

Meeting generates goals for Willamette forests

■ Rangers interested in employing tribal members

Early this month, district rangers, forest supervisors, and archaeologists from Willamette National Forest met with Tribal Council and tribal program managers to discuss their joint interest in the Willamette Valley region. From the Willamette National Forest side of the table, the people participating in the discussion are pledged with the responsibility for managing the land for the federal government. On the other side, tribal participants described their inherent interest in the land which has been passed on from generation to generation from their ancestors.

This meeting was the first of a series of meetings planned for the next few weeks which will set-up a working relationship between Willamette National Forest and the Tribe through a formal Memoranda of Agreement. The agreement will also outline joint interest and common goals which the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Willamette National Forest have identified. A number of projects are expected to develop from these common goals as the Tribe and forest managers work to promote a collaborative relationship.

Summer and seasonal tribal employment with Willamette National Forest is one area of common interest. In a special meeting with staff from Personnel and the Cultural Resource Program at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, John Allen, McKenzie District Ranger, expressed his interest in recruiting Grand Ronde students for summer job positions. While men and women ages 18-25 are customarily hired by the Forest Service in all kinds of summer work, Allen indicated he was committed to actively recruiting Grand Ronde tribal members as a part of this group.

Lynn Burdett, the Blue River District Ranger, said even though summer is still months away, active hiring for these positions will begin within the next few weeks. When applicants apply early they can choose

from a wide range of employment possibilities. Some potential areas for summer employment are: fire fighting, timber inventory, stream and fish surveyors, trail maintenance, visitor information, office receptionist and many more. While employment opportunities may still be possible later in the season, the number of job choices may be fewer. Burdett encourages interested tribal members to apply for these positions as soon as possible.

In addition to summer student hires, there are other seasonal employment opportunities in which tribal members might have an interest. Over the next few weeks, federal land managers in conjunction with Tribal government hope to explore these potential job opportunities as well as other areas of joint interest to more fully develop strategies and processes.

If any tribal members are interested in more information about the various job possibilities, how to apply, or about specific job qualifications, contact June Olson at 1-800-422-0232, ext 2249.



Willamette National Forest representatives and June Olson, Tribal Cultural Resource Specialist, examine a 1851 map showing the bands of Kalapuya which ceded the lands that are now within the boundaries of the Willamette National Forest.

Standing clockwise from left: John Allen, McKenzie District Ranger; Lynn Burdett, Blue River District Ranger; Roseann Lestencoff, American Indian Program Manager; Tony Farque, Sweet Home archaeologist; Phil Raab, McKenzie Recreation Assistant; and June Olson, Cultural Resource Specialist for the Tribe.



District rangers from McKenzie and Blue River National Forests and representatives from the Grand Ronde Tribe recently met to discuss job opportunities in forestry for tribal members.

PUBLIC NOTICE: EA and FONSI issued for the proposed Big Grouse Combination Logging Unit

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been issued for the proposed Big Grouse Combination Logging Unit located in portions of Section 12, and Section 1, Township 5 South, Range 8 West, and portions of Section 18, Township 5 South, Range 7 West, Willamette Meridian, within Yamhill County, Oregon on the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation.

The EA discloses the issues relating to the environmental resources affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives to the Proposed Action. The EA further discloses the analysis of the likely environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives to the Proposed Action.

The FONSI discloses the alternative selected by the responsible official and gives supporting reasons for this selection. The Preferred Alternative, Alternative A, proposes a regeneration harvest of 36.8 acres of primarily 111 year-old conifer and thinning 159.3 acres of predominately 53 year-old conifer; including the construction of 1.58 miles of permanent, gravel roads, 0.84 mile of temporary, spur roads, and 0.14 mile of road reconstruction. The proposed harvest would account for approximately

3.25 million board feet of timber. The thinning areas would be "thinned from below," meaning the smaller, suppressed trees will be taken out to favor the vigorous, dominant trees in the stand. On the regeneration harvest area, four wildlife trees per acre would be left.

The EA and FONSI are available for public review and comment for a period of 15 days beginning the first day after publication of this notice. The responsible public official is: Mr. Stan Speaks, Portland Area Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Written comments and requests for copies of the EA and FONSI should be addressed to: Mr. Jeff Kuust, Timber and Roads Coordinator, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 70, Willamina, OR 97396. For further information you can contact Jeff Kuust at (503) 879-2379. Written comments must include: (1) Your name, address, and telephone number; (2) Title of the document on which you are commenting; (3) Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that you believe the Responsible Official should consider. Comments received will be considered before taking final action.