

At site of Celilo



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The Tribal Elders Celilo Picnic included comments from tribal leaders from throughout the region. In the photo above, Wilfred Yallup, representing the Celilo community, speaks of the deteriorating health of the Columbia. The build-up of silt in the river is an increasingly serious problem, said Yallup.

Tribes open summer chinook sales

Sales to public through July 31

For the first time in 35 years, treaty tribes of the Columbia River basin are selling targeted summer chinook salmon to the public.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes – Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce – proposed the open commercial sales of platform and hook-and-line caught summer chinook, steelhead, sockeye, walleye and carp.

The Columbia River Compact, consisting of representatives of the states of Oregon and Washington, agreed to the proposal.

The sales are from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m. through July 31. This provides a unique opportunity for fishing on the largest summer chinook return on the Columbia since the late 1950s.

The last commercial sale of tribal-caught targeted summer chinook was

in 1965.

The summer chinook count at Bonneville dam is expected to reach 145,000.

Under an agreement with the federal and state governments, the tribes can harvest 5 percent of the projected salmon run, or a total of about 7,250 fish. The projected summer chinook catch for treaty platform and hook-and-line fisheries is about 1,520 fish.

The remainder of the allowable catch will be taken through gillnets and used for tribal subsistence and ceremonial purposes.

The sockeye forecast is 41,000, according to information from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Under the same agreement, the harvest rate for treaty fisheries for sockeye also is 5 percent. An estimated 1,800 will be caught, according to the commission.

Under the treaties of 1855, the Columbia River tribes reserved the right to fish at all usual and accus-

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tomated fishing places in the Columbia River basin.

The fishing right includes ceremonial, subsistence and commercial fisheries.

Over the bank sales help tribal fishers support their families, and make it possible to continue a traditional livelihood.

Tribal sellers can be found at various locations between Bonneville Dam and McNary Dam. Major sales locations include the Marine Park at Cascade Locks, Lone Pine at The Dalles, and the boat launch near Roosevelt, Wash.

Buyers should bring sufficient ice and coolers to keep fish fresh. Sales are cash only.

Call 888-289-1855 for information regarding locations, special events, season dates and times.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is the technical support and coordinating agency for fishery management policies of the four Columbia River basin treaty tribes.

Soliz collecting job rate figures

Marcia Soliz, community employment liaison services manager for the Confederated Tribes, is gathering information on tribal member employment.

When all major work centers on the reservation submit their monthly employment lists as requested, she will calculate an accurate rate of employment.

These work centers include Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Casino, Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, the tribal organization, and Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

Other areas that impact the data are higher education. "This is so we will know who is not available for full-time work due to being in college or vocational school," said Soliz.

It is important that all work centers participate in this project. "One area not submitting their monthly list can throw off the entire tribal member unemployment rate."

In her job as community employment liaison, Soliz is devoting initial efforts toward identifying what the current situation looks like: the present workforce experience, education and skill; the future workforce, meaning what is coming in the future

as far as population; and moving toward job creation to provide work and training opportunities. She can be reached at 553-3298.

Course teaches hunter safety

The Natural Resources Department is offering a five-day Hunters Safety course beginning July 30.

The course will require approxi-

mately 20 hours to complete and successful participants will receive a Hunters Safety certificate.

The certificate is required for youth under 18 years of age who hunt on tribal ceded lands.

Participants must be at least 12 years of age and must attend all classes in order to earn the certificate.

The course is limited to 20 participants, so early sign-up is being encouraged.

Interested parties should register at the Eugene Greene Sr. Natural Resources Building. Classes will be held July 30, Aug. 1, 6, 7 and 8. Classes are held 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., except Aug. 7, which last from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kah-Nee-Ta offering two scholarships

Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino is offering a scholarship program for tribal members who are pursuing secondary education.

Kah-Nee-Ta is now accepting applications for its new scholarship program.

Any member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, who is attending an accredited secondary institute, is eligible for a scholarship through this program.

Two scholarships – each \$250 – will be awarded, one to a male tribal member and one to a female tribal member.

Winning candidates will be selected based on their responses to a series of essay questions and by letters of reference.

Applications are available at the Warm Springs Education Office and the Madras High School Aspire Program.

Deadline for applications is August 16. For more information contact the Kah-Nee-Ta Human Resources Department at 553-1112.

Land-use positions open

Two positions are open on the Confederated Tribes Land-Use Planning Committee. This committee serves as an advisory body to the Tribal Council in the determination of maximum utilization of land. Authority to grant/deny conditional use permits in accordance with Ord. 56. Review and recommend Comprehensive Plan annual changes; zoning ordinance changes; land assignments cancellations; and sites for housing, business, industrial development.

If you are interested, please submit a resume and a letter of interest before Aug. 2, 2002, to: Tribal Council Office, Attention Roberta Tufti, P.O. Box 1299, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Letter of interest should state your interest in serving, and your background, such as education, work experience and training, etc.

The letter is important in this process.

Assessments address natural resource uses

By Bill Rhoades
For Spilyay Tymoo

The Resource Management Interdisciplinary Team (RMIDT) has released two project assessments for public review. Both of the assessments are programmatic in nature, meaning they provide guidelines for managing specific projects for a period of 6-10 years.

One of the assessments addresses pre-commercial thinning, mistletoe treatments and underburning, while the other deals with renewable natural resources commodities.

The Renewable Natural Resources Commodities Project Assessment provides for the use of products produced on the forest and rangelands such as Christmas trees, firewood, posts, poles, and cones, to name a few.

The objective of this project is to accommodate personal and commercial harvest of renewable natural resource commodities, while providing adequate protection for all affected resources.

Increased demand for renewable natural resources commodities has been driven in recent years by high rates of unemployment, changing demographics (including increased regional population), more interest from investors, and a desire to diversify economically.

The need to develop standards and best management practices and regulate collection of renewable natural resources commodities became apparent at a time when a significant increase in demand raised concerns for conserving resources and maintaining sustainable levels of the products being harvested.

Inventories do not exist for all of the renewable natural resources commodities being considered under the project assessment.

In some cases regional data is lacking and more often than not details regarding distribution and abundance on the reservation have yet to be researched. For these and other reasons, the Natural Resources and Forestry branches are recommending a conservative approach towards the management of all commodities, at least until adequate information has been compiled on issues such as abundance, sustainability, demand and market trends.

The management strategy for renewable natural resources commodities will be adaptive, taking advantage of new information as it becomes available. Monitoring and evaluation will provide much new information in the years ahead, but information gaps may be filled from outside sources as deemed necessary.

Management strategies developed under this plan are intended to ensure: 1) resource protection is consistent with current management goals and objectives, including those found in the Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP); 2) a sustainable long-term supply of desired products; and 3) appropriate and consistent administration of the program, including a system to collect fees and cover the costs of administration.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide opportunities for use of these resources at sustainable levels, while meeting environmental concerns and providing a plan to monitor plant species affected by harvests.

Standards and BMPs should ultimately establish acceptable harvest levels for various forest products, acceptable collection methods, measures needed to protect other resource values, and locations where harvest will be allowed. The project assessment analyzes a harvest that could occur over the entire reservation.

The Pre-commercial Thinning/Dwarf Mistletoe Control/Underburning and Mowing Project Assessment provides an overview of three ongoing programs within the Natural Resources and Forestry branches.

One purpose of the proposed action is to reduce the severity of dwarf mistletoe in the commercial forest and

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to allow younger and healthier stands to reach maturity. Another is to reduce fuel loads and competition among young trees through underburning and mowing. Mowing will also be used to reduce the risk of fire around rural home sites. A third aspect of the proposed action is to use pre-commercial thinning to improve forest health and growth characteristics.

General areas are described in the

cutting (the ponderosa pine zone is closed to ponderosa pine cutting).

The resolution approving salvage of beetle-killed trees includes special provisions stating the approval is only good for one year, the salvage forester and wildlife biologist will work together in selecting trees for harvest, data will be produced supporting the area's snag requirement, and the project area will be surveyed to determine the current density of snags.

Another categorical exclusion was approved to allow crews an opportunity to apply a bituminous seal coat on roads within the Warm Springs community. The seal coat will improve road surfaces in and around the community.

Timber salvage, road projects OK'd