

## Eugene 'Cougar' Greene ...

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Greene was extremely active in Warm Springs, but his influence was not limited to his hometown. He served as chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), as an alternate panel member on the Pacific Salmon Commission, as a member of the technical advisory committee to U.S. v. Oregon, and as the regional representative to the Oregon Wildlife Federation. In recent years Greene was an influential spokesman for the Confederated Tribes, dealing primarily with off-reservation fish and wildlife issues. He was a man noted for his work ethic and integrity.

Reflecting on the early years that shaped his beliefs, he once recalled: "The family unit was close and everybody worked and played together. Protection of the natural resources such as the range and forests was in part the responsibility of the members of the tribes. Hunting and fishing were not restricted ... we only took what we needed for subsistence or a ceremony." "Many people became role models, especially the elders, who were constantly teaching me of the old ways of our people. My family and grandparents had a great influence on what I do today based on their teachings."



Eugene 'Cougar' Greene

Even after suffering a debilitating stroke in 1981, he continued his work in a diligent and effective manner, earning respect and admiration from a new generation of resource managers. While Greene was always a dedicated and hard-working member of the Natural Resources staff, he also possessed a fun-loving characteristic that manifested itself in the form of pranks and practical jokes. Once the straight-faced punch line was delivered, Greene would lean back in his padded office chair and dawn the devilish smile that became

a trademark. When the joke was particularly pleasing, he would break into a contagious laughter that soon infected everyone within earshot.

Greene's body was buried at Simnasho Cemetery on November 4, 1999, but the spirit he displayed in standing up for tribal rights, for healthy watersheds, and for harvestable salmon populations will live on at the Fish and Wildlife Department, and in the many hearts he touched during a long and distinguished career.

The inscription on the plaque being placed in the Eugene Greene Sr. Natural Resource Building reads, "This building is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Eugene Greene Sr. 'Cougar.' Gene devoted his career to the people of the Warm Springs Reservation and to the protection of their natural resources, the advocacy of Warm Springs treaty rights, tribal sovereignty and Native American traditions. In thirty years of distinguished tribal service, Gene held the positions of Natural Resources director, Tribal Council chairman, Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission chairman, Fish and Wildlife Committee chairman and United States/Canada Pacific Fisheries Commission member. May the spirit of his work continue to guide and inspire us."



Photo by Jerry Bruno

Joe Moses speaks with Adeline Miller (left) and Viola Kalama after being sworn in by Tribal Council.

## Opinions differ on successor

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Staff

In an action that is controversial among Paiute tribal members, Joe Moses on Monday, July 23, was sworn in as the new Chief of the Seekseequa District.

The action, Moses said, was made pursuant to a 1986 district resolution, providing for the designation by the Paiute Chief of a sub-chief. Some Paiute tribal members welcomed Moses' swearing-in.

Some others, though, have voiced strong criticism of the action.

Moses was sworn in as chief by acting Agency Superintendent Cheryl Lohman. She had been asked to administer the oath by the two Seekseequa District council members, Brenda Scott and Moses.

Supporters and critics of Moses' assumption of the chieftainship discussed the issue on Wednesday night, July 25, during a meeting of Seekseequa District members. Close to 70 people were on hand for the gathering.

During the meeting, several people said that the district should wait one year before choosing a new chief.

During that year, some suggested, another Paiute representative could be chosen to serve on the Tribal Council, so that the Seekseequa District would still have three representatives, rather than the two left with the passing of the late Chief Vernon Henry.

On the other hand, Moses and his supporters, including Councilwoman Brenda Scott and family members of the late Chief Henry, said they did not feel that a year should pass before the new chief is chosen.

Instead, Moses said, the district members decided the issue of the successor to Chief Henry back in 1986.

No consensus was reached at the Wednesday night district meeting, and opponents of Moses' swearing-in as new chief are planning further action. Delford Johnson said that he and others might seek to discuss the matter with Tribal Council.

Meanwhile, Moses and his supporters are planning to hold the chieftainship crowning ceremony on Aug. 3, at the He He Longhouse, said Councilwoman Scott.

Joe Moses has been on the Tribal Council for a little over nine years, having been elected in March to his fourth 3-year term.

The position of chief, he said shortly after the Monday swearing-in, will involve much more responsibility than that of councilman. "And it is something that I take very seriously," he said.

This week, because Moses was sworn in as chief, his position on the Tribal Council came open. Carol Wewa is next in line to fill this position. Wewa received the third most Seekseequa District votes in the council election earlier this



Joe Moses

year. Moses and councilwoman Scott were first and second.

At the meeting on Wednesday, Wewa was among those who encouraged the district officials to wait one year before choosing the new chief. Wewa emphasized that she was not personally against the idea of Moses eventually becoming chief, if that is what the district members want.

But, she said, the position of chief should remain vacant for a year out of respect for Chief Henry. After a year's time, she and others said, the district members should choose the successor, whether that be Moses or someone else.

### Earlier disagreement

Until the passing of the late Chief Henry, the last time that a vacancy existed in the Paiute chieftainship was in the mid-1980s, following the death, at age 67, of Chief Nick Kalama.

Chief Kalama passed away in November 1985. About a year went by before the Paiute people chose Vernon Henry as the new chief. The process of choosing the new chief was not an easy one, as different people felt strongly in favor of different nominees.

The difference of opinion was evident in the results of the January 1987 election, during which the new Paiute chief was chosen.

In that vote, the late Chief Vernon Henry received 34 votes; Wilson Wewa Jr., 22 votes, and Karen Wallulatam, 19. Also, Wendell Jim received 13 votes; Raymond Johnson Jr., 13 votes, and Joe Moses, two write-in votes.

The diversity of opinion regarding who should be the new Paiute chief was not new in the 1987 election, as the election of Chief Kalama in 1975 also involved strong feelings among Paiute tribal members for different nominees.

In the present day, as the position of chief again has become vacant, the diversity of opinion again is evident. The issue can be a contentious one, involving much family history among the local Paiute residents.

At the meeting on Wednesday, the history and language of the Paiute people, along with the chieftainship issue, were main topics of discussion.

### Issue of sub-chief

One of the key issues involved in choosing a new Paiute chief is the position of the "sub-chief." Moses and his supporters say that the Paiute sub-chief position was created by a district resolution in December of 1986.

At that time, the members were meeting to name the various nominees to serve as chief, a position left vacant the previous year by the death of Chief Kalama.

Because of the level of contention involved in choosing a new chief, some members suggested the creation of the "sub-chief" position, to "save us from having to go through this same procedure again ...," as one person said, according to the minutes of the meeting.

The people at the meeting suggested various ways of choosing the sub-chief. The person who was elected chief, for instance, could choose someone to be sub-chief. Or the person receiving the second-most votes for chief could be the sub-chief.

Eventually, some time following the election, Chief Henry named Joe Moses as the sub-chief.

The important question then becomes: What is the role of the sub-chief when the chief passes away? Does the sub-chief become the new chief for life? Or does he serve as chief for an interim period, until the Paiute members choose a permanent new chief? Or neither of these?

Moses and others believe that the intent of the people in creating the position of sub-chief was to avoid having to go through the difficult nomination and election process, which in the past created hard feelings among some residents.

On the other hand, some members — Delford Johnson, Wilson Wewa Jr., and some others who spoke at the Wednesday night meeting — feel that Paiute tribal members should choose the new chief.

Myra Shawaway also suggested that the position of chief again be determined by heredity to the earliest local Paiute chiefs.

### Importance of chieftainship

In the government of the Confederated Tribes, there is no position more respected than that of chief. The chiefs of the three tribes vote equally with other members of the Tribal Council, but they also serve a unique purpose.

"The three chiefs provide continuity on the Council," said Olney Patt Jr., chairman of the Council. Every three years, tribal members vote on eight of the 11 Council positions, so it is possible to have a nearly complete turnover of the council every three years.

The chiefs, though, serve for life, and thereby ensure a continuity in leadership. "And another aspect of the chiefs," Patt said, "is that they express the confederacy of the three tribes."

## Firefighters contain blaze

A fire ignited by lightning recently burned across 1,675 acres of forest and rangeland in the southwest area of the reservation.

The Bald Peter fire was completely contained last Thursday evening, July 19, seven days after its ignition on the evening of July 12.

The blaze consumed sub-alpine fir, lodgepole pine and brush. Many of the trees burned were already dead from insect infestation, according to a report from Warm Springs Fire Management.

An assessment of the dollar value of the lost timber was not available earlier this week.

The Bald Peter fire burned across reservation acreage to the north of Camp Sherman and Sisters, near Mt. Jefferson. Firefighters established a base camp at the Ellingham Guard Station near Camp Sherman.

In all, 800 firefighter personnel were called to the scene. Fire crews employed dozens of engines and dozers in fighting the Bald Peter blaze.

During its early stage, the Bald Peter fire was difficult to fight. Strong wind gusts and a high concentration of heavy fuels posed the most serious challenges to the response crews. Wind gusts were recorded at 30 mph during the first full day of the fire.

The high concentration of per-

sonnel and equipment, and the difficult terrain — fallen trees and loose boulders — were also of concern to fire officials. Fortunately, the only injury reported was a very minor burn to a firefighter's hand.

A focus of the fire-suppression effort at the Bald Peter blaze was the protection of valuable stands of large timber, including habitat of the northern spotted owl. Protection of water quality was also a priority, as the fire burned in the basins of Jefferson Creek, Whitewater River and the Metolius River, habitat of endangered bull trout.

The area that burned was at the 5,000 to 6,000 foot elevation levels. A special response team — called a BAER team, for Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation — was called to the scene of the fire.

The goal of the BAER team is to develop and implement a plan to mitigate the suppression impacts and the fire effects on natural and cultural resources.

The team consists of an archaeologist, foresters, geographic information specialists, operations specialists, hydrologists, a fish biologist, planning specialist, documentation specialist, and a team leader.

The team focuses on effects of the fire and the suppression effort on vegetation, soils, watershed conditions, sedimentation potential, cul-

tural and timber resources.

The firefighting agencies that responded to the Bald Peter fire included Warm Springs Fire Management, the BIA, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, Jefferson County Fire District and sheriff's office, plus contract crews.

The Central Oregon Interagency Incident Management Team, with the Warm Springs Tribes and the BIA, coordinated the response.

The Bald Peter fire was one of several that began on either July 11 or 12, days when lightning storms were present in Central Oregon. Within the two-day period, crews responded to nearly 40 fires in the region.

Besides the Bald Peter fire, another large blaze in the region happened to the east of the reservation. A series of fires, called the Grass Valley complex, burned on BLM land near Grass Valley and the Big Muddy Ranch.

These fires, caused by lightning, were located in Wasco, Jefferson and Sherman counties. The Ferry Canyon fire, near Maupin, burned across nearly 10,000 acres.

The Wagner fire, over 7,000 acres in size, burned in southern Wasco and northern Jefferson counties. No structures were threatened by any of the blazes.

to woodcutters, including areas with ponderosa pine and areas being prepared for timber sales that are currently off limits. Others thought woodcutters should have to attend an educational meeting to learn more about regulations and forest management.

Most of the people who attended the meetings thought firewood and other special forest products should be managed primarily for tribal member use. Most of the speakers who offered opinions said these products should be harvested by tribal members for tribal members.

There were no comments specifically addressing options for the annual allowable cut. The options differ in volume by approximately 2 million board feet of annual harvest. The Forestry Branch is advocating the middle option, which would result in an annual allowable cut of 37.6 million board feet. Regeneration harvests would leave an average of 10 mature trees per acre on site under this option. There would be no programmed harvest in the ponderosa pine zone.

A complete list of comments offered by tribal members during the meetings may be obtained by contacting Bill Rhoades in the Natural Resources building, or by calling 553-2013.

## 2003 timber sale draws comment

Tribal members from all three districts offered comments on forest management issues during meetings held July 5 and 9 at Agency Longhouse and July 11 at Simnasho Longhouse.

Representatives of the Forestry and Natural Resources branches made presentations on the 2003 timber sale, special forest products and the annual allowable cut. The team was seeking input from tribal members regarding the area being considered for the 2003 sale, options for the annual allowable cut that were recently calculated by the Forestry Planning Department, and permits for special products such as firewood, boughs, cones and beargrass.

The proposal for 2003 is to harvest approximately 50 million board feet of timber from the northern portion of the reservation in the vicinity of Clackamas Meadows and the Skyline Road. The objective would be to prioritize harvest based on health and value, which means merchantable trees that are diseased or overcrowded would be taken first. Maps of the area and proposed treatments were highlighted in the staff presentations, but specific units had not been selected because the team leaders were waiting to gather opinions from tribal members.

Comments that followed the pre-

sentation were varied, but two issues that have been mentioned frequently in the past surfaced again. There was a comment to stop clear-cutting and several references to cultural plants. Tribal members are concerned about huckleberries in the proposed sale area and are asking foresters to take protective measures that will ensure a productive future.

Members of the Forestry staff told the audience there are ways to harvest trees without damaging huckleberry plants and some of these methods have been used successfully in the past. Harvesting trees when snow overtops the berry plants and thinning to provide shaded openings have allowed huckleberries to survive and even prosper following timber harvest.

There were mixed reactions to the idea of wintering logging, but members of the audience were receptive to the idea of planning timber harvests to have minimal impacts on cultural plants. Comments regarding special forest products were often in the form of questions. Tribal members wanted to know what type of plants were being harvested and at what levels.

Firewood is a controversial issue and there were a variety of opinions on how to manage this resource. Some felt more areas should be open