

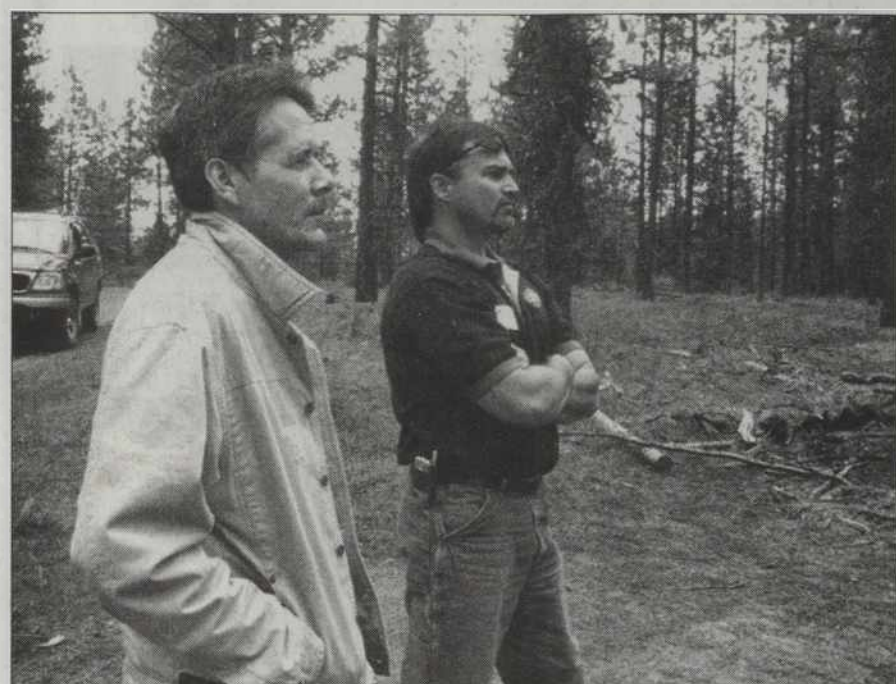
Leadership council visits Warm Springs

A number of high-level officials from the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture were in Warm Springs the week of May 8 to discuss wildland fire issues and to tour tribal biomass projects.

The recent visit was part of the Wildland Fire Leadership

a healthy forest, while reducing hazardous fuel loads that have the potential to stimulate catastrophic fire.

Biomass treatments target overstocked stands for thinning, which promotes growth among the remaining trees. With less competition for nutrients and space, the thinned stand grows



BIA Forest Manager Doug Manion and former Forest Manager Bodie Shaw listen to speakers at treatment area.



Members of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and other visitors listen to presentation on biomass treatments being conducted near Sidwalter Flats. Below left, an overstocked pine stand and, right, one that has been thinned.

Council's quarterly business meeting, which was hosted by Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

The influential council spent an entire day discussing business issues, which revolved around the national fire plan. There were featured speakers from several federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

An important topic on the council agenda and one that affects tribal resource management is that of biomass. The tribes are already heavily involved in using sub-merchantable trees to produce chips that fuel a cogeneration plant at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI).

Former Warm Springs Forest Manager Bodie Shaw, who is the BIA deputy chief in the Branch of Wildland Fire Management and coordinates national-level site visits for the BIA, was instrumental in bringing the council to Warm Springs. He also helped to arrange the daylong field trip with stops at biomass projects near Sidwalter Flats and at the mill's cogeneration plant.

In the field, representatives of the tribal Natural Resources Branch and BIA Branch of Forestry explained the importance of biomass projects in creating

faster and stronger. These stands are also susceptible to devastating crown fires.

The Warm Springs visit gave members of the council a first-hand account of the benefits biomass projects have for the forest and local communities.

"We're trying to do a better job of partnering with local entities and groups, so it's exciting to see the work they're doing here," said Nina Hatfield the deputy assistant secretary for Business Management and Wildland Fire in the Interior Department. "It's nice to come out and see how these programs are coming to fruition."

Hatfield said the council is very interested in using biomass to produce energy. With the added benefit of reducing hazardous fuels in the forest, Hatfield said biomass projects help to create healthy forests, as well as healthy economies.

Of the choice to have Warm Springs host the council's quarterly meeting Hatfield said, "It's a beautiful area and the people have been very friendly and informative."

Shaw, who spent three years as the BIA forest manager in Warm Springs before taking a job in Washington D.C., said he lobbied hard to have the gathering in Warm Springs.

"We've been lacking Indian Country involvement, so we



were pushing to have a meeting here," said Shaw. "We wanted people to see what's going on in Warm Springs and these projects are exactly what the group needs to see."

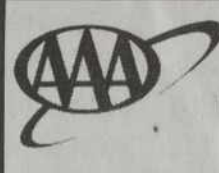
Summer camp begins in June

Canyon Ranch Camp opens June 14 at 5 p.m. for boys 8-13 years of age. There will be a performance by the Freedom Team at 6 p.m. and a picnic afterwards for the whole family. The camp ends June 17.

Camp for girls 11-13 runs June 19-21 and for girls 8-10 camp begins at 5 p.m. on June 21, running through June 24. A program and picnic for all the girls is set for June 21, 6 p.m.

Registration forms are at Warm Springs Elementary.

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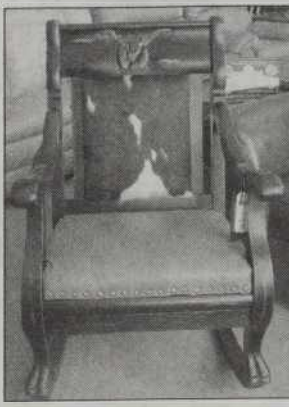
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