

Protection of resource necessary for the future

by Donna Behrend

Environmental protection is a term used loosely by many people. It is, in fact, a term that means just that—protection of the whole environment, from timber and pasture lands to streams and major rivers on the reservation. However, different agencies sometimes perceive that protection to mean very little, that the environment can protect itself.

No so, says Deepak Sehgal, tribal watermaster. Sehgal, with former fisheries biologist Gary Heckman developed the Streamside Management Plan under the direction of Tribal Council earlier this year. The plan states that the future of water resources on the reservation "depends upon the development and execution of multiple-interest management guidelines for streamside zones."

Protection of streams, whether they run year around or are dry for the majority of the year, is extremely important, says the report. All watershed on the reservation leads to major streams and rivers on or bordering the reservation.

Loggers, Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI) officials, BIA foresters and others should be made aware and educated in the way to prevent such mistakes and abuse of reservation streams and located in the forest, says Sehgal.

Common sense is imperative, says Sehgal. But, due to expense and time, environmental protection is often traded off to make logging practices more expedient. "Time is money" is often the motto of those working in the woods. "Streamside zone management provides opportunities to compensate for resources which are partly traded off in

other portions of a drainage due primarily to silvicultural and range practices," says the plan.

To protect, preserve and maintain environmental quality on the reservation, the Streamside Management Plan was designed with guidelines for forest users. Water temperatures, turbidity and sediment, woody debris, soil, cultural resources, fish and wildlife, recreation and

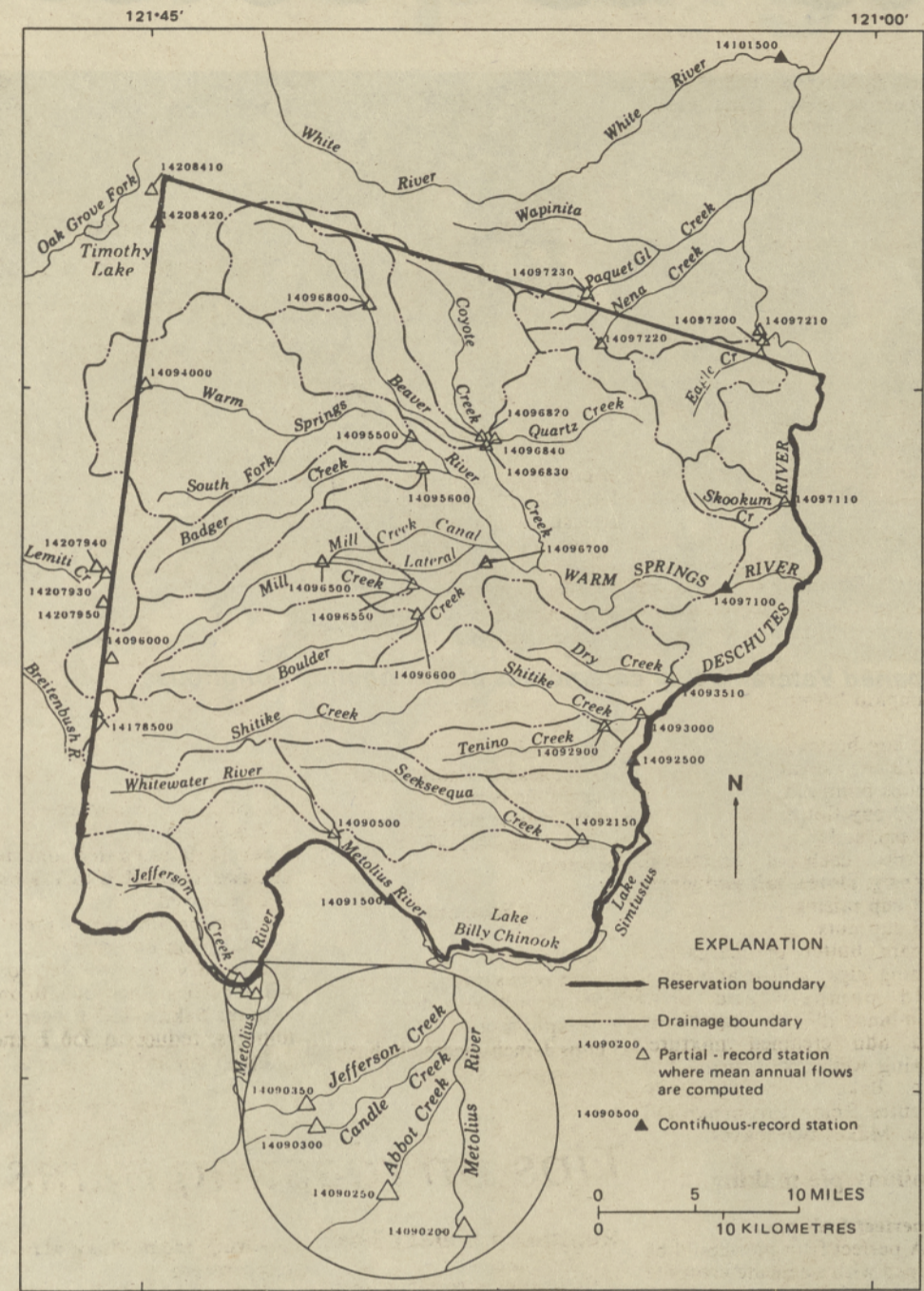


Figure 4.—Drainage basins and selected streamflow stations.

livestock "affect or constitute water quality."

And in order to control all those aspects that effect the water quality, all streams on or bordering the reservation were classified and management guidelines were established. The "system defines the value of streams on the reservation as

they pertain to these primary uses: fisheries and wildlife; domestic water; recreation; irrigation; religious and cultural and livestock."

Class I waters, such as the Deschutes, are considered, among other things, to be a direct source of domestic water, to support a recreational

fishery, to be used by anadromous fish for spawning, rearing or migration and to contribute major flow volumes to an irrigation or recreation lake or reservoir.

Class II water such as Beaver Butte Creek are defined as perennial or intermittent streams that, among other aspects, are used by a

significant number of resident fish for spawning, rearing or migration, flows enough to have a moderate influence on a Class I stream and has a moderate recreation, religious or aesthetic value.

Class III streams such as Middle Creek are considered perennial or intermittent streams which do not meet criteria for Class I or II water.

The management guidelines which apply to Class I streams "justify the highest level of protection and enhancement. Management activities will not degrade water quality, fish or aquatic resources below the existing or natural level."

On Class I streams there will be a 100 feet or more of a buffer strip and buffer strips bordering Class II and III streams will be a minimum of 60 feet and 30 feet respectively.

The objectives of these buffer strips for Class I streams, says the report, will aid in temperature regulation, will help control erosion, sediment trapping and serve as wildlife habitat. For Class II streams, the buffer strips will make the soil more stable in addition to the effects of the Class I buffer strips. These same guidelines apply to Class III streams as well.

Special areas such as springs, marshes and wetlands should be treated as a separate class and "will require individual assessments at any time a planned activity may have an impact," because they are very sensitive in nature and provide a unique habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

It is pointed out in the conclusion of the report that the management plan deals primarily with streamside zones. However, "it should be pointed out that off-site management can have significant effect on streamside zone. Improper management practices elsewhere in a drainage can negate the best intentions of streamside management through contributing to channel instability, increasing sedimentation and reduction of water quality and aquatic habitat."

Environmental protection should be the responsibility of all forest and range land users and fingers should not be pointed at any one agency. The protection is up to all who use and enjoy the forests.

From the Warm Springs Extension office. . .

Inspect furnaces

Shorter days, and cooler weather, are signs that winter is on its way. There is no better time than now to winterize your home heating system for the demands put on it by cold and stormy weather.

Defective or poorly maintained equipment deprives the homeowner of needed warmth while raising fuel bills. More importantly, turning on a combustion furnace that hasn't been serviced properly or inspected creates a risk of asphyxiation or fire.

Here are a few reminders:

—Replace disposable air filters when dirty with replacements that bear the Underwriters

Laboratories (UL) listing mark.

—Wash permanent filters in mild soap and water to help increase furnace efficiency and promote safe operation.

—Clean baseboard heaters, warm air outlet registers, and air returns of any accumulated dust, and be sure that they are not covered by rugs, drapes, or curtains.

—Make certain room thermostats are free of dust and correctly set.

—Keep the furnace area clear of flammable materials.

—Never store liquids with flammable vapors, such as gasoline and paint thinners, in the furnace room or in garages

around furnace areas.

Even if the heating unit has been kept in top operating condition, a qualified service-person should perform the following inspections and services at the start of each heating season:

—Inspect air blower belts, and adjust the tension or replace them if worn.

—Inspect for perforations, cracks or openings in the heat exchanger, which may permit by products of combustion to leak into the heated air supply.

—Inspect the flue pipe and connections between the heating unit and chimney, and check the chimney for any

blockage or accumulation of soot.

—Clean the circulating air blower wheel and the combustion air blower wheel if one is provided on the heating unit.

—Check boilers for proper water level.

For gas-burning units, these inspections should be conducted:

—Determine if the pilot or pilots are burning properly, and that the burner ignition by the pilot is satisfactory. It is important that the pilot flame be steady, small or yellow flame indicated either that the pilot

burner is dirty, or that the pressure regulator needs adjustments. Also check to see the main burner gas is burning properly. Adjust the primary air shutters if required, and test for spillage at the draft hood. In addition, a qualified service-person should perform these inspections on oil burners:

—Clean and adjust electrodes and replace them if worn.

—Inspect oil pumps, lines and fittings to assure that they are free of oil leaks, then check the burner flamer for the proper pattern. Replace the nozzle if necessary, and check the draft regulator for proper operation.