Heights project of 20 homes will take about 1 million dollars of our reserve loan funds, other homes that we have committed on, as well as a couple of major farm and cattle commitments will use another 4 to \$500,000.

When these funds are dispersed, as the projects are completed we will have expended our available loan funds. So far this year, we have maintained our normal loan requests from collections and regular loan pay back and are presently operating on a limited basis until additional funding is approved.

As we have had a considerable amount of business in our office since the downturn in the economy, we

have been unable to keep up with the regular maintenance required for an operation of this type. More and more, our clientele, who would normally utilize conventional lenders, have now turned to us with their financing requests or have come in to discuss their financial problems requiring a tremendous amount of time from the credit manager and the entire staff. Much of this time would be spent in operating and maintaining the program.

Six years ago our program stood at 2.6 million dollars and about 900 open loans on the books. Today we have more than tripled the size of our operation with \$8,000,000 in loans outstanding and another \$1.4 million committed. We now have over 1,500 loans on the books.

We are blessed with an excellent and dedicated staff that is no larger in numbers of people than it was in 1974. These people have constantly taken up the slack, worked harder and met the demands of the public placing a strain on all involved.

Due to the backlog of commitments and undone maintenance of our files, insurance and all facets of this operation, we are convinced that it is necessary that we close our office to all incoming business (except payments and small emergency requests because of death) for the month of March 1981.

We feel that this closure and with the addition of one new staff member (starting 3-2-81). We should be able to bring our office up to current status and relieve some of the unending pressure on our staff.

Well child clinic— If you're sick, stay away

Twice each month on the afternoons of the first and second Thursday the Warm Springs Health Center holds a well child clinic. At these clinics children from birth to five years are given a routine examination for the purpose of monitoring their growth and development.

A number of preventative health activities are included during these clinics for the purpose of keeping children well.

As the name implies, well child clinic is designed for

children who are well rather than sick. For this reason it is important during these clinics that the children not be exposed to people who are sick with illnesses that are contagious.

The clinic staff and the families of small children would appreciate it very much if patients with colds, flu, sore throats and any other infectious illness would plan on visiting the clinic either before or after the well child clinics and not during. Everyone's cooperation in protecting these kids would be appreciated.

New Garage Open

Need your car worked on? Leon Maxwell, former tribal garage supervisor, has opened his own garage in Madras and is presently open for business.

"Leon's Garage" is located on highway 26 across from the grain elevators. Maxwell will do all types of automotive and small engine repair.

Drive or tow your car, truck, motorcycle or any other small engine vehicle to "Leon's Garage" and see what a deal he'll give you!



Everyone wins

The clients activity fund at the Alcohol Program received a boost at the recent chili feed and bingo party held at the Warm Springs longhouse. The event was sponsored by staff and residents of the Alcohol Center. The funds collected are delegated for use in client travel and entertainment.

Alexander Tohet (left) and Don Winishut (right) were two of many people who helped make the community event a success. They assisted in creating a traditional bustle which was used as one of several raffle prizes. Mary D. Smith was the happy winner of bustle after purchasing only four raffle tickets.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Marsha Shewczyk