

Jobs Bill provides employment and project completions



Deanie Johnson explains how the trees are marked by crews for sale as Christmas trees in the high country on the reservation. *Spikey Tymoo photo by Leno*



Clearing a six foot area on the McQuinn line is one of the many jobs that Jobs Bill Forestry crews undertook. Pictured left to right are crew boss Elliot Lawson, Willis Wahpat, Jim Miller, Joe Strikes The Heart and Charlie Chee. *Spikey Tymoo photo by Leno*

by Pat Leno

With the end of the Jobs Bill program in sight, a countdown of the number of days left in the program has begun for many of those people who have been employed during the summer months with the various projects. The Jobs Bill monies received by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has made it possible for the Tribes to accomplish some projects that might have otherwise had to wait until funding could be found. It also provided employment for 65 local people who otherwise might have spent the summer months seeking employment on a tight job market.

Employment began in June for 60 people. These people were hired to work on projects in Natural Resources, Range Management and Forestry. A training program in housing construction will start later this month.

In Forestry, five crews were hired with a total of 34 people employed to work on roads, road signs for the High Lakes, trails and cemeteries, clearing hiking trails and cleaning culverts, surveying the old reservation boundary line, the construction and remarking of helispots, marking Christmas trees, marking trees for commercial thinning and digging soil survey pits. With the approach of the end of the program, Randy Smith, Forestry manager for the forestry project stated that the crews had completed approximately 90 percent of the projects.

In the fisheries project, the main project has been the

construction of structures known as gabions, stone, dam-like structures which are used to channel the stream flow in the center of a stream. Gabions have been constructed on Shitike and Mill Creeks. The goal of completing the five gabions and completing a fish screen on the Mill Creek channel will be met. The fisheries project has employed three Jobs bill personnel with tribal wildlife biologist Terry Luther supervising.

In the range management project, under the supervision of Dean Elliott, Soil Conservationist, supervised the crew assigned to his department. The crews worked on the Tribal range management plan to improve existing range conditions. The crews repaired existing corrals and fences, constructed new fences and built corrals, working on existing springs and working on water development. The crews worked on projects in Dry Hollow, Tenino, Mutton Mountain and the Simasho area and Sidwalter Flats.

A housing appropriation of \$32,000 of the Jobs Bill monies received by the Tribes will be used to train men and women in the field of housing construction. Two homes will be built in the Wolfe Point housing area. The training will cover electrical work, plumbing, sheetrocking, frame work, and finish carpentry. Lee Tom has been selected to train the people chosen for the training. Lee had worked earlier as a crew boss with the Jobs Bill forestry projects. The construction of the homes will be under the supervision of Les Yaw, contracting officer at Utilities and Construction.

Out of Jobs Bill projects and employment have come some lasting benefits for the Tribes and workers. The monies came at the time when the job market was tight. It gave employment to individuals who were having difficulty in finding jobs. It also gave some people a chance to acquire new skills and it provided the Tribes with monies to embark on projects that were needed in various areas. A proposed plan for a new unit in Forestry with a planned work force of 20 people has been developed by the Tribes. This new unit will be trained to work within the Forestry department. It is planned to train the crew in fire suppression and also to train some local people as forestry aides.

Supervisors and technical supervisors have expressed a pride in the crews in the amount of work and the quality of work accomplished by the people employed through the Jobs Bill monies. Randy Smith, supervisor of the forestry crews said crew members have shown they are capable of being employed full time. He feels perhaps it should now be possible for some of the workers to be considered for permanent positions within the Tribal structure. He went on to state that the crews in forestry worked with a minimum of supervision and accomplished a great deal of work. He felt the crewbosses and their crews handled the jobs well.

It took the crews, crew bosses and supervisors to make the Job Bill project a success. The success is evident with the completion of 95 percent of its intended projects.



Setting road and trail signs in the High Lakes was a job for the four-man crew (pictured left to right) of Joseph Craig, crews boss Rick Minthorn, Wilbur Wainanawit and Johnny Howtopat. *Spikey Tymoo photo by Leno*



A finished product, the Seekseequa Corral, was one of 12 corrals that were rebuilt or repaired by Jobs Bill monies and crews. *Spikey Tymoo photo by Miller*



Pedro Alonso and Floyd Stahi, workers on the land operations crew, assisted with the recent control burn of the Miller Flat range improvement plan. *Spikey Tymoo photo by Leno*