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(Coyote News)

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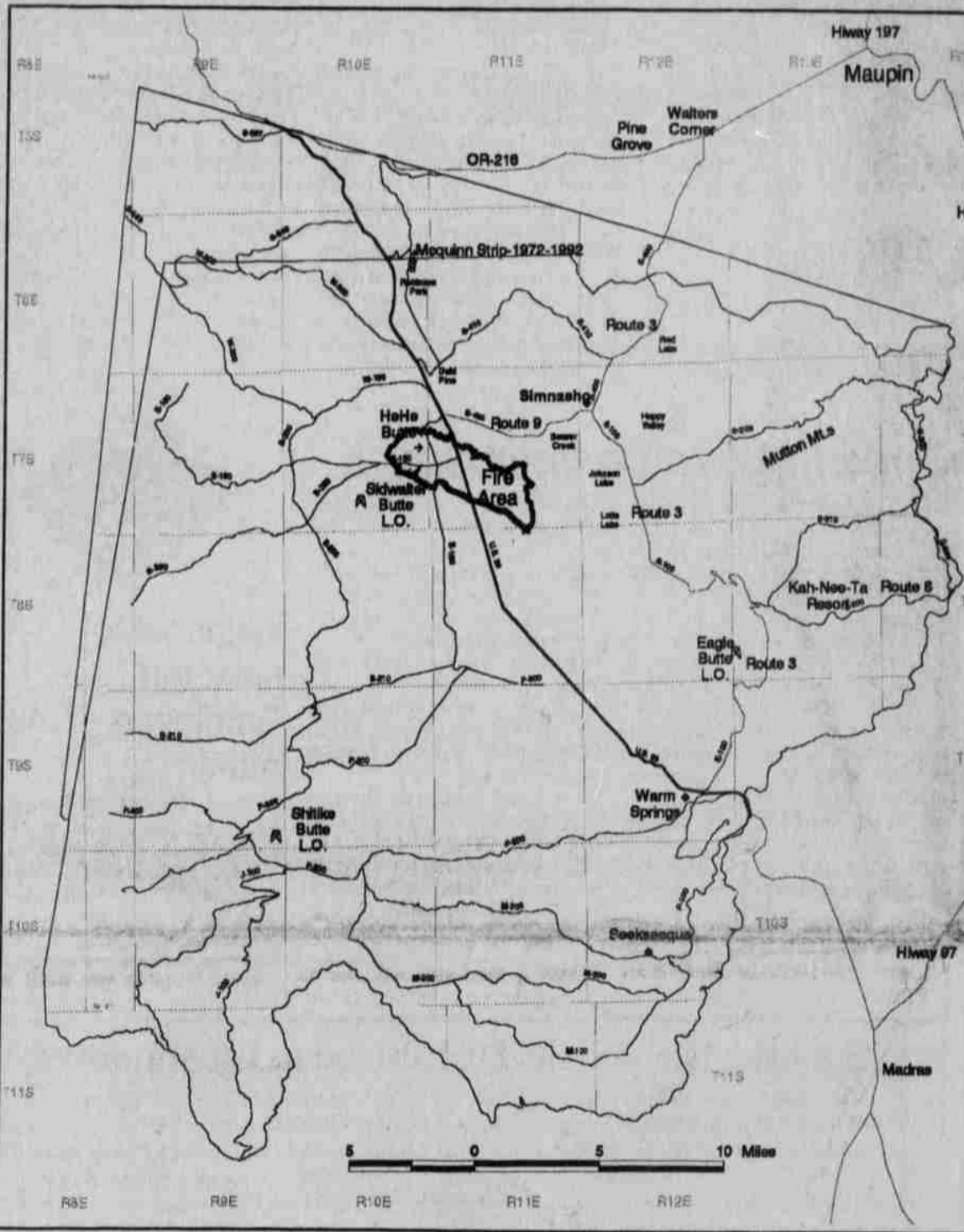
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He He Fire Burns 6,172 Acres of Timber and Grassland



Fire threatened homes, livestock and wildlife in the area. Crews are still mopping up spot burning within the fireline

What started out as a 400 acre prescribed grass burn to clean up the meadow area and enhance more traditional cultural foods. The prescribed burn conducted by the Warm Springs Fire Management Office September 29, instead resulted into 6172 acres 1/3 timber and 2/3 grass of blacken acreage. The range burn surrounded by roads was in prescription with no forecast for winds.

Sparks carried by unexpected winds of up to 15 MPH were the cause for the blaze. By September 30, the He He fire had burned approximately 5000 acres of grass and timber just 14 miles north of Warm Springs, closing Highway 26 and Route 9. Based on successful fire suppression efforts, Fire and Safety officials anticipated opening Highway 26 at 8:00am Friday, October 1. Travelers were asked to please consider other results to minimize impact.

Highway 26 had to be closed from 2:00 am to 8:00 am Saturday morning, Oct. 2, due to an overnight air inversion and the amount of smoke produced by the He He Fire on the Warm Springs Reservation. As visibility neared zero, officials determined that the road had to be closed until the smoke cleared enough for safe travel. "The closing of Highway 26 is a very serious matter," said Tom Andrade, Incident Commander, "and we applaud the efforts of officials with ODOT,

Oregon State Police, and Warm Springs Police and Fire in making this essential decision." If similar conditions exist Sunday morning, the highway could be closed again. Even though the highway had to be closed, the fire had not become any more active than earlier yesterday. The He He Fire is still considered 100% contained, but that does not mean our work is done. A revised acreage calculation has placed the fire size at 6,172 acres, and firefighters will continue to work on the fire, mopping up and resolving safety concerns, for what could be several more days. Again today, there will be approximately 350 personnel working toward putting the fire out. Some of these personnel will be starting to rehabilitate fire line that was constructed to contain the fire. The rehabilitation efforts are very important to the people of Warm Springs Reservation.

Today is the fourth day that our firefighters have been on this fire, and they have all done a great job. All their hard work has paid off and we do appreciate the continued effort. Highway 26 remained open through the morning hours today. Officials determined safe travel was still possible, although smoke from the He He Fire on the Warm Springs Reservation was heavy on the roadway. "Tomorrow morning should be a little more clear," shared Incident Commander, Tom Andrade, "but travelers should still use extreme caution while in the area, or seek an alternate route." Firefighters and equipment will be on the roadway for several more days, so public safety will remain a serious concern. Oregon State Police will continue to heavily patrol the area. Several agencies cooperated to contain the fire at 6,172 acres with

a peak of 384 personnel. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Bureau of Indian Affairs, many private resources, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, National Park Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resource, Colorado Forest Service, and Connecticut Forest Service all played roles in containing He He Fire.

Challenging mop up operations exist in the steep Warm Springs River Canyon. Helicopters and firefighters continue to play important role in holding the fire in the canyon. Extinguishing smokes along Highway 26 is still a priority, and crews are diligently working to make the road safer by the day. Rehabilitation efforts will begin to occupy more personnel time, returning the burned area to as natural a setting as possible.

Good progress was made in the mop up operations on the He He Fire on the Warm Springs Reservation. Firefighters and helicopters spent the day working to put out hot spots near the containment line. Other personnel rehabilitated sections of line that had cooled down enough. Engine crews will be staffing the fire through the night, helping to put out even more hot spots. Personnel will continue working until no hot spots are left. Highway 26 could potentially close again tonight if safety concerns arise. If dense smoke settles on the highway during the night, the road could be closed until morning. Warning signs will be activated in Madras and at the Highway 26 and 216 junction if a closure is ordered. Alternate routes are still advised for travelers because of smoke conditions and emergency equipment traffic.

Simnash District Meeting
Simnasho Longhouse
Monday, October 18, 1999
Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Agenda: 2000 Budget

Agency District Meeting
Agency Longhouse
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Agenda: 2000 Budget

Smith pleads guilty in beating of Warm Springs man

Wamblee Smith, arrested in February in the beating of a 22 year-old Warm Springs man, was sentenced in Federal District Court in Portland, Oregon, Monday, September 27.

The victim, William Suppah, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, is in a nursing home and hasn't recovered from the incident that took place near 1713 Foster St. in the West Hills subdivision.

Smith, 20 years old at the time,

was arrested February 25, following a joint investigation by the Warm Springs Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to the US Attorney's Office, in Portland, Smith agreed to plead guilty to "assault resulting in serious bodily injury." Suppah suffered multiple facial fractures and a severe head injury.

The sentence resulting from this case is four years imprisonment for Smith.

Prescribed fires scheduled for Oct.

Fire Management and the Range and Agriculture Department have scheduled two prescribed fires for the month of October. The goal of both fires is to improve the condition of rangelands.

A 900-acre fire is being planned adjacent to the M-100 Road near the southeast corner of the reservation. Crews will burn this area in an attempt to reduce the density of juniper trees and sagebrush, which should prove beneficial to both perennial and annual grasses.

A 600-acre fire is scheduled for October in the Charley Canyon area, where medusahead has invaded lands once dominated by native bunchgrass. This fire is being funded jointly by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as a watershed enhancement project.

BPA has provided funds totaling \$75,000 for native grass seed that will be planted in this area following the burn. Staff members with the

Range and Agriculture Department will select and plant bunchgrass seed that was once common within Charley Canyon, but has been extensively replaced by invader annuals such as medusahead.

Crews will build a fence to exclude livestock from the burned area to give the bunchgrass an opportunity to mature. Returning these lands to native bunchgrass will benefit wildlife and livestock by providing an improved forage base. It will also enhance watershed conditions by providing better ground cover and soil stability.

Smoke from both the M-100 and Charley Canyon fires will be visible throughout the region. Fire Management personnel will monitor air quality during the fire and try to minimize any impacts the smoke might cause. Crews have been working for the past two months preparing fire lines and burn plans to ensure the protection of tribal resources and public safety.

Tribal Council hopes prioritizing challenges will mean better rate of success

(This is the final article in a 4 part series examining Tribal Council Priorities)

In a time of growing challenges on the Reservation, Tribal Council looked for ways to strengthen their ability to meet the challenges faced by the Tribe. A desire to provide a sound foundation for problem solving and good government led to a set of priorities.

In previous articles, Tribal Council priorities 1 through 6 have been examined. In this, the final article, we will examine priorities 7 through 9.

Priority number 7 is Resource Management. Protecting and using the natural resources is closely tied to the health and prosperity of the Tribes. It is vital that we have accurate information for policy development and to ensure that we understand the consequences of our resources use and management actions.

The desired results of the priority are:

- 1.) Implement a timber sale planning and approval process that can produce approved sales within 6 months while preserving vital forest conditions.
- 2.) Implement a fisheries recovery program to produce harvestable populations of salmon available for Tribal member harvest.
- 3.) Implement resource

management policies and practices that maintain a sustainable use level of resources while optimizing the economic return from the development and use of those resources over the long term.

4.) Provide better information about resource utilization and resource protection and enhancement in the IRMP process.

5.) Plan, approve and place under contract to WSFPI sufficient number of sales to equal 150 mmbf (approximately 3 years worth of sales) in advance.

Priority number 8 is Community Development - Housing. There is a general consensus that housing needs are not being met for individual members or their families. Greater emphasis and effort needs to be placed with rental units, development of private housing and infrastructure that encourages housing development.

The desired results are:

- 1.) Plan, design and build 75 new housing units per year.
- 2.) Determine why Tribal services are not meeting the needs of existing rental tenants or the shelter needs of the homeless. Implement the necessary changes to resolve the problems identified.
- 3.) Develop a Housing Development Plan to determine how many units are to be built annually,

how many will be rental and how many home ownership units, where they will be built, the infrastructure needed and how they will be financed.

4.) Plan, design and install reliable utility delivery systems (water, sewer, power, etc.) and other infrastructure and services (sub-divisions, streets, police & fire protection, etc.) with the capacity to meet the projected growth for the next 10 years for the communities of Warm Springs, Simnasho, Schoolie Flat, Seekseequa and Sidwalter.

5.) Secure funding and complete construction of authorized infrastructure development projects outlined below:

- a. Sanitary Landfill (Solid Waste Disposal Site)
- b. Waste Water Treatment Facility (phase 1)
- c. Elder Care "Assisted Living" Facility
- d. Transportation Projects
- e. Domestic Water Tanks

The final priority is Essential Government Services. The Tribal organization provides a number of essential services that are critical to the health and well-being of individuals and the community as a whole. These services range from law enforcement to education. It appears that these services are sometimes at cross purposes and that

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