

To log or not to log

by Marsha Shewczyk

For years, this spotted owl pair made their nest in the same tree. Although many of its kind have disappeared, this pair have survived.

The old stands of timber surrounding their snag home provides food and protection for the pair as they rear their young.

"An Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared before the Beaver Canyon Timber Sale is approved."

This year it's different. Their permanent nesting site is gone. Their forest is gone.

In another section of the forest a hunter searches for game where it once was abundant, a fisherman ponders the reason for the low numbers of salmon and steelhead and a child tries to visualize what the forest looked like before all the brown patches of earth shown in the green carpet of trees.

A major source of income to the people of Warm Springs is the logging industry. It brings money to the community for development and it brings to individuals shared profits distributed yearly.

Millions of board feet of timber harvested annually account for the wealth of Warm Springs. And a Forest Management Plan, with an annual allowable cut, ensures an income to the Tribe.

The Tribe, under the guidance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry Department, determines where the cuts will be made. Approval is ultimately given by the people through Tribal Council.

Most commonly members see logging trucks passing by on the way to the mill but few see where the logs come from. Should logging begin in the Shitike Creek Canyon and Beaver Creek Canyon it will become more obvious to community members where the



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

The forest bordering Peter's Pasture is scheduled for logging in 1984. Objections to the cutting are being voiced by community members interested in preserving the old stand forest.

logs come from.

"The economic return to the Tribes from the this sale (Beaver Creek) will be very minimal compared to the possible damage to fish, wildlife and water resources."

Although these areas were approved for logging there now arise questions in the minds of

many tribal members as to whether or not that was a wise decision.

These are areas of old stand timber, abundant wildlife, clear streams and cultural heritage. These are places where a drive or walk through the woods is still uninterrupted by barren spots and no sign of activity is noticed except a few birds singing and an occasional deer running across the road.

Sometimes a monetary value cannot be put on a thing of beauty and a place of seclusion.

Sometimes there are more important things.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee in Warm Springs feels that way. Upon hearing of the proposal to log these two areas a statement was issued. It reads:

"We, the Fish and Wildlife Committee, have deliberated the proposed Shitike and Beaver Creek Canyon sales. We, as a Committee and as Indian people, are charged with stewardship of wild creatures—fish—water and the habitat necessary to support these values. We feel these other resources will be damaged for the long term as a result of these proposed sales."

The Warm Springs natural resources department adds to these feelings, stating that logging of either Beaver Creek or Shitike Creek Canyon would damage fish, wildlife and water resources.

"An Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared before the Shitike Canyon and Shitike Butte Timber Sales are approved."

For Beaver Creek they state: harsh sites would limit reforestation; water temperature may increase to cause a decrease in fish production; water flow patterns might change leading to greater erosion; a displacement of wildlife may result with a change of species composition; utilizing the area; and finally, "the economic return to the tribes from this sale will be very minimal when compared to the possible damage to fish, wildlife and water resources."

For the Shitike Creek Canyon the natural resources department states; water quality of Shitike Creek downstream of sale units will be detrimentally affected; the fisheries resource may suffer substantial losses; the proposed timber sales would have a long term detrimental impact on wildlife using the canyon; the

aesthetic and recreational values of the stream as it flows through the Warm Springs community would be greatly diminished; the temperature of Shitike creek could increase; and again, "The economic return to the Tribes from this sale will be minimal. To risk inflicting irreparable damage to Shitike Creek and its associated resources for such a small profit is questionable."

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The way to save this old stand forest according to Warm Spring watermaster Deepak Sehgal is to return it to conditional use. Forestry manager Bob Harnard agrees that a conditional use designation will take it out of the Forest Management Plan.

Two things can happen, then. The annual allowable cut can be reduced or logging in 1984 will take place elsewhere. It is up to the tribal members what is to happen. The Forestry department merely acts as "consultants" in the matter of harvesting trees and managing the forest explains Jim Akerson.

As a final effort to protect these canyons the Natural Resources department is asking for an Environmental Impact Statement. With these the effect of logging Shitike Creek Canyon and Beaver Creek Canyon can be accurately estimated.

Tribal members must state their feelings concerning management of their land, taking into consideration the future and keeping values in balance.

Extended fishing dates

Continued from page 1

the tribes had authority to catch more coho, chinook jacks and steelhead. However, he added, "The fishermen still are not happy."

Arnett and Timothy R. Weaver, representing the Yakimas, argued that the states' regulations would result in a deficit of approximately 7,000 fish to the tribes, compared to a deficit of approximately 3,300 fish under the tribe's proposal.

They contended that both the states' spawning escapement projection of 31,300 for bright fall chinook and the tribes' projection of a 29,700-fish escapement "would maintain and preserve the resource."

Johnson and Assistant Oregon Attorney General Mary J. Seits argued that the

states' regulations were necessary for conservation and rebuilding of the fish runs. Johnson contended that some of the tribes' calculations were "clearly wrong."

After making his ruling, Craig observed that the parties had been unable during the past year to carry out his suggestion that they negotiate a new fish management plan to replace the five-year plan that began in 1977.

Wednesday he ordered the states and the tribe to negotiate a new plan with appropriate adjustments and submit it to him by November 1, or, if they cannot agree, to submit individual proposals to him by November 10.

This article is reprinted from the Oregonian.

Annual report mailed

Over 2,900 copies of the Tribe's latest annual report were mailed August 22 to tribal members and others who conduct business with the Tribes.

The front cover of the eight-page report carries a full-color photo of Mt. Jefferson photo of Mt. Jefferson from Whitewater. The interior pages were printed in two-colors—a dark steel-blue and black. The report was produced entirely in-house except for printing. This was a first-time effort by the staff of Spilyay Tymoo, the Planning department and administrative secretary Maxine Clements, who coordinated all the materials for Sandra Rangila, who assisted in writing.

Included in the mail-out to tribal members only was a 25-page financial statement which included a letter from secretary/treasurer Ralph Minnick. Minnick noted project completions such as the

hydro project, Deschute Water System, tribal garage and the remodeling of several community buildings.

Stated Minnick, "As a whole, the year 1982 was a busy one, full of building, complet-

ing and planning. It cannot be looked at as our most successful year financially. However, the many areas of progress mark it as a very successful year for the organization."

Crash claims one

A single vehicle accident claimed the life of Warm Springs resident Martina Heath, age 23. The accident occurred on August 21 at approximately 4:30 p.m. on highway 8 at milepost 7.1. The vehicle identified as a pickup left the highway and landed in the Warm Springs River near Rattlesnake Springs.

Three people were in the pickup at the time of the accident. Details of the accident have not been released by the Warm Springs Police department and the accident is under investigation by the

Tribal Police department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs investigator, according to Jerome Main, BIA investigator.

The two other people in the pickup were Benson Heath, age 36, and Brent Graybael, age 22, both from Warm Springs.

According to information released by the police the accident was reported by telephone by one of the individuals who had been in the vehicle. The accident was reported at about 5:15 a.m. The person reportedly had to walk some distance to get to a phone.