



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## WSFPI, Council continue work on mill plan

The Warm Springs Forest Products Industries board and management met again last week with Tribal Council, proposing a plan to keep the mill operating.

The scenario as proposed by WSFPI calls for reducing the workforce at the mill from 104 to 85, plus a 10 percent salary decrease for the remaining employees, among other cost-saving measures. The mill would operate on a split shift, meaning that one crew would work all aspects of the milling process.

WSFPI and Tribal Council were scheduled to meet on the plan again this Tuesday afternoon (after the print deadline for this publication).

Council, the BIA and WSFPI have been working the past several months on a plan to keep the mill in operation. All of the remaining options have a downside.



Log graders at the mill yard earlier in the week.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Shutting the mill down would increase local unemployment, and leave major outstanding debts to the Credit enterprise and the Business

Investment Revolving Fund, among others.

But maintaining the current operation is no longer possible. The

BIA cannot sign-off on new timber sales until a plan is in place that compensates the tribes for the timber.

WSFPI in 2014 was behind in its payments to the tribes for the timber.

Ensuring that the tribes receive fair market value for the logs is an essential part of any future plan of operation, as enterprise revenue funds the Senior Pension Fund and per capita, among other aspects of the tribal budget.

Council members say the WSFPI payments to the tribes should be at the top of the priority list of payments, rather than at the bottom.

The mill down-sizing proposal also includes a proposal to modernize the mill operation.

## Ventures updates

### Progress with UAV, carbon projects

The tribes' computer support enterprise, the Office of Information Systems, is taking on the range management function of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle program.

The tribal enterprise Geo Visions is the contracting entity for the UAV program on the reservation.

An area in the Seekseequa District has been cleared by tribal Land Use and the Branch of Natural Resources as a test range site. The site is on the Metolius Bench in the southeast area of the reservation.

The UAV range management team will ensure that the tests are conducted in compliance with regulation. The contracting entity works with and recruits the UAV companies that are in need of a testing site.

The UAV program is a project of Warm Springs Ventures, as approved last year by Tribal Council.

Warm Springs is one of three FAA approved UAV test ranges in Oregon. The others are at Pendleton, which just received a \$545,000 state investment for UAV infrastructure work; and Tillamook.

A website is up and running with information on the three test ranges in Oregon. The site is: [Uastestranges.soaroregon.com](http://Uastestranges.soaroregon.com)

The site has information on the flying conditions of the three sites, the geography, access, etc.

### Carbon project

The Branch of Natural Resources is working on phase 2 of the carbon sequestration project. This includes completing an inventory of the forest resources involved, conducting a third-party review, and preparing the carbon credits for market.

The carbon sequestration project could generate significant revenue. The project is under Ventures, carried out by the Branch of Natural Resources.

## Pageant Time

by Alyssa Macy

Miss Warm Springs 2015 Suzanne Slockish McConville is a contestant for the Miss Indian World title.

The pageant will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 21-25, during the Gathering of Nations Powwow.

Suzanne is the daughter of Laura Slockish and Alfred McConville Jr. and is finishing up her first year at Eastern Washington University, studying criminal justice.

As Miss Warm Springs, she's attended numerous events in the community including local New Years Eve's festivities, Lincoln's Powwow, the Museum at Warm Springs Honor Dinner, and most recently the Celilo Wy-Am Salmon Feast and Powwow. This will be the first national pageant that she has ever competed in.

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Miss Warm Springs 2015 Suzanne Slockish McConville

Alyssa Macy/Spilyay

## State pot law raises prosecution issue on reservation

Starting on July 1, Oregon law enforcement will not prosecute a person who is over the age of 21 and in possession of up to an ounce of marijuana.

This raises a law enforcement issue on the reservation, where the tribal criminal code follows federal law. Marijuana remains a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance under federal law, and under the tribal code.

Starting in July, a person could be in legal possession of marijuana in the state, and then be in violation upon traveling onto the reservation, such as on Highway 26.

A non-tribal member with less than an ounce of marijuana could be cited for a civil violation on the

reservation, and a tribal member could face a criminal charge.

The U.S. Attorney would make the decision whether to prosecute the person, said Stan Suenaga, general manager of Warm Springs Public Safety.

Tribal Council meanwhile has appointed a team to look at the implications of the state marijuana legalization law. Any economic potential of the new state law is a main task of the team.

The law enforcement aspect of the new law is a policy decision for the membership and Tribal Council, said Pi-Ta Pitt, member of the team appointed by Council.

The director of the U.S. Department

of Justice last year provided a guideline for federal prosecutors in states that have legalized marijuana.

With these requests in mind, the director of the U.S. Department of Justice provided some guidance to all U.S. Attorneys, their staff and tribal liaisons. "Indian Country includes numerous reservations and tribal lands with diverse sovereign governments, many of which traverse state borders and federal districts," the memo reads.

"Given this, the U.S. Attorneys recognize that effective federal law enforcement in Indian Country, including marijuana enforcement, re-

quires consultation with the tribal partners in the districts, and flexibility to confront the particular, yet sometimes divergent, public safety issues that can exist on any single reservation."

The U.S. Attorneys, then, should work with each of the tribes in determining how to proceed with the handling of marijuana cases.

The Department of Justice memo also refers to an earlier document, "the Cole Memorandum," that provides guidance to U.S. Attorneys in handling off-reservation marijuana cases in states where it is legal.

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## Seniors Day turning 25

Warm Springs Honor Seniors Day will celebrate its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary this spring.

Honor Seniors Day is set for Friday, May 8, at the Agency Longhouse. The day begins at 10 a.m., and goes till 6 p.m.

The agenda is full of fun, laughter, door prizes and entertainment for all Elders. Events are throughout the day, until dinner time. Shuttles will be available to and from the museum and casino.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. at the Longhouse. For information call the Warm Springs Senior Wellness Center at 541-553-3313.



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