

# Timber sale assessment for 2005 released

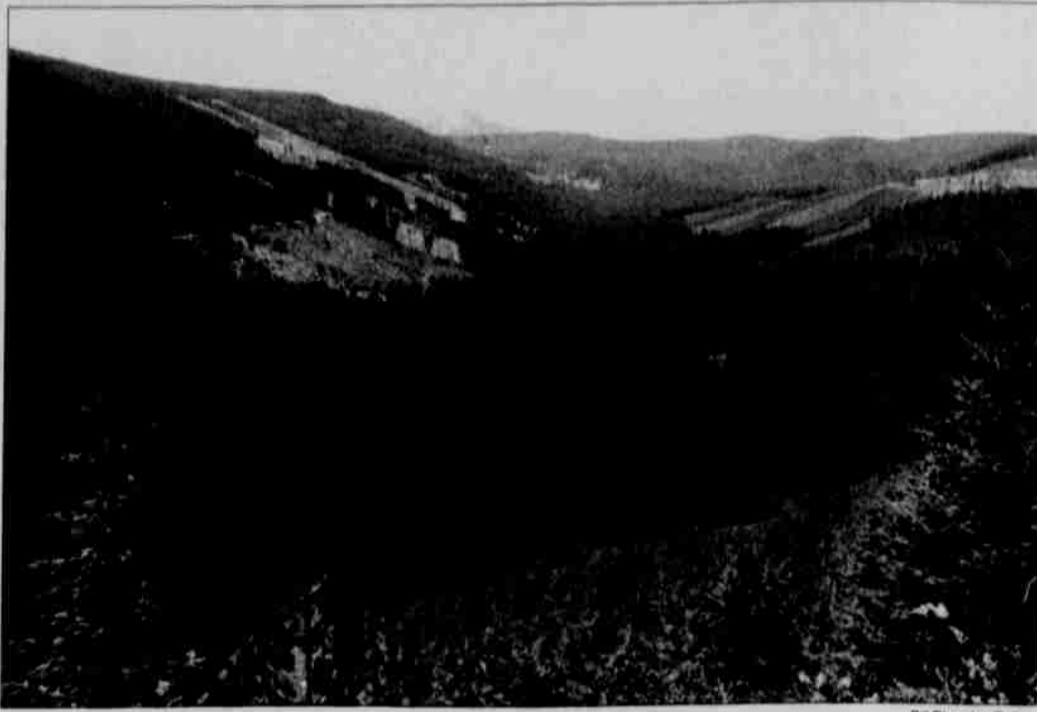
**Coltsfoot sale expected to yield 42-45 million board feet of timber**

By Bill Rhoades  
For Spilyay Tymoo

The Resource Management Interdisciplinary Team has released a draft project assessment covering the Coltsfoot 2005 Timber Sale for public review. The document was prepared by the Project Interdisciplinary Team to provide options for timber harvest in the Badger Forest Planning Unit.

Three alternatives were formulated and numerous logging methods were considered for this project, taking into account present resource conditions, forest health and public input. The Coltsfoot Timber Sale is expected to yield approximately 42-45 million board feet of timber.

The document is divided into sections explaining the purpose and need for action, resource-based indicators used to help the technical staff analyze and mitigate environmental impacts, and details of the three alternatives.



Badger Creek drainage, in area of the timber sale.

There are maps showing the harvest blocks, quick reference tables to compare the alternatives, a list of measures needed to mitigate environmental consequences, and the Project Interdisciplinary Team's recommended alternative.

The goal of Alternative A is to continue current management. Activities such as hunting, recreation and cultural food

gathering would continue as in the past. The only harvest proposed under Alternative A would be through conventional salvage operations.

Alternative B is designed to harvest approximately 45 million board feet of timber from approximately 4,065 acres. Alternative C is designed to harvest approximately 42 million board feet of timber from ap-

proximately 4,250 acres.

The three alternatives would have varying impacts on water, fish, wildlife, cultural, timber, range, soil and economic resources and there would also be some changes to the transportation system. All of these impacts are explained in the project assessment.

Once the allowable cut has been reached for 2005, any re-

maining volume associated with this project will be harvested in future years. The actual volume to be harvested under the project will depend on which alternative is selected subject to approval by the Confederated Tribes.

The tribal public has been involved in the planning process for the Coltsfoot Timber Sale over the course of several months. Scoping meetings were held during 2003 for the Agency District (June 3), Seekseequa District (July 10), and Simnasho District (June 12) to solicit tribal member input on the proposed project. A timber tour was conducted during August 2003 for Tribal Council and for the tribal public. Comments received during the scoping process are used to identify issues that are relevant to the Coltsfoot Timber Sale. A summary of the comments is on file in the Forestry administration office.

For more information or copies of the documents contact John Arena or Raymond Tsumpti Jr. in the Forestry Branch, or call 553-2416. Tribal members have 30 days to comment on the proposed sale.

## Range to be improved

The tribal Range and Agriculture Department has announced that funding is available for range improvement projects on the reservation. Improvements may be anything from fencing issues and corrals, to ponds.

Anyone with an idea is welcome to attend a meeting at Natural Resources starting at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 26. Weather permitting, the meeting will be outside, and will include a barbecue, said Bill Reynolds, of Range and Ag.

For more information please contact Reynolds at 553-2001.

## Spring is clean-up time

April 2004 is community trash pick-up time. Together we can make a difference. Enter to win prizes at the Housing Department BBQ on April 30.

For more information call the Housing Department at 553-3250. Remember, April is spring clean-up and environmental month.

# Tribes name conservation area, schedule volunteer weekend

By Mark Berry  
Conservation Area manager

The Confederated Tribes acquired the 35,000-acre Pine Creek Ranch near Clarno, as partial mitigation for the impacts of hydropower dams on wildlife and fish.

The purchase, in 1999 and 2001, was through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

The tribes now manage this former ranch, now called the Pine Creek Conservation Area.

The conservation area provides important wintering habitat for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk, as well as habitat for over 250 other species of amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds.

One of the largest management issues facing the conservation area is encroachment of western juniper into grassland and shrub-steppe habitats.

The increase in western juniper results in loss of habitat to grassland and shrub-steppe wildlife species, out-competition of understory species such as bitterbrush and bunchgrasses, and impacts to the watershed.

Juniper woodlands consume

more water than bunchgrasses, and the resulting decrease in available water for springs and riparian areas is a problem for both wildlife and fish.

The tribes are working with the Prineville District BLM to plan and conduct prescription fires to restore bunchgrass steppe and watersheds.

The first project is planned for 2004 in the Rattlesnake Canyon and Amine Peak area, near the John Day River. The tribes and Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District are currently seeking additional funding to conduct a second fire in 2005 that would benefit the Pine Creek watershed.

Pine Creek flows into the John Day River near Clarno, and provides spawning and rearing habitat for native steelhead.

The tribes are working with the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District to remove or replace culverts that were barriers to migrations of adult or juvenile steelhead. Two projects have been completed, and a third culvert replacement is planned for 2004.

These cooperative projects received funding support from the Oregon Watershed Enhance-

*To improve riparian wildlife habitat, the tribes planted native trees and shrubs along the lower five miles of the creek in March of this year.*

ment Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wheeler County, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

These projects, combined with adequate stream flow in 2004, have improved steelhead access to spawning habitats.

To improve riparian wildlife habitat, the tribes planted native trees and shrubs along the lower five miles of the creek in March of this year.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service funded this planting through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

The Soil and Water Conservation District and tribes are planning an evening tour to highlight these projects on Pine Creek in early May. More in-

formation will be available soon.

The tribal acquisition has led to public access benefits, including youth education, hiking, and hunting on land that was previously closed to public use.

To reduce resource damage and the spread of noxious weeds, most access is by foot only. The tribes provide a limited number of permits to hunt the conservation area, both for tribal members and the general public.

The conservation area is open to hikers all year, and all users are required to sign in and out when visiting the ranch.

The conservation area is holding a volunteer work party April 17-18.

We will be working hard outdoors removing barbed-wire fences to benefit wildlife. OMSI and the tribes are providing meals and lodging at Hancock Field Station, at a cost of \$24 per person. Advance registration is required. Volunteers who don't desire meals or lodging could participate during the day at no cost.

For more information, or to volunteer for this or other projects, contact Mark Berry, Pine Creek Conservation Area

Manager, by email at [pinecreek@bendnet.com](mailto:pinecreek@bendnet.com); or phone at (541) 489-3477.

*Please support businesses you see in the Spilyay.*

# FEEDER SALE

## April 28th

**Buyer Reps. from Northwest, California, and Midwest!**

**Computerized System**

**Ring Scale**

*Central Oregon Livestock Auction*  
541-475-3851

Trent Stewart  
480-5540

Clay Tanler  
419-6060

# Advice on fire safety

By Suzi Macy  
Fire Management

Are you worried about the wildfire threat to your home, but aren't sure how to get started in making your home more defensible? Follow these steps to an effective defensible space.

First determine the recommended defensible space distance. This distance varies with the type of vegetation growing near your house and the steepness of the terrain. Also, the steeper the slope the greater your recommended distance will be.

Next, clear out any dead vegetation within the recommended defensible space. Dead vegetation includes dead trees and shrubs, dead branches lying on the ground or still attached to living plants, dried grasses and wildflowers, and dropped leaves or needles.

Break up continuous growing vegetation, the more continuous and dense the vegetation the greater the wildfire threat. If this type of situation is present in your defensible space you should break it up by providing

a separation between plants or small groups of plants.

Remove ladder fuels. Vegetation is often growing at varying heights, similar to the rungs of a ladder. For example, pine needles burning on the ground can be carried to shrubs, which can ignite still higher growing fuels like tree branches.

The area surrounding your home is important in terms of defensible space. It is this area that is usually landscaped. Within this area extending at least 30 feet from the house, the vegetation should be kept lean, clean and green.

Trim and remove tree limbs touching the house or within 15 feet of a chimney, or near power lines.

Maintaining your defensible space is an ongoing process. At least once a year review these defensible space steps. An effective defensible space can quickly become ineffective thru neglect. If you have any questions or need help with your defensible space call Fire Management and speak with the fire prevention tech, 553-2413.

# Central Oregon Livestock Auction

## MARKET REPORT

For the week of April 7th 1,466 HEAD

**Baby Calves** 100-200  
**Steers (Very Aggressive)**  
200-300 lbs 115-127  
300-400 lbs 118-125  
400-500 lbs 112-119  
500-600 lbs 107-116  
600-700 lbs 103-113  
700-800 lbs 95-99.25  
800-900 lbs 80-85  
**Bulls**  
high-yielding 63-68  
mostly 57-63  
thinner bulls 52-56

Special announcements

April 10 Consignment Sale

April 21 Pair

April 28 Feeder Sale

**Butcher Cows**  
high yielding cows 54-59  
fleshy cows 45-50  
medium flesh 45-50  
feeder type 50-55  
thin older cows 40-45  
**Heifers (Very Aggressive)**  
200-300 lbs 117-120  
300-400 lbs 110-124  
400-500 lbs 104-116  
500-600 lbs 100-112  
600-700 lbs 90-99.5  
700-800 lbs 80-90  
Hfrettes 1000# & up 60-70  
Hfrettes 1000# & down 70-75