

Cleanup project spruces up the park

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

People from different departments on the reservation pitched in recently to clean up Elmer Quinn Park.

The idea for the cleanup came to Yvette Leecy, of the Forestry Department, as she noticed the park was becoming overrun with weeds and trash.

The condition at the park seemed to discourage families from visiting there, and instead was leading to use of the park mainly by youth who were out drinking after dark.

"That's not what the park is for," Leecy said. "I wanted to see the park cleaned up and made more family oriented and people friendly."

She began to stop by to volunteer her time, raking up leaves and trash, on a daily basis.

Then last week she helped organize a team that worked at the park for most of one day, clearing out brush and hauling away trash, leaves and branches.

On hand were Yvette and her husband Michael Leecy, also of Forestry; and the Community Help Education Team (CHET), including Joyce Oberly, Anita Davis, Harvianne



Ann Tohet and Wayne Miller.

Tony Holliday and the Fire Management Hot Shot Crew took care of the brush that had grown up along Shitike Creek in the park.

Leecy said her hope is to see some nice salmon pits put in, and a big barbecue area and more tables, to encourage families to visit the park.



Yvette Leecy(left) cleans up the entrance of Elmer Quinn Park, as a young community service volunteer (above) loads branches for hauling.

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Tribes support Smith re-election

The Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs voted to endorse Sen. Gordon Smith for reelection to the U.S. Senate in 2008.

"Warm Springs is pleased to endorse Sen. Smith's reelection," said Ron Suppah, chairman of the Tribal Council.

"Nationally, he's displayed bipartisan leadership on a wide range of tribal issues. Here at home, Sen. Smith has helped us with our hydro project, with rebuilding Celilo Village, and with our health services. He's good for Oregon's tribes, and he's good for all Oregonians, and he deserves to be reelected."

From his positions on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources

Committee, Sen. Smith has directly and effectively engaged in and advocated for tribal issues of importance.

Smith has consistently worked to strengthen tribal governments and provide them with the same tools long taken for granted by other units of government.

He has sought to extend to tribal governments the same pension provisions that apply to state and local governments, and he has sought to provide tribal governments with the tax exempt bond financing capability relied upon by state and local governments for community and infrastructure development.

For the Warm Springs tribes, Sen. Smith sponsored and moved the public law facilitating the Warm Springs tribes' participation in Pelton Hydroelectric Project's federal license. He cosponsored the Tribal For-

est Protection Act, which Warm Springs is now drawing upon for a forest health project on the Mt. Hood National Forest that will also help fuel the tribes' biomass facility.

Smith was instrumental in legislation to rehabilitate Celilo Village.

He has also advocated on the tribes' behalf with the administration, and currently is facilitating efforts to settle differences between the tribe and the Indian Health Service regarding the tribes' Joint Venture Clinic.

"Oregon has a great tradition of being served by leaders of strong principle, and Gordon Smith's reelection will continue that tradition, be it on tribal issues or matters of importance to all Oregonians," said Chairman Suppah.

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