

# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Interior, Ag officials to visit in May

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymoo

Several high-level officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior are coming to Warm Springs in May to look at one of the reservation's more potentially lucrative investments, its biomass project.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council includes the directors of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the National Parks Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Council has scheduled its quarterly business meeting at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Casino and Resort Tues., May 9 through Thurs., May 11. The visit includes a field trip to fire management sites on the reservation, with Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry and

Warm Springs Natural Resources, and an introduction to Warm Springs' efforts at creating biomass energy.

The announcement came during the Warm Springs Tribal Council meeting at Kah-Nee-Ta March 21.

"In May we're planning a two-day business meeting to discuss national level policy, proposed changes, and new initiatives," said Bodie Shaw, Warm Springs tribal member who is the BIA's representative for coordinating national-level site visits. "We've got these large fires out West and they're costing us millions of dollars."

The council has chosen Warm Springs for its meeting, Shaw said, is because Warm Springs is probably in the lead in terms of the development of biomass infrastructure with Larry Potts and Ralph Minnick at the mill.

The council's visit could include one

of the first official visits by a new U.S. Secretary of Interior.

Pending Senate confirmation, Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne is Pres. George W. Bush's choice to replace the outgoing Gale Norton as Secretary of Interior.

Kempthorne, Shaw said, has already been involved in the council as the governor of a Western state.

"The governor was able to attend last year's WCLF session in Coeur d'Alene, and we're hoping that connection still is clear to this day, that as the Secretary of the Interior, you have the WCLF," he said. "We're sure going to push for having him visit Warm Springs."

If he is able to continue his involvement with the council, he would be different from the previous Interior Secretary, Norton, whom Shaw said had

never attended a meeting but delegated her office's representation on the council to assistants.

Jim Erickson, a member of the Intertribal Timber Council from the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington, and a WLFC member, and Shaw "have lobbied pretty hard" to have the council meet in Indian Country since its inception in 2002.

"We've done that twice now, at White Mountain Apache in Arizona two years ago," he said. "We've been lobbying for Warm Springs and the biomass connection just seemed to make it work quite well."

Erickson and Nancy Guerrero, a representative from the Department of Interior from Washington, accompanied Shaw in addressing the tribal council.

See OFFICIALS, on 8

## Tribes negotiating biomass power pact

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

The Confederated Tribes are negotiating with companies that may be interested in purchasing the power generated by the planned biomass energy generation facility.

The power-sale agreement is one of the three essential parts of the project. The other two are securing the necessary financing for construction of the plant, and ensuring availability of fuel for the plant once it is complete.

The plan is to construct the biomass facility at the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries mill. The plant would be the only one in the region, the next-closest one being in north-central California.

The biomass plant would generate electricity through the burning of wood fuel.

The fuel would come from public and private land in the area around the reservation, from the reservation itself, and possibly from other sources as well.

The tribes have an agreement with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management that should ensure a steady supply of fuel for the biomass plant.

The power sale agreement, and financing are the main areas of focus now.

Jim Manion, manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises, Bobby Brunoe, manager of Natural Resources, and Jim Noteboom, tribal attorney, gave an update on the negotiations last week to Tribal Council.

See BIOMASS, on 8

## African delegates visit Warm Springs

Sixteen leaders from African nations recently visited the reservation.

The delegates had been in Portland as part of their trip to the U.S.

Earlier, they had also been to Washington, D.C.

While visiting the Northwest, the group had a free day with no meetings. Their host in Portland, Amy Barss of the World Affairs Council of Oregon, asked the delegates what they would like to do. They agreed they would like to visit an Indian reservation. The group headed first for Mount Hood Meadows, as they had never seen snow before.

Then they headed for the Warm Springs Reservation. They met first at the Simnasho Longhouse with tribal members. Council Chairman Ron Suppah welcomed the delegates.

The Africans joined in singing Happy Birthday to Freda Wallulautm. Chief Delvis Heath gave a tour of some of the points of interest on the reservation.



Visiting representative from one of the 16 visiting African nations watches events at the Simnasho Longhouse with Miss Warm Springs Nicola Stwyer, during the African delegation's recent visit to the reservation.

Jim Noteboom for the Spilyay

## Government transfers blowdown money

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

The lawsuit over the McQuinn Strip blowdown timber sale has finally come to a long-awaited conclusion. Just recently the federal government transferred the \$16.4 million settlement to the tribes.

The case itself was settled many months ago, but the process of fully releasing the money to the tribes took some time. The \$16.4 million represents settlement of the McQuinn case, which originated from a 1990 timber sale, and also the HeHe fire case, which dates back only a few years. Most of the money comes from the McQuinn case.

The tribes sued the federal government because responsibility for losses to the tribes from the McQuinn and HeHe cases was with the BIA.

To commemorate the conclusion of the McQuinn blowdown controversy, tribal leaders gathered last week for a luncheon with the legal team that brought the case to a successful conclusion. The attorneys from Karnopp

Peterson, legal representative of the tribes, were on hand for the occasion.

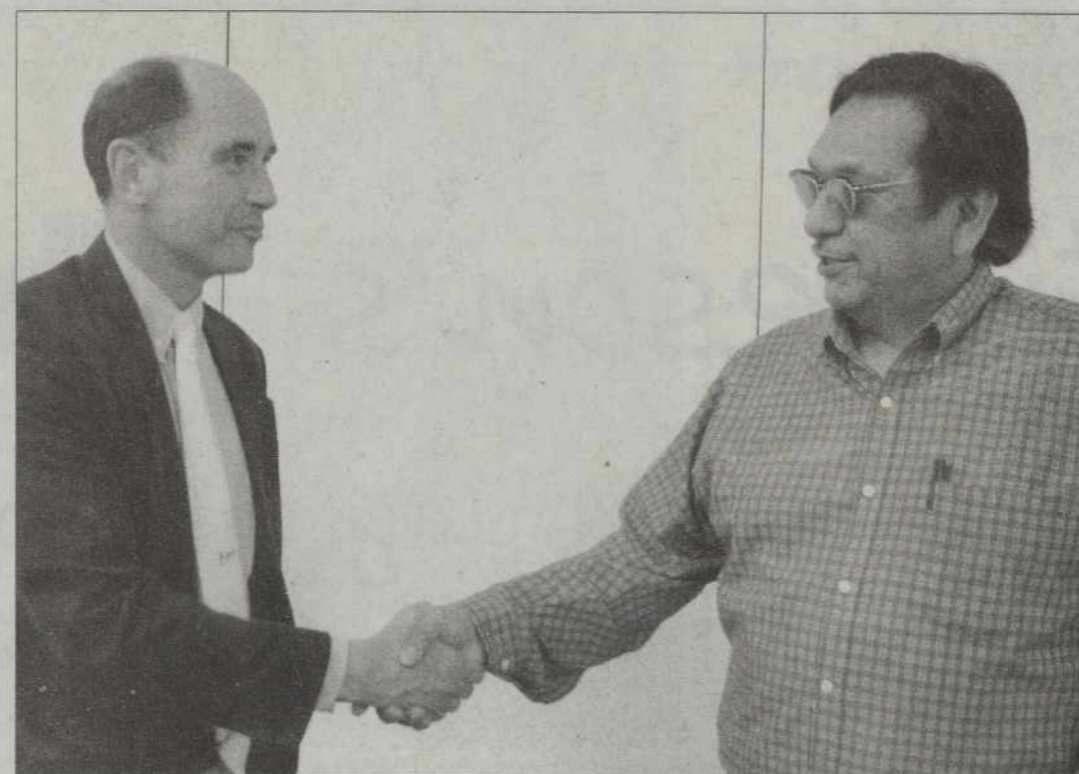
"Fifty years ago the tribes hired this law firm to represent us," said Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah. "Over the years the firm has paid for itself over and over. I want to recognize the lawyers for doing an incredible job for us, because the legal issues we deal with are complex."

Paul Dewey, an attorney working with Karnopp Peterson, was recognized for his long-term contribution to settling the McQuinn case.

"Paul was there throughout the case, from beginning to end," said Howard Arnett, who was lead attorney in the case during the more recent two and a half year appeal process.

Dewey brought to the case an extensive knowledge of timber practices and legal issues relating to forestry. "His mastery over this case was amazing," said Arnett.

"His experience, skill and knowledge of the case was critical to reaching a successful outcome to the litigation."



Attorney Paul Dewey, left, and Warm Springs Tribal Council chairman Ron Suppah shake hands at the announcement of the transfer of \$16.4 million to the tribes at last week's Tribal Council meeting at Kah Nee Ta.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

For the tribes' case, Dewey brought in expert witnesses Gerry Willits and Norm March, who were also on hand for the luncheon, as was Jim Spitz, consultant to the tribes on forest manage-

ment. The job of the experts was difficult: They examined the stumps that were left after the 1990 McQuinn blowdown

See TRANSFER, on 8

## Tribes eligible for disaster relief

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush last week opened up federal aid for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, along with coastal counties and other areas of Oregon hit hard by winter storms and mudslides.

Federal funding will be available to help repair areas damaged by severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides from Dec. 18 through Jan. 21, the White House said in a statement.

The Confederated Tribes, the state, and 18 counties are eligible for assistance, the White House said.

The counties are Jefferson, Crook, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Gilliam, Jackson, Josephine, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, and Wheeler.

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski asked Bush for the disaster declaration in January to help pay for an estimated \$9 million in damages to highways and other public property.

The storms caused at least \$22 million in overall damage, including private property. The president's declaration does not affect repairs to homes or businesses.

See RELIEF, on 8