



Intertribal Timber Council TIMBER NOTES

Spring 2014

National Indian Timber Symposium – June 23-26, 2014



Howard Teasley, Jr.

Spring News Now

We are back to the Northwest, in the Idaho Panhandle area for the 38th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe Reservation is south of the resort town of Coeur d'Alene, on the Interstate 90 corridor. The Spokane International Airport (GEG) is approximately 45 miles east from the Coeur d'Alene Casino & Resort in Worley, ID. This area is bordered by Lake Coeur d'Alene and the St. Joe River. If you are wondering, the capital and largest city in Idaho is Boise. Please make time to register online for the symposium at <https://www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2014>. Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

The 2014 symposium will be held June 23rd through 26th at Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort & Hotel in Worley, Idaho and hosted by Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The theme of this year's symposium is *"Managing Trust Land Amongst Non-Trust Neighbors: Working Together for the Greater Good."*

Sunday, June 22nd. The annual golf tournament will be held at the Circling Raven Golf Club, located directly east of the Casino. It will consist of a four person scramble, \$50 per person - Includes 18 holes with power cart, use of driving range and prize pool. Optional side contests: KP/Long Putt/Long Drive (\$2ea) and Skins- \$20 per team. **Register through the Pro Shop (800) 523-5464-** Priority registration by May 22, 2014. Any player unable to fill a team and wishing to play may register and will be placed on a team by the pro shop. For further

information contact Chuck Simpson @208-686-5030/csimpson@cdatribe-nnsn.gov or Mark Nelson at mnelson@cdacasino.com.

Monday, June 23rd

Pre-symposium Workshops:

Workshop #1: Traditional Basket Crafting and Camas Digging - Individuals will have an opportunity to craft baskets all day, or choose to go into the field in the afternoon for digging and learn the fundamental uses.

Workshop #2: Using GIS/Inventory Planning and Harvest Scheduling - The focus will be on using computer technology for forest management. There will be an overview on GIS - use of ArcGIS for Desktop, and interaction with an iPhone or Android device, there will also be a piece on Native Name/Place Project during lunch. The afternoon will consist of Forest Biometrics Research Institute (FBRI) - measuring and mapping forest site capacity. Maximum of 25 participants

Workshop #3: Idaho Forest Group Chilco Mill Tour - This tour will visit the IFG Chilco Mill where they will hear the importance of integrating the following variables into their operations and why it is important for tribal log suppliers to understand these variables as part of their log marketing strategy. This workshop has no maximum capacity of participants.

Workshop #4 Coeur d'Alene Forestry - This workshop will provide a more in depth and personal look at various forest management activities that are part of the Forestry program on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation. The stops will include recent plantations, thinning/fuels projects, timber sale operations and under burn areas. Maximum of 30 participants

Workshop #5 Fire Update - This workshop will provide a series of updates on key wild land fire issues fac-

ing Tribes and agencies.

The fees for individual workshops are: \$105/participant **before** May 25, 2014 and \$120/participant **after** that date. Make sure you register early. All workshops are provided with refreshments and lunches. And please dress appropriately for field workshops.

Symposium Registration starts at 3:00 pm, and runs until 8:00pm in lobby of the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Conference Center.

Ice Breaker will be held at Chinook Meadows from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, which is sponsored by the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Forestry.

Tuesday, June 24th. Registration, Exhibits, and the Raffle begin at 7:00 am. The symposium officially starts at 8:00 am with the Opening Ceremonies - Invocation, Posting of the Colors, and Welcomes from Chief Allan, Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and David Matheson, CEO, Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort & Hotel, and our ITC President Phil Rigdon. The Keynote Address will be by Ernie Stensgar, Vice Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Tribe,

The **Host Tribe Regional Presentation** will be presented by Alfred Nomee, Natural Resources Director, Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

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President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

Good day, Timber Notes readers: With spring just around the corner, now is a good time to set plans for attending our upcoming 38th National Indian Timber Symposium June 23 – 26 in beautiful Worley, Idaho at the Coeur d'Alene's luxuriously expanded Casino Resort Hotel. For those interested in some golf, get there a little early for the ITC's Sunday, June 22 Pre-Symposium Tournament on the Resort's Circling Raven course, or if you are fortunate enough to qualify, a Senior Tribal Tournament June 21 and 22 for those 50 and over. Of course, the Symposium itself will be an engaging and informative opportunity to bring yourself up to date on forestry issues and renew your acquaintance with other timber tribal folks from around the country. For more information on the Symposium, check out Howard Teasley's article in this edition of ITC Timber Notes.

Otherwise, as usual, there is a lot going on. The IFMAT III report continues to roll out, with an edition of Evergreen magazine dedicated to tribal forestry coming off the presses now and soon to appear in your mail box. Keep an eye out for it. ITC Technical Specialist Don Motanic has more information in his article about Evergreen and IFMAT-III.

And Congress, in a welcome respite from deadlocked partisan squabbling, has passed an omnibus FY 2014 appropriations law that increases BIA Forestry funding by \$6 million over FY 2013, including the sequester, has increases for other natural resource programs, including nearly \$10 million for tribal climate change, and keeps Contract Support Costs at full funding as part of the BIA's Operation of Indian Programs budget (Congress did not accept the Administration proposal to create separate and capped CSC funding for each tribe).

Also, a 2014 Farm Bill got passed and signed into law, with a good number of important national forestry provisions bearing upon tribes, such as extending Stewardship Contracting for Forest Service and BLM lands and waiving Clean Water Act permits for drainage from forest road ditches.

On March 4, the Administration released its FY 2015 proposed budget, asking \$25.7 million for the BIA Forestry TPA program and \$20.2 million for Forestry Projects, which are close to amounts received for FY 2014.

Details on these and other Congressional issues are in the Washington Update.

And speaking of DC, the release of the FY 2015 proposed federal budget has launched the annual appropriations process with its House Interior Appropriations hearing on tribally related budget issues. If your tribe is thinking about presenting or submitting testimony, please give some serious consideration to including comments about your needs for BIA Forestry and

Interior Wildland Fire budgets. Every expression of support helps.

On the fire front, please be aware that, over recent years, a fair amount of BIA's allocation of national fuel reduction funding has had to be returned to the Departmental Office of Wildland Fire because of some large unspent carry-overs. Most of that returned money is lost, so BIA Fire Management is emphasizing that BIA / tribal locations obtain and obligate their fuels money fairly promptly to try to reduce or eliminate carry-over. Locations with persistent large unobligated carry-over could find their allocations adjusted in future years. It is recognized that fire spending is complicated and can get slowed by processing functions, so, at least from the tribal end, it will be helpful to closely track the distribution, receipt and expenditure of your annual fuels funding. ITC Fire Specialist Jim Erickson has additional information.

Finally, the ITC continues to strengthen our outreach to and engagement with other forestry-related organizations and agencies, including state and nongovernmental organizations and coalitions, the Department of Agriculture, and Interior's Office of Wildland Fire. As evidenced by the ITC's own Anchor Forest pilot project, forest management is increasingly landscape-based, and we want to make sure that tribes, with our unique interests, are active participants in America's broadening forestry discussion.

As always, our thanks go out to the supporters of ITC, and we look forward to seeing you at the Symposium. 🌲

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Our only morning panel is titled "IFMAT III – Responding to Recommendations", the panel will address three IFMAT-III issues listed in the report with one activity addressing implementation, such as Anchor Forests and opportunities to address the issues of climate change and education.

ITC Future Leadership Lecture Luncheon Series will be given by Col-

lege Student poster presenters.

The first afternoon panel is titled "Cobell Settlement, Land Buy-Back, and Involvement of Forestry Programs" The panel will present an overview of the Cobell Settlement and Land Buy-Back Program along with the role of BIA and Tribal Forestry Programs in developing and providing timber inventory data needed for appraisal and acquisition purposes.

The second afternoon panel is titled "Student Research" with three different projects, "A Regional Assessment: Tribal Biomass Operations Leveraging Sovereignty to Meet Tribal Needs" by Breanna Gervais, NARA Tribal Partnerships Projects/ Undergraduate Student, Portland State University, Portland, OR. The second is "Estimating Tribal Biomass Avail-

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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ability Using FVS” by Burdette “The Bachelor” Birdinground, MS Student, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. And the third is “Landscape-Level Reference Conditions for Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer Forests of Eastern Oregon” by Keala Hagmann, Ph.D. Student, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

This will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening events will start at 6 pm with the Host Tribe Welcome at Camp Larson for the Traditional Dinner, Drumming and Dancing.

Wednesday, June 25th. Buses will leave from the Coeur d’Alene Resort and Casino. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the field and bring insect repellent. Lunch will be held at the Veterans Memorial, Plummer, ID.

Integrating Fisheries and Wildlife into Restoration of Watershed Processes, Benewah Creek ‘Eltumish Restoration Project, T337 Fuels Project/Under Burn/Fishing Pond, Sq’aq’i’shmalqw Logging Unit, T574 Plantation, Lake Creek Fisheries/Restoration.

Buses will return to the Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort by 4:30 pm.

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

Thursday, June 26th. The day’s activities will start with the ITC President’s Report, then the updates from the BIA Chief Forester, Legislative update, a National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Update, and a USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Update. Immediately following the updates our ITC Workshops will start simultaneously: Workshop 1: “Challenges of Managing on a Checker Boarded Reservation”, with the goal of the workshop is to explain the ownership fragmentation within and adjacent to our reservation boundaries along with overlapping jurisdiction has produced many challenges to managing our tribal lands in Indian country. Reservations have trust land bordering or surrounded by other ownerships that cause conflicting jurisdictional issues involving our nature resources and wildlife. Workshop #2:

“Restoring Fire on the Landscape in Indian Country”, the workshop will give a better understanding of the Tribes across the nation have long and storied histories of their relationship with fire to accomplish desired objectives. New rules and regulations have effectively reduced native burning to a fraction of historic levels. Workshop #3: “Timber Economics”, This workshop will discuss the current and future economic conditions in Indian country.

Following the workshops, there will be the Annual ITC Business Meeting. The 38th Annual National Intertribal Timber Symposium will conclude with our Annual Awards Banquet to honor and recognize the recipients of any regional or national Earle Wilcox Awards, and the recipients of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship, and winners from the Poster Board Session. And finally, the winners of the various Education Committee Raffle prizes will be presented at this time.

Lodging Information is available on the ITC website at www.itcnet.org.

Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort Hotel



37914 South Nukwalqw
Worley, ID 83876
(800) 523-2464
www.cdacasino.com

Book your room at the Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort/Hotel starting at a rate of \$81.00 for single or double occupancy per night plus tax for our Mountain Lodge standard or plus rooms. Rooms start at \$104.95 for single or double occupancy per night plus tax for Spa Towers deluxe rooms. Simply call 1-800-523-2464 and reference the “Intertribal Timber Council Room Block” or Group ID “ITC”. This special rate is only available until June 7, 2014. Reservation requests after this date will be booked at the best available rate and are not guaranteed availability. Please have your credit card available to make a reservation.

Housekeeping Items

Registration: This will be our third year using the new registration system online. It is a large improvement to our old way of doing business. Here is the address <https://www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2014>. This system makes it possible for our ITC Staff to plan more efficiently. All Participants planning on attending the symposium

must use Regonline. Please be patient, it is very self explanatory.

The Symposium Registration fee includes: Registration Packet, Tuesday and Thursday Luncheons, Wednesday Tribal Tour (includes lunch), Tuesday Host Tribe Welcome & Dinner, Thursday Evening Awards Banquet and Final Proceedings CD.

Registration fees may be paid online by credit card or purchase order. If paying with a check or money order, please mail payments to:

Intertribal Timber Council

Symposium Registration
1112 NE 21st Ave, Suite 4
Portland, OR 97232-2114

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

Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

2014 – June 23-26, 2014, 38th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe of Idaho

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

2016 – Dates TBD, 40th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Choctaw, MS

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

Come and visit the Panhandle region of Idaho, and spend time on the Coeur d’Alene reservation. Check the ITC Website periodically at www.itcnet.org for 2014 Symposium information updates.

Take Care and God Bless. Qe’ciyew’yew

If you are not on the ITC mailing list and would like to receive correspondence, please contact the ITC Office by phone at (503) 282-4296, or email at itc1@teleport.com, or view the ITC website online – www.itcnet.org

BIA – Central Office Forestry

by Faline Haven, Acting Chief Forester



Faline Haven

Forestry 2014 Forestry Budget Overview

The 2014 Forestry Budget numbers were finalized the week of February 10, months later than normal. The Office of Trust Services benefitted from increases totaling nearly \$30 million dollars over 2013 levels. These increases were generally associated with, among other things, the Secretary's FY14 Initiatives and Priority Goals that included providing for Safe Indian Communities, Climate Change Adaptation, and the ongoing Youth in the Great Outdoors, all legacies of the Salazar administration.

Program	2013	2014	2015 (est)
Trust Natural Resources	\$154 million	\$184 million	\$184 million
Forestry TPA	\$25.4 million	\$27.6 million	\$25.7 million
Forestry Projects	\$16.3 million	\$20.2 million	\$20.2 million

Specifically, Forestry has TPA and Projects sub-activities saw an increase of approximately \$6 million over FY13 levels in FY14. The Division is determining how the increase in project funding will be utilized, commensurate with the increase language in the 2014 Greenbook.

BIA Pathways Program

The Confederate Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT) in partner with the Salish Kootenai College (SKC) will be the official manager of the BIA Pathways Program (COOP Program) starting April 1, 2014. The objective of new program is to provide an uninterrupted flow of support and services to students and the BIA while re-structuring the program in such a way as to provide enhanced mentoring and training support in a cost effective manner from a tribally run and supported organization.

In 2013, SKC created the Center for Tribal Research and Education in Ecosystems Sciences (TREES) in order to expand its activities outside of campus. The mission of TREES is to provide support, training and educa-

tion to Native American students, woods workers and professional natural resource staff throughout the nation. Building upon the work of SKC faculty and the success of the students, TREES proposes the following plan to modify and administer the program in such a way that will bring our extensive mentoring and natural resource education and training experience to the service and support of the students.

SKC TREES, with support from CSKT Forestry would provide all funding, mentoring and internship support currently offered to all students by the USFS and Haskell Nations Indian University Foundation and plans on significantly increasing access to training and cohort building activities, leading to student graduates with a high degree of tribal/BIA specific training and also a sense of belonging and purpose as to the unique role played by tribal foresters in the US. TREES will continue to actively recruit students from other colleges and universities throughout the nation and will support and mentor them as diligently as we do SKC students.

The entire cohort of students would be expected to attend Intertribal Timber Council's annual Timber Symposium at least twice, as well as two different tribal training modules. These training modules would be organized by TREES and co-organized and hosted by CSKT and other tribal forestry/natural resource departments and would introduce students not only to foresters working within "Indian Country" but also provide them the unique perspectives, constraints and opportunities that are found within tribal natural resource management.

For more information on the program, contact Adrian Leighton at 406-275-4948 or adrian_leighton@skc.edu

Land Buy Back Program

The Branch of Forest Resources Planning is working cooperatively the U. S. Department of the Interior Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations (LBBTN) to develop a methodology to identify, categorize and appraise candidate parcels identified by the LBBTN

for buy back by Indian Tribes. One of the items assets which will be evaluated is standing commercial timber. Details are being worked out on reimbursement for time and materials associated with inventory on select parcels and processing the information.

There is currently a memorandum of agreement under construction that will outline the process whereby parcels are identified as having a potential fair market cash commercial timber value, depending on factors such as, but not limited to: species, stumpage volume, diameter distribution, harvesting constraints per forest management plan, hauling distance to mill, current market prices, etc. If the initial data available shows that a candidate parcel may have standing commercial timber, it is identified for further analysis and scrutiny. The parcel may eventually be appraised to determine the cash value for standing commercial timber.

If the initial data available shows that there is at present no commercial timber value, based on the above listed criteria, the parcel is identified as not needing a commercial timber appraisal and is listed as a zero dollar commercial timber parcel within the LBBTN pricing matrix.

Further information about this process will be forthcoming as the Land Buy Back Program Programs gets underway.

Training

In January the BOFRP hosted training from the Forest Biometrics Research Institute (FBRI) for the Forest Projection & Planning System (FPS) software. FPS is in use by some tribes in the Northwest Region and Midwest Regional Office. The software is used to process both fixed radius and variable radius plot inventories and also features a harvest scheduler and economic analysis calculator. Represented at the training were Foresters from the BOFRP, Midwest, Southwest, & Rocky Mountain Regions, Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce Tribes. Dr. James D. Arney and Charles Vopicka conducted the training from FBRI, both have had extensive experience

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working on Indian forests. With this experience they were able to tailor the course to take into consideration the concerns and issues faced by BIA and Tribal Foresters. The software training was offered to introduce another tool for processing both Continuous Forest Inventory and Stand Exam data.

Forest Management Plans

Forest Management Planning has become a priority (among many other priorities) with the looming Office of Budget and Management deadline to have all forested reservations under a plan by the end of Fiscal Year 2015. The priority is to have plans in place to guide Forest management for each tribe. A plan may present more funding opportunities for projects through other State and Federal Agencies and Universities. These agencies are more likely to consider projects if a Forest Management Plan is in place, because it documents that Tribe's goals and objectives for cultural and commercial timber management.

To better facilitate coordination with the Regions, each of the 3 Service Center Representatives are holding teleconferences with each region on a quarterly basis. Progress is tracked through a series of milestones that begin with planning initiation through Plan approval. Currently the emphasis is on writing plans for the smaller tribes, as most of the larger timber producing tribes has current plans. To facilitate the smaller tribes a National Policy Memorandum (NPM 53IAM TRUS-33 November 25, 2014) was written to address issues that were impeding some plans. The Memorandum covers minimum content standards for Inventory and analysis on these smaller forested reservations. The Memorandum's intent was to give more flexibility for developing and writing custodial or interim plans for tribes that do not have or want a commercial forestry program.

Forestry and Fire have begun work on discussions toward more integration between Forestry and Fire Plans efforts. Another equally important goal is to begin work to standardize

fuels inventories across the 12 regions. This will be critical to address issues with trying to fit non-standardized data storage, currently there are a number of fuels.

IT Planning

The Branch has begun a series of planning sessions to review current data storage and started planning for an update database that will house all forest inventories and eventually fuels transect data. This is a necessary process to deal with the literally millions of pieces of information collected over the past several decades. Data collection began with simple paper and pencil, and then moved to using IBM punch cards. The true electronic era started with the first PC's in the 1980 that stored data as text files, they were eventually converted to early database formats. In the last few years we have started using electronic field data recorders in addition to paper tally sheets. We've arrived at the point where storing data on individual access databases is becoming unmanageable. The process to move to current technology for data storage will be an ongoing project over the next few years. This will not affect current inventory data collection and processing.

2014 A-123 Review

In compliance with OMB Circular A-123, Management Responsibility for Internal Control, The Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire management (DFWFM) will be reviewing the Forest Management Inventories and Planning (FMIP) program this year. The A-123 is designed to assess the compliance of bureau programs to the current manuals, directives and other policies. This is done through a self-assessment with follow up audits. Each agency will be responsible for the self-assessment of the bureau FMIP programs under their direction. Regions will then be required to review and audit these agency self-assessments and then provide a regional self-assessment to central office. Central Office will then audit regional self-assessments and then submits a divisional report to the Deputy Bureau

Director for Trust.

This self-assessment is an opportunity for the bureau to take a step back from the day-to-day operations and review how well their programs are meeting the requirements set forth by the policy manuals. This review is done every three years (other programs are reviewed the other two years). If deficiencies are found in the program, corrective action plans are developed to bring the program back into compliance.

The timeline for this review is that all agency self-assessments will be completed by April 10, 2014. Agency site visits will be conducted during the period of April 15 through May 15, 2014. Central Office will join three regions on these site visits, scheduled for the weeks of April 28th and May 5, 2014. The regions selected for this joint review will be announced in March. The final report will be submitted June 21, 2014.

National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP)

The National Advanced Silviculture Program is an intensive and interactive learning environment consisting of 4 modules taught in University settings and instructed by some of the most knowledgeable professors of silviculture, landscape ecology, fire ecology, forest biometry, and forest economics from across the country. After reviewing the application packets, the selection committee selected 3 BIA/Tribal foresters to attend the eighth session of NASP. Mr. John Galvan, Jemez Pueblo; Mark Paul, BIA Mescalero Agency; and Troy Fattor, Inchelium District of Colville will join a group of 35 professional foresters from the USFS, Tribal, BIA, BLM and State organizations and start their first module at the University of Minnesota this May. We are very proud of the people we have sent through the NASP program (27 so far) and appreciate their dedication, professionalism, hard work and achievement in graduating from the NASP in order to bring new ideas to the management of Indian forest land.

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Fire Management

Fire Activity

Since January 1, there have been 155 wildfires that burned a total of 7,081 acres. The human-caused Hickory Hills wildfire burned 1,349 acres and destroyed one structure on the Tahliha Agency in Oklahoma January 26th. The human-caused Little Chief wildfire burned 720 trust acres on the Osage Agency in Oklahoma.

The February, March, and April through May 2014 Fire Potential Outlook was released February 1, 2014. During the month of February and continuing through spring, there will be an above normal wildland fire potential over the most of the southern and central California mountains and foothills, including San Francisco Bay Area. Most of the southeastern U.S. will remain in below normal significant fire potential.

Aviation

The National Aviation Training was held the week of February 3rd in San Diego, Ca. to certify all helicopter and single engine air tanker managers. There were 40 people in attendance to cover a dozen courses provided throughout the week.

Administration

The final edits for the 2014 Administrative Determined Pay Plan are nearly final. The Plan is scheduled to go to Office of Wildland Fire by February 17th.

Communication/Education

A new volume of "Smoke Signals" was released February 7. This volume pays tribute to Northern Pueblos Agency Forester, Danny Gomez. It can be downloaded at; <http://bia.gov/nifc/library/signals/index.htm>

Hazardous Fuels Program

FY13 HFR Carryover was at an alarming level. On a percent of budget, carryover was the highest (7.74%) and second highest on an overall dollar (\$2.1million) in six years. In the two prior years carryover was 2.54% (\$1 million) and 2.49% (\$831,000). Contributing to this carryover was the

transition in budget programs and associated process changes in contracting (committed vs obligated). Other factors included a new accrual process for end of year payroll and retirements in BIA contracting.

FY 2014 HFR Omnibudget was approved, with a BIA allocation of \$29.922 million. Regional budget allocations have been determined and the regions have received notification.

The FY 2014 Preliminary Program of Work will be adjusted accordingly to the HFR Omnibudget of \$145 million. Central Office started the budget processes and expects approximately 6-8 weeks (region dependent) for funding to process to tribes. The Office of Self Governance timelines may be longer.

FY 2015 Planning

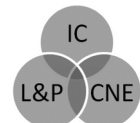
The name of the Hazardous Fuels Program will be changed to Fuels Management Program, starting in FY15. The Office of Wildland Fire Policy memorandum 2013-003 (attached) provides the rationale, approach and tasks required to revise the DOI Fuels Management Program. The Risk-Based Fuels Management Program; Strategic Approach and Outcomes (attached) describe the processes of developing a "new" allocation system for Fuels. Four tasks have been identified, which tribal representatives have been approved and are currently involved on task teams. BIA and Tribal task members are developing "sub committees" to help disseminate information to and from Agency's and Tribes.

Key Points:

- Incorporation of Tribal fiduciary trust concerns
- Tribes will be impacted by a "new" Fuels program
- During program development is the best time for Tribal input
- BIA/Tribal staff must develop a working knowledge of the Fire Management Program system
- BIA/Tribal representatives should present essential information to Tribes prior to consultation

Task Team 1

- Formula for determining: Risk = Likelihood x Susceptibility
- Four categories consisting of Life & Property, Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, Economics and Indian Country priorities have been identified as values.
- Risk based approach would encompass life and propriety, the other buckets deal with the rest of the categories, and a separate approach to work with Indian Country. The categorical approach does not fit Indian country. An option:
 $R = \text{likelihood} \times \text{susceptibility}$
 $R = r(L\&P) + r(\text{Cult, Nat. Econ}) + r(\text{Indian Country})$



Indian Country bucket (for lack of a better description at this time) does not exclude IC from identifying values in "Life and Property, Culture, Natural Resources and Economics" buckets.

Wildland Fire Potential and Wildland Fire Probability are currently under consideration.

Wildland Fire Potential Map (attached):

- Builds upon FSIM methodology to provide additional information
- Starts with FSIM inputs (BP and FIL)
- Incorporates Crown Fire Potential (Missing from FSIM)
- Incorporates Small Fire Potential (Missing from FSIM)

Wildland Fire Probability Map (attached):

FSIM Burn Probability and Fire Intensity Level

- Used in EMDS 2011-Present, also called Large Fire Simulator
- Produces estimates of likelihood and intensity of wildfire (BP and FIL)
- Uses Large Fire Occurrence, Landfire Fuel datasets as base input

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BIA Central Office Forestry by Faline Haven, Acting Chief Forester

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Wildfire Prevention:

The Wildfire Prevention program continues to grow. Several agencies and tribes are developing Wildfire Prevention Plans (WFPP) to request program funding. NIFC is in the process of developing criteria to evaluate and prioritize new requests for program funding.

Collaboration with the USFS Research Station at Triangle Park NC on the effectiveness of wildfire prevention actions continues. The use of BIA and Tribal prevention program implementation actions is leading to the development of computer modeling software to analyze the cost benefit of implementing prevention programs. Initial research results indicate prevention investments in Indian Country may produce a 25:1 return. In addition to development of new prevention analysis tools, the research effort has expanded into arson-caused wildfires on Tribal lands. Wildfires caused by arson are the leading cause of wildfires across Indian Country. This research effort will analyze arson occurrence to forecast potential problem areas.

The regions, tribes, agencies and national office are collaborating to develop and deliver several training courses that will improve the writing and field skills of both carded and trainee wildland fire investigators (INVF's). Several training courses will be offered this spring and into the summer. For more information on course dates and locations, contact the appropriate Regional WUI/Prevention Specialist.

The Youth Fire Intervention Program (YFIP) continues to gain momentum across Indian Country. The Tule River Tribe in collaboration with the BIA and the National Indian Programs Training Center developed a documentary video of the success of the Tribes YFIP (<http://bit.ly/1bPLpuF>). The Bureau remains committed to addressing the issues surrounding children and youth set fires across Indian Country. Additional information regarding the YFIP can be found on our website at <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/prevention/yfip/index.htm>.

Operations

Safety: BIA-NIFC is attempting to reschedule the Wildland Fire First Aid training in Oklahoma during the month of May. The training will focus on primary firefighters within the Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma regions. We are also attempting to reschedule the same training in the Midwest region; the target will be on firefighters within the Midwest region.

Burned Area Emergency Response: The BIA BAER program is finalizing FY14 ES & BAR funding to the tribes. Currently there is over \$1 million dollars of ES project funding needs that carryover from the FY13 fire season. BIA received \$3.9 million of BAR funding to date for FY14 that funded 18 of 19 total tribal BAR projects. Most of the funding is for reforestation on high burn severity tribal forest lands. There is a chance for some additional BAR funding for FY14, yet to be determined by OWF.

BAER leadership held a meeting in Boise the last week of January to evaluate last season's BAER team assignments and prepare for this coming season. The reconfiguration of the national standing BAER teams to a more build-as-you-go (scalable team) configuration was deemed a success, especially for Indian Country, as there was more national team member help on Indian Country incidents like Mountain and Mile Marker 28, along with better BAER training opportunities for local BIA and Tribal natural resources employees.


Planning

Last year, the fire planners conducted an in-depth survey of all Indian Country fire programs. This survey focused on documenting the FY12 Preparedness budget expenditures i.e. the quantities, types, and length of time resources (personnel, equipment) were funded. The data collected was vital in developing the "Status of Fire Management Summary Report" which revealed many critical concerns relating to our fire programs i.e. the over dependence upon the Administratively Determined workforce in completing our mission. Due to the many benefits realized by collecting this

extensive (and detailed) information last year, the fire planners are repeating this survey to document and update the database for FY13 Preparedness budget expenditures. This survey is scheduled to occur during February and March 2014.

Training

From January 15 through February, 2014, the BIA Fire Mentoring Program was able to support one field session hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The BIA Fire Mentoring Program offers intensive experiential learning by providing participants multiple opportunities to conduct prescribed fire operations. The primary targeted positions include Burn Boss, Firing Boss, and Fire Effects Monitor.

BIA NIFC's continuing education program is supporting five students enrolled in Northern Arizona University's Fire Ecology Certificate (0401 series) program. Full completion of the program will include 24 semester hours, needed to meet the positive educational requirements of the GS-0401 job series. This education will prepare the participants for professional level positions. The courses are structured in a blended format combining online course work and campus classes. 



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

Write or call the ITC office:

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Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips

113th Congress Second Session commences.

The Second Session of the 113th Congress convened January 6, and after a brief flurry of bipartisanship that saw passage of a budget and debt ceiling increase, FY 2014 appropriations, and the Farm Bill, it now appears that the Rs and Ds, each rattled by their own issues (Rs: in-fighting between the Tea Party and less radical Rs, Ds: the difficult Obamacare roll-out), are heading back into their own corners to hunker down until November's elections. They don't really need to hunker down for long. Given a robust recess schedule and the customary cessation of any productive business after July in an election year, the general sense is that Congress is not going to do much.

Both Chambers plan to come back for a lame duck session after the November election, but that doesn't look especially promising either.

All legislation introduced last year, during the 113th Congress's First Session, automatically carries over to this year's Second Session.

Omnibus FY '14 appropriations bill signed, BIA allocates funds.

H.R. 3547, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2014, also referred to as the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill, passed the House January 15 and the Senate January 16, and was signed into law January 17 (P.L. 113-76), providing funds for the operation of the federal government for the balance of FY 2014, including the Interior Department. Prior to the signing of P.L. 113-76, three continuing resolutions extended FY 2013 amounts (H.J.Res. 59 through Dec. 15, H.R. 2775 through January 15, and H.J.Res. 106 through January 18). For H.R. 3547, in lieu of a customary conference report, a Joint Explanatory Statement detailing the final House-Senate compromise on the bill was published as House Rules Committee Print 13-32. Division G covers Interior and Environment appropriations, which includes BIA, IHS and the Forest Service.

For FY 2014, the law funds the BIA Operation of Indian Programs (OIP) account, which funds most on-going BIA and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) programs except Construction, at \$2.379 billion. That is an increase of \$195 million over the FY 2014 Administration request (which separately requested \$230 million for Contract Support Costs (CSC), or \$2.413 billion for both OIP and CSC) and \$135 million over FY 2013, including the sequester.

Within the FY '14 total OIP amount, concerns about how to fund full 638 Contract Support Costs, in keeping with the US Supreme Court's *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter* decision, prompted Congress to not specify funding for individual BIA programs, such as Forestry. Congress rejected the Administration's proposed solution to the CSC full funding issue, which was to separately appropriate and cap each tribe's CSCs. Instead, Congress "remanded" the \$2.379 billion OIP total back to BIA with instructions that BIA figure out how to fully fund CSCs and then allocate the balance on the other OIP programs in an "operating plan" to be submitted to the Appropriations Committees by February 20.

The FY 2014 Joint Explanatory Statement also directs BIA and IHS to consult with tribes and work with Congressional committees of jurisdiction and OMB to formulate long-term accounting, budget and legislative strategies to address the dilemma of funding mandatory CSCs out of the BIA and IHS discretionary budgets, and to submit a work plan to the Appropriations Committees in May.

In developing the Operating Plans for BIA and IHS (Congress also remanded the IHS FY '14 Services budget back to IHS to figure out its spending for CSCs), on February 3 the White House hosted a BIA and IHS conference "consultation" call with tribes, and on January 20 the Interior Department released its BIA Operating Plan allocating the \$2.739 billion.

The requirement to dedicate considerable FY '14 funding to full CSCs (\$242 million, up \$34.3 million over FY '13, including the sequester) meant that some other BIA OIP programs have to be reduced for FY 2014. But Forestry and Natural Resources fared pretty well:

- **E n d a n g e r e d Species:** \$ 2 . 6 7 3 million, up \$1.503 million over FY '13 (incl. seq.)
- **C o o p Landscape Conservation** (climate change): \$9.947 million, up \$9.001 million over FY '13 (incl. seq.)
- **Invasive Species:** \$ 6.76 million, up \$3.0 million over FY '13 (incl. seq.)
- **Forestry TPA program:** \$27.6 million, up \$2.2 million over FY '13 (incl. seq.)
- **Forestry Projects:** \$20.2 million, up \$3.9 million over FY '13 (incl. seq.)

The BIA Construction gets \$110.1 million for FY '14 (FY '13: \$105.7 million, no sequester) and IHS gets a total for Services and Facilities of \$4.4 billion (FY '13: \$4.356 billion not including sequester).

The Interior Office of Wildland Fire Management gets \$769.5 million (FY '13: \$687.5 million with the sequester), including \$281.9 million for preparedness, \$285.9 million for suppression, and \$145.0 for hazardous fuels reduction (FY '13: \$145.0 million, not including sequester, \$137.7 with sequester). Separately, the FLAME account gets \$92 million (FY '13: \$92 million, no sequester).

The U.S. Forest Service for FY '14 gets \$2.48 billion for Wildland Fire (FY '13: \$2.17 billion), including \$307 million for hazardous fuels (FY '13: \$301 million).

BIA Forestry keeps FY '14 gains in FY '15 Administration proposed budget.

The Obama Administration released its FY 2015 proposed budget on March 4, a delay of about one month from the usual early February release caused by the long budget fight over FY 2013 and the late (February 17, 2014) signing into law of the regular FY 2014 omnibus appropriations act, PL 113-76. This delayed release leaves

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Matt Hill

Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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only one month until the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee's scheduled hearings April 7 and 8 for tribal witnesses on the FY 2015 BIA and IHS budgets. Below are some quick budget comparisons for Forestry and other programs of interest. Please note that most Natural Resources programs, except for Agricultural programs, generally retained their FY 2014 funding increases in the FY 2015 request.

(amounts in millions of \$)				
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
	Final	With Sequestration	Operating Plan	Request
Operation of Indian Programs (BIA and BIE total)	\$ 2,367.7	2,363.0	2,378.7	2,412.6
Contract Support	\$ 219,209	207,743	242,000	246,000
BIA Natural Resources Management total	\$ 157.2	154.3	184.3	184.0
Various selected programs				
Natural Resources General	\$ 5,116	4,939	5,165	5,089
Endangered Species	\$ 1,245	1,107	2,673	2,675
Cooperative Landscape Conservation (Climate)	\$ 0.2	0.9	9,947	9,948
Agriculture programs	\$25,375	23,734	23,796	23,730
Invasive Species	\$3,461	3,760	6,762	6,764
Forestry TPA	\$26,232	25,414	27,567	25,686
Forestry Projects	\$17,342	16,328	20,168	20,209

NOTE: Forestry TPA's decline between FY '14 and the FY '15 request is due to a \$2,054 million internal transfer of Forestry TPA funding to Self-Governance.

In the Interior Department's Office of Wildland Fire Management, the FY 2013 actual (including the sequester), FY 2014 and FY 2015 proposed budgets are as below:

(amounts in millions of \$)			
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
	With Sequestration	Enacted	Request
Preparedness	\$ 264.8	281.9	318.9
Suppression Operations	\$ 261.2	285.9	268.6
Fuels Management	\$ 137.7	145.0	146.3

In the U.S. Forest Service, some FY 2015 proposed budgets for wild-fire related programs are as below:

(amounts in millions of \$)			
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
	Enacted	Estimate	Proposed
Preparedness	\$ 949	1,058	1,081
Suppression	\$ 510	680	708
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	\$ 301	307	359

Debt ceiling increase passes.

In early February, the House and Senate passed a "clean" debt ceiling waiver bill (S. 540), suspending the limit on how much the U.S. can borrow to help pay its bills until mid-March

2015, well beyond this November's elections. The President signed the bill February 15. Without the bill, the U.S. Treasury said that by February 27 it would have exhausted all tools to stretch the limit, potentially causing the U.S. to default on some of its obligations after that date.

House and Senate Republicans avoided challenging the debt ceiling increase, tacitly acknowledging their budget fights with the Obama Administration damage the Republican "brand."

IRS holds consultation on soon-to-be issued Per Capita tax exemption guidance.

The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service held a tribal consultation conference call January 27 on the non-taxability of per-capita payments made from tribal trust funds. The one hour call had more than 80 tribal or tribally-related participants. Treasury/IRS had maybe half a dozen people on the call, led by Elaine Buckberg, Treasury Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Coordination, and Christie Jacobs of IRS.

Ms. Buckberg opened stating IRS/Treasury plans to issue guidance that per-capita distributions to tribal members from "funds held in trust" (later specified as "BIA trust accounts," not trust accounts operated by a tribe) are "not subject to federal tax," with exception for "egregious" efforts to "disguise" revenue from non-trust sources such as "business profits, compensation, or gaming revenues" as trust resource funds. In questions it was pointed out that revenues from tribal trust resource-based businesses, like timber and fishing, are expected not to be subject to tax.

In addition to announcing the anticipated guidance, the call asked if tribes would like to review a draft of the guidance or have it issued right away in final form. The overwhelming response was to review and consult on a draft, which the IRS will likely do. It was also suggested that a draft serve as interim guidance. With a draft consultation likely, IRS could not say when final guidance will be issued.

Farm Bill becomes law.

A massive \$956 billion 2014 Farm Bill overcame nearly four years of partisan squabbling and stalling to clear its House – Senate conference and have its

final conference compromise version pass the House January 29 and the Senate February 4, sending it to the President, who signed it February 7 (P.L. 113-79). The big national issues in the bill (H.R. 2642, the Agriculture Act of 2014, conference report H. Rpt. 113-333) change crop subsidies to an insurance program and trim food stamp (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) eligibility to reduce the program by \$8 billion over ten years. Republicans had initially called for reducing SNAP by \$40 billion over ten years.

Among the forestry provisions of interest in the final bill –

1) The conference rejected the House-proposed \$1.5 million annual appropriation limit for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation program reauthorization (tribes can participate) through FY 2018, leaving amounts unspecified.

2) Stewardship End Result Contracting on USFS and BLM land is made permanent as part of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). It had been authorized for fairly short terms in Interior appropriations bills. That authority, which is cited in the Tribal Forest Protection Act, has been allowed to expire. The new authority gives Stewardship Contractors the same fire liability treatment as regular USFS and BLM timber sales and enables the contracts to be for the sale of property. A process for any "interested party" to monitor the contract is required. The new law continues "best value" (sole source) awarding of contracts, and the conference report includes discussion about the Forest Service selection of Stewardship Contract winners and working with those who did not win the contract (Sec. 8205).

3) At least one insect and disease treatment area on a National Forest in a state shall be designated by the Ag. Secretary within 60 days of enactment, if requested by the Governor. Additional areas may be designated later. Area size is to be landscape scale and tailored to local circumstances, and HFRA expedited appeal and review procedures are to be applied to "priority projects" (those with scoping started by Sept. 31, 2018). Collaborative projects of less than 3,000 acres get a limited categorical exclusion. Old growth and large trees are to be re-

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tained as appropriate. \$200 million is authorized annually through FY 2024 for the treatment program (Sec. 8204).

4) Tribal and Alaska Native lands (including trust lands) are included in the Healthy Forest Reserve Program, which provides financial assistance for ESA-related easements (Sec. 8203).

5) State “Good Neighbor authority” is authorized for all states to enter contracts with DoAg and DoI to conduct “authorized restoration services” on National Forest and BLM land that are complimentary or similar to such services on non-federal land. There is no specific mention of tribal trust or treaty interests, although Good Neighbor projects must have the federal government complete NEPA before the state can begin activities on federal public land (Sec. 8206).

6) The study in the House bill of National Forest wood supply for mills was not adopted in the final bill, but report language urges the USFS to engage mill owners on timber supply issues.

7) Authorization of the DoAg Office of Tribal Relations was adopted (Sec. 12303).

8) A forest roads exemption is provided for Clean Water Act NPDES permits (Sec. 12313, see next Update item).

Other forest or conservation-related items of interest include the final bill’s repeal of the state and tribal watershed assistance programs (Sec. 8002 and Sec. 8005), neither of which was ever funded, adding “forest products” to the definition of “biobased products” to make them eligible for preferential marketing treatment of biobased products (Sec. 9002), making tribes eligible for Soil and Water Conservation Act programs (Sec. 2508), and authorizing the Ag. Secretary to make loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for the purchase of highly fractionated Indian land (Sec. 5402). There are also a host of food and nutrition programs of interest to tribes.

Modified Clean Water/Forest Roads fix becomes law in Farm Bill.

The 2014 Farm Bill (P.L. 113-79, the Agriculture Act of 2014, H.R. 2642) reinstates a slightly revised forest road silviculture activity exemption from Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination Sys-

tem (NPDES) permitting, but does allow EPA to regulate those discharges by other-than-permitting methods. The new law also prohibits citizen law suits against any Clean Water Act silviculture discharge activity, whether under the exempt program or some other-than-permit regulation by EPA.

A 9th Circuit decision in *Northwest Environmental Defense Center v. Brown* asserted that stormwater discharges from forest road ditches, as through a culvert or some other drainage system into a stream or river, required EPA point source pollution permits under the Clean Water Act, undoing EPA’s long regulatory practice of considering ditches and other silvicultural activities as nonpoint sources not needing permits. To require a NPDES permit for every forest road culvert would strangle the forest products industry in red tape and litigation. Ad hoc EPA regulatory actions and litigation appeals up to the US Supreme Court only added confusion and incomplete answers to the issue, necessitating a statutory fix that was accomplished in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Section 12313 of the Farm Bill exempts the following silvicultural activities from Clean Water Act NPDES permits: Nursery operations, site prep, reforestation and subsequent cultural treatment, thinning, prescribed burning, pest and fire control, harvesting operations, surface drainage, and road construction and maintenance. The exemption does not apply to any dredge and fill operations, any existing NPDES permitting requirements in place at the time of enactment, or regulation achieved through other-than-permitting procedures. And as noted, the Farm Bill prohibits any citizen suits under the Clean Water Act for any specified silvicultural activity, whether exempt or regulated through an other-than-permitting procedure.

Tester becomes Chair of Senate Indian Affairs.

In mid-February, Senator Jon Tester (D, Mont.) became Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee when then-Chair Maria Cantwell (D, Wash.) vacated the SCIA Chair to take the Chairwomanship of the Senate Small Business Committee. The changing of Senate committee chairs was set

in motion when Senator Max Baucus (D, Mont.) resigned February 11 to become Ambassador to China, vacating the Finance Committee chair. Sen. Ron Wyden (D, Ore.) became the Finance chair, and Sen. Mary Landrieu (D, La.) took his place as Energy and Natural Resources chair, vacating the Small Business chair, which Cantwell took.

At SCIA, Staff Director Mary Pavel is expected to stay, but Senior Counsel Denise Desiderio has already departed.

Also on February 11, Democrat John Walsh of Montana was sworn-in to fill the remainder of Baucus’s term, through the end of this year. Walsh, who was appointed, is also expected to stand for election to the seat this November.

ITC supports bills to move big fire costs off-budget.

Early this February, ITC signed on to a letter to Congress from dozens of forestry organizations (the “Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solutions”) supporting the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2013 (S. 1875 and H.R. 3992), to treat extreme wildland fire costs in the same off-budget fashion as other natural disasters like floods and hurricanes. The identical Senate and House bills introduced December 19, 2013 by Senators Ron Wyden (D, Ore.) and Mike Crapo (R, Idaho) and February 5, 2014 by Reps. Mike Simpson (R, Idaho) and Kurt Schrader (D, Ore.), would move any annual fire spending that exceeds 70% of the 10-year rolling average for fire suppression to an off-budget location outside the Forest Service or Interior Department budget by making it eligible to be funded under a separate federal disaster account authorized in the 1985 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (aka Gramm Rudman Hollings).

Wyden’s introductory statement says that 1% of wildland fires account for 30% of suppression costs, but whether it is a great number of small or medium fires or a fewer number of very large fires or some mix thereof, once annual fire suppression cost exceeds 70% of the 10 year average, all additional suppression costs, including emergency rehabilitation costs, can shift to the disaster account.

The bills are supported by Ag. Secretary Vilsack and Interior Secre-

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tary Jewell and have been included in the Department of Agriculture and Interior Department proposed FY 2015 budgets, but the bills, which have been referred to the House and Senate Budget Committees, are opposed by powerful House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, who disagrees with moving these large and increasingly common amounts to an off-budget disaster account. Ryan's opposition could delay or kill the idea.

Senate hears Barrasso bill to mandate USFS harvests.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing February 6 on two forestry bills, including Senator John Barrasso's (R, Wyo.) S. 1966, the National Forest Jobs and Management Act, introduced January 28 to increase harvest and restoration projects on National Forests by -

- Requiring the Forest Service to carry out timber projects on at least 7.5 million acres of NFS land that are "suitable for timber harvest";
- Limiting Forest Service NEPA to analyzing no more than the agency proposed action and one alternative (EA limited to 100 pages);
- Creating a special administrative review process; and
- Authorizing the use of arbitration instead of judicial review of a decision made following the special administrative review process.

The bill is not as aggressive as the Hastings forestry bill passed by the House (H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act), but will still garner significant opposition from the environmental community.

In the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing February 6, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell testified against S. 1966, saying the Forest Service "cannot support the bill as it is currently written as it rolls back key environmental safeguards, diminishes public participation, sets artificial management targets in statute, and leads to potentially more conflict (including potentially

more objection and challenges)."

Clint Georg, a Seneca, Wyoming sawmill owner, testified in favor of S. 1966, citing NEPA impediments to restoring healthy regional forests.

Former US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, on his own behalf and as a Trout Unlimited Board member, testified against S. 1966, saying it should focus on forest health restoration rather than mandated timber production.

With Tidwell and Dombeck testifying against the bill, and with Democrats controlling the Committee, there is no chance Barrasso's bill will advance.

Senate hears Wyden's bill to increase BLM "O&C" land harvest in Oregon.

In a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing February 6 on two forestry bills, in addition to Sen. Barrasso's S. 1966 (see above), the Committee took testimony on S. 1784, a bill by then-Chairman Ron Wyden to divide former Oregon and California railroad forest land now re-vested to the BLM in western Oregon into conservation/wilderness areas and timber production areas where "ecological forestry" principals developed by Dr. Jerry Franklin and streamlined environmental reviews would hopefully increase and stabilize federal timber harvest and related receipts to financially strapped local "O&C" counties.

Wyden's bill also establishes a reservation for the Confederated Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribe. A Cow Creek Tribe reservation in a draft of the legislation is not in the introduced bill. But the hearing focused on O&C issues and there were no tribal witnesses.

At the hearing, Wyden announced it would be his last as Chairman, since he was moving to the tax-writing Finance Committee Chair almost immediately (it happened Wednesday, February 12, and Senator Mary Landrieu (D, La.) became the Energy and Natural Resources Committee's new Chair.)

Steve Ellis of the BLM presented Administration testimony against S. 1784's environmental streamlining provisions, but said BLM wants to keep working with Wyden on acceptable language.

Dr. Jerry Franklin of the University of Washington testified for himself and Dr. Norm Johnson of Oregon

State University in support of the bill, particularly regarding its adoption of their "ecological forestry" principles. A local county commissioner also supported the bill.


Other witnesses, including the Pew Charitable Trust, the activist environmental organization Oregon Wild, and local sawmill owners generally opposed the bill because its attempted "middle of the road" approach does not satisfy their needs and desires.

Wyden is hopeful for S. 1784's prospects, but with so many opponents able to object to its consideration as a free-standing bill, its only hope is to move as a rider to some other legislation. Perhaps, as Chair of the very powerful Finance Committee, Wyden may be able to do that, but it is a thin reed to hang on to.

Raina Thiele new White House Tribal Liaison.

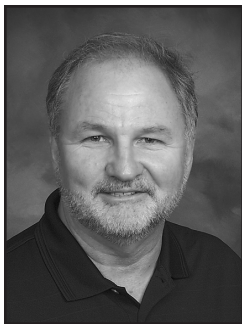
Charlie Galbraith (Navajo) departed his post as White House Tribal Liaison (Deputy Associate Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, White House Office of Public Engagement) in late December, and in early January Raina Thiele was named to the post. "Raina Thiele has most recently served as a program examiner at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) helping to build the president's energy and international budgets," according to background information released by the White House. "She previously worked as a legislative analyst at OMB focusing on issues related to the Department of the Interior. Raina received her undergraduate degree from Yale College and her Master in Public Policy degree from Harvard University." Thiele was born and raised in Alaska and is Dena'ina Athabascan and Yup'ik and an enrolled citizen of Pedro Bay Native Village.

Cisco Minthorn to House Indian & Alaska Native Affairs Minority.

Attorney Cisco Minthorn (Umatilla) joined the House Natural Resources Committee Minority as Counsel for the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs in January, replacing Jennifer Romero. Minthorn moved from a Counsel job on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee's Majority Staff Director is Chris Fluhr. 

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



James R. Erickson

Department of Interior Office of Wildland Fire “Fuels Management Program”

The Intertribal Timber Council has been monitoring the Department of Interior (DOI) Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) fuels program for several years. Our focus centers on how these funds are prioritized and allocated to the various DOI bureaus and particularly Indian Country fuel projects.

In 2012 tribal projects were ranked, prioritized and funded against projects from other DOI bureaus using the Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS). The system has been under continuous development from year to year so impacts of the system on project funding was difficult to project in future years and funding levels fluctuated significantly from year to year for each DOI bureau. In 2012, the BIA received nearly a 10% reduction in funding due to HFPAS model design and implementation failures that favored the BLM. The Intertribal Timber Council and several member Tribes took exception and submitted letters to DOI Secretary Sally Jewell expressing our concerns and requesting that the BIA receive a set-aside of 25% of the but not less than \$50 million in any given year of DOI annual fuel funding.

In the mean time it appears our collective outcry has impacted how the DOI OWF looks at prioritizing fuels funding as DOI OWF has mothballed the HFPAS process. The DOI OWF is currently conducting an assessment to determine a better system to address fuel-funding allocation.

In the DOI OWF Strategic Approach and Outcomes document it states:

“The purpose of the DOI fuels program is to improve the integrity and resilience of our forests and rangelands; contribute to community adaptation to fire; and improve the ability to safely and appropriately respond to wildfire. The agencies’ programs are aligned with the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

Fuels treatments do not eliminate fire from our landscapes. They do however result in better outcomes on the land. More resilient and healthier ecosystems provide many benefits to society, including clean water, scenic and recreational values, wood products, and biodiversity. Communities are better able to withstand wildfire. In addition, treatments provide safer conditions and more strategic options for firefighters.”

This project designed into four tasks to address the following objectives:

1. Develop the foundation for a revised DOI Fuels Program and management approach based on risk.

2. Develop a methodology for measuring and demonstrating program effectiveness over time.

3. Assess the role, purpose, and approach to Community Assistance within DOI.

4. Determine how best to meet the trust responsibilities and consultation requirements with tribes for the DOI fuels management program.

Each task is assigned to an inter-agency task group to address.

In an effort to engage Tribes in the development of these task outcomes, the DOI OWF has invited both tribal and BIA participation on each task group. The task groups have been operating since the first of this year and continue to evaluate alternatives and develop recommendations on how to address each task group objective. Mark Jackson, BIA NIFC Deputy Director – Fuels, and Jim Erickson, ITC Fire Technical Specialist are coordinating these efforts on behalf of the BIA and Tribes.

Task group 1 is currently looking at formulas that will give extra consideration for tribal projects and values, recognizing the unique relationship between the federal government and individual Tribes. This formulation could elevate tribal projects over other bureau projects, but could still compare them in a collective allocation process. Tribal and BIA task team members are closely monitoring this concern.

Participants: William Wilson-Warm Springs; Everett Isaac-Yakama; BIA-Joe Kafka; Mark Jackson; Keith Burnette; Randy Fuller

Task group 2 is currently considering measures that will provide:

1. A measure of mitigation of fire

risk to communities and their values.

2. Measures of resilience of natural systems to wildfire.

3. Measure of the extent to which fuels program supports wildfire response.

4. Measure of cost effectiveness of fuels treatments (or, cost avoidance produced by fuels treatments).

Discussions are preliminary with final decisions being based on the outcomes of Task group 1.

Participants: Vernon Stearns-Spokane; BIA-Bill Grauel; Mark Jackson

Task group 3 has developed a range of funding alternatives to provide for community assistance. These alternatives will be considered and a recommendation provided by the task group. One significant challenge to funding this objective stems from the fact that funds allocated here must come at the expense of funding fuel projects.

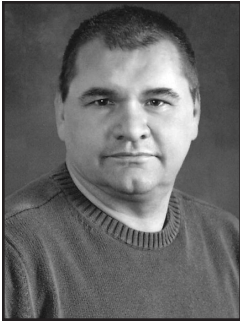
Participants: Tony Harwood-CSKT; Sam Scranton-BIA

Task group 4 is conducting philosophical discussions on how the DOI as a whole can accommodate to meet trust responsibilities to individual Tribes and satisfy the DOI Tribal Consultation policy (<http://www.doi.gov/tribes/Tribal-Consultation-Policy.cfm>). The lack of an effective federal consultation model makes this a daunting challenge. Consulting on high level (i.e. management of all trust natural resources) versus consulting on task level (i.e. fuels) presents a daunting challenge to the Department of Interior and its associated bureaus. Should consultation take place at the department level or individually by each bureau? Should consultation be high level or task level orientated? Is there a working model within the federal government that DOI can follow to satisfy this Presidential mandate? These are just some of the questions facing the DOI and Tribes as they work to find solutions. Recent efforts at consultation (i.e. BIA NWRO consultation on HFPAS) have provided encouraging exchanges of information to inform Tribes on key elemental issues concerns as they develop their consultation responses. Unfortunately the process has since stalled and lost momentum due to extended delays in the BIA response to Tribes. Good will gained during the information exchange sessions is quickly

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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 scheduled for April 23, 2014 in Porterville, California.

Our last meeting was held in conjunction with the spring executive board meeting in San Diego, California on February 19, 2014. We had a great discussion about a number of important issues, including:

Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT III) Implementation Strategy

There are a lot of moving pieces to IFMAT implementation, including preparation for meetings in DC, congressional hearings, and ongoing efforts with communications, funding, and getting vacant positions filled.

ITC will hold an IFMAT implementation strategic planning meeting very soon.

Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) Assessment and Implementation Plan

Implementing the implementation plan is still trying to gain traction. Meanwhile, members of the ITC plan to visit the Tule River Tribe on April 21st and get a tour of their proposed TFPA project area.

Progress continues on the CSKT/Lolo National Forest, Plains-Thompson Falls Ranger District, McGinnis Cabin Stewardship Project. This fuels treatment project under an Integrated Resource Contract is expected to be completed this spring and discussions with the Lolo National Forest are occurring about the next project.

I encourage tribes that have an existing TFPA project to provide a status report on them. Either send information to me at jimd@cslkt.org, or the ITC office at itcl@teleport.net. An update on existing projects would be greatly appreciated.

Anchor Forest Pilot Project

Steve Andringa, Yakama Nation Forestry Program Manager and Anchor Forest Pilot Project lead gave the Operations Committee a progress report. He states that "Overall, the project is working well and is getting good press coverage and has a diverse group of folks involved".

Steve also reports that he presented the Anchor Forest project at the 13th Annual Foresters Forum in Coeur d'Alene Idaho on February 7th and that he and Jay O'Laughlin are coordinating a presentation and poster for the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), scheduled for October 2014, held in conjunction with the National Society of American Foresters conference.

Steve also gave a brief update on the different tasks associated with the project. A list of the different tasks are:
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 also provides periodic updates of progress on each task group. He notes that the Anchor Forest Pilot Project in January/February was actively involved with the contractors conducting work on the various Tasks. The data collection for many of the task will be completed this quarter. Once the preliminary findings are completed the next step is to begin writing the Task reports.

If you would like to stay informed with the Anchor Forest project, contact Steve Andringa at steve@yakama.com, or Vincent Corrao at carrao@nmi2.com.

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

(Continued from page 12)

lost by the lack of a federal response.

Participants: Jim Durglo-CSKT; Kevin Lane-Hoopa Valley; Dee Randle-San Carlos Apache; BIA-Bodie Shaw; Ed Brunson

The Intertribal Timber Council will

National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Partnership

Discussions continue with members of the NASF Tribal Relations Committee. A conference call is periodically held to discuss issues that are important to both organizations. The ITC encourage member tribes to invite your State Forester to join the NASF tribal committee.

Fire Program Management



Please look at Jim Erickson's article that describes the Fuels Management Program revision initiative. There is a lot happening with the initiative and with the release of the FY15 Presidents budget for BIA and Tribal fire programs. We need to stay engaged and informed on how this process is playing out.

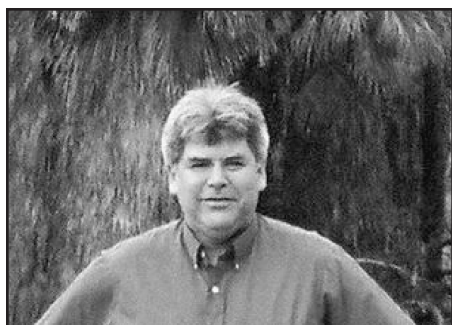
Mr John Degroot, Nez Perce Forestry and Fire Director, is leading an effort to form an **ITC Carbon Sequestration Committee**. Currently John is coordinating a meeting with interested parties. If you haven't been notified and would like to be on this committee, please contact John Degroot at jdegroot@nezperce.org.

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. 🌲

continue to monitor this situation with the help of these key Tribal and BIA personnel. The ITC position will be to monitor and evaluate the development of the DOI OWF Fuels Management Program and its affects on allocation of fuel funding to Tribes. Additional updates will be provided as this project develops. 🌲

Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

Native Sage of Enlightenment Journey- "I never knew . . ." IFMAT-III – Evergreen-

In 2010, several tribal students worked on their graduate degrees in natural resources and business while participated in the *Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship* (IGERT) program at the University of Washington that focused on tribal energy issues that included their forestland. During the review of the unique tribal IGERT program, almost all of the fellow non-tribal student cohorts and faculty that visited the forestland all said,

"I never knew tribes' had so much forestland."

"I never knew there were tribal loggers and sawmills."

"I never knew tribes managed their land sustainability."

The tribal students shared their tribal forest homeland with their non-tribal cohorts and faculty on a different enlightenment journey to share science, but also their tribes' traditional knowledge. The non-tribal group went from, "I never knew" to "Now I know and understand."

Now that the IFMAT-III report has been completed, tribes have an opportunity to take others on a different enlightenment journey similar to those non-tribal IGERT participants. The Age of Enlightenment was a western science based philosophy, but now the ITC member tribes have started to travel down an IFMAT-III and different enlightenment journey with the third Evergreen Magazine issue on Indian Forestry. The previous Evergreens issues on Indian forestry were produced in 1998 and 2005.

The spring 2014 issue is a unique blend of nice graphic illustrations that provides understandable information



and tribal stories from both large and small land bases. The stories also include unique perspective from IFMAT veterans like John Gordon and John Sessions with younger IFMAT tribal student participants like Serra Hoagland and Brianna Gervais. The other Evergreen contributing authors include Larry Mason, Bill Tripp), Phil Rigdon (Yakima), Hal Salwasser, Jim Erickson, Adrian Leighton, Mark Phillips, Gary Morishima, Kelly Hetzler, William Grauel, Eric Eberhard, Joyce Berry, Vincent Carrao, Brett Kenny, David Cleaves, Sean Hart, Keith Karnes, Kelly Crispen Coates, and Faline Haven. Finally, noting another author and editor of the Evergreen, Jim Peterson, who produced the magazine that had the largest and most diverse stories out of the three Indian forestry issues.

The Evergreen Spring 2014 issue, "Forestry in Indian Country: Solving Federal Forestry's Rubik's Cube" will provide information from scientists and wisdom from the tribal members to start helping us guide others down a trail to start implementing the recommendations from IFMAT-III so the public can start experiencing a different enlightenment journey from "I never knew" to "Now I know and understand." 🌲

Symposium Committee – Recruitment

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

The Intertribal Timber Council has a rich history spanning over four decades. WOW!! Thirty eight years ago, the first symposium was held in Warm Springs, Oregon, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and this June, the 38th Symposium will be held in Worley, Idaho, hosted by Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Our Symposium Committee over the years has been assembled with personnel from various Tribes, Corporations, and Agencies from around Indian Country.

Our good friend and past Symposium Chairman, Reginald "The General" Atkins has retired from the BIA. Congratulations! Reggie, Colville Tribe, served as chairman from 2000 – 2009. Ralph Goode, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, served as chairman from 1994 – 1999, and C. Dexter Gill, Navajo Nation, served as chairman from 1990 – 1993. The symposium commit-

tee was established in 1990.

The Symposium Committee is responsible for developing the agenda for the ITC's annual symposium. The committee is also responsible for reviewing symposium evaluations and recommending changes to future symposiums. The committee reviews symposium workshop findings and recommendations and presents them to the Board for approval. The committee, from time-to-time, may develop and organize workshops based on the needs of the membership.

Intertribal Timber Council Board meetings are quarterly, and all of the committees coincide. There is a winter meeting in Portland, OR, spring meeting (Porterville, CA), early summer (Symposium Location), and fall meeting (Coos Bay, OR). ITC will not reimburse travel for individual committee members.

Lately, our numbers have decreased due to retirement, new job opportunities,

or undisclosed reasons. We are recruiting for interested folks who have the time and dedication to help provide future input and become a member of the Intertribal Timber Council Symposium Committee.

If you are interested, please contact ITC @ (503) 282-4296

Himeeq'is Lil'loy – Large Blessings,
'Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you

Howard L. Teasley, Jr., 2010 - current 🌲



Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

Congratulations to the 2014 Truman Picard Scholarship recipients! Nine volunteers rated the scholarship applicants on their application letter, resume, academic merit, reference letters

and financial need. The following is a list of the 2014 scholarship recipients in alphabetical order:

High School \$2,000

James Amell Charles Blue
Tule O'Rourke

Undergraduate \$2,500

Chad Avery Sasha Rivers*
Lydina Bigman* Santee Ross
Matthew Gachupin Britton Salois
Colleen George Lydell Sheperd
Camille Griffith Caw-Tep Sylvia
Toynette Hunt* Makayla Syas*
Kelly Rose O'Bennick Vaughn Vargas
Shane Piaso Setrina Wilson
McKenzie Rides at the Door
Dominique Zuni

Graduate \$2,500

Seafha Tuttle* Shawn DeFrance*
Marvin Victor, Jr.

*Previous Recipient of Truman Picard Memorial Scholarship

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

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

I hope this helps in determining and/or prioritizing a student's need for attendance at the symposium in Worley, Idaho June 23-26.

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

Total scholarships awarded since 1988: **369** (315 undergraduate and graduate, and 54 High School)

Total amount awarded: **\$674,500**

Total Individuals receiving scholarships: **248** (There have been several repeat recipients)

Number of tribes represented as recipients: **96**

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

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

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

Research Sub-Committee

by Adrian Leighton and Laurel James



Adrian Leighton

Attention scholars join us and share your research in our student poster session at the 2014 National Indian Timber Symposium; to be held June 23-26, 3014, at the Coeur D'Alene

Casino Resort & Hotel, Worley, ID.

Posters will be judged throughout the symposium with designated time slots for individual presentations. ITC Scholars will be required to mount their posters on **June 23, 2014** prior

to the opening night reception, for display throughout the symposium. A small monetary award will be given to the top presenters at the Annual Awards Banquet.



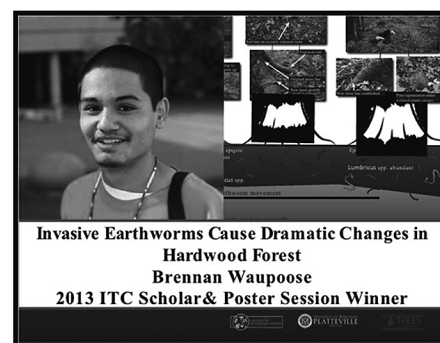
Laurel James

INTERESTED SCHOLARS SHOULD SUBMIT:

- Name
- Address
- Institution
- Phone
- Tribal affiliation
- Email

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
May 31, 2014.

EMAIL ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS
TO: Laurel James laurelj@uw.edu





Intertribal Timber Council
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Portland, Oregon 97232

First Class
