

Timber management...

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After a section of forest is cut, the left over wood is carefully sorted. Some can be cut into lumber, some is set aside to be ground up for wood chips that will make paper, and a good part will be cut up into fire wood for tribal families.

The market is but one challenge facing the division's staff of eight full-time employees and six seasonal workers. They care for 9,900 acres of forest lands that bring in an average annual revenue of \$4 million.

Sustained yield practices

Adams said that his division practices "sustained yield management." Timber is carefully managed so that cutting doesn't exceed the forest growth.

"We harvest about 6 million board feet year, and we are trying to catch up with a backlog of 5 million board feet," he said.

The division operates under a forest management plan that extends to the year 2000.

"When a forest area is harvested, we try to get the land in condition to plant seedlings," he said.

The Tribes have an ordinance governing timber growing and har-

vesting that is similar, to the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

However, the tribes' ordinance provides more protection than the Oregon statute.

"We maintain wider buffers - more trees and growth - adjacent to streams," Adams said.

He said that the timber is clear cut, but more commercial thinning is being implemented.

"We don't use rubber-tired machines in the operations. We require tractor crawler equipment, because they cause less damage to the forest floor," Adams said.

Forest management

After a forest area has been cut, Jeff Nepstad and his crew moves in. They gather up all of the surplus material in huge piles and the slash burning starts. Contractor do the burning under Nepstad's careful eye.

Adams said that fire is nature's way of renewing the forest. Heat from the blaze helps reduce plant diseases and insects harmful to baby trees. The burned material adds nutrients to the soil.

Elder's Spotlight: Velma Mercier

The spotlight is on Velma Mercier this month, who has been a Grand Ronde resident all of her life.

Velma has one son, three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. She is 87 year old. Her parents are Hattie and John Hudson. Velma has been married to Harold Mercier for over 50 years, and still goes camping whenever she gets a chance. She takes everything but the kitchen sink and makes her camp with most all the comforts of home. Velma is a sister to Ila Dowd and Martha Mercier.



VETERAN PRIDE: The Veteran's Powwow was held June 11 at St. Michael's Church in Grand Ronde. Many people came to drum, dance, and show respect to tribal veterans.

Candidates...

Willie West, continued.

However, in the past, very few services have been available to those living outside the Grand Ronde area. I am interested in developing services and financial opportunities for all tribal members, not just a select few. It may be financially impractical to provide small health clinics across six counties, but some housing developments and business enterprises may benefit more tribal members and be more profitable located outside of Grand Ronde.

Further, our tribal government must be responsive to the needs of the majority of the people and individual members need to be held accountable for the way they vote on issues. A few months ago, Tribal Council ignored a majority vote on two occasions and took a 300% pay increase. Now is the time to look closely at our leadership and make sure they are people dedicated to the best interest of the Tribe as a whole before we vote them into office.

I am asking you to vote for me in the September election because I am a person who will listen to what our membership has to say and who will give 40 hours per week to this position. If elected to Tribal Council, I will work to promote tribal unity by action and word which would acknowledge our bond of kinship, give honor to the leadership role, and provide for the betterment of all.

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