

Wildlife: many factors depleting populations

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This results in fawns having higher mortality rates than adult deer.

Elk: Unfortunately, we only observed 82 elk on surveys last year.

We probably missed some animals, and were not able to determine population estimates or bull and calf ratios for elk.

Last year there was an approved cow hunt during December at the last minute, which is during the same time period as our surveys. And we believe the disturbance from the hunting activities moved the elk around.

There was a lot of hunting on the ground during our

surveys.

Elk herd up a lot more than deer, so if you don't find, or miss the herd you miss a majority of the population.

So we were unable to get an accurate estimate.

We will be conducting another survey this December for deer and elk, and will hopefully have better luck with the survey.

Past surveys that have determined bull and calf ratios suggest that populations are a little more stable than deer, but are by no means ideal.

Bull ratios have been hovering right around Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) standards, which is

15 bulls per 100 cows.

Calf ratios have been below the sustainable threshold for about the last 15 years, but have not been as bad as the fawn ratios.

For elk, the sustainable calf ratio is around 30 calves per 100 cows. The reservation calf ratios have averaged around 25 calves per 100 cows for the past ten to 15 years, which indicates a decline in the population.

Negative factors

The low fawn and calf ratios and low population numbers are really an indicator that there is a much bigger issue going on.

There are a lot factors that

Wildfires historically were healthy for the land, but currently they are having a negative impact...

are affecting the deer and elk populations, and really it's cumulative effects from multiple factors that are causing the low populations of wildlife on the reservation.

There are many land management disturbances across the landscape. Look at the winter range, which is the lower elevation areas on the rangelands: The majority of the landscape is in poor condition to support healthy numbers of wildlife populations.

Healthy winter range habitat is essential for deer and elk, because winter is the most stressful time for animals. They are very vulnerable during this time, and are at greatest risk to die due to restricted forage availability, weather and body condition.

According to a vegetation inventory conducted over the last couple years, 86 percent of the reservation winter range, which is primarily the open rangeland area, is covered in annual grasses.

Annual grasses such as cheat grass and medusa head provide no nutritional value

to deer and elk.

Deer are primarily browsers. They prefer to eat forbs (for example flowering plants) and the new growth on shrubs and brush. They will also eat some grass, but not a lot.

And when you look at the landscape on the reservation you don't see a whole lot of forbs and native bunch grasses.

Elk are primarily grazers and prefer grasses, primarily native bunch grasses. They will also occasionally browse, but not much. Only 10 percent of the reservation's winter range habitat is composed of perennial grasses, and 4 percent is composed of shrub steppe habitat (bitterbrush and sagebrush).

Wildlife essentially need three things to survive: food, water and cover. If one of those elements is missing, then it's unlikely you'll find those animals there.

The rangelands also receive a lot of grazing pressure from horses, and the horses directly compete with deer and elk for forage.

There has been a lot of wildfire activity on the reservation. Fire is a natural cycle that was historically healthy for the landscape. However, because the landscape is altered from the heavy grazing pressure, and the presence on annual grasses and invasive weeds, wildfire currently has

a negative impact on the rangelands.

The fires have burned up a lot of the shrub habitat which is important forage and cover for wildlife and what mostly comes back after a fire are more annual grasses and weeds because they out compete the native vegetation.

The winter range is only half of the habitat. There is also the summer range, which is mostly composed of the forested area.

There is timber harvested year round on the reservation. These activities not only remove habitat, but cause a lot of disturbance.

Timber harvest activities also open a lot of roads. Roads have a substantial effect on deer and elk.

Although roads provide a convenience, they come at a cost. Roads are a direct loss of habitat. They also cause habitat fragmentation reducing the usability of habitat within a quarter mile on either side of the road. Roads also increase access for poaching.

So on top of all these other land management issues that area affecting wildlife populations, you add poaching. Harvesting deer and elk out of season, harvest above bag limits, and the harvest of does or cows, all play large roles in reducing reservation deer and elk populations.

Survey: need for predator monitoring

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The purpose is to monitor population growth or decline as well as determine whether they are occupying habitat or not.

This is due to the amount of timber harvest that takes place on the reservation. The owls only nest in mature, older forests, so timber harvest activities directly impact their habitat and populations. These surveys are also conducted on the ground and primarily at night.

Other wildlife

There is not really any monitoring of other wildlife species at this time. As stated earlier, wildlife monitoring can be very time intensive and expensive, so we are really limited by the number of staff and funding available.

Predator monitoring is definitely needed; however, there aren't really a lot of easy ways to monitor predators.

It most likely would involve trapping and collaring animals to determine population densities. These tech-

niques are both expensive and time consuming.

It would also be beneficial to monitor songbird and small mammal populations, because a lot these animals are indicators of habitat conditions, and may also be used to estimate predator populations. But again, this is limited by available staff and money.

In the future the Wildlife Department hopes to acquire grant or some other funding to study some of these other wildlife populations.

Resolutions of Tribal Council

(The following are some of the recent Resolutions of the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council. Copies of all resolutions are available through the Tribal Council office.)

Reservation infrastructure

Whereas the Tribal Council is the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon ("Tribe"); and,

Whereas the Tribal Council have recognized the need for development and implementation of a Strategic Infrastructure Improvement Plan (SIIP) to serve both existing and future development on the Reservation; and,

Whereas the Tribe recognizes the need to enhance and strengthen development of the Tribes human and natural resources, support the safety and welfare of the Tribal community, and encourage development of the Reservation, while also supporting community values and the goal of furthering self-determination through the exercise of the Tribe's inherent sovereignty; and,

Whereas the SIIP provides a coordinated forecast for financing the Reservation's domestic water, wastewater, transportation, power, telecommunications and related needs; and,

Whereas the Tribe has needed to update the Community Infrastructure Plan (1999-2010), and has contracted with Cascade Design Professionals for infrastructure planning assistance; and,

Whereas the result of Tribal staff's work with Cascade Design Professionals is the updated SIIP, dated April

2014 (attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A"); and,

Whereas the Tribal Council believes that adoption of the updated SIIP Plan is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon pursuant to Article V, Section 1 (a), (d), and (1) of the Tribal Constitution and By-Laws, that the Tribal Council does hereby approve and adopt the updated **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation Strategic Infrastructure Improvement Plan** dated April 2014 (attached as Exhibit "A"; *Resolution no. 11,921.*)

New housing

Whereas the Warm Springs Housing Authority has received Tax Credit funds from the State of Oregon for the purpose of constructing 35 homes as Greeley Heights Subdivision, Phase VI on Tribal Land;

Map attached as Exhibit "A", metes and bounds survey to be completed at a later date; and,

Whereas the proposed project was approved by Resolution No. 11,916 on September 8, 2014; and,

Whereas in addition to the 35 homes to be built it is also planned to remove the existing restrooms at the Northern end along Quail Trail and replace it with a Community Building next to the existing playground; now therefore,

Be it resolved by the

Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon ("Tribe"), pursuant to Article V (1) of the Tribal Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribes, that the Greeley Heights Subdivision, Phase VI, in addition to the construction of 35 homes and a community building to be included as part of the project is hereby granted; and,

Be it further resolved that the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer/CEO are hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents for and on behalf of the Confederated Tribes. *Resolution no. 11,941.*

Hunting, trapping code

Whereas the Tribal Hunting and Trapping Code Chapter 350 requires the Tribal Council to review the status of wildlife populations annually and set seasons and bag limits; and,

Whereas the Tribal Council has reviewed the attached Exhibit "A" limits, seasons and other regulations as recommended by the Natural Resources Branch and the Fish and Wildlife Committee; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon pursuant to article V, Section 1 (i) and (l) of the Tribal Constitution and the Hunting and Trapping Code 350.210, that the "2014 Reservation Hunting Season Regulations" are adopted as provided in the attached recommendation from the Natural Resources Branch and the

Fish and Wildlife Committee. (*Resolution no. 11,922.*)

Credit board

Whereas the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation has chartered the Credit Enterprise at Warm Springs; and,

Whereas Article IV of the Credit Charter provides for the appointment by the Tribal Council for members of the Board; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article V, Section 1 (s) of the Constitution and By-Laws, that the following person be appointed to the Board of Directors of Warm Springs Credit Enterprise with the term as indicated:

Class II: Mary Sando-Emhoolah (member), and Scott Griggs (non-member) (terms ending Jan. 1, 2017.)

Class III: Evaline Patt (member, term ending Jan. 1, 2015). *Resolution no. 11,925*

P&W board

Whereas Warm Springs Economic Development Corporation ("Ventures") is a corporation formed by the Tribal Council ("Tribal Council") of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article V, Section 1(o) of the Constitution and By-laws, by adoption of Resolution No. 9983 on February 27, 2007; and,

Whereas Article IV, Section 3 of the Corporate Charter of Ventures provides that the selection of members of

Board of Directors of Ventures shall be made by a committee, but to get the current board in place and appoint members to the board in a timely manner due to tribes financial status. The Tribal Council has opted to appoint the members to the board so that the board can continue with plans for revenue making ideas for the tribe; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article V, Section 1(o) of the Constitution and By-laws, that the following persons are appointed to the Board of Directors of Ventures:

Class I (expiring December 31, 2016): Theodore "Ted" Kulongoski (non member); and Olney Patt Jr. (member).

Class III (expiring December 31, 2015): Pi-ta Lewis Pitt (member). *Resolution no. 11,927.*

Composite, Forest boards

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article V, Section 1 (s) of the Constitution and By-Laws and WSTC 400.022 (2) and (6) of the Warm Springs Tribal Code, that the following are hereby appointed Commissioners of the Warm Springs Local Housing Authority:

Class II: Jonathan K. Smith (member); and Douglas Haaga (non-member), terms ending Dec. 31, 2015.

Class III: Robert Macy Sr. (member), and Don Sohapp

(non-member), terms ending Dec. 31, 2016. *Resolution no. 11,929.*

P&W board

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article V, Section 1(s) of the Constitution and By-Laws, that the following person be appointed to the Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprise with the term indicated:

Class I (member): Kahseuss Jackson-Williams (term ending Jan. 1, 2017.)

Class III (member): Olney Patt Jr. (term ending Jan. 1, 2016.)

Class III (non-member): Ed Tarbell (term ending Jan. 1, 2016.) *Resolution no. 11,926.*

Housing board

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article V, Section 1 (s) of the Constitution and By-Laws and WSTC 400.022 (2) and (6) of the Warm Springs Tribal Code, that the following are hereby appointed Commissioners of the Warm Springs Local Housing Authority:

Commissioners: Margaret Buckland and Moses Kalama (terms ending May 30, 2016); and Evaline Patt and Roscoe Thompson Sr. (terms ending May 30, 2017.) (*Resolution no. 11,924*)