

## New tribal committee members begin work

The newly chosen members of the tribal committees took the oath of office last week, and held their first gatherings.

The committees of the tribes are Culture and Heritage, Education, Fish and Wildlife on- and off-reservation, Health and Welfare, Land-Use Planning, Range and Agriculture, Timber, and the Water Board.

The members of the Culture and Heritage Committee are Gladys Thompson, Madeline McInturff, Emily Wahenka, Margaret Suppah, Joe Henry and Geraldine Jim.

The Education Committee members are Dorothea Barney, Marie Calica, Ginger Smith and JoAnn Smith.

The Fish and Wildlife Off-Reservation Committee members are Bruce Jim Sr., Leslie Bill, Gerald Danzuka and Ryan Smith.

Fish and Wildlife On-Reservation Committee members are Jonathan Smith, Gary M. McBride and Emerson Squiemphen.

Health and Welfare Com-



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

mittee members are Urbana Manion, Janice Clements, Geneva Charley and Dorothea Barney.

The committee members for Land-Use Planning are Rafael Queahpama, Fritz Miller, Jimmy Tohet and Gene Smith.

Above and at left, the new committee members take the oath of office, administered by Paul Young of the BIA.

The Range and Ag Committee members are Jacob Frank, Jimmy Tohet, Irene Towe and Carmella Scott.

The Timber Committee includes Ken Miller, with other members not yet confirmed.

Water Board members are Raymond Tsumpti Jr., Delford Johnson and Roy Spino.

## Timber salvage planned after Log Springs fire

The tribal Timber Committee will host two scoping meetings to discuss the proposed salvage of trees killed during the recent Log Springs Fire.

The meetings are being scheduled to gather tribal member comments regarding the salvage effort.

The first meeting is scheduled for August 19 at Agency Longhouse and the second will be August 24 at Simnasho Longhouse.

Both meetings start at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The Log Springs Fire consumed approximately 13,000 acres near Simnasho Butte.

The fire-killed trees are located within the commercial forest and conditional use areas. A number of allotments were also impacted by the fire.

Tribal members who would like to comment on the project are urged to attend one of the meetings.

Staff from the Natural Resources and Forestry branches will be on hand to answer questions.

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## Scientists listen for sound of salmon

(AP) - A new tracking system at the mouth of the Columbia River is allowing scientists to study how dams are affecting threatened and endangered salmon.

Until now, no one has been able to track what happens to salmon during their final migration to the sea once they pass Bonneville Dam, almost 150 miles upriver.

The federal government spends more than \$700 million a year in the Columbia River Basin to sustain and rebuild salmon runs. The spending, however, has not turned things around for many stocks, particularly those bound to the farthest upriver reaches of the Snake River, past eight large hydro-power projects.

The Corps of Engineers, which runs the Columbia's extensive system of hydroelectric dams, spent close to \$2 million to develop the new tracking system.

To track the fish, biologists suspended two rows of automated electronic sensors, called hydrophones, to listen for baby salmon passing by. The sensors pick up recorded pinging signals sent from transmitters implanted in a thousand smolts.

"We'd like to know how much mortality is due to travel through the hydropower system, then try to manipulate the system to reduce the causes of that mortality," said Lynn McComas, a fisheries biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The detectors float about 15 to 25 feet below the surface of the river and about 15 feet from the river bottom, tethered to a heavy steel anchor.

"We have detections from several hundred fish, of the 923 released, and have some great new insights about how long it takes these fish to get to the

ocean from Bonneville Dam," said Geoff McMichael of the Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, which helped develop the system.

Based on a preliminary analysis, he says juvenile Chinook take about three days to make the trip. The trial run also shows it's possible to pinpoint where in the river channel fish migrate, and how tides and daylight affect their entry into the ocean.

Assuming funding comes through, the researchers expect to place a larger set of hydrophones next year and complete a full survival study on juvenile Chinook salmon from Bonneville Dam to the ocean.

"At the end of all this, we'll have a monitoring function to see how change in the management of the hydro system and changes in hatchery releases affect survival in the lower river," McMichael said.

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## Eyerly fire salvage sale attracts no bidders

(AP) - A sale of timber salvaged from 2002's Eyerly Fire in Central Oregon attracted not a single bidder this week, with most concluding that the timber was too old to be of any value.

In a salvage sale, trees killed, or otherwise damaged in a fire, are sold and logged. Dead trees can lose their value quickly because they are especially vulnerable to rot, insects - which can stain the wood blue - and, eventually, more fires.

"It's two-plus years old, it's blue-buggy, the sap is shot and it's just uneconomical," said Dan Bishop, timber lands manager for Prairie Wood Products in Prairie City, of the wood included in the sale.

Forest Service officials say they have not yet decided what to do about the timber burned in the 23,573-acre Eyerly Fire, but acknowledged that whatever happens, they'll have to act quickly.

Sisters District Ranger Bill Anthony said that he hopes to

repackage the sale, and lower the price, in order to attract a bidder.

About 6.8 million board feet of timber went up for sale last week, at a starting price of \$28.50 per 1,000 board feet.

Anthony said the sale took two years to coordinate because his district has been busy with several large wildfires and a handful of lawsuits and appeals filed by conservationists.

Environmentalists who oppose salvage logging said they were far from declaring the stalled sale a victory.

"First of all, this isn't the whole sale, (it's) just one small part of it. And second of all, there's no reason why they wouldn't just lower the price and re-sell it," said James Johnston, executive director of the Cascadia Wildlands Project.

Last week, the Forest Service gave the Eyerly sale emergency status under new legislation backed by the Bush administration that eliminates the usual


105-day waiting period for appeals after a timber sale.

Under the legislation, an emergency can be declared if waiting for appeals would cause a "substantial loss of economic value" to the government.

The Eyerly sale was the first in Central Oregon to be declared an emergency by the government.

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