

PANEL DISCUSSION OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION BEFORE THE YAKIMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 24, 1955

General Theme:

Have a Look at the Yakima Reservation

Dannie LeCrone

Moderator

Participants:

member Tribal Council
Watson Tetus (10 minutes) Short description of Yakima culture and of changes being made by the Yakima people

Possible questions by Moderator.

1. You are a full blood Indian. What is meant by degree of Indian blood?
2. How did the organization of the Yakima tribe come about? (Idea is to name the 14 Bands who were united in the Treaty of 1855)
3. What changes do you note in Indian living? Agriculture, Education, Self Government, etc.

Salustian - Sec. Tribal Council
Alex (10 minutes) The tribal government will be described by this panel member.

1. "Council" is an old term when thinking of Indians. Yakimas use Councils in Government. Explain general and tribal councils.
2. What is council relationships with Federal Government?
3. Are there any new developments or trends in tribal Govt?
4. What are some of the important items the councils have handled recently?
5. Mention some things Tribal Government is doing to help the Yakimas better themselves.

Chief Branch Land operations
RC. Bergeson (10 minutes) Land is a very important basic resource. The reservation is endowed with rich agricultural, range and timber lands.

1. Most folks are confused as to reservation area and land make up. Give us something as to extent, types of land and use.
2. Tell something of land use. Go into leasing program.
3. We are especially proud of the SMCO program in land improvement. Tell something about program and the conservation district set-up.

*Watson Tetus
Alex*

Forestry

Delaney: (10 minutes) Few folks are aware of the existence of good timber stands on the reservation.

1. You recently completed a report showing timber harvested last year. Give us some statistics as to trees cut, footage cut. etc. How much timber was harvested last year?
2. Do you have any information as to timber cut potential?
3. How is timber sold?
4. Describe staff. Say something of organizational set-up. Could enlarge upon "self supporting" of department through sales deductions.

Ext. agent
Lee Strait: Would like to stress idea that Extension is interested in human resources. "Help people help selves."

1. The State extension relationships would be interesting to illustrate trend to non-Bureau participation in Indian program.
2. Extension people interested in agriculture and home-making. Could say something about agriculture and stockraising on reservation.
3. A description of a few problems and needs, of the Yakimas, would be interesting to the Chamber members.
4. A few of the extension activities might be described.

Note: In all talks the idea of Indian participation could well be stressed.

also 14 men in the court

Eagle Seelatssee, Ch: Dees mit bad kw.

Totus - Old customs - change - his father
quite farmer - he can grow & cattle farmer - change.
wondered about it in the future

QUESTION: No. 1

Timber is one of the major resources of the Yakima Indian Reservation. Dick Delaney, here, has an official title of Forest Manager. In order to live up to that title there must be some program or system of management involved. Dick, tell us just what is involved in management of the Yakima Indian Forest, what sort of program has been developed.

Answer:--

QUESTION: No. 2

You have mentioned protection. How successful has fire protection been in the Yakima Forest?

Answer:--

Richard De Laney

QUESTION:

Timber is one of the major resources of the Yakima Indian Reservation. Dick Delaney, here, has an official title of Forest Manager. In order to live up to that title there must be some program or system of management involved. Dick, tell us just what is involved in management of the Yakima Indian Forest, What sort of program has been developed?

ANSWER:

It may be something of a surprise when I answer that the first thing involved in forest management on Indian lands is people--the second thing is trees. This means that we place human values above timber values in management of Indian Forests. For the Yakima Reservation the people involved are the 4300 Yakima Indian owners.

We don't know how many trees we have, but the Yakima Indian Forest covers 447,000 acres of area with an estimated volume of about 4 billion feet B. M. of merchantable timber of which more than half is valuable Ponderosa Pine.

That, in brief is the basis of what is involved in management--4300 people and 447,000 acres of valuable commercial timber.

The forest management program can be stated in 3 words ---Protection, Perpetuation, Utilization. This program of protecting, perpetuating, and utilizing the forest resource is designed to serve the best interests of the Yakima Indian owners. In so doing, and this should be of interest and concern to you, the forest management program of the Yakima Indian Reservation likewise is to the best interest of the adjacent community, of the State and of the Nation.

To illustrate that point, the Indian owners at the present time are receiving about 1½ million dollars annually from sale of timber stumpage under the utilization part of the program. About 3 times that amount is expended in logging and manufacturing to produce finished lumber. This constitutes in effect

it is entirely self-supporting. A 10% deduction is made from stumpage receipts

a \$6 million dollar industry in this area, and yields approximately 70 million feet of lumber annually. The important thing, to you and to the owners, is that under the management program this production will be sustained and the forest actually improved rather than ^Pdeleted.

Of equal or perhaps greater importance, the program involves many values other than lumber production. Grazing is one of these and the forest area provides summer range for about 10,000 head of cattle and 24,000 head of sheep. This in itself is the basis for a sizable industry. An even larger but more intangible value is that of watershed. Value of the watershed is illustrated by the fact that from it comes the water to irrigate 75,000 acres of actual and potential valuable agricultural land.

An even less tangible value, but extremely important to the owners, is one which we call recreational but which to the Yakima Indians has an even deeper significance and involves spiritual values as well as the material ones of game, fish, roots and berries.

Our program is coordinated to protect, perpetuate, and utilize all of these values.

The work is carried out with a regular staff of 15 supplemented by about 20 lookouts and fire guards during the fire season. This organization not only works for the interests of the Indian owners but works with them through their elected representatives, the Tribal Council who in effect serves as a Board of Directors. We foresters at Yakima count among our blessings not only the opportunity to work with a fine forest but the opportunity to work with a fine group of people, the Yakima Indians. I can say without reservation that we have no real conflicts. In fact foresters and Indians have in common a tendency to work with an not against the laws of nature.

As tax payers you will be interested in what the program costs. Actually it is entirely self-supporting. A 10% deduction is made from stumpage receipts to

cover costs of administration. For several years this has been more than adequate for all costs including fighting fire. The costs are paid in full by the owners.

QUESTION:

You have mentioned protection. How successful has fire protection been in the Yakima Forest?

ANSWER:

That can best be answered by comparison. The common objective for fire protection organizations is to hold annual burns to one-tenth of one percent of the forest area protected. That is the standard for the State of Washington. That goal has been achieved by the State in only 5 of the years since organized fire protection began. In all of the last 10 years together, the acreage burned in the Yakima Reservation forest has totaled less than 1/10 of 1 %.

Right here I want to add that that record is in considerable part due to the Yakima Indians themselves who are extremely careful with fire in the forest. An Indian caused fire is an exception rather than a rule. Neither the foresters nor the Indians have yet gained any control over lightning.

I might add that the destructible resource value we protect is appraised at \$68 million.