



Spilyay Tymoo

JUL 07 2009

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Coyote News, est. 1976

July 2, 2009 Vol. 34, No. 14

Metolius protection wins state approval

A proposal supported by the Confederated Tribes to protect the Metolius River Basin has passed both houses of the Legislature.

The bill then went for signature to Gov. Kulongoski, a main advocate of the protection plan.

Two proposed development projects—one involving up to 420 houses near the Metolius—prompted statewide discussion of the need to protect the basin.

The governor suggested designating the basin an Area of Critical State Con-

cern, a very rarely used designation that the tribes and others supported.

The Oregon House last month initially rejected this proposal, but a few days later passed the resolution 31-28.

The Senate earlier had passed the bill.

Opponents argued that the Legislature should leave land use decisions to the local government, and that the development projects would create jobs.

The tribes supported protection of the basin because water quality, fish and wildlife, and cultural concerns.

The tribes have a reserved in-stream water right in the Metolius and downstream in Deschutes river.

Water quality and quantity impacts of the development proposals were concerns of the tribes.

Also, the tribes and Portland General Electric are investing over \$108 million in fish restoration above the Pelton-Round Butte dams, including in the Metolius.

Deer and elk populations, and possible cultural resources of the basin could also be harmed by the develop-

ments, the tribes and others said.

Passage by the Legislature of the protection bill “shows the state’s recognition of the Upper Metolius as the beautiful place that it is, and now always will be,” said Louie Pitt, director of tribal Government Affairs.

Future management of the basin, he said, “will be more consistent with our philosophy of managing natural resources, which is more of an integrated approach, rather than project by project.”

Council suspends harvesting of pine trees

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Tribal Council passed a resolution last week to suspend the cutting of the large pine trees on the reservation.

The suspension includes a timber sale currently in progress, the Camp Creek sale on the upper and middle areas of Mill Creek. Timber sales through 2011 are also subject to the resolution.

Other trees, such as Douglas and true firs, could be harvested to make up for the pine timber that will remain standing, the Council indicated.

The suspension of pine tree harvesting on the reservation makes sense from both an economic and the forest health perspective, said Norm Johnson, professor at Oregon State University.

The tribes contracted with Johnson to study the reservation timber situation, as the BIA in Warm Springs currently has no silviculturist on staff. The tribes have told the BIA that the silviculturist position should be filled as soon as possible, said secretary-treasurer Jody Calica.

Meanwhile, forestry consultant Jim Spatz has also studied the pine tree conditions on the reservation, and agreed that harvesting the trees does not currently make sense for the tribes.

The demand for lumber in the U.S. is very low, as the demand for new housing has dropped significantly, Johnson and Spatz said.

Just a few years ago, Johnson said, new housing starts in the U.S. were at about 2 million per year. That number is now at about 750,000 per year.

Please see PINE TREES on 6

Treaty celebration

The Confederated Tribes hosted the Fortieth Annual Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow, June 26-28.

The Grand Entries, dance competitions, softball tournament, rodeo, endurance horse race, golf tourney, stick games, and many other activities happened under blue skies and with warm temperatures.

A group of Native Brazilians were special guests at the powwow on Sunday.

The three-day powwow commemorates the signing of the Treaty of 1855, signed 154 years ago last month.

Results of the powwow will be in the next Spilyay. (See pages 8 and 9 for more on Pi-Ume-Sha.)

Pictured at right, Grand Entry on Saturday; below right, owl dancers; and below left, Miss Pi-Ume-Sha Julia Yahtin-Cloud.



Selena Boise and Dave McMechan pictures.



Creek restoration is under way

Shitike Creek from the bridge by the community center downstream to the wastewater ponds is being re-routed.

A work crew began the project this week. The re-routing and streamside planting should be done by about September, said John Turo, habitat biologist with tribal Natural Resources.

Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service designed and are implanting the creek realignment, said Turo.

Re-routing the creek closer to its original course will bring several benefits, he said.

The project, for instance, will reduce the potential of Shitike Creek breaching the berm and entering the retired wastewater ponds.

The re-routing will also reduce the risk of the creek flooding into the active wastewater ponds downstream.

The new channel will give the creek more access to the floodplain, resulting in greater flood protection downstream of the project, including at the Museum at Warm Springs and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

Please see CREEK on 6

Horse coalition weighs culling options

By Dave McMechan
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The Northwest Tribal Horse Coalition is preparing to commission a feasibility study on the development of a horse slaughter facility on tribal land.

Such a facility is needed, as the market for the horses has become nearly non-existent.

Thousands of unclaimed horses, meanwhile, are destroying tribal rangeland and crowding out deer, elk and other native animal and plant species.

The tribal horse coalition met last week at Kah-Nee-Ta, and reviewed the

conditions that have led to the proposal to develop the slaughter facility.

Horses remain an important part of tribal life and culture, those at the meeting agreed. But the current situation—4,000 unclaimed horses roaming the Warm Springs Reservation rangeland, and similar numbers on other reservations—is impossible to sustain.

As with any livestock, management of the horse herds is critical in order to avoid disastrous results to the range and to the animals themselves.

At the meeting last week, the horse coalition agreed to formally voice opposition to pending U.S. House and Senate bills that would ban any horse

slaughter option.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), have passed resolutions against actions by Congress that would ban horse slaughter options.

Representatives of the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla, Colville and Shoshone tribes, and other groups and individuals attended the meeting at Kah-Nee-Ta.

Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah said the five tribes of the coalition are working together because unclaimed horses are a common problem among the tribes, as well

as federal government agencies such as the BLM.

There will be critics of whatever the coalition decides to do, and no tribe should face the opposition on its own, said Chairman Suppah. “We need to support each other in this effort,” he said.

The coalition will also be working on a timeline for project development, he said. “It’s good that we sit down and talk about this,” Suppah said. “But we have to turn the talk into action. And to do that, we have to make some hard decisions fairly soon.”

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