



# INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Fall ~ 2017

## 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium



Howard Teasley

The Symposium Committee would like to welcome the Intertribal Timber Council guests and colleagues to the Great State of Washington. Please come and join us June 26 – 29, 2017, for the Forty-First Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, hosted by Yakama Nation at the Convention Center in Yakima, WA. It's a short 2.5-hour drive from the Seattle Airport and 3-hour drive from the Spokane and Portland Airports. The theme of this year's symposium is **"Expanding Partnerships through Collaboration."**

The ITC Pre-Symposium Golf Tournament will be held at the Mount Adams Country Club in Toppenish, WA, on Sunday, June 25, 2017. Our workshops for Monday will include – Traditional Crafting, Forestry Field Trip, Yakama Forest Products Tour, and Wildland Fire Update. Tuesday of the symposium, there will be one



Picture of Mount Adams

### Symposium Schedule 2017 – 2019

June 26-29, 2017	Yakama Nation	Yakima, WA
June 4-7, 2018	Quinault Indian Nation	Ocean Shores, WA
June 10-13, 2019	Seminole Tribe of Florida	Hollywood, FL

panel discussion called "A Conversation with Friends", a close look at current and past partnerships between Tribes, BIA, & USFS. The morning will open with the traditional Thursday updates and three workshops to follow: Maintaining the Timber Industry through Partnerships, Critical Response to Catastrophic Incidents, and Anchor Forest/TFPA: The Steps Forward.

**See you in the Apple State!!**

**Thank you - Qe'ciyew'yew** 

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## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

Greetings again, ITC friends and family: As we head into this fall, I hope your summer was calm and productive, and that you have had a chance to take a little time off to relax, instead of, say, fighting fires, as many of us were doing last

year about this time. So far, this fire season has been fairly quiet throughout Indian Country, which is a welcome change. There have been 3,475 fires on trust lands covering a total of 311,804 acres this year, including a few flair-ups [e.g. the Cayuse Mountain fire on the Spokane Reservation], but those were pretty quickly contained and quelled.

There are, of course, all the tasks needed to follow up a fire, and for those who had big fires last year, recovery is really still in its critical early stages. We spent this past summer salvaging our burned timber, and that task will soon be largely completed. Now comes the expensive part – getting seedlings and putting them in the ground. Unfortunately, Interior's Burned Area Recovery funding allocation

is completely inadequate to meet these trust functions. The Department's most recent BAR allocation formula simply doesn't respond to the catastrophic level of fires we experienced last year, and if not adjusted or corrected, the regeneration of our trust forests will be hindered for decades into the future, with the consequent financial and economic losses. We have pressed our case at senior Departmental levels, and the new leadership in OWFM is very aware of this matter. It is our hope that the necessary changes will be made.

In addition to OWFM's unresponsive BAR allocations, it seems that Office is constantly involved in the proposal of new funding allocation formulas for other elements of it wildland fire-related appropriations, *(Continued on page 3)*

## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

### Tribal Workforce Changing

The tribal demographic has changed over the past 40 years since the ITC was established, so the recruitment strategies should expand to recruit American Indi-

an and Alaskan Native students. Where do we go and do we need to develop new partnerships to reach the new demographics?

Today, 78% of American Indians/Alaska Natives Living Off-Reservation according to a 2015 National Policy Report by the National Urban Indian Family Coalition. [www.nuifc.org](http://www.nuifc.org).

In their report, they highlighted some of the cities where there's opportunities for recruiting students with partnerships with the BIA regional offices, other federal agencies, tribal organizations, universities, corporations and Indian urban centers within the cities.

Some of the cities with large

populations listed in the report include,

<b>Seattle</b>	-	<b>83,000</b>
<b>Portland</b>	-	<b>48,000</b>
<b>Denver</b>	-	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Phoenix</b>	-	<b>132,000</b>
<b>Albuquerque</b>	-	<b>59,000</b>
<b>Minneapolis</b>	-	<b>48,000</b>
<b>Oklahoma City</b>	-	<b>90,000</b>
<b>Tulsa</b>	-	<b>123,000</b>
<b>Oakland</b>	-	<b>66,000</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	-	<b>43,000</b>

One organization and an ITC partner for years, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) could be a facilitator to help convene the groups

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## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon

*(Continued from page 2)*

including preparedness and fuels management. Many of these proposals appear to have been concocted and pushed by other agencies within the Department seeking to get yet more of fire funding. The tribes and our BIA partners have had to fight hard to resist these inequitable proposals, and it is pleasing to say that, as a result of our determination and tenacity, so far these proposals have largely been rejected. But the proposals just keep coming – the newest is the

“Risk Based Wildland Fire Management” model, often with limited advance notice or involvement with the BIA and little or no timely consultation with the tribes. This continues to be an ongoing struggle, and the ITC is especially appreciative of the prompt and strong response of tribes and of the BIA’s determined efforts to make sure the tribes are adequately recognized and fairly treated.

With the upcoming change of the Administration, many of our friends are leaving government

service, and the ITC thanks them for all they have done and wishes them the very best in their new endeavors. We want to particularly express our appreciation to former Indian Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Tommy Thompson and to former Agriculture Department Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources Butch Blazer, both of whom were thoughtful and stalwart champions for Indian forestry.

I also want to point out that, although the Congress has been

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## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

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within the cities.

AISES has been in existence about as long as the ITC and has provided a national venue at its conference to help promote and advocate for tribal natural resource organizations and many of the Picard Scholarship recipients.

AISES also has professional member chapters in many of the cities with BIA regional offices who could become partners with other groups who want to involve youth and students interested in STEM and also natural resources. The list for professional chapters is located at <http://www.aises.org/directory>

The ITC education committee had a discussion at its last meeting about developing mini-booth materials, like an inexpensive banner shown below, that could be sent out to the Midwest, southwest and northwest areas so the member tribes could coordinate with



Rudy Peone, BIA; Siena Lopez-Johnston, BPA and Don Motanic, ITC at Dance in the Square Pow Wow in Downtown Portland, Oregon. Kim Yazzie, PSU and UW researcher at Hillsboro High School’s Pow Wow.

their BIA regional offices, various partners involved with AISES and universities to attend regional and local events such as pow wows at colleges and schools so there’s more area covered where the demographics have moved to the urban areas. The pow wows

and other events have grown so it would be difficult to attend everything with just forestry staff, so that’s where we could work with our partners to help us distribute our material as well as share the effort and distribute their outreach

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## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon


*(Continued from page 3)*

quiet over the past months due to the upcoming election, one important piece of tribal trust legislation, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, cleared Congress in June and is now Public Law 114-178. It has a lot of provisions important to Indian forestry, and I urge you to take a look at it. There is a brief summary in the Washington DC Update in this issue of Timber Notes, with a web link to the text of the new law. The ITC supported this legislation

and wants to thank the diligent efforts of the Colville Tribe in developing this legislation and helping move it into law.

Regarding Anchor Forests, the pilot study here in Washington State is done and my Tribe, the Yakama Nation, is using it to shape and advance a TFPA proposal to manage USFS off-reservation timber, so we hope this pilot effort will help produce a real on-the-ground project. The ITC also understands that there are serious expressions

of interest in pursuing Anchor Forest studies in the Great Lakes and southwest areas, and we urge timber tribes in those areas to express their interest to USFS personnel.

Yakama Nation is excited to host the 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium June 26-29, 2017, at the Yakima Convention Center. The ITC Symposium Committee has been hard at work putting together a great event, and I urge you to set those dates aside now. 

## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

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materials.


The mini-booth idea has started with the professional AISES chapter in Portland where professional members from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Intel, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Portland State University, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Oregon Health and Science University, and the BIA NW Regional Office have volunteered and attended pow wows in the area during the spring, summer and fall to hand out scholarship and intern information.

Several Picard Scholarship and ITC/USFS research recipients have also volunteered to show their appreciation for the support that ITC has offered. For example, Rudy Peone, BIA NW Regional Office, Siena Lopez Johnston, BPA and Kim Yazzie, PSU and UW researcher, provided support at the mini-booth set

up at pow wows. Rudy has been involved with AISES starting with the AISES Spokane National Conference in 1993, while Siena and Kim have received ITC support as well as AISES support.

The MOUs with ITC and universities are starting to spread around the nation, so the opportunity to develop mini-booth and recruiting – outreach events in urban areas could hopefully develop beyond just three mini-booths at pow wows around the country.

One way to start this partnership is to become a member of AISES and attend their events and promote BIA and tribal forestry along with ITC.

Tribal workforce changing demographics will mean changing recruitment strategies and developing some mini-booths with AISES professional Chapters in urban areas could provide opportunities for tribal members who want to get back to nature and working for tribes. 



## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

Attending the ITC Operations Committee meetings are a great opportunity to get informed on issues affecting Tribal forest management.

The Operations Committee last met on September 14th in Omak, Washington at the 12 Tribes Casino. Thank you Colville for your hospitality.

Below is a summary of our discussions:

### Indian Forest Land Assistance Accounts

Jim Erickson coordinated a webinar that gave a great online on the potential use of the IFLAA's. He will gauge interest in putting together another and include more BIA and Forest Service Contracting Officer's. Jim will coordinate with Salish Kootenai College to get the previous webinar available online.

### Workforce Development

The committee discussed the need to get the position description finalized and advertised. We also discussed potential funding sources to that would support the functions of the position. The leadership group will discuss this further during the meetings to be



Picture taken during the field tour of the Colville Tribal forest, showing some of the impacts of the 2015 wildfires.

held in DC later this fall. Climate Science Liaison Don has resubmitted the ITC proposal and is waiting to hear back from BIA.

### Anchor Forest

Steve Andringa gave a brief update stating that the report is done and out, the money in the US Forest Service grant is spent. Steve mentioned that he received an inquiry for support from ITC about bringing an anchor forest type project to the southwest. Steve and Jim Erickson will contact the FS Tribal Relations folks and continue discussions and this proposal.

He also mentioned that Workshop 3, Anchor Forest and Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) at the upcoming symposium will help guide the path forward for the anchor forests concept and TFPA.

### IFMAT III Implementation


Don Motanic will coordinate a meeting with ITC and leadership in DC to review and prioritize additional work on IFMAT

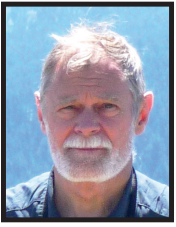
recommendations. The recommendations are categorized into workgroups, including: Forest Planning, Inventory and Silviculture, Climate Change, Fire, TFPA Implementation, Funding, Implementation, and Legislation, Workforce, Woodlands, Anchor Forest, and Forest Products Marketing.

### National Association of State Foresters

Communication continues by holding periodic conference calls. Don Motanic will coordinate the calls to focus on items of common interest.

### A Comprehensive Fire Impact Study

A discussion was held to expand the Fast Fire Study that was recently completed. This report would provide more detailed study of the consequences from the 2015 mega fires on tribe's forest and culturally important resources. The committee will discuss this throughout the coming months based on funding availability. 



Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

## **1) NEW TRUST REFORM LAW HAS MANY TRIBAL FORESTRY PROVISIONS**

The Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (H.R. 812 by Rep. Mike Simpson) signed into law June 22, 2016 as Public Law 114-178 allows tribes to voluntarily exercise more control over of their trust resources, particularly for surface leasing and forest management. The bill, H.R. 812, passed the House February 24, 2015, and passed the Senate unchanged June 10, 2016, clearing it to be signed into law. The ITC supported almost identical Senate counterpart legislation, S. 383.

The new law:

- Sets up a voluntary demonstration program for tribes to design plans for the management of some or all of the tribe's trust resources, which plan the Interior Secretary must approve in 120 days if the plan is consistent with all treaties, statutes and Executive Orders that apply to that tribe's trust resources (Sec. 204).
- Authorizes tribes to approve their own land leases and forest management activities if the Secretariaily approved plan includes tribal regulations "consistent" with corresponding federal regulations, such as NIFRMA regs for forest management. Tribes can also set up their own environmental

review process – with public comment and tribal reply - to supplant NEPA. BIA is not to be responsible for losses sustained for operations conducted under tribal regulations (Sec. 205).

- Discretionally authorizes the Interior Secretary to set up an Under Secretary for Indian Affairs, which can be filled by the ASIA, over BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee. The Secretary is also given discretion to eliminate the OST (Sec. 303).
- Directs the Secretary to submit a plan to Congress within one year on eliminating the OST, but Secretarial implementation is not required (Sec. 304).
- Directs the Secretary to consolidate all trust property appraisals and valuations in one Interior agency, and to set standards for third-party persons to make such appraisals and valuations, which certified third-party appraisals and valuations are to be accepted if submitted by a tribe or tribal member (Sec. 305).

The text of the Indian Trust Reform law is on line at <https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ178/PLAW-114publ178.pdf>

At least one tribe (Coquille) has submitted a request to participate in the demonstration program.

## **2) ELECTIONS SLOW CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY FOR THIS SUMMER, FALL.**

This November 1 election, including for the Presidency, has prompted Congress to be out of

Session a lot since July, and when it returned to business for September, it has been only minimally productive. Before leaving again at the end of September, the only major legislation it is expected to pass is a continuing resolution needed to extend FY 2016 federal funding for about three months past the October 1 start of FY 2017. Congress returns November 14 for a post-election "lame duck" session (with an additional week-long break for Thanksgiving), during which they will try to wind up whatever business as they can before Christmas and the conclusion of the 114th Congress, including regular FY 2017 appropriations (or another CR) and perhaps some forestry legislation. With the end of the 114th Congress, all bills not passed will die and will need to be reintroduced in the 115th Congress for consideration to renew.

## **3) FY 2017 APPROPRIATIONS**

The House introduced and reported its FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill (H.R. 5538, H. Rpt. 114-632) in mid-June and passed the bill July 14, 2016 on a mostly-partisan 231 yea to 196 nay vote, sending the bill to the Senate. Also in mid-June, the Senate introduced and reported its version of the FY 2017 Interior Approps bill (S. 3068, S. Rpt. 114-281), but it has not been taken up on the Senate floor yet. Given that the gridlocked Senate still has to consider and pass its bill and then take it to conference with the House version to resolve differences, and the election recess, and the week-long Thanksgiving recess, completion is not

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expected until December, and then most likely as part of a large omnibus appropriations bill. The entire FY 2017 appropriations process, normally slow in any event, has been hung-up this year by election politics. In the meantime, Congress is expected to move a continuing resolution (CR) to extend FY 2016 funding levels to mid-December, about three months after the October 1 start of FY 2017.

The FY 2017 Interior Approps bill as passed by the House and as reported by the Senate both keep the \$2 million BIA Forestry increase added by Congress last year (FY '16) in response to the devastating fires in Indian Country. The Administration's requested FY 2017 BIA Forestry funding also recommended continuing the increase. Additionally, as displayed in the table below, the Senate's reported FY 2017 Interior Approps bill recommends adding another \$2 million to BIA Forestry for expanded thinning. The additional thinning funding was championed by Senator Jeff Merkley (D, Ore.), a member of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

The table below of several BIA and Interior Office of Wildland Fire programs of interest compares amounts for FY 2015 and FY 2016 with FY 2017 amounts as requested by the Administration, as passed by the House, and as reported by the Senate.

## 4) TRIBAL FORESTRY LEGISLATION POISED TO MOVE ON SEVERAL FRONTS, AGREEMENT SOUGHT WITH CANTWELL

Tribal forestry legislation to streamline TFPA application, allow tribal management of nearby USFS and BLM forestlands, and apply PL 93-638 to USFS and BLM TFPA projects is now poised to potentially advance later this year as part of several different large legislative packages, but Senator Maria Cantwell's (D-WA) concerns with tribal management of USFS or BLM forestlands due to NEPA adequacy concerns could either derail or require modification of that provision. Below is a summary of the various legislative vehicles that already do or could include the tribal forestry provisions, including tribal USFS and BLM forest management if Cantwell's concerns can be

resolved.

- The Energy Policy Modernization Act (S. 2012) Now undergoing House-Senate conference negotiations to resolve differences: the House version (passed May 25, 2016, see Division B, Sections 701, 702 and 703) adds the text of many House-passed natural resource bills to the Senate's energy provisions, including the text of the House-passed Resilient Federal Forests bill (H.R. 2647), with TFPA speed-up, tribal management of USFS and BLM forestlands (no limit on the number of tribes or management duration), and 638 for USFS and BLM TFPA projects. The Senate version of S. 2016 has no similar provisions. The Senate conferees appointed July 12 are Senators Lisa Murkowski (R, Alaska), John Barrasso (R, Wyoming), Jim Risch (R, Idaho), John Cornyn (R, Texas), Maria Cantwell (D, Washington), Ron Wyden (D, Oregon), and Bernie Sanders (I, Vermont). The House appointed its conferees on May

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Amounts in \$ thousands (000)

	FY'15 final	FY'16 final	FY'17 Admin. req.	FY'17 House	FY'17 Sen. rpt'd
BIA Forestry	47,735	51,914	52,155	52,155	54,155*
BIA Coop Landscp. Conserv.	9,948	9,955	13,056	9,956	9,956
Dol Off. Wildland Fire Mgmnt					
Preparedness	318,970	323,685	332,784	332,784	332,784
Suppression	291,657	291,672	276,291	302,701	395,000
Fuels Management	164,000	170,000	149,089	180,000	180,000
Resilient Landscapes	-0-	-0-	30,000	-0-	-0-
Burned Area Rehab	18,035	18,970	20,470	20,470	20,470
FLAME suppression acct.	92,000	177,000	-0-	92,000	-0-
Fire Mgmnt (emergency)	.....	.....	.....	.....	171,291

\* \$2 million added at the request of Sen. Jeff Merkley (D, Ore.) for additional thinning.



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25, 2016. Both the House version and the Senate version also contain their respective versions of the Indian energy legislation (Senate: Title VI, House: Division C, Title IV) with the biomass demonstration program (Senate: Sec. 6202, House: Division C, Section 4006). The House version also contains forest provisions for the Cow Creek, Coquille and Confederated Coos Tribes, all of Oregon (Division C, Title XXVI). The first meeting of the conferees – just for opening statements – was September 8, 2016.

- The Tribal Forestry Participation and Protection Act of 2016 (S. 3014 by Sen. Steve Daines (R, Mont.)), which was approved amended by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee June 22, 2016. Amendments included a Daines substitute and provisions added by Chairman Barrasso clarifying the sage grouse does not supercede the U.S. trust responsibility and requiring DoI to report to Congress on how it prioritizes protection of trust resources in its wildfire suppression. The Daines substitute amendment continues the three basic purposes of the bill (1: streamline TFPA, 2: allow tribal NIFRMA management of nearby USFS and BLM forests, 3) allow 638 for USFS and BLM TFPA projects), but makes the following adjustments –
  - allow the TFPA 2 year NEPA deadline to be extended, in consultation with the tribe, if

2 years is impractical to complete NEPA,

- restrict the USFS and BLM forestlands tribes may manage to those “within the exterior boundary of a watershed within which the Indian tribe holds rights to the use of water that have been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction; or resolved through a congressionally approved Indian water rights settlement”, and
- limits participation in the introduced bill’s 10-year demonstration program for tribal management of USFS and BLM forests to six tribes a year and to lands within 200 miles of the requesting tribe’s headquarters. During the mark-up, Senators Cantwell and Jon Tester (D, Mont.) expressed concern about the provision allowing tribes to manage USFS and BLM forestlands, and particularly about BIA inadequate NEPA capability. Tester offered, then withdrew, an amendment to entirely remove the tribal management of USFS and BLM forestlands from the bill. He then voted yes for the final bill. Cantwell voted against it – the only no vote. As of this late September writing, the bill as amended and approved by the Committee, along with the accompanying explanatory committee report, has yet to be issued.

It is unlikely (although not impossible, if all objections are resolved) the Daines bill will be considered by itself on the Senate floor. Instead, its text, or perhaps text modified by Sen. Cantwell’s concerns,

has a better chance moving as an attachment to a larger bill, such as the Murkowski-Cantwell draft Wildfire Budgeting, Response, and Forest Management Act (see below), which itself might be incorporated into the on-going Energy Policy Modernization Act conference (see above).

- The (draft) Wildfire Budgeting, Response, and Forest Management Act (draft bill released June 3, 2016 by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski (R, Alaska) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D, Washington), not yet introduced). The basic intent of this draft bill is to pay annual wildland fire suppression costs that exceed some to-be-determined annual cost threshold – such as 100% of the ten-year suppression cost average - from federal disaster accounts, to spare the Forest Service and BLM from bearing suppression cost overruns. Accounting for federal disaster funding is within the jurisdiction of the Senate Budget Committee, which is expected to have a large role in fashioning this particular provision. The Murkowski-Cantwell bill is expected to serve as a gathering place for various other Senate forestry bills, such as Daines’ S. 3014 and Senate Budget Committee Chair Pat Robert’s forestry bill (S. 3085, see item below).

The Murkowski-Cantwell draft also contains a number of forest management reforms, in-

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## Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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cluding-

- allowing unspent suppression appropriations to be spent on fuels reduction,
- further streamlining HFRA NEPA for certain activities, such as fuels, forest health, and protecting key watersheds and habitats,
- establishing an electronic remote location sensing system for Type 1 fire crews,
- “incentivize” collaborative forestry projects with alternative approval processes,
  - provide alternative approval processes for fuels work on forests at risk of mega fires,
  - work to unify state certification of firefighting aircraft and related personnel,
  - authorizing use of drones on wildfires, and
  - authorizing \$500 million over seven years for communities at risk (defined as on an updated DoI listing pursuant to the FY 2001 Interior Appropriations Act. Tribal communities are eligible but must submit an application, and some are on the current listing).

The ITC has submitted comments on the Murkowski-Cantwell draft asking that tribes be more comprehensively included in the forest reform provisions and that the text of the Daines bill (S. 3014, see above) be added. As of this writing, no revised version of the Murkowski-Cantwell draft has been issued.

- The Emergency Wildfire and Forest Management Act of

2016 (S. 3085, introduced June 22, 2016 by Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Pat Roberts (R, Kan.). This bill is very similar to the House-passed Resilient Federal Forests bill (H.R. 2647), and the tribal provisions in Title V are identical to those in the House-passed bill (TFPA speed-up, tribal management of USFS and BLM forestlands, and applying PL 93-638 to TFPA projects). For funding wildland fire suppression, the bill now provides disaster funding only after appropriated funding equal to 100% of the ten-year average is exceeded in a given year, but Roberts notes this is just “place holder” language until agreement is reached with other committees. This bill has not been given a hearing by the Senate Ag. Committee, but its text is the basis for a substitute amendment by Chairman Roberts that replaced the House-passed text of H. R. 2647 when that bill was marked up by the Senate Ag Committee September 13, 2016. Roberts likely intends that H.R. to be added (with further revisions) to the Murkowski-Cantwell draft bill as that bill advances toward the Senate floor.

Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 (H.R.2647, introduced by Rep. Bruce Westerman [R-AR] and passed by the House last year). After passing the House, this bill was referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee where, after sitting for over a year, it was finally marked-up and approved September 13, 2016. Its approval should increase

pressure to address forestry issues in the conference of the Energy Policy Modernization bill.

In its September 13 mark-up, the Senate Ag Committee adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute proposed by Chairman Roberts that replaces the entire text of H.R. 2647. The Roberts substitute is based on his bill S. 3085, the Emergency Wildfire and Forest Management Act of 2016 (above), and includes the tribal provisions (Title III) in the exact same form as passed by the House. The Committee did not adopt another – and very different – substitute amendment proposed by Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D, Mich.) that would have completely reworked the bill, including eliminating the tribal TFPA, management and 638 provisions, but which would have included tribal lands in a proposed landscape restoration program basically subject to state designation.

At this point, it is not clear whether any forestry reform legislation will move in the limited remainder of this Congress. After elections, Congress is scheduled to be in Session only four weeks before the December 16, 2016 adjournment target. The most likely vehicle for forestry legislation could be the House-Senate conference on the Energy Policy Modernization Act, but the House and Senate differences are large, particularly for forestry, which is not in the Senate version at all. Should forestry reform legislation not get completed, it will likely be reintroduced next Congress.

Senator Cantwell’s expressed objections to tribal management of

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## Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

*(Continued from page 10)*

USFS and BLM forestlands, and particularly BIA NEPA capability, could pose a significant challenge to the forward movement of that provision, at least as currently written. Cantwell sits on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and, more importantly, she is the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and has direct engagement in the House-Senate conference on the large energy policy bill and in any forestry reform legislation. In all likelihood, any tribal forestry legislation would have to move on one of those vehicles, so her concerns will almost certainly have to be addressed. Next Congress, should the Senate turn Democratic, she would be Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.


### 5) POLITICS

Former Interior Secretary and US Senator from Colorado Ken

Salazar has been appointed the head of Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's transition team. At the Democratic National Convention, Salazar reportedly stated Clinton, if elected, will continue the annual White House Tribal Nations conference and place tribal members in senior administration positions. New Jersey Governor Chris Christy is in charge of Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump's transition team. Christy has no Native American record or experience.

Presidential election states to watch include Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida. Reportedly, Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump needs to win all four in order to amass the 270 Electoral College votes needed to become President. Hillary Clinton only needs to win one of the four. As of this writing, national polls show the race getting very tight.

US Senate: Currently, Republicans have the majority (54) over Democrats (46). Democrats must pick up a net of four seats and have Hillary Clinton win to gain the majority (VP candidate Tim Kaine (D, Va.) would become President of the Senate and break the tie) or pick up five seats to gain Senate control outright.

Reportedly and as of this writing, two Republican seats are leaning Democratic: Illinois, where one-term incumbent Sen. Mark Kirk (R) trails Rep. Tammi Duckworth (D) and Wisconsin, where incumbent Sen. Ron Johnson (R) is trailing the state's former Senator Russ Feingold (D), who is making a comeback bid. One currently Democratic seat now held by Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, who is retiring, could shift to Republican. 

**Toss-up Senate seats are reportedly as follow:**

State	Currently	Race	Polls (9/19)
Indiana	Coats (R)*	Young (R) v. Evan Bayh (D)	Bayh + 4
New Hamp.	Ayotte (R)	Ayotte (R) v Hassan (D)	Ayotte + 8
Penn.	Toomey (R)	Toomey (R) v McGinty (D)	McGinty + 0.2
Nevada	Reid (D)*	Heck (R) v Cortez-Masto (D)	Heck + 3
N. Carolina	Burr (R)	Burr (R) v Ross (D)	

\*: retiring

US House of Representatives: The House, where Republicans now enjoy a majority of 226 to 187 Democrats, is generally expected to retain the majority, although perhaps at diminished numbers.

## Education Committee

Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

The Education Committee has finalized dates for the 2017 Truman Picard Scholarship Announcement. The Deadline this year is January 18, 2017. If you are interested, or know someone interested, please encourage them to submit an application before the application deadline. Visit the ITC website or call the ITC office for more information. In addition, announcements will be sent out to tribes and agencies. Please help yourself by beginning the process early so that you give yourself ample time to present your best depiction of yourself.

The Truman Picard Scholarship is offered annually to Native Americans pursuing higher education in the field of natural resources. The amounts awarded are \$2,000 for high school recipients and \$2,500 for undergraduate and graduate recipients.

Scholarship applicants will be rated on five criteria: application letter, resume, academic merit, reference letters, and financial need. The application letter needs to address the students' interest in natural resources as well as their commitment to their education,

community and culture. Please do not sell yourself short, this scholarship is very competitive and finding references who can detail your accomplishments is very important.

There will be a Scholarship Selection Committee who will review the applicants and grade them on the above criteria. It is important for all applicants to understand that the awards are not based on any political influence or by the amount a tribe participates with ITC. Picard Scholarships are all based on the merits of the students and the potential they will bring to Indian country natural resources.

Individuals selected for an ITC scholarship who declare an eligible major at Oregon State University, Northern Arizona University, Salish Kootenai College, University of Washington or Yale University will receive additional funds from those respective universities. The amount that is provided varies between schools. Some schools will match the scholarship amount while others will waive the remainder of their tuition.

We would like to welcome new Education Committee members Dee Randall and Victoria Wesley as new members. We are always open to new members to continue on with the success of the committee and recognize current and past recipients.


To any and all interested potential scholarship recipients please spend adequate time preparing your application and ask for feedback from trusted individuals.

The new ITC display board will be set up at the next national SAF meeting in Madison, WI. Novem-

ber 2-6, 2016. Another opportunity to see the display is at AISES National Conference in Minneapolis, MN November 10-12, 2016. Stop by and see the new display. If any member tribes are interested in occupying the booth when it is in your region, please don't hesitate to contact me and we can make arrangements.

We discussed at our most recent board meeting that we would like to purchase two more mini displays that could be displayed very easily. If we can complete 15 presentations in a three-year span, we would be eligible for a grant. Let's make this happen and get out the information on ITC!

There are many exciting new opportunities that are gaining momentum because of the latest IF-MAT report. One of which is an opportunity for five native students to attend a prestige institution in the Southeastern Conference. The students would be working on a forestry Business Master's Degree and would have their entire tuition waived. I will not release the name of the school until the agreement is formalized, but I am very excited for this opportunity.

You can get more information by calling the ITC office or visiting the website. 



## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



James R. Erickson

### Indian Forest Land

#### Assistance Accounts: Why Use Them and How to Initiate

The Intertribal Timber Council recently conducted a webinar on how to utilize the Indian Forest Land Assistance Accounts (IFLAA). The BIA Pacific Region, Forest Service Region 5, and The Karuk Tribe provided the technical background and presentations.

These accounts are authorized by the National Indian Forest Resource Management Act (NIFRMA: P.L. 101-630/ 25 USC 33, S3109). This act authorizes the Secretary to “establish a special Indian Forest Land Assistance Account within the tribe’s trust fund account to fund the Indian forest land management activities of such tribe “. These accounts are specific to one Tribe. Once the account is established the Secretary may deposit any funds received by the Secretary or in the Secretary’s possession from:

- A. non-Federal sources, if such funds are related to activities on or for the Indian forest lands of such tribe’s reservation,
- B. donations and contributions,
- C. unobligated forestry appropriations for the benefit of

such Indian tribe, and  
D. user fees or other funds transferred under Federal interagency agreements if otherwise authorized by Federal law and, if such funds are related to activities on or for the Indian forest lands of such tribe’s reservation.

The Tribe desiring such an account must make a request to the Secretary to establish the account prior to funds being deposited. These funds become no-year monies, earn interest, and can be carried forward to future years. Tribes are encouraged to utilize these funds in a timely fashion and to not use these accounts as saving accounts. Once deposited on behalf of a Tribe the funds cannot be withdrawn and transferred to another Tribe or agency, they are Tribe specific.

Potential uses for these accounts include:

- A. Year-end deposits of BIA funds for direct service Tribes who do not utilize P.L. 93-638, Self-Governance contracts or agreements. These accounts would help the BIA minimize carryover funds by committing them to specific Tribes prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- B. Interagency transfer of funds from one federal agency to the BIA on behalf of a Tribe for projects such as treatments on neighboring federal lands under the Tribal Forest protection Act (TFPA) or other stewardship authorities.
- C. Interagency transfer of

funds from one federal agency to the BIA on behalf of a Tribe to be distributed to local collaborators as part of local restoration strategy.

The federal Service First Authority (SFA) and the Economy in Government (EIG) authority provides federal agencies the authority to work more directly with Tribes without strict adherence with Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). This provides Tribes with the autonomy to implement projects utilizing their policies and regulations. Tribes have the flexibility to utilize both force-account crews and contractors to perform the work in the most efficient fashion possible. This operational flexibility provides the leverage to make funding stretch farther to treat more acres with limited amounts of funding.

Funding agencies retain the ability to control the release of these funds to the Tribes for specific projects based upon a negotiated scope of work and budget. Work can be broken down into multiple tasks, which can be approved for interim payments prior to completion of the entire project. This provides both parties with incentives to complete tasks in a timely manner. Tribes and the Forest Service have the opportunity to jointly discuss the scope of work and budget before or after the funds are transferred into the IFLAA account. This format provides a less formal and more consultative format to work collaboratively.

Previous agreements have been conducted on a cost reimbursable

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## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

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basis, but there could be the flexibility to negotiate advance payments.

The greatest challenge to expanding the use of this authority to other BIA and Forest Service regions is the need to garner understanding and support from all Contract, Grants and Agreements specialists working with a specific Tribe.


The Intertribal Timber Council plans a second webinar specifically for Tribes interested in establishing an IFLAA account. Interested Tribes should contact Jim Erickson (509 633-1067 or jim.erickson@couleedam.net) as soon as possible so arrangements can be made to engage regional and local BIA and Forest Service contract, grants and agreement specialist. Engagement

of these individuals is critical to the timely and effective implementation of IFALL accounts.

Contact information for key technical experts:

- A. Gerald Jones, BIA Pacific Regional Forester: (916) 978-6076, gerald.jones@bia.gov. Gerald also can provide a DVD with pertinent forms and background information.
- B. Wade McMaster, Forest Service Region 5 - Tribal Relations Program Manager: (530) 283-7795, wcmcmaster@fs.fed.us.
- C. Bill Tripp, Karuk Tribe - Deputy Director of Eco-Cultural Revitalization: (530) 627-3446, btripp@karuk.us.

## Tribal Forest Protection Act Update

The Intertribal Timber Council and Forest Service have completed three regional TFPA Workshops (Spokane, Albuquerque, Sacramento). We are currently monitoring projects initiated during these workshops to determine how many projects are currently being planned, what status they are currently in, and if further assistance is needed to help move local projects along in a timely and efficient manner. The results of this monitoring effort will help guide the TFPA Oversight committee in determine whether a fourth workshop is warranted in the Pacific Northwest for coastal Washington and Oregon Tribes. 

## BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester



Pete Wakeland

### Branch of Forest Resources Planning Forest Inventory

Continuous Forest Inventory projects (CFI) provide the bulk of the time and effort for BOFRP staff who work with tribes and Regions. CFI's re measure permanent

plots on tribal lands every 10-20 years depending on the amount of commercial timber management. Funding is provided through Forest Management Inventory & Planning funding requests made by the regions for non-recurring funds. The following is a list of ongoing and future forest inventories:

### Current CFI'S Re-measurements, data verification and data analysis

- 1. Tanana Chiefs Conference Native Allotment
- 2. Makah
- 3. Zuni Woodland
- 4. Mississippi Choctaw - approximately 162 plots completed
- 5. Yakama
- 6. Jicarilla Timber and Woodland
- 7. Spirit Lake Reservation – finished

- 8. Northern Cheyenne
- 9. Isleta CFI
- 10. Flandreau Santee – finished
- 11. Southern Ute Timber and Woodland
- 12. Santa Clara Timber and Woodland
- 13. Ahtna
- 14. Fort Apache
- 15. Navajo - (Analysis)
- 16. Fort Hall
- 17. Hoopa Valley
- 18. Mescalero - (Analysis)
- 19. Fort Peck
- 20. Laguna CFI
- 21. Hualapai - (Analysis)
- 22. Colville
- 23. Zia CFI
- 24. Hopi CFI - (Analysis)

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## **BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management**

by Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester

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### **Future CFI Projects in the planning stage**

1. Tule River CFI
2. U&O CFI
3. Acoma Timber and Woodland
4. Taos Timber and Woodland
5. Mescalero Woodland CFI
6. Fort Berthold

### **Stocking Studies**

1. Acoma - data collection
2. Zuni - data collection
3. Yakama
4. Jicarilla - data collection
5. Annette Islands
6. Tulalip
7. Southern Ute - data collection
8. Santa Clara
9. Coeur d'Alene

### **BOFRP Staffing Changes**

Weston Cain transferred to the Branch of Wildland Fire Management as a Fire Planner. Rob Juhola, BIA employee at the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center is on detail backfilling Weston's position; Rob is a Natural Resources Specialist and BOFRP is glad to have his help and organizational expertise.

### **Forest Information Reporting Statistics & Tracking Application**

The Forest Information Reporting Statistics & Tracking (FIRST) application (replacement for InFo-Dat) is close to completion. It is now in the "Authority to Operate" application process with Indian Affairs IT.

Work on FIRST and a new Forest Inventory database which will consolidate 119 separate continuous forest inventory data sets

should commence in a few weeks. Due to the transition of the program and support services commercial contract from the incumbent vendor to a new "Buy Indian" vendor, all work ceased earlier this summer. The awarding of the new contract has been slower than expected, but should be ready to go at the beginning of FY2017 on October 1st.

Concurrent with the new contract, a reimbursable support agreement with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Management Service Center in Fort Collins, CO, will allow for a better integration of all BOFRP applications into Forest Service applications, and joint development work on Forest Vegetation Simulator variants and volume equations.

### **National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP)**

Class 10 began in July at the University of Minnesota and we are sending 4 students. Congratulations and good luck to Fabian Keirn, Tanana Chiefs Conference; Sean Maier, Midwest Regional Office; Jason Quade, Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe; and Jeffrey Sampson, Yakama Agency. As mentioned in previous newsletters, Central Office will pay the tuition which includes lodging and most meals, leaving travel costs and nominal per diem the responsibility of the sending Agency, Tribe or Region. Our expectation is that each forester, after attending all 4 NASP modules, will complete the process and become certified as a silviculturalist through a panel-reviewed prescription defense.

The next opportunity to apply

will be in September 2016. The application process is via BIA protocols and will be explained in the fall memo. Please encourage foresters with at least 3-5 years' experience to apply – it is one of the best ways to develop and maintain professional staff. Questions or comments about this program may be directed to Karen DeBord, Forester, BOFRP, karen.debord@bia.gov (720) 484-3214.

Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

The Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management is providing assistance to the Department of the Interior, Office of Appraisal Services to determine commercial timber values for candidate Land Buy Back tracts. Inquiries regarding the Land Buy Back timber appraisal process should be directed to Bill Yemma, Forester, BOFRP, william.yemma@bia.gov (720-484-3202).

### **Indian Country Mourns with Keweenaw Bay Indian Community**

On the evening of August 27, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) learned that two of their firefighters were killed in a catastrophic vehicle accident in Blaine, Minnesota. James F. Shelifoe, Jr and Alan J. Swartz were killed while seven the other passengers traveling in a crew carrier were injured while on their way to the Box Canyon Fire in Utah.

In the days ahead, the entire wildland fire community heard about the tragedy and grieved with the KBIC.

On August 30, Mich. Gov. Rick

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KBIC lets go Chinese candles in memory of the Beartown Firefighters. Photo by KBIC

Snyder ordered U.S. and Michigan flags be lowered to half-staff August 31 and September 1 on all state buildings and within the state Capitol in honor of James Shelifoe, Jr. and Alan Swartz, firefighters with the Beartown Fire Department.

As flags were lowered, many watched the well-orchestrated precession wind through Minnesota, Wisconsin and into Michigan where their fallen firefighters were returned home.

James was a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and had been with the KBIC Beartown Firefighters for a number of years. He enjoyed being outdoors, playing basketball, 4-wheeling, snowmobiling, riding his dirt bike and especially spending time with his family.

Alan was a member of the KBIC Beartown Firefighters. He

enjoyed anything outdoors, including fishing, snowmobiling, camping and hunting. He loved working on anything mechanical, especially his 4-wheeler.

James and Allan were laid to rest August 31 and September 1 at the KBIC Zeba Hall in L'Anse, MI. The following day, the KBIC held a candle-light vigil as a final tribute to the fallen firefighters, those injured and the families affected by the tragedy. During the tribute, a balloon and Chinese lantern release took place.

To support the families and those injured, the Beartown Firefighters Relief Fund was established. If you wish to provide support, please send a check to:

**Beartown Tribal Center 16429  
Beartown Rd.  
Baraga, MI 49908**

The BIA sends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of James Shelifoe, Jr. and Alan Swartz. We also keep the injured firefighters in our thoughts as they work through the long process of healing.

### **Navajo Interagency Hotshot Crews Demonstrates Training Pays Off**

On June 28, a large fire whirl formed near six members of the Navajo Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC), entrapping them. In response to the intense heat, flying ash and woody debris, the firefighters deployed their fire shelters.

According to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Terminology Glossary, a fire whirl is a

spinning vortex column of ascending hot air and gases rising from a fire and carrying aloft smoke, debris, and flame. Fire whirls may range in size from less than one foot to over 500 feet in diameter and have the intensity of a small tornado.

Throughout the 15-minute event, the crew maintained radio communication with each other and agency personnel. After the fire whirl passed, the IHC walked out of the fire area and were transported to Summit Healthcare in Show Low, Arizona. Two firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation and all six firefighters were released from the hospital that evening.

While managing wildland fires is inherently dangerous, all firefighters are trained to minimize the risk they take on every assignment. In the rare circumstance firefighters are faced with an impending

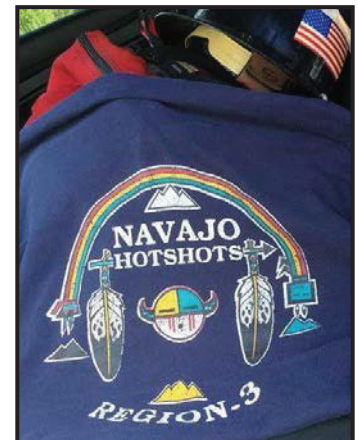


Photo by Darryl Martinez, BIA  
entrapment, they are trained to consider all options to insure the safety of all crew members. This includes deploying fire shelters for protection from smoke, heat, and embers. The Navajo Interagency

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## BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester

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Hotshot Crew executed their training, which resulted in a successful outcome to a hazardous wildfire anomaly.

As a high reliability organization, the wildland fire community strives to learn and transfer lessons learned on a continual basis. Hopefully this is an example that will remind all firefighters that training is never in vain. The Final Report will be presented to Regional and Agency staff in September. Once presentations are complete, the final report will be posted on the Lessons Learned Center.

### **Interns Explore Careers in Wildland Fire Management**

The spring of 2016 ushered in a new chapter of workforce development for the BIA wildland fire management organization. Seven interns participated in the inaugural year of the BIA's Pathways Student Internship Program.

This year, interns were selected from the Midwest, Northwest, Southwest, Western, and Southern Plains regions. The wide distribution of applicants shows managers word is spreading about this unique career opportunity.

An important component of completing their Internships is gaining the necessary work experience that will prepare them for careers working in Federal service. For students working in forestry and fire positions, duties included gathering forest inventory data and conducting statistical sampling on it. This data will be used to assist fire managers with writing prescribe fire plans. It will also assist foresters with project management



Mitchell Kurtz, Intern stationed at Standing Rock Agency

planning.

Some interns were certified to use chainsaws and safety equipment as part of their work duties removing hazardous vegetation. This work helps local units accomplish necessary fuels treatments that ultimately help protect communities or restore landscapes.

Interns also accomplished basic firefighter training and began working on their basic fire qualifications. Several worked on engines, helitack and handcrews this summer, traveling far to work on large interagency fires.

In August, five new interns were added to the fire management program and this winter, another advertisement will be announced to recruit more students into the program. This work is not possible without the work of supervisors who are willing to guide and mentor these new employees in forestry and fire management fields. Your dedication and commitment is helping build Indian Country's next generation of forest and fire managers and we are very grateful for your contributions to the whole organization.

The Division of Forestry and

Wildland Fire needs agencies to host Interns as well as finding students willing to apply for these positions. If interested in hosting a student intern, or wish for more information, visit: <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/iayouth/index.html>

### **Three New Handcrews Funded to Help Develop Indian Country's Fire Management Workforce**

On July 21, 2016 – BIA Central Office announced, for the first time ever, it was providing funding for labor, equipment and supplies to stand up Initial Attack Type 2 (IAT2) handcrews. These crews are vital to the Bureau and the Tribes hosting them because their purpose is creating training opportunities that will advance the qualifications of entry firefighters. Once qualifications are met, crewmembers are expected to move on and provide leadership to other fire management programs. Out of 22 applications, three were selected: Bay Mills Indian Community, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and Yakama Nation.

In order to be selected, applicants had to demonstrate their programs were sustainable, and could provide administrative support for the 20+ employees. They also showed a facility was available which could house the crew. Furthermore, units had to show they could provide career development opportunities while tracking training planning and certification requirements. Lastly, they must maintain the minimum standards to keep their IAT2 certification.

These crews create opportu-

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## BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

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nities for other tribal/ agency firefighters to detail onto the crew to develop needed qualifications.



Bay Mills T2 Initial Attack Handcrew assigned to the Cedar Fire that was burning on Fort Apache Indian Reservation, July 2016. Photo by: Robyn Broyles, PIO.

These details allow firefighters to diversify their experience and work in a variety of terrain and fuel types that ultimately strengthen a firefighter's overall background.

While the crew is considered a training crew for BIA's purposes, an IAT2 is considered to be just a step down from an Interagency Hotshot Crew in performance and capability. The standard Type 2 IA crew is comprised of 20 individuals. There is a Crew Boss, three Type 1 Firefighters qualified as Type 5 Incident Commanders, three fallers, one of which is certified as a FAL2 and 13 basic firefighters. At least 60% of the crewmembers have at least one season of fire experience.

Starting in 2017, several crewmembers will be employees from the BIA Pathways Student Internship Program. By selecting employees that are earning degrees

and fire qualifications in tandem, these training crews can effectively develop mid-level forestry and fire management leaders.

Congratulations to the Bay Mills Indian Community, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and Yakama Nation. The whole fire community looks forward to seeing the leadership produced from these crews and learning more about them in the future.

### Northwest Fuels Treatment Assessment Report Shows the Wins and Future Opportunities

Tribes, BIA and ITC have advocated Fuels treatments for decades. Following the devastating fire season in the Northwest in 2015, tribal and BIA staff worked in partnership to develop a Regional Fuels Assessment Report. The Report documents treatment effectiveness, limitations and offers recommendations that could provide greater opportunities to reduce risk and severity of future fires.

Below is an excerpt from the Report's Executive Summary. The full document can be downloaded at [www.bia.gov/nifc/](http://www.bia.gov/nifc/) in the near future or by contacting Mark Jackson at [mark.jackson@bia.gov](mailto:mark.jackson@bia.gov).

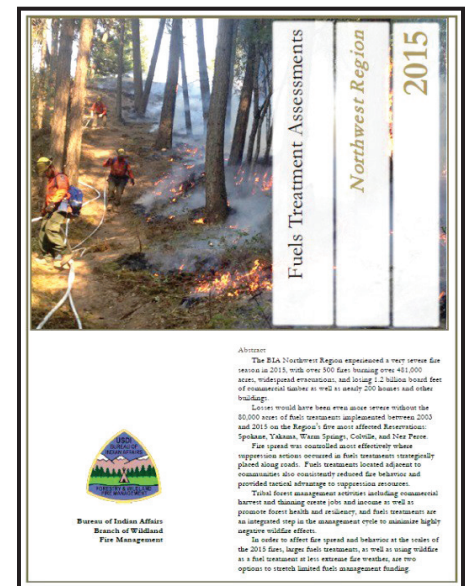
#### Executive Summary

Actively managed forests are among a tribe's most valued assets. As such, fuels, fire, and forest managers work closely together to identify strategic locations to treat hazardous fuels. From 2003 to 2015,

the Northwest Region completed 3352 fuels management treatments that treated over 538,000 acres. The overall cost to plan and implement these treatments was about \$62,000,000.

In August of 2015, widespread lightning storms sparked hundreds of forest fires across the Northwest. Almost 340 fires occurred on the Spokane, Yakama, Colville, Warm Springs and Nez Perce Reservations burning over 407,000 acres. Nearly half the acres that burned were in actively managed forests. Nearly 200 primary homes, commercial buildings and outbuildings were destroyed along with 1.2 billion board feet of timber.

When the fires were out, fuels and fire management specialists from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) assessed how effective the fuels treatment were at modifying fire behavior and aiding fire suppression actions. They wanted to learn if treatments provided public



Cover Page of the Fuels Treatment Assessment Northwest Region Report

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## BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester

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and firefighter safety and if fuels management objectives were met.

The Team performed 11-15 assessments on eight large fires. They were rapid assessments, each taking two-to-three days. They were performed using National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) data, fire records, fire behavior modelling, and field observations. When available, Continuous Forest Inventory data and Burned Area Reflectance Classification data was used to measure fire effects at the landscape scale.

In general, the Northwest Regional assessments found that treatments, when tested against intense fire behavior, met planned objectives. However, extreme fire behavior can render all but the most recent fuels treatments ineffective. And to affect fire behavior at landscape scales, the scales of the 2015 wildfires, larger fuels treatments and the use of wildfire at moderate fire weather conditions should be considered by fire and fuels managers.

### Changes Come to BIA Sawyer Program

In July, the BIA Sawyer Program formalized updates to bring



FAL1 recertifies qualifications at C-Faller Training in Santa Clara in 2016. Photo by Brian Billie

Indian Country into alignment with interagency policy and to improve partnerships with our Department of Interior bureaus.

BIA will now accept other agencies advanced faller (FAL1) qualifications. Consequently, other agencies can now re-certify FAL1 sawyers if it is logistically more feasible. Furthermore, all advanced, intermediate and basic fallers are now required to use the NWCG Position Task Books to qualify for positions.

These Task Books can be downloaded at: [http://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/products/training-products/FAL1\\_FAL2\\_FAL3\\_11-2014.pdf](http://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/products/training-products/FAL1_FAL2_FAL3_11-2014.pdf) These modifications have been vetted and validated by the National Risk Management Committee, the Hazard Tree Subcommittee, The Operations and Workforce Training Committee (OWTC) and the Branch of Wildland Fire Management (BWFM) Operations Group. They will be reflected in the 2017 Red Book, and more information will be included in the in the 310-1 National Incident Management System: Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide.

### 4-Rights Campaign Launches at California State Fair

The 4 Rights Campaign is about prescribed fire being used at the Right Time, by the Right People, in the Right Place, as the Right Choice. This scalable communications campaign, developed by Charles Jachens, Soledad Holguin and Jimmy Nanamkin of the Pacific Region, is being used to teach basic fire management principles to children, adults, private citizens,

land managers and other fire practitioner how

Native Americans have used fire for generations and how traditional resource management ties into prescribed fire today. First integrated as a teaching tool at the California State Fair, Camp Smokey and the Little Red School House are now using it. What are the 4 Rights?



**Right Time** – Speaks to the important temporal considerations for prescribed fire, including time of year, current and expected weather and time of day. When these conditions align appropriately, fire managers have the opportunity to conduct a successful prescribed burn.

**Right Place** – Many of the areas we now call the wildland-urban interface (WUI) is actually fire-dependent ecosystems where people live. While managers are reintroducing fire to restore landscapes, it can't happen in all places at once due to this nature meets human environment. That is why place-based factors such a fuel type and density, topography and fuel breaks are important considerations fire managers take into account before conducting a prescribed burn.

**Right People** – Multigenerational burning is an important way to ensure cultural practices and techniques persist. Family burning done with knowledgeable adults to provide the supervision is a good

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## BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

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practice. Involving local youth helps instill a sense of place and responsibility in the future residential population.

**Right Choice** – Our number one priority is protecting public and firefighter safety. To do that, all managers must learn to balance the benefits of using fire with the risks associated with it. Making the right choices for the right reasons is part of what fire leadership and fire management is about.

The 4-Rights Campaign is deep in scope and just beginning to be used across California to help public understand the complexities of managing wildfires. If you would like to learn more about the 4 Rights Campaign, visit: <http://fireadaptednetwork.org/4-rights-campaign-prescribed-fire-right-4-environment/> or contact Soledad Holguin or Jimmy Nanamkin of the Pacific Region.

### **BIA Protects BLM's Poverty Island**

The Poverty Island Wildfire ignited June 26 by a lightning strike on a 200 square-acre island off Michigan's Garden Peninsula in Lake Michigan. Shortly after the fire ignited, a historic lighthouse and associated buildings became threatened, causing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire managers to call on the help of BIA and other interagency partners.

It is common for BIA to use agreements that allow other agencies provide fire protection services on Trust land; however, the Poverty Island Fire is a rare incident in which an agreement was used by BLM to have another Department of Interior agency provide fire pro-



Lighthouse on the 200 ac. Poverty Island is centered on the southern end of the Island while a small smoke column is visible on the other side of the island, north of the structures.

tection for them. Due to proximity and available resources, BIA was able to assist with response.

Given this unusual occurrence, both the BIA and BLM asked questions about the jurisdiction of the island. In 1846, several lighthouses were moved under the jurisdiction of the "Lighthouse Service," which eventually became the Coast Guard. The lighthouse remained under the Coast Guard's care until the 1970's, when, due to upgrades in technology, the lighthouses became automated. Consequently, the land the lighthouse sits on became obsolete, since people were no longer needed to staff the lighthouse.

Shortly after, the Coast Guard requested the BLM to assist with transferring jurisdiction since it was no longer the Coast Guard's responsibility to manage the land. As one of the only agencies authorized to transfer Federal land, Poverty Island thus shifted to the care of BLM. Legend says the Island is also the final resting place of four chests of gold once sent by

the French to the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Never found, the island has become a place of intrigue. It is no wonder that when the Fire started, smoke became visible to Michigan's mainland, causing concern and an increase in public interest.

For three months, the fire has burned in peat and heavy standing and blown down timber. Over the course of the fire, a boat loaned from Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, a U.S Forest Service helicopter and firefighters from the BIA, Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service assisted in the suppression efforts to protect the lighthouse and associated buildings. As of September 14th, the Fire is still smoldering in the interior, despite seven inches of rain. This is normal for peat and timber fires which will need a heavy blanket of snow and long dose of cold weather to fully extinguish the fire.

### **Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange**

From April 25- May 6, Yolanda Yallup and many other students gathered in the Deschutes National Forest to partake in the Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) learning program.

TREX is a joint project hosted by the Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service and several Dept. of Interior agencies and conservation staff. Working together, their goal is to train fire professionals how to wisely and safely put

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## BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester

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Burn patterns used at TREX.  
Photo by Yolanda Yallup

more fire on the ground to restore and keep fire adapted ecosystems healthy while also helping communities become more adapted to fire. The two-week program provides two-way training and learning for fire practitioners, land stewards and resource specialists from a \wide variety of backgrounds and organizations. A central tenet of the training is that everyone is a participant, teacher, and student. It was my experience says Yallup, “that the training not only provides students with life experiences; it also exposes diverse viewpoints, paradigms and values not always held by everyone. In seeing others perspectives and experiences, I feel I’m better able to bridge differences and find common ground with someone who may not think as I do.”

The first week was spent in the classroom, learning about the ecological and social landscapes of fire-adapted Ecosystems. Fire effects and treatment effectiveness monitoring, communications and public outreach were also covered.

As part of this work, students

staffed a stand at a restaurant to inform the public about upcoming prescribed fires. This outreach helped build local relationships and created an opportunity to talk with the public about what prescribe fires are, why it was being done and highlight some of the benefits it would have for the forest.



Yolanda Yallup takes selfie with some classmates in the background at the 2016 Central Oregon Ecological Training Exchange.

Then, they put that knowledge into practice.

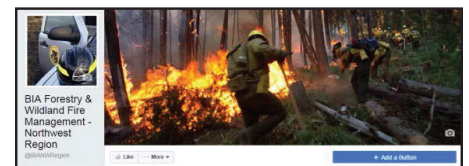
A prescribed fire was conducted which taught students how different lighting methods help control the fire. Like other prescribed fire, some student’s jobs were to hold the fire to make sure it did not cross to where the burn boss did not want it to go, while other student’s job was to light the burn. When the fire was done, students mopped up hot spots and ensured the fire was out. Finally, when they

were done, students evaluated how effective the fire was and whether or not the burn successfully accomplished the goals.

Overall, says Yallup, “TREX was for everybody at every level. We all left with our eyes opened a little wider, with a better understanding of prescribed fire.”

### **BIA Northwest and Navajo Regions Announce New Facebook Pages**

After identifying members of their social media team, applying for pages through the Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management and Indian Affairs and receiving training on policy and proper use of the Page, Northwest and Navajo are the latest Regions to launch Facebook pages.



To view the Northwest Regional Facebook page, visit <https://www.facebook.com/BIANWRegion/> Navajo Region’s Facebook Page is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/BIANavajoRegion/>

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by Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester

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Be sure to like these newest pages to learn about the latest activities taking place at the Regions! **Saying Farewell to Longtime Employee, Pat Phillips**

The BWFM extends best wishes for a long and fruitful retirement to Pat Phillips who retired July 1st. Pat provided a principled and pragmatic vision throughout his 35-year federal career which began



in 1980 as a Range Conservationist at Standing Rock Agency. Pat's career culminated as a National Fire Planner which began in 1997. His experience, knowledge, and connection with field-level employees made his service to Indian Country invaluable. 🌲

## LANDFIRE

by James L. Smith, Ph.D, The Nature Conservancy

### Tribal Workforce Changing

LANDFIRE is a decade long program established to create and distribute information products that support fire and natural resource management. These products are designed to be applied as delivered for very large landscape, state, regional and national assessments, analyses and planning processes. LANDFIRE Program products cover every acre of the continental US, Alaska, Hawai'i, and the South Pacific/Caribbean island territories, are produced as consistently as possible over time and across space, are internally compatible, and are updated every 2 years.

Four versions have been delivered to date: Original LANDFIRE 2001, LANDFIRE 2008, LANDFIRE 2010 and LANDFIRE 2012. LANDFIRE 2014 is currently in production and all areas in the continental US will be complete and delivered in early January 2017, with the remaining areas available for download in the first quarter of 2017. Note that the 2008, 2010,

2012 and 2014 versions are all updates of the original LANDFIRE 2001 products primarily focused on areas of landscape change or forest growth.

LANDFIRE is currently planning to conduct a "Remap" of the base products beginning in late 2016. This will be an opportunity to improve all LANDFIRE products using lessons learned during the previous years, new imagery such as Landsat 8 and LIDAR, new mapping technologies, and importantly new plot data sets that were not available earlier, such as NRCS Natural Resource Inventory and BLM Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring.

LANDFIRE encourages all parties to participate in program improvement by submitting 1) georeferenced vegetation plots, 2) information on treatments or natural disturbances, and 3) feedback on product quality [[www.landfire.gov/contactus.php](http://www.landfire.gov/contactus.php) or interactively through [landfire.nkn.uidaho.edu](mailto:landfire.nkn.uidaho.edu)]. Your data and knowledge are

critical to product improvement. Vegetation plots are critical for the Remap mapping processes but are not used extensively in the update process. Conversely, treatment and disturbance information are critical for the update process but have only a minor role in the Remap process. To learn more about how submitted plot data will be used see the white paper on Remap ([www.landfire.gov/contactus.php](http://www.landfire.gov/contactus.php)). Regardless, LANDFIRE compiles all plots, treatment/disturbance information and feedback and incorporates it where it fits best. Note that there are formal and informal data sharing agreements that may be relevant to you. ([www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xnifc/documents/text/idc1-024525.pdf](http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xnifc/documents/text/idc1-024525.pdf)). Please contact Henry Bastian ([henry\\_bastian@ios.doi.gov](mailto:henry_bastian@ios.doi.gov)) or Michael Benedict ([michael.benedict@bia.gov](mailto:michael.benedict@bia.gov)) if you have questions about these agreements.

LANDFIRE Program products have been applied extensive-

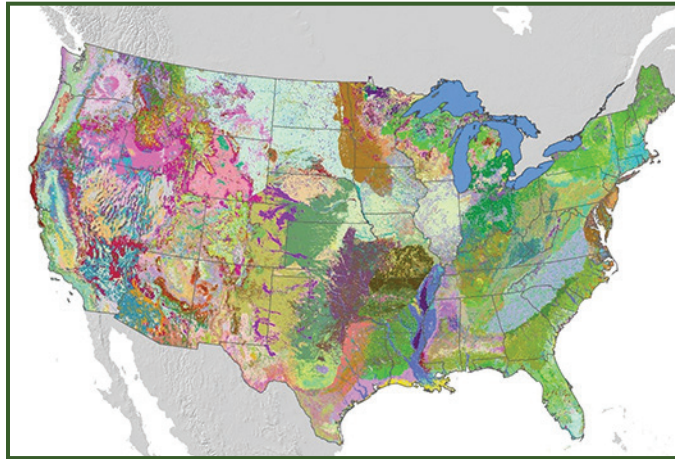
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## BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester

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ly across the country. The primary consumers are wildland fire organizations, e.g., both the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) and Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) ingest and utilize LANDFIRE spatial data, and provide functionality to support local editing. However, LANDFIRE spatial data, models and tools have been applied in a myriad of different applications as well, from conservation planning to habitat evaluations. Two specific application examples of note are the Ashley Lakes fire ([www.landfire.gov/downloadfile.php?file=Ashley\\_Lakes\\_external.pdf](http://www.landfire.gov/downloadfile.php?file=Ashley_Lakes_external.pdf)), and the IFMAT ([www.itcnet.org/file\\_download/0fd98040-85db-4b11-b05f-3e4c911f68cb](http://www.itcnet.org/file_download/0fd98040-85db-4b11-b05f-3e4c911f68cb)) tribal forest analysis. To see a wider sample of LANDFIRE applications, view the LANDFIRE Web Hosted Appli-



LANDFIRE Pre-European Settlement  
Vegetation Map (Biophysical Settings)

cations Map ([maps.tnc.org/landfire](http://maps.tnc.org/landfire)). 

For more information, visit these websites:

- LANDFIRE Program website: [www.landfire.gov](http://www.landfire.gov)
- The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Gateway: [nature.ly/landfire](http://nature.ly/landfire)
- Biophysical Settings models

and descriptions review: [www.landfirereview.org](http://www.landfirereview.org)

- LANDFIRE Product Review): [landfire.nkn.uidaho.edu](http://landfire.nkn.uidaho.edu)
- LANDFIRE YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/user/landfirevideo?feature=results\\_main](http://www.youtube.com/user/landfirevideo?feature=results_main)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/nature\\_landfire](https://twitter.com/nature_landfire)