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Countyline 2 moving to containment

Close to 600 fire fighters are on the reservation in response to the Countyline 2 fire.

The fire burned across 60,000 acres, and destroyed four residential buildings. Two of the homes were not being occupied. There were no reported injuries as of earlier in the week.

The Health and Human Services Branch, Social Services, is helping families in need. And the tribes have a fire assistance program.

The Countyline 2 fire has disrupted the community for the past week, with several families relying on the Red Cross and Health and Human Services shelter, set up at the community center. About 30 people were staying there during the worst days of the fire.

As of earlier this week, Countyline 2 was reported to be about 30 percent contained, with a projection for further contain-



Response team on Countyline 2 fire.

Jayson Smith photos.

ment in coming days. The Shitike Creek area was the point of focus in the latest phase of the response.

Countyline 2 is one of many fires burning in the Northwest. Other areas have seen significant home loss: The Canyon Creek

Complex fire in the John Day area destroyed at least 26 homes, and the Clearwater Complex fire in Idaho destroyed 42 homes.

The loss of buildings on the Warm Springs Reservation could have been much worse, with high

wind gusts during the first days of the blaze. But the response crews were diligent and effective in protecting homes, said John Halliday, BIA Warm Springs superintendent.

He and Bobby Brunoe, general manager of Natural Resources, updated Tribal Council on the fire situation earlier in the week. Brunoe, and Trey Leonard at Fire Management, agreed that the fire teams did a great job in protecting homes, often working the line between approaching flames and the residences.

Initial response

The fire started last Wednesday, August 12, by a driver who was hauling a trailer with an apparently defective wheel. The wheel rim, in contact with the roadway, created sparks setting off a series of fires along Highway 26, according to reports.

See FIRE on page 3

Red Hills property dedication

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are planning a dedication ceremony at the Red Hills conservation property. The dedication had been set for this week, but had to be postponed. A date for the dedication has not yet been determined.

The 277-acre Red Hills Conservation Area was purchased by the tribes through the BPA Willamette Wildlife Mitigation program.

This conservation area is similar to the tribes' Pine Creek Conservation Area in the John Day basin. The Pine Creek area has seen significant improvement in fish habitat under tribal management.

The Red Hills proposal was rated at the top of the list of proposed mitigation projects, when the tribes first made the proposal a few years, said Bobby Brunoe, general manager of tribal Natural Resources.

Working through complications in the purchasing process, the tribes are now ready to formally dedicate the conservation area. The tribes' Red Hills property is near the towns of Lafayette and Dundee in Yamhill County.

Carbon project on schedule

Don Sampson of Warm Springs Ventures updated Tribal Council last week on the carbon sequestration project: The goal for the program is to issue carbon sequestration credits by the end of this year, Sampson said.

The project remains on schedule, with the forest inventory having been completed in July, he said.

The forest data will be confirmed by an independent verifier, and the listing documents will be filed with the California Air Resources Board.

Carbon sequestration is a revenue generating project, proposed by Natural Resources and managed by Ventures. Tribal Council approved the idea last year.

Carbon sequestration involves management of forest land as an offset for California companies that release carbon into the atmosphere. Other states may follow the California's example.

Through forestry management, carbon can be captured from the atmosphere and stored by the trees. This is seen as a strategy to alleviate global warming.

The value of the carbon sequestration credits is not yet determined. In his report to Tribal Council, Sampson gave this information:

"At the beginning of September there are major changes coming to the California U.S. Forest Project Protocol that defines how carbon volumes and offset credits are calculated for this market."

Funding boost for Roots program

The Roots program is getting ready for its second school year. Last year Roots saw an enrollment of 50 students, said Dawn Smith, Roots director.

Eight students completed the credit requirements for Madras High School graduates, and three of the students walked with the MHS Class of 2015. Roots is the alternative education program in Warm Springs, part of Madras High School.

This year the program is starting the year with a funding boost: The Spirit Mountain Community Fund awarded Roots a grant in the amount of \$147,696.

The program will now have prob-

ably the best computer work stations in the district, Smith said. The funding will allow for other upgrades to the program facilities.

Roots is located in school modules on teachers' row, by the old elementary school. They use one trailer for a classroom, and one for the computer lab. The students are renovating a third trailer as part of a learning curriculum.

Students in Roots focus on completing credits for graduation, and also learn by working with people in different professions on the reservation. Forestry, range and agriculture, and fish and wildlife are examples. Dawn Smith and teacher Earl Simmons are the

staff at Roots.

About to start her second year at Roots, Dawn talks about some of the things she observed during the first year:

"I think the students learned that we expect a lot from them. Some might have thought this was an easy way out, but it's not. We expect a lot from them, and they have to be motivated to get things done."

Spirit Mountain Fund

The Warm Springs Education Committee this year submitted an application to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund on behalf of the Roots program.

Spirit Mountain Community

Fund director Kathleen George and staff then made a visit to the Roots program this year.

They were impressed with what they saw, and the grant application was a success: The Spirit Mountain Community Fund awarded the maximum amount available to grant applicants.

"Supporting tribal education efforts is one of our highest priorities," said Kathleen George, fund director. "And we believe the Roots program is an important program helping high school students to get their diplomas."

— Dave McMechan



Jayson Smith photos

At the Jamboree

Warm Springs Recreation hosted Family Jamboree Day on Wednesday afternoon of last week. They had the Wild Rapids Slide (right), the rock wall (below), plus archery, and the Jungle Adventure.



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