

Timber: members comment on variety of issues

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Landscape prescriptions leave a variable number of trees spread over an area of 40-150 acres. Marking will be conducted by the Presale staff or by contractors. Some of the marking guidelines will require buffering against blowdown, especially along block edges next to openings.

The most common logging method will be ground skidding. Cable yarding will be confined to slopes in excess of 35 degrees. There will not be any helicopter logging directly associated with this sale.

The 2005 sale area was selected based on criteria found in the forest management plan. The plan calls for only one entry per area during the 10-year planning period.

The allowable cut is calculated based on the forest's sustained yield. It also takes into account a number of management directives, including stream buffers and conditional use restrictions. The continuous forest inventory plots are remeasured every 10 years to check the allowable cut for sustainability.

One tribal member who attended the scoping meetings wanted to know if there is old-growth timber adjacent to Highway 26 and the staff noted there are scattered, older trees among younger ones and in patches.

There are also stands of old-growth spread across the northwest corner of the reservation. Some stands have a major component of old-growth and some contain scattered old-growth in the overstory.

Old-growth will be preserved for the future by leaving large, old trees within the boundaries of selected harvest blocks.

There are typically a number of questions regarding forest insects and disease at scoping meetings and sessions held for the 2005 sale were no exception. Impacts from a variety of insects and several diseases occur on the forest and the impacts usually vary from one area to another.

There is a lot of dwarf mistletoe associated with the 2005 sale at lower elevations and laminated root disease is present at higher elevations.

Bark beetles are attacking and killing lodgepole pine in the higher elevations and scattered

insect attacks are occurring in the ponderosa pine stands. Insect attacks are based on the health and species composition of the stand.

It should be noted that insects and diseases are part of the forest ecosystem and will help to strike an ecological balance if they are kept in check.

Timber sale benefits tribes

Some tribal members addressed comments on the 2005 sale to Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI). A mill representative told them the primary beneficiary of all timber sales is the Confederated Tribes. Unfortunately, prices have been low recently because of depressed lumber markets and export economies. The mill lost money four of the last five years due to weak timber markets, but the staff is working on a strategic plan to make the mill profitable, so they are hoping to be in business for a long time.

In answer to another specific question, the mill is processing ponderosa pine, but it will not be selling lumber directly to Iraq.

People wanted to know about small trees (less than 3 inches in diameter by 12 feet in length) and the mill representative said there are markets for them. The mill can even utilize limbs when hog fuel markets are good.

WSFPI is considering a new mill to process 4-7 inches logs. In terms of financing for capital improvements such as this, it may take several years to pay for a major improvement, while smaller projects can be paid off in one year.

On the subject of winter logging, the mill representative said benefits include reduced inventory costs, even cash flow, lowered road maintenance costs, and the fact that some units are best logged over a snowpack.

Two diverse questions addressed to the mill were answered during scoping meetings as follows:

- 1) The possibility of processing logs for log homes is a decision based on market conditions.
- 2) The possibility of growing hybrid poplars has been considered, but many questions remain unanswered.

Water an important issue

Issues related to water are very important to tribal mem-

bers. One comment received during scoping meetings had to do with no-cut buffers along reservation creeks and how the buffer widths are determined.

The answer is a variety of factors determine buffer sizes including quantity of water, species present, previous classifications, riparian plant distribution, high water mark, and professional interpretation. Another tribal member asked if springs could be developed and it was noted there are opportunities for spring development.

On the topic of logging in headwater areas the hydrologist said, logging in the high country is sensitive and care is taken to minimize impacts. Tribal members were reassured to hear that in terms of overall use most water around and on the reservation is reserved for in-stream purposes.

Two comments were addressed specifically to fish issues. On the subject of fish migrations in the Deschutes, the PIDT fish biologist said all stakeholders involved in hydroelectric relicensing negotiations are currently working for the passage of fish over the Pelton/Round Butte project. In addressing lamprey he said there is currently a study being conducted by Jennifer Graham, a fisheries biologist for the Confederated Tribes, which is looking at the distribution and abundance of lamprey (eels) on the reservation.

Wildlife is always a popular subject with tribal members and many comments center around this topic. Endangered species were mentioned at recent scoping meetings and the wildlife biologist explained there are currently two species federally listed as "threatened" that reside on the reservation (northern spotted owl and bald eagle). Resident bald eagles have declined due to poaching, but known nesting territories have been protected from commercial timber harvests through IRMP standards. The spotted owl population has experienced a significant decline of approximately 50 percent over the past decade due to several factors such as habitat loss and fragmentation caused by logging.

The reservation bear population is healthy and thriving, yet only three bears were reported harvested in 2002. There has

been an increase in the number of tags issued to tribal members over the past several years but hunter success is extremely low due to a lack of interest.

Some tribal members are concerned about cougars (mountain lions) and these animals are not inventoried on the reservation. The wildlife staff radio-collared two female cougars in 1996 and monitored the animal's movements over the next three years (1996-99). What often determines the abundance of this predator is availability of prey, as well as the quantity of suitable habitat. Reported sightings of cougar in community areas may be indirectly related to the recent decline in deer numbers (causing cougars to find other prey species) rather than an increase in the cougar population.

Bighorns produce lambs

Tribal members were pleased to learn the bighorn sheep reintroduced in the Mutton Mountains have been successful thus far. The sheep did experience some mortality during their first year back on the reservation, but those losses were offset by the birth of five lambs the following spring. In 2003 between five and seven lambs joined the herd. Antelope numbers, on the other hand, have not increased over the past 12 years due primarily to poaching.

Another concern expressed at scoping meetings stemmed from nationwide reports of West Nile virus. Oregon is one of the last western states that has not experienced a case of the virus in humans, wildlife or domestic animals. It is undoubtedly on its way, but it is unknown to what extent this exotic virus will infect deer or other native wildlife.

(This story will conclude in the next edition of the paper.)



Jodel Johnson manages the Jo's Coffee Corral. The shop, located next to the Texaco station, is now serving soup and pizza. Call ahead and have your order ready to go, 553-1320.

Eating healthy for the holidays

Statistics show that a person's typical Christmas day intake of food can reach nearly five thousand calories. The bulk of the calories consumed are fat.

According to the Oregon State University Extension service, turkey isn't the problem. It may be the leanest dish on the table at less than three and a half ounces per serving when skinned. What really adds up the calories are appetizers, side dishes and desserts.

Consider making a change by offering family and guests raw vegetables with salsa instead of chips and dip or crackers with cheese. How about those candied sweet potatoes with butter and marshmallows? Substitute plain sweet potatoes, butternut or acorn squash sweetened with a drizzling of maple syrup.

Forget the creamed vegetables.

Prepare a combination of whole pearl onions and steamed

brussel sprouts or steamed green beans and broccoli with a sprinkling of Parmesan cheese instead of butter.

Most kids think they need mashed potatoes and gravy for a holiday meal. First think about using a low-fat gravy. Most pan drippings used to make gravy consist of fat and brown solids. To make low-fat gravy from pan drippings, just remove the fat from the cooking pan then drain all juices into a container. Let the drippings sit until the fat rises. Simply skim the fat from the juices and make your favorite gravy recipe.

Consider a low-fat version of turkey stuffing by removing the butter in most recipes and use vegetable stock or wine to hold the dressing together. If you have any questions about how to make your holiday meals more healthy, contact the local Oregon State University Extension office at 553-3238.

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