

Range plan finalized, adopted by Council

Following more than two years of intense research and gathering input from various tribal and BIA governmental agencies and departments and rangeland user groups, the Range and Agriculture Plan was finalized and adopted by Tribal Council December 19 by Resolution #6797. On January 9, 1985, Tribal Council adopted Ordinance #66 which consists of Warm Springs Tribal Code Chapter 460 "Range and Livestock Ordinance" which made the Plan part of the Tribal Law and Order Code.

It was in November 1982 that Tribal Council adopted a motion that directed management to seek funding for the preparation of an Agriculture and Range Management Plan. In February, 1983, a PL 93-638 contract was awarded in the amount of \$34,000 for the development of the plan and for certain range improvement projects. It was soon realized that additional funding was needed and subsequent modifications were made on the contract which increased the contract to \$140,311. Nine district meetings were held in addition to six meetings with ride bosses. Tribal and BIA departments were involved, as well as all tribal committees in the development of the Plan.

It has been recognized that the protection and use of range and agriculture resources and to change past attitudes, habits and use patterns will all take time. Plus education and commitment of all tribal members, resource users and both tribal and BIA governing bodies will be required. "This will be a step-by-step process that will focus on user-oriented process while assuring protection of the resource," states the recommendations paper.

As outlined in the Plan, a "unique approach is being taken" in the management of range and agriculture resources—and ap-



proach that will require the Tribe and BIA to work jointly to achieve policies and recommendations that have not been realized in the past. "By this unique working relationship, the Tribes become actively involved in the management of these tribal resources to achieve tribal missions and the BIA exercises its trust responsibilities."

Section X of the Range and Agriculture Plan lists the missions, policies and recommendations. The first mission, as listed in the reservation comprehensive plan, is to enhance agriculture and range management to create income and employment for tribal members. The second mission is to "ensure productivity of the agriculture and rangeland soil and water resources through multiple use conservation practices."

Following are the policies established in the Agriculture and Range Management Plan. Due

to the length of the Plan, the recommendations will be in the next issue.

1. A system of regulated grazing commensurate with the ability of the land to produce for future generations will be established on the reservation.

A. Past grazing use patterns will be respected.

B. Regulated grazing will be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the difference that exist among families and groups of tribal members on various grazing areas.

C. Authorities of the tribal constitution and by-laws and trust responsibility of the federal government will be complied with.

D. Reservation-wide standards for grazing will be established.

E. The Tribal Council will appropriate funds to pay grazing fees for allotted lands and waive grazing fees on tribal lands

for a five-year period. The Council should again review this policy after the initial five-year period. Grazing fees on allotted lands will be determined by the BIA in consultation with Tribal Council.

2. Reservation-wide standards for livestock quality, health, brand registration and inspection and rides and round-ups will be implemented.

3. The range and agriculture resources will be managed through multiple use conservation practices. On-going communications will be maintained with respective resource departments, committees and users.

A. Land use designation, as identified by the Comp Plan for rangelands and agriculture, shall be managed for state purposes in the plan to benefit tribal individuals, groups or the tribe as a whole.

B. Cultural resources will be protected and managed for fu-

ture generations. All applicable federal historic preservation legislation will be complied with.

C. In timbered sites, forage production for livestock and wildlife is a secondary allocation to time production. Forage production will be maximized under the policies as outlined in the Forest Management Plan.

D. Water resources on range and agriculture land will be managed under the objectives and constraints of the 1964 Warm Springs Water Management Plan.

E. Wildlife and livestock will be managed to enhance each other's potential. Where conflicts occur, wildlife will be given primary consideration.

F. Soil resources will be managed to minimize current soil erosion on watersheds and all future range or agriculture developments mitigating measures will be planned and implemented

when activities are likely to result in soil displacement, compaction or surface soil erosion.

4. Agriculture resources will be managed with the primary emphasis to support the livestock industry. Secondly, agricultural resources will be used to explore new and different methods and crops for the economic well-being of individual tribal members and groups.

4. Range and agriculture lands will be managed to support the high economic return to individual or groups of tribal members (or the tribe who may undertake direct management of certain lands—under policies listed in the Plan.

6. Range and agriculture lands are for the benefit and use of tribal individuals and groups. The role of the organization is to provide for resource protection and use in a way that enhances the individual's or group's personal satisfaction, well-being and economic development. Self-reliance is an important factor.

A. Tribal Credit is an important assistance to tribal members or group's use of the resource and must be extended.

B. A support system of education and technical information will be established to provide assistance to farm and ranch operators.

C. Home base development is required for livestock operators.

D. Assisting individuals to develop and establish home bases was a high priority.

E. Cost-share assistance is needed to protect the home base land resource.

7. Individuals and groups are responsible for their own operations. The Natural Resources Department will actively support users but will not assume responsibility for them. To do so would detract from self-esteem and diminish the value of those resources.

Interesting photographs recall past of reservation



Photographs courtesy of Mid-Oregon Historical Society

