



Spilyay Tymoo

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Work progresses on creek project

Better fish habitat is just one of the benefits of the Shitike Creek realignment project.

The new course of the creek will also make it safer in case of flooding. The realignment, for instance, takes the course away from downstream wastewater treatment areas, and also better protects the Museum at Warm Springs and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

Work on the creek, downstream from the community center, should be substantially complete within a few weeks, said Scott Turo, habitat biologist with tribal Natural Resources.

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

Funding for the creek realignment comes from the tribes through the Pelton Round Butte Fund, from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with staff time provided by the Bonneville Power Administration.

With the new design, Shitike 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.



Heavy equipment operators working on the Shitike Creek re-alignment project.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Members comment on pipeline proposal

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal members had the chance to comment recently on the possibility of allowing a gas pipeline to cross the reservation. The membership comments came during a series of scoping meetings on the proposal.

The team appointed by Tribal Council to study the proposal will consider the comments in developing a recommendation to Council, said Bobby Brunoe, general manager of tribal Natural Resources.

"We had many good comments, and many good questions," he said.

The pipeline company, Palomar, meanwhile is following a process separate from the tribal scoping process.

Besides the tribal process, the federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has conducted public meetings on the alternative, reservation route.

Currently, the preferred alternative location for the 220-mile pipeline is north of the reservation. However, the preferred route would cross the Deschutes River at an area designated as Wild and Scenic by federal, state and tribal plans.

Also, the preferred route would require an overhead crossing of the pipeline above the Deschutes River.

An alternative route, through the reservation, would have an underwater Deschutes River crossing outside of the Wild and Scenic designation, above the Pelton re-regulating dam.

The discussion with Palomar began after the tribes determined that an on-

reservation crossing could potentially be beneficial to both parties. One benefit could be reducing impacts to the environment.

The following are some of the many questions that were raised at the scoping meetings, and responses from the study team:

Question: Is this project already a done-deal by the tribes?

Response: The project is being studied by the tribes, and no decision has been made.

How many people will it take to build it and who will be the contractor?

There will be more than one contractor, not yet determined, and the number of workers also is not yet determined.

There would be an effort to hire from the local workforce, and there may be opportunities for job training.

What would be the benefits to the tribes?

Benefits include payment to the tribes, some employment opportunities, and the possibility of access to the gas pipeline for use on the reservation.

When is the project expected to be done? The hope is to have the pipeline operational in 2011.

Palomar is a project of the gas utility NW Natural, a Portland based utility, and TransCanada, a utility located in Alberta, Canada.

The tribal study team, appointed by Tribal Council, includes Chief Heath, Brunoe, Power and Water Enterprises general manager Jim Manion, and a legal representative from Karnopp Petersen, LLP.

Potential is great for community garden

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Warm Springs community garden has come a long way over the past few of years.

The 3-acre parcel located by the administration building was not used for some growing seasons, but now has several active, irrigated plots.

Edmund Francis is recruiting people of the community to work their own plot at the community garden.

There are several individuals and families who are currently working plots, but there is plenty of room for more growers, said Francis.

The current growing season would only accommodate the planting of short-growth vegetables such as lettuce, or starter plants. Francis' long-term goal, though, is to get more people interested and involved for upcoming seasons.

Francis is the lifestyle coach for the Warm Springs Diabetes Prevention program of the Indian Health Services. The community garden is a great way to help meet the goals of his program.

Working at the garden—planting, weeding, watering, harvesting—"takes you away from watching too much television," said Francis.

Too much TV leads to weight gain, a risk factor of diabetes. When you're watching too much television, he said, you are not only just sitting on the couch, but you're watching commercials for snack food, which leads to more snacking.



Edmund Francis at the Warm Springs Community Garden.

"So we encourage our participants to use the garden," he said. Anyone interested can reach Francis at the Diabetes Prevention program of Indian Health Services, 553-0118.

There are many people who have helped with the improvement of the community garden, said Francis.

Beth Ann Beamer, of the Mountain View Hospital Community Health

Improvement Partnership (CHIP), for instance, provided grant money for the project. The tribal Utilities Department contributed some help, as have the Hot Shots, and Carolyn Harvey of the Com-

Community gardeners have only scratched the surface of the potential of the Warm Springs community garden.

munity Health Education Team (CHET), to name just a few. Francis said he would be writing a letter to the editor thanking all those who have helped.

The community garden is divided into 33 plots, each measuring 20-by-25 feet. The community gardeners have planted beans, pumpkins, corn, cilantro, tomatoes, watermelon, bell peppers, onions, squash and pumpkins.

The group of gardeners last year was small, he said, and some were discouraged because there was an early frost. Francis did much of the harvesting himself, and gave the vegetables to the community.

Gardening, he said, requires patience. "It's a waiting game," he said, but the results are worth the wait, and the work along the way is rewarding.

Eventually, Francis said, he would like to see an active orchard along the perimeter of the garden, and such things as a tractor, a shed for tools, and a picnic area. Community gardeners have only scratched the surface of the potential of the Warm Springs community garden.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay