



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Councilman Buck Smith is sworn into office by BIA Warm Springs superintendent Paul Young. Smith replaces Zane Jackson on the Council.

New plan for managing vegetation

By Bill Rhoades
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal members are being asked for their input on the issue of vegetation management on the forest and rangeland of the reservation.

The Natural Resources Branch will host a scoping meeting to discuss vegetation management from 1 to 3 p.m., on Wednesday, March 3, at the Warm Springs Wellness Center.

Employees from Natural Resources will provide information regarding vegetation management on range and forest lands during the meeting.

The meeting is being held to gather input from tribal mem-

bers.

The new vegetation management plan will replace a document approved in 1994, which recently expired. An addendum was added to the original plan in 1998. The updated document will cover management activities for the next 10 years.

Goals and objectives adopted under the original plan will remain the same. Standard operating procedures will be reviewed and some guidelines may be altered during the ongoing process.

The technical staff will explain current management practices and seek comments from the tribal public to guide future

activities.

Comments received during the scoping meeting will be used to develop an updated version of the original plan.

Some of the major issues being considered under this plan include prescribed burning, manual weed control, herbicide spraying and biological control of weeds.

For those who are unable to attend the meeting, written comments may be submitted to the Range and Agriculture Department, which is located in the Natural Resources Building.

Refreshments will be served during the March 3 meeting.

Meetings focus on range, livestock

The Range and Agriculture Department and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will host a series of six meetings to discuss issues pertaining to tribal grazing plans, USDA programs, range improvements, the annual horse/livestock sale, and the noxious weed management plan.

These meetings will provide grazing groups with an oppor-

tunity to comment and raise concerns regarding any of the issues listed above. Members of the Natural Resources technical staff will be on hand to field the comments.

The first meeting will be held for the Boulder Grazing District from 5 to 8 p.m., Feb. 18, at the Warm Springs Wellness Center.

Three meetings are scheduled for 5-8 p.m. at the Fire Man-

agement training room. The first will be held Feb. 25 for the Tenino Grazing Group, the second on Feb. 26 for Mutton Mountain Grazing Group, and the third on Feb. 27 for the Sidwalter Grazing Group. The Simnasho Grazing Group will meet March 15, 5-8 p.m. and the Metolius Grazing Group will meet March 16, 5-8 p.m. at locations to be announced.

Campus planning meeting set

Oregon State University Cascades is hosting a series of community forums as part of its strategic planning for the future of the campus. The group will be holding a forum in Warm

Springs at the Community Center Social Hall on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

The goal at this meeting is to get suggestions from the community on the direction they

would like to see higher education going in Central Oregon.

For further information on the meeting, contact Marty Beidler at OSU Cascades, 322-3161.

Team is tackling issue of area transportation

By Shawnell Surplus
Community Advocate

As anyone who has lived or worked in Warm Springs knows, transportation is an issue for all, especially those in poverty.

Perhaps it is not obvious at first, but how many people do you know who, without reliable transportation, offer others a full-tank or dinner out in exchange for a ride into town to do grocery shopping?

What might normally only cost a few dollars in gas for a trip to town costs many in our community in upwards of \$20 each trip they make. These people usually are, of course, the people least capable of affording that kind of expense.

Because the Central Oregon Partnership – as well as the Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) and the Madras area Community Action Team (MaCAT) – early on recognized the importance of transportation – the ability to get where you need to go – MaCAT began researching the possibility of a rural transportation project for Jefferson County and Warm Springs.

As the project developed, WSCAT, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and the Oregon Department of Transportation got involved. And finally the project was submitted to the Governor's Office.

At the group's January meeting, facilitator Pam Curtis explained that Gov. Kulongoski has designated this project as an "Oregon Solutions Project." Oregon Solutions uses a community governance approach to develop sustainable solutions built through the collaborative efforts of local businesses, non-profit organizations and government.

This approach ensures efficient use of public and private investments and accelerates the pace of solutions. Oregon Solutions Projects are implemented through a community governance approach comprised of five elements:

A problem is defined by the community – ours is transportation;

A neutral convener is appointed by the governor to lead a team to address the problem. "Fireman Bob" Sjolund is our convener;

A team of local businesses, non-profits and citizens along with local, state and federal government entities is put together to contribute to the solution. This project has brought together quite a showing from Jefferson County and Warm Springs;

Through a facilitated process, an integrated solution is identified that leverages the resources of the team; and

A "Declaration of Cooperation" is signed committing team members, their resources and time for an integrated and action-oriented solution. All members will be asked to contribute to the solution and sign the declaration.

Also at the January meeting, the group identified the problem(s) they want to address:

There is a lack of mobility options for residents to participate in the needs of daily living, such as jobs, education, healthcare, services, etc. Resources that do exist are: not coordinated, inequitable, and focused toward traditional solutions.

As a result, the group developed the following Project Goal:

Create a sustainable system of transportation options for the Warm Springs Reservation and the Jefferson County highway 97 and 26 corridor that is responsive to the community and provides access to daily living needs through coordination of existing resources and efforts, and accessing additional resources needed.

With the problems and a goal identified, the group met again this month to discuss what an ideal transportation system would look like while meeting our goal. The group came up with a number of options and identified what was needed to

It is so exciting to see Warm Springs turning out in such force to help determine one element of our transportation future...

make these things happen. At our next meeting we will begin prioritizing what we want in our ideal transportation system and we will begin addressing the needs we have.

In addition to this exciting project, I am thrilled with the wonderful showing from Warm Springs.

While some invitees have not been able to attend to date (but we still expect to see them at future meetings), we have had a great turnout from Warm Springs, including Elton Greeley and Lucille Schuster, representing the Seniors; Gayle Rodgers with Social Services; Corey Clements and Verleen Kalama from Workforce Development; Julie Quaid representing education, and the Warm Springs Community Action Team; Carol Funk from High Lookee Lodge; Officer Bob Hornbuckle from the Warm Springs Police Depart-

ment; LeRoy Smith and Laurain Hintsala who are working on tribal member employment and Kah-Nee-Ta; Catherine Kamau also representing the interests of Kah-Nee-Ta; Gerald Danzuka, president of the Warm Springs Chamber of Commerce; Trudy Brunoe of the Small Business Center; and Joe Surface with High Desert Taxi.

It is so exciting to see Warm Springs turning out in such force to help determine one element of our transportation future in Warm Springs. In fact, that is what the Warm Springs Community Action Team is all about: Community members and agencies coming together to take hold of our own destiny. Sovereignty in action!

While the voting membership of the transportation meeting

has been defined already, these meetings are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend if you have an interest in transportation for Jefferson County and Warm Springs.

The next meeting of the Transportation Project Team is from 9 a.m. to noon on March 17 at the firehall in Madras. If you'd like to become a part of what WSCAT is doing (either with transportation or one of our many other projects), join us the first and third Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. for our meetings. Or call 553-3148.

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