

Creek: will follow original course

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Improving fish habitat is another major component of the project, said Turo.

The design incorporates habitat for steelhead, bull trout, spring and fall Chinook, redband trout, pacific lamprey, and other native fish species.

With the new design, Turo said, the creek will have more meander bends, following a path similar to where it was in 1938. There will also be side channels for use by juvenile fish.

Riffle features will be constructed using boulders to provide grade control, stream energy dissipation, and additional habitat.

The overall project will result in cooler stream water, which will be better for the fish.

The work on the stream is being done in July and August, he said, to have the least impact on fisheries.

Funding for the project comes from the tribes through the Pelton Round Butte Fund,



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

This stretch of the creek will be realigned.

from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Watershed Enhance-

ment Board with staff time provided by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Pine trees: value too low for harvesting

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This is the largest slow-down in housing starts since the Great Depression, he said.

Lumber demand is down 40 percent. Ponderosa pine is much more depressed than other wood types, Johnson said. Pine is used mainly for housing construction items such as doors, windows and moulding.

The Warm Springs Forest Products Mill is not equipped to process the large pine trees, so the logs have to be transported to another mill.

The cost of transportation further depresses the value of harvesting the pine trees, said Johnson.

He showed a graph explaining the situation:

In the years 2005-07, a pine tree 34-inches in diameter, capable of producing seven logs, would generate revenue to the tribes of \$695.

This same tree—250 to 300 years old—in the current year would generate \$30.

A pine tree 17 inches in diameter—100 to 150 years old—

would have generated revenue of \$18 a few years ago.

But the same tree today would generate no revenue, or would cost the tribes money to harvest.

At some time in the future the market for pine will return, at which time it may make sense to harvest the old-growth trees, Johnson and Spatz said.

The Council voted 5-0 in favor of the resolution to suspend pine harvesting on the reservation.

Vital Statistics Hours of Operation

The Vital Statistics Department hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and the department will be open during the

lunch hour Monday through Thursday.

The office will be closed on Fridays, so staff can work on Vital Statistic records and recording.

If you have any questions regarding the hours of operation changes, please call Louie Pitt Jr., Governmental Affairs and Planning Director 541-553-3270.



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Maurice Langsev

Listening session at Health and Wellness

A listening session was held in June at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center. The session was for community members to share concerns and solutions for getting in to see their provider.

The goal of the meeting was to help give us direction on how best to meet the community's needs.

We have made several changes over the past few years that reduced the time for an appointment, reduced the number of people not keeping their appointments, and paired provider's teams to patients to improve continuity of care.

We are continuing to gather data that will continue to refine the appointment process based on the needs of the patient.

Meetings, like the one held last month, give us direction as we move forward. Our goal is to have an appointment system that is responsive to your needs.

Here are some of the issues that were brought to us by community members at the June listening session:

Concern: I don't understand how to get into the clinic to see my provider

Answer: Currently, prenatal, diabetes, certain procedures, and hospital follow-up are given a scheduled appointment. The rest of the appointments are booked the day of the appointment.

Concern: How many providers are there in the clinic?

Answer: Usually there are four to six providers including doctors, nurse practitioners and a physician assistant who see 18-20 patients a day each. One doctor is always on call at the hospital.

Concern: Why do I have to wait for a length of time even when I have an appointment, then be told the patients being seen are from John Day or somewhere else and they've had to travel a long way.

Answer: You may have to wait beyond your appoint-

ment time for several reasons which include:

The appointment before you took more than 20 minutes;

Someone was late for their appointment which put the provider behind;

The provider has to consult with another provider;

The person going in ahead of you may have an appointment with another provider. People who travel long distances are not given appointments before those who live locally.

Concern: Who does our clinic service now?

Answer: Anyone who can prove they are a descendant from a federally recognized tribe

Concerns: When we call for an appointment, we are told there are no more appointments, try tomorrow. But our kids get sicker and we take them to the emergency room at Mountain View Hospital.

Patients needing Pharmacy refills are told they need to see the doctor first.

Patients with "special" needs should have a special place, especially for the elders.

Doctors need to be here and see the patients, at least the really sick ones.

Is there a quota for the numbers of doctors here? Can we get more?

Solution: We do not have the space to make more exam rooms for patients. More exam rooms would help our providers see more patients. Outside doctors have at least three exam rooms for their patients.

Concern: Why are the hours only 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Why not after 5 p.m.? Why aren't you here? In the old clinic, you could go up there anytime and get medical help.

Solution: We are open from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and we often have two providers available from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. We currently do not have enough support staff to be open longer or on weekends.

Concern: The phone answering system keeps saying "I am important" but after hearing that a bunch of times I don't feel very important.

Solution: We will be working on and changing the phone message and answering system to be more helpful

* **Concern:** There should be specialty clinics for the elders, men, etc.

Solution: Currently we have some specialty clinics:

The Elder Clinic is once a month with Dr. Creelman. You may make an appointment by calling the CHR's or Dr. Creelman's nurse.

Renal Clinic (kidney clinic) is monthly. Appointments are made through the Diabetes Program or your provider may request that you be seen.

Group pre-natal visits are scheduled with Dr. Locker

Rheumatology Clinic with the specialist from OHSU occur quarterly, appointments are made by David Williams RN, Medical clinic.

Well Child clinics are held in the Medical clinic. Times and dates are announced ahead of time

The Veterans Association is going to be seeing veterans that are home bound.

It is not a clinic but an opportunity for the veterans in the community. The VA staff will be working with the Tribal Community Health Program.

Concern: Sometimes I just need someone to tell me why I am waiting so long to be seen. Sometimes we just need someone to explain things to us, why don't you have someone to do that?

Solution: We want the staff to always explain to you why you are waiting and will remind staff to do so. We will keep in mind that having a patient advocate position may prove helpful in the future.

Concern: I don't understand why Managed Care isn't paying my emergency room bill

Solution: We hope to invite the Managed Care program to participate at our next "Listening Session" so they may answer questions that pertain to their department to help you all understand better.



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Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call 385-6944 Monday through Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.