

## Partners in Prevention: How well is your home protected from wildfires?

By Karla Tias

This past month has been a busy one when it comes to fire, as you all know we have all been running here and there chasing fires that have been started by lightning and various other causes including arson or human caused fires.

Human caused fires are usually started by careless cigarette smokers, people playing with fireworks or people intentionally setting fires. Remember it is against the law to throw cigarettes out of car windows and fireworks should not be used at all this time of year. If someone is caught doing any of these things and it starts a wildfire they could be held responsible to pay all of the cost for putting the fire out, that gets really expensive paying for the man power and equipment that is used.

Fire precaution levels have changed again to a "very high," this means all burning permits are suspended with the exception of ceremonial and sweat house fires. If you plan to have a ceremonial or sweat house fire, you need to call in to Fire Management or Fire & Safety to let them know.

No matter what the cause is we all need to take the same precautions to make sure lives and property stay safe. You should not wait until a fire has burned close to your home or is burning towards your home to begin fire prevention. Go through this checklist to see how well your home will defend itself if a fire burns nearby.

If you have any questions please call Fire Management 553-2413 or Fire & Safety 553-1634.

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PROBLEMS			
		YES	NO
DRIVEWAY	Too narrow or steep to back fire engine in -or- Branches overhang driveway -or- Down-dead fuels line driveway		
DRIVEWAY	Dead-end & longer than 200 feet from road		
ROOF	Combustible (Asphalt shingles or wood shakes)		
ROOF	Wood shakes (Wood shakes are such a large fire problem that they are "double weighted" in this table)		
TREES	Overhang roof		
TREE/BRUSH	Not thinned in area within 30' of structure		
VEHICLES	Parked outside within 30' of structure.		
SLOPE	More than 20% anywhere within 30' of structure		
SLOPE	More than 40% anywhere within 30' of structure.		
DECK/STILT	Not enclosed underneath (to ground)		
POWER LINE	Overhead within 30' of structure.		

  

# of YES	Number of YES checked
0 - 2	WILL DEFEND ITSELF WITH LITTLE HELP FROM FIREFIGHTERS
3 - 5	WITH HELP FROM FIREFIGHTERS, MAY BE VERY DEFENSIBLE
6 - 7	WITH HELP FROM FIREFIGHTERS, MAY NOT BE DEFENSIBLE
8 - 10	WILL NOT LIKELY SURVIVE EVEN WITH THE HELP OF FIREFIGHTERS

WILDFIRE PROTECTION SOLUTIONS	
Widen driveway to at least 20' to allow fire engine access Trim branches for 28' wide and 14' tall pathway Remove dead fuels from pathway and trim ladder fuels 6' above ground	DRIVEWAY
Construct circular driveway with two accesses from road	DRIVEWAY
Replace combustible roof with non-combustible roof such as tile or metal	ROOF
Replace wood shakes with non-combustible roof as soon as possible	ROOF
Trim or remove trees from near house to remove overhang	TREES
Remove trees from within 30' of structures, thin to 100' from structures	TREE/BRUSH
Park all vehicles away from structures, at least 30' -or- park in garage	VEHICLES
Thin and remove trees/brush to 200' on downhill side of structure	SLOPE
Thin and remove trees/brush to 400' on downhill side of structure	SLOPE
Enclose underside of decks with solid sheeting	DECK/STILT
Run power lines underground near structure	POWER LINE

  

OTHER EFFECTIVE MEASURES:	
Stack woodpiles at least 10' away from structures	Keep vehicles in garage
Install reflective address sign at end of driveway	Keep garden hoses attached to spigots
Keep gutters & roof clean of combustible materials	Keep house ladders against roof

## New Warm Springs extension agents fill vacated positions

New Home Economics Extension Agent, Bernadette Handley, has been in Warm Springs since July 6, 1998. She is originally from Placid Lake, the mountain regions of New York. She most recently moved here from Oregon City where she spent one year, before that she was in Austin, Texas for one year.

Handley received her Bachelors Degree in Dietetics at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. She is a registered dietician working on her Masters through Oregon State University.

She has been a food service director in long-term care nursing homes, a clinical dietician in a hospital and a teacher at a junior college. She was managing food service departments, so this job as an extension agent is different for Handley. "Part of what I was looking for was continuity and interaction. I wasn't getting that working with staff. I wanted to be part of a community and feel what I was doing and see what I was doing," says Handley.

Handley has some ideas she would like to pursue but would like to determine the needs of the community and focus on those needs first. She is in the process of setting up a home economics advisory committee to help her get some ideas about what the communities needs are. Because there has been an absence since Norma left in November Handley will decide what's the priority and what kind of needs were brought into the office since then and address those needs. She also has a food preservation class coming up.

She has been in the community a little bit, visited two homes, went to eat lunch with the senior citizens. The first two weeks of her job has been an orientation for her, getting to know the Extension office and the Warm Springs area.

Her special interests include cross country skiing, hiking, starting to rock climb and she just started martial arts, which has been pretty exciting, she also loves music, and she has a dog and a cat.

Handley concludes, "Certainly feel free to call if there's a special need they have or a special interest they would like to see developed. But, I'm really excited to be here, I've never been in a place where everyone's happy it's really

refreshing. I like the group that I work with, really diverse. I'm real excited to be here."

Since the first of June Zach del Nero has been the Natural Resources Extension Agent in Warm Springs. Bodie Shaw accepted the job as Forestry Manager and vacated this position.

Zach's job is to improve and or optimize natural resource uses, develop some agricultural initiatives so that the tribal economy can be diversified. Zach goes on to say, "At one time there were 60,000 acres farmed in the basin and now most of that has grown into weeds."

He says they will look at hay production for winter feeds and supplementing winter feed for the

herds. That has been the number one input right now.

He will also look at some high value crops such as carrots or potatoes.

Zach will be working with Culture and Heritage Committee on an assessment of cultural plants—huckleberries, roots, medicinal plants. How to manage them here and on ceded lands. He says, "there's a whole variety that tribal members have legal rights to, we will also update nutritional analysis of cultural plants."

Zach's prior employment includes construction work at the village pool after the flood, Salmon Corps and Range and Ag. He moved here to Warm Springs in 1996 after he finished school at Oregon State University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geo Science. He then went into Master of Science and Crop Science from Oregon State and started on a Doctorate.

He attended Oregon State with Bodie Shaw, Orvie Danzuka, Jason Smith, Mark Jackson and Brigitte Whipple. "It's great to see everyone I went to school succeed in their jobs."

del Nero has a house in Bear Springs, "which is only three hours from Cannon Beach." He enjoys surfing. He also enjoys music, singing and drumming, powwows, concerts, mountain bikes, ice hockey, softball, running, motorcycles and mostly being outdoors.

He also enjoys spending time with his four-year-old daughter, who lives in Philomath.



Zach del Nero, Natural Resources Extension Agent and Bernadette Handley, Home Economics Extension Agent.

## Lost in Pace walking from Portland to Coast

There is a group of women called "Lost in Pace" who will be participating in the Portland-to-Coast walk. Its being held from August 28 and 29. The starting point is at Janzen Beach to Seaside. Each team member walks an average of 6 miles.

The team consists of 12 members and a driver. Those members are: Sharon Miller, Captain, Michelle Alvarez, Co-Captain, Earlyne Squemphen, Judy Budd, Lynn Fluhr, Sara Thomas, Coleen Reed, Shirley

Earl, Jeannie Seyler, Margaret Gonzales, Becky Hunt Lucei, Shari Marazoo, and the driver Ann McKenzie. Most members work at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Clinic.

To help get them on there way they will be selling raffle tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. All items raffled off are donated by The Museum at Warm Springs. The drawings will be held on August 20. To purchase tickets contact any team member. You can

also make donations to the American Cancer Society who is also sponsoring the walk.

The items to be raffled off are: Wild Things bag, huckleberry T-shirt, book by Andy Linn "Huckleberry Lessons", beaded key chain made by Effie Culpus, dream catcher earrings, and beaded zipper pull.

They'd like to thank all who gives support to their team.



Members of the Lost in Pace walking group are planning to participate in the annual event August 28 & 29.

Jesus is coming,  
everyone  
look busy.

## Farm Service Agency news

The Farm Service Agency offices located in Prineville and Madras will be closed August 26-28 due to moving to the new Redmond Service Center. The new Redmond office is located at 625 SE Salmon Avenue in Redmond, next to the Redmond Airport. Our office staff will be busy organizing files in the new office August 31-September 4. If you have business to take care of that could wait until the following week, it would be greatly appreciated. To better help our producers during this transition period we will be keeping our current office numbers initially. You can reach the Farm Service Agency by calling any one of these phone numbers:

541-923-4358  
541-447-5171  
541-475-3869

The debt collection act of 1996 mandates that federal payments made after January 1, 1999, shall be made by electronic transfer (Direct Deposit). Currently, any producer or vendor who first becomes eligible for a federal payment after July 25, 1996, is required to receive that payment by means of Direct Deposit. Producers will be required to complete form SF-1199A, or furnish a voided check to authorize the Direct Deposit. Producers are reminded that if you have a change in your financial institution, or account number, please notify the office as soon as possible.

## CRITFC files administrative appeal

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) last week filed an administrative appeal of the proposed Summit Fire salvage project in the Malheur National Forest.

The Forest Service has already scaled back its original proposal after it had been successfully appealed.

Jon Rhodes, Hydrologist for CRITFC who has done extensive analysis of conditions in the John Day River Basin, said, "The bull trout, spring chinook, and steelhead habitat had already been extremely degraded as a result of Forest Service land management practices. The damage before the fire was so bad that virtually all streams in the fire area failed to meet the forest's own standards for habitat conditions and state water quality standards for temperature. This project will only make conditions worse."

The Forest Services legally required to meet the fish habitat standards.

The proposal calls for logging about 3,000 acres-about 4 square miles-in steep roadless areas, reconstructing 130 miles of roads and building six miles of new roads. "Without question," Rhodes said,

"the proposed logging project would do severe short and long term damage to all aquatic resources. The proposed actions will degrade fish habitat and water quality in ways that will last for decades. This project, as currently proposed, flies in the face of efforts to rebuild salmon and steelhead runs in the middle fork of the John Day River. All of the salmonids affected by this project are under consideration for Endangered Species Act listing, proposed for listing, or are already listed. They are severely depressed and badly fragmented. This project will almost certainly contribute to the disappearance of local populations of bull trout, spring chinook and steelhead from area streams. "While the fire did minor additional habitat damage, the amount of logging and the type of logging the Forest Services proposing will do much more harm to water quality and fish habitat, especially sedimentation and water temperature," Rhodes observed.

Although the Forest Service is decommissioning 125 miles of road, sediment generated by this activity combined with salvage logging, new road construction, and road reconstruction will create immediate large

sediment increases in streams already choked with sediment at a time when chinook, steelhead, and bull trout can least afford it.

The Forest Service has argued that the short term impacts of their proposed action on fish habitat conditions may be minor and that long-term impacts of their proposed action on fish habitat conditions may be minor and that long-term conditions will be better as a result. In its appeal, however, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission points out that there is extensive scientific literature and bitter experience demonstrating that the proposed activities will have the same devastating effect on fish habitat that such activities have always had.

The tribal salmon restoration plan, Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi-Wa-Kish-Wit (Spirit of the Salmon), contains a "coarse screening process", for ensuring that land disturbing activities such as logging, road construction, and cattle grazing do not violate fish habitat and water quality standards.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission serves at the behest of the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce Tribes who have treaty-reserved fishing rights in the Columbia River Basin.