



Spilyay Tymoo

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Condors return to Oregon

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

For thousands of years the California condor lived along the Columbia River. The bird, known to some as the Thunderbird, disappeared from Oregon about 100 years ago.

The condor was of great spiritual importance to Indians who lived at the Columbia. In some instances the condor was perhaps of even greater spiritual importance than the eagle.

One hundred years after their extinction in Oregon, the condors have returned: several of the birds are now living in the Condor Creek Conservation Facility in Clackamas County. This a condor breeding project of the Oregon Zoo.

The hope one day is that condors will be released back into the wild in Oregon, zoo officials say.

The condor breeding facility is not open to the public. It is important that the condors not associate with humans, or the birds will become unafraid of humans, which will put them in jeopardy when released to the wild.

There are only 219 condors alive in the world today. The bird came to the brink of extinction in the 1970s and '80s. In 1982 the population of California condors in the wild was just 22.

A captive breeding and release program has succeeded in increasing the number of condors in the wild to 84. Another 135 live in captivity.

See **CONDORS** on page 12



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Michael Miller (front) and Trent Heath were among the performers at the recent Native American Day celebration at Jefferson County Middle School. On the afternoon of Native American Day the student body of the middle school gathered in the gymnasium. Tribal members – mostly students with some adults – in regalia performed a small Grand Entry. Dancers then performed on the main stage. The Quartz Creek Drummers provided the drumming. Emerson Culpus and Simian Kalama played their flutes. Master of ceremonies was Butch David, school liaison. The audience showed great appreciation for all of the performances. See page 8 for more photos.

Smith joins distinguished principals in Washington

By D. "Bing" Bingham
Spilyay Tymoo

The journey from Central Oregon to Washington D. C. for Dawn Smith to receive a National Distinguished Principal Award was long and sometimes stressful.

She was nominated for the award locally, and had to pass several review committees. Then there was the paperwork – it seemed like a short ton.

"It was actually worth it once you got into the paperwork, because it asked you to really think about the things you did and what you thought was important," Smith says. "It really made me think about why I do what I do."

After she was notified that she was an award recipient, that's when the problems started. The ceremony officials told her she would be staying in downtown Washington D. C., and she would be attending a reception on the eighth floor of the State Department, in a room with five hundred million dollars worth of antiques.

What troubled her was when she heard she needed a cocktail dress and ball gown – not common items in Central Oregon.

"What does a cocktail dress look like? Where do you get a ball gown for goodness sake?" she says. "We don't have that much experience with that out here. What do they mean when they say those kinds of things, and how do you behave when you're in a room full of five hundred million dollars worth of antiques?"

It took some scrambling, but she got it all together and headed to Washington D. C. When she arrived at the State Department reception, there was a bal-

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Dawn Smith
Distinguished principal

cony overlooking the all the lights in the downtown area. She knew she wasn't in Central Oregon anymore.

"It was very, very nice," she said.

But it was the people at the reception who really caught her attention.

"I had that feeling the whole time, 'What am I doing here with all these people who are so dynamic, impassioned, wise and intelligent. They're so professional in what they do.' I guess I was in awe a lot of the time," she continued. "Then when we'd sit down around the table and talk, I'd think, 'Wow, we're doing the same thing.'"

Slowly, at first, she started to get her feet on the ground with some of the top school principals in the nation.

"It makes you realize two things," she says. "Number one is that Warm Springs Elementary can hold it's head up as high as any elementary school in the United States, and it also makes you realize there's so much more you can do."

Some of the top educators in the nation were affirming each other. One person would talk and the rest of them would sit around and say, "Yeah, that's what we believe too."

See **SMITH** on page 12

Tribes planning '05 timber sale

(An interdisciplinary team from the Forestry and Natural Resources branches has been collecting tribal member comments on a timber sale being proposed for 2005.

Responses to a number of comments and concerns are included with this article produced for Spilyay Tymoo readers.)

The Coltsfoot 2005 Timber Sale will target approximately 42 million board feet of timber (an estimated 10,000 truck loads) in the Badger Creek watershed.

The process for planning this sale officially began on July 10 when the project interdisciplinary team (PIDT) completed its third and final scoping meeting with the tribal public.

Meetings were held for Agency, Seekseequa and Simnasho districts, initiating the process to complete a draft planning document. A tour of the proposed project area was held on August 13. The PIDT, which presents information about the proposed sale to interested tribal members, is comprised of individuals from the Natural Resources technical staff and committees.

The team includes a fish biologist, forester, wildlife ecologist, hydrologist, fuels manager, forest engineer, silviculturist, archeologist, range conservationist, soil scientist, writer/editor and representatives from Timber Committee, Fish and Wildlife Committee, and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI). Presentations made during the scoping meetings contain general information regarding the project area and sale objectives. All team members and members of the tribal public are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Comments from the scoping meetings are used to develop a planning document known as a project assessment. The assessment contains alternatives for implementing the sale, a strategy to monitor the sale after it has

been implemented, and mitigation measures to offset negative impacts. After considering input from the tribal public, the PIDT will develop two action alternatives, one emphasizing treatments that deal with high priority forest health issues and another that emphasizes commercial thinning.

Some tribal members would like the PIDT to develop additional alternatives and others would like to do away with the alternatives in favor of one action plan, so the Natural Resources Branch fashioned the current strategy as a compromise.

Species to be harvested will include true firs, Douglas fir and ponderosa pine.

The team will present their assessment and recommended alternative to the Resource Management Interdisciplinary Team (RMIDT) and they in turn release the assessment for public review. Following a 30-day review, RMIDT approves one of the alternatives and attaches a decision document to the project assessment, which is then forwarded to the BIA superintendent for concurrence. Tribal member comments are accepted throughout the process at the main office of the Forestry Branch.

The entire process and all management activities related to the forested area must adhere to goals, standards and best management practices adopted under the Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP) for the Forested Area. Federal law, as it relates to natural resources, emphasizes the protection of various resources.

• The Coltsfoot 2005 Timber Sale is being proposed because it will generate revenue for the Confederated

Tribes. The size and type of trees harvested will determine the amount of profit. These sales are designed to provide options for the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI) mill by creating a pantry of timber. Yearly harvests will meet the allowable annual cut established by Tribal Council and provide jobs for tribal loggers and mill workers.

Variety of tree species

Species to be harvested will include true firs, Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. Most of the trees selected for harvest will be 10-20 inches in diameter and prescriptions will be based on health and value. In most cases, the largest and healthiest trees will be left for future generations. Conditional use areas will not be logged under this sale.

A variety of prescriptions will be used to treat the stands, ranging from commercial thins that leave about half the mature trees to seed trees, which have a leave of 3-9 mature trees per acre.

See **HARVEST** on page 9

Many proposals for station

Beginning in December the Warm Springs Small Business Development Center will begin the review process for the Shell Station project.

"We've received seven written proposals and about 10 or 12 verbal suggestions over the phone with the thought they will follow up with a proposal," says Gerald Danzuka, small business counselor with the SBDC.

The idea of the project is to put a private person in place and allow them to produce more jobs available to the reservation. "What the tribes are looking for is 'Are there any realistic proposals, people with the capability to maintain it as a separate business rather than open it as a tribal business or separate arm of the tribes,'" Danzuka says.

According to Danzuka, the Shell Station isn't a beginners project. Oil and gas distribution is a highly competitive business. Any proposal passing the Small Business Development "reality check" will be submitted to Tribal Council.

"I see it as a good opportunity for one or two individuals or maybe a family to own or lease it from the tribes and make a decent living."

Gerald Danzuka
Small business counselor

"I see it as a good opportunity for one or two individuals or maybe a family to own or lease it from the tribes and make a decent living at it," says Danzuka.

The Shell Station project was advertised as tribal member preference. Non-tribal community members, especially if they're married into the tribes, were also invited to apply.

"So far the proposals are mostly maintaining it as a gas and diesel station," Danzuka continues.

"The use of the bays varies from mechanic work to photo processing to gift shop type activity... a wide range of activities to go along with selling gas and diesel."

