



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

July 9, 2014 Vol. 39, No. 14

July – Pat'ak-Pt'akni – Summer - Shatm

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Mill Creek restoration under way

Construction crews are moving tons of earth in the area of Potter's Ponds on Mill Creek.

This is a large-scale fisheries improvement project, similar to but bigger than the 2009 Shitike Creek improvement project.

The Bonneville Power Administration is funding much of the work, as a mitigation project, with oversight by the tribal Natural Resources Branch. Scott Turo, fisheries biologist, and Johnny Holliday, project coordinator, are on site daily.

The contractor for the project is BCI Contracting, based in Portland. The company focuses on wetland and stream restoration projects.

Business co-owner and operator Drew Porter said any tribal member with heavy machinery credentials is invited contact him about work opportunities. His number is 503-317-5868. Or email: drew.porter@bcicontracting.com

The earth-moving work will create side channels, and spawning habitat for fish. A final phase of the project —after the major earth-moving work—will involve planting thousands of trees and other vegetation.

Log storage ponds

In the 1940s, the Warm Springs Lumber Co. built two large log ponds on Mill Creek. These were located about seven miles upstream of the Highway 26 Bridge.

While the ponds were in active



Dave McMechan/Spilyay photos

Scott Turo and Johnny Holliday, of Natural Resources, with contractor Drew Porter by the Mill Creek restoration work area.

use, in to the 1970s, Mill Creek existed only as an overflow channel skirting the ponds on the north.

A deep gully was all that was left to mark the path of the channel. The ponds eventually destroyed fish spawning areas and habitat.

Toward restoration

Within the restoration area, the project objectives include:

Measures to reconnect the floodplain, increase sinuosity, enclose the riparian area with fencing, eliminate livestock presence, remove the lat-

eral berms (dams), enhance off channel habitat through the development of side channels, ponds and alcoves.

Reconnecting the floodplain means that the creek will no longer be confined to a deep, narrow channel.

Instead, with re-grading of the entire area between the outer banks, the stream will wind through a series of S-turns, feeding off into side channels and deep pools.

Sinuosity is the side-to-side wandering of the stream within its

floodplain. Sinuosity helps to create side channels and pools and is a feature of a healthy stream system.

Riparian fencing is necessary to protect the newly created habitat from overgrazing that would damage vegetation and stream banks.

In time, Mill Creek will provide suitable habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.

(Olney J.P. Patt at tribal Natural Resources helped with this article).

School Update

Construction wrapping up next week

A week from Friday will mark a milestone for the Confederated Tribes. Friday, July 18 will be the substantial completion day for the Warm Springs k-8 Academy, meaning the school will be ready for occupancy.

After that date, tribal and school district officials can tour the facilities, making any suggestions as to final construction details.

"We'll be on site until the end of the month, but we should have the certificate of occupancy by July 18," said Jason Terry, school project manager, with Kirby Nagelhout Construction.

Construction began about a year ago, and proceeded on schedule, even during the heavy snow of last winter.

"We had a really high performance team," Terry said. "From the Warm Springs representatives, the school district, the Wenaha group and the architects. We were able to make good decisions and have a quality project put together in a short amount of time."

The Back to School Barbecue later this summer will be a chance for the public to come and visit the \$20 million k-8 academy.

The grand opening for the fall term will be a milestone in that a new local school had been a goal among tribal leaders for the preview few decades.

Pi-Ume-Sha 2014



The Confederated Tribes, June 27-29, celebrated the Forty-Fifth Pi-Ume-Sha, commemorating the 159th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of 1855.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay photos



New exhibit at Museum

There is a great new exhibit on display at the Museum at Warm Springs.

The Changing Exhibits Gallery is featuring "Celebrating Native American Youth: Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders."

The exhibit features fascinating old photographs of Native American young people and their families. There are short essays explaining the importance of young people in the Native culture.

Many of these black-and-white photos are on loan to the Museum at Warm Springs from the High Desert Museum.

The Museum at Warm Springs is featuring youth-related exhibits during 2014, as the tribes and school district are preparing to open the new k-8 academy.

The museum is open 9-5 p.m. daily during the summer months. You can reach the museum at 541-553-3331.

The museum will be hosting its annual fundraiser Huckleberry Harvest in August. The harvest this year will be at the museum, on Saturday, August 9.



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