



# INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Winter ~ 2017

## Managing for Future Fires



### Fire Technical Specialist

James R. Erickson

During my discussions with resource managers across Indian country and other land management agencies, I sensed a diverse range of perspectives and comfort zones about the role of wildland fire plays as a natural force and management tool. Some people still gravitate to the long tenured custom of fire suppression and preventing unwanted resource damage. The other extreme gravitates to letting fires burn as nature takes its course. In between are adaptive resource managers who look to apply a wide array of resource options from timber harvest to adding more fire to the landscape through prescribe fire and managing natural ignitions.

The challenge for each of us is to find a happy medium for our unique ecosystems where we balance the two extremes. This requires that we recognize that we



Fighting Fire with Fire on Colville Reservation, 2003  
photo by Scott Redgers

can either allow fire to dictate when, where, and the conditions under which it burns while accepting the consequences; or we can become active fire managers and take more control of when, where and the conditions when fires burn to achieve more desirable outcomes.

My forestry career began in 1977 during the period that emphasized fire suppression first and foremost. Protection of valuable tribal resources was the only logical decision. Timber was often valued above all resources and re-

quired that we extinguish all fires before they became large fires and destroyed timber resources. Un-

*(Continued on page 3)*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fire Technical Specialist.....	1
President's Message .....	2
Technical Specialist.....	5
Symposium Committee.....	6
Operations Committee.....	9
Research Sub-Committee.....	10
Education.....	11
Washington DC Update .....	12
BIA Central Office Forestry .....	16

## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

### **ITC members and friends, good day.**

As I write this, we are heading into Christmas and New Years, and the ITC wants to wish you a happy and safe holidays. This is a time to celebrate with our families, and, as 2016 draws to a close, take stock of the past year and make plans for the incoming 2017.

For the ITC, 2016 was an active year. We had a wonderful and unique symposium hosted by the San Carlos Apache Tribe. During the symposium the ITC signed a MOU with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to help facilitate and coordinate assistance from all the Departments' agencies for tribal forests. ITC held a series of Tribal Forest Protection Act workshops with the Forest Service and BIA that helped spur the proposal and implementation of additional collaborative TFPA health projects. With our BIA partners, we continued to implement the IF-MAT III Recommendations and Findings, in a long-term cooperative undertaking with the BIA

that now includes the USDA-ITC MOU, which should help shape the future of tribal forestry. ITC started to shape a workforce development effort with the BIA that builds on ITCs long and strong history of supporting students in forestry and natural resources education programs.

Speaking of the education program, we awarded 29 Truman D. Picard Scholarship's this year. Since 1988, ITC has now funded over \$814,500 to 426 scholarship recipients that are listed, by year, on our website [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org)

ITC also collaborated with the Society of American Foresters (SAF) NW Regional Office to produce the first ITC-SAF Workshop this past October in Spokane, Washington to help showcase opportunities for partnerships with tribal forestry and the SAF professional membership.

In Congress this last year, ITC presented and submitted testimony on appropriations, tribal forestry legislation, and wildfire disaster funding, among other things. We participated in increasing the BIA Forestry budget by \$4 million and supported movement of tribal forestry legislation. The ITC concluded its Anchor Forest pilot study in Washington State, generating a report that local tribes, including the Yakama Nation, and our neighbors can use to improve a more stable and coordinated approach to regional forest management and wood products production. Other regions of the country, including the Southwest and the Lakes States, are also exploring similar undertakings for their regions.

At home, some of us spent much of the year cleaning up after the devastating 2015 fire season. ITC vigorously advocated for more equitable post-fire rehab funding in the Interior Department, and that continues to be a major effort. We also produced an economic impact study of wildfire on tribal timber resources.

The end of 2016 has seen some personnel departures and arrivals of note. BIA Director Mike Black, who dedicated considerable time and effort on tribal forestry issues, has left that position, and Jim Douglas retired as Director of the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF), leaving that job in the capable hands of Bryan Rice, who brings extensive experience with BIA and USFS to that important post. Bryan is joined by Harry Humbert as the Interior Department's new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Resource Protection and Emergency Services, which includes the OWF. We congratulate Harry and hope to see him and Bryan at this June's Symposium at Yakama.

This incoming 2017 promises to be a year of opportunity and challenge. In February, the Obama Administration will depart and the newly elected Trump Administration will be take office. At this point, many of the specifics of how the Trump Administration will govern remain unclear, but significant change is expected in the federal government's approach to the many domestic and international issues that confront the United States. As part of his Cabinet, President-elect Trump

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

*(Continued from page 1)*

fortunately this was also a period of little to no use of planned prescribe fire. These two factors were the primary cause of increased stocking and fuel loadings in forests and woodlands generated over the past 100 years across our nation and Indian country.

Today the evidence of our past actions coupled with climate change are resulting in longer fire seasons, more fires, more annual acres burned, resource damage to soils and water, escalating suppression costs, increasing need for emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, and greater forestry and fire funding shortfalls due to fire borrowing. This all supports the stark reality that continuing past management actions alone will not solve the crisis we face. We must adopt new strategies that truly make a difference in reducing the risk we face to ensure resilience and adaptability of our ecosystems. Fire has been and always and will continue to be a force in nature. How fire impacts our resources will depend on our management choices.

Recently the Department of Interior (DOI) took a look at fire suppression costs for the most costly fires within the department during the period of 2011-2016. The BIA and Tribes experienced 39% of the DOI's 56 costliest fires, while receiving only 20% of the DOI wildland fire funding. This BIA/tribal percentage jumps to 60% when considering only the top 20 most costly DOI fires for this period. The BLM on the other hand experienced only 34% of all the costliest fires and only 25% of the top 20 fires, yet they receive over



Coeur d' Alene reservation prescribe burn 2011  
photo by Kurt Mettler

60% of the DOI wildland fire budget. These figures seem to clearly indicate where the greatest DOI risk lies, on Indian lands.

What makes this situation even worse is the fact that suppression costs are just the tip of the iceberg when assessing the total impacts from large mega-fires. The cost for Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) typically equals or exceeds the cost of suppression, especially for tribal forests and woodlands. On top of the cost of rehabilitation should be added the loss of timber values, loss of tribal employment, and the long-term ecological impacts to soils, water, fish, wildlife, and cultural values.

The DOI Office of Wildland Fire made the rehabilitation of tribal lands even more complex by adopting a 2016 policy to prorate annual rehabilitation allocations to DOI bureaus based upon the five-year rolling average of non-Alaska acres burned by each bureau. This

policy allocates funding regardless of annual bureau need. The policy was exposed in 2016 at a time when the 2015 Northwest tribal fires created a five year BIA rehabilitation need of at least \$55 million while the formula allocated only \$3.5 million per year. This \$17.5 million five-year allocation leaves a \$37.5 million shortfall for just the 2015 fires; leaving no funding for any subsequent fires that impact tribal lands. To make matters worse, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is sitting on \$10.9 million 2016 BAR funding that they do not need at this time and are carrying over to 2017. One additional fallacy of this policy is the assumption that an acre of sagebrush costs the same to rehabilitate as an acre of forests that Tribes must reforest.

So, if the most costly DOI fires are occurring on tribal lands, are they not the lands at greatest risk? The National Cohesive Wildland

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

*(Continued from page 3)*

Fire Management Strategy calls for addressing risk where it exists. Logic would then dictate that the Bureau of Indian Affairs should receive additional funding to address this risk. The third Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT III) identified a \$98 million annual shortfall in funding for BIA/tribal forestry and fire programs to bring us on par with the Forest Service. This lack of funding has seriously impacted BIA/tribal forestry and fire programs so much that we now face a succession-staffing crisis. Our workforce is old and getting older. On top of all this, the Department of Interior Office of Wildland Fire is implementing a new Risk Based Wildland Fire Management model that shifts additional funding away from the BIA to the Bureau of Land Management.

While there appears to be no easy solution to the funding problem, we are still faced with the reality of carrying on our responsibilities to Tribes. Just as the generations before us faced miss-guided federal policies and funding shortfalls, we too must do our best to make sure resources are available and sustainable for future generations.

I have always been encouraged by the resiliency and adaptability of Tribes to make things work during trying times. Since the inception of the Indian Self Determination Act (P.L. 93-638), Tribes have taken a more active role in determining their management priorities. With this change we see a more balanced valuing of resource values. Some very creative and innovative solu-

tions have come about during this period of self-determination. Timber remains a valuable resource, but not more important than other life sustaining resources.

So in spite of all the obstacles placed in front of us, we must find ways to access other funds and try new techniques to reach our management objectives. Most Tribes have figured out how to access funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (EQIP) and some are accessing funding from carbon credits. Soon we will see more public generated funds via water partnerships that assess water users fees that are then leveraged to help landowners treat lands where water is generated. Even with these new sources of funding, it is unlikely there will be enough funding to cover all management needs.

This is where tribal ingenuity and creativity can come to play and where fire can become an ally more than an enemy. Some tribes, like the San Carlos Apache, have recognized the traditional role that fire plays in maintaining their ecosystems and stimulating healthy resources. Tribes everywhere need to connect to their past traditions to identify how they may more effectively use fire to treat their lands.

One significant opportunity that Tribes can better utilize is to manage natural ignitions during periods of low fire risk to reduce fuel loadings and stimulate favorable vegetative responses important to ecosystem vitality. But to make this happen will take courage and the willingness to accept some greater risk. Current policy has instilled so many hurdles and reg-

ulations that working with fire has become an administrative nightmare. Risk aversion has become all too common in Indian country. Fire managers are more likely to do nothing because that appears to be the least risky track. Unfortunately this is the very mentality that has led to the crisis facing us today.

Recently I read an article by a tribal elder from Northern California that pointed out that we wait too long for the perfect window to burn that we too often miss the window completely. His advice was that “we need to burn during cooler and wetter periods to re-learn the skill of applying fire back on the land.” One can only learn about applying fire by actually doing it. Once we gather more skills, then we can expand our comfort zone and window of opportunity. “Any burning is better than no burning.”

If we are ever going to get ahead of the fuel issues facing our country, we must figure out how to use fire as a cost effective tool. The San Carlos Apache Tribes has made this move allowing them to tap into new funding using suppression funds to reduce fuels and restore ecosystem health and resiliency. They are then able to compliment these suppression dollars with their fuels dollars to achieve more acres at lower costs. While different regions of the country face different conditions, fire can and should be an alternative in the management toolbox. I encourage you to find ways to incorporate fire instead finding reasons why not to use fire.

I personally want to welcome you to this upcoming National In-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

### ITC and SAF Discovering Partnership Opportunities

During the past few years, the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) has developed partnerships to co-produce meetings in the fall; first it was with Seattle University in 2014, then with Yale University in 2015 and now in 2016, it was with the Society of American Foresters.

The Intertribal Timber Council and the Society of American For-

esters NW Office collaborated to produce a joint conference for the first time in the organizations' histories. The ITC-SAF conference, "Partnership Opportunities with Indian Forestry: A Tribal Perspective," was held on October 5 – 7, 2016 at the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, Washington.

The conference attracted 114 attendees that included students from local SAF chapters, repre-

*(Continued on page 7)*


## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

*(Continued from page 4)*

dian Timber Symposium June 26-29, 2017 in Yakima, Washington, hosted by the Yakama Nation. The Monday June 26 Wildland Fire Update workshop is dedicated to dialoging about future fire in Indi-

an country. Presenters will provide a look into future fire, traditional use of fire, and dialog with national leaders about how Indian country can adapt and prepare for these fires. We will also hear from our new BIA sponsored Type II Initial

Attack crews, learn about the new USGS user friendly tool for Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS), and an update on the ITC workforce development efforts. Please come and join us. 

## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon

*(Continued from page 2)*


has named Montana Representative Ryan Zinke to be the nominee for Secretary of the Interior. While Rep. Zinke has been in Congress just one term, he has established a strong record in support of Indian tribes, and also brings a dedication to the active management of Interior's lands and resources. From the perspective of tribal timber management, the designation of Rep. Zinke is encouraging, and we look forward to meeting and working with him and his Interior team to strengthen BIA and tribal forestry both on our lands and across the broader landscape.

The new year should also see

the BIA implementation of the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (P.L. 114-178), which allows tribes – with Interior approval – to design and carry out their own forestry regulations (consistent with applicable treaties, statutes and Executive Orders). Thanks goes out to the Colville Tribes for their dedicated leadership in moving this through Congress and into law.

We look forward to working with the new 115th Congress. We hope that the Tribal Forestry Participation and Protection Act by Sen. Steve Daines (R, Mont.) and similar provisions by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R, Ark.) in the Resilient Federal Forests Act can

be reintroduced and advanced, and that improving appropriations support for tribal forestry and fire will continue. The 115th Congress will also likely renew active consideration of broad federal public forest reform, offering timber tribes an opportunity for improved engagement, as well as seeking to resolve the wildfire suppression funding issue.

So, a lot has occurred and a lot is coming up. Hopefully, these holidays will give all of us a good chance to rest, reflect and celebrate with our families and friends, and to head into the new year with good spirit, clear vision and determination. 



## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley



Howard Teasley

### Winter News Now

‘Eey sin’ - Happy New Year! From the Nez Perce Tribe (NiiMii-Puu). We are sailing into uncharted waters with a broken compass, no motor, and now way to steer. Please keep our Tribal Nations, Rights, Funding, and the United States of America in prayer in the New Year. 2017 is here with a new perspective for all of us. I would like to ask for Blessings upon our ITC families, Members Tribes, Committee Members, and Executive Board of Directors. Be safe and Blessed. ‘Qe’ciyew’yew - Thank you.

This will be a new experience for all of us. The Yakama Nation is building and renovating their hotel and convention center, current schedules will put the completion of the site well into the fall of 2017. The symposium will be held off reservation, but activities in Toppenish, Washington are approximately 20 miles, where the Tribal headquarters, Legends Casino, Cultural Center are located. The 2017 symposium will be held June 26th through 29th at the Yakima Convention Center in Yakima, Washington and hosted by the Yakama Nation. The theme of this

year’s symposium is “**Expanding Partnerships through Collaboration**”

### Sunday, June 25th

ITC Pre-Symposium Golf Tournament will be a four person best ball scramble played over 18 holes. Information on prices per player and registration details will be circulated at a later date. Registration open until the day of to pay. Registration includes 18 holes, putting contest, prizes and reception. Holes contests: longest drive, closest to the pin, and longest putt.

### Monday, June 26th

Pre-symposium Workshops: Fees for optional Workshops directly fund ITC’s Truman D. Picard Scholarship. The Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources.

- **Workshop #1:  
Traditional Crafting  
of Tule Mats**
- **Workshop #2:  
Forestry Field Trip**
- **Workshop #3:  
Yakama Forest Products  
Mill Tour**
- **Workshop #4:  
Wildland Fire Update**

The fees for individual workshops are: \$105/participant **before** May 26, 2017, and \$120/participant **after** that date. Make sure you register early. All workshops do provide refreshments and lunches. And please dress appropriately for field workshops.

### Symposium Registration

Starts at 3:00 pm, and runs until 7:00pm.

**Ice Breaker** will be held at the Court Yard area at the Yakima Convention Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

### Tuesday, June 27th

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 JoDe Goudy, Chairman, Yakama Nation, David Shaw, Superintendent, BIA, Yakama Agency; Phil Rigdon, President, Intertribal Timber Council. The Keynote Address will be by Jamie Pinkham, Former ITC President/Senior Advisor to Native Governance Center, Bush Foundation. The morning panel is titled “**A Conversation with Friends**”, and at noon hour our **ITC Luncheon**, followed by the **Host Tribe Presentation**.

This will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening events will start at 6:00 pm with the Host Tribe Welcome Dinner at The Yakama Convention Center.

Wednesday, June 28th. The Yakama Nation Tribal Tour will give symposium participants an opportunity to see natural resource activities occurring on the reservation.

The stops will include Yakama Fisheries, Yakama Forest Products, Mill Creek Guard Station, and Signal Peak Ranger Station.

After the tour, there will be a General Membership Meeting, which will be an open forum with topics of discussion given at a later

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

*(Continued from page 5)*

sentatives from state and federal agencies, private-industry foresters, university faculty from around the nation and tribal members from across the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

The Conference Objectives were designed to:

- Create a strong partnership between ITC, SAF, academia, private industry, government, non-profit organizations, and others who are interested in sustaining our working forestlands.
- Promote sound economic, social and ecological values to improve natural resource management.
- Provide networking opportunities to tribal and non-tribal professionals and technicians who are involved with natural resource management.
- Promote a forum for and further learning about tribal forestry issues and opportunities for partnerships.
- Develop and encourage our next generation natural resource managers.

The three day conference was designed to provide different types of sessions for attendees to discover opportunities to partner with tribal forestry from traditional knowledge to the latest droid phone forest measurement apps.

During the first day there was a networking evening for attendees to mingle with 16 exhibitors

that helped support the event. The second day was designed to have panels make presentations on the organizations' background which included Keith Blatner, SAF Board Member and a forestry professor at Washington State University. During his opening comments he said, "We need to recognize that we are a multicultural society and that we need to respect those different cultures and learn to work together. This conference, in my mind, is a central example of this kind of movement—that we reach out and have these kinds of meetings." The third and final day involved more technical sessions that did include some examples of traditional knowledge by culture and artist presentations.

After the opening session, the conference highlighted some of the ITC projects that included the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team III (IFMAT-III) report that

Act to work on US Forest Service land so it could reduce fire hazards that would impact tribal land.

One of the takeaways was the need for more funding and partnerships to carry out active forest management on Indian forests and adjacent federal lands. "The Forest Service, on an average, nationwide, gets approximately \$8 an acre for every acre it manages; the tribes get less than \$3 an acre," said Vincent Corrao, president, CEO and founder of Northwest Management Inc., and a member of IFMAT-III

With speakers covering topics that spanned from managing forests to promote First Foods, to undergraduate enrollment trends, to uses of culturally significant forest products, attendees came away with a greater awareness of Indian forestry and the initiatives underway to encourage forest management and economic opportunity on reservations.

### Utilizing Forest Products to Help Build Community

- What is available in your forest
  - Assessing your forest beyond "timber products"
  - Working with Cultural, & Ed programs
  - Sustenance & Materials
- Projects for communities
  - Kupins, Clam Shovels, Mortars
  - Clappers, Rattles, Flutes, Drum Rings
  - Regalia: Pine nuts, Cedar & Maple bark
  - Bow Staves & Arrows, Dip net poles
  - Weaving: bark, roots, ferns
  - Canoes, Paddles, bailers, fish clubs
  - Community projects: Longhouses, Sweathouses, benches
  - Cedar bows for smudge sticks
  - Bentwood boxes, fish platters,
  - House Posts, Totems, Spirit Boards



was completed in 2013, Anchor Forests and an example of a Tribal Forest Protection Act project completed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe which used the

Shirod Younker, a Coquille Tribal Artist, in his presentation, provided insight on how to look differently at a forest assessment

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley

*(Continued from page 6)*

date. This will also give member Tribes the opportunity to communicate with the ITC Board of Directors about their concerns.

### Thursday, June 29th

The day's activities will start with an update from the Office of Wildland Fire, Harry Humbert, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Public Safety, Resource Protection & Emergencies, Washington, D.C., the ITC President's Report, then the updates from the BIA Chief Forester, Peter Wakeland, Legislative update, and a USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Update. Immediately following the updates our ITC Workshops will start simultaneously: **Workshop 1: "Maintaining the Timber**

**Industry through Partnerships,"** this workshop will explore ways in which Industry can aid in increasing the size and scale of projects address the forest health and restoration needs. **Workshop #2: "Mega Fires – The New Normal? – Building Climate Change Resilience & Responses,"** IFMAT III produced six recommendation concerning climate change which relate to tribal forest and community conditions, planning and responses. **Workshop #3: "Anchor Forest/TFPA: The Steps Forward,"**



Mt. Baker

this workshop's overall strategies will focus the collective efforts between the ITC, BIA & USFS to sustain working forests as a key component to helping restore and maintain healthy, resilient landscapes across diverse ownerships.

*(Continued on page 9)*


## Technical Specialist


by Don Motanic

*(Continued from page 7)*

### Forest Measurement Apps

 Plothound

 Open Cruise (web site)

 Relasphone

 Moti

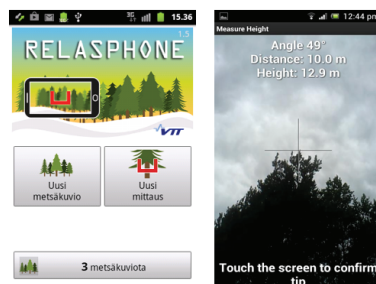
 Measure Height (in meters).

 Bitterlich

 Clinometer

 Forestry Toolkit

 Mix Tank




so you could map out your forests for culturally relevant materials, foods and medicines. You could partnering with artists, cultural programs and living cultural treasures (elders with knowledge),

and food sovereignty programs, Weaving Organizations, Non Profit and Youth Organizations, Timber brokers who work with artists/canoe builders.....Network with other Tribal programs/cousin or

Regional tribes (Share/Trade/reaffirm Ancestral kinship and political ties)

Chris Schnepf, an area extension educator and county chair with the University of Idaho, provided an overview of useful Android forestry apps. He highlighted a website where extension agents and scientist review web and phone apps which is [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org).

After reviewing the evaluations from the workshop, the SAF and ITC planning committee will look to co-produce another meeting in the northwest in 2019.

The presentations from the workshop can be downloaded at <http://www.forestry.org/iesaf/Workshops/TribalForestry2016/>. 



## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

**Happy Holidays to everyone and best wishes for the coming year.**

The Operations Committee met on December 7, 2016 and held some great discussion on a number of topics. Below is a summary of issues:

### **US Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)**

The ITC will draft a proposal to partner with USDA and the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations on a workforce development strategy. This proposal may fit well under the Memorandum of Understanding that was recently signed by the ITC and USDA at the last symposium.

### **Fire Study**

The ITC will continue to define the parameters of the large wild-land fire impact study. The study may include the story of social justice, a comprehensive discussion of impacts to tribes, and an overview of what tribes are accomplishing in restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The ITC will continue to define

the study focus for the larger Fire Study.

### **IFMAT III**

ITC President Phil Ridgon is scheduled to present the IFMAT findings and recommendations to the new BIA Director, Weldon Loudermilk later this winter. Mr. Loudermilk replaces Mike Black.

An update to the recommendations implementation will also be placed on the ITC webpage.

### **ITC Workforce Development Position**

The ITC has proposed to host a Workforce Development position and has drafted a position description. There are some details about the scope of the position and funding to support the position that still need to be finalized.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley

*(Continued from page 8)*

Following the workshops, there will be the Annual ITC Business Meeting. The 41st 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 finally, the winners of the various Education Committee Raffle prizes will be presented at this time.

**Help:** Intertribal Timber council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or sponsorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. If a Tribe or

business is interested in making a donation, please contact ITC directly.

### **Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:**

2017 – June 26-29, 2017, 41th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Yakama Nation, Yakima, WA

2018 – June 4-7, 2018, 42th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation, Ocean Shores, WA

2019 – June 10-13, 2019, 43th Annual National Indian Timber Sym-

posium hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Hollywood, FL

We hope to see all of you back in June 2017, Yakima, WA, hosted by the Yakama Nation. Check the ITC Website periodically at [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org) for 2017 Symposium information updates.

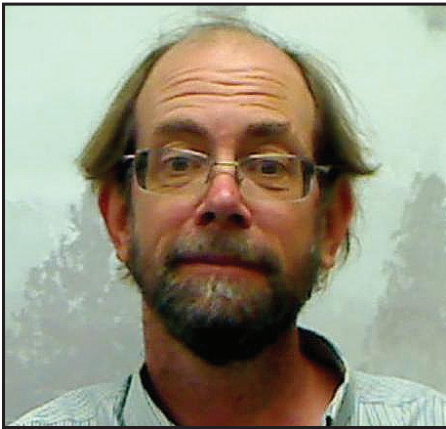
Take Care and God Bless.  
Qe'ciyew'yew Godnim Honin awas

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)



## Research Sub-Committee

by Adrian Leighton



Adrian Leighton

Best wishes to everyone for the coming year. The Research

sub-committee closed out 2016 with a busy session at the December board meeting, and has set some exciting tasks for the year to come. Here are a few of the most important updates and upcoming projects:

- **Online Journal Access:** The sub-committee met in September by phone with Lenora Oftedahl, StreamNet Regional Librarian with the Columbia River inter-Tribal Fish Commission. They are willing to share online access to their

EBSCO Host Scientific journal database with individual members of the ITC community. This database provides full text article access to hundreds of scientific journals. If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, email me (forestry@skc.edu). Once we have a list of interested folks, Lenora will assign each person a login for access and I will distribute. This is an exciting and generous offer from Lenora and

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman

*(Continued from page 9)*

### **Risk Based Wildland Fire management (RBWFM) Funding Allocation**

There is a directive out from the Deputy Secretary to the Assistant Secretaries providing directive to incorporate the Expected Values Acres Burned model into the allocation process beginning in FY17 for fuels management and FY18 for preparedness. This directive would potentially have negative impacts to funding going to the BIA. Further discussions with BIA and the Department of Interior will occur in response to the directive.

### **Secretarial Order 3342-Identifying Opportunities for Cooperation and Collaborative Partnerships with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in the Management of Federal lands and Resources**

There is no implementation guidance at this time and we really don't know how this Order will be accepted under the new adminis-



Here is a picture of an area called Saddle Mountain on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana in an area that burned in 2008.

tration. There will be additional discussion with the DOI on this issue.

### **Legislation, Appropriations and Administrations Transition Planning**

The ITC will continue to advocate for funding appropriations, legislation, and will develop a briefing paper outlining the ITC

issues and priorities for the new administration and the new BIA Director.

If you would like additional information about the Operations Committee discussions, you are encouraged to join the meetings, either in person or by phone. Please let Laura at the ITC Office know if you are interested in listening by phone. 🌲



## Education Committee

Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

By the time you get this newsletter the deadline will have already passed to submit an application for the Truman Picard Memorial Scholarship. The deadline this year was January 18, 2017. I hope you applied and/or encouraged deserving students to apply. Announcements have been sent out to tribes and agencies.

The Truman Picard Scholarship is offered annually to Native Americans pursuing higher education in the field of natural resources. The breakdown for recipients is \$2,000 for high school recipients and \$2,500 for undergraduate and graduate recipients.

Scholarship applicants will be rated on five criteria: application letter, resume, academic merit, reference letters, and financial need. The application letter needs to address the students' interest in natural resources as well as their commitment to their education, community and culture. Please do not sell yourself short, this scholarship is very competitive and will be even more competitive as the number of students increases while the amount of money available decreases.

A Scholarship Selection Committee has been formed and they will review the applicants and grade them on the above criteria. It is very important for all applicants to understand that the awards are not based on any political influence or by the amount a tribe participates with ITC. Picard Scholarships are all based on the merits of the students and the potential they will bring to Indian country natural resources.

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


The Education Committee are very thankful for those tribes and/or individuals whom continue to donate items for the symposium raffle, sign up for pre-symposium workshops, include an insert into the registration packet and/or enter an exhibit booth. These are the contributors that determine the amount of money paid out in scholarships each year.

Please visit the ITC webpage for other opportunities that are helpful for students. The ITC staff has done a wonderful job assembling materials and information that will benefit students as they seek additional assistance. The webpage also has examples of

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that have been signed with ITC and accredited schools.

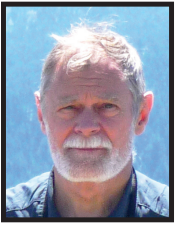
There were numerous items outlined in the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team III (IFMAT III) and we are happy to announce that ITC is taking a proactive approach to address one of these issues in the near future. The ball is rolling on recruiting a Workforce Development Coordinator. The "Old Guard" is entering retirement age and the "New Guard" needs to be ready to carry on the torch. There is a shortage in Native American students going to college for a natural resources related degree. The new Coordinator will be responsible for collaborating on a national level to recruit, train and retain natives in these respective fields. Stay tuned as this is an exciting step and I know there are many young students that are ready!

Thank you for your continued generosity and support! As I mentioned earlier in the article this year's symposium is in late June, so I'll ask now that you consider donating items for the raffle and save a few dollars to buy raffle tickets. I will leave you with a little food for thought. If we had 300 attendees at the symposium and everyone bought \$40 in tickets we would make \$12,000 for the raffle!

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

## Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

### 1. TRUMP WINS

Donald Trump, a billionaire real estate developer from New York City, surprisingly won the 2016 Presidential election on November 8. His theme of “making American great again” apparently resonated deeply with working class families, who were undeterred by Trump’s many highly controversial statements during the campaign about race, immigration, women, and “America first.” Trump’s Electoral College win (306 to Clinton’s 232; 270 was the victory threshold) was propelled by key victories in Florida and Ohio and upset wins in the swing state of Pennsylvania (20 electors) and the presumably Democratic states of Michigan (16) and Wisconsin (10). Trump won those three states by very slender margins totalling about 100,000 votes. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, while losing in the Electoral College, won the total national popular vote by more than 2 million, although much of that came from a single state, California, which has a very large and Democratic population. Trump’s inauguration will be January 20, 2017.

### 2. TRUMP NAMES REP. RYAN ZINKE (R, Mont.) FOR INTERIOR SEC.

President-elect Trump formally announced on Thursday, December 14, that Rep. Ryan Zinke of Mon-

tana will be his nominee for Secretary of the Interior. Zinke, a member of the House Armed Services and Natural Resources Committees, has a generally good record on Native American issues, and does not favor the divestiture of federal public lands. He does support active management of natural resources, such as forests and energy resources. Zinke was a Navy SEAL for 23 years, rising to the rank of Commander. He was a freshman in the House of Representatives in the just-adjourned 114th Congress. Zinke’s selection for Interior Secretary displaced the previous front runner Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R, Wash.), who has a less strong Native American record and whose support for the sale of federal public lands reportedly removed her from consideration. Zinke will have a confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee early next year after the January 3 start of the 115th Congress. He could also have a confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

### 3. TRUMP SELECTS REP. TOM PRICE FOR HHS SECRETARY

President-elect Donald Trump announced November 29 his selection of Rep. Tom Price (R, Ga.) for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Price is Chair of the House Budget Committee, which handles health issues. Price is a longtime advocate for the “repeal and replacement” of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, “Obamacare”), and while he has supported some bills to ease tribal governments’ burden in partici-

pating in the ACA, it is not clear if he supports exempting the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which was made permanent as part of the ACA legislation, from ACA repeal efforts.

### 4. OTHER TRUMP CABINET DESIGNEES

Other Trump cabinet designees include those listed below. All will undergo Senate confirmation hearings, some of which, such as EPA Administrator-designee Scott Pruitt, are expected to face strong Democratic opposition in the confirmation process.

**Energy Secretary:** former Texas Governor Rick Perry, who called for the elimination of the Energy Department during the Republican Presidential primary campaign;

**Attorney General:** Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama, who is hard line on law and order;

**HUD Secretary:** retired surgeon and Trump primary campaign rival Ben Carson;

**EPA Administrator:** Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, who repeatedly sued EPA over regulations and is considered a doubter about climate change; and

**Agriculture Secretary:** as of this writing, indications are that 3-term Idaho Governor Butch Otter is the leading candidate. Otter served in the House of Representatives from 2001 to 2007 and was a Simplot potato executive before that. He backed John Kasich in the Republican primaries.

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director:** Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R, SC), a deeply conservative member of the right-

*(Continued on page 13)*



*(Continued from page 12)*

wing House Freedom Caucus, has been selected as Director of the White House OMB, which controls the Administration's budget. Mulvaney is dedicated to deep spending cuts, to the point that he acknowledges he is a member of the "shutdown caucus" that is willing to shut the federal government in showdowns over spending and budget reductions. He has repeatedly opposed increases to the federal debt limit and pressed for spending cuts in excess of those proposed by the Republican leadership. It is not clear exactly how he will interact with Trump, who has not made federal deficits an issue during the campaign, and who plans an expensive infrastructure proposal shortly after taking office. Also on the horizon is the federal debt limit, which is estimated will need raising around March of 2017.

### **5. CONGRESS REMAINS REPUBLICAN, BUT WITH NARROWED MARGINS**

In the November 8 election, Democrats gained two seats in the U.S. Senate, but Republicans, who were defending more than 20 seats, managed to hang on to more contested seats than expected and retained majority control, 52 R to 48 D, for the upcoming 115th Congress. As expected in Illinois, Rep. Tami Duckworth (D) handily beat Sen. Mark Kirk (R) 54.4% to 40.2%, and in New Hampshire, challenger Marge Hassan (D) just squeaked by incumbent Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R) 48% to 47.9%.

The House also remains Republican for the 115th Congress, 239 R to 194 D. While Democrats picked-up six seats, they came no-

where near threatening the Republican majority.

### **6. HOEVEN NAMED AS SCIA CHAIR, UDALL AS VICE CHAIR**

Republican Senator John Hoeven of North Dakota has been named as Chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for the 115th Congress, which starts January 3. Current Chair John Barrasso (R, Wyo.) will give up that job to assume the chairmanship of the Environment and Public Works Committee next Congress. Tom Udall (D, NM) has been named the Vice Chair of the SCIA for next Congress. Current Vice Chair Jon Tester (D, Mont.) is giving up that post to become the Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

On other Senate committees of interest, Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R, Alaska) and Maria Cantwell (D, Wash.) are expected to remain the chair and ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

### **7. 114th CONGRESS ENDS, 115th CONGRESS STARTS JANUARY 3, 2017**

The 114th Congress ended when the Senate adjourned at 6:39 AM on Saturday morning, December 10. The House had already adjourned December 8 after passing the stop-gap funding bill (CR) and a big water resources bill (WRDA). With the end of the 114th Congress, all legislation died that was not cleared or already signed into law.

The Republican-led 115th Congress is expected to get off to a fast start after convening on its traditional start date of January 3. Nor-

mally, a new Congress's first two or three weeks are spent organizing and attending party policy strategy retreats. But for the 115th, with its Republican majorities in the House and Senate and a new and conservative Republican Trump administration taking the reins at noon on the January 20 inauguration, the Republican Congressional leadership wants to start legislating immediately, in hopes of having some bills ready for Trump's signature upon his taking office. Reportedly, the first legislative item will be repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, or "Obamacare").

### **8. TRUMP WIN PROMPTS ANOTHER CR UNTIL APRIL 28**

On Friday, December 9, the Senate finalized Congressional approval of a continuing resolution (CR) to extend funding for most of the federal government at FY 2016 levels through April 28, 2017. The bill, H.R. 2028, including temporary funding for the Interior Department, went to the President and was signed before midnight on December 9, when the first CR of FY 2017 expired. H.R. 2028 began as the regular FY 2017 energy and water development appropriations bill, but was amended to become the CR, which is titled the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Act of 2017. The CR's extension of FY 2016 funding levels through April 28 is intended to give the incoming Trump administration an opportunity after the January 20 inauguration to weigh-in with its funding priorities before regular FY 2017 appropriations bills get finalized. The House passed the

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

*(Continued from page 13)*

amended CR version of H.R. 2028 on Thursday, December 8.

### 9. FORESTRY LEGISLATION DIES WITH THE END OF THE 114th CONGRESS.

As with FY 2017 appropriations, the prospect of a Republican Trump administration starting January 20, 2017 prompted the 114th Republican Congress to hold off any further consideration of significant legislation, including forestry legislation, until next Congress, when bills can be rein-

troduced and their consideration renewed with in-put from the new Republican Trump administration. As a result, the various current bills dealing with forestry or containing forestry provisions did not see any further action in the final weeks of the 114th Congress. Those bills include the following:

- **The Energy Policy Modernization Act** (S. 2012): This large bill, expected to be a catch-all for a wide array of energy and natural resources mea-

sures, went to a House-Senate conference this fall, but the conferees never approached finalizing the legislation, so no conference report was filed and the measure expired with the adjournment of the 114th Congress. The House-passed version of the legislation included tribal provisions to speed up TFPA projects, allow tribal management of nearby USFS and BLM forests, and apply PL 93-638 contracting/compact-

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Research Sub-Committee

by Adrian Leighton

*(Continued from page 10)*

CRITFIC, as journal access can be quite expensive. Spread the word to folks you think would be interested in scientific journal access.


- **New sub-committee members:**

At the December meeting, four new members of the research sub-committee were nominated and then confirmed by ITC President Phil Rigdon. A warm welcome to Dee Randall and Victoria Wesley, both with San Carlos Apache Tribe and also Vincent Corrao and Dr. Mark Corrao, both with Northwest Management Inc. These new members have all been actively involved with various types of research and with ITC as well. They bring a great depth of knowledge, experience and wisdom to the sub-committee. Welcome!

- **Research scholarships:** For the third consecutive year, through the generosity of the USFS

Southern Research Station, ITC is offering up to 11 scholarships for Native American students conducting tribally supported and relevant research in natural resource topics. Each scholarship can be for up to \$4,000 and is meant to assist Native students in working directly with tribes on issues of importance to tribal communities and natural resource professionals. **Deadline for submission is 5 pm PST, January 20th. Please help spread the word!** At the December meeting, six members of the committee volunteered to evaluate the proposals, and final funding determinations will be made at the February board meeting in Palm Springs.

- **Tribal Research Needs Survey re-visited:** At the December meeting, it was decided that the sub-committee would begin the process of creating a new tribal research needs survey. The first

such survey was conducted 5 years ago, and was the impetus behind the formation of the research sub-committee. To a large degree, the survey has guided the activities of the research sub-committee and was helpful to the USFS Research and Development Office in formulating their tribal outreach strategic plan. We will begin the task of creating a new survey, with the cooperation of USFS Research Station social scientists, that is capable of diving deeper than the last survey and providing guidance concerning changing research needs of tribal natural resource professionals and tribal communities. A draft of this new survey will be ready for sub-committee review by spring, with the intention of distributing to the membership throughout late spring and at the Symposium in Yakima, WA. 



*(Continued from page 14)*

ing to USFS and BLM TFPA projects. While comprehensive energy legislation is likely next Congress, it will probably be quite different, reflecting Trump's emphasis on increasing American energy production.


- **The Tribal Forestry Participation and Protection Act** (S. 3014 by Sen. Steve Daines, R, Mont.): As a stand-alone bill, S. 3014 did not move in the final months of the 114th Congress. The bill was amended and approved by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee June 22, 2016, but was not reported out of the Committee. The bill sought to speed up TFPA project review, allow 10 year tribal management demonstration projects of USFS and BLM forests (up to 6 tribes a year), applied PL 93-638 to USFS and BLM TFPA projects, and included a statement that the sage grouse does not supercede the U.S. trust responsibility. Senator Maria Cantwell (D, Wash.) voted against approving the amended bill, expressing concern about tribal capacity to manage USFS and BLM forests. Senator Jon Tester (D, Mont.) expressed similar concerns, and offered and then withdrew an amendment to entirely strike the tribal management provisions from the bill. He then voted to approve the bill as otherwise amended. Re-introduction is likely.
- **The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015** (H.R. 2647 by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R, Ark.),

House Report 114-185): Passed by the House July 9, 2015, the bill sought to revise a range of federal forestry laws such as the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and included tribal TFPA speed-up, tribal management of USFS and BLM forests, and applying PL 93-638 to USFA and BLM TFPA projects (added as a floor amendment). In the Senate, the bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee, where it saw no action, although on June 22, 2016, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Pat Roberts (R, Kan.) introduced an almost identical bill, S. 3085, the **Emergency Wildfire and Forest Management Act**, which went no further. Both H.R. 2647 and S. 3085 died at the conclusion of the 114th Congress. While forestry/wildfire reform legislation is likely to be introduced next Congress, the involvement of the Republican Trump administration, as opposed to the current Democratic Obama administration, could cause the legislation to look considerably different.

### **10. CONGRESS CLEARS GIANT WRDA BILL w. MANY TRIBAL PROVISIONS**

In a rare bipartisan effort, Congress on Saturday, December 10, cleared the giant 2016 water resources development act. President Obama signed the measure December 16. The whole bill was attached to S. 612, which originally was the George Kazen Federal Building and Courthouse Act, but was revised to become the Water Infrastructure Improvements for

the Nation Act (WIIN Act), which has four titles dealing with water development and land projects:

- **Title I** is the 2016 Water Resources Development Act and includes Corps of Engineers authorities regarding tribal cost share for studies, consultation, the Tribal Partnership Program (Secs. 1119, 1120, 1121), return of the ancient "Kennewick Man" remains to five Northwest tribes (Sec. 1152), construction of treaty fishing site housing at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River (Sec. 1178), and a Muskogee Nation land transfer (Sec. 1317);
- **Title II** is the Water and Waste Act dealing with lead contamination in drinking water and includes technical assistance for tribal water systems (Sec. 2112);
- **Title III** is Natural Resources and includes Indian dam safety (Subtitle A), Indian irrigation project rehabilitation (Subtitle B), Pechanga Tribe water settlement (Subtitle D), land into trust for the Tuolumne Me-Wuk, Tule River, and Murogong Band Tribes, and water settlements for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and the Blackfeet Tribe;
- **Title IV** is Other Matters. 



Pete Wakeland

### **Central Office**

Greetings, and Happy New Year to you all. It's been a quick transition and fast pace since I arrived in Washington, D.C., this past September. I appreciate your support, and I look forward to working with all of you as we move through FY 2017. We have some good work to do.

### **Bureau Director**

You may be aware that our former Bureau Director, Mr. Mike Black, has accepted a new position in Billings, Montana, where he will now serve as the Senior Advisor to the BIA Director. Mr. Black provided years of service and excellent leadership, and he will be missed.

We now welcome Mr. Bruce Lauder milk as the incoming Bureau Director. Mr. Lauder milk was the former Alaska Regional Director. We look forward to his leadership; continuing the good work of the past and preparing for new challenges and opportunities

### **Regional Forester's Meeting**

We held the Regional Forester's Meeting at Haskell Indian Nations University, in Lawrence, Kansas,

in December 2016. Mike Benedict and his staff did a very good job organizing it. Thank you for the good work. The meeting lasted 3 full days, and the discussion was great. While we didn't get 100% attendance from the Regional Foresters, most regions did send staff to participate, and we thank you for that.

The meeting included regional updates and discussion topics such as IFMAT III, Pathways Program and Recruitment Opportunities, Budget Formulation and TBIC Priorities, Secretarial Orders and Budget Impact, Self-Governance Compacts and Annual Funding Agreements, Obligating Funds through 638 Contracts, TAAMS Update, Carbon Credit Projects, GPRA Measures, and more. The presenters did an excellent job, and the information they shared prompted an abundance of discussion and questions. Given the feedback we received, we hope to plan a second Regional Forester's Meeting within the next 6 months.

Special thanks to our guests making the trip to be with us – Mr. Phil Rigdon, Intertribal Timber Council; Mr. Gordon Smith, Office of Self-Governance; Ms. Constance Fox, Office of Justice Services; and Ms. Gayla Schock, Office of Trust Services.

We also extend special thanks to Haskell Indian Nations University and Ms. Venida Chenault, President, for providing us with an excellent venue for our meeting.

### **Indian Trust Assets Reform Act**

For those not familiar with this, HR 812(PL 114-178) was signed into law by President Obama, on

June 22, 2016. The Act provides new opportunities for those Tribes willing to take on additional responsibilities. Interested Tribes can contact the Secretary of the Department of the Interior via letter, including a Tribal Resolution, requesting to participate in the demonstration project.

This will be interesting and challenging, and we feel strongly that this process moves appropriately, efficiently, and includes tribal involvement. We will be reaching out to federal and tribal folks very soon, asking for input and assistance in identifying the key elements necessary in the development of a Trust Assets Management Plan.

### **Budget (Continuing Resolution)**

The government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution, which provides funding through the end of March, 2017. The first distribution of funds will be at approximately 58% of the FY 2016 budget. The remaining 42% will be distributed upon approval of a new budget or further CR's. The central office has started to push funding out to the Regions, so you should see it showing up very soon.

### **2018 National Conference**

Please start thinking about the next national conference. We need to form an agenda committee and a logistics committee to get things rolling, so we'll be reaching out and asking for volunteers to help us. Thank you in advance for your participation!

*(Continued on page 17)*

*(Continued from page 16)*

## Branch of Forest Resources Planning

### Forest Inventory

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

### BOFRP Staffing

The staff at the Branch of Forest Resources Planning continues to work together on the above listed projects in cooperation with region, agency and Tribal staff to ensure that the best data possible is collected, processed and analyzed so that good strategic forest management planning well into the future.

Rob Juhola, BIA employee at the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center is on detail backfilling Weston Cain's position until the end of March, 2017; Rob is a Natural Resources Specialist and BOFRP is glad to have his help and organizational expertise.

### Overhaul of All BOFRP Applications

Work will commence in January 2017 on the overhaul of all BOFRP applications that support the collection, processing and analysis of both continuous forest inventory data and stand exam data. The current applications are very old (circa 1970s FORTRAN) and difficult to maintain. The objective of the project, which is expected to take two to three years to complete, is to create a deployment and working environment where current and future foresters at BOFRP, regions, agencies and Tribes can focus on practicing forestry, have complete confidence in the best field data obtainable and are able to quickly and effectively model the

data – all without having to spend time adjusting, calibrating or altering the applications codebase from project to project, which can only be done nowadays by application development specialists.

A new DFWFM professional services contract was recently awarded to Managed Business Solutions (MBS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sealaska Corporation to work on the applications overhaul project. MBS has developed FIRST – Forest Information Reporting and Statistics Tracking which will be deployed to replace InFoDat in FY2017. The MBS contract also provides for

CURRENT CFI'S RE-MEASUREMENTS, DATA VERIFICATION AND DATA ANALYSIS		
1. Tanana Chiefs Conference Native Allotment	2. Makah	3. Zuni Woodland
4. Mississippi Choctaw - approximately 162 plots completed	5. Yakama	6. Jicarilla Timber and woodland
7. Spirit Lake Reservation – finished	8. Northern Cheyenne	9. Isleta CFI
10. Flandreau Santee – finished	11. Southern Ute Timber and Woodland	12. Santa Clara Timber and woodland
13. Ahtna	14. Fort Apache	15. Navajo - (Analysis)
16. Fort Hall	17. Hoopa Valley	18. Mescalero - (Analysis)
19. Fort Peck	20. Laguna CFI	21. Hualapai - (Analysis)
22. Colville	23. Zia CFI	24. Hopi CFI - (Analysis)
FUTURE CFI PROJECTS IN THE PLANNING STAGE		
1. Tule River CFI	2. U&O CFI	3. Acoma timber and woodland
4. Taos Timber and Woodland	5. Mescalero Woodland CFI	6. Fort Berthold
STOCKING STUDIES		
1. Acoma - data collection	2. Zuni - data collection	3. Yakama
4. Jicarilla - data collection	5. Annette Islands	6. Tulalip
7. Southern Ute - data collection	8. Santa Clara	9. Coeur d' Alene

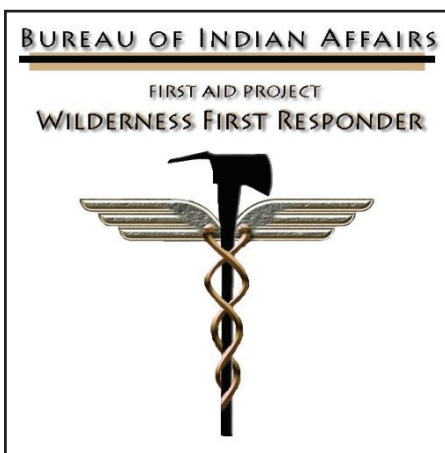
*(Continued on page 18)*



*(Continued from page 17)*

some consulting forestry services that can be used on small to medium sized projects such as custodial forest management plans for new lands coming into trust status, Land Buy Back Program commercial timber appraisals, decision support analyses and forest inventory analyses. Concurrent with the new contract, a reimbursable support agreement with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Management Service Center in Fort Collins, CO, will allow for a better integration of all BOFRP applications into Forest Service applications, and joint development work on Forest Vegetation Simulator variants and volume equations.

## **Branch of Wildland Fire Management**



The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Wildland Fire Management is testing a Wilderness Medicine Curriculum designed for non-medical professionals, such as wildland firefighters. The endeavor is known as the “Wildland Fire First Aid Project.”

The Project certifies and maintains currency for 45 Wilderness First Responders (WFR) who are

specially trained to manage complex logistical medical transports, respond to prolonged patient care, mitigate extreme environmental conditions, identify and use improvised equipment and how to interface with local EMS responders.

Prior to launching the Project in 2013, the BIA approved first aid guidelines & protocols with assistance from a physician advisor, and in accordance with industry best practices. These protocols give Indian Country wildland fire employees the authority to operate within their scope of practice and receive training designed to help them prepare for wildland medical situations.

Long term goals of this program include developing NWCG training courses that provides a formalized mechanism that requires all firefighters have the basic knowledge, skills and abilities of wilderness first aid.

### **2017 Training Schedule**

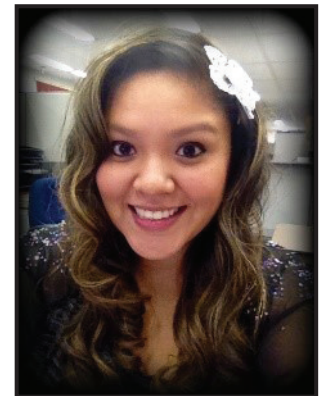
- March 6-10 - Wilderness First Responder Training in Navajo followed by four 8-hour first aid classes Navajo, Zuni
- March 20-24 - Wilderness First Responder Training in Ft. Yates, North Dakota
- April 10-14 - Wilderness First Responder Training in Billings, MT
- TBD - Wilderness First Responder Training in Oklahoma
- TBD - Wilderness First Responder Training, Northwest Region along with four 8 hour first aid classes.

For more information and to request nomination forms for future

Wilderness First Aid classes, contact Course Coordinator, Michelle Moore, at (208)-387-5811, or via email at [mmoore@blm.gov](mailto:mmoore@blm.gov). Additional information can also be found online at <https://www.bia.gov/nifc/safety/firstresponder/index.html>

## **NEW Human Resource Personnel Helping to get Fire and Foresters Hired**

Branch of Wildland Fire Management welcomes three new Human Resources personnel to the staff. All are fully engaging with training and orientation and are already assisting HR Specialists with hiring. Here is a bit of information about each of them.



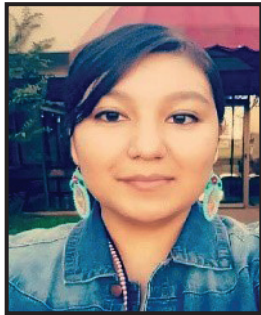
Michona (Shawnee) Lane Edge, Human Resource Assistant (Recruitment & Placement)

Hello, my name is Michona (Mi-Shawna) Edge but I prefer to go by Shawnee. I am an Arikara enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes in ND and currently in my sophomore year of college at Northern State University where I am majoring in Business Administration. I am duty stationed at the Great Plains Regional Office in Aberdeen, SD under the Office

*(Continued on page 19)*

*(Continued from page 18)*

of Human Capital Management's Anadarko Recruitment Center.  
Email: Michona.Edge@bia.gov



Tahnee Ciera Stands, Human Resources Assistant  
(Recruitment & Placement)

Hi! My name is Tahnee Stands. I am an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe of Montana from my paternal side. And I am also a descendant of the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma from my maternal side. I am duty stationed in the Office of Human Capital Management in Anadarko, OK. I am thrilled to be a part of this experience and to be able to work with such eager and professional people who range from different regions and areas.  
Email: Tahnee.Stands@bia.gov



Candace Tara Chischilly, Human Resources Assistant (Recruitment & Placement)

Hello, my name is Candace Chischilly. I'm of the Bitter Water clan, born for the Acoma tribe.

The Mexican clan is my maternal grandfather's clan and the Charcoal-Streaked Division of Tachii'nii is my paternal grandfather's clan.

I'm very excited to be a part of a unique and talented team of professionals that encourages teamwork, strength, and employee relations. I am currently assigned to the Albuquerque Recruitment Center in Albuquerque, NM. I will be primarily assigned to assist in filling vacancies related to fire. Candace. Chischilly@bia.gov

### **BIA, Branch of Wildland Fire Management**

Welcomes Adrian Grayshield as our new Lead Planner under our Budget/Planning staff. He comes to our group from the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Nevada.



Adrian Grayshield

Introduced to wildland fire right after high school, Adrian began working for BIA Western Nevada Agency. After serving in the Marine Corps, attending college, teaching school and generally becoming an "adult" he returned to fire in 2003, this time as a Morning Star Hotshot, located at BIA West-

ern Nevada Agency.

In 2006 Adrian accepted a position with the BLM, serving two districts within Nevada. He eventually became the assistant fire management officer, supervising the BIA Western Nevada Agency fire management program.

Adrian and his wife expect to move to Boise/Meridian in the near future, just in time to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in December. They have two adult daughters, one of which will be moving to Boise with them. "I look forward to exploring the many fishing spots of Idaho and I will enjoy sampling the sushi restaurants in the Boise area. While we will miss our many friends in Carson City, NV we anticipate making many new friends here in Boise."

### **Changes Coming to BIA.gov's Web Pages**

It has been almost a decade since the Bureau of Indian Affairs has returned to the world wide web, following the Cobel Litigation. In that time, we have trained web content managers how to develop, maintain and work with web content. Many of the programs, the Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management in particular, have also led the way in developing a social media presence that is helping Indian Country find and better understand our services.

Moving into 2017, we will see drastic changes to our web pages as we migrate our content to a new web platform better able to integrate social media and traditional web content. It will have a different look and feel to it, but content

*(Continued on page 20)*



*(Continued from page 19)*

HOME > BIA-NIFC > LIBRARY > BIA-NIFC MEMOS

**BIA WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE MEMOS** [f Share](#) {

Posted documents are those that have been sent to "all regions."

Date	Program	Subject	Attachment
2016			
Dec. 06	OCFO	Notification of Unauthorized use of the Indian Affairs Federal Fleet Cards for BIA Owned Vehicles used by Non-Federal Employees	
Sept. 21	Fuels	Resilient Landscapes National Implementation	Attachment 1: OWF Policy Memorandum 2016-012 Attachment 2: Announcement of the Fiscal Year 2017 Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes Activities

will remain very similar.

In preparation for this change, web pages content managers are updating web pages to ensure links are accurate and relevant. Pages like the Memo's Library (<https://www.bia.gov/nifc/library/Mem->

[os/index.htm](https://www.bia.gov/nifc/library/pub/index.htm)), Fire and Forestry Success Stories (<https://www.bia.gov/nifc/library/pub/index.htm>) are always being updated, so keep those as a favorite tab!

### **ArcGIS Collector App and Story Map**

### **Journals Making Points in the BAER Community**

On June 15, 2016 the Cedar Fire started on Fort Apache Indian Reservation, southwest of Show Low, Arizona. Nearly 72 square miles of invaluable resources burned before the fire was finally contained on July 1, 2016.

Left in its wake were homes, churches, a cemetery, a school, and a sewer lagoon at risk of post fire damages. Cultural resources, wildlife and soil were also at risk of erosion, flooding and habitat loss.

To prevent further damage, the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Fort Apache Agency made a request to have an Interagency Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team conduct a post-fire evalu-

BAER Cedar Fire Story Map


**Cedar Fire**

**Hydrology/Soil**

The watershed group on a BAER team consists of Hydrologists, Soil Scientists and Geologists. These specialists conduct field observations immediately following a wildfire. They look at the nature of the burn in order to determine the fire's effect on soil conditions, the risk for debris movement, and to look for additional factors that will determine a watershed's response to rainfall.

**Hydrology/Soil**

The survey of soil conditions is overlaid with a satellite image showing vegetation loss in order to create a map of soil burn severity. This map showing high, moderate and low soil burn severities is used as an input for a hydrologic model which determines the expected increase to peak stream flow rates as well as sediment delivery. Given the increase of runoff at particular values at risk within the watershed, the BAER team watershed group may recommend and implement flood mitigating efforts such as





*(Continued from page 20)*

ation to provide flood mitigation recommendations. On June 19, experienced resource specialists began making assessments that would lead to an emergency response plan impacted communities could use in the event of post fire flooding.

To assist in these assessments, resources specialists take a satellite image of the burned area and lay it over the top of a digitized map and begin collecting information that helps them ground-truth the image for accuracy.

One tool specialists are using with more frequency to help collect, verify and correct field data is an app called ArcGIS Collector. The app allows users to download maps to portable devices, like an iPad, and take it to the field where it can be used without internet connectivity. Users may geo-reference data points and add associate photos, videos and notes about that point. When users return from the field, their new data is automatically uploaded to maps in their work environment where they can be shared among all users.

The rapid access and sharing capability is improving the Team's efficiency and creating shared understanding and consistency. For BIA, another advantage to this technology is that Agency Administrators have access to timely data that gives them critical information needed to

Juliette Jeanne captures documentation on the Willow Fire using an iPad and Collector App. Photo by Tina Johnson make informed and timely decisions. This saves time, money and even the resources that may be at risk.

### **Pulling it together using Story Map Journals**

After the BAER Team completes their assessments and develops an emergency response plan, a closeout with the Agency and Tribe takes place to present the Team's findings and recommendations.

To communicate a more comprehensive picture, the Team employs another ArcGIS tool - Story Map Journal.

The Story Map incorporates narrative text with maps, pictures, video, web links and other embedded content to create interactive "journal pages" that are easily to read and interpret. Trisha Johnson, BAER GIS Analyst and Technical Specialist, uses the Story Map Journals as a way to present in-depth information about the Team's work.

For the Cedar Fire Story Map, Johnson used a variety of tools to tell the story of how the fire progressed and the work the Team accomplished during their assessment. Journal pages show the Fire's progress in animated form. Another entry illustrates different degrees of tree mortality across the fire area. Associated with certain point are pictures of the burned area to better illustrate the burn severity. Another entry includes video of a mud flow occurring after recent rain. These interactive features capture the true magnitude of post-fire effects and bring to life the story of a fire. In so doing, the Journal is helping to put into context key decisions that viewers can understand and see across time.

An additional benefit of the Story Map Journals the accessibil-

ity via social media feeds. Journals can be imbedded into web pages, and shared to social media sites, making access to and sharing of the Journal quick and easy.



### **Future Possibilities**

The ultimate goal for the Story Map Journals is to leave a product the local agency can maintain so changes can be documented and monitored through time. To achieve this, the Team trains local unit personnel during the incident so they have the knowledge and skills to update pages. In time, as agencies and tribes become familiar with the Collector App and the Story Map Journal, the products will become less of a snapshot in time and more of a living, visual document that assists with planning and decision making. 🌲



## **INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL**

112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4  
Portland Oregon 97232

---

**First Class**

---