



# Intertribal Timber Council TIMBER NOTES

Summer 2015

## 2015 ITC Symposium Recap



Howard Teasley, Jr.

### Summer News Now

The 2015 National Indian Timber Symposium, hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) and the Coquille Indian was held June 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park in North Bend, Oregon. The theme for this year's symposium was *"A Vision for the Future"*.

The southern Oregon coast was blessed with exceptionally cool weather while everywhere else in the U.S. was hitting the one hundred degree mark. I had a very good experience listening and learning from the Coquille Elder and Chief Don Ivy – our unbelievable hosts reiterate their Chief's remarks as gospel by reverberating the Golden Rule or

Luke 6:31 "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." We have all learned or heard or saw or experienced as children, and now as adults. Treat other as Family – this is the foundation of their Tribe. "You are friends of ours from far and wide, but during your week long stay you are Family." The Chief, the Tribe, its people, and employees hit the nail right on the head. It is fun to meet new folks, but also explore new areas – Coos Bay, Pacific Ocean, and the Dunes of southern Oregon. It is all a snap shot in time, but a memory I will want to visit again.

I would like to formally thank our hosts – The Coquille Indian Tribe for their hospitality and willingness to share their fine facility. Himeeq'is Qe'ciyew'yew (Huge Thank you)

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.** The annual ITC Pre-Symposium Golf tournament was held at the #1 rated golf resort in North America, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. The four person best ball scramble with



7<sup>th</sup> place: R-L Howard Teasley - Nez Perce, Tim Miller-Grand Portage Chippewa, River Spry-Grand Portage Chippewa, Kevin Bonds-Tule River

a choice of three courses to play: Bandon Dunes, Bandon Trails or Pacific Trails. The winners were local ringers that knew the course ☺. 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners were –Jim Durglo (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Tony Incashola (CSKT), Tony Harwood (CSKT), & Jim Erickson (ITC). River Spry, Grand Portage, won Closest to Pin. This was the toughest playing conditions with wind gust up to 30 mph which would make your golf ball pulsate on the ground

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Yale-ITC Tribal Forestry Summit

October 16-17, 2015 • New Haven, CT

**Purpose:** The state of American Indian forest and forest management has been identified by the national report completed by IFMAT-III. The Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies has joined the ITC to convene federal and tribal representatives along with academia to attend a tribal forestry summit that will address two issues, which include the challenges of the federal trust relationship on Indian forests and also the workforce development needed to help manage the forests.

The summit will include a panel day to hear about the state of the for-

est and forest management workforce, then a roundtable day for attendees to discuss the issues and possible solutions in a roundtable format.

Registration for the event is free, and a detailed program description is available.

It is our privilege to create such an informative and collaborative forum for dialogue, exploration, and networking within an industry about which we feel so passionate. We hope you will join us in person.

Information on the summit is posted on the ITC website, [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org).

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## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

Good day, readers. As many of you know, back in June, the Coquille Tribe hosted the ITC's Thirty-Ninth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium in Coos Bay/North Bend on the beautiful Oregon coast. It was an enjoyable and productive gathering, and I'd like to once again say "thank you" to the Coquille Tribe and all its members and personnel who contributed to making us feel welcome and to share with us the history and lessons of their lands and their forest. I particularly want to express appreciation to Tribal Chair Brenda Meade, Chief Don Ivy, Executive Director George Smith, and Forester Pete Wakeland, whose dedication and hard work assured a great time. The weather was sunny and mild and bit breezy, making for nice tours to the Coquille Forest on Monday and, on Wednesday, through local Coquille traditional sites and several innovative sawmilling operations. For those who golfed at the famed Bandon Dunes course on Sunday, the breeze made for some interesting and challenging play. For all who participated in the Symposium, I also want to say "thanks" for helping make the Symposium a success.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Symposium's theme was "A Vision for the Future," and we hope the general proceedings and workshops helped inspire and inform you for moving into this year and beyond. Monday's pre-Symposium workshops offered opportunities to tune-up technical skills and knowledge, and the

general proceedings sought to bring attendees up to date on ITC's initiatives and provide ideas and pathways on where tribal forestry might go in the future.

While we work to strengthen our fundamental partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the ITC is also working to more deeply engage our neighbors on the landscape, including the U.S. Forest Service and other federal forest managing agencies. This includes

- pursuing more adequate and equitable BIA Forestry funding,
- improving implementation of the Tribal Forest Protection Act,
- developing the collaborative Anchor Forest process through pilot projects,
- keeping tribal interests front and center on wildland fire funding and issues,
- bringing attention to critical forestry workforce development needs, and
- expanding tribal management into adjacent forests.

The IFMAT III report continues to inform and guide these efforts, documenting the innovative and efficient management practices tribes bring to our forests. Tribal forestry is drawing recognition and acknowledgement, including in the press, with other forestry practitioners, among government agencies, and in Congress. In fact, it was gratifying that, during the Symposium time, legislation was introduced and moved in Congress (H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act) with provisions to improve the consideration of TFPA project proposals and to authorize tribes, on a discretionary

basis, to assume comprehensive management of neighboring National Forest and BLM lands.

Thursday's workshops sought to bring Symposium attendees directly into discussion on the progress being made on these and related issues, so that the attendees could head home with new ideas and refreshed enthusiasm for keeping your forests the responsive, flexible and exemplary resource they are.

The ITC's annual business meeting is held at each year's Symposium, and this year the membership voted Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Warm Springs, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Grand Portage, and Spokane back onto the Board, and the slate of officers was renewed with Tim Miller of Grand Portage as Treasurer, Orvie Danzuka of Warm Springs as Secretary, Vernon Sterns of Spokane as Vice President, and me, Phil Rigdon, as President. It is an honor for all of us to serve this organization, and we will continue to do our best to represent and advance tribal forestry interests.

Also at the annual business meeting, the membership swiftly adopted the offer of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to host the 2019 Symposium.

More immediately, next April the 40<sup>th</sup> Symposium will be hosted by the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona, where we will get a first-hand look at the higher and drier forests of the Southwest. Planning is already underway for it to be an engaging and informative Symposium.

Until then, we pray that your travels and your families are safe, that this year's fire season is not difficult, and that your efforts on behalf of your tribe's forest are productive. 🌲

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

*(Continued from page 1)*

while waiting to hit. I would like to thank the Coquille Golf Committee for a once in a life time event.

**Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.** We offered five pre-symposium workshops. The first

workshop was "**Traditional Craft-ing**", 25 individuals learned Drum making, Native American Rattle, Cedar Gathering Basket, Bear Grass Braids, Dream Catchers and Traditional Native Games. The second workshop was the

**Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)**" which had fourteen in attendance. Our third workshop was titled "**Coquille Indian Tribe Forest Tour**", which had forty-seven individuals in the field.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

*(Continued from page 2)*

Our fourth workshop was **“Wildland Fire Update”** had 37 participants. And our last workshop, **“Heads-up Digitizing & Editing in ArcGIS Desktop v 10.2.2”** had 10 participants. Do the math! Every dollar spent on pre-symposium workshops goes right back into the scholarship fund.

We are always looking for new and exciting workshop ideas; we had aerial drones this year. If you have something you would like to share with myself or the committee, please do not hesitate to call or email.

**Ice Breaker** was held in the Salmon Room in the Mill Casino and was sponsored by the Coquille Indian Tribe. It was time for people to relax, enjoy the seafood and conversation.

**Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.** Opening Ceremonies, Posting of the Colors, Invocation, and Welcomes by our hosts. The Keynote Address was given by John Gordon, the radio voice. The Host Tribe Regional Presentation happened in the morning and our first panel on “IFMAT III, Anchor Forest, TFPA – The Next Steps”, and followed by Leadership Lecture Series Luncheon with our Student poster presenters.

After lunch, our second panel discussion on “Indian Forestry: A Model for a New Paradigm”, which gave the political perspective as well as a social and public perspective and our final panel for the day was “Our Role and Responsibility: Individually & Collectively”. I would like to thank all of the presenter, moderators, and our coordinator Steve Andringa.

This concluded the afternoon sessions and the evening events started with the Host Tribe Welcome at the Mill Casino

**Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.** The Tribal Tour started with stops to Oregon Overseas Timber Company, Southport Forest Products, Coos Historical Museum & Maritime Collection, and a drive by of the Industrial Forestlands, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and Charleston Harbor. And this year included a spouse/guest tour that happened at the same time for a more intimate view

of the area. There were approximately 20 individuals that participated.

After the tour, there was a **General Membership Meeting**, which included discussion from the member Tribes voicing their concerns to the ITC Board of Directors.

**Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.** The day’s activities started with the ITC President’s Report, then the updates from the BIA, a National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Update, Legislative update, and a USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Update. Immediately following the updates our three ITC Workshops got underway simultaneously: **The Carbon Marketplace: Opportunities on Tribal Lands, Pulling together: Managing for Healthy, Resilient Landscapes, and Forestry Workforce.** Finding and Recommendations are being reviewed by the Board of Directors and should be released after the September’s board meeting in Polson, MT.

After the workshops concluded, the **Annual Business Meeting** of Member Tribes was held. And then, the Annual Awards Banquet to honor and recognize the Truman D. Picard Scholarship recipients and the Earle R. Wilcox Award recipients and finally awarding prizes to individuals from the Education Committee Raffle.

The **2015 Final Proceedings** for the 2015 Symposium will be mailed to Symposium participants and if you do not receive a copy, please contact ITC Office @ (503)282-4296

I would like to thank all of our Exhibitors for taking time to bring their company booths to the symposium. It was a little tougher to get symposium participants to the second floor area. Thank you to Aervoe Industries, Landmark Turf & Native Seed, Blue Source, National Indian Carbon Coalition, Dragon Slayer Inc., New Forests, Finite Carbon, Rainier Seed, Inc., Salish Kootenai College, Forestry Program, University of Idaho, San Carlos Apache Tribe, USDA Natural Resources conservation Service, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc., USFS Pacific NW Research Station, The Nelson Paint Co, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

During the 2015 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), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (General Members Meeting Wednesday evening), Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation & Spokane Tribe (Thursday Morning), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs & Nez Perce Tribe (Thursday Afternoon).

We had a total of 332 participants, 16 exhibitor booths, 133 pre-symposium participants, and we had representation from all over the Indian country. Thank you.

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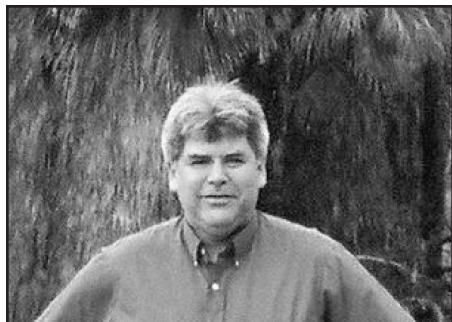


*Late Spring Pacific Ocean view from Bandon Dunes, Hole #16*



## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

### Tribal camps connecting youth to careers

During the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Coquille Tribe in North Bend, Oregon, the workshop on workforce was well attended and especially the youth camp session in the morning.

The two presentations on youth camps were by Victoria Wesley, Supervisory Forester from the San Carlos Tribe and Tana Atchley, Workforce Development Specialist, Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission.

Victoria provided an overview about why the San Carlos Apache Tribe conducts a Natural Resource Youth Practicum:

1. San Carlos Apache Tribal Goals, Strategic Plan, Forest Management Plan
2. Tribal Education Program Findings
3. Abundant Natural Resources on 1.8 million acres
4. Preservation culture, tradition and language

#### Goals of the San Carlos NRYP

- To recruit tribal members in a Natural Resource Management position to assist in managing tribal resources.
- To help students develop respect



San Carlos youth preparing their natural resource plan

for nature by helping them to understand the cultural and traditional values of the natural resources (ecosystem).

- To help students develop writing, math, science, analytical and decisions skills.
- To disclose information on Apache history, tradition, culture and craft use to increase tribal identity.
- To establish a mentor program between the students and Natural Resource Professional.
- To provide a practical hands –on learning experience in Natural Resource management.
- To help students develop personally in self-esteem, responsibility, and teamwork.
- To provide an enjoyable learning experience in a safe and relaxing atmosphere.
- To provide a connection from the students to the universities and colleges of Arizona.



Salmon camp youth collecting specimens in stream

Tana provided an overview about CRITFC's Salmon Camp and also the workforce development's mission which is to:

1. The CRITFC Tribal Workforce Development Program seeks to establish and sustain a tribal workforce pool of respected and skilled Native American scientists and technicians that serves the tribes' salmon and natural resource management program needs.
2. The mission of the program is to build and foster pathways for Native American students from elementary school through postgraduate levels to achieve the skills, education and training necessary to succeed in the tribe's fisheries and natural resource positions.

3. The program is multifaceted, blending traditional ecological knowledge with Western science, and consists of many approaches, including internship opportunities, summer programming and increasing salmon awareness among students of all ages.

The Tribal Salmon Camp is a pre-college program supporting out-of-school learning opportunities for 20 middle school Native American youth. The program focuses on providing culturally relevant Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) experiences to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap for Native American youth.

Victoria and Tana provided answers to the many questions about the process on how they produced their respective camps. The camps had a different cost comparison with Victoria presenting the total camp cost of \$83,000 for 40 students and Tana mentioned that Salmon Camp out of pocket cost was \$20,000 for 20 campers, but they also had a lot of in kind services provided the tribes and other sponsors. The camps both had application processes that included essays and also the various permission slips and health forms to protect the camp participants.

The audience at the symposium really appreciated the presentations made by Victoria and Tana and at the end of the morning session, the group made a recommendation to make youth camps or programs supporting pre-college youth session will become an ongoing part of the future symposiums.


The quotes from the youth that attend their tribal natural resource camps supports the group's recommendation:

"Salmon Camp has taught me a lot about my culture and how I want to be a big part of it."

"It was awesome, and I want to learn more."

"I want to be a biologist even more now."

"Now I know how important fish and lamprey are and now I want to help them as much as I can."

"My favorite part was making friends from other tribes and learning new things." 

## BIA – Central Office, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire

by Dave Koch, Senior Timber Sale Forester

### Washington, DC

The Washington office has hired Dave Koch as the new Senior Timber Sale Forester and Roger Jensen as the new Forest Products Forester.

Dave's energy will be focused on the management and protection of forest resources through the sale of forest products and other treatments. He will be responsible for formulating policy and budgets associated with forest product sales preparation and administration, forest development, forest management, inventory and planning, and forest health protection. He will be responsible for evaluating policy, program effectiveness and performance, fiscal accountability, and conformance to Bureau policies, standards, and procedures. He is responsible for formulating legislative responses, effects statements, and briefings related to Indian forestry resources to support of the Indian Forestry mission.

Roger's focus, in addition to supporting national policy and budget formulation activities, will be on the marketing and utilization of forest products. He will be providing the field with information pertaining to business and marketing opportunities, on-going

improvement in processing technology and utilization standards, and collaborative branding strategies for forest products such as sawtimber, cants, pulpwood, and utility poles; firewood and biomass for energy production; trees, shrubs, and other vegetation for landscaping; specialty products such as beams, vigas, latillas, and character wood; and carbon markets and credits.

### Branch of Forest Resources Planning

This summer the Branch of Forest Resources Planning (BOFRP) is hosting their second BIA TREES pathways intern J'Kye Wientjes. J'Kye is Cheyenne River Sioux and a third year Forest Management Student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. In addition to attending this year's Symposium and student field tour, J'Kye is learning about Indian Forestry policy and inventory data management and analysis tools. He will also be assisting in field projects across the country: the installation of a new continuous forest inventory system, stand exam inventory quality control, and the layout of pre-commercial thinning projects. The BOFRP staff

welcomes the opportunity to mentor one of our future foresters.

In 2013, the Branch of Forest Resources Planning created three Service Centers to more efficiently provide technical services and support to each of the 12 Regions. Currently each Service Center Representative serves as a single point of contact for inventory and planning projects for two or more Regions.

David Wilson was the representative for the Northwest Service Center and served the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regions. Mr. Wilson recently resigned his position at BOFRP in Lakewood Colorado to take a position with the U.S. Forest Service. Dawn Patterson has been assigned the Northwest Service Center following Dave's departure. She and Dave worked on a transition plan prior to his departure to become familiar with the projects within the Northwest Service Center's two Regions. Dawn has worked for BOFRP for over a year, and brings with her many years of experience working in both Government and private industry as a Forester. You may contact her by email [dawn.patterson@bia.gov](mailto:dawn.patterson@bia.gov) or call 720-484-3355. 🌲

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

**2016 – April 4-7, 2016**, 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ.

**2017 - Dates TBD**, 41<sup>st</sup> Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Yakama Nation, Toppenish, WA.

**2018 - Dates TBD**, 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation, Ocean Shores, WA

**2019 – June 10-13, 2017**, 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Hollywood, FL  
The 2015 Symposium was an

amazing, awesome, blessed time, but on behalf the Intertribal Timber Council, I would like to thank the Coquille Indian Tribe, Chief Don Ivy, Chairwoman Brenda Meade, Peter Wakeland, Robin Harkins, Clara Gardner, and all of the Coquille staff involved in hosting a great week. The Mill Casino & Resort staff did a fine job for us. I want to give a shout out to the Catering Department, Great Job!! And I want to recognize the hard work of the Symposium Committee and our ITC behind the scenes - Laura, Monica, and Don from the ITC office.

I would also like to thank you to my Son! Lewonne H. Teasley, CeeWatus Media, for taking on a large filming task for the Intertribal Timber Council Family. Our video production will be out for review later on this summer.

We hope to see all of you back in April of 2016, San Carlos, Arizona, hosted by the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

The initial planning meeting for the 2016 Symposium was held earlier this spring. Our next ITC Board Meeting will be with the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes in Polson, Montana, in September. Please check the ITC Website periodically at [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org) for 2015 Symposium information updates

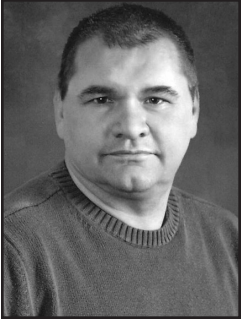
Take Care and God Bless.  
Qe'ciyew'yew & Lil'loy

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](mailto:itc1@teleport.com), or view the ITC website online – [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org) 🌲



## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

I hope that this article finds everyone safe and well. Especially, the fire management personnel that are busy protecting our tribal resources. Be safe!

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 September 14th, in Polson, Montana. Our own Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), Forestry and Fire staff will host a field tour on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, before the Research and Fire committee meetings begin. We plan to visit recent fuels treatments, timber sales, Kerr hydro-electric facility, greenhouse/nursery operations, and the McGinnis/Cabin Stewardship project, authorized under the Tribal Forest Protection Act.

### Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT III) Implementation Strategy

There are a lot of moving pieces to IFMAT implementation, ongoing



*Photo courtesy of Roian Matt, CSKT, showing the Mission Mountains, Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana*

efforts with communications, funding, work force development, and getting vacant positions filled continue.

### Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) Assessment and Implementation Plan

I encourage tribes that have an existing TFPA project to provide a

status report on them. Either send information to me at [jimd@cskt.org](mailto:jimd@cskt.org), or the ITC office at [itc1@teleport.net](mailto:itc1@teleport.net). An update on existing projects would be greatly appreciated. Jim Erickson and supporting personnel have recently completed two TFPA workshops that brought tribes and FS partners together to begin building potential projects.

### Anchor Forest Pilot Project

Steve Andringa, Yakama Nation Forestry Program Manager is the lead for the Anchor Forest Pilot Project. A list of the tasks are shown below:

- Task 1- Infrastructure Analysis
- Task 2- Tapash Collaborative
- Task 3- Institutional Capacity Evaluation
- Task 4- Barriers to Collaboration
- Task 5- Database Development
- Task 6- Ecosystem Services

Vincent Corrao, Anchor Forest Coordinator provides periodic updates of progress on each task group. We will begin to see reports being completed very soon.

If you would like to stay informed with the Anchor Forest project, con-



*Kerr Dam, near Polson, Montana, unknown author*

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman

*(Continued from page 6)*

tact Steve Andringa at [steve@yakama.com](mailto:steve@yakama.com), or Vincent Corrao at [carrao@nmi2.com](mailto:carrao@nmi2.com).

IFMAT, TFPA, Anchor Forest, building partnerships, are all about getting resources to get treatments done on the ground. They are about doing what needs to be done to achieve our respective mission's and meet our goals of creating resilient landscapes for future generations.

### Wildland Fire Program Management

Please look at Jim Erickson's ar-

ticle that describes the Wildland Fire Management Program initiatives. There is a lot happening with the initiatives that significantly affect Tribal Fire Programs. We need to stay engaged and informed on how these processes play out.

The Department of Interior, Office of Wildland Fire has announced two consultation and coordination sessions on the Quadrennial Fire Review, Risk Based Wildland Fire Management, Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes Program and Secretarial Order 3336-Rangeland Fire Prevention, Manage-

ment, and Restoration. The first session is July 21st from 9:00 to 12:00 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the National Indians Programs Training Center. The second session is scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> in Spokane, Washington at the Double Tree by Hilton Spokane City Center. A web-based session will be held August 13 from 10:00 to 12:30p.m MDT.

Have a safe summer and I hope to see many of you in Polson, Montana in September. 🌲

## Awards Committee

by Jonathan Brooks



Jonathan Brooks

Hello Everyone, I hope your summers are going well, and that you enjoyed the symposium if you were able to attend. As always with our Earle R. Wilcox Achievement

awards, we recognized significant individuals who have one thing in common, a strong passion and commitment in working with Tribal forestry, our rights, and our people. The award winners for this year are as follows;

- Kelly Dirksen, Fish and Wildlife Program Manager, Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, Grand Ronde, OR – Northwest Region
- Thomas Remus, Fire Management Officer, BIA Midwest Region, Grand Rapids, MN – Lake States Region
- Dave Cleaves, Retired Climate Change Advisor, USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC – At Large
- Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, USDA

Forest Service, Washington, D.C. – At Large Award

- **John Sessions, IFMAT III Co-Chair, Distinguished Professor of Forestry, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR– National Forester of the Year**

NOMINATIONS are now open for the 2016 Awards, and the deadline will be early 2016. Visit the ITC website at [itcnet.org](http://itcnet.org) and look under Awards for information on submitting a nomination. We on the Awards Committee would like to congratulate this year's winners.

One last note; the Awards Committee Chairperson will be changing and this is my last ITC Timber Notes newsletter article. The reason being, I am resigning from ITC and my position within the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT). My family and I received an offer that we felt was something worthwhile and advantageous, so we are moving overseas and I will be doing a (temporary?) career change to teaching. ☺ It always makes me smile thinking of that, but I smile bigger knowing I will be spending a lot more time with my family throughout the year (just one of the perks I like about this change).

It has been a pleasure serving ITC since 2007/08 as the Awards Committee Chair, Board of Directors, and WMAT Delegate, and has been more than a pleasure working with all the local, state, and federal agencies I've worked with, and most of all, my brothers and sisters out there in Indian Country, tribal members and non-tribal members. I'd name you all from the beginning with Joann, Paul, Nolan, Aaron, Gary, Mark, Jim ....Steve.....Theron..... Reggie.....Faline.....Lyle..... Robert L.....John D.....John V..... Larry..... Dee, Victoria, Kelly .....Keith .....Logan ..... Harold and Bill T ..... Tule River, Colville ..... Dale ..... Vernon ..... Jim D ..... Tim ..... Howard.....Orvie...Phil and Laura. Each "dot" being someone else out there significant to ITC and to me. I wanted to keep adding names (dots) but, it's not like I'm leaving forever. And that's what makes me smile even more. Congratulations to this year's winners, and congratulations to ITC and all of its leaders for being the stupendous organization that it is. 🌲



## ITC Board of Directors 2015-2016



ITC Board of Directors 2015-2016 (L to R). Vice-President Vernon Stearns, Jr., Spokane Tribe; Secretary Orvie Danzuka, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; President Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation; Treasurer Tim Miller, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; James Sellers, Quinault Indian Nation; James "Bing" Matt, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes; Jonathan Brooks, White Mountain Apache Tribe; Darin Jarnagham, Sr., Hoopa Valley Tribe; John DeGroot, Nez Perce Tribe; Larry Blythe, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Not pictured: Billy Nicholson II, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.



## 2015 Earl R. Wilcox Memorial Awards



2015 Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards (L to R). John Sessions, Oregon State University; Kelly Dirksen, Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde; Dave Cleaves, Retired USDA Forest Service; Jim Hubbard, USDA Forest Service.



## Research Committee

by Laurel James & Adrian Leighton



Adrian Leighton

### The ITC Research Scholarship

In 2015, ITC entered into an agreement with the Southern Research Station of the US Forest Service, to provide research scholarship support for graduate level research. The Southern Research Station provided \$25,000 towards these efforts and ITC selected proposals from scholars that demonstrated research that is being completed in collaboration with or benefitting tribal communities. In our inaugural year, we selected 5 research proposals, providing an immediate \$4,000 in research funding to those graduate students. Three of the five research scholars were provided an additional \$1,000 to cover travel and lodging expenses to attend and present their research at the National Indian Timber Symposium in North Bend, OR.

Recently, ITC challenged all of the remaining USFS research stations to join in these efforts to support tribal scholars and we are happy to report that the Pacific Northwest Research Station is working towards a new partnership with ITC, to join the Southern Research Station in sponsoring a new cohort of Tribal Research Scholarship recipients in 2016. Stay tuned for more news on that front!

### Introducing our 2015 ITC Research Scholarship recipients:



Cody Natoni Sifford

Center for International Trade in Forest Products (CINTRAFOR), School of Environmental & Forest Sciences (SEFS at the University of Washington.

Cody is a member of the Navajo Nation and is in his 2nd year of his graduate program at UW. His past research has included GIS climate based NASA and NARA (Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance) internships. He

is advised by Indroneil Ganguly within CINTRA FOR and is part of a large Life Cycle Assessment, Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance (NARA) project that is collecting data for creating aviation bio jet fuel from residual biomass left over after forest management operations. Cody's thesis research combines air quality analysis, life cycle assessments, and tribal/state/federal forest management. The goal of the project is to assess biomass burning impacts on local/regional air quality and human health. This project will assess where smoke particulates are dispersed and create a local health impact assessment for the Pacific Northwest Region. Emission, trajectory, and chemical transport models are used to calculate chemical concentrations. Life cycle assessment methods are then utilized to calculate the impacts to local human health. Last summer he traveled to the Yakama Nation, Colville Reservation and other state/federal forests across Washington to gather data for the project.



Kimberly Yazzie

Department of Environmental Science & Management—Portland State University

in Environmental Science and Management, and a Hydrology Certificate program. Her thesis research involves a climate change study of the upper Umatilla River Subbasin in Northeastern, Oregon, where she is using the Precipitation Runoff Modeling System developed by the USGS, to estimate groundwater recharge and to analyze watershed response to climate change and forest fires. This project will contribute to the work of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian

Hailing from Rock Point in Northeastern Arizona, Kimberly is a proud member of the Diné Nation, born for Bit'ahnii and from the Tłízi Łáni clan. She is a candidate for a Master of Science at Portland State University

Reservation in natural resources management, to secure water for generations to come and to protect and preserve a healthy, resilient watershed.



Laurel James



Crystal Tulley-Cordova  
Geology Department,  
University of Utah

her research focuses on examining stable isotopes of North American Monsoon precipitation and associated water resources of the Navajo Nation, in the Four Corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The collected data will be effective in fulfilling the need for quantitative data to interpret monsoonal precipitation changes and its effect on Colorado Plateau's changing climate. More importantly examining hydroclimatic changes across the Navajo Nation will provide data to help understand a region that has been poorly studied and assist an area with limited water management infrastructure.

*Bridging Knowledge Systems to Improve Ecosystem Management: How Indigenous Peoples can Prepare Themselves for Climate Change:*



Victoria A. Walsey  
PhD Candidate, Department of Geography,  
University of Kansas

Victoria is an enrolled member of the

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## Research Committee

by Laurel James & Adrian Leighton

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Yakama Nation and her research explores and documents knowledge held by Indigenous fishers who have lived along the Yukon River for generations in order to identify points of convergence and divergence with assessments and policies set in place by local and state officials. The goal of this research is to design strategies for putting these knowledge systems in dialogue with one another in order to best manage the Yukon and its rich resources. This study actively seeks to address, what strategies can be designed to incorporate the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of Indigenous fishers into resource management assessments and policies? What type of information can fishers offer if consulted by policy makers and resource managers? This research will seek answers utilizing interviews with fishers and community members in three geographic locations of Fort Yukon, Tanana, and Russian Mission, AK during the summer of 2015. These interviews will aid in the development of a decision support tool that could guide the future development of a cell phone application. A collaboration with Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA) will aid this study with data management.



**Grace BullTail**  
Biological & Environmental Engineering,  
Cornell University

Environmental Engineering, studying water resources engineering and focusing on water quality in tribal communities. Grace has worked as an engineer developing water resources infrastructure proj-

Grace is a member of the Crow Tribe of Montana and the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota. She is a third year PhD student at Cornell University in the department of Biological & Environmental

ects prior to starting her doctoral program. Upon completing her doctoral program, Grace hopes to become a professor of civil & environmental engineering. Grace would like to thank the ITC for supporting my research and allowing me to continue to work toward my educational career goals.

### The 2015 Student Poster Session

We just wrapped up our 5<sup>th</sup> year of an established student poster session at the Symposium and; this year, we would like to thank the SKC Center for Tribal Research and Education in Ecosystem Sciences (TREES) for sponsoring the awards.

The poster session was established to provide an opportunity to engage our tribal scholars with established tribal professionals, from around the country. This year, the students presented a brief snapshot of their research during the “Leadership Luncheon” on Tuesday and then provided full presentations during the poster sessions on Thursday morning (during the first break). This year, our panel of judges awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place to Serra Hoagland and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place to Clarence Smith. The People’s choice award, which is determined by ballots submitted by all of our conference participants awarded the top prize to Serra Hoagland.

### Serra Hoagland (Laguna Pueblo)

The Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) has been listed as a threatened species since 1993 and its associated breeding territory habitat is critical to the successful recovery of the species. Nest trees and forest stand conditions within established breeding territories provide key owl habitat elements yet most, if not all, habitat-related studies to date have primarily assessed owl habitat on National Forests or National Park Service lands. This study is the first formal characterization of Mexican spotted owl nest trees and Mexican spotted owl breeding territory stand conditions on Indian reservation lands in south-central New Mexico. We collected data on nest site characteristics at current Mexican spotted owl nest

sites in 2014 on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation. Stand characteristics were obtained from 5 randomly sampled historical Mexican spotted owl breeding territories. Besides nest tree species composition, general nest tree characteristics and nest structures were similar to previous findings yet general stand characteristics slightly diverged from previously defined nest site characteristics and from the 2012 Mexican spotted owl Recovery Plan Desired Conditions for nesting and roosting habitat. Our description of nest tree and general breeding territory stand characteristics occurring on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation can inform forest practitioners and wildlife managers about the range of habitat conditions that the Mexican spotted owl will occupy.

### Clarence Smith (Blackfeet)

The value of a Native American brand and the cultural symbolism that is culturally significant and should to be examined and measured for the competitive advantage that it could potentially bring to Native American tribes and individual entrepreneurs who are involved within the diverse business and nonbusiness projects that rely on this special symbolism for essence. Tribal certification is another potential competitive advantage that also needs to be examined to be evaluated for the significance and distinction of tribal brands from other products manufactured by nonnative entities that use native symbolism/designs in their brand creation.

To understand the perceived value of tribal certification and designs, this research assesses the perception that surveyors hold when they are provided with the option of hypothetically buying a wooden gift box with Pacific Northwest design (salmon) and certification logo.

When Native American tribes and individual entrepreneurs promote future products in different industries like science (i.e. Biofuel, cement additives), agriculture (i.e. wild rice, corn, squash), timber (i.e. gift boxes,

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## Research Committee

by Laurel James & Adrian Leighton

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secondary construction product like windows and doors) service industry (i.e. consulting, tourist management, sales), and all other Native American Entrepreneurial ventures they will potentially benefit from the knowledge of this study. The products mentioned above and many more can be summed as potential avenues that can be select to promote sound positive economical practices with the understanding of the value that a strong Native American brand has.

It is vital to understand the market value of a Native American brand. To see if there is a potential for perspective consumers to pay a premium for tribal certification and symbolism is essential for both economic and tribal identity. The goal of this study is to help tribal governments, Indian entrepreneurs and other native organizations to enhance and understand the potential value of certification/branding and to explore business opportunities that exist in the regional and international timber markets.

We would like to thank Stacie Holmes and Orvie Danzuka for their assistance in making the poster session a success this year and we greatly appreciate the participation of our tribal scholars. We hope to see even more students next year, in San Carlos, AZ!

### **The Tomanamus Forest and the development of the Muckleshoot Forest Science Academy**

- Laurel James (Director, Forest Resources Curriculum Development- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe)

Nestled near the foothills of Mount Rainier, in Auburn, Washington the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (MIT) has set upon a plan to develop and implement a Forest Science based curriculum in their K-12 programs, at the Muckleshoot Tribal School (MTS). This effort comes on the heels of the Tribes 1/3 of a billion dollar acquisition of the Tomanamus forest in November of 2013, a ~99,000 acre forest that was formerly known as the White River Forest. The ultimate vi-



*Mount Rainier*

*Photo credit: Hancock Forest Management*

sion of the Tribe is to implement a comprehensive forest science based curriculum that will enable students to transition into a college level, natural resource based field of study. It is the hopes that these future natural resource professionals will one day return to work for their tribe and manage the resources of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

### **The Curriculum....**

This forest science based curriculum will gradually introduce forestry topics in grades K-7, centered on Pacific Education Institute's, Project Learning Tree curriculum. Then, students will then transition into research design and field experimentation while taking introductory computer science, geography and public speaking, at the Junior High level. In the 8th grade, an in depth structured approach to forestry topics is provided that leads to GIS, applied forestry concepts and field based experimentation in the upper grade levels. We hope this pathway will also one day afford opportunities for High School students to work towards an Associate's Degree in either Forestry or Fire at the local Green

River Community College; possibly, via a running start program. Or, will allow students to easily transition into a Natural Resource based Bachelor of Science degree program.

### **K-5 Underway...**

In November 2014, the MIT and the MTS, set in motion the implementation phase for Grades K-5. A teacher- training day took place in the Tomanamus forest, in a large tented classroom. This setting provided the Elementary teachers an opportunity to visit the property, receive their Project Learning Tree curriculum materials and receive first hand training from Pacific Education Institute's staff. Then, a portion of the day was spent in the forest, learning about the possibilities for field-based instruction, with help from Hancock Forest Management Group and MIT Wildlife Management staff. In addition, the a vision for where this program can lead was provided by the Laurel James, the Forest Curriculum developer and Monica Paulson-Priebe of Green River Community College.

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## Research Committee

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### Plans for 2015 - 2016 school year...

To prepare for the next academic year, the Tribal Council, Tribal School, School Board members, Pacific Education Institute and Hancock Forest Management are working together to ensure the implementation stage for Grades 6-12 will provide a smooth transition for the Muckleshoot Tribal School students.

For Grades 6 and 7, the coursework that will help prepare students for the rigors of a forest science based program will be provided. Those courses will include Geography, Public Speaking and an Introduction to Computer Science. These course topics will be integrated into the existing course structure (and current teaching loads) with minor adjustments to incorporate the new teaching emphasis areas.

For the next phase of implementation, Grades 8 will be meshed in with Grades 9-12, in receiving the forest-science based curriculum. These students will explore all forestry concepts including: fire, GIS and research design; during the last 5 years at the Muckleshoot 'Academy'. At the same time, students will have an opportunity to apply their knowledge, via summer internships that would be completed with Hancock Forest Management Group. This new emphasis in establishing K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) based program that is focused on forest science, will launch the Tribe to the forefront of STEM education. In years to come, the Muckleshoot Tribal School will definitely lead the nation in producing high caliber natural resource recruits.

Efforts to establish appropriate coursework that would allow entry into the neighboring Green River Community College is currently in the initial stages however; once established, the students would have a clear pathway (via a running start program) into an Associates degree in Forestry or Fire Management. In addition to those degree programs, the opportunity exists for a pathway into a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Associates degree.



*Teacher Training Day in the Tomanamus Forest* Photo Credit: Laurel James

### Staffing needs for the 2015-2016 academic year...

The forest science curriculum will not be integrated into existing science and math courses; and, this new direction would require a math and science course every year, to prepare the students for the rigors of a STEM based curriculum. Therefore the MIT and the MTS are seeking a highly qualified forest science (1) instructor and a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (1) instructor, for the 2015- 2016 school year. In the 2016-2017 academic year, we would also add an Applied Forestry instructor.



*The Tomanamus Forest*

*(photo credit: Hancock Forest Management)*

### Teaching positions...

#### Forestry Lead Instructor

Link to position:

<https://careers-muckleshootgov.icims.com/jobs/2487/lead-forestry-teacher/job>

#### GIS Instructor

We are seeking a highly qualified computer science instructor, specializing in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). We are close to advertising this position, within the next month.

#### Applied Forestry Instructor (Field Based instructor)

To be advertised, seeking highly qualified science instructor with working knowledge of forest operations. This individual would be someone that is savvy in current forest operations, timber harvesting techniques, silviculture and forest management techniques. A working knowledge of wildland fire management would be a plus.

For more information on the Tribe, the School or positions or; to apply, please contact:

Joseph Martin [joseph.martin@muckleshoot.nsn.us](mailto:joseph.martin@muckleshoot.nsn.us) Or, Robert Bass [rbass@hnrg.com](mailto:rbass@hnrg.com)

Contributions from and approval to publish this article from:

Louie Ungaro - Vice-Chairman, Muckleshoot Tribal Council

Joseph Martin - Assistant Tribal Operations Manager for Education, MIT.



## Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips

### 1) ITC TESTIFIES ON FY 2016 APPROPRIATIONS.

On Wednesday, March 25, ITC President Rigdon testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies regarding FY 2016 ITC funding issues. Speaking to the Subcommittee, Phil covered the principal ITC requests, including moving BIA Forestry funding toward parity with USFS, providing \$12.7 million for workforce development, supporting the \$30.35 million BIA requested for Climate Resilience, and increasing BIA Endangered Species funding to \$10 million. For fire, he supported Interior's \$324 million request for Preparedness, increasing Fuels Management to \$206 million, and supporting fire Disaster funding and the \$30 million Resilient Landscape initiative. Regarding the Forest Service, he urged expanded support for Anchor Forests and encouragement for more TFPA implementation. Following his presentation, Phil drew more question and comment from the Subcommittee than any other witness that day.

On March 25, ITC submitted the same requests in FY 2016 testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

### 2) ITC TESTIFIES ON FOREST FIRE AND MANAGEMENT.

On April 23, ITC President Rigdon testified before a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands oversight hearing on "The Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires and the Need to Better Manage our Overgrown, Fire Prone National Forests."

Phil's ITC testimony drew on IFMAT for three major points: 1) Indian forests are more economically and ecologically productive, with superior forest health and smaller, more controllable wildfires than on other federal lands; 2)

Indian forests achieve these outcomes under the same regulatory framework as other federal lands at a fraction of the cost; and 3) this is due to innovation, willpower, and accountability. The testimony made three suggestions: 1) Congressional support for Anchor Forests, 2) improve the Tribal Forest Protection Act, and 3) allow tribes to do stewardship leasing of federal forests.

Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), whose District includes the Yakama Nation, introduced Phil as his friend and met with Phil and Matt Hill prior to the hearing. Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) happily disclosed that he and Phil were former colleagues at Yale. Phil received more questions from more Republican and Democratic members of the Committee than any other witness. Most of the questions centered on how/why tribes can move faster, cheaper and more effectively on forest management. Rep. Don Young directly asked Phil if tribes are adequately equipped to manage "buffer" areas on Forest Service lands adjacent to tribal lands.

The oversight hearing was one of several conducted by the Subcommittee to help frame legislation (subsequently introduced as H.R. 2647) on improving federal forest resiliency (see item 8).

### 3) FY 2016 HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS REPORTED.

On June 18, 2015, the full House Appropriations Committee formally introduced its FY 2016 Appropriations bill for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies as H.R. 2822. The explanatory committee report (H. Rpt. 114-170) that accompanies the bill was issued the same day and is on line at <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/114th-congress/house-report/170/1>. As of this writing, House passage is immanent.

For most Bureau of Indian Affairs programs, the bill keeps FY 2016 funding at FY 2015 levels, including for Forestry (FY 2015: \$47.735 million, FY 2016: \$47.735 million), rejecting increased amounts requested by the Administration, which for For-

estry was \$51.9 million. Overall, the House bill increases BIA Operation of Indian Programs by \$76.4 million to \$2.505 billion, with increases principally going to Contract Support (+\$26 million), education (+\$43.6 million including \$13.1 million for forward funding), and Public Safety and Justice (+\$4.5 million).

All BIA Natural Resources Management programs are kept at their FY 2015 levels, including Forestry, Endangered Species (kept at \$2.675 million), Cooperative Landscape Conservation (climate change - kept at \$9.948 million, rejecting the Administration's request for \$30.355 million), Integrated Resource Information Programs (IRMPs - kept at \$2.996 million), and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (kept at \$13.577 million).

For the Interior Office of Wildland Fire, all programs are kept at their FY 2015 level except Suppression, which gets a \$16,000 (\$16 thousand) increase to \$291.7 million. Fire program directives also stay in place, including \$10 million in Fuels for Interior's Resilient Landscape Initiative and the tribal set-asides in Preparedness (\$319 million) of \$9 million for Contract Support and \$6 million for workforce development and, in Fuels Management (\$164 million), \$10 million for tribal projects on federal treaty rights lands. Once again, the House Appropriators also declined the Administration's legislative proposal to fund fire suppression costs above 70% of the ten-year average from off-budget disaster funding accounts.

### 4) FY 2016 SENATE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS MARKED-UP.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY 2016 Appropriations bill for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

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Matt Hill



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cies on June 18. As of this writing, the formal bill and explanatory committee report have yet to be issued. However, an early draft of the report indicates that BIA Forestry is to get a \$2 million increase over FY 2015 for forest thinning. The Senate bill also moves Contract Support Funds to a separate account.

According to an early draft report, the Senate increases funding for Interior's Office of Wildland Fire with totals of \$323.7 million for Preparedness and \$383.7 million for Suppression. The Senate also adds \$200 million for an emergency suppression account when regular funding is exhausted.

#### **5) TRIBAL ENERGY BILLS with BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.**

Bills to streamline federal energy regulation on Indian land have been reintroduced in both the House (H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act) and the Senate (S. 209, the Indian Tribal Energy and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2015). Both bills include virtually identical provisions from last Congress for a mandatory tribal biomass demonstration program to require at least four projects on USFS or BLM land in each of the next five years. S. 209 was approved February 4 by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, but has yet to be reported. Difficulties with the BIA energy regulatory portions of both bills continue to hamper their progress.

#### **6) DEFEDERALIZATION.**

The idea of federal land transfers and other de-federalization moves is a rising topic of discussion in Congress, as Members on both sides of the aisle are frustrated with hamstrung federal land management practices.

#### **7) FOREST SERVICE LAND TO STATES PROPOSED.**

One prominent example of defederalization is Rep. Raul Labrador's (R, Ida.) Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act (H.R. 2316), which would require transfer of up to 2% of National Forest land to states, to be managed by state

law. The bill is similar to Labrador's legislation from last Congress that passed the House as part of then-Rep. Doc Hastings' large Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act (H.R. 1526, 113<sup>th</sup> Congress). H.R. 2316 was introduced June 8, 2015 and has been referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources. Hearings have not yet been held.

#### **8) FY 2016 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION.**

The Senate version of the FY 2016 Congressional Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), which sets overall national budgeting guidelines over the next ten years for the Congress, but which does not become law, also includes language to facilitate any budget costs that might arise in shifting federal land to states.

The Senate Budget Resolution also contains a provision to ease any budget impacts of legislation (S. 235, H.R. 167) to have disaster funding accounts pay for fire suppression costs over 70% of the ten-year average.

#### **9) TRIBAL MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL FORESTS & TFPA AMENDMENTS.**

Tribes are not being left out of the mix. The Resilient Federal Forests Act (H.R. 2647) introduced June 4 by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R, Ark.) includes provisions (Section 702) to allow tribes to manage federal public forests under the planning and management authority of Section 305 of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act. Section 701 of the bill also amends the Tribal Forest Protection Act to require that tribal TFPA requests be either approved or expressly disapproved within specific time limits. The bill was approved by the House Natural Resources Committee June 11 with a package of amendments that included tribal management clarifications on continued public access, local payments, and exclusion of wilderness. With those changes, the House Agriculture Committee on June 17 also approved the bill, clearing it to go to the House floor in the near future.

#### **10) ALLOWING LIMITED BIA TRUST OVERSIGHT.**

Rep. Don Young (R, Alaska), Chair of the House Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee, is among those frustrated by hindrances to management of both Indian lands and federal public lands. He has publicly mused in a committee hearing about transferring federal public land to tribes, and has reintroduced his American Indian Empowerment Act, a bill (H.R. 328) to give tribes the option of a sort of "trust lite," retaining restrictions against alienation and taxation of trust lands, but freeing them of federal agency management oversight. Last Congress, the BIA testified against the legislation.

#### **11) TRUST REFORM HEARING.**

Another defederalization example is Rep. Mike Simpson's reintroduction of his Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (H.R. 812) which, while including statements reaffirming the trust, would set up a pilot program for tribes to negotiate with the Interior Secretary to take over management control and responsibilities for trust assets. The flip side would likely be some reduction of federal trust liability. This is not without controversy, but in an April 14 House hearing, the Colvilles, fed up with federal impediments to the utilization of their timber resource, and Ernie Stensgar for Coeur d'Alene and Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians testified in favor. The Interior Department testified against it.

#### **12) ITC SUBMITS TESTIMONY ON U.S. FOREST SYSTEM MANAGEMENT.**

The ITC submitted testimony March 23 to the full Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for its March 24 oversight hearing on "Improving Forest Health and Socioeconomic Opportunities on the Nation's Forest System." The ITC testimony makes three recommendations drawn from tribal experience that should be of interest for the National Forest System. The first is periodic independent

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review, like IFMAT. The second is increased usage of TFPA as a cooperative forest management tool, and the third is Anchor Forests and its potential for collaborative active management in support of forest health and infrastructure.

Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R, Alaska) in her opening statement described the National Forests as bogged down in bureaucratic process and legal challenges and “in crisis.” She cited Alaska’s Tongass National Forest as an example of restricted and diminishing forest economies, saying “many communities, including in Alaska, believe the only solution is to get out from under the existing management structure and take control of their own destiny. ... [it] is hard to blame them. But the goal of this Committee, in this Congress, will be to help them.” Ranking Democrat Maria Cantwell (D, Wash.) also noted difficulties with the present management of National Forests and called for a “21<sup>st</sup> century management plan” that will “foster partnerships with industry leaders and create moderate value forest products that generate revenue with the goals of restoring the health of the national forests and encouraging public access and input.”

Witnesses included USDA Under Secretary Robert Bonnie, Alcan Forest Products President Brian Brown, CEO Carlton Owen of U.S. Endowment of Forestry and Communities, Montana District #1 Commissioner Mark Peck, and Vaagen Brothers Lumber President Duane Vaagen from Washington State. Vaagen testified that “Over the past decade, my company has invested significant time, energy and money into collaboration. The coalition has helped bring once warring sides together to find forest management solutions on the Colville National Forest, built around a blueprint that identifies areas most appropriate for active forest management, restoration treatments and meeting conservation objectives.”

ITC Board Member Gary Morishima attended the hearing and reported that tribes and tribal forestry

were not mentioned in the course of the hearing.

The hearing is likely one in a series the Committee may hold in the process of developing some form of national forest management legislation.

### **13) HOUSE HOLDS HEARING ON ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT.**

On April 29, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing on active management of the National Forest System. All four witnesses favored active management: USFS Chief Tom Tidwell, the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, the National Wild Turkey Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy.

Tidwell’s testimony mentions tribes twice: once in the topic title “Working with State, Local and Tribal Communities with Forest Health,” and again where he says USFS is “working with States, Tribes and other stakeholders to refine the necessary guidance for implementation of Good Neighbor Authority.” There is no actual discussion of activities with tribes, however. Under “Efficiencies,” Tidwell’s last bullet discusses the Mill Creek “A to Z” project on the Colville National Forest where Vaagan Brothers Lumber is funding and conducting much of the NEPA process under a stewardship contract.

The Nature Conservancy, represented by Laura McCarthy, Director of The Nature Conservancy’s New Mexico Conservation Programs, briefly discusses tribes, noting that “Native American communities suffered the most” from debris flows after the Los Conchas fire.

The testimony is on line at <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-conservation-and-forestry-%E2%80%93-public-hearing>.

### **14) SENATE HOLDS HEARING ON WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT.**

On May 5, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on “The Federal Government’s role in wildfire Management, the impact of fire on communities, and po-

tential improvement to be made in fire operations.” Witnesses included:

- USFS Chief Tom Tidwell, who discussed the severity of the problem, in preparedness talked about air tankers and collaboration, including the word “Tribes” at least once, supported disaster funding for suppression, and discussed HFPAS, CFLRP, biomass and Resilient Landscapes in hazardous fuels treatment.

- Dr. Stephen Pyne of Arizona State University, who presented a modern history of fires and three current strategies to address the situation: Resistance, Restoration, and Resilience.

- Dr. Sharon Hood of the University of Montana, whose ponderosa pine testimony had three messages: 1) fire is essential in our Nation’s forests, 2) ponderosa management can affect resistance to mountain pine beetle, and 3) the need for research on fire and pine beetles.

- Bruce Hallin of the Salt River Project (the headwaters of which largely come off the Ft. Apache and San Carlos Reservations and which provides water to Phoenix) testified about the history of the project, growth and consequences of wildfires in the SRP watershed, SRP involvement in the USFS Four Forest Restoration Initiative, restoration of the Cragin Reservoir watershed, and the Northern Arizona Forest Fund. His testimony also recommended McCain’s FLAME Act amendments (S. 501) or other means of addressing disruptive “fire borrowing” (i.e., disaster suppression funding), streamlined NEPA and ESA compliance through larger categorical exclusions or limited NEPA alternatives, and limits on judicial review. The testimony makes no mention of tribes or tribal lands.

- Bob Eisele, a retired San Diego County fire specialist, compared fire in northern Baja Mexico with adjacent San Diego County and noted “Fire suppression is generally believed to commence with the founding of the Forest Service in 1905, augmented in

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California by the Division of Forestry in 1919. It's not quite that simple. On May 31, 1793, the Spanish governor of Alta and Baja California prohibited Indian burning and instructed that all fires be suppressed. That date marks the turning point in land management plans in California."

The hearing testimony and webcast are available on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's website at <http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/> under Hearings, May 5.

### **15) HOUSE HOLDS HEARING ON FOREST IMPACTS OF LITIGATION & PLANNING.**

On May 14, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held an oversight hearing on "Litigation and Increased Planning's Impact on Our Nation's Overgrown and Fire-Prone National Forests." Testimony and an archived webcast of the hearing are available at <http://natural-resources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398488>

### **16) HOUSE HOLDS HEARING ON IRA TRUST LAND ACQUISITION.**

On May 14, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Issues held an oversight hearing on "Inadequate Standards for Trust Land Acquisition in the Indian Reauthorization Act of 1934." Testimony and an archived webcast are available at <http://natural-resources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398481>

### **17) SPORTSMAN BILL GETS SENATE HEARING.**

On March 12, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on S. 556, Chair Lisa Murkowski's (R, Alaska) Bipartisan Sportsman's Act, a bill directing federal agencies to expand public access to federal land for recreational hunting and fishing. The bill makes no specific mention or protection of tribal rights and interests on federal public lands, although Indian trust lands are defined

as excluded from "federal public lands" and the increased hunting and fishing access provisions in Section 101 are "subject to valid existing rights."

With no specific mention of tribal rights and interests on federal public lands, the bill's mandated emphasis on recreational hunting, fishing and other activities could be interpreted as giving those activities a priority over other multiple uses, including tribal rights and interests.

BLM Deputy Director Steve Ellis testified the BLM "supports the goals of the bill, but we have outlined some concerns in this statement. We look forward to working with the Chairman and the Committee to address these issues." US Forest Service Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon also testified on a number of concerns that need to be addressed in the bill, including concern that the bill could be interpreted as prioritizing recreational hunting and fishing over other uses (no mention of tribes). Similar bills did not succeed in the 112<sup>th</sup> and the 113<sup>th</sup> Congresses. S. 556 will have a hearing by the Environment and Public Works Committee "soon," after which Murkowski hopes both committees can promptly hold mark-ups on the bill.

### **18) PUBLIC LAND CORPS BILLS INTRODUCED AGAIN.**

On April 30, House and Senate bills (H.R. 2167 by Grijalva, S. 1160 by Udall) were introduced to expand the Public Land Corps. As in previous Congresses, the legislation includes significant tribal involvement and is unlikely to advance.

### **19) BILL SEEKS STATE, LOCAL OK FOR FEDERAL PRESCRIBED BURNS DURING DROUGHTS.**

On April 27, Sen. John Thune (R, SD) introduced S. 1100, the Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2015, to require state and local approval for conducting prescribed burns on federal land during periods of drought or fire danger. The text of the bill is not yet available and Thune's press release makes no specific mention of Indian trust lands,

so it is not clear whether trust lands will be subject to state and local approvals. The bill has been referred to the Senate Agriculture and Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

### **20) BILL SEEKS TO EXEMPT INDIAN PROGRAMS FROM SEQUESTER.**

Senators John Tester (D, MT) and Tom Udall (D, NM) introduced S. 1497 June 3 to exempt BIA, IHS and Indian housing programs from future sequestration that might occur pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011, which requires across-the-board cuts to domestic spending programs if certain spending targets or broader spending agreements are not achieved. A 2013 budget agreement suspended the cuts through FY 2015, but they could re-engage starting in FY 2016. While overall sequestration is controversial and the Republican Congressional majority is expected to try to avoid it, particularly heading into the 2016 elections, chances are very modest that a narrow exemption such as S. 1497, sponsored only by Democrats, will advance. S. 1497 was referred to the Senate Budget Committee. 🌲



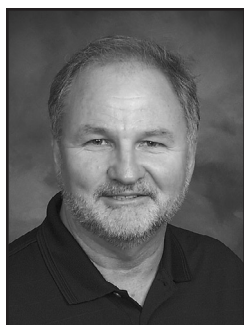
*The Intertribal Timber Council Newsletter is published three times a year by the Intertribal Timber Council Executive Committee as a service to Tribes/Native Alaskan Corporations with timber resources or interest. We encourage information relating to Indian forestry to be submitted for publication and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

*Write or call the ITC office:*

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## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



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### Future Fire

Fire has played, continues to be, and will always play an important role in the health of our nation's fire ecosystems. The health and resiliency of landscapes is tied directly and inexplicably to fire. We can learn from the past and present as we develop our future fire strategy.

Tribes have lived with and utilized fire for thousands of years to achieve a multitude of resource objectives. They understood and respected the role natural fire plays in supporting ecological processes. In addition to natural fires, Tribes would add fire to the land as needed to meet their objectives.

Today declining forest and rangeland health associated with the exclusion of periodic fires due to decades of aggressive wildfire suppression, limited active management of wildland fuels and other stresses have significantly contributed to reduction in the health and resiliency of landscapes. This has led to an increase in undesired, severe wildfires that damage resources while threatening firefighters and communities. The threat is compounded by changing patterns of extreme weather, insect and diseases epidemics, the expansion of invasive vegetation, and the development in and adjacent to wildlands.

Historically, wildland fire performed an important role in shaping landscape structure, composition, and function, which contributed to resilient landscapes. Decades of deteriorating landscape conditions have increased risk to human lives and communities, wildlife habitat, water supply and quality, adaptation to changes in the climate, and long term supplies of ecosystem services that support rural communities.

Currently, large areas across the United States are in need of proactive management to establish and maintain healthy, resilient landscapes. In addition to increasing forest health and resiliency, proactive management can

generate great environmental and social benefits, create much needed jobs and revenue for rural economies, and lead to tremendous cost savings in wildfire suppression efforts.

The establishment and maintenance of resilient landscapes is a central objective of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (CS). The intended outcome of national and regional implementation of the strategy is that landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances and aligned with management objectives focused on healthy, resilient landscapes. Successful implementation of the CS depends on clear guidance on roles and responsibilities for the diverse community of wildland fire management and protection entities. It must also emphasize effective partnerships, with shared responsibility, goals, and accountability to help establish and maintain fire resilient landscapes.

Unfortunately, federal fire policy that created this situation evolved over time in response to Euro-centric philosophies based upon the doctrine that man has dominion over nature. In contrast, the native perspective is that man is part of nature and thus interdependent on the health of all natural systems. In trying to describe to associates the relationship that Native Americans have with their lands is they value the *homeland* more than the *home*. For what is a home without the land and resources to support it? It is definitely not just about the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). What happens to the land happens to people! People without close ties to the land are challenged to recognize the relationship of man to the land. Federal agency policy to move personnel every few years prevents individuals from establishing stable relationships with Tribes and other local resident stakeholders.

Misguided national policies have taken our country to a point that our nations ecosystems are beginning to collapse. The policy of fire suppression that guided fire management over the past one hundred plus years has had a profound impact on the health and resiliency of our nation's forests.

Maybe the most adverse impact

of this policy that I have witnessed is the impact to our key resources, *soil* and *water*. Soil supports water retention and together they are responsible to sustain all living organisms. If we lose our soils, we lose water storage, then we lose our life support system. Santa Clara Pueblo is a prime example as they have been victim to three unwanted fires that burned over 70% of their watershed causing tremendous flooding and soil loss, still occurring to this day. It must be everyone's goal to protect these core resources so future generations can enjoy the fruits they yield.

Today, fortunately we are seeing more stakeholders recognize the situation we created as it truly is and reflect back on traditional native land management practices as possible models for restoration and maintenance. The key lesson learned is restoring fire to its natural role is fundamental to *restoring and maintaining healthy, resilient landscapes*. Fire plays a critical role for so many species within fire-adapted ecosystems. Restoring fire to a more natural role does not mean returning to a lifestyle of 2-3 hundred years ago. Today we must learn from the past and present as we develop strategies to restore ecosystem health and maintain this health over time.

Adopting and utilizing modern tools that respect the value our resources provide and take advantage of resource value to help defray cost of ecosystem restoration will be critical to our nation's ability to finance this much needed response. There will never be enough federal, state or tribal funding to pay for the scope and scale of the work in front of us. We must find ways to be more efficient, more effective, more responsible, more collaborative, and more creative to solve the problems facing us.

Unfortunately time is not on our side. The scope of the crisis is not small and the will power to address the challenge is limited. Conducting management practices the way we have over our careers has contributed to the crisis, so more of these same actions will not solve anything. We need to think "bigger, better, faster" as we plan and implement restoration practices.

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## Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

I'd like to start by congratulating the Coquille Tribe for an excellent job as hosts of the symposium in North Bend. The amenities were more than adequate and the hospitality was much appreciated. I'd also like to thank all of you for opening your checkbooks and helping our deserving tribal students majoring in their respective natural resources disciplines.

I believe that the students whom presented some of their posters and research are very deserving of the scholarship and are a shining example as to why it is important for each of us to ensure that there is enough money to help them continue their educational and career endeavors, but also raise enough to help other deserving students. It is always refreshing, and somewhat comforting, to see the quality of students that are moving up the ranks in their respective educational and/or professional careers.

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 have now funded

over **\$743,000** 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: **267** (There have been several repeat recipients). Total number of tribes represented as recipients: **101**

This year, the ITC funded **28** Scholarships in the high school, college undergrad and college graduate levels (four additional scholarships awarded as compared to last year). The scholarship review team selected 3-high school seniors, 2-College Graduate Students and 23-College Undergraduate students. We received a total of 43 complete applications packages this year and we were able to fund 65% of those applications.

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; and 4) Participation in pre-symposium workshops. Monies received from these four items will be utilized for scholarships next year. This year the raffle ticket sales total was **\$7,677**, Exhibit table fees totaled **\$7,150**, registration packet insert fees totaled **\$3,000**, and pre-symposium workshop fees collected totaled **\$15,000!**

This year two records have been broken since I assumed the role as chair of the Education Committee: 1) Donated items 194 (last year we had 156 donated items) and 2) Raffle ticket sales \$7,677. Thank you for your generous donations of raffle items and purchase of raffle

tickets! The future scholarship recipients will appreciate your generosity.

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:

Kassie Rippee	Adrian Leighton
Scott Mickelson	Chelsie Burns
Nicole Stiffarm	Teresa Wesley
Tony Incashola	Jeromie Gritts
Howard Teasley	Clara Gardner
Brett Kenny	Naia Kenny
Robin Harkins	Theron Johnson
Jonathan Brooks	Stacie Holmes
Jim Durglo	Laurel James
Vernon Stearns, Jr.	Yvette Leecy
Steve Andringa	John DeGroot
Breanna Gervais	Helena Verdyn
Shawn Fitzpatrick	Kay Collins
Leslie Brownrigg	Rob Kenning

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 the San Carlos Apache Tribe hosts. 🌲

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Most importantly we need **Champions** to lead and guide restoration efforts outside of reservations lands to address external threats on neighboring lands, including tribal ancestral, ceded and reserved rights areas. Are you a **Champion**? Generations that follow you are depending on your decisions and effort.

Next year at the ITC symposium general assembly we will sponsor a panel on "Restoring Fire to the Landscape In Indian Country". I hope you will be able to join this opportunity to hear three Tribes describe how they are planning to incorporate fire into their management strategies.

Fire has, is and will always be part of fire ecosystems. I leave you with

some important questions to ponder:

- How will your Tribe incorporate fire in land management planning?
- Will it benefit or damage the values you hold dear?
- Fire will come; will you be ready?

Please share your successes with me so I can connect all Tribes in a national effort to restore fire to the landscape. 🌲



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**First Class**

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