

"Tent City" springs up at Industrial site



A row of tents lines the edge of the Industrial site by Kah-Nee-Ta road where a crew of tree planters has set up camp 'til mid-April.

by Sandy Rangila

A tree-planting crew of nearly 60 people set up camp at the Warm Springs Industrial Park site this week. Local curiosity about why the 22 tents are there has been on the rise since the group first arrived.

To keep expenses down, the crew camps wherever they receive a planting contract. The Tribal Council, after discussion of the options, voted unanimously to allow them to camp at the Industrial Park. The other possible camping site that had been under consideration was at the Old Mill.

Most of the crew are Vietnam veterans working to fulfill four of nine contracts,

part of an ambitious project to plant a total of 2,446 acres with 1.7 million seedlings. But not all planting crews are from off the reservation.

An all-Indian crew, headed by Rubin Henry, received one of the contracts—the largest an Indian crew has been awarded on the reservation to date, according to forester Bill Donaghu. They will be planting 101 acres in seedlings.

Plantings areas are scattered all over the reservation, from Jefferson Creek to units on the McQuinn Strip. Varieties include Douglas Fir, Noble Fir, and Ponderosa Pine.

The seedlings are being planted in new and old clearcuts, burns, and

rehabilitation areas where brush has been cleared, said Bill Apgar of BIA forestry.

The plants were grown from seed collected from superior trees on the reservation, said Donaghu. "Fit trees produce better-growing seedlings and what we want is improvement in the growing stock," he explained.

"This year's planting projects are double what was done last year—and last year's was double that of the year before," Donaghu said.

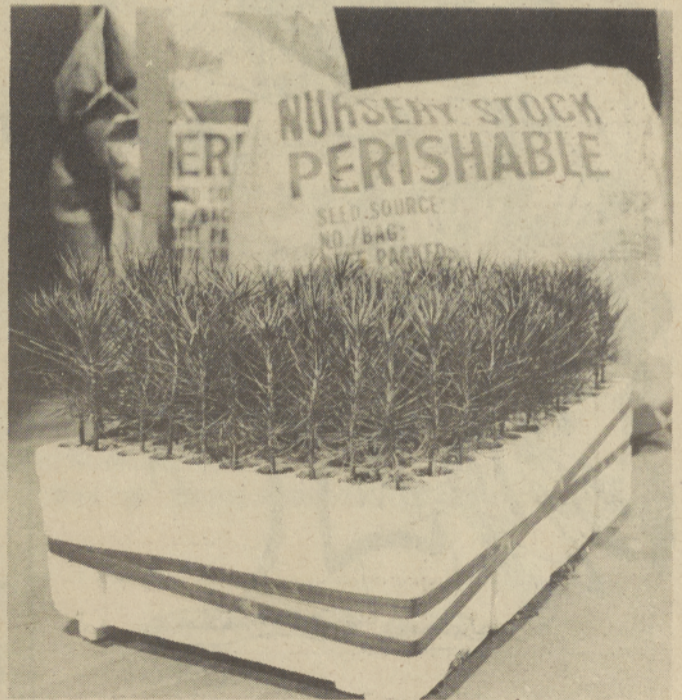
Donaghu also noted that this is the first year that the tribally-built cooler complex (up by the blue warehouses) has been used. Right now the cooler is full of trees, over a million of

them. The cooler, which is kept at 33 degrees, will be used to store seedlings for spring and fall plantings.

The tenters will probably be here for three or four more

weeks when it is anticipated that their work will be completed. According to Apgar, the group has a good reputation for their work and for cleaning up their camp site before they leave.

Photos by Sandy Rangila



Over a million trees are being stored in the Tribe's new cooler complex at the Industrial site. Containerized seedlings, such as these 1 year-old Ponderosa Pines, are now being planted in a massive reforestation effort.



A Newport family pauses before dinner-time at their campsite.