



Logan Kneeland, a Tribal Silviculture and Fire Protection technician, uses a drip torch to light a field on fire for a prescribed burn.

A Day in the Life of the Natural Resources Department's Silviculture and Fire Protection Program

The Silviculture and Fire Protection Program is one of the programs that make up the Tribe's Natural Resources Department. Jeff Neps-tad is the program manager, Colby Drake is the supervisor and Jim Pinder, Jay Ojua and Logan Kneeland are technicians. The program also has four seasonal employees and temporary on-call employees, or forestry technicians, for the fire season. The program is responsible for and serves on the Grand Ronde Tribe's Wildland Firefighters crew and some of its other duties include precommercial thinning, planting trees, invasive plant management, seeding and prescribed burns. On Monday, Oct. 21, some of the crew took part in a prescribed burn on private land near Rickreall. The crew's assistance was requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Jim Pinder, a Tribal Silviculture and Fire Protection technician, walks the perimeter of a prescribed burn with a flapper ready to put out any loose flames so the fire doesn't spread from the burn area.



Nick Schramm, back, fills a drip torch tank with fuel while working a prescribed burn. Also waiting to refill tanks is Bryan Fendall, middle, and Luke Puerini. Schramm is a temporary on-call employee with the program and Fendall and Puerini are seasonal employees.



**Photos by
Michelle Alaimo**

From left, Tribal Silviculture and Fire Protection Program seasonal employee Bryan Fendall, temporary on-call employee Nick Schramm and Logan Kneeland, a Tribal Silviculture and Fire Protection technician, rest as they watch a smoldering field that was just burned as a prescribed fire.