



Intertribal Timber Council TIMBER NOTES

Winter 2015

Workforce Development – The Loggers After 35 Years



Don Motanic

During the last symposium at one of the workshops, several tribal programs mention the challenges for developing the forestry workforce.

Lindsey Maldonado from Yakama said, “We had 90 forestry staff people and now it’s down to 30.”

Cody Desautel from Colville said, “We need more truckers and loggers in the woods and the training to help.”

In response to these concerns voiced at the workshop and also highlighted in the workforce section in IFMAT-III, the next symposium will have a workforce workshop during the Thursday, June 11, 2015 session. At the workshop, there will be presentations highlighting the concerns, looking at findings and also reviewing recommendations such as a US Endowment for US Forests and Communities report on The State of US

Forests and Forest Products.

Some background information concerning the forest products workforce issues are provided in this article that highlights two papers, one by John Garland and two, by the US Endowment for US Forests and Communities.

I first met John Garland (White Earth Chippewa), forest engineering professor at Oregon State University in 1979 during a training course in Yakima, WA where he presented an assessment of training for loggers in the Pacific Northwest.

In 2013, he published a paper with an assessment of the workforce situation today and the need to address the transformation identified in the IFMAT-III report and also highlighted during dialogue shared at the 2014 symposium workshop on tribal forest products.

John Garland’s current paper on workforce will be one of the issues and proposed solutions addressed in the Anchor Forest Project.

The issue paper addresses the people, the industry and the training needed to address the current work-

force issue facing tribal forestry and forestry nationwide.

Here’s some of the highlights in the paper and the full paper can be downloaded at <http://www.itcnet.org/resources/publications.html>

THE PEOPLE

Table 1. (below) compares some dimensions relating to the people involved in logging from the late 1970’s to today. The original review characterized the typical worker of the day and is shown below in comparison to two characterizations of the logging workforce of today.

Another significant difference is that the current workforce is aging with loggers in PNW states reaching a level between 50-60% of workers over age 45. A review of Idaho log truck drivers found that in a group of 300+ drivers, over half were over age 66 (Garland, 2008). There are problems recruiting workers in logging making the age distribution worse compared to a balance age class of the first review. Also, the

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Table 1. The People

LATE 1970’S	TODAY
Greatest Generation WWII & Baby Boomers	Generation X & Generation WHY? Plus Immigrant Workers
Balanced Age Distribution	Aging Workforce
Adequate Recruitment of New Workers	Shortage of New Entrants to Workforce
Attitude: Work performance defines person	Attitude: Family, friends, social life as important as work
Above average income & social standing	Average or below income & diminished social standing
Workforce significant size compared to all workers, rural communities dependent on timber	Half the workforce remains, insignificant compared to all workers, understated support workers, e.g. mechanics, trucking

President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

By the time this reaches you, the holidays will be over and we will all be into a new year full of new opportunities and challenges. On the behalf of the ITC, I hope that you and your family had a happy and safe Christmas and New Years. For the ITC family, we held our annual Christmas dinner in Portland December 10 during the December Board meeting, and once again we all had the chance to sit on Santa's knee and discuss what we want for Christmas. Wishes ranging from the personal to those for our families, our communities and beyond were discussed with our customary Santa, Theron Johnson, whose benevolence, wisdom and humor helped put us all in the holiday spirit. Theron is due to retire from his years of forestry service at Warm Springs this year, but he granted our wish that he will continue participating in the ITC, and we hope that can include his Christmas visit from the North Pole.

In early December, the ITC and members from the IFMAT III travelled to Washington, DC to discuss the IFMAT III report and ITC relations with U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Robert Bonnie, Deputy Undersecretary Butch Blazer, and representatives from the Forest Service, NRCS, and other USDA agencies. It was a very positive gathering, and we all look forward to a strong and active

relationship. During the trip, the ITC and IFMAT members also had a meeting at the Interior Department with Deputy Assistant Secretary for BIA Management Tommy Thompson, BIA Director Mike Black, Acting Deputy Director for Trust Faline Haven, and Dave Koch of BIA Forestry to examine how IFMAT III's implementation can be advanced within the Interior Department, and that was also a friendly and productive meeting. As part of this effort, we are planning a meeting with senior Interior Department budget personnel in late January, and it would be really helpful if the leaders from some timber tribes would be able to join us. Expressions of direct tribal support are a key element in keeping the issues and agenda of the tribal forestry community active and engaged with Washington DC policy makers.

During the ITC's December Board meeting, the rising issue of the recruitment, training and retention of the tribal forestry workforce received a lot of attention. Throughout Indian Country, the increasing lack of trained forestry personnel, from loggers to foresters and in the tribal, federal and private sectors, is hampering our ability to actively manage our forests, with increasingly dire consequences for tribal economies and jobs and the health and productivity of our trust forest resource. This problem has been mounting over years, and will take years to reverse. It will require a sustained, concerted effort to reverse, working with students, forestry practitioners and those seeking work in our forests, and the ITC and the BIA are exploring what efforts must be organized and implemented to

start addressing the matter.

Finally, I also note that on December 16, full FY 2015 funding for the BIA, along with most of the federal government, got signed into law (FY 2015 Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act, PL 113-235). Included is a \$1.8 million increase for the BIA Forestry program, proposed by the House of Representatives in its FY 2015 Interior Appropriations bill, and accepted by the Senate in final negotiations. The Forestry increase is one of a very few for BIA in the final law. The Interior, Environment and Related Agencies part (Division F) of the new law (referred to as the "CRomnibus" because it is an omnibus bill that includes some part-year, or CR, funding for Homeland Security) also funds the Interior Office of Wildland Fire, where Preparedness provides \$9 million in separate appropriations for tribal contract support for 638 fire contracts and \$6 million for fire workforce strengthening and development, and Fuels Management has a \$10 million set-aside for tribal projects in off-reservation treaty rights lands.

This year also starts a new Congress, with new dynamics. There is a good chance that forest management issues could attract early and active Congressional attention, and we will be monitoring and working to participate in any such deliberations.

So, in this new year, the ITC looks forward to continuing to work with and assist all the tribal forestry community in advancing our role in forestry issues and the health and productivity of our forest resource. 🌲

Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

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logging workforce has shrunk to less than half the size of the earlier workforce and loggers have lost comparative income and social standing of prior years. Now some of those supporting the mechanized logging industry as mechanics, computer technicians, and

machine shops are not recognized in the logging workforce statistics.

THE INDUSTRY

The forest industry has undergone radical changes from integrated forest and mill owners to real estate investment trusts using timber management organizations to contract for timber harvests.

Corporate logging camps with large logging employment have been replaced with small contractors of 6-10 employees on average. Many logging firms are sole proprietors or small partnerships in felling, trucking or shovel logging. Table 2. Shows further differences.

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Table 2. The Industry

LATE 1970'S	TODAY
Integrated forest and mill owners & federal timber dependent mills	Real estate investment trusts & timber industry management organizations
Corporate logging with workers exceeding 200 in logging camps & large contractors	Contractor firms with average firm size 6-10 employees, few corporate loggers
Forest Service timber sales & private industry logging with high harvest levels, little export	Half the harvest levels, little government timber except state sales, shift to South for timber, export markets
Many mills, many markets, many products	Limited markets, few mills, and emerging products, eg, biomass

TRAINING

In John Garland's paper, he provides a comparison between logging training in the 1970's and today's environment in table 5. In the past, training programs were provided by grants through community colleges and technology schools but were short lived, but now his paper develops a strategy for long term training through a firm-based "Logging Master" program.

The strategy is explained in his paper, which is in the link above.

CONCLUSION

In addition to some of John Garland's overview above, a paper, The State of U. S. Forests and Forest Products Industry (2013, Michael Goer-

gen, James Harding, Carlton Owen, Mark Rey, and Lynn Scarlett) presented the following strategies for the forest products industry: http://www.usendowment.org/images/Forest_Sector_Report_--_FINAL_9.5.13.pdf

Logging Workforce

Based upon available economic and production data, the logging workforce may be the weakest link in the supply chain today. Logging capacity has been reduced by 25 percent just since 2009. The reasons are many and significant. Operating costs have soared with increased fuel, parts, and equipment costs (the cost of new logging equipment has risen 50 percent in the last decade). Due to the increased

expense of new equipment, the lack of long-term contracts and other factors, financing has been harder to secure.

Logging markets contracted during the recession as landowners deferred harvests due to low stumpage rates and as mills were shuttered. These factors and more have led to squeezing of rates for their employees, such that 71 percent of U.S. logging companies report difficulty in attracting new employees (Timber Harvesting magazine, 2013). In 2010, 51 percent of logging companies reported a loss or were simply breaking even.

Essentially, one hundred percent of the logging workforce is employed by small, independent logging companies.

These companies are family owned, with the median age of employees having risen to 54 years of age. Considerable evidence suggests that, over the last decade, this link has been economically squeezed between forest owners and manufacturers, jeopardizing the entire chain.

The paper recommends:

Changes to Financial Incentives

The landowner, logging, and manufacturing sectors should jointly approach Congress:

- During the current tax reform debate to promote favorable tax treatment for the execution of long-term timber supply agreements among the sectors (especially from the most uncertain of sources—federal lands);
- During the current Farm Bill debate to promote expanding the Farm Credit program to be available to help finance the purchase of new logging equipment.
- During the current highway bill debate with a proposal to reduce the regulatory burdens being imposed on independent truckers.

Changes to Forest Certification Programs

- The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) must find ways to collaborate to expand cost-effective and appropriately designed forest certification to other landowners – especially family forest owners.

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

Winter News Now

M e e l i Kismes & 'Eey sin'. Happy New Year! TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN has snuck right up on us. I would like to ask for continued blessings to our ITC family, committees and friends. GOD BLESS AMERICA!!! I am putting it out on BLAST!! ☺ The Coquille Indian Tribe, ITC Symposium & Planning Representatives (Pete, Robin, & Clara) and the rest of tribe have done an outstanding job getting our symposium agenda together. Exciting things are coming. I need to thank our Symposium Committee for their hard work and dedication. And a special thank you to Laura, Monica, and Don. Let us all have a great blessed year.

'Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

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

Sunday, June 8th. The annual golf tournament will be located at Bandon Dunes Golf Course (4 courses to choose from). Sign in at 11:00 am with a shotgun start at 12:00 noon. The event will be a four person best ball scramble played over 18 holes. \$75 per person for the first 40 registered conference attendees. \$135 per person after initial 40. All golf registration must be paid by check or money order to Coquille Indian Tribe, Attn: Clara Gardner, 3050 Tremont St., North Bend, OR 97459.

Registration includes 18 holes, putting contest, prizes and reception. Times and course choices are on a first come first serve basis. Register by calling (541)756-0904, contact Clara Gardner, claragardner@coquilletribe.org or Robin Harkins, robinharkins@coquilletribe.org for more information.

Monday, June 9th. Pre-symposium Workshops:

Workshop #1: Traditional Crafting (40 max): Participants may have time to complete more than one

project if they choose to stay the entire day. Crafts include Drums, Native American Rattle, Dentalium Necklaces, Bear Grass Braids, & Traditional Native Games.

Workshop #2: Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS): Coming to a Sky Near You (50 max): 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 current tribal test range program.

Workshop #3: Coquille Indian Tribe Forest Tour: Participants on 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 tribes most significant cultural resource site's 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 wild land fire issues facing Tribes and agencies. The format will provide opportunities for dialog between presenters and audience.

Workshop #5 Heads - u p Digitizing and Editing in ArcGIS Desktop v 10.2.2 (12 max): Process of creating and editing timber harvest sale data to create useful field maps.

The fees for individual workshops are: \$105/participant **before** May 22, 2015 and \$120/participant **after** that date. Make sure you register early. All workshops are provided with refreshments and lunches. And please dress appropriately for field workshops.

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

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

Tuesday, June 10th. 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 from Brenda Meade, Chairperson, Coquille Indian Tribe,

and our ITC President Phil Rigdon. The Keynote Address will be by John Gordon, Pinchot Professor Emeritus and former Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and John Sessions, Distinguished Professor of Forestry, Oregon State University, College of Forestry, Corvallis, OR. "Indian Forestry through the Lens of Three IFMATs: A Leadership Future"

The Host Tribe Regional Presentation will be presented by the Peter M. Wakeland, Natural Resources Director, Coquille Indian Tribe

The morning panel is titled "IF-MAT III, AF, TFPA: Next Steps", and at noon hour our ITC Future Leadership Lecture Luncheon Series will be conducted by our Student Poster Presenter on Student Research from under graduate, graduate, and doctoral studies.

The first afternoon panel is titled "Indian Forestry: A model for a New Paradigm", and our final panel is "Our Role and Responsibility: Individually and Collectively

This will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening events will start at 5:30 pm with the Host Tribe Welcome at The Mill Casino Hotel, Salmon Room for the Traditional Dinner, and followed by Dessert Social at the Plank House, Kilkich Reservation.

Wednesday, June 11th. The Coquille Tribal Tour will give symposium participants an opportunity to see natural resource activities occurring on the reservation.

The stops will include Southport Forest Products, Oregon Oversees Timber Co., Coos Historical Museum & Maritime Collection, Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge – Ni-les-'tun Unit.

After the tour, there will be a General Membership Meeting, which will be an open forum with topics of discussion given at a later date. This will also give member Tribes the opportunity to communicate with the ITC Board of Directors about their concerns.

Thursday, June 12th. The day's activities will start with the ITC President's Report, then the updates from the BIA Chief Forester, a National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Update, Legislative update, and a USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Update. Immediately following the updates our ITC

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Workshops will start simultaneously: Workshop 1: "The Carbon Marketplace: Opportunities on Tribal Lands", with the goal of the workshop is to 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 Health, Resilient Landscapes", the workshop will provide some paradigm shifting ideas for your consideration. Workshop #3: "Workforce Development", this workshop will concentrate on the Leadership training, BIA TREES Pathway Program, Fire Program Development at the collegiate level, etc.

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 Information is available on the ITC website at www.itcnet.org. Please make your reservations at The Mill Casino at a rate of \$83 single occupancy or double occupancy per night plus tax. Call 1-800-953-4800, ext. 1573 and reference Intertribal Timber Council Symposium. This special rate is only available until **May 15, 2015**.

Additional rooms are available at Red Lion Hotel Coos Bay: 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 29, 2015**.

Help: Intertribal Timber council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or sponsorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. The break sponsorships are full, but 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.

Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

2015 – June 8-11, 2014, 39th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe, North Bend, OR

2016 – Dates TBD, 40th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ

2017 – Dates TBD, 41th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Yakama Nation, Toppenish, WA

2018 – Dates TBD, 41th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation, Ocean Shores, WA

We hope to see all of you back in June 2015, Coos Bay, North Bend, OR, hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe. Check the ITC Website periodically at www.itcnet.org for 2015 Symposium information updates.

Take Care and God Bless.
Qe'ciyew'yew

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, or view the ITC website online – www.itcnet.org 🌲

Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

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Changes to Training Programs

- The American Loggers Council and/or other segments of the timber harvesting chain should revisit the question of approaching the US Department of Agriculture to initiate a timber harvesting check-off program. The proceeds of such a program could be used in significant part to underwrite the cost of new training programs to assist with workforce needs as well as to "reinvent" the timber harvesting segment as the primary outreach link with family forest owners.
- The landowner, logging, and manufacturing sectors should jointly:
- Approach the Department of Labor and the USFS to expand the list of

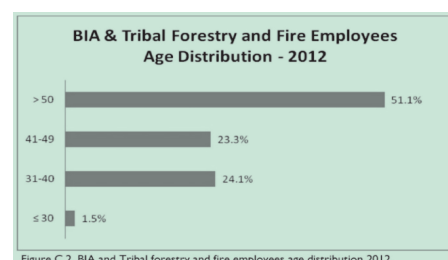
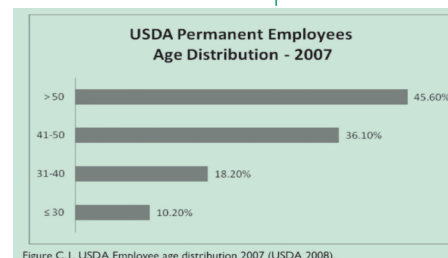
trades taught through the Job Corps to include timber harvesting.

- Work with the National Association of School Administrators to assess the possibility of developing a timber harvesting career program for high schools
- Work with the National Association of Land Grant Universities to assess the possibility of expanding the number of timber harvesting and harvesting company management programs offered in the U.S.

Tribal forestry has its own unique situations where the recommendations from other landowners and companies may not fit tribal communities' natural and human resources.

Just to end on the unique situation, IFMAT-III provided two graphs that highlighted the communities' different age distributions. It highlights, on the

right, that tribal youth <30 years old, has disappeared from the forest staff. The workshop next June will be an important step to develop a strategy for the future workforce. 🌲



BIA – Central Office, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

Forest Health Protection Update 2014

For FY-2014, the Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management received 25 Forest

Health Protection Project Proposals for the treatment of insect and disease problems in Tribal forests. Of these 25 proposals, 17 were funded by the Forest Service at a total of \$674,000. The BIA funding level was down from \$768,000 for FY-2013.

Total Department of Interior Funding for FY-2014 was \$2,116,000. Bureau of Land Management received \$310,000, Fish and Wildlife Service received \$94,000, and National Park Service received \$1,038,000.

Accomplishment reporting for Forest Health Protection was much better this year than last year. Reports were submitted for all 17 funded projects for a total of 4,546 acres treated. Forest Health Protection Reporting continues to be a Central Office priority. Thank you to every Bureau and Tribal Forestry Program for paying special attention to this reporting requirement.

The Division of Forestry received 24 project proposals for FY-2015 funding totaling \$1.58 million to treat 5,278 acres of trust land.

Land Buy Back Program 2014

The Branch of Forest Resources Planning forester assigned to coordinate commercial timber appraisal data for the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (LBBPTN) has developed a model to process field valuation data received by consulting forestry vendors. With this model, consulting forestry vendors, working with BIA or Tribal Forestry staff at a reservation where LBBPTN intends to make buy-back offers, can enter this data: forest management plan parameters, tract acreage, timber volume data by species, market value data, harvest cost parameters and harvest schedule parameters. The resulting value of this model, known as the estimated - Current Net Liquidated Commercial Timber Stumpage Value CNLCTSV) for a tract (can then be passed on to the LBBPTN appraisers for use in the appraisal model for a given tract.

The model is currently undergoing testing. Input on the model construction was solicited from representatives of BIA

Status of Forest Management Plans by Region September 30, 2014

Region	Plans Remaining	Completed Plans	Total Plans Needed	Percent Completed
ALASKA	0	11	11	100%
EASTERN	3	20	23	87.0%
EASTERN OKLAHOMA	0	14	14	100%
GREAT PLAINS	0	14	14	100%
MIDWEST	14	27	41	65.9%
NAVAJO	0	1	1	100.0
NORTHWEST	4	42	46	91.3%
PACIFIC	25	44	69	63.8%
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0	7	7	100%
SOUTHERN PLAINS	0	22	22	100%
SOUTHWEST	1	23	24	95.8%
WESTERN	14	23	37	59.7%
Totals	61	248	309	80.3%

DFWFM staff, BIA Regional forestry staff, Tribal forest managers, BIA forest managers, DOI Office of Appraisal Services and consulting forestry vendors.

Forest Management Plans 2014

In April, 1999 a memorandum from the Assistant Secretary's office directed the BIA to put in place Forest Management Plans (FMP's) on all Forested Reservations including Category 3 & 4 noncommercial timber trust lands, in addition to Category 1 & 2 commercial timber producing reservations. In 2004 BIA Forestry was directed by OMB to add Forest Management Plans to the Indian Affairs Performance Management System (IA-PMS) for FY 2005 and 10 years for 100 percent completion (September 30, 2015). Meeting or not meeting IA-PMS measures will directly impact Forestry funding.

As of September 30, 2014 there are 201 of the 307 forested reservations with FMP's. The FY 2014 target is 34 and 72 for FY 2015.

BOFRP is providing technical assistance to the Regions and Tribes to meet the deadline through a professional service contract. Please contact your respective Region or Agency Office for assistance. The Regions will then work directly with David Wilson, Karen DeBord, and Stacie Holmes.

61 Plans remain to be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2015 (September 30, 2015). At this time Eastern, Midwest, Northwest, Pacific, Southwest and Western Regions are in various stages of completion.

National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP)

The 2015/2016 session of NASP will mark the 9th year that the 4 mod-

ules of intensive silviculture course work have been offered. The selection committee has recently reviewed application packets of the Regional nominees and selected 3 foresters for attendance to NASP9. Taurus Diaz, forester from Southwest Regional Office; Mark Couture, forester with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; and Richard Gardner, forester with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will join a group of 35 professional foresters from the USFS, Tribal, BIA, BLM and State organizations and start their first 2-week module at the University of Minnesota this May. As in previous years, 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. Questions or comments about this program may be directed to Karen DeBord, Forester, BOFRP, at (720) 484-3214 or karen.debord@bia.gov .

Funding Opportunity for Woods Marketing and Utilization Projects

A memo was sent out from the BIA Director to the regions on November 14, 2014 announcing a grant program that tribes are eligible for in the effort to develop and expand markets for wood energy and products. Tribes are encouraged to take advantage in this opportunity. The body of the memo describing the RFP and where to get more information is below.

The U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry (USFS), has announced a Request for Proposals for their 2015 Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity. As stated in their an-

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BIA – Central Office, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

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nouncement, the purpose is to expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets in an effort to support forest management goals. Tribal governments and school districts are eligible for this grant program. A full copy of the federal register announcement can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-27/pdf/2014-25514.pdf>. This document contains all of the proposal details and subsequent requirements for awarded projects.

The RFP's will focus on three priorities: 1) Reduce hazardous fuels and improve health on forest lands; 2) Reduce costs of forest management; and 3) Promote economic and environmental health to communities. The funding will then focus on two categories: 1) Expansion of Wood Energy Markets; and 2) Expansion of Wood Products Markets. The possibilities are wide open and tribes are encouraged to participate.

Questions regarding suitable projects or technical questions regarding this program can be directed to the USFS Regional Biomass Coordinators, as listed in the RFP announcement. If Tribes wish to have assistance from the Forest Products Lab, Forest Marketing and Utilization Unit (FPMU) during the implementation of their awarded projects, it must be agreed to and identified within their proposals.

The deadline for proposal submission is January 23, 2015. If you have any questions or comments regarding this program, please contact Mr. David Wilson, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management at (720) 484-3212 or david.wilson@bia.gov.

Fire Management

Retirements

This year, four long-time employees that supported and led the BIA fire management program retired. Craig Cook (Deputy Training Officer), David Potter (IT Specialist), Laurel Simos (Visual Information Specialist) and Nancy Lee Wilson (Fire Planner), will be missed. In January, Lyle Carlile (Fire Director) and Gini Broyles (Administrative Officer) will also retire. We gratefully acknowledge their many

years of service and will announce new positions as they become filled.

Risk Based Wildland Fire Management Risk Analysis Model

The Department continues development efforts on the Risk Analysis Model (RAM). The goal is to develop a system that utilizes similar processes and data to formulate and allocate Preparedness and Fuels Management funding for the Department of Interior (DOI).

A status update was provided at the November 18, 2014 Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) meeting. There, a discussion was held regarding the effort to assemble a list of big picture "resource values" and data sets that capture what DOI is broadly trying to accomplish with respect to fire and resource management. These resource values will assist with the quantification of risk in order to inform formulation and allocation of funding. A total of 19 values were identified. From this list, the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) leadership selected some of the values as the preliminary national priority values for consideration and discussion.

The preliminary national priority values discussed were: Developed Areas; Infrastructure; Recreation Sites; Riparian Areas; Forest Areas; T&E Species; Surface Drinking Water; and Sage grouse (Preliminary Priority Habitat only). Each value was discussed, including the pros and cons of including it in the RAM. How does the proposed element represent a value, what is the quality and availability of the data and is it important and good enough to be used, were key discussion factors.

Selection of the final national priority values will be made by the wildland fire executives after incorporation of tribal consultation inputs. OWF leadership continues to stress the importance of tribal consultation and input to this effort.

Work on the RAM continues in hopes of being able to utilize the process for allocation of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget to the bureaus.

Fuels Management Program

The FY14 BIA portion of DOI's obligated fuels management funding was \$29.7 million. With that, BIA and tribes

treated 168.7 thousand acres. This is greater than the last two years of treatments, where in 2013, Indian Country completed 161,600 acres and in 2012, 166,600 acres were treated. Additionally, BIA's FY14 carryover was an all-time low, less than 2% (\$500,000).

The President's Fuels Management Program budget for 2015 is \$146.287 million, an increase of \$1.263 million from 2014 enacted budget. Initial information indicates the BIA's portion will be approximately \$37 million, which will include regional carryover. Of this targeted funding, \$10 million will go towards "Trust Responsibilities on Reserved Treaty Rights Land" (RTRL).

The Regional distribution of FY15 Continuing Resolution #1 was completed and the regions should now be allocating funding to tribes and agencies. In 2015, DOI Bureaus will keep unobligated fuels management program funding. This practice will be evaluated and approved annually.

Wildfire Prevention/Trespass/Investigation

NIFC completed the funding distribution of the FY15 Continuing Resolution #1 to the regions, which are now in the process of allocating to tribes and agencies.

The National Trespass Responsibilities and Processes Course will be presented in Minneapolis in February. The Midwest Region and BIA NIFC are working together to present this course to Superintendents and Program Managers.

BIA Trust Services and BIA Office of Justice Services are in the process of renewing the Memorandum of Understanding to place a law enforcement officer at BIA NIFC. The vacated law enforcement position was filled December 1. The arrest and conviction of the Warms Springs Tribal member, who set the Sunnyside Turnout fire in FY 2013, serves as a reminder that when law enforcement and fire work together, wildfire crimes can be solved and that arson will not be tolerated in Indian Country.

Fire Activity

During the last quarter (Oct. – Dec), fire managers responded to 780 wildfires that burned 3,394 trust acres.

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BIA – Central Office, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

(Continued from page 7)

In total, BIA spent a \$53.2 million dollars on wildland fire suppression in FY14. From January 1 to December 2, Indian Country experienced 5,147 wildfires that burned 350,071 acres. Naturally caused wildfires accounted for 27% (1,013 fires) of the fire workload. Consequently, 77% of the total acres (272,144 acres) that burned on trust land and were either fully suppressed or used a control/contain strategy to successfully meet tribal resource management goals.

Unfortunately, 73% (4,134 fires) of the wildfires that occurred in Indian Country this year were human caused. While these fires accounted for only 23% (77,927 acres) of the total acres burned, they represent undesirable risk that placed people's homes, livelihoods and cultural resources at stake. The leading causes of these wildfires continued to be incendiary and juveniles. These two causes alone accounted for 47% of Indian Country's total fire load this year.

Administratively Determined Firefighters

On September 23, the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a memorandum that informed Line Offices of updated BIA policy regarding the employment of casual hires using the DOI hiring authority. To encourage GS and tribal employment, the new guidance states BIA sponsored casual hires will be placed in non-pay status for classroom training and while traveling to and from classroom training. During field exercises, they will be placed into pay status.

The Casual Payment Center is nearing their yearend reporting. BIA spent a total of \$13.1 million on emergency firefighters this year. To date, 8,932 payments were made to 2,603 emergency firefighters. This is an average of 3.4 assignments per employee. The number of total payments made (10,994), firefighters hired (3,499) and the total gross amount paid (\$15.1 million) were lower in 2013 than in 2014.

Since 2010, the total number of casual hires instructors BIA has employed to deliver basic and mid-level training classes has decreased from 114 instructors in 2010 to 59 instructors in 2014.

This reflects a greater use of existing GS/tribal instructors, and has created a cost savings for the fire program.

Safety

On the whole this year, BIA focused on improving firefighter fitness and nutrition by sponsoring and promoting the BIA Fire Fit program. Education, recognizing symptoms and implementing guidance to prevent heat related illness was also of high priority as the majority of injuries that took place in Indian Country this year were heat related.

On November 6, the 2015 Tribal Medical Standards Program and Drug Testing Procedures were released. The medical services provider selected by the DOI Medical Standards Program (MSP) was "Comprehensive Health Services." Over the next three years, all BIA units will be phased into the contract. The first 20 units will begin testing in FY15. Those units not selected will continue using BIA's existing procedures. All arduous firefighters who have not tested in the past three years are still required to complete an exam.

In the year to come, defensive driving courses and BIA Engine Academy workshop will take place to decrease the occurrence of driving accidents in the BIA fire community.

Training

The BIA Fire Mentoring Program training will begin January 26th, at the Seminole Reservation in Big Cypress, Florida. Seminole will host 5-10 students to participate in prescribed burning/fuels treatments to provide an opportunity to trainees to work towards their upper-level prescribed fire qualifications. At the conclusion of the Program, some participants will be signed off in their respective training qualification while others will be much closer to completing assigned Position Task Books.

The Interagency Training Committee revisited the Wildland Fire Qualification System Supplemental Guide to include technical specialist positions not listed in the 310-1. This group recently reviewed the Aviation position training requirements and has now made them standard amongst agencies. This standardization reflects determination to streamline confusing

processes and provides Indian Country with a single reference guide for position qualification and training.

The National Office in Boise sponsors five students currently participating at Northern Arizona University in the Federal 401 series management program. Each student progressed through the program this year and is expected to reach their goals of 24 Biology/Forestry credits by 2016.


Casual Payment Center & Administrative Hires

The Casual Payment Center will host four webinars in January, February and March to improve reporting and accountability for the AD program. The target audiences for this training are those who oversee the AD program administration. The webinars will discuss the DOI AD Pay Plan and review the Casual Hiring process and hiring documents.

The CPC staff is well trained and knowledgeable and can identify possible issues with cost string accountability, proper hiring under the AD Pay Plan authority, legal hiring of casuals and they keep the BIA Incident Business leaders informed of the Wildland Fire Management programs.

Fire Communication and Education

A video documentary on the Geronimo Interagency Hotshot Crew was released by BIA and *The Atlantic* November 12. The five minute video includes interviews from the crew leadership and footage taken by the crew during this year's fire season. The documentary discusses the importance of wildland firefighting opportunities on reservations, particularly that of the San Carlos Apache tribe. The video was widely shared and well received in the fire community. It can be viewed at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/382599/the-apache-firefighters-who-stop-americas-biggest-wildfires/>

BIA Guidance Memorandums from 2001 to date are posted at <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/library/Memos/index.htm>. These memos, issued from the BIA Bureau Director to all Regional Directors, will be archived on this page for future reference. 

Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

Happy New Year! The Salish and Pend d'Oreille people call January the 'hand shaking' month, 'Scncltu spqni'. It is the time of year for families to get together and give thanks for

having lived another year, and to offer song and prayer for the coming year. It is the time of year when people gather for our mid-winter ceremonies. I am surely thankful for what I have, and am encouraged by the leadership of the Inter-Tribal Timber Council.

We have had an increased participation at our Operations Committee meetings. We usually have great discussions covering a wide variety of topics. With more people engaged it makes for better dialog. I certainly appreciate the participation and encourage more folks to attend. I see the ITC family growing and becoming stronger as we develop partnerships with other natural resource organizations. We recognize that there is strength in numbers and that there are other organizations pursuing very similar goals to improve natural resource management across landscapes and ownerships.

The following is a brief summary of our discussion during the last meeting held on December 10th in Portland, Oregon.

Anchor Forest Project

Steve Andringa, Tribal Forestry Director at Yakama, gave the committee a brief report on the Anchor Forest Project. He states that the task teams are busy writing reports and should have a document available by mid-2015.

Indian Forest Management Assessment (IMEAT III) Implementation

The committee had a long, detailed discussion about the pending meetings being scheduled with folks in DC. The ITC leadership plans to meet with representatives from DOI, DOA, and PMB, fairly soon, to advance the recommendations outlined in the IFMAT report.

Carbon Working Group

John DeGroot, Forest and Fire Director at Nez Perce, shared information about a 'Forest Projects on Tribal Lands' Webinar hosted by the Climate Action Reserve. The Reserve is a private 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles, California. You can learn more by visiting www.climateactionreserve.org. John also discussed planning the 'The Carbon Marketplace; Opportunities on Tribal Lands' workshop being

planned in conjunction with the Thirty-Ninth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, June 8-11, 2015. You can learn more about this workshop in the symposium agenda.

Water and Trust Symposiums

We discussed the need for Indian country to develop a cohesive strategy for water resources, water rights, water quality, and the impacts of climate change and drought on water resources. This was a follow-up discussion on the Water Symposium and the Trust Symposium's, respectively, held in 2014. Gary Morishima and others are planning additional symposiums to cover both subjects later in 2015. Stay tuned for information on these.

Workforce Development

We had a great discussion about long term workforce development needs and infrastructure issues that play into larger landscape projects. There is a growing need to have education and training opportunities in logging operations, sawmill operations, heavy equipment operations. The ITC will have more discussions about workforce development needs and develop a strategy moving forward.

I hope that you have a Happy New Year! And a big Thank You! to all that take time out of your busy schedules to participate in the Operations Committee meetings. 🌲

Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

By the time you get this newsletter the deadline will have already passed to submit an application for the Truman Picard scholarship. The deadline this year was January 16,

2015. I hope you applied and/or encouraged deserving students to apply. Announcements have been sent out to

tribes and agencies.

The Truman Picard Scholarship is offered annually to Native Americans pursuing higher education in the field of natural resources. The breakdown for recipients is \$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 edu-

cation, community and culture. Please do not sell yourself short, this scholarship is very competitive and will be even more competitive as the number of students increases while the amount of money available decreases.

A Scholarship Selection Committee has been formed and they will review the applicants and grade them on the above criteria. It is very important for all applicants to understand that the awards are not based on any political influence or by the amount a tribe par-

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Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips

1) Republicans gain Senate majority in midterm elections.

Republicans dominated the November 4 midterm (non-presidential) elections, sweeping them into the Senate majority with 54 seats, increasing their House majority to 247 (House Democrats: 188), and rejecting incumbent Democratic governors in four states. With this election, with the lone exception of Sen. Bill Nelson (D, Fla.), there is not a single Democratic governor or U.S. Senator in any of the nine southern states from the Carolinas to Texas. The House and Senate winners of this election will be sworn in at the January 6, 2015 start of the 114th Congress.

The lowest voter turnout (34.9%) since 1942 during WW II (33.9%) tended to assist Republicans, who vote with more regularity than their Democratic counterparts. Low approval ratings for the President and unhappiness with the general direction of the government helped spur Republican voters while discouraging Democrats. Campaign spending crept up over the 2010 midterm level to hit a record \$3.67 billion.

The most significant win for the Republicans was capturing the majority in the U.S. Senate. Of a total 36 Senate seats up for election, Republicans were defending 15 (13 incumbents and 2 open) and Democrats were defending 21 (16 incumbents and 5 open).

Republicans retained every Senate seat they held going into the election. All 13 Republican incumbents won and Republicans kept the two open states they held prior to the election. Then, Republicans gained nine seats previously held by Democrats. Of the 16 Democratic incumbent races, Democrats won 11 and lost five – Mark Pryor in Arkansas, Mark Udall in Colorado, Kay Hagen in North Carolina, Mark Begich in Alaska, and Mary Landrieu in Louisiana. Republicans then won

four of the five open Democratic seats.

With Republicans gaining nine seats to 54 and the Democrats falling to 46 seats, Republicans will assume the Senate majority when the 114th Congress starts January 6, 2015. Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky will be Majority Leader and Republicans will chair all the Senate committees, with John Barrasso (R, Wyo.) leading Indian Affairs and Lisa Murkowski (R, Alaska) chairing Energy and Natural Resources as well as the Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Committee Republican/Democrat membership ratios will also change, with Republicans gaining and Democrats losing a few seats on each committee. Senate committee assignments were finalized December 15 during the 113th Congress's month-long lame duck session, but will still need to be ratified by the Senate Republican Conference and by the full Senate after the January 6, 2015 start of the 114th Congress. Committee chairs will be formally determined by votes of committees after the start of the new Congress, and subcommittee chairs will be formalized after that.

Senate committee chairs (subject to ratification) include:

Indian Affairs: John Barrasso (R, Wyo.), who has expressed a keen interest in Indian forestry legislation. Other Republican's assigned to the Committee are John McCain (Az.), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), John Hoeven (ND), Jim Lankford (Ok.), Steve Daines (Mont.), Mike Crapo (Idaho), and Jerry Moran (Kansas). Democrats have not finalized their SCIA assignments, but are expected to be led by Sen. Jon Tester (D, Mont.) as Vice Chairman.

Energy and Natural Resources: Lisa Murkowski (R, Alaska), who is pro-timber and energy development, has long been active in Native American issues, particularly those involving Alaska Natives, including having served as Vice Chair of the Indian Affairs Committee.

Appropriations: Thad Cochran (R, Mississippi) is a traditional appropriator whose belief in the Appropriations Committee's bipartisan collegiality and

its ability to deliver federal support could put him at odds with Tea Partiers and budget cutters. In the end, however, Cochran will have to accept whatever his Republican colleagues dictate to him in budget legislation.

Interior Approps Subcommittee: Lisa Murkowski (R, Alaska), who also believes in earmarks, but primarily for Alaska.

Budget: Mike Enzi (Wyo.), who edged out the very conservative Jeff Sessions (Alabama). The Budget Committee is important because it has overall authority on spending policy, including such things as budget caps and sequestration, and because the annual budget reconciliation bill, which cannot be filibustered, might be used as a legislative vehicle for advancing Republican legislative objectives that otherwise could be blocked by Democratic objections. Enzi is particularly determined to defund the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare.

Environment and Public Works: Jim Inhofe (R, Okla.) rejects the concept of manmade climate change and will make a priority of trying to restrict the Environmental Protection Agency.

Finance: Orrin Hatch (R, Utah). Any tax issues for tribes will have to pass through this committee. While Hatch and other Republicans generally support reducing taxes, which could include tax breaks benefiting tribes, tribes will have to keep a wary eye on the other side of the blade – efforts to reduce tribal government's ability to tax outsiders.

Now it will be up to the Congressional Republicans to show if they can actually govern. McConnell has been saying he wants to try to work with President Obama, but such statements are customary for these sorts of circumstances. Even if McConnell does make real bipartisan efforts, with the 2016 Presidential election cycle now starting, he will have his hands full trying to



Matt Hill

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keep conservative potential candidates under control and not further polarizing the Senate. Additionally, in “turn about being fair play,” Senate Democrats, who are keeping Harry Reid as Minority Leader, will no doubt seek to filibuster and otherwise thwart the movement of Republican bills through the Senate. Finally, of course, President Obama will have his veto power.

Meanwhile, over in the House, Republicans picked up 13 seats, to 247, tying the largest Republican majority in the House since the Truman Presidency, winning 16 new seats and losing three. As of this writing, the House in the 114th Congress will be 188 Democrats to 247 Republicans. Because House Republicans are maintaining their majority status, there will only be a few committee chairmanship changes. Most notably, the House Committee on Natural Resources chair will go to Rep. Rob Bishop (R, Utah), as current Chair Doc Hastings is retiring. Bishop is currently Chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, before whom ITC and IFMAT have testified. A few things to note:

- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) is likely to give up the Ranking Member position on the Natural Resources Committee and take over that role on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. The current Democratic Ranking Member of T&I, Nick Rahall of WV, lost re-election and DeFazio is next in seniority. It is unclear which Democrat would take over DeFazio’s role at Natural Resources, but it would likely either be Raul Grijalva of AZ or Janet Napolitano of CA.
- Rep. Don Young (R, Alaska) will likely remain chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian/Alaska Native Affairs, although

Democrats will need to appoint a new Ranking Member (with Colleen Hanabusa of HI leaving Congress).

- Rep. Paul Ryan (R, Wisc.) is expected to become chair of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee (current Chair Dave Camp (R, Mich.) is retiring), giving up the Budget Committee Chair to, most likely, Rep. Tom Price (R, Ga.).
- Rep. Ken Calvert (R, Calif.) will remain Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, with Reps. Mike Simpson (R, Idaho) and Tom Cole (R, Okla.), both supporters of Native American programs, next in line. On the Democratic side, Subcommittee Ranking Member Jim Moran (D, Va.) is retiring, with Rep. Betty McCollum (D, Minn.) expected to replace him.

Among governorships, to give an idea of the Republican strength in this election, Republicans picked-up the top office in four states where it was being defended by incumbent Democrats: Arkansas (Clinton land), Illinois (Obama land), and Maryland and even Massachusetts (both longtime Democratic bastions). Democrats picked-up the governorship in Pennsylvania.

2) 113th Congress ends with post-election “lame duck” session.

After recessing October 3 for the November 4 elections, Congress returned to work November 12 for a post-election “lame duck” session to complete several important pieces of legislation, including FY 2015 appropriations (H.R. 85, PL 113-235, see item 3), tax extenders (S. 5771) and Defense authorization (H.R. 3979). The tax and Defense bills, both cleared to be signed into law, include tribal provisions (see item 4). The 113th Congress concluded Tuesday, December 16, adjourning sine die. The First Session of the 114th Congress will convene on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

3) FY 2015 Appropriations “CRomnibus.”

After passing several short-term continuing resolutions extending FY 2014 funding until December 17, Congress managed to write and pass a single large FY 2015 appropriations bill, called the FY 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (H.R. 85), which the President signed when he received it December 16. The bill is informally referred to as the FY 2015 “CRomnibus” appropriations bill because it combines all twelve of the FY 2015 approps bills (called Divisions), provides full year FY ’15 funding for eleven of those bills, and continues FY 2014 funding (or a “CR”) until March 2015 for the Homeland Security Division, basically putting off the funding of contentious immigration matters until the new Republican-controlled 114 Congress.

H.R. 83 started out as a bill to address energy issues in U.S. insular areas, but was revised to become the CRomnibus. The House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees for each of the CRomnibus’s eleven full year Divisions, including that for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, conducted negotiations to settle differences, and the explanation of those final compromises, serving as the conference report for H.R. 85, is the explanatory statement printed in the House of Representatives portion of the December 11, 2014 Congressional Record. It is also available on the House Rules Committee website.

The FY 2015 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Division of the bill and its explanatory statement are Division F. A funding table at the back of the Division F explanatory statement shows amounts for FY 2014, the Administration’s request for FY 2015, and Congress’s final FY 2015 amount.

Overall, BIA fared pretty well. Congress generally accepted the Administration’s FY 2015 requested amounts, moving Operation of Indian Programs funding up \$50 million from \$2.379 billion in FY 2014 to \$2.429 billion for

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FY '15. There were only a few increases over the requests, but Forestry was among them, getting an additional \$1.8 million to \$47.7 million. There were also a couple of decreases, including IRMP, which was cut \$1 million from its \$3.99 million request to \$2.99 million, but which is still \$1 million more than FY 2014. A summary of how BIA Forestry and fire programs fared in the final FY 2015 bill is below:

A) BIA Coop Landscape Conservation (climate): Admin. & Senate: \$9.948 million. House: \$5.948 million. Final: \$9.948 million.

B) BIA Integrated Resources Management Planning: Admin. & Senate: \$3.99 million. House: \$2.496 million. Final: \$2.99 million.

C) BIA Forestry: Admin. & Senate: \$45.895 million, House & FY'14: \$47.735 million. Final: \$47.735 million.

D) DoI Fire Preparedness: House, Senate and final bill approved the Admin. request of \$318.97 million, including Admin. set-asides of \$9 million for tribal contract support for 638 fire programs and \$6.0 million for fire workforce personnel.

E) DoI Fire Fuels: House & Senate and final bill accept Admin.'s \$10 million set-aside for tribal projects on federal treaty rights lands. House: \$160.0 million. Admin. & Senate: \$146.29 million. Final FY 2015 Fuels: \$164 million, includes \$10 million for Resilient Landscape Initiative

F) DoI Fire Resilient Landscapes Initiative: Admin. & Senate: \$30 million. House: \$-0-. Final: \$-0- as a separate line item, but \$10 million included in Fuels.

G) USFS Forest Stewardship (in Coop Forestry): House report language urging wider TFPA use. Senate silent, but House language remains in place. House: \$29 million for all Stewardship. Admin. & Senate: \$23.04 million. Final: \$23.04 million.

H) USFS Fuels: House: \$381.6 million. Admin. & Senate: \$358.6 million. Final: \$361.7 million.

I) Disaster funding authority for fire suppression: Admin.: have "off-

budget" federal disaster funding account pay for annual suppression costs exceeding 70% of the 10 year average. House did not accept the request. Senate adopted the request but with a one year delay. Final: no disaster funding authority. Must be worked out by other committees in the House and Senate.

The ITC sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee urging retention of the higher appropriations amount for BIA Forestry. ITC also joined a coalition supporting disaster funding for suppression costs exceeding 70% of the ten year average.

4) Some Native American bills clear Congress in last minute action.

Last minute maneuvering moved some bills dealing with Native American issues past Congress to be signed into law, including half a dozen that cleared as riders to the big FY 2015 Defense authorization bill. But many other tribal bills were stalled by objections and last-minute politics. Below is a status listing for several of those bills.

Passed: Sealaska land as Sec. 3002 in the Defense authorization bill

The large FY 2015 Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 3979), now signed by the President into law, includes unrelated legislative riders in Title XXX [30] in Division A authorizing dozens of natural resource related actions, at least half a dozen of which bear on Native issues. Section 3002 of Division I authorizes the Sealaska land settlement to conclude the Native corporation's land allocation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The new language does not appear to authorize Sealaska or any other Alaska Native corporation's (ANC) participation in the Tribal Forest Protection Act, as had earlier versions of this legislation. Biomass demonstration legislation based on TFPA but which is ANC specific was added to the Senate tribal energy bill, which did not get finished (see item 5).

Other tribally-related provisions in the Defense authorization bill include:

- Conveyance of Arizona USFS land sacred to the Apaches to Resolution Cooper (Sec. 3003),

- Conveyance of BLM land in Nevada to the Te-moak Tribe (Sec. 3009(f))
- Land into trust for the Northern Cheyenne (Sec. 3077),
- Transfer of Army land to the Ho-Chunk Nation (Sec. 3078), and
- Opening land sacred to the Yakama Nation on Rattlesnake Mountain to public access (Sec. 3081).

Passed: Grand Portage per capita tax bill

On December 16, the day of final adjournment, the Senate passed and cleared for the President H.R. 3608, a bill 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. The payments are also exempted from certain welfare assistance qualifications. The bill passed the House November 17, 2014.

Passed: Hualapai water settlement

A bill authorizing a Hualapai water settlement (H.R. 4924, H. Rpt. 113-638) passed the Senate without amendment December 2, clearing it to become PL 113-223.

Passed: Ft. Hall land exchange bill

S. 2040, authorizing a Fort Hall land exchange for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes passed the Senate and the House December 2, becoming PL 113-232.

Passed: 1 year extension of two Indian Country business tax incentives

On December 16, just before the 113th Congress finally adjourned, the Senate passed S. 5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act, sending it to the President to be signed into law. The bill extends for one year – from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 - dozens of federal tax breaks that had otherwise expired for this year (2014). Among the extensions now eligible for 2014 are accelerated depreciation for private business facilities and equipment placed into service on Indian land (Sec. 124) and tax credits for the hiring of Indian employees on or near Indian land (Sec. 114).

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Did not pass: Oregon tribal timber bills

Among other bills in the mix was H.R. 5701, the Western Oregon Indian Tribal Lands Act introduced November 13 by Reps. Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader (both D, Ore.), which addressed land-into-trust issues for the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes, and included tribal timber land proposals for three Oregon tribes: forest land conveyances for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (14,408 acres) and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians (17,519 acres), as well as legislation that would lift the mandate requiring that the Coquille Indian Tribe manage their trust forest under the Northwest Forest Plan. A ban on raw log exports was applied to all three tribes. H.R. 5701 passed the House December 9, but did not advance in the Senate, where three similar tribal timber legislative proposals were also contained in Senator Ron Wyden's Oregon O&C timberlands bill (see item 9), which failed.

Did not pass: NAHASDA reauthorization

H.R. 4329, Rep. Steve Pearce's (R, NM) bill to revise and reauthorize the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996 through FY 2018, was reported out of the House Committee on Financial Services November 20 (House Report 113-628) and was passed by the House under suspension of the rules December 2, sending it to the Senate, but it was not taken up on the Senate floor.

Did not pass: SCIA reported Nevada tribal land bills

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on December 1 reported S. 2479 (S. Rpt. 113-277) to transfer 26,000 acres of BLM land to the Moapa Reservation in Nevada and S. 2480 (S. Rpt. 113-278) to transfer 45,000 acres of BLM land to seven northern Nevada tribes. Neither got taken up on the Senate floor.

Did not pass: Self-Governance amendments

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on December 4 issued its writ-

ten report on S. 919, Senator Maria Cantwell's bill to enhance the Self-Governance Act (S. Rpt. 113-285), but it was not taken up on the Senate floor. The bill, approved by the Committee August 5, 2014 with a substitute amendment, sought revisions to Self-Governance to improve its implementation. A related House bill, H.R. 4546, had a hearing July 15, 2014, in which Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn testified in favor of the bill, but it was not marked-up or reported. Reintroduction is likely.

5) Tribal energy bills stall, including biomass demonstration project provisions.

Unresolved issues and differences in the House and Senate versions of tribal energy legislation (S. 2132 and H.R. 1548) prevented both of those bills from being brought to their Chamber's floor, sending the bills to their death with the conclusion of the 113th Congress. Both bills, which were reported from committee, included very similar provisions to establish a tribal biomass demonstration program to require the initiation of at least four such projects on Forest Service or BLM land in each of the next five years. The Senate version also contained a separate but very similar biomass demonstration program for Alaska Native corporations, keeping ANC fee land issues separate from the trust resource protection and TFPA basis of the tribal biomass proposals. It is very likely that both bills will be reintroduced in the 114th Congress.

6) Senate recognizes November 2014 as National Native American Heritage Month.

The Senate on Thursday, November 20, unanimously adopted Senate Resolution 590, introduced the same day by Sen. Jon Tester (D, Mont.) and 26 cosponsors, recognizing November 2014 as National Native American Heritage Month.

7) Administration testifies against RESPECT Act.

In a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs hearing held September 10, be-

fore the election recess, BIA Director Mike Black testified against H.R. 1600, Rep. Raul Grijalva's (D, Az.) RESPECT Act to codify tribal consultation procedures. The bill, the Requirements, Expectations and Standard Procedures for Executive Consultation with Tribes Act, would have set statutory requirements for the Administration's conduct of consultation with tribes and includes authority for federal deference to tribal sovereign law and the potential waiver of the application of federal law and regulation to tribes.

Black's testimony pointed to the Administration's concerns voiced on H.R. 5023 in the 111th Congress – an identical bill – and suggested that H.R. 1600 intrudes into the Executive Branch's prerogatives. He noted the Administration is already very active in engaging tribes on policy issues, including ongoing Executive Order on consultation, the annual White House Tribal Leaders conference, the Tribal Interior Budget Council, and other outreach activities such as "listening sessions."

Attorney Mike Anderson testified in favor of the legislation based on his own personal experience as Associate Solicitor and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs during the Clinton Administration.

Other than getting this hearing, the bill advanced no further.

8) SCIA holds hearings on irrigation projects, the Promise Act, NIGC Chair, and children's mental health in Indian Country.

From mid-September through adjournment, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee held the following hearings:

Wednesday, September 10: Oversight hearing on irrigation projects in Indian Country;

Wednesday, September 17: Hearing on S. 2670, the Keep the Promise Act (restricting land taken into trust in the Phoenix area after April 9, 2013 from gaming);

Tuesday, October 28: Listening Session on Indian education;

Wednesday, November 12: Hear-

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Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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ing on the nomination of Jonodev Chaudhuri to serve as Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission; and Wednesday, November 19: Oversight hearing on children's mental health in Indian Country.


9) Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee approves bills to divide O&C forestlands, allow states to manage federal parks and forests if US support is insufficient.

In a Thursday, November 13, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee mark-up session that approved more than a dozen public land bills, the Committee approved two bills of interest:

A) S. 1784, Sen. Ron Wyden's (D, Ore.) bill to divide 2.8 million acres of federal forest land in Oregon, principally including the BLM's "O&C Railroad" forest lands along the Coast Range of mountains, into areas desig-

nated for harvest and for protection. The bill proposed to increase harvest – and desperately needed associated revenue for local counties – by reducing environmental review timelines by more than a year, reviewing five years' worth of timber sales at once and putting strict limits on legal challenges to timber sales that have gone through the environmental review process. The bill (as introduced) also would have establish trust lands of 14,800 acres for the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw and 17,800 acres for the Cow Creek Tribe, as well as deleting a restriction that the Coquille Tribe's trust forest be managed pursuant to the Northwest Forest Plan. The Committee ordered the bill reported with a substitute amendment. Wyden, who chaired the tax-writing Finance Committee, had hoped to attach the bill to a "must-pass" tax bill extending popular but expiring tax breaks. However, the Senate version of the tax extenders bill cratered under pressure from the Administration (a stripped

down version later passed) and Wyden was unable to attach his O&C bill to another legislative vehicle. The House passed roughly similar O&C legislation a year ago, but it placed the O&C harvest lands in a trust operated under state forestry law (beyond the reach of NEPA and ESA). The House bill also created reservations for the Cow Creek and Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes and exempted the Coquille Tribe for NW Forest Plan restrictions. This legislation will be reintroduced in the 114th Congress.

B) S. 1750, Sen. Jeff Flake's (R, Az.) bill to require Interior and Ag to enter agreements with states to accept state repayable funding to help pay for all or some operation of federal parks and public lands when the U.S. is "unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations." While this bill moved no further, it is certain to be introduced again in the 114th Congress. 

Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman

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ticipates with ITC. Picard Scholarships are all based on the merits of the students and the potential they will bring to Indian country natural resources.

The scholarship applications will be graded and we will notify the recipients as soon as possible so that students will have ample time to make travel arrangements if they choose to accept the scholarship in person at the Annual Symposium. Students that attend have opportunity to meet with potential employers and network with other students, professors and professionals. This is a great time to hear discussion about current and upcoming issues that are, and will be, prevalent in Indian Country.

I would also like all of the students to know that the NCCE-SCEP announcement is out. This internship is another avenue for native stu-

dents to apply for a scholarship. In addition, a paid summer internship is added to this valuable scholarship for native students majoring in a natural resource program. For applications or additional information please contact the NCCE office at (785) 749-8427, (785) 749-8493 or ekiefer@fs.fed.us or bjbrown@fs.fed.us


The Education Committee are very thankful for those tribes and/or individuals whom continue to donate items for the symposium raffle and/or sign up for pre-symposium workshops. These are the two major contributors that determine the amount of money paid out in scholarships each year.

The ticket sellers worked very hard and sold \$7,065.00 in tickets, and the pre-symposium workshops had excellent attendance with \$14,821.24 having been collected. One individual was "standing guard" at the entrance

because there was a few people who wanted to listen to the material presented in the workshop, but had not paid their registration. Please pay your registration fee if you want to attend the workshop. Every dollar counts towards awarding additional scholarships to these deserving students.

The number of scholarships awarded is limited by the amount of funding available...not "scholarship worthy" candidates. In fact, two years ago the difference between receiving a scholarship and being on the outside looking in, was 0.2 of a point.

Please visit the ITC webpage for other opportunities that are helpful for students to seek assistance while attending school.

I hope that you all had a Merry Christmas and will enjoy a wonderful new year! 

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



James R. Erickson

Taking TFPA to the Ground

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) and the USDA Forest Service recently entered into an agreement to sponsor two workshops focused on increasing utilization and implementation of the Tribal Forest protection Act (TFPA) of 2004. This act is now ten years old and its utilization has seen limited success.

The decision to move forward with this new strategy is based upon the ITC report "Fulfilling the Promise of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004". This report identified several obstacles to the use and implementation of TFPA projects between Tribes and neighboring National Forests. Employees from both Tribes and the Forest Service identified the lack of understanding of TFPA, clear guidance for implementing the act, and an absence of technical support as key reasons for not entering into more TFPA projects.

The two planned workshops are being designed to address these issues and help fifteen Tribes identify and develop projects in collaboration with their neighboring National Forests and other stakeholders. Workshops are tentatively being scheduled for the April-May time frame to accommodate follow-up fieldwork that will lead to project implementation.

The ITC has selected Stephanie Lucero to coordinate this project on their behalf. Ms. Lucero brings demonstrated skills in inter-agency collaboration and experience in developing a wide variety of workshops working both with Tribes and the Forest Service. Sonia Tamez, Retired Forest Service Tribal Relations Program Manager, will also be providing advice and guidance for the workshops. Ms. Tamez brings a history of successful TFPA projects during her time as a tribal relations program manager with the Forest Service in region five.

The workshops are being planned for Spokane, Washington and Albu-

querque, New Mexico to accommodate the two largest areas of interest within Indian country. Tribes from the Lake states, Pacific Northwest, Southwest and Pacific regions have indicated interest and been selected for the two workshops. They include:

Lech Lake Band of Ojibwa Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Yakama Nation
Tule River Tribe
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Mescalero Apache Tribe
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Hoopa Tribe
Karuk Tribe
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Coquille Indian Tribe
Pueblo of Jemez
Santa Clara Pueblo

The workshops are being designed as both informational and working sessions. Informational plenary sessions will provide background materials on the TFPA law, case studies of successful TFPA projects, orientation on the new Forest Service Objections Policy, recommendations of the types of instruments available to implement TFPA projects, and options to help fundi projects. Breakout sessions will provide individual Tribes and their partners (Forest Service, BIA, BLM, States, others) in developing specific projects for implementation. Experienced tribal and federal TFPA practitioners will also be onsite to guide the breakout sessions and provide technical expertise.

To prepare participants for the workshops there will be webinars and assignments to gather information to help make the workshops as productive as possible.

Each Tribe is expected to come out of these workshops with a TFPA project ready to implement. Some may be small and short term, while others may be large and long term. The goal is to increase the use of TFPA and to help Tribes and their neighbors reduce the risks originating outside reservation boundaries while restoring health and resilience to their landscapes.

2015 Symposium Workshop:

Wildland Fire Update

Make sure to mark your calendars for the 2015 ITC Timber Symposium June 8-11 in Coos Bay, Oregon. Fire managers should make sure to schedule the Monday "Wildland Fire Update" workshop to keep abreast of current and emerging wildland fire issues. This will be our fifth offering of this workshop that has been one of the most popular events at past symposiums.

Jim Douglas, Department of Interior, Office of Wildland Fire Director will be participating to provide updates on key fire issues and to dialog with tribal and BIA fire personnel.

Aaron Baldwin, newly selected BIA Fire Director at the National Inter-agency Fire Center, will also be in attendance to cover BIA specific issues.

In Addition we plan to have one panel of fire managers discuss their strategies on how to develop future fire fighters in a time of our current aging workforce. The final panel will discuss their strategies on how their organizations are coordinating with resource managers to accomplish the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goal to "Restore and Maintain Healthy, Resilient Landscapes".

I hope you can join us in Coos Bay. 



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.

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