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The newsletter of the non-profit WI&M Ry HPG. Organized for railroad historians, enthusiasts, and modelers interested in the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway, from its origins in 1905 through it's ownership of today.

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Mission Statement of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway History Preservation Group:

"To locate, preserve, and archive all items of a historical nature relating to the history of the WI&MRy; to issue publications on this and related subjects; to encourage public interest in the history of the WI&M and the Potlatch Lumber Company; and, to acquire objects and property appropriate for a museum and/or any of the purposes listed above."

THE WHITE PINE ROUTE QUARTERLY

The Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway
History Preservation Group, Inc.



Palouse River & Coulee City GP-30 #3004 idles at the Potlatch depot with a trainload of lumber from the Bennett Lumber Products mill. This locomotive has been leased to the new Washington & Idaho RR that now operates the WI&M. This is the first train to run on the WI&M in several months. Barb Coyner Photo

Rail Service Returns to the WI&M

By Barb Coyner

The train's whistle sounds long and low as the locomotive crawls over the Hatter Creek crossing. Motorists stop not only for safety, but for surprise. After all, it's been months since a train has passed through Princeton.

"We're taking it slow, since it's our first run out here," says Jeremy Leiterman, seated at the locomotive's controls. "I have to sound the horn well in advance, because these tracks haven't been used in over 11 months."

It's October 7, 2006, and Don Somers has called us from his annual Montana

fishing getaway, saying the trains might be running today. He gives us Stan Patterson's cell number, and asks Jack and I to snap some photos of the train parked at Bennett Lumber. By the time we get to Bennett's, Stan is checking the train and Jeremy is seated at the throttle. There are five cars loaded with lumber and another set of cars to drop off. "Do you want to ride?" they ask. After watching other HPG members go off on their sidetracking expeditions and not inviting me, of course I want to ride, and get one up on them!

Jeremy Leiterman, a third genera-