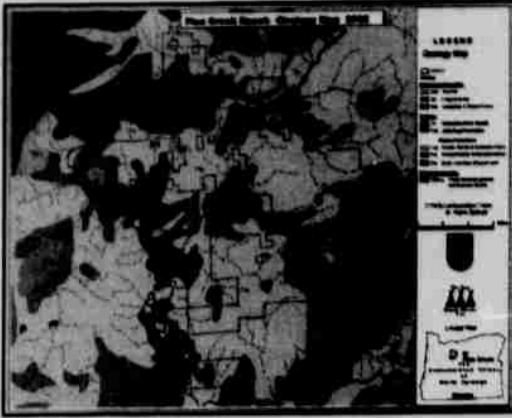


Ranch: tribes have reputation for stewardship of land

TOP: Geological map of the Pine Creek Ranch displays current unique distribution of land. Landowners, BLM and the tribes are working to consolidate lands to make public land more accessible. The land exchanges, which could happen fairly soon through legislation, are beneficial to both the public and landowners, who end up with larger blocks of accessible land.

BOTTOM: Ron Suppah, Sr of the Tribal Council and Charles Jackson, secretary treasurer, chat near one of many pictograph sites at Pine Creek Ranch.



Shannon Keaveny/Spiiyay

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Land consolidation that requires some trading between neighboring private landholders and the Bureau of Land Management is pressing to happen soon. The outcome won't effect landmass, or riverfront access but instead transfer random land chunks, surrounded on all sides by tribal land and owned by non-tribal members, to the exterior boundaries. See map depiction of current land distribution.

Berry struggles the most with invasive plant species, such as yellow star thistle and Russian knapweed. These plants, explained Berry, can degrade wildlife habitat and watershed health by outcompeting native plants.

Livestock grazing is limited, under the terms of the Tribe's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with BPA, but can be used under some circumstances as a management tool.

That, said Berry, could happen soon. He explained, "Some of the first uses of livestock will probably be on a BLM grazing allotment associated with the ranch. Other possibilities could be target grazing for control of noxious weed populations."

The current ranch was purchased in 1999, and expanded in 2001 with acquisition of the neighboring Wagner Ranch, by the Warm Springs tribes with funds provided by the BPA as part of

"A lot of people who visit the ranch are surprised to learn how much work the tribes do to protect natural resources throughout their ceded lands."

Mark Berry
Manager of ranch

their mitigation.

BPA is mandated to compensate fish and wildlife habitat losses caused by Columbia River dams with other projects that enhance river systems in other areas. BPA chose Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs as stewards to implement a natural resource management plan on the huge spread of land.

The tribes have a history of good stewardship on their reservation and ceded lands to ensure the protection of water quality, riparian vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and therefore, cultural resources. In 1986, tribal adoption of Resolution 7410 mandated all resource management decisions would officially follow these conservation guidelines.

Their reputation appealed to BPA's obligation to offset wildlife habitat

losses in that area caused by the John Day Dam on the Columbia River.

Pine Creek has historically been overgrazed by cattle and felt the woes of conventional chemical agriculture. The result is an ecosystem that now battles non-native annual grasses, flourishing juniper groves, rapidly spreading noxious weeds, channeling of streams, dwindling native salmon runs, diminishing elk and deer populations, and severely eroded riparian zones.

Berry, employed and living at the ranch for the last two years, is happy to see "tourists" passing by and stopping to read the educational signs at the entrance of the ranch on Highway 218 that he helped the project create.

The Warm Springs ranch tour jumps from site to site and listens as he explains the ranch's progress.

"There was a count of 12 steelhead this year," he says of Pine Creek, "and now we're going to expand this culvert."

Due to the ecological devastation of the past, the desired project goal could take decades but progress, as Berry proudly relates, is already being made. Once there, the tribes will continue to manage it "in perpetuity."

Tribal members can visit the ranch at any time. The drive is about one and half hours from Warm Springs. For more information, contact Mark Berry at 489-3477.

Warm Springs issues first 401 certification

After nearly 8 years of negotiations with EPA, the tribes exercise their right as a sovereign nation to legislate their own water rights

Shannon Keaveny
Spiiyay Tymoo

In August, The Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs became the first Oregon tribe to issue a section 401 Clean Water Act Certification.

Portland General Electric and the Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs were the recipients of the certificate for the Pelton-Round Butte Hydroelectric Project.

The ability to issue certification for the Clean Water Act "gives leverage to the tribe to make sure water, ecosystems, and fisheries are protected," said Deepak Sehgal, tribal environmental office director.

In 1999 the Confederated Tribes were delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish and manage water on the reservation. The authority includes the waters of the Deschutes River and Metolius River.

The Tribes jurisdiction, explains Sehgal, is similar to the state of Oregon's Department of Environmental Affairs regulation of state waters.

The difference, he added, is now we can make our own standards that are more likely to include cultural and resource values. "We can establish stricter policy. It is up to us, as a sovereign nation, to make that decision."

Such water regulatory authority is rare among tribes across the U.S. Only 14 other tribes have the authority. Warm Springs is the only tribe among Oregon's 9 federally recognized tribal governments to gain this authority.

The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla is expected to follow the tribes of Warm Springs example.

Staff at tribal Natural Resources began working on the water quality standards in the mid-1990s. Formal approval in October, 2001 of the tribes' water quality standards was a milestone in management of the natural resources of the reservation.

Approval of the standards is one component of a broader water management plan that was initiated decades ago.

"We've been managing our water resources since the 1960s" said Sehgal.

Boys and Girls Club offers best deal in town

After school programs draw largest groups in the region

By Shannon Keaveny
Spiiyay Tymoo

For 82 cents a month, Warm Springs parents can send their children to a safe, cultural and interesting place.

The Boys and Girls Club of Warm Springs, which opened in May 2001, hosts up to 75 kids between the ages of 6 and 18 years old after school with numbers growing.

Frank Smith, director of the Boys and Girls Club says, "We have the highest number of kids in the region. By winter, I expect to have 125 kids."

Smith thinks kids like it there

because they like the staff.

He explains, "Children feel safer when they are in a supervised situation. We teach three elements of respect and at first some have trouble but then they come around."

Good behavior is also encouraged with Club Bucks, coupon money that can be used in the store. The store sells healthy snacks and school supplies.

The club's participants have a variety of options to choose from.

Power Hour is dedicated to after school studying. Tutors, teacher aides, and snacks are provided.

Often high school students come before an exam, says Smith.

Last Friday, the seasonal fishing club began. Open to all age groups, club members are taught how to fish and clean their fish, proper safety measures, cook fish on an open fire, and

the tradition of giving.

They fish at areas on the Deschutes River, the Warm Springs River, and reservation lakes. Tribal member treaty fishing rights are related.

Smith notes, "It is important our kids know they have no fish limit but, at the same time, just take what you need. Also, their permits are free with proper tribal identification."

The youngest in the fishing group can learn the basics of how to cast and tie their hooks. "It is fun, good exercise, plus they learn a life skill," stated Smith.

Other fall clubs offered at The Boys and Girls Club are the Torch Club, for ages 11-13, and the Keystone Club, for ages 14-18, where kids learn good leadership and character building; and basketball, starting on Nov. 1, including a basketball clinic to learn basics, such as dribbling.

Smith and his staff are currently working on getting the

supplies to build a sweat lodge and prepare for the next cultural season, oral storytelling. Club members will build the lodge.

"Our people learn from the stories we tell and we hope to incorporate it into the sweat lodge," explains Smith about his hopes for some community involvement in the sweats. "In our grant for the Boys and the Girls Club, teaching culture is supposed to be a part of all our programs. We hope some of the community leaders will help us do that with the sweat lodge."

The Boys and Girls Club has a staff of five. Three of the employees are newly hired. Their names are Jim Sanderville, education coordinator; Anthony Mitchell, Jr., game room coordinator; Gean Sampson, gym coordinator.

School: teacher contract ratified

(Continued from page 1)

"Things are going to get worse, either way we will take a cut," he added.

The state, he explained, is projecting a \$1.5 billion shortfall in the next biennium. Next summer the certified staff (teachers) and classified staff contracts expire. 509-J will have to renegotiate two union contracts.

"We don't know what they will ask for yet," said Riley

Also, he added, "The district has no reserve funds, in particular for the Warm Springs school."

Teacher contract ratified

Aside from discussing budget cuts, 509-J Board of Directors ratified their teacher's contract

at their last bi-monthly meeting.

The district agreed to pay \$620 per teacher each month, amounting to over \$7,000 per teacher every year. In return, teachers gave up their insurance prescription cards.

Perhaps, the biggest change was the board's agreement to eliminate teachers early retirement plan. The plan was an incentive for long-term teachers to retire prematurely with financial benefits. Position openings were then filled with younger, less expensive teachers.

Teachers hired after Dec.31, 1994 gave up their early retirement plan in exchange for Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) in which the 509-J will pay \$10 per month.

THE CHINOOK ROOM

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CAKE
and omelets and crab legs and fresh salads
and Asian grill specialties and salmon and fresh fruit
and peel 'n eat shrimp and fresh baked breads and muffins
and steaks to order and soups galore and pies
and eat it too!

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