

Snow pack below normal

Water content in measured snow pack on the Warm Springs Reservation is 63 percent of normal in January readings. This corresponds closely with data recorded around the state and indicates that water levels will be low.

Water levels were low last year, also, says Warm Springs watermaster Deepak Sehgal. Water content in 1988, however, was much lower, 59 percent of last year. Four monitoring sites are located at various sites on the reservation

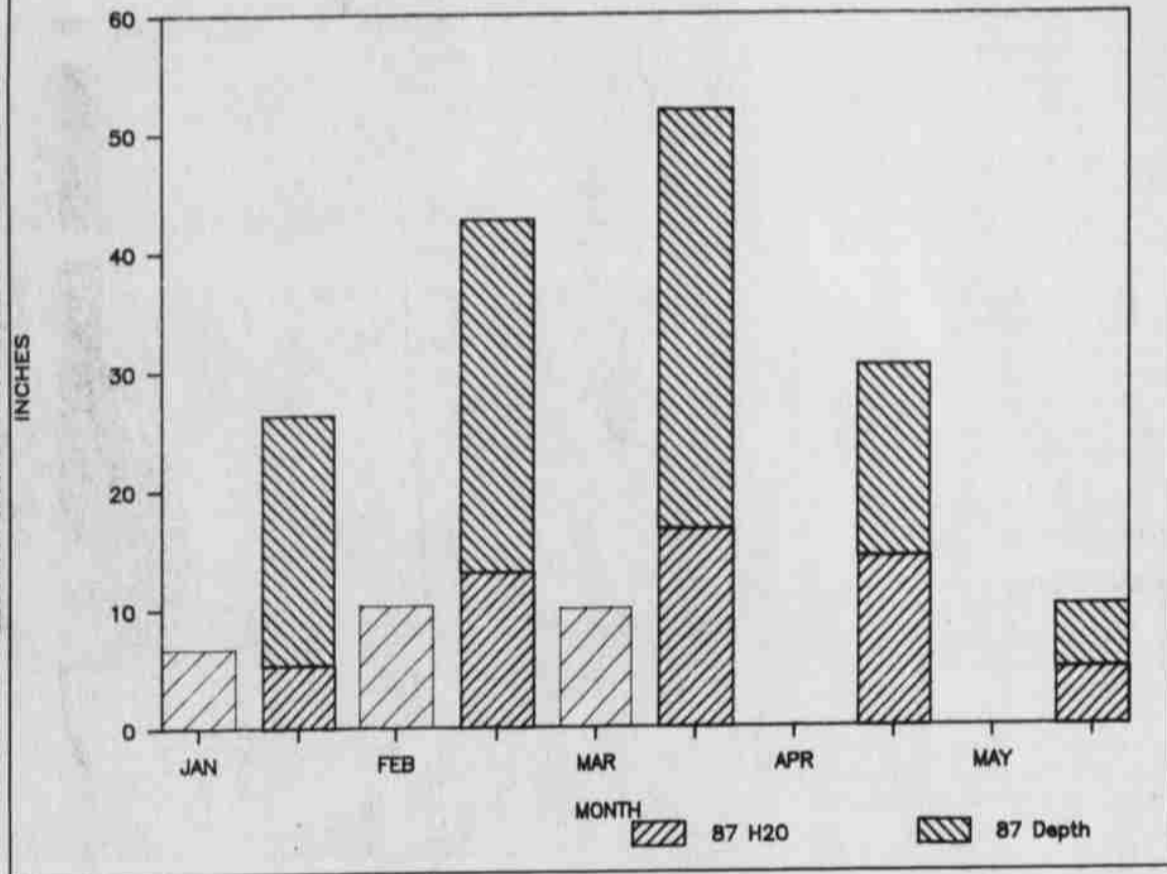
for accurate data. A 5000 foot marker is located at Lion's Head and Bald Peter. Monitoring units are also placed at the 4000 foot level of Whitewater meadows and Racing Creek. The effect of the low water reading will most likely be felt in the summer months. According to Sehgal, "Water temperatures will increase" and water levels will decrease which may adversely affect migrating salmon. It may impact power generation at the dams statewide as well.

"Water conservation is a good policy," Sehgal states. It will be particularly important in the months of August and September.

Emphasis will be placed on the Streamside Management Plan which focuses on the protection of domestic water supplies followed by fisheries concerns, irrigation and agricultural use is considered after these uses.

"Irrigation water will be a problem at Sidwaller" adds Sehgal.

W S I R SNOW SURVEY DATA (87 vs 88)

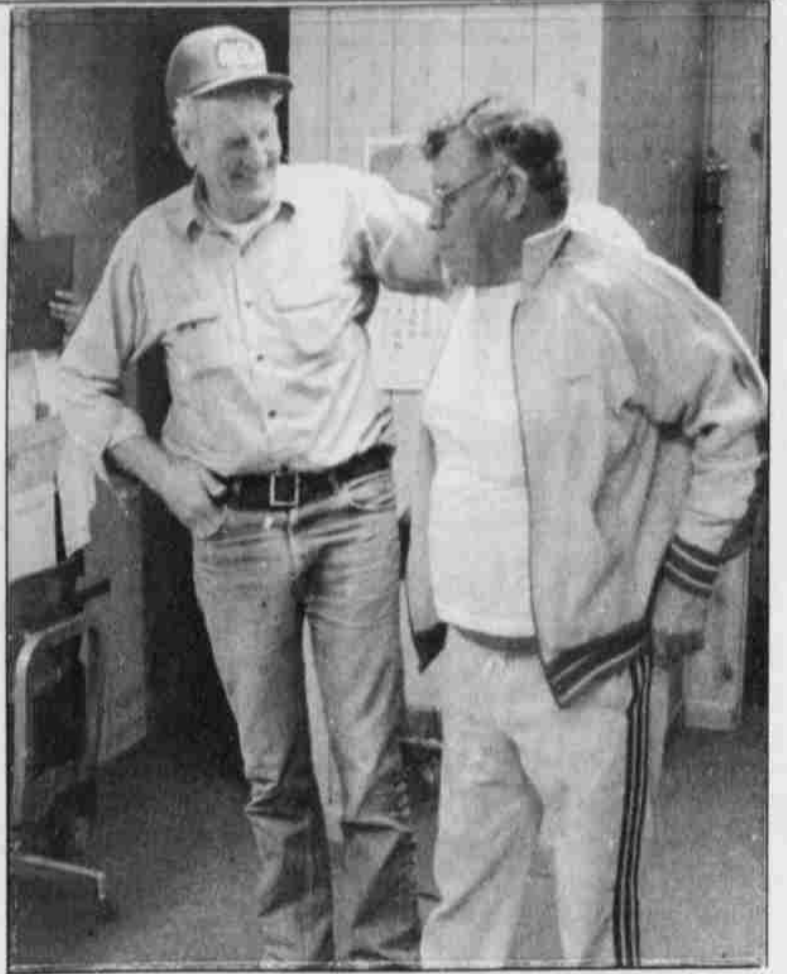


Bidding brisk at timber sale

On March 11, 1988 the Bureau of Indian Affairs sold 12,580 MBF of timber on the Triangle Timber Sale. The sale is located on the McQuinn Strip in the area bordered by U.S. Highway 26, Oregon Highway 216 and the Bear Spring Cutoff Road (S-592). Five companies submitted bids including Vanport Manufacturing Incorporated, Mt. Fir Lumber Company, Columbia Tree Farms, Estacada Lumber Company and Linnton Plywood Association.

Interest was high and bidding was brisk on the sale because of its location near U.S. Highway 26 and the quality of the timber. Vanport was the high bidder after two-and-one-half hours and 239 bids. Vanport \$325.00/MBF for ponderosa and white pine, \$214.00/MBF for Douglas Fir and western larch and \$225.00/MBF for white fir and other species for a total value of \$2,911,440. The bidding started at \$315.00/MBF for pine, \$100/MBF for Douglas Fir and \$60.00/MBF for white fir, and sales volume of \$1,536,900.

Summit Butte timber sale will be sold on April 5, 1988 at 10:00 a.m. at the fire management training room.



Bill Hill, left, retired recently from Warm Springs Forest Products Industries as woods contract supervisor. Wishing him well is Allen Langley, who retired early last year. WSFPI office personnel, BIA and tribal employees gathered at the mill office for a brief going away party.

Last fishing day set for March 1

At a March 3 meeting, the Washington/Oregon Columbia River Compact set March 21 at 6:00 p.m. as the last possible fishing day for the winter fishing season in Zone 6. The tribes may act to close the treaty Zone 6 fishery on that date or earlier. Please contact your tribal fish and wildlife committee, for that information.

(All dam and river mouth sanctuaries remain in effect and there are no mesh restrictions. If you don't know what your tribe's gear requirements are, contact your tribal fish and wildlife committee.)

At the March 3 meeting, the Compact set March 6 as the closing date for the lower river gillnet sea-

son. Biologists estimate that no more than 700 upriver spring chinook will be taken during this commercial gillnet season. The tribes have a policy of reserving their share of the upriver spring chinook for ceremonial and subsistence use.

Treatment for regeneration of timber species planned

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Forestry has identified approximately 1,425 acres of forest plantations which demonstrate a potential need for treatment in 1988 to reduce moisture competition between commercial timber species and grasses or broadleaf plants. This treatment is necessary for regeneration of timber species or to release established tree seedlings, according to an environmental assessment published by the Branch of Forestry.

The proposed action is to hand and/or mechanically spray 2,4-D during the Spring to control broad leaf vegetative competition and aerially spray atrazine and simazine in the fall to control grass competition.

Prior to treatment of these units a field inspection will be made to determine if treatment is actually necessary. It is anticipated that these field inspections will result in a reduction on the total acres treated.

According to the published environmental assessment report the purpose of spraying is to increase forest lands timber production to optimal levels. On some sites orchard grasses, sedges and mixed deciduous and evergreen brush species are overtopping and restricting optimum growth of desirable conifer reproduction.

Forestry purposes to reduce brush and grass competition on forest plantations to the plant that planted coniferous tree species can become "established" and outgrow competing vegetation.

Alternative's to treatment with chemicals include no action, hand removal of brush and grass, and mechanical removal of brush and grass.

The preferred alternative of herbicide application consists of herbicide application by forest crews in the spring and by helicopter in the fall. Cost per acre is \$65.00 for hand treatment and \$75.00 for aerial application.

Treatment areas are located in the northwest, northeast and southern portions of the reservation. Topography ranges from gentle to steep and elevations range between 3,000 and 4,500 feet. Major stream courses within the vicinity of proposed treatment areas are the Warm Springs River, Badger Creek, North Fork of Cedar Creek, North Fork of Boulder Creek, Rainy Creek, Beaver Butte Creek, Swamp Creek, Beaver Creek, Noisy Creek, Mill Creek, Cedar Creek, Camp Creek, Sheep Creek and Racing Creek. There are no streams within any proposed units.

Wildlife using the areas for for-

age and cover include mule deer, elk and black bear. Snowshoe hare, grouse, and turkey are present and gophers are present in epidemic proportions.

Use of the area is generally confined to timber production. There are no cultural root digging areas, no threatened or endangered plant or animal species, minimal domestic livestock grazing and very little use by people.

The preferred alternative of herbicide application is determined to have minimal impacts. According to the report, site quality could be mainly impacted through surface run-off and wind erosion caused by foliage removal for a short period of time.

Soil temperatures on south facing slopes will show greater fluctuations. Some shade would remain after herbicide treatment to protect seedlings.

No treatment will occur in riparian zone. Buffer strip will be utilized to protect water quality. Safety requirements and procedures will be followed with herbicide application. To insure proper adherence to regulations and procedures, monitoring stations will be set up a live streams adjacent to treated units.

Vegetation would be impacted with this alternative. However, this action would release conifer regeneration from brush competition. Spray operations could shorten the period of time between now and harvest because of more favorable growth conditions.

Air quality would be minimally impacted during application.

Wildlife would be minimally impacted by removal of hiding cover on these areas but forage would be improved because of more palatable vegetation re-establishing itself.

A primary benefit of herbicide application treatment is the lower treatment cost. This alternative appears to be the most cost effective according to the report.

With herbicide application only federally registered herbicides will be used; only licensed qualified employees will monitor all applications; only properly trained and licensed personnel will handle and use herbicides; personnel will be familiar with emergency procedures to be used in case of an herbicide spill; personnel will wear protective clothing; coordination with stock movement and Range Unit will be made in spray areas.

Aerial application will require prevention of water contamination when mixing chemicals; a minimum buffer strip of at least 100 feet will be left untreated along perennial streams; prior to spraying, a field review of all major intermittent

streams within a unit will be conducted to determine buffer requirements; streams will be monitored; wind speed will be considered during application times; and spraying will be turned off at end of runs and when a turn is being made; a radio network will link all parts of the project.

In ground application suction hoses and pumps used for herbicides will not be used to draw water from natural sources; mixing and filling will occur in areas when accidental spill will not flow into a stream or body of water; steamside management plan will be followed in establishing buffer strips; hand application will be prohibited when winds are gusty, air temperature is above 70 degrees, relative humidity is less than 50 percent and when ice or snow is on the ground.

Comments regarding plans for brush and grass control and seedling release or regarding the environmental assessment may be directed to Environmental coordinator William Apgar at 553-1161, ext. 416. Please submit comments by April 5, 1988.



Spring has sprung!

Two new police officers have joined the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement Department (CRITFED) in Hood River. They are Donald Ellingson, an Oregonian with 28 years in law enforcement, and Brenda Watts, the first woman officer to work for the enforcement agency.

Officer Ellingson has worked with city police departments in Eugene and Albany and with the sheriff's office in Linn County, Oregon. He and his wife now live in Hood River. They have two grown daughters.

Officer Watts is originally from Washington. Her enrollment with the Quinault Indian Nation is pending. She, her husband, and two daughters now live in Dufur.

The CRITFED is an arm of tribal fisheries management and is run by the Columbia River Inter-Tribe Fish Commission in Portland. CRITFED's main responsibilities are enforcing tribal fishing regulations on the mainstem of the Columbia and protecting Indian fishers when they exercise their treaty fishing rights.

In other recent news from CRITFED, Theodore "Ted" J. Lame Bull received official police officer certification and was promoted to Sergeant. Lame Bull is a 1970 graduate of Wapato High School. Before his promotion, Lame Bull was a Corporal with the department.

Also, dispatchers Pam Fosnight and Ellen Harshbarger, both of Hood River, recently attended Washington State Patrol Dispatch Academy where they received their certification. They both did so well in their training, that they were invited to return on special assignment as one-day instructors at the dispatch academy.

Fines, time—Continued from page 2

\$5,000, or both; on the form attached as Exhibit A.

Exhibit A

Code Amendment

305.515 Sentences and Fines. Any Indian found guilty of violating

any of the provision of this chapter, or of a criminal violation set forth in any other chapter of the Warm Springs Tribal code may be punished by imprisonment for a term not to exceed one year, or by imposition of a fine not to exceed \$5,000, or both, unless a lesser penalty is provided.

Drought can cause fish losses

Lack of rain this winter and a below-normal snow pack in Northwest mountain ranges could lead to major fish losses in the Columbia River Basin, according to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA).

Young salmon and steelhead moving downstream during the mid-March through August migration period will have a tough time negotiating multiple dams and reservoirs because of low water flows.

Authority members, which include fishery managers from state and federal agencies and Indian tribes, warn that low flows will slow down migration rates, and make the young fish more vulnerable to losses from predation, turbines and from failure to reach the ocean at the proper time for good survival. These circumstances can cause losses amounting to 90 percent or more of the total migrating population. In other words, a certain percentage of a migrating run dies at each dam and in each reservoir. For instance, salmon and steelhead moving out of the Snake River Basin must pass through eight dams and reservoirs before reaching unobstructed passage to the sea.

The result of drought conditions, then, is fewer fish migrating to the

ocean, and potential declines of adult chinook and steelhead returns in years ahead.

The low flow problem is compounded because this is the second consecutive year of critically low flows. Conditions now are the worst in more than 50 years, according to fishery biologists. The last years with back-to-back flows at this level were in 1930 and 1931, before construction of most Columbia Basin dams.

Young fish journeying to sea, particularly spring migrants, depend on high flows to literally flush them downstream to the sea. Under ideal circumstances, the vast majority of fish move quickly through the flow-water impoundments behind the dams, and pass the dams either by going over in spilled water or through specially designed bypass systems.

Many dams do not have fish bypass systems and, at those dams, when the water flow goes through the spinning blades of power turbines, most of the small fish also go through the turbines. Spilling water at such dams means that most fish will go through with the spill instead of through the turbines. At dams with bypass systems, the fish are diverted away from the turbines.

As a variety of water users com-

pete for this year's reduced supplies, CBFWA member agencies and tribes will be pressing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—the operators of the hydroelectric system—to provide salmon and steelhead runs, with an equitable share of that water. According to the Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980, fish and power are to be managed on an equal basis—even in a crisis.

Attend reunion

Former Stewart Indian School students are encouraged to attend a class reunion scheduled for this year. For more information write to the Stewart Indian Museum Association at 5366 Snyder Ave., Carson City, Nevada 89701. The classes of 1918, 1923, 1928, 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973 and 1978 are expected

Reward offered:

\$50 reward offered for information regarding theft of bicycle belonging to Jered Moses. Call: 553-1644