

Earth Day: Tribe will host activities

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the tribe's environmental department, said the Earth Day celebration has been a dream for her and her coworkers for about three years.

"And this year, we got to pull it off," she said.

The idea is to get into the community and make members more aware of environmental concerns, such as wetlands preservation, stream bank stabilization and cleanup of areas within the community, as well as emphasizing the importance of planting trees and maintaining a clean water supply.

Trees play such an important part in this celebration that tree-plantings took place all last week at sites in Dresslerville and the other Washoe Tribe colonies, Woodfords, Stewart and Carson.

Trees were planted at the Head Start in Woodfords Indian Education Center Monday, at the Washoe Tribe Health Clinic on Highway 395 south of Gardnerville Tuesday and Stewart Head Start Wednesday. Planting at the Washoe language school in Dresslerville Thursday and at the Dresslerville senior center on Friday was postponed.

Any extra trees will be used to plant at Washoe members' homes, Barry said.

In addition, willows have been planted on the banks of the Carson River.

During the past week, various educational programs were presented. Tony Smokey gave a presentation on noxious weeds in Woodfords, and Kris Miller of the Bureau of Land Management discussed land and water issues in Carson City. Kris Russ of BLM did a plant identification program at Clear Creek, and Dean Kenerson talked about plant identification in Woodfords.

Cleanups were held during the week and will be held again next weekend in the Washoe colonies with the help of area trash removal companies. Dou-

glas Disposal and Carson City Waste Management donated the use of large trash containers, and colony residents are working in organized groups on trash pickup.

Youths on school break last week helped adults in the effort, said Stacey James, coordinator of Earth Day events.

Speakers and a barbecue are also planned today at the housing office. A highlight of the celebration at the housing office is the traditional Washoe willow structure, built by tribal members Friday with willows gathered Thursday at the tribal headquarters in Gardnerville.

The tribe's environmental program is dedicated to build-

ing knowledge among tribal members on issues relating to the environment, according to Barry.

The department has issued drafts of a water quality standards program and a sampling and analysis plan for water quality monitoring.

The staff is developing a wetlands conservation plan for two areas used by the tribe on U.S. Forest Service lands at Lake Tahoe.

Barry said the tribe is building partnerships with the Forest Service and other groups and agencies in the process of returning the land to the tribe for traditional uses.