

Fair introduces natural resource careers

A career fair at Warm Springs Elementary began with ideas expressed by the Warm Springs Natural Resources personnel that young students need to expand their knowledge of natural resources, of natural resource careers and become more familiar with the role of natural resources in Warm Springs.

Several months ago the Natural Resource Department set up a training session called Project Learning Tree which introduced teachers to methods of teaching natural resource concepts in the classroom. Continuing in this vein, the department began looking for ways to further involve students, deciding on a Career Fair as a way to show students that careers in the natural resource field are varied and interesting.

On May 7, Ross Kalama and Tommy Smith brought some heavy equipment to the school and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry arrived with a replica of an ancient spear thrower showing students the importance of cultural resources within the area of natural resources. The USFS Air Center in Redmond sent a smoke jumper and equipment to the Fair and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries sent Tony Van Pelt to talk to students about forest products. Mapping on computers was included in the demonstrations as well as conversations between students and biologists. Classroom projects such as planting terrariums and constructing pine cone bird feeders were presented to students as ways to bring the natural into the classroom.

The Career Fair, says Gene Keene from the Natural Resources department, in "one day in what we hope will be the beginning of a long interest in natural resources," for Warm Springs Elementary students.



Swing shift sawmill operator Tony Van Pelt shows students the way to operate caliper, used to measure width and size of lumber.



Engine Operator Jim Surface shows kindergartners fire protection blanket



Warm Springs wildlife biologist Doug Calvin talks with parent Carroll Dick regarding wildlife careers.



Darreck Palmer peers through surveying transit



Heavy equipment brought to Career Fair by Ross Kalama and Tommy Smith impresses fifth grade students.



Third grade student Rose Gilbert makes bird feeder from pine cone, peanut butter and bird seed.