

Carbon project: phase 2 of plan starting

(Continued from page 1)

Carbon sequestration is the capturing and storing of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. Certain forestry practices can be a method of increasing the capture and storage of carbon dioxide. These practices include reducing fire and insect threats, and promoting forest health and growth.

Calif. regulation

The market for carbon sequestration credits has existed only for about a year, when carbon dioxide emissions trading regulations took effect in California. There is the possibility that more states, including Oregon, could follow the California example, so the market could grow in the future.

The goal of the California law is to reduce carbon dioxide emission levels by 25 percent by the year 2020. The long-term goal is to reduce emissions to the 1990 level. So the market for carbon sequestration credits could grow as target dates approach under the California law.

The California "cap and trade" regulations impact mainly large companies, such as oil refineries, that emit large amounts of carbon dioxide. By regulation there is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases the company can emit during the year.

Companies can obtain a state allowance to exceed the

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level, or they can legally exceed the emissions cap through an offset.

Through an offset the company shows that, through its initiative, an amount of carbon is being captured and stored that otherwise would have gone into the atmosphere.

The offsets are in the form of credits, sold by the landowner to the company. Among tribes in the U.S., the Yurok, Hoopa Valley, and White Mountain Apache have already entered the market.

With direction from branch general manager Bobby Brunoe, Warm Springs Natural Resources last year began researching the market, and how the tribes might benefit.

The first phase of the research, recently completed, involved a feasibility study, and inventory of reservation forest areas that would qualify for carbon sequestration credits. The inventory shows there are large areas of the reservation that would qualify for the credits.

Phase two, now under way, will involve verification of the tribal; registration of the

credits; and development of a commercialization strategy. The final phase, not yet approved by Council, would be the actual sale to a company or companies of the credits.

Tribal commitment

In order to market carbon sequestration credits, the tribes would agree to a long-term management plan for the specific areas of forest. The commitment is for 100 years. Clearly, this is a large commitment, impacting future generations.

However, the tribes' current forestry practices, as set out in the Integrated Resource Management Plan, are already largely consistent with the carbon sequestration practices, according to the report at Council last week.

Also, only a percentage of the forest land is being considered under the current proposal; so the commitment is for a relatively small area of the land that appears to qualify under the program.

If the tribes at some time in the future no longer want to participate in the program—if they decide, for instance, to clear-cut the timber from the managed area—then there could be a financial consequence. And that is one reason why the use of the revenue would need to be carefully weighed.

After the presentation at Council last week, Paiute Chief Joe Moses made the motion to adopt the resolu-

tion moving forward with the project, seconded by Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath.

Councilman Kahseuss Jackson voiced his concern that the membership should have more say in a decision that could create a 100-year forest management commitment.

Councilman Danzuka said the Council decisions to allow logging on the reservation over the past several decades have also impacted future generations.

Chief Moses said the decision last week was to prepare for a possible sale of credits. The final decision, as whether actually to sell them, would not happen at least until next spring.

During the discussion, Chief Moses commented that the reservation timber has been over-cut, and asked the Natural Resources staff how long until the resource is again on an upward trend.

This would be several decades from now, said Vernon Wolf, head of Forestry. Serious logging of the commercial timber base began in the 1940s, Wolf said, and continued at a steady pace since that time.

The resource could see another decade of decline, he said, followed by some decades of no net gain or loss. Then an upward trend could begin again possibly three decades from now.

Tribal Council agenda items

(The following are items on the Tribal Council agenda for the month of August.)

Monday, August 11
9 a.m.: Review minutes and resolutions, with Jake Suppah/S-T.
1:30 p.m.: Tribal Court update with the Tribal Court Judges.

Tuesday, August 12
9 a.m.: Board appointments with Lynn Davis.
11: VFW with Jody Calica.
1:30 p.m.: Oregon Gaming Alliance meeting with Gary George.
Meeting with Northwest Power Conservation Council at Round Butte Lookout.
12-1:15pm Contact: Mark Frich (Actual tour Aug 11-13)

Thursday, August 14
9 a.m.: Contract support with Josh Newton, IHS.
11: Chinook Environmental Services with Tom Macy.
1:30 p.m.: IHS Update with Carol Prevost.

Monday, August 18
9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Strategic implementation of Tribal Council Proclamation update.

Tuesday, August 19
9 a.m.-12 p.m.: CRITFC salmon marketing with Les Brown.
Taos County Economic Development Corp. meeting with Patti Badhand and Terrie Martinson.

Wednesday, August 20
Enterprise Updates:
9 a.m. - Power and Water
9:45 - Composite

Products
10:30 - Forest Products
11:15 - Credit
1:30 p.m. - Kah-Neetah
2:15 - Indian Head Casino
3:00 Ventures
3:45 - Telco
4:30 - High Lookee Lodge

Monday, August 25
9 a.m. - Secretary-Treasurer update.
10 - September agenda/ travel delegations/ review minutes Jake Suppah/S-T.
11 - Draft resolutions with S-T
1:30 p.m. - Legislative update calls.
3 - ODOT meeting with Matt Garrett.

Tuesday, August 26
9 a.m. - State of Oregon Tribal Affairs/Tanf Nadja Jones/Kristen Potts.
11 a.m. - WSCAT/IDA program with Chris Watson
1:30 p.m. - Ventures update with Ventures board only.
3 - Enrollments with Lucille Suppach-Samson/Vital Stats

Wednesday, August 27
9 a.m. - Grand Opening at the Warm Springs K-8 Academy.

Note: All draft resolutions must be sent to the S/T by email in Word form two weeks prior to being taken into council for presentation. Copy to lynn davis at the management office. Emails: Jake.suppah@wstribes.org ldavis@wstribes.org

Resolution of Tribal Council

Carbon sequestration

Whereas the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian tribe; and,

Whereas Warm Springs GeoVisions ("WSG"), a Tribal Business Enterprise, is advancing the commercial opportunities for carbon offset credit project(s) on the Reservation, in particular under the State of California Cap and Trade Program; and

Whereas WSG has, working in coordination with the Tribe's natural resources, forestry and legal staff, evaluated an initial feasibility review of the potential for carbon offset credit projects and determined that carbon projects are feasible on the Reservation under the California Cap and Trade program and may provide significant revenues and other value to the Tribe; and,

Whereas, Pursuant to Tribal Council Resolution 11,840, the Tribal Council authorized funding from the Business Investment Revolving Fund ("BIRF") for WSG to engage qualified professionals in a phased development of the carbon project potential; and,

Whereas, WSG has, in coordination with the Tribe's natural resources, forestry and legal staff, and with the engaged professionals ("Carbon Project Team"), completed Phase I development activities including basic project design, revenue projections, and commercial forest product evaluation; and,

Whereas, the Carbon Project Team has developed a recommendation that the Tribal Council advance a pre-

ferred project alternative for Phase II development activities, comprised of detailed carbon offset project development, implementation of project management activities consistent with the project, and preparation for project listing and registry with the State of California and sale of credits; provided, however, that certain Phase II activities, including project listing and registry, sovereign immunity waiver and credit sales, require additional Tribal Council approval; and,

Whereas the recommendation for Phase II development includes the potential for the Tribe to receive significant revenues and to enhance the Tribe's forest and ecosystem health and management objectives and the Tribal Council believes it is in the best interest of the Tribe to pursue Phase II development activities, and,

Whereas the BIRF Committee has previously met on January 10, 2014, and reviewed the WSG request for funding for carbon project development purposes and

determined that the funding request in the amount of \$175,000 meets the objectives of this fund; and,

Whereas, while Phase II development activities were contemplated in the BIRF funding request, the BIRF funding is currently limited to Phase I development activities because that was the extent of the Tribal Council authorized development activities; and

Whereas there remains available BIRF funding authorized for Phase I for a portion of Phase II development activities, and the Tribal Council believes it is in the best interests of the Tribe to authorize the use of BIRF funding for Phase I and Phase II development services in an amount not to exceed \$175,000, now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the twenty-sixth Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article V, Section 1, (f) and (l) of the Tribal Constitution and By-

Laws, that the Tribal Council hereby authorizes WSG in conjunction with the Carbon Project Team to engage in Phase II development activities, comprised of detailed carbon offset project development, implementation of project management activities consistent with the project, and preparation for project listing and registry with the State of California and for the sale of credits; provided, however, the project listing and registry, waiver of sovereign immunity, and credit sales, are not hereby authorized but require additional Tribal Council approval; and

Be it further resolved, the Tribal Council hereby authorizes the use of previously authorized BIRF funding in the total amount of \$175,000 for Phase I and Phase II development activities in accordance with terms and conditions agreed to by the BIRF Committee and directs that as provided in the funding terms and conditions any interest and earnings on such funding shall be reinvested in the BIRF Fund.

Wellness Lunch next Thursday

The Wellness of Warm Springs lunch will be held on Thursday, August 14, at noon in the Family Resource Center. The topic will be Physical Activity with guest speaker Edmund Francis. Lunch is provided to all participants.

The next regional blood drive will be Wednesday, August 27, from 1-6 p.m. at St Patrick's Church. To schedule your appointment call 1-800-Red Cross or go online: redcrossblood.org



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