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Spilyay Tymoo

(Coyote News)

News from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation

35 cents

IRMP for forested area to expire



Forested land

The Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP) for the Forested Area will expire at the end of this year. Tribal Council made the plan tribal law in 1992 by passing Ordinance 74, which also established the plan's 10-year timeframe.

During the past several months, the IRMP team has been working to develop an updated plan. Meetings have been held with the tribal public, committees and Tribal Council to gather their opinions regarding forest management.

Committee members and individual tribal members provided a good deal of input on the revision to IRMP I. All of the questions that arose during public meetings were answered at the time they were asked. Several staff members were present during each of the meetings, so employees with expertise in all of the resource fields were on hand to answer questions.

All of the comments and questions that were submitted in writing, or provided orally during one of the meetings were written down and reviewed by the IRMP technical team. The comments were then categorized and later condensed. A few of the comments came up on repeated occasions throughout the planning process. They are listed below and accompanied by responses from the technical team.

Comment - Stop clear-cutting.

In a technical sense clear-cuts are no longer being prescribed on the Warm Springs Reservation. Clear-cuts, seed trees, and shelterwoods (regeneration harvests) are methods used to harvest the majority of merchantable trees within a stand, and to start new stands. Each of these methods leaves a different number of ma-

ture trees on the site to provide seed, shelter and shade. The reason for harvesting most of the timber in a single harvest is to generate income, and treat disease, insect infestations, or stands that are not growing up to their potential. The number of trees per acre that are left depends on the quantity, species and placement of healthy trees present in the stand prior to harvest.

When prescribing treatments the primary objective is to provide a healthy environment for the next stand of trees. When a forester visits a timber stand recommended for harvest, they must evaluate the site and the stand conditions. If the stand is heavily diseased, the appropriate treatment would be to leave the few trees not affected by the disease. This is generally called a seed tree (3-9 mature trees per acre left standing). However, if there are several uninfected trees, then more trees will be left and the treatment would be classified as a shelterwood (10 to 25 trees per acre left standing).

In the past, clear-cutting was the primary prescription for regeneration harvest. Harvest was followed by a broadcast burn and then the area was planted. Tribal member comments opposed to clear-cutting led the Forestry Branch to leave some overstory trees, habitat clumps, and patches of young saplings.

Comment - Listen to tribal members.

The IRMP planning team has made a special effort to gather tribal member comments and incorporate them into the updated plan. A 60-day scoping period that began August 5, 1999 initiated the process. Posters were circulated throughout community areas and public notice was

served through the Spilyay Tymoo newspaper and KWSO radio station. Three meetings were held in the fall of 1999 at the longhouses, the team set up an informational booth at the 1999 and 2000 Christmas bazaars, and in the spring of 2000 a series of meetings were held at the Senior Center to gather input from tribal elders. The team then conducted several meetings to gather more input from tribal members at their place of work and a subsequent series of breakfast meetings was held at the Fire Management building to gather input on issues, goals, objectives and standards. When all of the comments were compiled, the team reviewed them and a number of changes were made to the draft plan, including standards for riparian zones, firewood cutting and culturally significant species.

Comment - Consider tradition as well as science.

Many of the resource management goals that guide the Natural Resources and Forestry branches are based on cultural beliefs of the local people, including the practices of harvesting only what is needed and providing for future generations. Much of the cultural integrity of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes is maintained through the gathering and use of natural materials. Cultural plants, for example, are used for food, fiber and medicine. Current use and foreseeable demand for cultural plants is expected to increase due to population growth, shrinking habitat for the plants, and increased tribal interest in cultural heritage. It is important that we manage wisely and take cultural considerations into account. The IRMP team consults with the Culture and Heritage Committee on a wide variety of issues and the team spon-

sored meetings at the Senior Center to gather input on resource management from tribal elders. One example of Forestry's effort to consider traditional uses is evidenced in the practice of harvesting high-elevation timber over snow to protect huckleberry plants.

Comment - Why not cut firewood year around?

The proposal to establish seasons for firewood cutting is based on wildlife and environmental concerns. For the benefit of wildlife, both birds and big game, we have restrictions regarding travel and access from November 1 thru April 30. Many species are mating or producing offspring during this sensitive time, so precautions are taken to protect the animals. Alternatives the staff has considered include providing access to current timber sales where firewood would be available, and hauling logs to the community area for tribal members to cut. The IRMP team has a subgroup that is reviewing this issue and exploring potential alternatives for firewood gathering.

Comment - Enforce standards.

The IRMP team has tried to make the definition of a standard clear. Enforcement of standards for professional staff is carried out through the chain of command, from resource managers up through the Natural Resources General manager and the Chief Operating Officer. Contractors are held accountable by the Forestry Branch, which has the authority to enforce terms of the contract, including provisions to abide by IRMP standards. Private individuals can be held accountable for violations to IRMP standards through pertinent tribal codes, law enforcement and the tribal court.

Continued on page 2

Tribal Council approves 2001 budget

Tribal Council's recent decision to approve a \$26,164,874 budget for 2001 includes directives to find new sources of revenue, achieve permanent base reductions in the budget, and streamlining of tribal government. The \$1.1 million in upcoming budget cuts will include reductions in tribal government programs and services, and a reduction in the number of Tribal Council committees.

Economic hardships brought about by a weak timber market and uncertain prices for hydro-electric power have forced tribal administrators to re-evaluate current conditions and the size of the workforce. Tribal Council is asking government departments and programs to improve efficiency and downsize operations to reflect anticipated revenues.

To insure the target of \$1.1 million in budget cuts is achieved on a permanent basis all vacant positions have been "frozen" and the hiring of permanent staff has been suspended, unless prior approval has been obtained. In addition, 5 percent of every budget unit will be set aside until a permanent reduction strategy and action plan are implemented.

"This next year will be a challenging one," said Secretary-Trea-

surer Charles Jackson. "We are confident, however, that by working together we can fairly and responsibly implement the Tribal Council's direction in a manner that minimizes any financial hardship for tribal members and lays the groundwork for preserving the tribe's financial health over the longer term."

Teams of general managers, directors and other staff have been appointed to explore avenues for improving efficiency. These teams are expected to develop strategies and action plans that will meet budget objectives by generating new revenues, downsizing government and making profitable new investments.

The teams are currently exploring potential reductions in Tribal Council committee expenditures, an increase in the fee charged for fishing permits, economic development opportunities, a lodging tax at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, a plan for tribal construction to bid on off-reservation projects, an early retirement plan, and the potential of obtaining additional outside funding for tribal government programs, to name a few.

Presentations of team findings will be made to Tribal Council throughout the first quarter of 2001.

ITA President elected

Mike Clements, General Manager of the Business Economic Development branch was elected president of the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 6, 2000. The presidency is a two-year term and works in conjunction with a fifteen (15)-member board of tribal representatives across the United States.

The Intertribal Transportation Association is a non-profit 501 ©(3) corporation incorporated in the State of Oregon. The association's office and personnel are located in Stillwater, Oklahoma under the direction of Executive Director, David McKinney. The association was formed in 1993 at a meeting in Denver, Colorado. The Articles of Organization and By-Laws were finalized and filed with the State of Oregon in February 1994. The purpose of the organization is to foster the development, operation and maintenance of transportation systems of American Indian Tribes. All federally recognized tribes are eligible to join the association's general membership by paying a one hundred dollar (\$100) fee. At present, the association has

seventy-eight (78) member tribes and is looking to grow in the coming years with the enactment of the newly implemented Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. This act provides the opportunity for many tribes and Indian communities to start getting involved with transportation programs.

The new president says, "I am proud to be elected into this honorary role." Clements states it took the support of his supervisor (Jody Calica), Tribal Council action, and his family to support his candidacy. "It is an honor to represent our people and Tribal Organization in leading a national organization such as ITA." Some of Mike's personal goals are to help the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and it's people, and Indian people in Indian Country, to sustain themselves and their communities. This is one way he believes our tribe and he himself can help contribute positively to the needs of Indian people around the country. Mike says he looks forward to working with the people in the association in the days to come.

Stabbing under investigation

The Warm Springs Police Department in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation is conducting an investigation into the stabbing and resulting serious injury of a Burns Paiute man. On January 3, 2001 at about 7:50 p.m. officers and detectives stopped a vehicle that was reported to have a stabbing victim on board. David J. Peck, 29 of Burns was taken to Mountain View Hospital where he was stabilized and flown by

Air Life to St. Charles Medical Center. On January 5, Mr. Peck was taken into custody by the United States Marshals Service for an outstanding federal warrant and transported by ambulance to an undisclosed location for further treatment of his injuries. The suspect in the stabbing, Barbie Jackson, 20, of Warm Springs, was taken into custody at the scene and lodged in the Warm Springs jail. The investigation continues.

The Museum set education classes

January and February education opportunities at The Museum at Warm Springs are designed for the general public and for Tribal Members.

On "no school days" students and their parents are invited to participate in designing and making Gift Cards with a January 15 workshop on Drawing, following on January 26 with a Calligraphy class. Everyone will have Gift Cards to take home when the classes are completed. On February 19, the Presidents Holiday, the class will be on Beaded Dream Catchers. All of these classes are 9-4 at The Museum. The Museum provides all the supplies.

Tribal Members are invited to participate in a class on Corn Husk Bag Weaving on every Monday and Tuesday in January, 5-9 p.m. taught by Rosalind Sampson. In the first week of February, 5-9 p.m. Martinez Charles will teach a course on Bustles including making them new, repairs and reconstruction. These classes are only open to Tribal Members. Fees for classes are \$30 for non-museum members, \$25 for members of The Museum and \$20 for Tribal members who get an additional 10 percent if they are Museum members. For information on becoming a Museum Member, call Rosalind Sampson at 553-3331.

Chinook salmon returns

Spring Chinook salmon returned to the Warm Springs River in record numbers this year. The wild return of spinglers was 2,705 as of October 1, shattering the previous modern record of 1,867 set in 1990.

Almost all of the wild fish that entered the Warm Springs were allowed to pass upstream of the hatchery and access their natural spawning grounds. Hatchery personnel passed 2,630 of the wild adults and kept the remaining 75 for artificial propagation.

Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery also welcomed a bumper crop of adult spring chinook that were raised at the facility and released as juveniles. A total of 6,745 hatchery fish had made it back to the facility by October, topping the previous

standard of 2,538 set in 1989. As a result of the record run, 5,612 hatchery fish were provided to the Confederated Tribes for consumption. Another 159 fish were transported to Shitike Creek, where they were released to spawn naturally. Round Butte Hatchery, which did not have a good year, received 159 fish and the remainder of the hatchery run was kept for Warm Springs hatchery brood stock.

Employees at the Warm Springs hatchery said the record run was the product of favorable environmental conditions and a group effort locally. They said the Fish and Wildlife Committee, Salmon Corps, fire crews and Natural Resources staff all contributed to this year's successful run.

The Museum At Warm Springs

invites you to attend the opening

reception of the

"Tribal Youth Creations"

An exhibit of artwork from

Warm Springs Tribal Youth

Thursday, January 11, 2001

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

in the Changing Exhibits Gallery