



Intertribal Timber Council TIMBER NOTES

Spring 2015

2015 ITC Symposium – *A Vision for the Future*



Howard Teasley, Jr.

This year's symposium will be held June 8-11, 2015, at the Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park in North Bend, Oregon and hosted by Coquille Indian Tribe. The theme is "*A Vision for the Fu-*

ture." Located in Southwest Oregon, where the Coos River enters Coos Bay from the Pacific Ocean. The Coquille Indian Tribe Reservation is west of Eugene off the I-5 corridor. Driving south from the Portland International Airport is approximately 4 hours from the hotel. The Coos Bay, North Bend, and Charleston areas are on the Oregon Coast which offers a wide range of activities, dining, shopping, and outdoor adventures. Visit www.oregonsadventurecoast.com for more information. See you in Oregon! Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

Sunday, June 7th Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort www.bandondunesgolf.com. The ITC Pre-Symposium Tournament sign in begins at 11:00 am and Shotgun Starts at 12:00 pm. The event will be a four person best ball scramble played over 18 holes. \$75 per person for the first 40 registered. \$135 per person after initial 40. All golf registration must be completed prior to April 24th, and paid by check or money order to Coquille Indian Tribe, Attn: Clara Gardner, 3050 Tremont St., North Bend, OR 97459. Register by calling (541) 756-0904, contact Clara Gardner or Robin Harkins.

Monday, June 8th Pre-symposium Workshops. Fees for optional Monday Workshops directly fund ITC's Truman D. Picard Scholarship. The Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources. The fees for individual workshops are: \$105 before May 8th and \$120 after that date. All workshops are provided with refreshments and lunches.

Workshop 1: Traditional Crafting. There is a 40 person limit. Participants in this workshop may have time to complete more than one project if they choose to stay the entire day. Activities include: Drums, Native American Rattle, Cedar Gathering Basket, Bear Grass Braids, Traditional Native Games, and Dream Catchers.

Workshop 2: Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS): Coming to a Sky Near You. There is a 50 person limit. This workshop will focus on the current use of UAS and the potential application(s) in the future with tribes. Speakers will focus on UAS college curriculum, current applications in research, manufacturing facilities, use in wildland fire, and the current tribal test range program.

Workshop 3: Coquille Indian Tribe Forest Tour. There is 50 person limit. Participants in this workshop will be able to get a close up look at tribal forest management activities and observe past and present harvest operations promoting ecological, economic and social management principles. Participants will also get to visit one of the tribe's most significant cultural resource sites where cultural customs and traditions were practiced and where preservation, restoration

and management work continues.

Workshop 4: Wildland Fire Update. This workshop will provide a series of updates on key wildland fire issues facing Tribes and agencies. The format will provide opportunities for dialog between presenters and audience.

Workshop 5: Heads-up Digitizing and Editing in ArcGIS Desktop v10.2.2. There is a 12 person limit. This hands-on workshop will create a scenario where students will step through the process of creating and editing timber harvest sale data to create useful field maps. Learn how to use ArcGIS for Desktop for editing and creating data using heads-up digitizing of aerial photography. Working from the GIS perspective attendees will use laptop computers to create points, lines, and polygons. Additional tools will be used to better line up data and split data apart. The last part of the workshop will be labeling and creating maps for use by field personnel.

Symposium Registration starts at 3:00 pm, and runs until 8:00pm in lobby of the Mill Casino.

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President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

Tribal foresters, good day. As I write this in March, here in Yakama country it seems like spring arrived weeks ago, and while any sunshine is appreciated in the Northwest (it might even help my hapless Seahawks), right now there is very, very little snow in our mountains, and if things don't change in the next couple of months, we could be facing a difficult fire season this summer. This seems to be the case as well for California and the Southwest. For those of you elsewhere across the U.S., however, this hard winter appears to still be bearing down, and any relief from snow and freezing temperatures is sure to be welcome.

With that in mind, take a moment now – if you have not already done so – to schedule your plans to attend the Thirty Ninth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, being hosted by the Coquille Tribe in North Bend, Oregon, where the weather June 8 – 11 should be mild and (almost certainly) sunny. And for you golfers, the weather Sunday, June 7 should also be great, especially for a round at the world-

class Bandon Dunes seaside golf facility. Check it out at www.bandondunes-golf.com.

The Coquilles are hard at work to host our Symposium, and their hotel, conference facility and casino are spectacularly located on Coos Bay, with additional lodging close by in the adjoining town of Coos Bay, which is a lively community.

The traditional Symposium Wednesday timber tour will have a new twist this year, going to several modern specialty sawmills, the neighboring Coos Historical Museum and Maritime Collection, which shares the Coquilles' story, and to the Coquille Tribe Plank House. A trip up into the Coquille Forest to look at the Tribe's progressive management within a complex landscape of active forestry (think Northern Spotted Owl and the marbled murrelet sea bird that roosts in old growth timber) will be hosted as a pre-Symposium workshop on Monday, June 8.

The Symposium's speakers and presentations will focus on theme of "A Vision for the Future," including discussions on how tribal forest management might work with neighbors to help address issues on the broader landscape. It promises to be an engaging and informative gathering, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Meanwhile, the new year and the

new Congress have started up, and activity is ramping up. I am scheduled to present FY 2016 Interior Appropriations testimony for ITC on March 24-25 in DC, and although this newsletter will get to you after those dates, for those of you whose tribe may also be testifying at this annual event, hopefully you will be able to include a message for more adequate BIA Forestry funding. For more information about the BIA FY 2016 Forestry and fire budget, please refer to the Washington Update in this Timber Notes issue, as well as the discussion paper on the FY 2016 BIA Forestry, natural resource and fire budgets we distributed to the ITC membership in early March. On a related note, ITC has also submitted FY '16 budget comments to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

While in DC at the end of this month, ITC is working on additional meetings on BIA Forestry and natural resource IFMAT and budget issues, as we continue to advance the IFMAT III message on correcting inequitable funding and on ITC's Anchor Forest and Tribal Forest Protection Act initiatives to extend tribal forest management participation beyond our trust lands.

We look forward to reporting on these and other activities at the June Symposium at Coquille, and look forward to seeing you there. 🌲

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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The Ice Breaker will be held at Salmon Room from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, which is sponsored by the Coquille Indian Tribe.

Tuesday, June 9th Registration, Exhibits, and the Raffle begin at 7:00 am. The symposium officially starts at 8:00 am with the Opening Ceremonies Invocation, Posting of the Colors and Welcomes. Then we move on to the Keynote Address: Indian Forestry through the Lens of Three IFMATs: A Leadership Future? and Host Tribe

Regional Presentation

Panel 1: IFMAT III, Anchor Forest, TFPA: The Next Steps. The ITC has devoted considerable time and effort over the past several years on these three major projects. In many ways, these projects are interconnected. An overview will set the stage for the subsequent panel members, who will provide you with a brief summary and offer their insight to move towards implementation to support forest management in your region. This will end the morning and lead us into our ITC

Future Leadership Lecture Luncheon Series given by our College Student Poster Presenters.

Panel 2: Indian Forestry: A Model for a New Paradigm. Building on the first panel and the discussions on IFMAT, AF and TFPA the panel will discuss their view and vision of utilizing the recent work by ITC on these projects and other tools available within Indian Country to accomplish land management objectives.

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Panel 3: Our Role and Responsibility: Individually and Collectively. This panel will build on Panels 1 and 2 by offering insight on how individual tribes can best position themselves to become more actively engaged in land management around their reservations. From entry level, professionals, management and policy makers, all have a role to play if they desire to pursue more active involvement with off reservation management.

Following is an introduction to the Host Tribe Welcome and Tribal Tour the next day. Then, this will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening events will start at 6:30pm with the Host Tribe Welcome at The Mill Casino Hotel, Salmon Room for the Traditional Dinner, Drumming and Dancing.

Wednesday, June 10th Tribal Tour. Buses will leave from the Mill Casino Hotel Lobby. Lunch will be provided at the Coquille Indian Tribe Plank House. Our tour will start with the Oregon Overseas Timber Co. specializes in manufacturing clear Douglas fir lumber for high-end markets. The second stop, Industrial Forestlands, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Charleston Harbor which travel between Bandon and the Coquille Indian Tribe Plank House will take us on a scenic tour of actively managed industrial timberlands. Our third stop will be Southport Forest Products has the capacity to produce over 200 million board feet of lumber annually and substantial amounts of wood by products. Making our final stop the Coos Historical Museum & Maritime Collection.

A secondary **Spouse and Guest Tour** will also coincide during the main tour. There is a 28 person limit. Participants in the Spouse/Guest Tour will enjoy a fun filled day with Tribal members visiting Shore Acres State Park Botanical Gardens, Cape Arago, the Nasomah Memorial, Bandon's Face Rock Creamery, and Cranberry Sweets. Lunch will be on your own at a favorite coastal restaurant along the tour route.

The ITC general membership meeting will conclude the day from 5:30 – 7:30pm.

Thursday, June 11th. The activities will start with the ITC President's Report, then the updates from the BIA Chief Forester, Legislative update, a National Association of State Foresters Update, and a USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Update. Immediately following the updates our ITC Workshops will start simultaneously: **Workshop 1: The Carbon Marketplace: Opportunities on Tribal Lands.** To combat the growing concern over pollution and climate change, a wide variety of companies have entered the Carbon Market. Internationally, there is widespread and growing concern about the release of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. This workshop will provide information on carbon markets, potential opportunities for tribes, and describe the risks and rewards of entering into these markets. **Workshop 2: Pulling It All Together: Managing for Healthy, Resilient Landscapes.** Our nation has recently completed a four-year effort to identify common wildland fire challenges facing a diverse array of land managers, each with their unique management responsibilities. This workshop will provide some paradigm-shifting ideas for your consideration. **Workshop 3: Forestry Workforce.** IFMAT-III Identified workforce development as one of the major recommendations to address during the next 10 years. The purpose of this workshop is to examine the changing workforce and develop education and training opportunities to improve Indian Forestry.

Following the workshops, there will be the Annual ITC Business Meeting. The 39th Annual National Intertribal Timber Symposium will conclude with our Annual Awards Banquet to honor and recognize the recipients of any regional or national Earle Wilcox Awards, and the recipients of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship, and winners from the Poster Board Session. And finally, the winners of the various Education Committee Raffle prizes will be presented at this time.



Lodging at the Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park, 3201 Tremont St, North Bend, OR 97549, (800) 953-4800, ext. 1573, www.themillcasino.com. Book your room at the Mill Casino Hotel starting at a rate of \$83.00 for single or double occupancy per night plus tax for mountain lodge standard or plus rooms. Rooms start at \$83.00 for single or double occupancy per night plus tax for spa tower deluxe rooms. Simply call 1-800-953-4800, ext. 1573 and reference the "Intertribal Timber Council Symposium." This special rate is only available until **May 15th**.

Additional rooms at the Red Lion Hotel Coos Bay, 1313 N Bayshore Dr., Coos Bay, OR 97420, (855) 347-0877, www.redlion.com. Single and double queen rooms available at a rate of \$83.00 per night, plus taxes. King rooms start at a rate of \$93.00 per night, plus taxes. When reserving your room, please reference the Intertribal Timber Council. This special rate is only available until **May 29th**.

Register online at www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2015. Registration Fees for early price up until May 8th and late price after May 8th are as follows: General or Associate Member \$275 early/\$375 late, Government Employees \$300 early/\$400 late, and All others \$325 early/\$425 late. Pre-conference workshop fees include lunch. One ticket for both the lunch and banquet is included with each registration. Additional Guest Luncheon Tickets are \$20. Additional Guest Awards Banquet Tickets are \$52.

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Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

Roots of Knowledge – Legion of Bloom-Tribal Youth

During the winter 2015 newsletter, I covered the changes in logging training after 35 years, and as an update, the speaker for that part of the session will be Don Peterson. He is a consultant that works with the US FS forest products lab to provide training for loggers and developed a certification program that has been utilized by the Menominee Timber Enterprise (MTE). The upcoming symposium workshop on workforce on Thursday, June 11 will also have presentations about tribal youth camps from the local and a regional and national perspective. Victoria Wesley from San Carlos Apache will describe their tribal youth


camps and Sally Caulfel Williams will describe the youth camps sponsored by the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

The youth camp section of the workshop will help expand our roots of knowledge with the legion of bloom, our tribal youth.

ITC member tribes have been working at the local and national level to develop displays and interactive teaching opportunities called Roots of Wisdom with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). The science displays illustrate the connections between traditional and scientific knowledge. The Tribes include the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Tulalip Tribe.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee display highlights their river cane restoration and also the uses of the cane that includes basket weaving material. The display at OMSI includes an opportunity for the public to place the cane material in different geometric patterns and colors. The display also includes tribal elders and youth in videos from the tribal lands.

The display at OMSI is now on the road for tribal and non-tribal communities to view.

For further information look at <http://programs.oms.edu/professionals/traveling-exhibits/roots-wisdom-native-knowledge-shared-science> 



Tribal youth studies river cane basket weaving and geometry.

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Registration fees may be paid online by credit card, or through the mail by check or money order. If paying with a check or money order, please mail payments to: Intertribal Timber Council, Symposium Registration, 1112 NE 21st Ave, Suite 4

Portland, OR 97232-2114. Payments must be received by Wednesday, June 3rd. The ITC uses symposium fees to cover symposium operating costs. Therefore, we have established the following refund policies: All refund requests must be in writing. Refund requests received after May 22nd, will be charged a \$100 processing fee. No refunds will be issued after June 5th. A NSF fee of \$12 will be charged for returned checks.

The Intertribal Timber council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for **donations and/or sponsorships** during the Annual Timber Symposium. We still have a one full break sponsorships left to fill. ITC will accept banquet sponsorships that can be of any amount. If a Tribe or business is interested in making a donation, please contact ITC directly.

Future Symposium dates for planning purposes:


39th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, June 8-11, 2015, Coquille Indian Tribe, North Bend, OR

40th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, April 4-7, 2016, San Carlos

Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ

41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, TBD 2017, Yakama Nation, Toppenish, WA

42nd Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, TBD 2018, Quinalt Indian Nation, Ocean Shores, WA

Come and visit the Oregon Coast, and spend time on the Coquille Indian reservation. Also check the ITC Website periodically at www.itcnet.org for 2015 Symposium information updates. If you are not on the ITC mailing list and would like to receive correspondence, please contact the ITC Office by phone at (503) 282-4296, or email at itc1@teleport.com. Take Care and God Bless. Qe'ciyew'yew. 

BIA – Central Office, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

Branch of Forest Resources Planning

Each year Federal agencies are required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), under the authority of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3512), to review Agency programs and operations by establishing, accessing, correcting and reporting on internal control. The Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management reviews, on a rotating basis, the following programs: Forest Management Inventories and Planning, Forest Protection and Development, Permit Preparation and Administration, and Wildland Fire Management.

From April through the end of May, BIA Forestry & Fire will be conducting A-123 program reviews on the Forest Protection and Development and the Wildland Fire Management programs. Per direction from the BIA Office of Internal Evaluation and Assessment, this review applies only to BIA operations. Tribal programs will not be assessed. This year, assessment worksheets will be sent to all Regions who are responsible for compiling and validating agency submissions.

Two Regions will be selected for an onsite review to validate the self-assessments at sample agencies. The assessments essentially deal with whether policy is being followed and funding is being spent as intended. Dawn Patterson and Karen DeBord from BOFRP will be conducting the review this year for Forestry.

Branch of Wildland Fire Management

Budget

In FY 2015 the Bureau of Indian Affairs received \$65 million in preparedness, a \$14 million increase from FY14. The Branch of Wildland Fire Management benefited from the Tribal Resource Management (TRM) initiative. Additional funding will be utilized for contract support costs, workforce development, and administrative support.

Fuels Management

In FY15 BIA received \$29.26 million for direct program use in the Fuels Management Program (Fuels). Additionally, Fuels received \$4 million for Contract support costs (indirect) as identified within the TRM appropriation language. Past Contract Support Costs were absorbed by direct program allocations, which limited base and project funds.

Reserved Tribal Rights Lands

Beginning in FY 2015, \$10 million of Fuels Management Funding has been appropriated for the purpose of treating and restoring tribal landscapes within and adjacent to reserved treaty right lands. Within the various processes utilized to establish tribal and native organizations relationships with the United States government, retention of ancestral rights remains a highly important priority. Examples include but are not limited to religious and cultural use, hunting, fishing and gathering.

Reserved rights may fall under the management of other Federal agencies and in some cases Tribes share co-management rights with Federal agencies. Federal agencies may not share the same priorities for landscape restoration as tribes or, may agree with Tribal priorities but not have the funds to manage for Tribal priorities. The Department's Reserved Treaty Right Lands (RTRL) program enables Tribes to participate in collaborative projects with non-Tribal landowners to enhance the health and resiliency of priority tribal natural resources at risk to wildland fire.

The RTRL plan was submitted to the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) for review and approval. Once returned, a memo will be issued by the Bureau Director announcing the program. Mark Jackson will conduct conference calls with the regions and tribes to describe and implement RTRL.

Resilient Landscape Project


Ten million dollars has been allocated to another new program within Fuels; the Resilient Landscape Project (RLP). The objective of the RLP is to create landscapes that are resilient to fire through a place based approach. The Branch of Wildland Fire recently assigned Mark Jackson as the BIA representative to RLP team. At this time a draft implementation product is under review, but not available for distribution. Once information becomes available, NIFC-Fuels will coordinate conference calls and meetings to present the program particulars.

Operations

A conference call was conducted with the Regions on the implementation of the TRM funding. Additionally, the Branch of Wildland Fire Management conducted a conference call open to tribal fire programs on the intent and implementation of the additional funding of TRM.

Fire staff, is currently working with Salish and Kootenai Tribal College (SKC) on sponsoring opportunities for obtaining Bachelors of Science degrees in Natural Resources. Fire Management will be providing support of the BIA TREES Pathways program in addition to funding provided through Forestry.

Planning

The Planning Section has been engaged in TRM reporting and tracking. This tracking will provide information demonstrating Indian Country success in implementing TRM's stated purposes (CSC, Administration, and Workforce Development). It is important to report our success to the Office of Wildland Fire and the Office of Management and Budget and assure the continuation of TRM funding. 

Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

The Operations Committee met during the February quarterly meeting of the Executive Board held in sunny Rancho Mirage, California, hosted by the Agua Caliente tribes.

Topics of discussion included:

- Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT) report implementation
- Legislative issues
- Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) workshop planning
- Anchor Forest status
- Carbon Working Group activities
- National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and Department of Agriculture (DOA) regularly scheduled conference calls; and
- Fire Management issues

The ITC is engaged in many significant topics as listed above that take a lot of time and attention. There are also a few over-arching policy and Department of the Interior directives that we are mindful of.

Department of Interior Consultation Policy

In November, 2009, President Obama issues a Presidential Memorandum directing each agency to submit a detailed plan of action describing how the agency will implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175. In December 2011, then Secretary Salazar issued Order No. 3317 with the purpose of update, expand, and clarify the Department's policy on consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes; and to acknowledge that the provisions for conducting consultation in compliance with EO 13175 and applicable statutes or administrative actions are expressed in the Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes.



Vincent Corrao, Dr. Adrian Leighton, Arthur "Butch" Blazer, and Jim Durglo at SKC, Pablo, Montana.
Photo courtesy of CharKoosta News

Secretarial Order 3206

This Order was issued by the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 USC 1531, as amended, the federal-tribal trust relationship, and other federal law. Specifically, this Order clarifies the responsibilities of the component agencies, bureaus and offices of the Department of Interior and the Department of Commerce, when actions taken under authority of the ESA and associated implementing regulations affect, or may affect, Indian lands, tribal trust resources, or the exercise of American Indian tribal rights, as defined in this Order. This Order further acknowledges the trust responsibility and treaty obligations of the United States toward Indian tribes and tribal members and its government-to-government relationship in dealing with tribes. Accordingly, the Departments will carry out their responsibilities under the ESA in a manner that harmonizes the Federal trust responsibility to tribes, tribal sovereignty, and statutory missions of the Department, and that strives to ensure that Indian tribes do not bear a disproportionate burden for the conservation of listed species, so as to avoid or minimize the potential for conflict and confrontation.

Secretarial Order 3336- Rangeland Fire, Prevention Management, and Restoration

Under this Order, protecting and preserving key sage-grouse habitat be-

comes a priority. The Order places a priority on the Department of the Interior's efforts to manage rangeland fire and to restore rangelands. It is unclear how this Order will affect Indian tribes and funding for tribal fire programs, but I'm sure that we will hear more about this as the fire season occurs. Early indications are that there *may* be a possibility that fire suppression resources such as air tankers, crews, and equipment would be pulled into areas of critical sage-grouse habitat within the Great Basin region to support this effort.

Secretarial Order 3285

The DOI directs tribes to consider climate change in natural resource planning efforts. For tribes considering updating Forest Plans or Integrated Resource Management Plans, implications due to climate change need to be addressed. This comes from Secretarial Order 3285 Sec. 3 (a), which states that "Each bureau and office of the Department must consider and analyze potential climate change impacts when undertaking long range planning exercises, setting priorities for scientific research and investigations, developing multi-year management plans, and making major decisions regarding potential use of resources under the Department purview." Section 5 of this SO acknowledges American Indians and Alaska Natives, stating that "Climate change may disproportionately affect tribes and their lands because they are heavily dependent on

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Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman

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their natural resources for economic and cultural identity,” and goes on to say “The Department will support the use of the best available science, including traditional ecological knowledge, in formulating policy pertaining to climate change.”

Tribes have a unique perspective on climate change that must be heard. When discussing climate change with our Elders Advisory Groups here at CSKT, they say that this is not a new concept. Many of our creation stories speak of a time when glaciers were receding and to the origins of local landscape features. We could only imagine the change over thousands of years of occupation. In listening and learning from these stories and visions, our ancestors were seldom caught unprepared. This is a key insight to a changing world. We need to be thoughtful of our changing environment and prepare for possible scenarios yet to come.



Photo courtesy of Roian Matt, CSKT

Thanks to those that continue to participate in the Operations Committee. We appreciate your participation. The next

scheduled Operations Committee meeting will occur on April 22 in San Carlos, New Mexico. We hope to see you there. 🌲

Research Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Adrian Leighton

On behalf of the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) Research and Education subcommittees we would like to announce the 5 Native graduate students who have been awarded the ITC

Native American Natural Resource Scholarship, which was fully funded by the USFS, Southern Research Station. ITC received many great applications and selected the recipients based upon the merit of their research proposals, potential benefits to tribal communities and research dissemination plans. Students will receive a \$4,000 research scholarship to defray the costs of their projects as well as

a \$1,000 award to present a poster at the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) Annual Timber Symposium to be held June 8-11, 2015 at the Coquille Indian Reservation in North Bend, Oregon.

We are proud to select the following students for the research scholarship:

- Grace BullTail (Crow) Cornell University. Groundwater quality in oil and gas drilling around Fort Berthold Reservation, ND
- Cody Sifford (Navajo) University of Washington. Developing an impact assessment of local air quality as a result of biomass burns
- Crystal Tully-Cordova (Navajo) University of Utah. Stable isotopes in precipitation, surface, and ground waters: Recording the North American Monsoon in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah

- Victoria Walsey (Yakama) University of Kansas Bridging knowledge systemsto improve ecosystem



Laurel James

- management along the Yukon River: How indigenous peoples can prepare themselves for climate change
- Kim Yazzie (Navajo) Portland State University. Aquifer recharge and watershed response to climate change in the Upper Umatilla River sub-basin using the Precipitation Runoff Modeling System 🌲

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



James R. Erickson

The world of wildland fire is always dynamic, making it challenging to keep abreast of current and emerging issues. The Intertribal Timber Council has been actively focused on several new initiatives that could have significant impact on federal fire funding for Tribe/agency wildland fire programs. In this issue I will provide some brief descriptions of these issues and the potential impacts these initiatives may have on your program.

Risk Based Wildland Fire Management:

The Department of Interior (DOI) Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) has initiated this department effort “to examine opportunities to improve the methodologies for developing and allocating budgets for preparedness and fuels”. This process will consider using risk analysis and business rules to quantify risk and allocate DOI wildland fire funding.

The DOI OWF issued a Dear Tribal Leader letter on December 3, 2015 providing for consultation with Tribes on this issue. I am aware of seven Tribes and ITC as respondents to this consultation. It is unclear how DOI OWF will respond to Tribal comments or whether Tribes will consult as this analysis develops. One option available to Tribes is to request specific consultation from DOI OWF based upon the DOI Tribal consultation policy.

The preliminary proposal suggested several *values* that could bias funding away from tribal priorities and lands. Some of the core values that should not affect Tribes include developed areas, infrastructure, riparian, forests, and threatened and endangered species. These values reflect important values for Tribes.

Other values that are redundant to the above values and appear to provide a bias to specific bureaus or large municipalities include recreation sites, surface drinking water, and sage grouse. All of these three values are already covered by the previous five values and should not be double counted to bias risk and funding allocation. This is an important issue that Tribes should keep their leadership and Congressional representatives informed about.

The ITC will continue to monitor this initiative and continue dialog with the DOI OWF through our quarterly *fire sub-committee webinars*. You are encouraged to join us in these in-depth dialogs with DOI OWF.

Secretarial Order (SO) 3336: Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration:

The “Sage Grouse Initiative” as this SO is commonly referred to is a federally sponsored initiative initiated by the Bureau of Land Management and joined by the USDA Forest Service. The purpose of this initiative is to protect the remaining sagebrush habitats that are critical to sage grouse growth and reproduction. The initiative includes an array of tactics designed to meet this objective, including:

- **Conifer Removal:** The past century of extensive fire suppression has resulted in an extensive expansion of juniper and pinyon pine stands across the west. These trees are not favorable to sage grouse reproduction. The focus of this effort is to significantly reduce the amount of standing conifers near sage grouse leks, especially small juniper because of their ease of removal.
- **Conservation Easements:** Farmers and ranchers are being recruited by local land trusts to establish conservation easements to sustain sage grouse

habitats. They are compensated through NRCS Farm Bill’s Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

- **Grazing Systems:** The Sage Grouse Initiative teams up with willing ranchers to customize grazing plans that will improve nesting, rearing, and wintering habitats for sage grouse. Two cost-share programs offer dollars specifically for grazing projects that will improve sage grouse habitat in care areas. Those are the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).
- **Marking Fences:** Sage grouse across the west face a deadly hazard each spring –fences the birds can’t see when flying to and from traditional breeding grounds known as leks. The collisions are widespread. However, marking fences can reduce strikes by up to 83 percent.
- **Managing Invasive Species:** Invasive species, especially cheat grass, pose one of the greatest threats to sagebrush habitats. Invasion right after fires transposes these habitats to more fire prone conditions that favor more frequent fire intervals. This condition tends to suppress and discourage sagebrush re-establishment.
- **Wet Meadow Management:** Sage grouse broods head to wet meadows in mid-late summer to browse on succulent plants and eat insects. To protect and enhance the habitat, SGI-enrolled ranchers restore wetland and riparian habitats and adjust grazing strategies.
- **Sagebrush Restoration:** Seed collection and planting of

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

sagebrush seedlings is limited to key areas. Success rates have been low on these dry ecosystems. Restoring tall bunch grasses is the desired state.

While this initiative appears innocuous on the surface, you should be aware it might have significant impact on preparedness, suppression and fuel funding for Tribes across the nation. Northwest Tribes have already felt the impact last summer on the availability of suppression resources that were dispatched to southern Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fires to protect sage grouse habitat. Pre-positioning of suppression resources to address this risk to sagebrush ecosystems could render them unavailable to Tribes when they experience fires. This effort appears to be a BLM-centric attempt to gain priority for their projects over other DOI priorities. Language in this order and the subsequent implementation plan and report clearly state the expectations for funding re-allocation.

While the department did offer tribal consultation on this SO, it is important to note that the process followed in the development and implementation of this Secretarial Order is in direct conflict with the Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes. This policy clearly states, "*Beginning at the Initial Planning Stage, a Bureau or Office will consult with Indian Tribes on a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications.*" This SO was planned without tribal input and issued well after the *Initial Planning Stage*; once decisions were already made; Departmental direction given; an implementation plan developed; and a draft report with departmental guidance was issued. Tribes seem to be an afterthought.

The ITC will continue to monitor this initiative and provide member Tribes with periodic updates.

Tribal Resource Management: 2015 Initiative:

This year Indian Country was pleasantly surprised when Congress and the Administration included a \$15 funding increase for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to assist Tribes in addressing work force development and offset administrative (indirect) costs and provide needed support for timely processing of tribal invoices. While this increase is a step in the right direction, it does not satisfy the IFMAT III recommendation to increase Indian country forestry and fire funding by \$100 million to bring it in par with Forest Service funding.

The funding for workforce development is designed to increase more boots on the ground at the reservation level. The administrative fee offset will provide \$7 million to offset indirect costs that have come from program dollars in the past. This potentially will free up an additional \$3 million preparedness and \$4 million for fuels.

This year we also see \$10 million earmarked from the DOI fuels budget for *Reserved Treaty Rights Lands*. Tribes and ITC are still waiting for the BIA to issuance final guidance on where and how these funds can be accessed by Tribes. Finally, the DOI OWF was appropriated an additional \$10 million for Resilient Landscapes that are cross boundary partnerships to *restore resilient landscapes*. The DOI OWF is yet to issue final guidance on these funds, but Tribes should begin preparing potential projects and lining up partners.

Tribes should be cautioned that not all of this funding will reach reservations. Some appropriations are restricted for specific purposes that direct departments and bureaus on how to spend certain amounts. This appropriation allocates \$2 million to support the processing of tribal invoices in a timely manner. This effort intended to shorten the time tribal funding is tied up wait-

ing for reimbursement. Another \$2.6 million was carved off at the national level to fully fund seven helitack crews in Indian country. While this decision is good for seven Tribes, it does negatively affect preparedness funding for all Tribes nationally. Overall, the new money that eventually gets to the reservation should more than offset these reductions.

Tribes are encouraged to monitor their fire preparedness funding carefully and to communicate with their regional FMOs. 🌲



The Intertribal Timber Council Newsletter is published three times a year by the Intertribal Timber Council Executive Committee as a service to Tribes/Native Alaskan Corporations with timber resources or interest. We encourage information relating to Indian forestry to be submitted for publication and welcome suggestions.

Write or call the ITC office:

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Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips

1) 113th Congress ends.

The 113th Congress concluded December 17, 2014 after a post-election lame duck session that started November 12. The only significant leg-

islation passed during the lame duck session were the Defense authorization bill and the FY 2015 appropriations omnibus bill (see next item). The 113th Congress was otherwise generally unproductive, with legislation stalled out by intractable partisan divides.

2) FY 2015 “CRomnibus” passed, signed with \$1.84 million BIA Forestry increase.

The FY 2015 Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act, informally referred to as the FY ’15 “CRomnibus” (combining a CR for Homeland Security funding due to on-going differences over immigration policy and a full-year omnibus for all other FY 2015 appropriations), was signed into law December 16, 2014, becoming Public Law 113-235. The large law is divided into Divisions, with full FY 2015 funding for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee covering BIA, Forest Service and IHS in Division F. During consideration, the CRomnibus text was placed on an already existing bill, H.R. 85, completely replacing that bill’s original text with the CRomnibus language. An “explanatory statement” printed in the December 11, 2014 Congressional Record serves as the final bill’s conference report, discussing compromises and including agency and program funding tables at the end of each Division.

Below is a comparison of various broad funding amounts for Division F, Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations, for FY 2014, the Administration’s FY 2015 request and the final FY 2015 amount in the CRomnibus.

Amounts in Thousands

Department or agency	FY 2014 final \$	FY 2015 Admin. request	FY 2015 final approps.
Int. Approps. Div. F total	\$ 30,119,720	\$ 30,690,609	\$ 30,105,720
Interior Department total	\$ 10,474,506	\$ 10,855,858	\$ 10,718,912
B.I.A. Op. Ind. Pgm.	2,378,763	2,412,596	2,429,236
Wildland Fire Mgmt	769,482	793,969	804,779
U.S. Forest Service	5,479,611	5,707,208	5,056,246
Indian Health Service	4,434,515	4,634,177	4,642,381

In BIA Operation of Indian Programs, Congress accepted almost all the Administration’s requested amounts. The only decreases to the request were \$1 million less for the Integrated Resource Information Program (old IRMP), which still is boosted by \$1 million to \$2.996 million, and \$2.063 million less for Executive Direction.

BIA Forestry is among the very few BIA programs that got an increase over the requested amount. At the recommendation of the House, Forestry receives a \$1.84 million increase, bringing its FY ’15 total to \$47.735 million. While that total is the same as FY ’14, it replaces the \$1.84 million in Forestry funding that was transferred to Self-Governance compacts.

For the DoI Office of Wildland Fire Management, funding levels are generally good, but Congressional appropriators declined the Administration’s proposal to treat annual fire suppression costs over 70% of the ten-year average as disaster funding. Otherwise, OWFM Preparedness funding is \$318.9 million, including \$9 million for tribal contract support and \$6 million for BIA/tribal workforce development. Suppression is increased \$23 million to \$291.6 million and fuels management was increased \$17.7 million to \$164 million, of which \$10 million is for the Resilient Landscapes Initiative, the \$30 million request for which was otherwise eliminated.

3) Some tribal legislation moves, but others stall in the lame duck and die.

Almost all of the tribally-related bills that started moving during the



Matt Hill

lame duck session eventually died. A few, however, did get finished and signed during the lame duck:

Defense authorization: Pub. L. 113-291 (H.R. 3979): Sealaska lands finalization, carried as a rider (Sec. 3002) on the large annual Defense authorization bill. The substantially revised Sealaska lands provisions do not include any TFPA-related language. The Defense bill also included several other tribally-related riders that became law:

- Conveyance of Arizona USFS land sacred to the Apaches to Resolution Copper (Sec. 3003),
- Land into trust for the Northern Cheyenne (Sec. 3077)
- Transfer of Army land into trust for the Ho-Chunk Nation (Sec. 3078), and
- Opening land sacred to the Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on Rattlesnake Mountain (“Laliik”) to public access (Sec. 3081).

Grand Portage: Pub. L. 113-290 (H.R. 3608): to exempt from state and federal taxation money paid by the State of Minnesota to members of the Grand Portage Tribe for their voluntary restriction of hunting and fishing within their treaty ceded territory.

Hualapai Water Settlement: Pub. L. 113-223 (H.R.4924): Passed the House 12/1, passed the Senate without amendment 12/2, signed 12/16/14.

Fort Hall land exchange: Pub. L. 113-242 (S. 2040): Passed the Senate 9/18/14, passed the House 12/2/14,

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signed 12/8/14.

Bills of interest that started to move during the lame duck but did not finish include:

Tribal land and water bills: A land transfer between BLM and seven Nevada tribes (H.R. 2455) passed the House 12/1, died in the Senate. Navajo Water Rights amendments (S. 1447) passed the Senate 12/4, died in the House.

Self-Governance amendments (S. 919), reported by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee December 4 (S. Rpt. 113-285). A similar House bill (H.R. 4546) did not get out of committee.

NAHASDA Reauthorization (H.R. 4329, H. Rpt. 113-628): House passed December 2, died in the Senate.

Oregon Tribal timber lands (H.R. 5701): to convey 14,408 timber acres to the Confederated Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, 17,519 timber acres to the Cow Creek, and to lift the requirement that the Coquille Tribe manage its reservation timber according to the Northwest Forest Plan. Passed the House December 9, 2014. Died in the Senate.

Indian energy bills (S. 2132, H.R. 1548): both bills were reported (S. Rpt. 113-224, H. Rpt. 113-263), but unresolved issues prevented both bills from moving to the floor. The Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project in both bills requiring USFS or BLM to approve at least 4 projects each of the next five years did not pose difficulties for the bills.

4) 114th Congress convenes, committee members assigned.

The 114th Congress convened January 3, 2015 with Republicans controlling both Chambers (House: R 246, D 188, Senate: R 64, D 54). Committees assignments of interest include:

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: Chairman John Barrasso (R, Wyo.), Vice Chair Jon Tester (D, Mont.). Republicans: John McCain (AZ), Lisa Murkowski (AK), John Hoeven (ND), Jim Lankford (OK), Steve Daines (MT), Mike Crapo (ID), and

Jerry Moran (KA). Democrats: Maria Cantwell (WA), Tom Udall (NM), Al Franken (MN), Brian Schatz (HI), and Heidi Heitkamp (ND). Chairman Barrasso, in his response to NCAI's State of Indian Nation's address, said "my top priorities are jobs, energy and natural resources development, healthcare, juvenile justice, and tribal self-governance."

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Chair Lisa Murkowski (R, AK), Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D, WA). Republicans: John Barrasso (WY), Mike Lee (UT), Bill Cassidy (LA), Steve Daines (MT), John Hoeven (ND), Jim Risch (ID), Jeff Flake (AZ), Cory Gardner (CO), Rob Portman (OH), Lamar Alexander (TN), and Shelley Moore Capito (WV). Democrats: Ron Wyden (OR), Bernie Sanders (VR), Debbie Stabinow (MI), Al Franken (MN), Joe Manchin (WV), Martin Heinrich (NM), Mazie Hirono (HI), Angus King (ME), and Elizabeth Warren (MA). There is a lot of overlap between members of the SCIA and the E&NR Committees.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies: Chair is Lisa Murkowski (R, AK) and the Ranking Member is Tom Udall (D, NM). Subcommittee members include the following Republicans: Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Roy Blunt (R-MO), John Hoeven (R-ND), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Steve Daines (R-MT), Bill Cassidy (R-LA) – and the following Democrats: Diane Feinstein (D-CA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Jack Reed (D-RI), Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Jon Tester (D-MT).

House Committee on Natural Resources: The Committee has 26 Republicans and 18 Democrats. The Chairman is Rob Bishop (R, UT), who chaired the Public Lands Subcommittee last Congress and before whom ITC President Phil Rigdon has testified. The Ranking Member is Raul Grijalva (D, AZ). Among Republicans, there are numerous Members from California, as well as Paul Gosar (AZ), Cynthia Lummis (WY),

Raul Labrador (ID), and freshmen Dan Newhouse (WA), and Ryan Zinke (MT). The Democrats also have many Californians, as well as freshmen Reuben Gallego (AZ), and Debbie Dingell (MI).

House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs: This newly formed Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee includes Insular affairs issues involving Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and the Virgin Islands. During a Natural Resources Committee organizational meeting January 28, the Committee voted down an amendment offered by Rep. Raul Grijalva to restore the Subcommittee back to its former tribal-and-Alaska Native-only subject matter. Rep. Don Young (R, AK), will continue as Chair, and the Ranking Member is Rep. Raul Ruiz (D, CA). Other Republican Subcommittee members are Dan Beneshak (MI), Paul Gosar (AZ), Doug LaMalfa (CA), Jeff Denham (CA), Paul Cook (CA), and Amata Coleman Radewagen (Samoa). Other Democrats are Madalene Bordallo (Guam), Gregorio Sablan (No. Marianas), Pedro Pierluisi (PR), and Norma Torres (CA).

House Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies: The Chair remains Ken Calvert (R, CA). Other Republicans are Mike Simpson (ID), Tom Cole (OK), David Joyce (OH), Chris Stewart (UT), Mark Amodei (NV), and Evan Jenkins (WV). Democrats are Ranking Member Betty McCollum (D, MN), Chellie Pingree (D, Maine), Derek Kilmer (D, WA), and Steve Israel (D, NY).

5) Wildfire funding bills being reintroduced.

Crapo-Wyden

On January 22, Senators Mike Crapo (R, ID) and Ron Wyden (D, OR) reintroduced their wildfire disaster funding bill from last Congress. The new bill is S. 235, and like the old bill, would require federal suppression

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costs exceeding 70% of the 10-year average be paid out of off-budget federal disaster funding accounts. The bill has been referred to the Senate Budget Committee. Similar legislation last Congress ran into budget difficulties because it sought to shift some of the suppression cost burden to off-budget disaster accounts, and similar issues will have to be resolved with this new bill.

Simpson

On January 6, 2015, Rep. Mike Simpson (R, ID) reintroduced his version of wildfire disaster funding legislation, H.R. 167, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, which is very similar to Crapo-Wyden's S. 235. Simpson's bill was referred to the House Budget Committee, as well as the Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources.

McCain-Barrasso

Senators John McCain (R, AZ) and John Barrasso (R, WY) plan to reintroduce their FLAME Act amendments bill in the new 114th Congress. In the 113th Congress, the bill (S. 2593) was introduced late – July 10, 2014 – and did not receive any hearing. The reintroduced bill is expected to –

- compel USFS suppression appropriations at 100% of their estimated need,
- compel USFS hazard fuels funding at 50% of the suppression appropriation for programs such as TFPA, which is cited in the bill,
- prohibit USFS “borrowing” from other accounts to cover insufficient suppression costs,
- allow USFS suppression costs to exceed budget caps if the 100%/50% requirements are met, and
- require treatment projects, including harvest, on 7.5 million acres of designated USFS “Forest Management Emphasis Areas” over 15 years, with limited NEPA EAs with

180 day deadlines, expedited administrative review, and binding arbitration.

Like S. 2593, the new McCain-Barrasso bill was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where Barrasso is the number 2 Republican.

6) Indian energy bills reintroduced. Barrasso

SCIA Chairman John Barrasso, joined by Vice Chair Jon Tester, on January 22 reintroduced the Indian Tribal Energy and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2015 as S. 209. The new bill is based on the reported version of this legislation from the last Congress (S. 2132, S. Rpt. 113-224). The new bill, S. 209 –

- revises the 2005 Energy Policy Act provisions to make it easier for tribes to develop their energy resources within the trust process,
- revises the 2005 Energy Policy Act provisions enabling tribes to enter Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs) that, if approved by the Secretary, allow tribes to develop their energy resources without direct Secretarial involvement,
- amends the TFPA to establish a tribal biomass demonstration program requiring that at least four projects be implemented on USFS or BLM land in each of fiscal years 2015-2019, with durations of up to 20 years with a ten year extension (Sec. 202(a) and (b)),
- establishes a similar but separate (non-TFPA) Alaska Native biomass demonstration program (Sec. 202(c)), and
- streamlines energy and mineral appraisals by enabling the Secretary, the tribe, or a certified third party to conduct the appraisal.

The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and was approved and ordered reported Febru-

ary 4.

Young

Rep. Don Young (R, AK) on January 26 reintroduced his Indian energy bill as H.R. 538. The new bill is believed to be in the same form as his Native American Energy Act from last Congress (H.R. 1548) as reported out of committee (H. Rpt. 113-263), which contained tribal biomass demonstration program provisions almost identical to those in Barrasso's bill. Young's new bill, H.R. 538, has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

7) Senate Indian Affairs Committee holds hearing on tribal priorities for the 114th Congress.

On January 28, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee held an oversight hearing on Indian Country Priorities for the 114th Congress. Witnesses were NCAI President Brian Cladoosby, NIEA President Melvin Monette, American Indian Enterprise Development Center President Gary Davis, NIH Executive Director Stacy Bohlen, and Vance Homegun for the Center for Native American Youth.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes submitted a letter for the hearing record dated January 27, 2015 (copies provided ITC) urging improvement in BIA and IHS funding, including advance appropriations for IHS and increases and improved allocation methodology for forestry and fuels funding.

8) Senate Indian Affairs Committee approves tribal energy, three other bills, holds hearing on loan leveraging in Indian Country.

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee approved Chairman Barrasso's Indian Tribal Energy and Self-Determination Act and three other bills in its first legislative business meeting Wednesday, February 4. The bills are:

- S. 184, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to

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require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings;

- S. 209, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005 (this bill is essentially the same bill as approved and reported by the SCIA last Congress: S. 2132, S. Rpt. 113-224, and includes the Colville's biomass demonstration project requiring at least four TFWA projects for biomass in each of the next five years);
- S. 246, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and
- S. 286, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes (this is essentially the same bill as approved and reported by the SCIA last Congress: S. 919, S. Rpt. 113-285, which seeks to fine tune and streamline self-governance.)

The same day, the Committee held an oversight hearing on loan leveraging in Indian Country.

9) Young reintroduces bill to ease constraints on trust land.

On January 13, Rep. Don Young (R, AK) reintroduced his American Indian Empowerment Act to allow the Interior Secretary, at a tribe's request, to shift trust land to restricted fee status, removing Interior Department sign-offs on use of the land. As restricted fee Indian land, it remains tax exempt and part of "Indian Country." Federal trust liability, however, would certainly diminish to a greater or lesser degree. The bill, H.R. 328, was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, where it will be sent to Young's Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

Young introduced a similar bill in the 113th Congress as H.R. 2718, which never had a hearing.

10) FY '16 budget requested with +\$4.179 million for Forestry among many BIA increases.

A) The Administration released its FY 2016 budget request to Congress on Monday, February 2. On that day, the Interior Department issued its FY 2016 Budget-in-Brief, including a summary and funding tables for BIA. About a week later, Interior released the BIA's full FY 2016 budget justification.

B) On January 29, the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies announced its FY 2016 hearing schedule, with outside witnesses for tribal programs scheduled for March 24 and 25. President Rigdon's name has been submitted and confirmed to testify for ITC.

C) Overall for FY 2016, BIA is requesting for Operation of Indian Programs (covers most BIA programs except Construction, Land & Water Claims, Guaranteed Loan Program) an increase of \$231.355 million, from \$2.429 billion to \$2.661 billion, or +9.5%. In Trust and Natural Resources Management, Forestry is proposed with a \$4.179 million increase, to \$51.914 million.

D) The Administration's request also proposes that tribal Contract Support Costs for BIA, IHS and other agencies be shifted out of their discretionary agency budgets and be presented in the federal budget as a mandatory cost. The proposal needs separate authorizing legislation, which the Republican Congress may or may not approve. If approved, the mandatory spending would start in FY 2017. The US Supreme Court has ruled that the US must pay full CSCs, and Congress has appropriated those amounts for FY 2014 and 2015. For FY 2016, BIA's CSC full funding request is \$277 million, a \$26 million increase over FY 2015.

E) An examination of the BIA FY 2106 Budget Justification indicates

that \$4 million of the \$4.179 million increase proposed for Forestry is for Forestry Programs as follow: +\$2 million for thinning, +\$1 million is for resource management planning, and +\$1 million is for environmental assessment and compliance. The remainder is for fixed cost increases. The Forestry increase is described as part of a \$40.4 million increase described as "Natural Resources Climate Adaptation" that is spread among eight Trust & Natural Resource programs.

F) \$20.4 million of the BIA proposed climate increase is requested for the BIA climate program now called "Tribal Climate Resilience" (FY '15: \$9.948 million, FY '16 request: \$30.355 million), with \$20 million of that increase intended for "Projects."

G) Otherwise, Trust - Natural Resources Management gets a \$47.9 million (25%) overall increase, including-

- Natural Resources General: +\$3.079 million (about 60%),
- Tribal Management/Development (tribal or regional specific programs): +\$5.019 million (about 50%),
- Endangered Species: +\$1.009 million (about 25%),
- Tribal Climate Resilience: +\$20.407 million for "projects" (about 200%),
- Integrated Resource Info Program (formerly IRMPs): +\$1.0 million (about 25%), and
- Forestry: +\$4.179 million (about 8.75%).

H) In the DoI Wildland Fire Management request, Preparedness is increased \$4.715 million to \$323.685 million and continues the tribal set-asides of \$9 million for tribal contract support and \$6 million for BIA/tribal workforce development Suppression is down \$23.1 million to \$268.6 million The proposal to fund costs over 70% of the 10 year suppression average as disaster funding is renewed, with a \$200 million increase in the disaster spending cap to reflect the

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30% Fuels is down \$15.7 million to \$148.3 million, due to funds being moved back to a renewed Resilient Landscape proposal of \$30 million.

I) Almost all of these proposals will face a very difficult time before the new Republican majority Congress.

11) ITC submits testimony for SCIA hearing on Administration's FY 2016 budget proposals for tribal natural resources.

The ITC submitted testimony for the record of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee's February 25 oversight hearing on the Administration's FY 2016 proposed tribal budgets. Witnesses presenting live testimony were Administration officials Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Yvette Roubideaux for the IHS, and Roger Boyd, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for HUD's Native American Programs.

The ITC's submitted testimony notes that IFMAT III finds BIA per-acre Forestry funding is one-third that of the US Forest Service and emphasizes the importance of tribal forestry in reducing wildfire, protecting habitat, and sustaining tribal economies. It goes on to discuss insufficient BIA support, declining in real dollars, and BIA's inability to process 40% of the tribally designated annual allowable cut, causing the loss of \$727 million in stumpage revenue and 272,000 jobs since 1991. The testimony urges significant BIA Forestry funding increases toward the +\$100 million a year recommended by IFMAT III, and accompanying staffing increases. It supports the increased FY '16 funding for BIA endangered species and combating invasive species, and for DoI Wildland Fire Management, including tribal contract support, workforce development, and treaty lands projects. It also asks for more Congressional direction to the US Forest Service on implementing TFFA.

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs has scheduled a hearing March 18 on the Administration's FY 2016 tribal funding priorities.

12) Bill seeks to ease federal cancellation fund set-aside for stewardship contracts.

On Friday, January 30, Senator Jeff Flake and cosponsors introduced the "Stewardship End Results Contracting Improvement Act." The bill, S. 326, was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Congressional Quarterly (CQ), a Washington, DC publication on Congress and legislation, describes the bill as follows: "Public land managers might be more likely to sign long-term agreements to remove dead trees and other wildfire fuel from forests if they did not have to set aside the full value of the contract before the job even starts, Arizona Sens. Jeff Flake and John McCain argue. The Republicans filed legislation on Monday that would ease the set-aside requirement for stewardship contracts and lead to more large-scale forest projects.

Forest Service and the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management would still have to have money put away to pay a contractor if the government cancels the contract. However, the legislation would give managers at the agencies the ability to set aside money in increments rather than all at once. They could also use surplus stewardship contract money to satisfy cancellation claims.


The bill has bipartisan support among lawmakers in the West, a region prone to major wildfires. Republicans John Barrasso of Wyoming, Mike Crapo of Idaho, Dean Heller of Nevada and James Risch of Idaho and Democrats Michael Bennet of Colorado, Martin Heinrich of New Mexico and Jon Tester of Montana."

To the extent the bill would make it easier for USFS and BLM to enter stewardship contracts, it could facilitate TFFA projects.

13) Tipton expedited fuels treatment bill reintroduced.

On Tuesday, February 3, Rep. Scott Tipton (R, Colo.) and cosponsors introduced H.R. 695. The bill is basically a reintroduction of Tipton's Healthy Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Act from the 113th Congress (H.R. 818), which sought to expedite fuels treatments on USFS and BLM lands designated as "high risk" by a governor or the Ag. Secretary. The state could contract and then subcontract for the conduct of the fuels treatments, and projects would be administered under the expedited review processes in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Elements of Tipton's bill were rolled into Rep. Doc Hastings' forestry bill (The Restoring Healthy Forests and Healthy Communities Act, H.R. 1526) passed by the House September 20, 2013. Tipton's new bill was referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources.

14) Crapo, Simpson introduce trust asset management reform bills.

On Thursday, February 5, Senator Mike Crapo (R, Idaho), joined by Senator Jim Risch (R, Idaho), introduced S. 383, a bill to provide for Indian trust asset management reform. The bill basically authorizes tribal agreements with the Interior Secretary to remove lands and resources from trust oversight to facilitate management and development. The bill was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. On February 9, Rep. Mike Simpson (R, Idaho) introduced a similar bill in the House (H.R. 812), which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 

Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

Congratulations to the 2015 Truman Picard Scholarship recipients! Nine volunteers rated the scholarship applicants on their application letter, resume, academic merit, reference letters

and financial need. The following is a list of the 2015 scholarship recipients in alphabetical order:

High School \$2,000

Tiya-po Farrows
Hunter Sturges
Joshua Walls

Undergraduate \$2,500

Wabanugoquay Alakayak

Victoria Atencio
Chad Avery*
Jayson Begay
Chad Brown
Leslie Brownrigg
Johnny Buck
Dwight Carlston
Lisa Cook
Quenton Chocktoot
Colleen George*
Zechariah Greene
Sichangu Lee
Truman Merrifield
Kristi Olney
Reynelda Piaso
Arielle Quintana
Paul Renaud, Jr
Austin Smith, Jr
Vaughn Vargas*
Jeremiah Wallace
Natalie Wilson
Karlen Yallup

Graduate \$2,500

Loga Fixico*
Seafha Ramos*

**Previous Recipient of Truman Picard Memorial Scholarship*

There were several other deserving applicants, and the committee had their work cut out for them in assigning individual scores. The awards have been summarized, but the distribution will be contingent on a student's acceptance to an accredited higher education institution and/or continuing on in current curriculum.

I would like to take this time to remind folks of the Poster Session which will be presented and judged at the symposium. Students will have a chance to present their abstracts, present orally during the symposium and possibly receive a monetary award. Attendees of the symposium will judge the posters and winners will be announced during the awards banquet. All scholarship recipients are encouraged to enter a poster so that others may see your research and gain a better understanding as to why the scholarship is so important. The scholarship reviewers have had an opportunity because we were able to review your application, but symposium attendees should be given the same opportunity.

I hope this helps in determining and/or prioritizing a student's need for attendance at the symposium in North Bend, Oregon June 8-11.

I'd like to share some statistics regarding the Truman D. Picard Memorial Scholarship:

Total scholarships awarded since 1988: **397** (340 undergraduate and graduate, and 57 High School)

Total amount awarded: **\$743,000**

Total Individuals receiving scholarships: **267** (There have been several repeat recipients)

Number of tribes represented as recipients: **101**

These are some very impressive statistics that are worth mentioning as ITC continues to help deserving students in their education and professional development. A big thank you to all who have made this possible, and to all of you who are reading this and deciding to open your wallets to increase the amount of scholarships awarded.

I would like to close by encouraging everyone to help our Native students continue their journey. I know I have been helped by many people throughout my career as a student and as a professional and will do my best to help others, as I am able. In today's economy it is more important than ever to donate towards the scholarship raffle. Donations can come in many ways; prize donations, monetary donations to scholarship fund, attendance at pre-symposium workshops, and purchasing raffle tickets.

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

2015 ITC Symposium *A Vision for the Future*

June 8-11, 2015

Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park
North Bend, Oregon

Hosted by Coquille Indian Tribe.



Intertribal Timber Council
1112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4
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First Class
