

Language program: new grant funding a big help

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"She understands the purpose of what we're doing and doesn't want her language to die," Johnson said.

"We put a lot of effort into getting what we can while we can," Johnson added.

It's definitely not an easy task to learn Kiksht, Johnson said. While she can understand a lot of the language, she knows her grandmother was lonely after the death of McInturff left her without a fellow fluent speaker to converse with.

"They pushed each other to continue working," Johnson said of Thompson and McInturff.

"That's what makes me continue to go on no matter what because that's what they taught me," Johnson explained.

Their efforts to preserve the language have been made possible in particular by Kono's efforts, Johnson said.

While Kono is currently working as a professor of Native American Studies at Portland State University, she has remained very active with the Warm Springs Language Program and even seeks out grants to benefit those preserving the Kiksht language on her own, Johnson said.

The funding she has found has had a monumental impact on the preservation of Kiksht. "It's been carrying the language," Johnson explained. "We've gotten much-needed equipment that we've been using to document and record and archive. Now that we have this bigger



Deenie Johnson, Gladys Thompson, Pam Cardenas, Nariyo Kono and Tonya Thompson (left to right) are all involved in the efforts to preserve Kiksht.

grant we're getting more equipment."

Before, Johnson explained, all the equipment was shared

with programs working to document the Warm Springs and Paiute languages.

In fact, Johnson added, she

and her grandmother are currently employed through a contract with Portland State University as a result of grant funding—not by the language program.

These special conditions apply to the Wasco language group because of the dire situation they face in preserving the language before it is too late, Johnson added.

When Kono used to work for the Language Program, Johnson said, she became close with Thompson and Madeline McInturff.

"They talked to her about helping and looking out after I guess us, myself and Pam and whoever takes up the language," Johnson explained. "To kind of take care of us so that we can

get the work going and get it finished."

For that reason, Johnson said, Kono has sought out grants on her own with just letters of reference from other people involved.

After eight years of working with her grandmother, Johnson added, it has instilled in her a desire to continue the language.

That is something that her fellow apprentices agree with wholeheartedly.

"I just want to learn the language. That is my goal," Cardenas said. "It is a great challenge for me."

According to Cardenas, "The language is here for me, and I'm going to be here for the language."

Members comment on two proposed timber sales

An interdisciplinary team from the Forestry and Natural Resources branches has been collecting tribal member comments on timber sales being proposed for 2010 and 2011. Responses to a number of comments and concerns are included with this article.

The 2010 timber sale will target approximately 32 million board feet of timber in the Beaver Creek watershed and the 2011 sale will target approximately 37 million board feet in the Upper Warm Springs watershed. The harvest approximates the annual allowable cut (recalculated every five years) for these planning units, which is based on long-term sustainability. The process for planning these sales officially began on May 21 when the project interdisciplinary team (PIDT) completed its second and final scoping meeting with the tribal public. Meetings were held at the Agency and Simnasho longhouses, initiating the process to complete a draft plan. A slide show and maps were used to identify potential treatment areas, which were described by project leaders Matt Jimenez and Doug Dunlap, along with other members of the technical staff. A field review of the proposed project areas, and other recent projects, will be conducted during the annual Timber Tour tentatively scheduled for August 13 and 14.

The PIDT, which plans the sale and makes presentations to interested tribal members, is comprised of individuals from the Natural Resources and Forestry technical staffs and committees. The team includes a fish biologist, forester, wildlife ecologist, hydrologist, fuels manager, forest engineer, archeologist, monitoring representative, range conservationist, soil scientist, writer/editor, representatives from three tribal committees, and a representative from Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI).

Comments from the scoping meetings solicit issues, concerns and opportunities used to develop a planning document known as a project assessment. The assessment contains alternatives for implementing the sale, a strategy to monitor the sale after it has been implemented, and mitigation measures to offset negative impacts. After considering input from the tribal public, the PIDT will develop at least two alternatives, one emphasizing a balanced approach to resource management and the other focused on maintaining the status quo.

The team will present their

assessment and recommended alternative to the Resource Management Interdisciplinary Team (RMIDT) this fall and they in turn release the assessment for public review. Following a 30-day review, RMIDT approves one of the alternatives and attaches a decision document to the project assessment, which is then forwarded to the BIA superintendent for concurrence. Tribal member comments are accepted throughout the process at the main office of the Forestry Branch.

The entire process and all management activities related to the forested area must adhere to goals, standards and best management practices adopted under the Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP) for the Forested Area. The plan, which strikes a balance between resource utilization and protection, is reviewed and updated every five years.

The 2010 and 2011 timber sales are being proposed because they will generate revenue for the Confederated Tribes and address forest health. The size and type of trees harvested will determine the value of stumpage.

WSFPI mill

During one of the scoping meetings, tribal members wanted to know if the mill at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries is going to resume full production at some point in the future. Tribal Council recently passed a resolution approving a contract to have Vanport International lease the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries mill. Vanport will purchase logs from the tribes at market value and process them through the mill. Vanport will be employing tribal members. People also want to know where the logs they see headed down the highway are going. Logs being sold to outside interests are typically headed for Weyco in Dallesport, Feres Lumber in Lyons, Starfire in Cottage Grove, Kinzua at Pilot Rock, Interfor at Molalla, Prineville Sawmill, SDS of Bingen, Wa. and Gabbster Inc. in Prosser, Wa. Warm Springs Forest Products buys the logs and then sells them on the open market. Many of the logs that were leaving the reservation will now be offered to Vanport so they can be processed at the mill.

A number of people thought we should stop harvesting trees if the Warm Springs mill isn't going to process them. The recent Tribal Council resolution will keep the mill running until next April, at which time the contract with Vanport will be

reevaluated. Local jobs will continue to be supported through the harvest of timber on the reservation and tribal crews are always the top priority when issuing contracts. Unfortunately, market values are expected to stay depressed until 2010.

Those attending scoping meetings were interested to know if adjustments would be made in the volume of timber being harvested with the mill partially shut down. At present, there is no change to the annual allowable cut or to the amount of timber harvests being planned and delivered to Warm Springs Forest Products. The allowable cut is calculated by the Forestry Planning Department and approved by Tribal Council. Factors influencing timber harvests include sustained yield, employment and revenue for the Confederated Tribes.

In regards to questions about firewood at one of the scoping meetings, it was noted the mill does occasionally sell truckloads of timber as firewood to private individuals. These truckloads are sold for profit and revenue to the Tribes. In previous years the Branch of Forestry processed and delivered limited amounts of firewood to tribal seniors, with logs being donated by WSFPI. At this point, these are the only two known organizations actively involved in delivering firewood. Future efforts could expand if there are adequate personnel, budgets and creativity.

Although current efforts are successful in providing a portion of the seasonal needs, it is acknowledged that more firewood, per elder household, is needed. This would be a great opportunity for more tribal and community involvement, perhaps on a voluntary basis. Tribal well-being is going to require participation from the whole community and its families; it is not Forestry's or WSFPI's charge to solely provide for personal family needs.

People are interested in knowing whether or not old-growth trees should be preserved as a seed source. Foresters say that depending on the health of the individual trees in question, most retention trees are older, large diameter trees often considered old-growth. Seed tree treatments also strive to retain the more light-tolerant tree species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and western larch. These species exhibit survival and growth characteristics more favorable for this type of treatment. The larger diameter examples of these species are

also more fire-resistant.

Red cedar is a species of concern to tribal members who want to reserve these trees for cultural use. Generally, western red cedar occurs in limited numbers, primarily within watered communities or wetter upland slopes. There are significant amounts of red cedar within Beaver Butte Creek riparian areas. Under IRMP, such riparian areas are protected from harvest activities.

Incense cedar is used for other purposes. The bough market for incense cedar creates a seasonal harvest associated with the winter holidays. Incense cedar is the only cedar species approved for bough harvest. It was once used for making pencils and to some extent it is still used for firewood. The cutting down of cedar trees over ten inches in diameter is a non-compliance issue executed by individual contractors and is being addressed by the Tribal Timber Committee and the Branch of Forestry.

Another question from the scoping sessions had to do with blowdown and how it will be handled. Salvaging of windthrown timber occurs every year. The actual amount and particular areas affected are dependent on climatic conditions, geographic features, and proximity to forest openings. The probability for windthrow increases during times of saturated soil and high winds. Sal-

vaging occurs to capture monetary value from dead and dying timber that would otherwise remain in the forest.

Several tribal elders have asked how we can keep snowbrush from competing with huckleberries? Snowbrush is a tenacious and opportunistic plant that thrives on disturbance. The best way to minimize the spread of snowbrush is to replant harvest blocks with trees that will compete successfully over time for available space. Snowbrush will not be eliminated through this strategy, but its impacts will be lessened. Hand removal may also be an option in specific berry gathering areas. Snowbrush is treated immediately after logging activities when preparing a site for reforestation through the planting of tree seedlings. Brush is pulled from the ground, piled and burned. Snowbrush is eventually shaded-out as the planted trees grow into a more mature stand, often decades into the future.

Another question having to do specifically with huckleberries was on planting. This subject has been raised in the past, but the Cultural Resources program has not yet tried to plant huckleberries.

For the Confederated Tribes, success in berry enhancement has been accomplished through the thinning of trees on applicable sites, thereby redistributing the site's available growing

space. Providing favorable conditions for berry response is a balancing act. You don't want to open the stands too much because huckleberry shrubs would be negatively subjected to the elements. Faster berry response occurs by logging over a snowpack, which reduces impacts to the shrubs. Another component is reducing post timber-harvest debris by transporting treetops back to the landings for piling and burning. Reducing slash levels keeps the shrubs from being compacted or adversely affected. Reduced slash also keeps the forest floor cleaner and more accessible for berry pickers. The huckleberry program continues to evolve and grows in importance for forest management and planning efforts.

At one of the scoping meetings, a tribal member asked if there are lamprey in the 2011 project area. Lamprey do spawn and rear in the Warm Springs River, but not quite as high up as the project area. Fisheries personnel indicate that lamprey redds have been seen in the Warm Spring River as high in the basin as Hehe. Additional surveys will be initiated in the future to see if lamprey distribution has changed.

Additional questions regarding the 2010 and 2011 timber sales should be directed to the Branch of Forestry at 553-2416.

(Submitted by tribal Natural Resources.)

www.dejagrooveband.com

The popular Northwest band Deja Groove returns to Kah-Nee-Ta's Appaloosa Lounge this Thursday, July 17, at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19, at 9 p.m.