

Timber harvest discussion includes fisheries, cultural resources

(An interdisciplinary team from the Forestry and Natural Resources branches has been collecting tribal member comments on a timber sale being proposed for 2007. Responses to a number of comments and concerns are included with this article. The Wintergreen 2007 Timber Sale will target approximately 38.2 million board feet of timber in the upper Warm Springs River watershed. The following is the conclusion of an article explaining tribal member comments regarding the sale, and responses to the comments.)

In answering a question on spotted owls the wildlife biologist said the population has experienced a significant decline over the past decade (approximately 50 percent). Several factors such as habitat loss and fragmentation due to logging have contributed to this decline, as well as competition from barred owls, and predation from other avian raptors. There is only one spotted owl nesting territory within this sale area and three others bordering the sale. In all likelihood the impacts of the sale will have a much greater effect on the owls than the owls will have on the outcome of the sale.

Tribal members have expressed concern over the possibility of disease affecting the local deer herd. The health of the deer observed on the reservation appears to be good so far, but there have been some recent disease outbreaks off reservation on ceded lands. The recent outbreak of Adeno hemoragic disease (ADH) at Crooked River Ranch, Culver, and Oneil Junction has subsided, but is now reported in the Sisters area. All sick, or suspected to be infected, deer should be reported to the Branch of Natural Resources - Fish and Wildlife immediately.

In response to a question about the stability of the waterdog (assumed to be salamander or newt) population it was stated these amphibians are native to the area and prevalent in some streams, springs, waterholes and wet meadows. They may, however, be difficult to locate during the dry season. We have not inventoried these amphibians, but there does not seem to be any significant decline on the reservation. Amphibians such as frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts are exhibiting declines on a global scale, and are the primary indicator species for water quality and environmental conditions.

Range

Tribal members wanted to know whether or not meadows are protected and the range conservationists said a 300-foot buffer protects meadows from most management activities. In the case of Big Meadow, which is approximately 800 acres in size, the area is partially fenced to control livestock grazing. Trees continue to encroach on meadows for two primary reasons. Wildfires that once controlled the trees and now suppressed, and the dryer climatic conditions of recent years are favorable to encroaching tree species.

Tribal members are concerned about juniper trees and their ability to out-compete many other plants. Juniper trees are increasing in density, both on the grasslands and within woodlands, but efforts are being made to control them. Herbicides are not used to control juniper trees on the reservation, but Wildland Urban Interface projects are being designed to reduce densities in some areas.

Cultural Resources

The archeologist answered a

question about cultural resource protection by saying a background search is completed before any project is implemented. The search takes into account existing survey data, historical documents and oral histories. Next the area is inventoried for cultural resources (historic, prehistoric, cultural plants etc.), meaning an archaeologist and a trained crew looking for cultural resources walks the impacted area. If cultural resources are identified during a survey, modifications are made to the project to avoid damage to the resource. High country areas on the reservation are inventoried for cultural resources as well as the lower elevation areas, and all site types (which includes burial sites) are given the same protection.

If human remains are encountered during an inventory, they are left in place. The BIA representative, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Cultural Resources program manager, Culture and Heritage Committee, and Warm Springs Police are all contacted. Once it has been determined the site is not a crime scene, the remains are left in place and measures are taken to protect the area from damage during project implementation.

Fisheries and Water

There was a question at one of the scoping meetings regarding channelization of streams, and it was noted that very few streams on the reservation have been subjected to this practice, with Shitike Creek and Beaver Creek being the most notable exceptions. Shitike Creek has been channelized numerous times from its mouth to the area known as the Headworks, primarily to keep the creek from flooding the community area. Segments of Beaver Creek have been channelized along Highway 26. These channelization projects have resulted in the disconnection of both Beaver and Shitike creeks from much of their floodplains, which has increased summer water temperatures. Channelization has also resulted in the loss of complex fish habitat such as large deep pools, side channels and backwater areas that provide fish rearing

habitat.

The width of stream buffers listed as IRMP standards are a minimum of 100 feet for Class I streams, 60 feet for Class II streams, and 30 feet for Class III streams. Riparian buffers on the reservation are managed to allow natural processes to occur, which is important in providing quality fish habitat.

One person wanted to know if bug-killed trees are harvested in riparian areas and generally they are not. Dead trees in riparian buffers provide habitat for cavity nesting birds and mammals, and once they have fallen to the stream, they can also provide habitat for fish. Only under extenuating circumstances would harvest of bug-killed trees occur within riparian buffers.

Mill

There were a number of questions regarding loggers and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI). Questions about ongoing operations brought the response that tribal crews have nearly completed the Log Springs salvage sale and are ready to move into new areas. Logging contracts for the Wintergreen sale will go to tribal members, but there are no tribal high lead loggers, so cable logging will be put out to bid.

In reference to a question on scaling it was noted that small

white wood, Douglas fir and ponderosa pine logs are on a one-in-three sample scale. Depending on the amount of pine, it may be 100 percent scale. There are eight tribal allotments located completely or partially within the bounds of the timber sale area. The scaling frequency on tribal allotments is 100 percent. We have not tried cubic scale in part because other

federal agencies once adopted this approach, but are now phasing it out and returning to Scribner-scale. In general, the cruised volume differs from the scaled volume by about 10 percent.

WSFPI may or may not process ponderosa pine. Generally, there is not enough big and small pine to run at WSFPI, so it is sold to other mills. However,

there are times when the mill does process ponderosa pine. Log Springs Fire salvage is a good example.

A question arose about the economic value of incense cedar. The mill does receive an economic return for incense cedar. These trees are worth more as a merchantable log than as firewood.

Your Favorite
HOME
Furnishings
FOR LESS







- DESKS
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM
- TABLES • LAMPS
- RECLINERS
- MATTRESSES
- BEDROOM • DAYBEDS
- SLEEPERS • BUNKBEDS
- LEATHER
- ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS
- AND MORE!

HOME FURNISHINGS • REDMOND
Locally Owned & Operated Since 1980

Free Delivery to Most Central Oregon Areas





Great AMERICAN
732 SW 6th St. At The "Y"

Open 7 Days a Week
10-6 Mon.-Sat.
11:00-5 Sun.

923-4155

Ben's Best Buys Used Cars & Trucks

 94 Chevy Conversion Van, power, bed, \$4,995	 98 Plymouth Grand Voyager \$4,995	 93 Ford Explorer, exe, 5-sp, loaded, \$3,995
 93 Pontiac Sunbird Conv., AT, AC \$2,495	 97 Ford Taurus GL, 4-dr., loaded, good gas mileage \$3,695	 96 Ford Explorer, AWD \$5,995
 93 Ford Taurus Wagon, auto, loaded, low miles, all power, \$2,695	 95 Infiniti Q45, 4-dr., AT, AC, PW, PL, CR, TI \$5,995	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Others models to choose from</div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">541-475-7314</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Call anytime</p>
 95 Toyota Corolla, AT, AC, PW, PL, CR, CD \$4,995	 98 Ford Escort SE, \$3,695	

1765 SW Hwy 97, Madras, OR 97741 (next to Miller Ford)

EAGLE-TECH SYSTEMS

ETS

Eagle-Tech Systems now offers cost effective on-site business PC and Network Services in the Warm Springs and Madras area.

COMPUTER SERVICES

- PC installation and service for most PC desktop and laptops
- Network Installation and Management
- Office Wireless systems
- Peripheral Service
- Data backup and recovery service
- Network Security
- Microsoft Office Support
- Internet Security Planning to Protect Against Online Threats

Certified staff including Microsoft Certified Professional, A+, Cisco, Linux,

TECHNICAL SERVICE TO THE WARM SPRINGS & MADRAS AREAS

EAGLE-TECH SYSTEMS

Warm Springs (541)553-3501
Madras (541)460-0192

Hours: M-F, 8 am to 5 pm