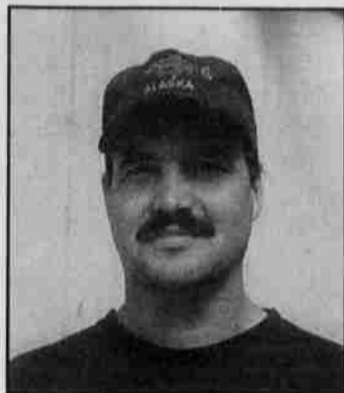


## Forestry crew busy; thinning trees and fighting fires

The tribal silvicultural crew is preparing for the fall and winter months, which means things will be slowing down pretty soon. And that's just fine. The summer has been very hectic for the four-member crew and their supervisor, Jeff Nepstad.

Although most of the major work is done in the spring and summer, the crew will work all year round on various jobs on the reservation.



Jeff Nepstad

They do all pre-commercial thinning of trees, release of vegetation, prescribed burning, and anything else that might improve the growth of timber on the reservation. Thinning usually begins in May, and is designed to keep the Douglas Fir trees thriving until they need another thinning, which would be of commercial value. After an area has been logged, the crew prepares the site to be burned by cutting away unwanted vegetation and debris so the area can be replanted. The crew members are: Michael Reibach, Lynn Robertson, Randy Butler, Jr., and Butch LaBonte, the crew leader. They also employ seasonal crew members during the summer.

"It's really hard work," said Michael Reibach. "But we do it for our land, because we care about the reservation."

Jeff Nepstad said that all the crew members are trained in firefighting, in case a wildland fire should occur on the reservation. But some crew members use their training to help out other places. Several large fires broke out this summer in parts of Oregon, most significantly, central and eastern Oregon, where thousands of acres were lost. Jeff, along with members of the Natural Resources staff, spent three weeks helping out over there.

"We were working the Bull Complex fire," said Jeff. "That was probably the hardest I had ever worked on a fire before. They had to evacuate our base camp because of the thunderstorms, which caused fires to blow up."

Jeff said that fire destroyed between 30,000-50,000 acres of wilderness, and the Marines and Army were even called in to help.

The Tribe has an agreement with the BIA to serve on an on-call basis for fires that brake out, but the crew doesn't have to go. "Most of the crew does choose to go," said Jeff, "because the money is so good. You get a good wage, plus hazard pay. But it's hard work." In September, some crew members went to Nevada, and have gotten calls from as far away as Arizona. "We could get calls to go to fires in any one of the fifty states or Canada," said Jeff.

Right now the Running Bear unit is being logged, and when that job is complete, the crew will prepare the area for a slash burn. After that, Jeff said, they will have some pruning to do on the trees which will probably start in October.



If anyone is interested in on-call firefighting, call Jeff Nepstad at 879-2377 or 1-800-422-0232.



ABOVE: Lynn Robertson and Michael Reibach.  
AT RIGHT: Butch LaBonte and Randy Butler, Jr.

## Remix salvage timber for sale

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is offering for sale approximately 71,003 MBF of Douglas-fir salvage timber. Salvage timber is being offered at a rate of \$422.92/MBF. Total price is \$30,028.30. For more information contact the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Natural Resources Division at (503) 879-5522 or 1-800-422-0232.

## Notice of availability

The Environmental Assessment for the proposed Remix Salvage Sale has been completed and is available for review by interested parties. Copies of the document can be obtained by contacting the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Natural Resources Division at (503) 879-2378.

## Subsistence Salmon Distribution



Saturday, October 12  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Natural Resources Office  
47010 SW Hebo Road  
Grand Ronde

Distribution will be for tribal members who HAVE NOT received their salmon this year.

No one will be allowed to pick up another member's salmon without that person's Tribal ID card and a note giving permission. Note must include name and roll number of any small children living in the home.

Questions regarding distribution, please call Karen Larsen at (503) 879-2376 or 1-800-422-0232.



## Flood damage fixed

Last February, the Great Flood of '96 washed out a good portion (600 feet) of Agency Creek Road, which was recently repaired through a grant from the Federal Highway Administration. These before and after photos depict what the road looked like after the flood, and how it looks today. The wash out was the only significant damage that occurred on the reservation as a result of the flood.

