



Intertribal Timber Council TIMBER NOTES

Summer 2016

2016 ITC Symposium Recap



Howard Teasley, Jr.

We celebrated ITC's 40th anniversary at the 2016 National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) and the San Carlos Apache Tribe, held April

4-7, 2016 at the Apache Gold Casino in San Carlos, AZ. The theme for this year's symposium was **"Strengthening Traditional Connections to the Land: The Future of Forest Management."**

"Dagteh! I am proud to come away from the symposium with a life-long word from the San Carlos Apache language. A San Carlos elder in our discussions taught me how to greet folks in Apache and so, very simply I learned how to say "Hello". I was taught other words and sentences in Apache, but my immersion is limited and my memory was not up to snuff. The weather was delightfully HOT!! It was my first April ever with temperatures pushing mid 90's.

Sunday, April 3rd. The annual ITC Pre-Symposium Golf Tournament was held at the Apache Stronghold Golf Course. I want to thank Jeffrey Phillips and his crew for coordinating a memorable event. It was a four person best ball scramble format with plenty of prizes and food. The day was very warm for April; we had fifteen teams participate with a total of 55 golfers on this day. The San Carlos Apache Tribe made an amazing donation back to ITC for the Truman D. Picard Scholarship fund by giving back the proceeds created from golfer registration.



First Place Team: Jamia Baack, Tracy Baack, Raymond Maize, & Pee Wee Lorona - Hayden, AZ

Monday, April 4th. We offered four pre-symposium workshops. The first workshop, **"Basket and Cradleboard Crafting,"** was enjoyed by 11 individuals. The second workshop was the **"Native Foods Field Trip"** which had 16 attending. Our third workshop was titled **"Timber Sale and Resource Benefit Fire Field Trip,"** and had 40 participants. Our fourth workshop **"Wildland Fire Update"** had 43 participants. All of the income created from the Pre-symposium workshops is dedicated to the Truman D. Picard Scholarships. Thank you for your attendance. If individuals do have ideas for future pre-symposium workshops, please let ITC know.

Ice Breaker was held after the day's events in the Courtyard and which was sponsored by the Apache Gold Casino Resort.

Tuesday, April 5th. Opening Ceremonies, Posting of the Colors, Invocation, and Welcomes by our hosts and the Keynote was given by Jonathan Waterhouse. Our first panel of the

day was "Developing Future Leadership in "Indian Country" and our second panel was titled "Restoring Fire to the Landscape in Indian Country". During our lunch, we had our college students' research presentations called the ITC Future Leadership Lecture Luncheon Series.

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President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

Greetings ITC friends and family: First of all, I want to say thank you to all of you who attended our Fortieth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the San Carlos Apache Tribe. It was a fun, informative and successful event wonderfully and unusually hosted at the San Carlos's large indoor rodeo arena just next to their Casino Resort. The San Carlos Tribe put on a great event, including a great tour of their high timber country and a very engaging and entertaining Host Tribe dinner that featured San Carlos native foods, Tribal ceremonial dancers, and even a fashion show.

The scheduled presentations and workshops focused on three major issues – managing woodland resources, dealing with wildland fire, and ancestral foods and knowledge, bringing discussion and direction to those topics. Bryan Rice, the in-coming Director of Interior's Office of Wildland Fire Management, attended throughout the Symposium and was a lead participant in the General Membership open issues meeting, responding to many various questions about Interior's wildfire policies and practices. For BIA Forestry, Dave Koch's informative presentation brought us up to date on the Bureau's activities and plans, and Fred Clark, Director of the USFS Office of Tribal Relations, ably covered Forest Service initiatives. Other noteworthy contributions were made by Quinault President Fawn Sharpe on shaping leadership in Indian Country, and by Quinault Technical Advisor Gary Morishima, who gave a memorable review of ITC's formation and history that also set forth the current and future challenges facing tribes and the ITC.

During the Symposium proceedings, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the ITC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that establishes a working relationship with all that Department's agencies. Signing for USDA was Deputy Under Secretary

for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer, who also participated in a panel presentation on Developing Future Leadership in Indian Country. This was Butch's final Symposium in that official capacity, as he stepped down from that post in mid-May. We wish him the very best for the future, and certainly hope he will continue to join us at our annual gatherings.

In the annual business meeting, Tanana Chiefs of Alaska and San Carlos were elected to the Board, replacing Quinault and White Mountain Apache, whom we thank for their many contributions and service that have been instrumental in propelling the ITC forward. We hope they – and all the timber tribes – will remain engaged in the issues and activities that are shaping Indian forestry. Following the business meeting, the slate of ITC officers was renewed without change. Next year, my Tribe, the Yakama Nation, will host scheduled for May 14 – 18, 2017, followed by Quinault in 2018 and Seminole in Hollywood, Florida in 2019.

We look forward to those Symposiums, and hope that you left San Carlos with old and new acquaintances and friendships, new insights and understandings about tribal forestry, and refreshed enthusiasm for the future of your forest and all of those throughout Indian Country.

For the ITC, we leave the San Carlos Symposium with strengthened dedication to continue our efforts for more equitable treatment of tribes in forest management and fire preparedness and suppression. We plan to build on our new MOU with the Department of Agriculture to identify and improve tribal forestry participation in more programs. With all stakeholder parties, we expect to bring more attention and direction to meeting the workforce and leadership needs of tribal natural resources, and with Congress and the federal agencies we will continue to press for wider recognition of tribal forestry and for our greater engagement with others in the field of forestry and overall natural resources management.

In further regard to expanded engagement of tribal forestry in landscape-based management, I want to note here

that the ITC has principally concluded the Anchor Forest pilot study. The conclusion of the study was announced at the Symposium at San Carlos, and the final report was included in the Symposium packet. Now it is up to the various Anchor Forest Study parties to examine the report's recommendations and determine whether to pursue them. There is one supplemental item to come from the pilot study: a separate report (tentatively titled "Wildfire in Indian Forests – A Trust Crisis") that assesses the resource and economic impact of last summer's wildfires on the tribal forests covered by the study. Because the Anchor Forest pilot study gathered considerable information about the Yakama, Colville and Spokane Tribal forests, when those forests extensively burned last September, there was a significant body of information that could be put to use fairly quickly to examine the economic impact of the fires on the Tribes. We hope to have this study issued next month, in June.

So, thanks again to all of you who attended this year's Symposium at San Carlos and who helped make it a success. We look forward to an active year in tribal forestry and to seeing you again next year at Yakama. 🌲



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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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr., Chair

(Continued from page 1)

Our historian, colleague, and friend, Gary Morishima gave us an eye opening presentation on the last forty years, titled: ITC 40 Year Celebration & Reflection. This was followed by the Host Tribe Presentation by Dee Randall and Duane Chapman. We finished the day with the Host Tribe Welcome Dinner. There were two different meals provided that night- A Traditional San Carlos Apache meal with barbecued wood rat and prickly pear juice or the Americanized version with beef. Very Delicious!

Wednesday, April 6th. San Carlos Apache Tribal Tour visited WUI Prescribe Burn, Woodland Thinning, Timber Sale, and two Resource Benefit Fires. Later, we all made our way back to the facility for the General Membership meeting.

Thursday, April 7th. The day's activities started with the ITC President's Report, then updates from the BIA, Legislative update, and a USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Update. Immediately following the updates, our three ITC Workshop got underway simultaneously: **Woodland Implementation of IFMAT III; Ancestral Foods and Knowledge: Empowering Native Communities, Land Management, and Economics; and Fire Prevention.**

After the workshops concluded, the **Annual Business Meeting** of

the Member Tribes was held. We introduced two new member Tribes to the Board of Directors – San Carlos Apache Tribe and Tanana Chief Conference.

The 2016 **Final Proceedings** will be mailed to the 2016 Symposium participants.

I would like to thank all of our Exhibitors for taking time to bring their company booths to the symposium. Thank you to Blue Source, Center for First Americans Forestlands, D.R. Systems NW, Inc., Dragon Slayers Inc., Ecosystem Management, Inc., Finite Carbon, New Forests, Rainier Seeds, Inc., San Carlos Fire Prevention, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, Southwest Fire Science Consortium, Spatial Informatics Group, Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc., The Nelson Paint Company, Tribal Research & Education in Ecosystems Sciences (TREES), U.S. Forest Service -Pacific Northwest Forest Inventory & Analysis, USDA APHIS, and Yakama Nation. The vendors were in the same location this year, so they were able to enjoy the main symposium presentations.

During the 2016 Symposium, ITC would like to thank our break sponsors: Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes & Yakama Nation (Tuesday Morning), Grand Portage of Lake Superior Chippewa & Hoopa Valley Tribe (Tuesday Afternoon), Tanana

Chiefs Conference (General Members Meeting Wednesday Evening), Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation & Spokane Tribe (Thursday Morning), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs & Quinault Indian Nation (Thursday Afternoon).

There was a record number of 378 attendees, 18 exhibitor booths, 110 pre-symposium participants, and we had representation from all over Indian Country. There were big moves between the USFS and ITC to collaborate on a Memorandum of Agreement to work together to perpetuate Indian Forestry Standard in the future

We will be back in the Northwest in 2017. The Yakama Nation will be our hosts in Topeish, WA, May 15-18, 2017.

The initial planning meeting for the 2017 Symposium will be held this summer at the Grand Portage of Lake Superior Chippewa in Minnesota. Our meeting this September at Yakama Nation will be the site visit and board meeting. Please check the ITC Website periodically at www.itcnet.org for 2017 Symposium information updates

Take Care and God Bless.
Qe'ciyew'yew & Lil'loy

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. 🌲

Awards Committee

by Pete Wakeland, Committee Chair



Pete Wakeland

Victoria Wesley, San Carlos Apache Tribe. You have much to be proud of.

Greetings All, and congratulations to the latest recipients of the Earle Wilcox awards – Christian Nelson, Fond du Lac; Jerry Walhovd, BIA Great Lakes Agency; and

Keep up the good work!

I would like to extend sincere thanks to the San Carlos Apache Tribe for being such wonderful hosts, and providing the setting for another memorable symposium. So well done.

Time is flying by and we're already nearly half way through 2016. This being the case, I encourage you to begin thinking about next year's awards and the people that you know who are deserving of recognition. Think about those people that dedicate themselves and dedicate their time to the better-

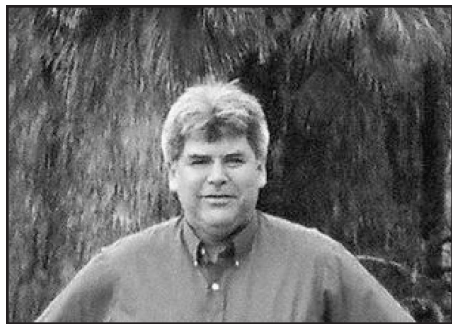
ment of their tribal communities, and the advancement of Tribal resource management. There are many great stewards and champions out there. So, let's see them.

I'll continue to provide reminders and encouragement throughout the remainder of this year, and if there's anything I can do to better facilitate the process, please let me know. I'll be happy to help.

All the best to everyone, and be well. 🌲

Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

Anchor Forest Report Published

The Intertribal Timber Council has completed the Anchor Forest Pilot Project and provided a report that emphasizes Tribal-Federal-State Forest Management Collaboration.

The Anchor Forest Report describes the various tasks towards inter-governmental collaboration between Tribes, the U.S. Forest Service and Washington State Department of Natural Resource forest lands. The participating Tribes in the report include the Yakama Indian Nation and the Colville Tribe in eastern Washington State.

Anchor forests are large, contiguous areas of land with four major characteristics:

1. A reasonable expectation for sustainable wood commodity production as a major management objective; and
2. Production levels sufficient to support economically viable manufacturing, processing, and work force infrastructure within accessible transportation; and
3. Long-term management plans, supported by inventory systems, professional staff, and geographic information systems; and
4. Institutional and operational capacity for implementation.

The report about this pilot project outlines the tasks findings to coordinate the collaboration between multiple governments to sustain a large forest base and their communities with the four major characteristics. The report also provides recommendations to implement an Anchor Forest.

Findings:

AF1. Multi-ownership “all lands, all hands” management of land-

scapes has been rightly championed by USDA Secretary Vilsack as necessary to address forest health, conversion, fragmentation, climate change, and other threats to US forests.

AF2. Federal trust obligations to Indian tribes parallel the broader US environmental responsibilities embodied in common law by the public trust doctrine. As trustee to both Indians and all citizens, the government must protect natural resources and the environment for present and future generations of all Americans.

AF3. Conversion and fragmentation of forestlands threaten the sustainability of American forests. Landscape strategies that fail to address conversion and fragmentation cannot succeed.

AF4. In the face of environmental and economic crises, tribes as sovereign nations with obligated federal protections and a long tradition of stewardship, now feel compelled to pursue stewardship beyond reservation borders.

AF5. Anchor forests bring together stewardship partners, convened by tribes and including federal, state, and private forestland owners, with a shared objective to provide sustainable harvest of timber sufficient to supply local process infrastructure, provide jobs, generate revenues, and support stewardship.

AF6. Anchor forests are based upon understandings that people are part of nature and that people have a responsibility to care for the land.

AF7. Tribes live on the front lines of climate change, are uniquely dependent upon jeopardized resources, and have the vision to recognize change well in advance of climate scientists, yet tribes have only nominally been invited to participate in federal programs that address climate impacts to forested ecosystems. 21 Menominee Chief Oshkosh, 1854.

AF8. Fulfillment of trust responsibility to Indian tribes is a moral and legal obligation that can also be considered as an investment in Anchor Forests. When thinking of stewardship, note that while capability and commitment might be schooled, hired, contracted, or purchased; vision is only available to those with a long history on the land.

Recommendations

AF1. Anchor Forests, such as currently being piloted in Washington, should be supported. In general, new entrepreneurial approaches to collaborative resource management should be bolstered and more widely applied. Innovative tribal forest resource management techniques and people should be considered as co-managers or managers of appropriate portions of the federal forest estate. Federal lands, taken inappropriately from tribes during the allotment period and within reservation boundaries, should be returned to tribal trust status as a part of Anchor Forest stewardship and consolidation.

AF2. Anchor Forests can evolve when applicable federal agencies bring Indian tribes into collaborative programs, such as Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the CFLP, as funded partners, facilitators and acknowledged stewardship leaders. Shared funding and involvement should extend to climate change. Equivalent levels of funding to that of sister agencies within DOI should be provided to BIA.

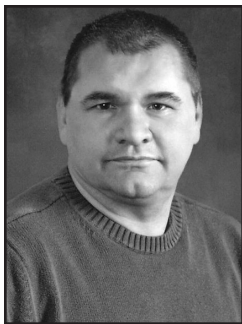
AF3. Non-governmental organizations and federal resource agencies should underwrite costs of tribal purchases of private forestlands through loans, grants and tax incentives such that lands are placed in trust status and perpetually remain in forestry. Shared costs of restoring traditional lands to tribes are cost-effective investments in conservation and bestow deserved rewards for tribal provision of ecosystem services such as clean air and water, wildlife habitats, and viewsheds.

AF4. Stewardship Contracting and TFPA are valuable but underutilized opportunities for tribes to assist fuels removals on federal lands. These contracting authorities should be linked to Anchor Forests, expanded, and extended to support ten-year agreements.

The ITC hopes this report along with the videos will inspire further interest in the story. It includes information concerning two “Anchor Forestry” pilot projects in Washington State, plus a wealth of background information you will not find anywhere else. We are also hosting a website, www.anchorforest.org for your convenience.

Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

Attending the ITC Operations Committee meetings are a great opportunity to get informed on issues affecting Tribal forest management. Please consider attending our next scheduled meetings during the week of June 20th at Grand Portage, Minnesota.

Thank you San Carlos Tribes for hosting a great symposium. I thought the venue was great, the speakers did a fantastic job, and the weather held up, for the most part. I always enjoy traveling to the Southwest area to The Operations Committee last met on February 10th in Alpine, California at the Viejas Casino and Resort. Below is a summary of our discussions:

National Invasive Species Council (NISC)

We had a brief discussion about nominating a tribal representative to the NISC. The NISC was created by EO 13112 in 1999. NISC is co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce. NISC members include the Secretaries of State, Defense, Homeland Security, Treasury, Transportation, Health and Human Services, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), as well as the Administrators of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and U.S. Agency for International Development. NISC provides high-level interdepartmental coordination of federal invasive species actions and works with other federal and non-federal groups to address invasive species issues at the national level.

Tribal Natural Resources Leadership Strategy

The ITC and the BIA have been developing a workforce development plan for some time. Don Motanic presented a fellowship opportunity that



Photo courtesy of Vincent Corrao, taken on Flathear IR.

was done with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indian and ECOTRUST as an example. The ITC will be hosting a workforce development planning session on Tuesday, June 21st, before the Executive Board meetings.

IFMAT III Implementation

Don Motanic developed the IFMAT III Implementation Plan Tracking Table for the 74 task recommendations. This table was available in the symposium packet. The table shows that 37 of the 74 recommendations has some work completed. The recommendations are categorized into workgroups, including: Forest Planning, Inventory and Silviculture, Climate Change, Fire, TFWPA Implementation, Funding, Implementation, and Legislation, Workforce, Woodlands, Anchor Forest, and Forest Products Marketing. More discussion and planning will occur at the next Board meetings.

National Association of State Foresters

Communication continues by holding periodic conference calls.

Fast Fire Impact Study

The ITC requested a brief assessment of the consequences from the

2015 mega fires on tribe's forest and culturally important resources no later than June 2016. The report is needed to try to affect the FY17 appropriations and in meetings with congressional members, and upper level DOI personnel. The study is now complete and available from ITC. 🌲



Photo courtesy of Ron Swaney showing the Melton Fire 2015 on the Flat Heat IR.

Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips

1) CONGRESS SLOWING DOWN

As of this mid-May writing, the Second Session of the current 114th Congress has already been moving pretty slowly, and the schedule ahead, loaded with a Presidential election that includes the party conventions, is even slower for the rest of the year. Both Chambers have week-long recesses for Memorial Day and the 4th of July, both take seven weeks off starting July 18 for the conventions and the August break, the House is out all October and the first two weeks of November for elections, and the Senate is out three weeks in October and the first two weeks of November for the same reason. Both are out the fourth week of November for Thanksgiving, and their target adjournment date is December 16. Whew! Out of the seven months remaining in 2016, that leaves about 13 weeks of legislative time for the House (which operates on a 4 day work week) and about 14 weeks for the Senate. Basically, only June, September and the end of November/first two weeks in December are available to try to get anything done. Additionally, partisan gridlock is bringing Congress to a halt, particularly in the Senate where the rules (filibusters, motions to proceed, etc.) can require weeks of procedural maneuvering to get a bill into active consideration on the floor.

2) ITC TESTIFIES on FY 2017 APPROPRIATIONS

On March 17, ITC President Phil Rigdon testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies on FY 2017 appropriations issues for the BIA, the Office of Wildland Fire Management, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Regarding BIA Natural Resources programs, the Administration's FY 2017 appropriation proposal, sent to Capitol Hill in February, requests a \$24 million increase among nine Trust

and Natural Resources programs to improve tribal climate resilience. Some programs are proposed with increases of 50%. Forestry, however, is requested with nothing more than a cost-of-living adjustment (+\$241,000). That makes no sense. If Interior really wants to improve tribal climate resilience, Forestry covers one third of all trust land and supports a wide array of environmental, cultural, and economic functions. This omission of Forestry from the FY '17 climate resilience initiative is not BIA's doing. Rather, it likely comes from further up the chain of command, perhaps in the Department's budget office or even over in OMB.

The FY '17 BIA Forestry Projects request (below) does, however, seek to maintain the \$4 million FY '16 increase for thinning (+\$2 million) and post-fire rehab (+\$2 million).

Amounts in \$ thousands for selected examples of BIA Natural Resources programs

	FY 2015 final approp.	FY 2016 final approp.	FY 2017 Admin. request
BIA Forestry (TPA)	27,526	27,643	27,852 (+209)
BIA Forestry Projects	20,209	24,271 (+4,062)	24,303 (+32)
BIA Endangered Species	2,675	2,684	3,685 (+1,001)
BIA Climate Resilience	9,948	9,955	13,056 (+3,101)
BIA Tribal Mgt. & Dev.	9,344	9,263	14,266 (+5,003)
All BIA Trust-Nat Res.	184,852	191,846	215,597 (+23,751)

Amounts in \$ thousands

	FY 2015 final approp.	FY 2016 final approp.	FY2017 Admin. request
DoI Office of Wildland Fire Mgmt. (OWFM)			
Fire Preparedness	318,970	323,685	332,784
Fire Suppression	291,657	291,673	276,291
Fuels Management	164,000	170,000	149,000
Resilient Landscape	[10,000 in Fuels]	[10,000 in Fuels]	30,000
Burned Area Rehab	18,035	18,970	20,470

The ITC's FY 2017 House Interior appropriations testimony urged a \$25 million increase for Forestry, and an additional \$12.5 million for workforce development, both to initiate IFMAT funding recommendations. For the Office of Wildland Fire, ITC requested \$12.6 million for continued burned area rehabilitation for last summer's fires, and also asked that trust forest fire suppression be examined as a second federal suppression priority, behind only the protection of life. The ITC submitted the same testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

How these and other requests fare for FY '17 remains to be seen. As of this writing in mid-May, the House Approps Interior Subcommittee has yet to mark-up its FY 2017 bill.

In recent years, the Subcommittee's mark-ups have often been delayed into June trying to resolve often sharp disagreements over funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. It is not uncommon for the Senate Appropriations Interior Subcommittee to release its version of the legislation in September.



Matt Hill

3) TRIBAL FORESTRY LEGISLATION REVIVING

As you may recollect, legislation to 1) speed up the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) project process, 2) allow tribal management of nearby Federal forests, and 3) allow PL 93-638 contracts for the tribal conduct of USFS and BLM TFPA projects passed the House last July 8 as Title VII of H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015. Upon being sent to the Senate, that bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee, where interest in forestry is low and the bill is dying on the vine.

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Interest in the three tribal forestry provisions, however, remains strong, and other bills are being considered that revive them.

In the House, the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing April 28 on a draft bill, the Locally-Elected Officials Cooperating with Agencies in Land Management Act (or LOCAL Management draft bill), that seeks to foster more cooperation and collaboration between local governments and the Forest Service and BLM, and which includes a Title III with the three tribal provisions taken virtually verbatim from the Resilient Federal Forests Act.

The Forest Service and BLM both testified at the April 28 hearing on the LOCAL Management draft bill, including comments on the tribal provisions. The Forest Service said the draft bill's two year deadline to complete EAs and EISs for TFPA projects (Sec. 301) is too short, that applying PL 93-638 to Forest Service TFPA projects (Sec. 303) is not needed because the Ag Secretary already has authority to carry out TFPA projects, and that the Forest Service generally supports authority for tribes to manage neighboring National Forests under NIFRMA (Sec. 302), but wants to work out technical details with the Committee staff. The BLM objected to the provisions to speed up TFPA project consideration as unnecessary, because BLM said it has no backlog of TFPA projects.

The ITC submitted testimony for the hearing record that generally supports the LOCAL Management bill and particularly supports the tribal provisions, responds to Forest Service and BLM comments on those provisions, and also asks that tribal governments be added to the draft bill's other provisions applying to local governments.

As of this writing, the Committee staff has not had an opportunity to revise the draft bill, but another draft could be released or perhaps a regular bill introduced before the House starts its seven week long recess on July 18.

In the Senate, Senator Steve Daines (R, Mont.) has also been developing a

tribal forestry bill that is based on the three provisions in the Resilient Federal Forests bill, but is seeking to refine them. As of this writing, the bill is expected to be introduced within the next couple of weeks, and is expected to be referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, where Senator Daines is a Committee Member. It is hoped that the Indian Affairs Committee will schedule a hearing this summer on Daines' bill and tribal forestry and fire issues.

4) SENATE PASSES ENERGY BILL with TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

On Wednesday, April 20, the full Senate passed S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, which was amended to include all the provisions of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments (S. 209) as Title VI, including the tribal biomass demonstration project (Section 6202) to require the Forest Service and/or BLM implement at least four tribal biomass projects on USFS or BLM land in each of the next five years (FYs 2017-2021). The section also includes a separate biomass demonstration program for Alaska Native organizations. The Senate had previously passed the Indian energy bill unanimously on December 10, 2015 as a separate, free-standing bill, but attached it to the larger national energy bill as a vehicle that has a chance of moving it into law.

In another provision, S. 2012 affirms the carbon neutrality of forest biomass activities and directs the Departments of Energy and Agriculture and the EPA to ensure that federal forest biomass policies are consistent and simple (Section 3017).

S. 2012 also includes provisions (Title X) to improve sportsmen's hunting and fishing access to federal public lands.

S. 2012 passed the Senate (796 pages) easily on a bipartisan vote of 85 to 12 after having been on the Senate floor for months. The Indian energy act was added to the bill as part of a large manager's amendment (S. Amndt. 2593) adopted April 19. The Indian energy act was added to the manager's amendment January 28, 2016 on a voice vote adoption of an amendment sponsored by

Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman John Barrasso (S. Amndt. 3029).

Upon passage, S. 2012 was transmitted to the House, which will substitute the text of its energy bill (H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act) and call for a conference with the Senate to resolve differences. Although H.R. 8 did not include any of the provisions of the House-passed version of the Indian energy bill (H.R. 538), conference discussions on the Indian energy title of S. 2012 are expected to involve the provisions of H.R. 538. The White House threatened to veto H.R. 8 and expressed objections to H.R. 538, but if those difficulties can be successfully addressed in conference, S. 2012, with the tribal biomass demonstration program, has a fair chance of getting signed into law.

5) TRUST REFORM PASSES HOUSE, IS REPORTED IN THE SENATE.

The House and Senate have advanced bills to allow tribes to voluntarily submit plans to the Interior Department specifying how the tribe's trust assets are to be managed. In both bills, a tribe's trust asset management plan must comport with applicable laws and treaties and requires approval by the Secretary. The House version of the Trust Asset Reform Act (H.R. 812, H. Rpt. 114-432) by Rep. Mike Simpson (R, Idaho) passed the House by voice vote February 24, 2016, and upon being transmitted to the Senate, was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. That committee had already approved and reported its Senate version of the legislation (S. 383, Sen. Rpt. 114-207, by Sen. Mike Crapo (R, Idaho) on February 8, 2016. That bill is currently awaiting consideration on the Senate floor. Both bills specifically allow a tribal trust asset plan that provides for the tribe's own adoption (without Secretarial approval) of a forest management plan if the Secretary has signed-off on tribal forest management regulations that are "consistent with" DoI NIFRMA regulations and that also provide for tribal environmental reviews that include public notification, comment

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Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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and tribal response. The bills also specifically waive any federal trust liability for actions pursuant to such a tribally-adopted forest management plan.

6) FIRE FUNDING/FOREST MANAGEMENT REFORM.

In the Senate, Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA), respectively the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, are feverishly working to produce a bipartisan bill that addresses the fire spending/borrowing issue as well as some forest management reform. Last December, a deal between the Senators melted down at the last minute. A hearing on the yet-to-be-completed legislation was cancelled as both sides continue to work out a deal. While no bill draft has been publicly released, it may contain elements of H.R.2647 (the House-passed Resilient Federal Forests Act by Rep. Westerman) or new concepts developed by the Senators.

Meanwhile, the Administration continues to draw attention to the issue of fire funding. This week the Secretary of Agriculture and Chief of the U.S. Forest Service met with Regional Foresters to discuss the upcoming fire season. For the first time in its 111-year history, over

half of the Forest Service's 2015 budget was designated to fight wildfires, compared to just 16 percent in 1995. 2015 was the most expensive fire season in the department's history, costing more than \$2.6 billion on fire alone.

It is possible for the Daines bill (see item 3), last paragraph) to merge into a potential Murkowski-Cantwell bill as an Indian forestry title.

7) OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

A) Self-Governance amendments: S. 286 (S. Rpt. 114-60) by Sen. Barrasso (R-WY), to streamline BIA Self-Governance to be more like Self-Governance at IHS. It passed the Senate July 7, 2015. As of May 17, 2016, there has been no hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee, and no House counterpart bill has been introduced. The lack of House interest dims the bill's prospects for passage.

B) Tribal Labor Sovereignty: H.R. 511 (H. Rpt. 114-260) by Rep. Rokita (R-IN), to exempt tribes from the National Labor Relations Act. H.R. 511 passed the House November 18, 2015 over Administration objections. ITC issued a letter of support for H.R. 511. As of May 17, 2016, the Senate counterpart bill (S. 248, S. Rpt. 114-140) is pending Senate floor action, but objections will likely prevent its getting

brought up, killing the bill.

C) Interior Improvement Act (*Carcieri* override): S. 1879 by Sen. Barrasso, to reaffirm IRA tribal recognition and land-into-trust transactions. It sets existing land-into-trust regulations into law and encourages tribal-state cooperation on land into trust. Approved by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee December 2, 2015, it still has not yet been reported. In the House, there are two bills limited to a "clean" Carcieri fix without addressing tribal-state cooperation, but no hearing has been held. Resistance from some states has prevented these bills from moving forward.

D) Tall wood buildings: S. 2892, introduced April 28, 2016 by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D,MI), seeks to spur use of cross-laminated timber in taller wood buildings by incentivizing investment through the National Forest Products Lab and American colleges and universities to conduct research and development on new methods for the construction of tall wood buildings. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, where Stabenow is the senior Democrat, and has bipartisan cosponsorship. No hearing has been held on the bill and, given the Ag Committee's focus on farm issues and the bill's late start in a very slow Congress, its prospects are not good. 🌲

Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

was accommodating and helpful! I'd also like to thank all of you for opening your checkbooks and helping our deserving tribal students majoring in

I'd like to start by congratulating the San Carlos Apache Tribe for an excellent job as hosts of the symposium in Arizona. The amenities were excellent, and everyone I met

their respective natural resources disciplines.

The amount of scholarships awarded is limited only by the amount of funds that we collectively raise and not by the number of deserving applicants.

Back in 1988 the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) offered a \$500 scholarship to Shawn Hayes from Alaska who was majoring in a natural resource program. Twenty-seven years later the ITC has now funded over **\$814,500** in scholarships to Native Americans majoring in a Natural Resource field in the name and spirit of Truman Picard. The number of individuals that have

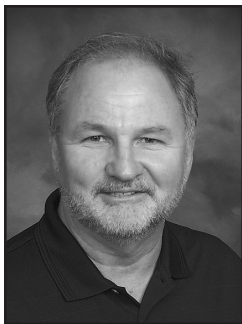
received scholarships: **426** (There have been several repeat recipients).

This year, the ITC funded **29** Scholarships in the high school, college undergrad and college graduate levels (one additional scholarship awarded as compared to last year). The scholarship review team selected 2-high school seniors, 5-College Graduate Students and 22-College Undergraduate students. We received a total of 34 complete applications packages this year and we were able to fund 85% of those applications.

(Continued on page 10)

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



James R. Erickson

The Natural Role of Wildland Fire

This year the 40th Annual Intertribal Timber Symposium theme was ***“Strengthening Traditional Connections to the Land: The Future of Forest Management”***, the perfect statement or perhaps question for each of us to consider. What is the future of forest management for Tribes? While there are many similarities throughout Indian country, there are just as many unique customs and management practices as there are diverse Tribes and ecosystems. The San Carlos Apache Tribe was both a gracious host and a fine teacher in showing us how they lived with and managed wildland fire to meet tribal objectives while maintaining a healthy, resilient landscapes both on and off the reservation. This traditional land ethic was inspiring to all who attended the symposium and field trip. Dee Randle and all his staff deserve special thanks for providing such a wonderful experience.

The thing I like best about each and every symposium is the aha moments when I learn something new or hear someone provide the background and justification for ideas and truths that form the basis for of my personal philosophies. This year was extra special with so many talented presenters. This year started off with a bang during the Monday *Wildland Fire Update* workshop. Mark Finney, USDA Forest Service – Missoula Fire Laboratory, keynote presentation “Tradeoffs Among Wildland Fire Investments – Avoiding Costs and Damages of Wildfires” was my favorite presentation of the week. In it he highlighted that we do have a choice on how we deal with fire, especially the larger, more frequent, more damaging and more costly wildfires that we have seen in the past ten years. *Fire is inevitable*; it has always been here and will always be with us. How we decide to deal with fire is a choice that each of us must make. We

can manage fire or let it us manage it.

Finney pointed out that historic records and research shows that all fires will go out on their own accord and that 80% of fires will go out before they reach 300 acres (large fire threshold). So much of the billions of dollars we spend to suppress most fires may be wasted investments that divert funding and resources away from proactive fire and land management treatments. For all our past efforts we have only increased initial attack suppression success by some 15-18%. Still in spite of our efforts, the few fires (2-4%) that become large mega-fires account for the majority of acres burned and suppression costs incurred. Many of the acres burned by these fires are within acceptable limits and do resemble historic fire regimes that occurred prior to the suppression mentality of the past 100 years. However many other acres burn much more intensely and cause unacceptable and unwanted resource damage to precious resources like soil and water. What can we do to avoid these situations?

The key take home of Finney’s presentation is that we as *land managers have many more options that might be more cost effective and affective in restoring resilient landscapes making fire a friend and not a foe*. Much of the resource damage we are experiencing may be avoided.

To move in a direction where we become more proactive in resource management decisions will take a tremendous paradigm shift for resource and fire managers. Shaking off the tendency to avoid all the risks associated with managing wildland fire will be a major challenge for many managers. The suppression culture that many of us grew up with will need to change for the next generation. Thankfully, Dee Randle shared his traditions and teachings on how they manage and live with wildland fire. The examples he shared provide ideas for others to begin to form their own unique strategies. San Carlos is able to manage fuel loadings and species succession in restoring their local ecosystems and landscapes.

BIA NIFC and ITC are working with the San Carlos Apache Tribe to

develop mentoring opportunities to shadow San Carlos whenever they conduct managed wildfires and prescribe burns. Indian country can make tremendous strides by the rejuvenation of traditional customs and strategies for working and living with wildland fire to meet tribal objectives and reduce the risk of wildland fires.

Unfortunately, ecosystems will burn and bad things can happen in Indian country. Just look back to the OSO fire of 1998, the Cerro Grande fire of 2000, the Rodeo-Chediski fire of 2003, the Las Conchas fire of 2011, and the Northwest fires of 2015 as stark reminders that Indian Country is not immune from resource damaging mega-fires. Last summer I witnessed two wildland fires here on the Colville reservation that were each 8-10 times larger than the largest recorded fire in reservation history. This can happen to you too.

On the other hand, I am encouraged when I see Tribes like the San Carlos Apache, White Mountain Apache, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Karuk Tribe return to their traditions of managing and working with wildland fire to restore and maintain healthy, resilient reservation landscapes. I encourage other Tribes to consider these strategies as revise their land management plans.

Bob Hetzler’s presentation “Soil: The Real Apache Gold” brought home a strong message for me about how critical our soils are to sustaining life on our planet. Soil is a critical element that stores water and supports plants, animals and creatures large and small. Without healthy soils kingdoms have fallen. Nations that lose their soil are imperiled with the reduced ability for watersheds to store life-sustaining water. Less water equates to a reduced ability for watersheds to sustain life. Something must be sacrificed in areas of soil loss. We are all challenged to protect both soil and water for future generations. Our children and grandchildren depend on us.

The general session of the symposium was highlighted by the panel on *Developing Future Leadership in Indian Country* with Roylene Rides-At-The-Door, NRCS Washington State Conservationist; Fawn Sharp President,

(Continued on page 10)

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson


(Continued from page 9)

Quinault Indian Nation; and Butch Blazer, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Each tribal leader shared their experience and wisdom on what it takes to be a leader in Indian country. Each individual talked about his or her experiences, challenges and decision points that guided their career development and brought them to their current position of leadership. I encourage you to watch these presentations once the streaming videos are available. Future tribal leaders can truly benefit from this shared wisdom. This panel also complements the tremendous challenge of an aging forestry and fire work force facing Indian country. The challenge we all face is the need to retain the quality employees currently working in Indian country, recruit the next generation(s) of resource specialists, and provide the necessary traditional and modern education to provide the necessary skills to manage in a world of constant change. Everyone needs to do his or her part to make this happen.

The San Carlos regional presentation tour brought home the symposium theme by demonstrating how San Carlos manages their lands. Dee Randle said it best in his description "There is in essence one natural resource: The Natural World. We often think of it as separate parts based upon the different ways we use the resource, and the different types of expertise that are required to manage this resource. The health and quality of the natural world hinges on the balance of ecological, geological, hydrological, human, and other processes. San Carlos Forest resource programs strive to use this knowledge to guide management of the natural resources." This describes what was witnessed during the tour of the woodlands and forests. Witnessing how commercial timber harvests, fuel treatments, juniper eradication, prescribe fire, and managing wildland fires to achieve resource benefits helps the San Carlos Tribe to transition their lands to more healthy, resilient landscapes for future generations. The sharing of this knowledge provides other

Tribes a model in how to balance the "Natural World".

This philosophy of managing fires instead of having them force our hands through suppression and rehabilitation seems to be providing much more desirable results that compliment San Carlos management objectives. How might your Tribe incorporate fire management to achieve your objectives?

The final highlight of the symposium was the workshop "Woodland Implementation of IFMAT III". I especially enjoyed Anthony Belvado's presentation on the cultural importance of woodlands. Understanding how important woodlands are to Tribes helps bring me a better perspective on the need for greater attention being placed on these important ecosystems. Funding for woodlands management has long been a concern for Tribes where woodlands make up a large amount of their land base and provide important values and resources. The IFMAT III report pointed out the need for greater federal funding of woodlands management. 

Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman

(Continued from page 8)

There are several ways in which you can contribute towards the Truman D. Picard Memorial Scholarship: 1) Symposium Raffle Ticket sales; 2) Exhibit Table fees; 3) Registration Packet inserts; 4) Participation in pre-symposium workshops; and 5) Monetary donations. Monies received from these four items will be utilized for scholarships next year.

This year raffle ticket sales at the symposium totaled \$12,486.00. Thank you for your generous donations of raffle items and purchase of raffle tickets! This is the highest raffle ticket total raised since I took over as the Education Committee Chairman. Three of the local ticket sellers each eclipsed \$1000 in individual ticket sales. The San Carlos Tribe generously donated the proceeds from the


Sunday golf tournament in the amount of \$1,580.25.

I wear a couple of different hats during the symposium and throughout the year and the success of the Symposium Raffle, Education Committee and Scholarship Selection would not be possible without the tireless efforts of several individuals. I am very thankful for all the help I receive throughout the year and would like to thank the following individuals:

Laura Alvidrez	Shelia Danzuka
Monica Rushworth	Don Motanic
Clarisse Belknap	Tashina Duncan
Beedonna Cracium	Makala Harvey
Tony Incashola	Marie Rustin
Howard Teasley	Cassie Moses
KC Randall	Christine Thompson
San Carlos	Theron Johnson
Fire Use Crew	Stacie Holmes

Geronimo Hotshots	San Carlos
Victoria Wesley	Forestry Staff
Vernon Stearns, Jr.	Talya Holliday
Kelly Hetzler	Christy Begay
Adrian Leighton	Darin Jarnagham

Several of these individuals are members of the Education Committee, but they also graded scholarships, helped log in raffle items, label and organize items, sell tickets, draw winning tickets, award raffle items, etc. This help is much appreciated since it is a lot of work, and some of it was taking place while I was in different meetings. Thank you to all that lent a helping hand!

Again, Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship winners and we look forward to seeing you all next year when we converge on the Yakama Nation. 

Research Sub-Committee

by Laurel James



Laurel James

Greetings! We hope you enjoyed the symposium this year and spent some time engaging in discussion with all of our scholars!

We experienced a very low number of poster presenters this year and that may be a reflection of the earlier than usual conference dates and the remote location. Nonetheless, we took every opportunity to engage tribal scholars at this symposium as we seek to recruit, retain and promote the development of a new generation of natural resource tribal leaders. If you were not able to attend the symposium this year, here is a summary of our student engagement.

Crystal Tulley-Cordova, Cody Sifford and Victoria Walsey, three graduate students featured in the ITC Timber Notes, Spring 2016 Newsletter and funded by our ITC-US Forest Service funding agreement; presented their individual research during the scholars luncheon, held on the opening day of the Symposium.

Northern Arizona University was well represented at the symposium with a poster presentation by Jamie Yazzie,



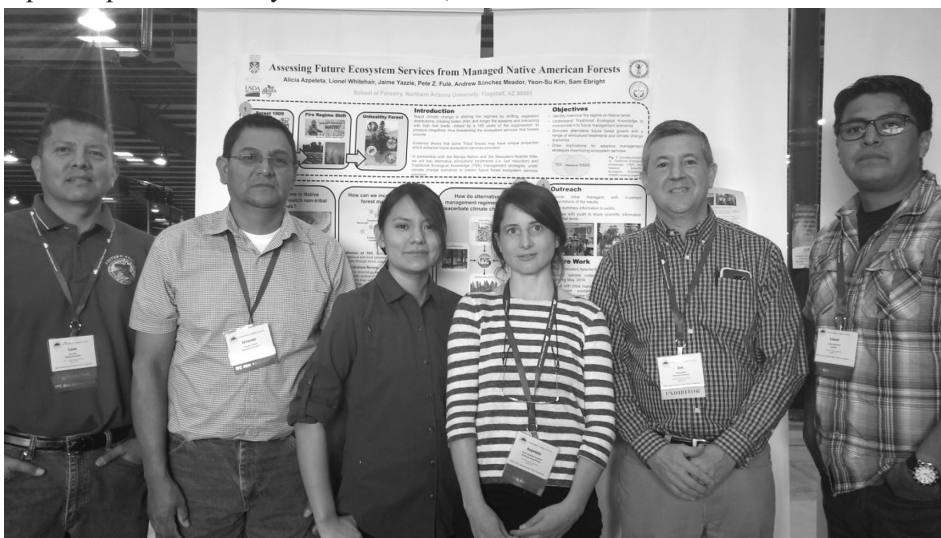
Left to right: Kaylee Kaska, Breanna Brown, Celesta Cassa, and Tamara Dillon.

Alicia Azpeleta and Lionel Whitehair. Their proposed research entitled "Assessing future ecosystem services from managed native American forests", is research that will be completed in partnership with the Navajo Nation and the Mescalero Apache tribe, to test alternative silvicultural treatments (i.e., fuel reduction) and Traditional Ecological Knowledge management strategies, under climate change scenarios to predict future forest management ecosystem services." NAU alumni were also in attendance and showed their support to these NAU scholars.

At the symposium, the ITC community had the pleasure of hearing from a group of local students from San Carlos High School. They stat-

ed that during the summer of 2016, they attended a youth practicum and learned about fire ecology and fire management. This experience fueled their desire to learn about science, forestry, soil and range management and led to their poster and the formation of a natural resources group. This group is not based upon any class or current club, they simply described themselves as "tribal students that are concerned about their land". Wow, great testimony from these young San Carlos Apache Scholars and we hope they keep at it!

Joining the ITC community for their first time, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe was represented by two tribal members/tribal scholars that are currently employed as Agro-forestry Technicians with Hancock Forest Management. Janae Joseph and Virginia Marquez made the most of their symposium experience by discussing their current educational paths and career plans (soil science and environmental policy) with professional members of our scientific community. As detailed in his symposium presentation, Bob Hetzler is one of the few remaining BIA soil scientists, in the nation and we are thankful for the time that he took, to mentor the inspiring soil scientist from Muckleshoot. Mark Corrao, with a background in soil physics and environmental policy, via his Interdisciplinary PhD, also

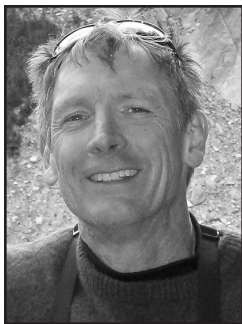


Left to right: Leon Ben, JR (BIA Regional Forester, Western Regional Office), Orlando Carroll (NAU Alumni), Jaimie Yazzie, Alicia Azpeleta, Jim Allen (Dean of Forestry - NAU) and Lionel Whitehair.

(Continued on page 16)

BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester



Dave Koch

Branch of Forest Resources Planning

Forest Inventory:

Continuous Forest Inventory projects (CFI) provide the bulk of the time and effort for BOFRP staff who work with tribes and Regions. CFI's re measure permanent plots on tribal lands every 10-20 years depending on the amount of commercial timber management. Funding is provided through Forest Management Inventory & Planning funding requests made by the regions for non-recurring funds. The following is a list of ongoing and future forest inventories:

Current CFI's Re-measurements, data verification and data analysis

1. Tanana Chiefs Conference Native Allotment - Additional plots (approximately 20) will be installed this summer
2. Mississippi Choctaw - In progress - approximately 162 plots completed
3. Mole Lake - Midwest Region handling - no BOFRP work
4. Menominee - Field crew training begins in June, plot measurement begins in July
5. Spirit Lake Reservation - finished
6. Flandreau Santee - finished
7. Red Lake - Midwest Region handling - no BOFRP work
8. Grand Portage - Midwest Region handling - no BOFRP work
9. Forest County Potawatomi - Midwest Region handling - no BOFRP work
10. Bad River - data into Region - Midwest Region handling - no BOFRP work
11. Lac Courte Oreilles - Midwest Region handling - no BOFRP work
12. Ahtna
13. Fort Hall
14. Fort Peck
15. Colville
16. Makah
17. Yakama
18. Northern Cheyenne

19. Southern Ute Timber and Woodland
20. Fort Apache
21. Hoopa Valley
22. Laguna CFI
23. Zia CFI
24. Zuni Woodland
25. Jicarilla Timber and woodland
26. Isleta CFI
27. Santa Clara Timber and woodland
28. Navajo - (Analysis)
29. Mescalero - (Analysis)
30. Hualapai - (Analysis)
31. Hopi CFI - (Analysis)

Future CFIs 2016 Database, field manual and planning

1. Tule River CFI
2. Taos Timber and Woodland
3. U&O CFI -
4. Mescalero Woodland CFI
5. Acoma timber and woodland
6. Fort Berthold - new CFI installation, field work begins May 21

Stocking Studies

1. Acoma - data collection
2. Jicarilla - data collection
3. Southern Ute - data collection
4. Zuni - data collection
5. Annette Islands
6. Santa Clara - has request in for start-up in December 2016
7. Yakama - Stocking Study Yakama
8. Tulalip
9. Coeur d' Alene

BOFRP Staffing Changes

Paula Shattuck accepted a position at the Lakewood office and will report February 10. Paula has 5 years' of experience at Midwest as the Forest Development Forester. She started as a Pathways student in 1999 at Northern Arizona University. Following graduation she worked for the Southern Pueblo Agency in the Southwest Region as an Agency Forester and was delegated duties as Acting Supervisory Forester. She will be assisting the three Service Center Inventory Foresters and will bring her experience as an FD Forester to BOFRP and Central office.

The Forest Biometrician position advertisement closed on May 16. The Branch is working on creating a third GS 5/7/9 Forester position for converting a graduate from the TREES Pathways program.

Forest Information Reporting Statistics & Tracking Application

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

Work has begun on a new Forest Inventory database which will consolidate 119 separate continuous forest inventory data sets. Eventually, the database will incorporate stand examination data.

National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP):

The fourth module of Class 9 of the NASP finished in April at the University of Tennessee. Congratulations to Taurus Diaz, Southwest Regional Office; Richie Gardner, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and Remington Daniels, Colville Tribes for successfully completing all four modules of this intensive advanced silviculture program! Their next step will be to complete a formal prescription (Rx) utilizing, among other things, growth and yield modelling to demonstrate their ability to analyze alternative treatments to best meet tribal goals; and to defend their Rx and understanding of silviculturally sound treatments to a BIA/Tribal certification panel.

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

The next opportunity to apply will be in September 2016. The application

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BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

(Continued from page 12)

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

Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

The Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management is providing assistance to the Department of the Interior, Office of Appraisal Services to determine commercial timber values for candidate Land Buy Back tracts. Coordination for this effort is handled by the Branch of Forest Resources Planning.

Inquiries regarding the Land Buy Back timber appraisal process should be directed to Michael Benedict, Chief, Branch of Forest Resources Planning, michael.benedict@bia.gov, (720) 484-3206 or Bill Yemma, Forester william.yemma@bia.gov (720-484-3202).

Branch of Wildland Fire Management

San Carlos Apache Tribe Receives 2016 "Incident of the Year" Award

The Southwest Fire Science Consortium awarded the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the BIA San Carlos Agency with the 2016 Incident of the Year Award for their proactive management of the Whitetail and Sawmill Fires. During the 2015 season, the Tribe managed the Whitetail and Sawmill wildfires to improve forest health and protect tribal assets. Management decisions were based on science and the desire to create long-term forest and woodland health and resilience to destructive agents.

A lightning strike ignited the Whitetail Fire June 15, 2015 in ponderosa pine forest. Using three previous fire burn scars and one prescribed burn area as containment features, managers were able to herd the fire in a manner which met prescribed objectives. The 33,600 acre prescribed fire, named Hilltop Bravo, was one of the Tribe's first prescribed fires within pine and

woodland stands and led to a healthier, more defensible fuels condition. Two days after the Whitetail fire began the 5,600 acre Sawmill Fire was sparked by lightning and burned through woodland forest and other vegetation, ultimately losing energy as it worked its way into another prescribed burn.

The San Carlos tribe is able to accomplish resource benefit fire due to the remoteness of much of the Reservation and the forest's proximity to tribal infrastructure and housing.

In addition, much of the success is largely the result of Tribal support, common beliefs, and educational outreach. At the heart of the decision to allow fire to take a more natural role is a respect for the natural world rooted in a tradition of environmental stewardship. From these common beliefs, the San Carlos Tribe is accomplishing their forest and fire management goals.

Congratulations to San Carlos for their award and on job well done!



Wildland Fire Use on the San Carlos Reservation

Four Wildland Fire First Aid Training Courses Completed in 2016

Four Bureau of Indian Affairs Wilderness First Responder training courses were held this year at Standing Rock Agency, Southern Ute Agency, Mescalero Agency and Warm Springs Agency. In total, 90 firefighters from Indian Country's Interagency Hotshot Crews, Aviation and engine programs attended training.

This Wilderness First Responder Training provides Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal employees the instruction to perform skills, procedures, and administer medication for injury or sudden illness in remote locations. While initially developed to increase

and improve the initial care response of wildland fire crews; this training benefits any BIA or Tribal employees that work in remote locations with limited equipment, extreme weather, and/or rugged terrain.



Firefighters practice dressing field wounds using first aid techniques during the BIA Wildland Fire First Aid Project Training, February, 2016

This training uses a Wilderness Medicine Curriculum Model developed for non-medical professionals for whom first aid delivery is a secondary responsibility. It is focused on logistical transport, prolonged patient care, extreme environmental conditions, improvised equipment, and interfacing with local EMS responders.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is not always available in isolated locations; many areas are inaccessible to ambulance ground transportation. It is not the intent of this training to replace state licensed EMS providers; rather it is to provide immediate emergency first aid and ensure the person is safely transported to definitive care.

This well presented and interactive class provides wildland firefighters and other resource staff with the tools to make a life-saving difference. If interested in hosting this outstanding training in the future, or want to learn more about it, contact Michelle Moore, Fire Program Specialist, at mmoore@blm.gov or call 208-387-5811. You can also learn more at: <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/safety/firstresponder/index.htm>

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FIRST AID PROJECT
WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER



(Continued on page 14)

BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

(Continued from page 13)

New App to Assist Firefighters - Fire Weather Calculator

The University of Montana released a smart phone app for IOS and Android phones called “Fire Weather Calculator.” The App records field weather observations, calculates relative humidity from wet and dry bulb readings, probability of ignition, and fine dead fuel moisture estimates. It also captures location with phone GPS, and allows users to take a photo and store it with the weather observation data. All this can be shared via email, including data files for spreadsheets and Google Earth.

iPhone App: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fire-weather-calculator/id1019236631?mt=8>
Android App: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nafundi.nclfa.fdfm>

Secretary of Interior Recognizes Dave Underwood, Inter-Regional Aviation Manager with Outstanding Contribution to Aviation Safety Award

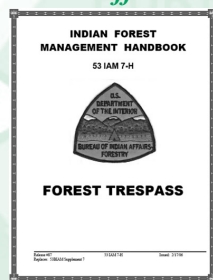
At the BIA’s 2016 National Forestry and Wildland Fire Conference, Dave Underwood, BIA Inter-Regional Aviation Manager, was presented with a Department of the Interior Secretary’s Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aviation Safety.

Working with four other wildland fire aviation experts, the group Underwood was a member of created the DOI Operational Procedures Memorandum (OPM-6), which clarifies the minimum elements for all Department Project Aviation Safety Plans. By standardizing these elements, the team remedied the Interior’s Aviation Programs’ top deficiency - the lack of

project planning and approved unit aviation management plans.

The standards developed will now be a part of every National Aviation Management Plan and Project Aviation Safety Plan. The intent of standardization is to reduce aviation accidents and improve the safety of aviation operations. The group’s contribution will have positive, long lasting impact extending throughout the interagency wildland fire aviation program. Dave is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He has over 36 seasons working for Indian Country Fire Management.

Prevention Program Inches Forward with Developing Prevention Program Analysis and Planning Software & Completes Trespass Policy for the Indian Affairs Manual



is outdated and not compatible with new operating systems. A completion date has not been set yet, but a prototype to test it is expected by the end of December.

Both the Prevention and Fire Investigation Handbooks are undergoing revisions. They should be complete by December. The 53 Indian Affairs Manual Chapter 7, Forest Trespass, was revised and approved. It is available online at: <http://www.bia.gov/WhatWeDo/Knowledge/Directives/Handbooks/index.htm>

Branch of Wildland Fire Management to Host First Annual Student Internship Orientation and Training for new BIA Pathways Students



FOR STUDENTS & RECENT GRADUATES
TO FEDERAL CAREERS

The Branch of Wildland Fire Management will be hosting its first

annual Student Intern Orientation and Training June 7 and 8th. Twenty-three students studying Forestry, Wildfire and Range Management from across Indian Country will come to the National Interagency Fire Center to kick off their student internships under the Bureau of Indian Affairs Pathways, Student Internship Program.

This orientation provides a forum for students to meet each other and begin building relationships they can use throughout their careers. During the student’s two-day orientation, they will meet the Acting BIA Division Chief Dave Koch, Branch Chief Aaron Baldwin, and other fire management experts at NIFC. In addition, students will meet Rachel Smith and Craig Cook, who will provide detail into the training requirements students will need to fulfill during their internship.

Students will receive basic training on how to submit their time and attendance; process travel requests, authorizations and vouchers; and how to use government charge cards. Finally, Students will receive a tour of the National Interagency Fire Center to gain a preliminary understanding of the dispatching system and the resources mobilized through the National system.

The BIA Pathways Student Internship Program provides American Indian and Alaska Native students paid opportunities to explore careers in the BIA while they seek degrees in professional, critical, hard-to-fill occupations within social services, scientific, technical, engineering, mathematics and natural resource disciplines. Learn more about the program at <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/iayouth/index.htm>

Fuels Management Program Working to Minimize Budget “Carryover”

Of the \$170 million fuels budget appropriated to the Department of the Interior this fiscal year, the BIA received \$43.3 million. Approximately \$29.26 million will fund fuels projects and \$4 million will pay for Tribal Support Costs. An additional \$10 million will fund Reserved Treaty Rights Land projects. The fuels program had

(Continued on page 15)



Bryan Rice (left) presents Dave Underwood (right) with the Secretary of the Interior's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aviation Safety, Feb. 2016

BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

(Continued from page 14)

\$1.3M in carryover from last year, something that the BIA is attempting to avoid.



Firefighters feed tree limbs into a machine to chip and mulch the material

In FY 2016, the Fuels Management Program is working with regions to have 99.5% of all funding obligated to minimize the carryover problem.

Regions that reach this goal may have access to more project funding in FY 2017.

It is the hope that all tribes and agencies use current fiscal year allocations completely within the year that they are appropriated.

33 Projects Funded Under Reserved Treaty Rights Lands

Under the Reserved Treaty Rights Lands budget fiscal year 2015 allocation, 33 projects were either funded or partially funded this year, each one meeting tribal priorities.

Preparations for the 2016 fiscal year funds are still underway. In order to facilitate proper management and control of project funding that span multiple years, projects will be limited to \$1M over a four year span. The Branch of Wildland Fire Management will strive to fully fund projects with a single allocation. This places greater responsibility on regions to manage funding and address project milestones through the course of the project.

Two Projects Funded under Resilient Landscapes for 2016 and Plans For 2017

Boise, ID - Two projects are projected to be funded for the FY 2016 Resilient Landscapes program. The Santa Clara Mesa project will receive \$800,000 while the Summer Lake Paiute treatment will receive \$54,000. No

additional resilient landscape projects will be accepted for FY 2016 due to a funding backlog from last year.



San Carlos tribe conducts a burnout operation during a 2014 wildfire being managed to benefit forest health and to protect tribal communities.

The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF), in conjunction with the BIA and the Intertribal Timber Council presented a webinar May 17th to describe and discuss the RL FY17 program initiative. This is an opportunity for Tribes and Agency's to ask questions of and provide feedback to OWF staff.

In addition to the webinar, OWF is proposing an FY17 RL allocation of \$30M, of which \$10M will go to fund prior projects. This leaves \$20M for new projects. Both the BWFM and ITC suggested to OWF that at least 25% of the \$30M be directed to Indian Country.

Department of Interior and BIA Release 2016 Administratively Determined Pay Plan and Travel Expense Reimbursement Waiver – Then Gives Training on Use

On April 29, the Department released the 2016 AD Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. Policy was also issued for Casual Hire Travel Expenses Reimbursements Waiver.



Three significant changes to the AD Pay Plan occurred this year:

1) a 1 % increase was applied to the new 2016 pay rates. 2) several new positions were added to the incident Position Matrix: THSP, Agency Administrator Liaison; THSP, MAC Administrative Support; THSP, Small-

engine Mechanic; THSP, Strategic Fire Management Analyst; FSC3, Finance Section Chief, Type 3; LSC3, Logistics Section Chief, Type 3; OSC3, Operations Section Chief, Type 3; PSC3, Planning Section Chief, Type 3. 3) the Computer Technical Specialist (CTSP) position was changed to Incident Technical Support Specialist (ITSS).

The Casual Hire Travel Expense Reimbursement Waiver will save time and money by establishing a payment process outside of the DOI's E-Gov Travel System (ETS). The process uses a Resource Order in place of an ETS travel authorization and allows for making payment to the casual through an OF-288, instead of a reimbursement through ETS.

The new BIA process uses the REVISED Approving Official Batch Memo, which now includes a field to document when only Incidental Expenses are being claimed for all casuals within the specific Batch Memo. If mileage or meals are claimed, forms are provided to document these travel expenses. Additionally, under the terms of the waiver, casual employees may only claim the following travel expenses on the OF-288 form:

- Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) mileage
- Incidental expenses
- Maximum of 15 meals per emergency incident

For a casual to be eligible for per diem reimbursement, the casual must travel more than 50 miles from their residence or official duty station and be in **TDY** status for at least 12 continuous hours. Travelers are not eligible for per diem reimbursement for local travel or if meals are provided otherwise (i.e. fire camp).

For questions or additional information about these policies, download them at <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/library/Memos/index.htm>

One additional training session will take place to communicate this information to BIA Staff May 19th at 1pm. To participate in the webinar, or for instructions on how to participate,

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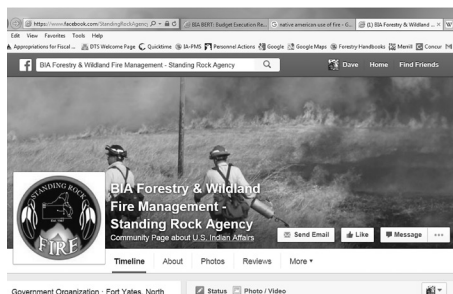
BIA – Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

(Continued from page 15)

visit: http://www.nifc.gov/programs/programs_PaymentCenter.html

Two more Agencies Approved to Manage New Facebook Accounts



This past year, there is an upswing of agency requests to create Facebook profiles for local agencies and tribal fire management programs. These profiles allow local agencies, such as Standing Rock Agency, to use Facebook to advertise vacant positions, send emergency fire and fuels notifications and raise awareness of the Forestry and Fire activities taking place

around Indian Country.

Standing Rock Agency is the most recent Agency to join Facebook. They can be found online by searching BIA Forestry & Wildland Fire Management – Standing Rock Agency.

Also new to the Division is an interagency Facebook page called “Tribal Nations Response Team – Fire.” The BIA Pima Agency hosts the page, but it is managed by a small interagency social media team. The local fire department, Salt River Pima- Maricopa Indian Community, and two Fire Management Officers contribute content about the fire management program activities taking place.

Developing a diverse social media team is a successful social media strategy as it diversifies content and increases the amount of posts and information an agency is able to share. Techniques like are better adapted to speak to a variety of audiences that range from local firefighters, local

media and other agency and tribal followers interested in learning about the fire Management program and how it serves the community. You can find their page by searching “Tribal Nations Response Team – Fire.”

This is the 14th BIA Forestry & Wildland Fire Management Facebook page for the Division. Agencies from across Indian Country are using Facebook to advertise agency stories, recruit firefighters and share information important to the local communities. For a listing of all the Agency Facebook pages, visit <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/DFWFMSocialMedia/index.htm>.

If an Agency you work with is interested in establishing a Facebook profile, please contact Robyn.Broyles@bia.gov. She will walk you through the approval process and ensure pages correctly set up that follow Department Policy. She will also provide one-on-one training to help users become familiar with managing their pages. 🌲

Research Sub-Committee

by Laurel James

(Continued from page 11)

spent some time mentoring the Muckleshoot youth. These are the types of valuable interactions that can work to benefit our scholars and tribes. Thank you and great work you guys!

Despite our low number of students this year, it is important understand the forum we have established for our scholars. In defining the poster session, student panel and scholars luncheon at the annual symposium, we want to provide a space for tribal scholars to share their research so that they may begin to understand and envision their potential role in our tribal organizations. The symposium provides the platform for the current issues that tribes are facing. The student engagement and sharing of research provides the opportunity for students to interact with our tribal professionals while potentially launching their career or envisioning the niche that they can fill

within our tribal communities, when their degrees are achieved. The interactions between scholars and our ITC professionals may only be a small effort in an attempt to address the workforce development needs of our tribes

but that is an issue that needs to be tackled. We need to remain vigilant on this issue and seize every opportunity to recruit new resource professionals and what better forum than the National Indian Timber Symposium! 🌲



Left to right: Bob Hetzler (Natural Resource Specialist, BIA San Carlos Agency), Janae Joseph, Virginia Marquez and Mark Corrao (Hydrologist, Northwest Management, Inc).

Earl R. Wilcox Winners



From left to right: Victoria Wesley, Gerald Walhovd, Christian Nelson

Western Region

Victoria Wesley
Supervisory Forester
San Carlos Apache Tribe
San Carlos, AZ

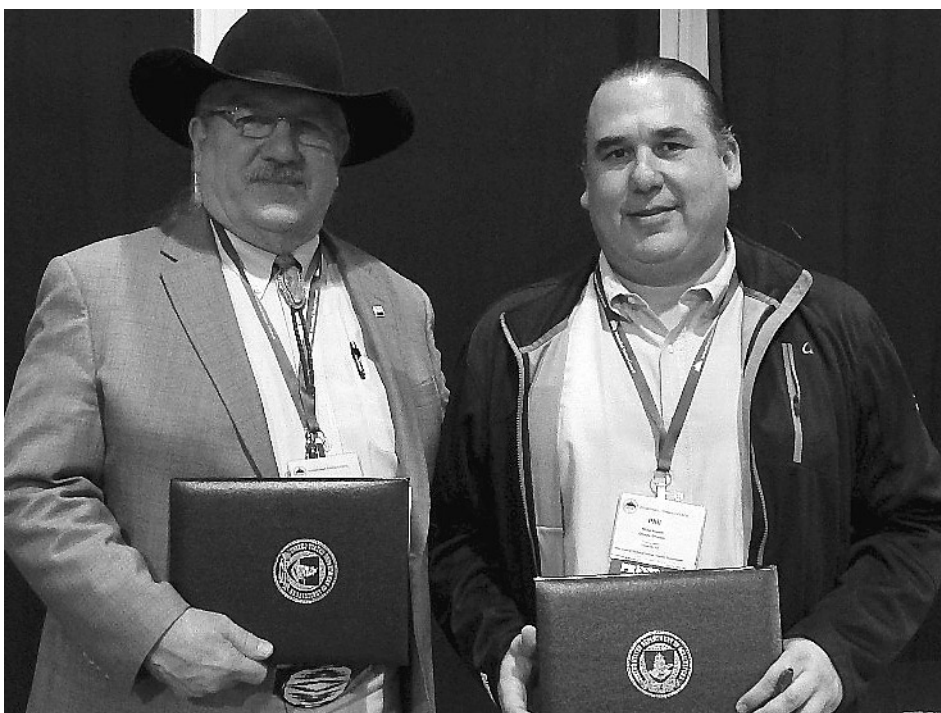
Midwest Region

Gerald Walhovd
Deputy Superintendent
Trust Services
BIA, Great Lakes Agency
Ashland, WI

Midwest Region

Christian Nelson
Forester
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Cloquet, MN

MOU Signing



Arthur "Butch" Blazer, Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources & Environment – Forestry, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Phil Rigdon, ITC President

2016-2017 ITC Board of Directors



(L to R) Front Row: **Secretary Orvie Danzuka**, *Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*; **Howard Teasley, Jr.**, *Nez Perce Tribe*; **Treasurer Tim Miller**, *Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*; **Kevin Lane**, *Hoopa Valley Tribe*; **Vice-President Vernon Stearns, Jr.**, *Spokane Tribe*; Back Row: **Dee Randall**, *San Carlos Apache Tribe*; **President Phil Rigdon**, *Yakama Nation*; **Will Putman**, *Tanana Chiefs Conference*; **Carole Lankford**, *Confederated Salish & Kootenai*; **Cody Desautel**, *Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation*.

Truman D. Picard Scholarship Winners



(L to R) Cynthia Coleman, Harlan Tso, Chad Brown, Kyle Blackman, Kelly Bolton, Colleen George



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First Class
