

Spilyay Tymoo

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Tribes hire new chief of police

Jim Soules, a police veteran who started his career in Warm Springs, was recently named Chief of Police for the Warm Springs Police Department.

Chief Operations Officer Lauraina Hintsala and Secretary-Treasurer Charles Calica made the announcement in a joint statement. The hiring was effective July 28.

Soules will be responsible for patrol, investigations, fish and game, corrections and dispatch units.

He will report to Chief Operations Officer Hintsala.

Raymond Tsumpti will continue to oversee the remainder of the Public Safety Branch, which includes Fire and



Jim Soules

Safety, the tribal prosecutor, Victims of Crime, parole and probation and legal aide.

The realignment will enable the tribe to complete its fact-finding into the controversy that shook the police department recently, as well as consult with the Tribal Council on ways to improve and restructure the Public Safety Branch.

The reason for this change, according to Hintsala and Calica, is to ensure the safety and welfare of the reservation communities.

Career began in Warm Springs

Soules has been in law enforcement for over 30 years. He began working as an officer in Warm Springs in 1971. He left in 1975 to work in McMinnville.

He later went to the Prineville Police Department, where he worked for 24 years, including 22 as chief of police.

He retired from the Prineville department last year, but remained in law enforcement as a consultant.

Of his new job in Warm Springs, Soules said, "An immediate priority is to make sure the police department is stable, and to make sure we're providing a caring and good quality service to the community."

Tribal fishermen look to expand their market

Tribal fishermen have traded salmon along the shores of the Columbia River for many years. Now, they're hoping to expand their market.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is exploring the feasibility of building a \$8.6 million fish-processing and retail center that would include 500 jobs and allow the tribes to sell more of their wild catch directly to stores and the public, instead of to other processors.

"Tribal fishermen have always been victimized by low prices," said Olney Patt Jr., executive director of the inter-tribal fish commission. "If they have a way to process the fish, and have a value-added product,

that may increase the profit."

From the moment a tribal fisherman catches a fish, he is working against the clock in terms of selling, said Patt.

"The first thing you do is put the fish on ice. Then you're in a hurry to get it sold," he said. This situation means the seller is at a disadvantage, and the buyer can get the fish for very cheap, said Patt. Processing with a value-added component - such as smoking - can help the fishermen earn more for their fish, he said.

Currently, tribal members sell about a third of their commercial catch directly to the public at roadside stands such as the one in Cascade Locks. There, in the parking lot outside the Charburger restaurant, customers pe-

ruse whole salmon and filets packed into coolers and hauled to the makeshift market in pickup trucks.

The rest are sold to fish buyers for as little as 50 to 75 cents per pound based on larger volumes.

"If we are to continue this livelihood, we need to maximize the value of each one of the fish," said Jon Mathews, finance and operations director for the intertribal fish commission in Portland.

Meanwhile, tribal fishermen have been squeezed by competition from the farmed-fish industry.

By raising Atlantic salmon within huge net pens in Puget Sound, British Columbia and South America, salmon farmers can offer wholesale buyers a

guaranteed price and quantity of fish year-round. That's why tribes across the Northwest have started looking for new ways to develop a premium market for Pacific salmon caught in the wild.

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, for example, this year forged a deal with Safeway to sell tribal salmon at stores around Puget Sound.

"That's one of the best prices you can get if you can work a deal to go direct to market," said Debbie Preston, spokeswoman for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in Olympia.

Preston said other tribes will be watching to see whether the Columbia tribes' venture into commercial fish processing makes sense.

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Tribal enterprise providing fire support

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The GeoVisions mobile command center trailer is becoming a regular sight at wildfires in the region and beyond.

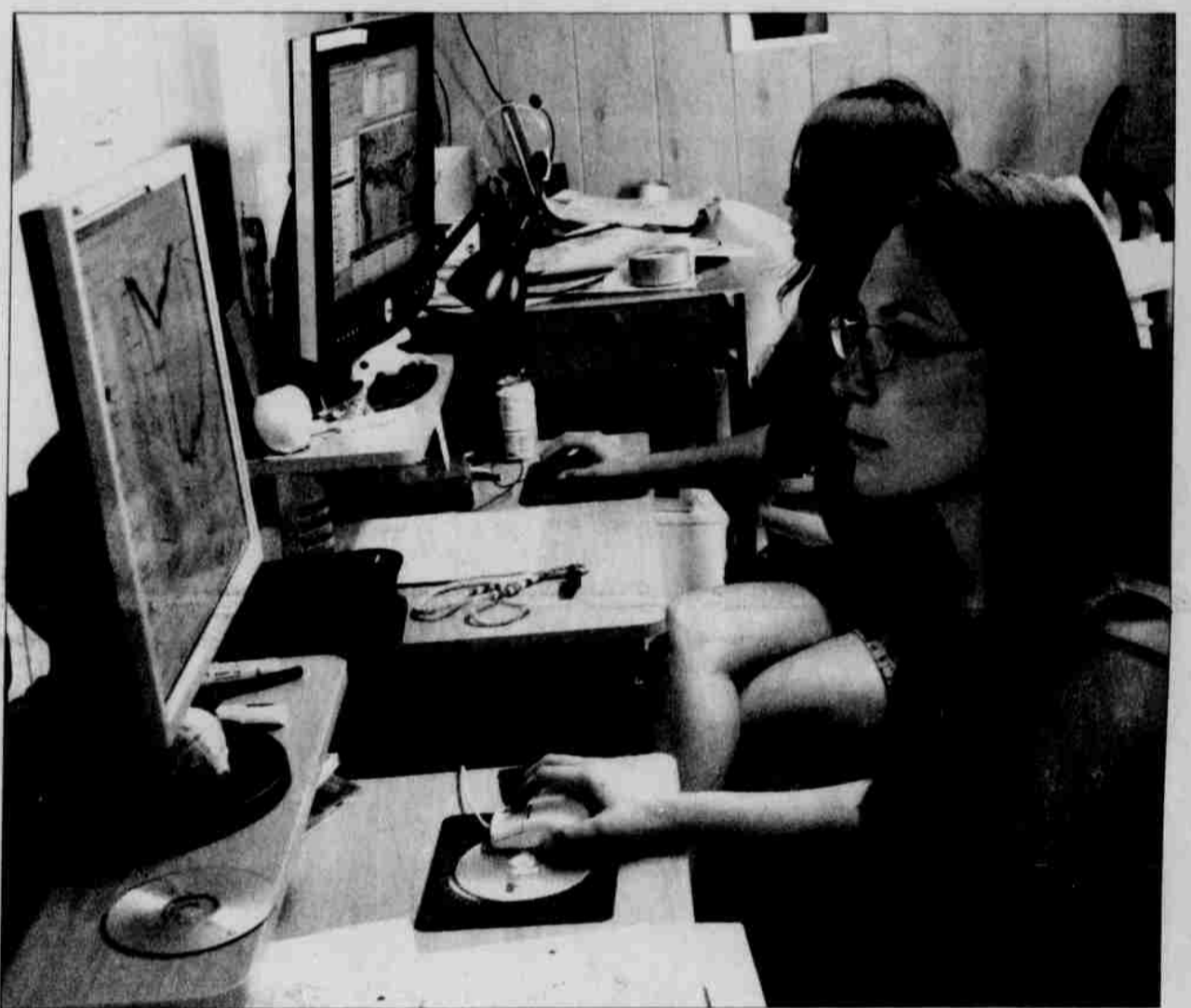
During a wild-land fire, the center produces high technology mapping and other data, maintaining an almost up-to-the-minute report on the progress of the blaze.

High tech mapping is an essential service of GeoVisions, but the tribal enterprise has grown into other fields as well.

For instance, before the Log Springs fire began, a GeoVisions work crew completed a wildfire fuels reduction project in the Simnasho area. This project helped prevent the Log Springs fire from traveling into the Simnasho community. GeoVisions worked with tribal Forestry on this project.

The enterprise also had a line crew out on the Log Springs fire, which has burned for about 10 days on the north part of the reservation. GeoVisions also has an archeology survey crew.

"We've trained 10 new tribal



In the GeoVisions Mobile Command Center, Trish Phifer (right) and Marissa Stradley work on maps related to the development of the Log Springs fire.

members as archeology survey technicians," said Jim Crocker manager of GeoVisions. "They'll be working on a couple of different projects through the fall."

Tribal Council approved GeoVisions

as an enterprise in 2002. GeoVisions has been steadily growing, and now employs about 40 people full time.

"We're going to expand our professional services," said Crocker. "I'm happy that we've been able to work in

various natural resource projects for the tribes." He said that GeoVisions is in process of developing a partnership with Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

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Tribes planning timber harvest in Shitike watershed

By Bill Rhoades
Spilyay Tymoo

A timber sale scheduled for 2006 targets approximately 31 million board feet of timber in the Shitike Creek watershed.

An interdisciplinary team from the Forestry and Natural Resources branches has been collecting tribal member comments on the planned sale.

The planning process officially began on June 17, 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 plan.

A simulated fly-over was presented during the scoping meetings so tribal members could get a bird's eye view of the Shitike Creek watershed. A field review of the proposed project area will be scheduled with the annual timber tour in August.

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, representatives from three tribal committees, and a representative from 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 at least two action alternatives, both emphasizing a balanced approach to resource management.

Some tribal members would like the PIDT to develop additional alternatives and others would like to do away

One person said they don't believe in protecting bull trout. The staff responded by saying there are a lot of tribal members who do want to protect bull trout...

with the alternatives in favor of one action plan, so the Natural Resources Branch fashioned the current strategy as a compromise.

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 manage-

ment 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. The plan is reviewed and updated every five years.

The 2006 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 WSFPI mill by creating a pantry of timber.

Yearly harvests typically meet the allowable annual cut established by Tribal Council and provide jobs for tribal loggers and mill workers.

Timber treatment

The 2006 sale will include a number of treatments that will best fit the species of trees and forest health condition observed in particular stands. The treatments will include seed tree, shelterwood, commercial thinning and precommercial thinning.

The area being proposed for treatment in 2006 contains thousands of trees (primarily lodgepole pine) that

have been killed by mountain pine beetles.

Lodgepole pine stands that have trees larger than 9 inches in diameter and over 90 years in age are being attacked and killed by these insects. The insects also attack and kill ponderosa pine and western white pine.

Tribal members asked the team whether or not the dead trees will be harvested and what can be done to reduce the future impact of pine beetles.

Foresters told the scoping audience that trees in stands with a significant amount of mortality from beetle attack will be proposed for harvest. Some uses for the dead lodgepole other than timber are posts and poles, and firewood.

Commercial thinning is one way to help keep trees vigorous and protect them against beetle attack, but mountain pine beetles are difficult to manage even with commercial thinning.

The best way to control mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine stands is to remove the larger, older trees that host the beetle and to manage for a more diverse mix of tree species.

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