

Challenge to protect tribal forest

The Warm Springs Reservation is being challenged to protect our lands, resources, animals, timber, sovereign nation and borders.

A recent proposal can make the reservation vulnerable to intrusion from outsiders through the use of off-highway and all-terrain vehicles (OHVs and ATVs).

Many may not know, but the public Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) runs along and inside the western Warm Springs Reservation border within the McQuinn strip.

When our reservation was granted the McQuinn strip, there was an easement clause in tact that allowed access on foot and/or horseback to the PCT to the outside public for maintaining and recreational hiking only and excluded motorized vehicles.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) for years has held volunteer trips up to the trail through the 4240-120 road up to the 4240-130 road off the reservation that grants access up to north and south Pinhead. From there the volunteers help to clean the area and keep the trail in a rural and stable condition for everybody.

The U.S. Forest Service un-



Area where trail passes through reservation.

fortunately has fallen victim to pressure from OHV recreational hobbyists who wish to expand their current zones in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

There are six proposals in place, while the Peavine zone is the one that tribal members and colleagues should be the most concerned about.

The proposed Peavine zone/area runs right up along our reservation border.

Within that zone lie grounds for Cow elk calving and shelter and the beginning of the Warm Springs River.

The PCTA, who too are against the proposal, presented the case to the Warm Springs Planning Department along with

pictures of the areas that immediately became alarming.

The OHV hobbyists have already begun to clear the historic roads that have only been used by the PCTA.

They've taken down road barriers that lead to the reservation, they've crossed the border to access the Pacific Crest Trail, they've started to exit the trail to create more trails on the reservation, they've set up camp and created campfires, and they've littered the area already quite heavily.

Through the passing of the new Peavine OHV zone, the vehicle traffic and disregard for property and land will increase in the area along our western

borders.

We'd like to ask those willing friends and the tribal membership to help oppose this proposal in writing, stopping by or e-mailing:

Jennie O'Connor
Team Leader
Mt. Hood National Forest
Motorized Travel Plan
6780 Hwy 35
Parkdale, OR 97041

Email: comments to:
pacificnorthwestmthood@fs.fed.us.

Hand delivers to the office can be made from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.
Or, fax to (541) 352-7365.

The website of the proposal is:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects/travel-management/WebsiteMaps/Enclose7_Peavine_Area.pdf

More info:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects/index.shtml#ohv>

November 1 is the closing for public comment.

Thank you for your time.
Jefferson Greene, Warm Springs Planning - Land Use Administration. 553-3271.

Notices of availability

Notice of availability of a finding of No Significant Impact of the project assessment entitled: Final Project Assessment, 2007 **Wintergreen Timber Sale**, issued by the superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Warm Springs Agency, dated Oct. 16, 2007.

This notice advises the public that the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

on the Final Project Assessment, 2007 Wintergreen Timber Sale is available for public review.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this FONSI should contact:

Bill Reynolds, acting environmental coordinator, Bureau of Indian Affairs, PO Box 1239, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Ph. (541) 553-2422.

Notice of availability of a finding of No Significant Impact of the project assessment entitled: Final Project Assessment, **Old Road Maintenance Shop Soil Cleanup Project**, issued by the superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Warm Springs Agency, dated Oct. 16, 2007.

This notice advises the public that the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

on the Final Project Assessment, Old Road Maintenance Shop Soil Cleanup Project is available for public review.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this FONSI should contact:

Bill Reynolds, acting environmental coordinator, Bureau of Indian Affairs, PO Box 1239, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Ph. (541) 553-2422.

Chance to comment on salvage sale

A timber sale meeting will be held at the Warm Springs Wellness Center from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 29.

The purpose of the meeting is to gather tribal member comments on the proposed Whitewater Salvage Sale. Refreshments will be provided.

Representatives from the Forestry and Natural Resources branches will present information and provide maps of the

potential salvage area, much of which burned during the WSA Complex Fire.

The presentation will feature an overview of potential harvest areas and methods, along with major issues to be considered, including road construction and fuels reduction in Whitewater Canyon.

Tribal Council directed Forestry and the Natural Resources branches to develop an action

plan addressing salvage of trees burned during the fire, and harvest of adjacent stands that may be at risk of future fires.

The Project Inter-disciplinary Team, utilizing comments from the tribal public, will develop a project assessment with a no action and two action alternatives to address the salvage.

They will also make a recommendation to the Resource Management Inter-disciplinary

Team, who in turn will make a recommendation to Tribal Council.

Approximately 82 percent of the project area is designated as conditional use. North-facing slopes in the salvage area will be replanted, but the density of planting has yet to be determined.

For additional information contact Ken Borchert at 553-2416.

More Letters to the Editor

Fire fighters

Fire season is over. Again we have lost timber to the ravages of forest fire. I would like to commend the Warm Springs Interagency Hot Shot Crew.

The crew placed themselves in harm's way throughout the fire season around the country.

The one fire in which they showed their mettle was here on our own land, the Biddle Pass fire. Given a choice, as others were, to descend into the White Water canyon to attack the fire, they chose to do so. For safety

reasons, they were not able to attend to the fire around the clock and others chose not to risk attacking the fire in their absence. So the fire was free to move about until their return. Without the actions of the Warm Springs Interagency Hot Shot Crew, who knows how much more damage could have been done?

I believe the phrase, "above and beyond," fits what this crew did.

This letter is my own small way of showing my appreciation for a job well done. Others have

brought this to my attention and I am sure many others agree. Thank you Warm Springs Hot Shot Crew.

Rafael Queahpama.

Join cause

I have committed myself to helping fight cancer this year. I hope that all of you will help in this endeavor.

I have not been able to help in the way most people do - by donating money. What I have decided to do is to ask everyone to help by donating their Yoplait Yogurt lids. Yoplait will donate \$0.10 for every lid they receive to the American Cancer Society. I did this last year but didn't get very many, but have made it my goal for 2007 to attempt to get at least 1,000 lids, hopefully more.

We have had a lot of people die because of cancer, including several very young people in recent years. I've had family members succumb to this deadly disease. I would like to join the fight so hopefully one day soon we will not lose anymore loved ones.

Please join me in this endeavor. It won't cost you any more than the price of a yogurt. Save the lids and help fight cancer. I will be placing several cans out where you can deposit those lids. If nothing else, give me a call and I can pick them up. You can reach me at 553-1131, ext 223 or my cell phone number is (541) 980-2867. Thank you for your support.
Val Squiemphen.



Artist Travis Bobb wishes Warm Springs a Happy Halloween.

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