

# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

November 8, 2007 Vol. 32, No. 23

Acquisition Dept./Serials  
Knight Library  
1299 University of Oregon  
Eugene OR 97403-1205

P.O. Box 870  
OR 97761

ECR WSS  
Postal Patron

U.S. Postage  
PRSR STD  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

50 cents

## Wind may become source of revenue

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

The high winds that blow across the Mutton Mountains could become a commercial resource for the Confederated Tribes.

Through Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises, the tribes are exploring the possibility of placing up to 60 wind turbines on ridgelines of the Mutton Mountains.

Power and Water has been looking into the project for about five years.

Most recently, the enterprise received a grant in the amount of \$150,000 to develop a study of the potential project.

The grant will fund an engineering study of the road requirements necessary to develop and maintain the turbines.

Part of the grant will also go toward a study of power transmission requirements from the turbines to the main power grid.

A third study will look at the potential environmental issues associated with development of wind turbines.

Power and Water also received a grant for education purposes, to present information to the membership and tribal leaders on renewable energy development, how it works and what benefits the tribes may derive from pursuing the wind farm project, said

Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

Wind farms are an increasingly popular form of renewable energy, said Manion. "Energy development in the U.S. is heavily favoring renewable energy," he said.

For instance, the U.S. Department of Energy provided the two recent grants to Power and Water Enterprises, Manion said.

Also, the Oregon Legislature recently passed a law requiring utilities to purchase renewable energy.

"That accelerates the potential value to the tribes," said Manion, "and would help make the project profitable."

The decision to continue pursuing

the wind farm idea comes after the tribes received a report indicating such a project could be profitable.

The report is based on a study of the wind patterns in the mountains. A basic finding of the study is that wind turbines placed there would generate energy 30 percent of the time during the year.

The 30-percent figure indicates that the project would generate a profit, said Manion. "That is within the commercial viability range," he said. Manion also said that Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises has authority to pursue the project only through approval of the Tribal Council.

## Tribes frustrated by casino delays

(By Spilyay staff and the AP.)

In a case that is of interest to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, a New York Indian tribe has filed a lawsuit against U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne.

In the lawsuit, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe accuses Kempthorne of undue delay and acting in bad faith on the tribe's application to put into federal trust land for a proposed casino.

Like the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have been frustrated by a long delay encountered at the office of the Secretary of the Interior.

"He has made no decisions, that I'm aware of, on off-reservation gaming," said Ken Smith, chairman of the Warm Springs tribal gaming board.

"Maybe this will get things moving," Smith said of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's lawsuit.

The lawsuit by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe asks the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., to order Kempthorne to make a decision on the tribe's application within 30 days.

The Mohawks accused Kempthorne of letting his personal opposition to off-reservation Indian gaming interfere with his legal responsibilities.

"It is unfortunate that we have to file a lawsuit to compel the secretary to do his job, and it is unacceptable that our completed application has been pending at the department for nearly nine months," said Chief Lorraine White.

"The secretary cannot unilaterally ignore the law and simultaneously ignore his fiduciary responsibility to the Mohawk people and his oath of office."

The tribe needs the approval to move ahead with plans to build a \$600 million casino in Monticello, 90 miles northwest of New York City. The project has support from all of New York's federal and state leaders, as well as local officials.

This situation is similar to that of Warm Springs in regard to the Cascade Locks site, which has support among state and federal officials, as well as the community of Cascade Locks.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is farther along in the approval process than Warm Springs.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe has already completed its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, and is just waiting for a final decision on the application.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are in the EIS process, having completed a draft EIS. But the tribes cannot proceed until EIS meeting notices are posted in the Federal Register. Inaction at this step has caused the current delay the tribes are experiencing with the Bridge of the Gods Casino project.

There are 13 Indian tribes that are in the process of trying to gain approval for off-reservation gaming, said Smith.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is the farthest along in the process.

"We're not the only ones in this situation," said Smith. The lawsuit, he said, may put some pressure on the Secretary of the Interior to do something, rather than doing nothing in regard to the tribal applications.

Tashna Hicks-Wert (at center) received special honor by her parents, Marla and Leroy "Buddy" Hicks, and members of the VFW Elliott Palmer Post 4217 at the Agency Longhouse during her recent visit to Warm Springs.

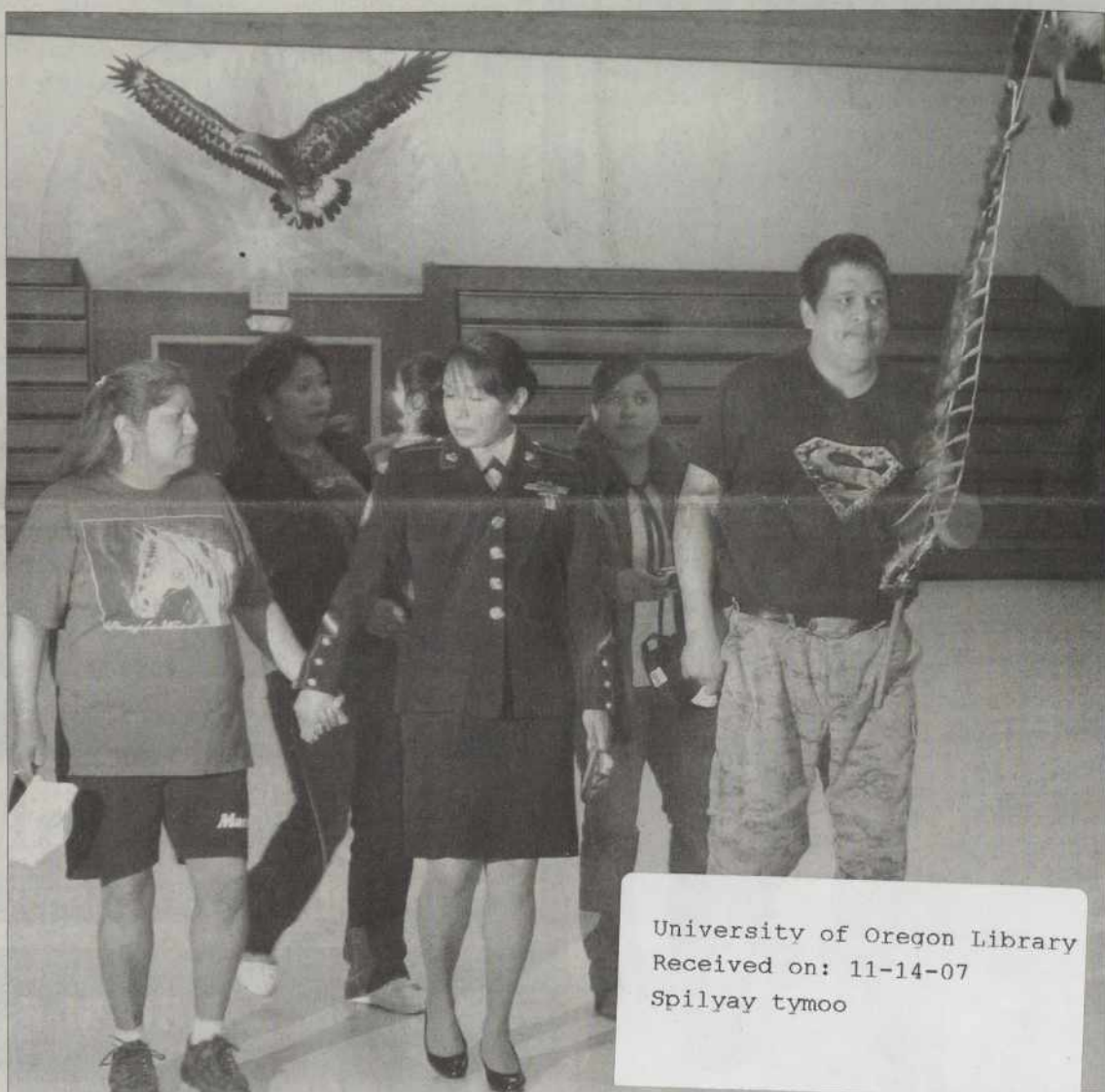
After her accomplishments were read to everyone the VFW presented her with an eagle feather.

On Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 12, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Elliott Palmer Post 4217 will host the Warm Springs Veterans Day Parade.

The Veterans Ceremony will be at 10:30 a.m. in front of the courthouse.

The Veterans Parade begins at 11 a.m., and will proceed from the courthouse to the Agency Longhouse.

Following the parade, lunch will be served.



University of Oregon Library  
Received on: 11-14-07  
Spilyay tymoo

Selena Boser/spilyay

## Stream will benefit by being moved

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Shitike Creek could be following a different path with a new project intended to restore the stream.

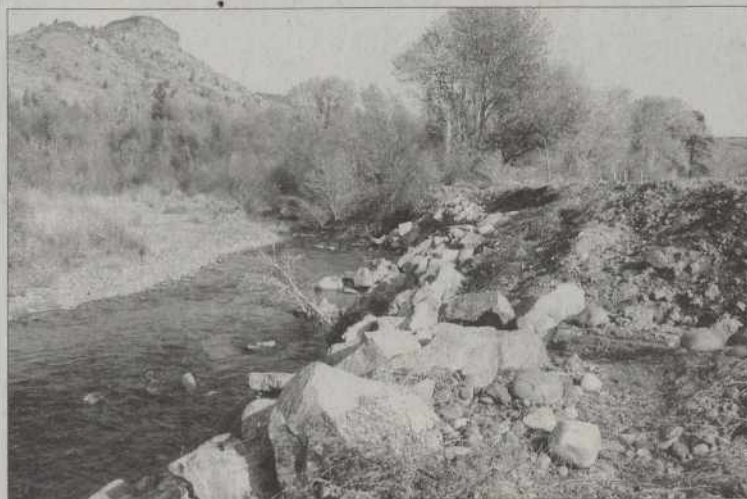
Biologists with Natural Resources are working on a project that will reroute Shitike Creek from the bridge by the Community Center downstream to the wastewater ponds.

Because of concern about the creek being too close to the wastewater ponds, the project aims to reroute the stream onto a path that it once followed in the 1930s.

Habitat Biologist Scott Turo said periodic flooding and development in the floodplain have resulted in the straightening of the stream channel.

With the new design, Turo said, the stream would have more meander bends and follow a path very similar to where it was located in 1938.

"These kinds of projects involve essentially reconstructing the stream channel," Turo explained. The benefits would be increased floodplain access,



Shitike Creek near the wastewater ponds.

Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

improved fish habitat, and of course a very large reduction in the risk to the waste water lagoons.

That reconstruction is vital for the creek, and Turo said, "This is one of the reservation's most important streams."

While work like this has been done

throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, Turo said, but to his knowledge nothing to this scale has ever been completed on the reservation. But that doesn't mean it isn't necessary—and if the project is successful, Turo said, it could serve as a springboard for other projects.

To complete the reconstruction, Turo said, they would be using wood to build log jams in order to create meanders for the stream to follow.

In these meander bends large engineered logjams would use energy from the stream to create pools for migrating adult fish and juvenile fish to grow. Side channels will also be created to provide additional habitat for juvenile fish, especially during high flows.

Right now the stream flows quickly and is wide and shallow. That doesn't allow for quality fish habitat, Turo said.

The habitat is very uniform. It contains no large pools or side channels, he explained.

The reconfigured stream would flow slower and feature improved conditions for fish.

Plus, Turo said, the new design allows the stream to cool off in certain areas. "It will positively impact water temperature," Turo said. "We won't notice, but the fish will."

See CREEK on 11

See CASINO DELAYS on 11