

— Natural Resources —

Notice of Availability

Confederated Tribes of the Grand
Ronde Community of Oregon

Notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the proposed timber harvest of 77 acres in the Grand Ronde Reservation, known as the Running Bear Logging Unit, located in portions of Section 7 T.5S., R.8W., Yamhill County, Oregon.

AGENCY: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Natural Resources Division.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise interested parties that an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the proposed timber harvest in the Grand Ronde Reservation. Based upon the EA, it has been determined that the proposed action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland Area, Assistant Area Director (Program Services), therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not required. The EA and FONSI are available for Public Review at the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Natural Resources Division Office located at 47010 Hebo Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cliff Adams, Manager
Natural Resources Division
Confederated Tribes of the
Grand Ronde Community
of Oregon
P.O. Box 70
Willamina, Oregon 97347
(503) 879-5522

Individuals wishing copies of this EA for review should immediately contact the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Natural Resources Division. Comments will be received until September 15, 1995 at the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Natural Resources Division.

Gates on reservation roads will not interfere with hunting season

The Tribal Fish & Wildlife Department has requested that the 206 and 212 dead-end spur roads be gated to conduct an elk enhancement study. The study will be conducted by the Tribal Fish & Wildlife Department and is supported by the Oregon State Fish & Wildlife department.

The two roads in the study area will only be closed to motorized vehicles. Hunting and all other activities will be allowed, including access by non-motorized vehicles.

The study will run for a period of 5 years at which time an evaluation report will be made discussing the findings of this study. If the elk population has increased, than a decision will be made as to whether or not to continue the elk enhancement project.

No other permanent gates for Fish & Wildlife studies will be installed until this study is completed. The deci-

sion to gate these roads was made by the Tribal Biologist and the Fish & Wildlife Committee; and supported by the Timber Committee except for one member.

The policy on the Reservation land has been to gate roads only when necessary. Temporary gates are installed where logging activities are taking place. When the logging and slash removal are completed the gates are removed. Dirt spur roads, that need to be maintained, are gated to prevent erosion and damage caused by four wheelers and recreational vehicles.

Two dead-end spur roads on Coast Creek are gated to limit easy access into our special wildlife emphasis area. The Coast Creek gates are open during hunting season. We have installed a permanent gate at the old rock pit stock pile area to allow us to secure equipment needed for reservation road maintenance and construction.

Grant dollars help Fish & Wildlife improve tribal lands

This year, the Fish & Wildlife Department initiated a watershed restoration project on the reservation. Eric Anderson, Fish & Wildlife Coordinator, wrote and applied for a BIA grant on behalf of the Tribe and Polk Soil and Water Conservation District. Also, Eric worked with Constance Albrecht on a grant submitted to the National Marine

Fishery Service. Both applications scored among the top entries, and were awarded total funding of almost \$250,000. The restoration project has four distinct phases. A riparian reforestation project was the kickoff with almost 6,000 conifer seedlings being planted along Agency Creek and its forks. These trees will take the place

of the hardwoods that now dominated this area. "The hardwoods are providing certain aspects that are important for the wildlife, but they have a shorter life span," stated Eric. When a hardwood tree falls into the stream it provides habitat structure, but is very short lived. This is not the case with conifer habitat structures they can have a life span of up to 50 years.

The second phase is placing conifer logs into the stream to take the place of the aging structures that are already present. These will work until the new seedlings take their place in the future. It is done by strategically placing fallen trees and rock in the creek, slowing the current in certain spots. The fish will congregate in deeper, still water. The Polk County Office of Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing technical assistance. *Sumco Exca-*

vating was hired to help move and place the logs. *Hampton Tree Farms* donated three loads of logs and is allowing some of the work to be done on their lands. *Stimson Lumber Company* also donated 29 loads of boulders for this phase of the project.

The third phase includes work in a series of bank erosion and culvert filter sites to stop the introduction of sediments into the streams. "Sedimentation is a major problem in the creek, it destroys the areas that steelhead and trout need to spawn," stated Eric.

The fourth phase is an Educational Day Park, which should be completed by November. The park is located on the North Fork of Agency Creek and features almost 3,000 feet of trail. The park will have picnic tables, and interpretive signs that will help identify the plants and animal habitats. Signs will stress the importance of protecting the areas along streams because of their value to fish and wildlife. It will not be an area for overnight camping, only for day use. "We are making the trail low-maintenance and in the future, handicapped accessible," said Eric.

The fifth and final phase of the project is a complete survey and inventory of all the streams on the reservation and lands adjacent to the reservation. "The inventory will allow us to see what we have and where we need to focus future projects," stated Eric.



Eric Anderson, Fish and Wildlife Coordinator, stands on a fallen tree used to make pools for the fish in Agency Creek.