



# INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Summer ~ 2017

## The 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium



**Symposium Committee**  
Howard Teasley

### Expanding Partnerships through Collaboration

The 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium will be held June 26-29, 2017, at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, WA, hosted by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The theme of this year's symposium is "Expanding Partnerships through Collaboration". Please visit our website: [itcnet.org](http://itcnet.org) for the latest information on the symposium and upcoming events. Registrant online: [www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2017](http://www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2017).

Participants, families and friends can plan to come in early or stay late. There are plenty of off-site activities in the Yakama Valley. We have the early bird special pricing that will end on the May 26, and will increase after that.

The Symposium Registration



2016 Host Tribe Welcome Dinner, San Carlos, AZ



fee includes a Symposium Packet, Tuesday Luncheon, Host Tribe Welcome Dinner, Wednesday Tribal Tour, Thursday Luncheon, Thursday Awards Banquet, and Final Proceedings CD. The pre-conference workshop fees include lunch.

Guest tickets to the Thursday Awards Banquet are only avail-

able onsite until Monday, June 26, 2017. Please take time to purchase in advance online.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Symposium Committee.....	1
President's Message .....	2
Fire Technical Specialist.....	3
Technical Specialist.....	3
Operations Committee.....	4
TFPA Project Update .....	6
Education Committee.....	9
Research Sub-Committee.....	12
Legislative Update.....	13
BIA Central Office Forestry .....	16

## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

### Dear ITC Members:

The United States is in a time of change and uncertainty, and these circumstances certainly apply to tribes and the ITC. In particular, the new Administration of President Trump appears to bringing a new and unfamiliar style of government to Washington, DC. A lot is happening, often with little or no advance discussion and with potentially broad and sweeping consequences for the entire U.S. population. Jobs, health care, international security, domestic law and order, trade, immigration: all are now in a state of flux, and it is hard to tell what will happen next.

The other branches of the federal government – the Congress and the courts – are also deeply and unpredictably engaged in the sorting out of these matters, and many of us out on the ground and around the United States can only wait to see what happens day by day. For those of us in Indian Country, much remains unresolved. There have been some immediate changes, like the shut

down of the Dakota Access pipeline protest, and others that are now unfolding, like the fate of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in bargaining over the Affordable Care Act. But for most tribal issues, including those here in the tribal forestry corner of the world, much is still uncertain.

We have a new Interior Secretary in Ryan Zinke, for whom we have great hopes. He is a life-long Montanan and has been a strong tribal advocate while in Congress. In his new capacity as Interior Secretary, he has testified in support of tribal sovereignty and self-determination. He will also be working with the White House to advance the Administration's top priorities, and for us in Indian Country, that probably means an emphasis on economic development. For us in tribal forestry, we have a strong story to tell. Our forests have long been a principal and renewable source of tribal employment and revenue. Our commercial forestry is a mainstay for our communities and often significantly supports surrounding economies as well. Our commercial forestry operations can also expand. In recent years, only half the planned tribal harvest has been cut. But, as our forests are a trust resource, the U.S. must increase the BIA forest management and oversight capacity that are essential for expanded trust operations. And beyond commercial forestry, our forests and woodlands provide a wide range of important social and economic benefits, often relied upon by the individual members of our communities.

The ITC has sought to inform

the new Administration, as well as the new Congress, about the importance of tribal forests to our tribes and our regions. We hope these messages are well received, and we will continue to carry them forward with the help of our member tribes. But as we pass the new Administration's first 100 days, many Indian Affairs issues remain uncertain, and it will only be in the coming weeks and months that the Administration's – and Congress's – intentions come clear. We will have to see, for instance, how the Administration's first formally proposed budget, due out in mid-May for FY 2018, treats tribal programs, including BIA Forestry. We still await the nomination of an Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and what might be proposed for Indian Affairs in the Administration's sweeping initiative over the next year to reorganize the agencies and departments of the Executive Branch. And we will have to see how Congress treats these and other tribal issues.

As these changes emerge, some may be satisfactory and some may be disappointments. Some may also be a surprise, like the April announcement of a new restrictive tariff on Canadian lumber imports, which could help a boost in our industry. But all in all, we need to expect some challenge and change in the coming months, and to be prepared as best we can to address new proposals and to navigate our way through them.

The ITC itself is undergoing some change. Over the past year, we have been developing and refining internal roles and proce-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



James R. Erickson

### Passing the Torch

This phrase *Passing the Torch* has multiple special meanings for me at this time in my career. June 11, 2017 marks 40 years for me of living and working in Indian country. These years were special and rewarding, as I have been given many unique opportunities during my career. The first 25 years provided me the chance to serve the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, filled with opportuni-



Spokane prescribed burn

ties to be creative, innovative and most of all efficient in implementing management strategies for the Tribe.

The next 15 years I was blessed to serve as the Intertribal Timber Council Fire Technical Specialist

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

### AISES Provides Showcase for Partnerships and ITC Picard Scholarship Recipient as HSU Faculty Member



Region 1 and 2 AISES Conference with students, BIA, U.S Forest Service, USFWS and ITC

One of my greatest rewards as an ITC employee is to meet and relay messages of thanks and growth from past recipients of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. During the Region 1 and 2 (AK-WA-OR-

ID-MT-CA-NV) American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference held on March 30-31, 2017 at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California,

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

The Operations Committee met on April 19, 2017, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the meetings due to work schedule conflicts. I do want to thank John DeGroot, Nez Perce Forestry and Fire Director for facilitating the meeting and providing a detailed record of discussion items. Also a big Thank You to all the folks that show up and contribute to the dialog of the



Photo of aerial ignition of Rx burn at Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana, with objectives to improve wildlife habitat. Using Rx fire is an important tool to meet overall forest management goals at CSKT. Courtesy of CSKT fire management.

ITC Operations Committee.

### Interior Appropriations Testimony

The Interior Appropriations hearings are scheduled for May

16th-17th, 2017 and will have occurred by the publication of this newsletter.

The written testimony should

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley

*(Continued from page 1)*

Exhibitor booth spaces are still available. We offer a limited number of exhibit spaces on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to promote your business or organization to representatives from timbered Indian reservations.

You can participate in the symposium in two ways: Rent an exhibit booth space. Includes two registrations. Alternatively, have your company's literature inserted in the participant's registration packets. All booth fees support our Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program. These scholarships assist



2016 San Carlos Apache Tribal Tour

Native American and Native Alaskan students who are majoring in forestry or natural resources.

The Awards Banquet will occur on Thursday after the day's events

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

*(Continued from page 3)*

on behalf of the member Tribes. This allowed me to travel the country to meet and serve Tribes across the country. I want to thank everyone for your graciousness, hospitality and the wisdom that you shared during these visits. I have learned much from all of you.

But now the time has come for me to pass the torch as *ITC Fire Technical Specialist* to someone else, hopefully to someone younger, full of energy, and ready to explore new ideas and opportunities to help Tribes address forestry and wildland fire challenges. The future will bring much change to challenge the creative mind.

I plan to retire at the end of 2017. That leaves little time to find someone interested and qualified for this opportunity. ARE YOU THE ONE? I would ask that everyone at least consider whether your situation and career goals align with this position in service to Tribes nationally. If so, please submit your application. Indian country deserves the best of the best.

*Passing the torch* should also have special meaning for each of you as you advance through your career. Each time you advance to a higher position someone passed a torch to you and it is critical that you have identified and trained your replacement to pass your torch to. Each of us has been blessed in being mentored by someone who preceded us. It is our responsibility to recruit, train and mentor those who will come behind us.

The situation has become more challenging with the passing of each generation, as younger peo-

ple have become more technology centered and seem to be losing interest and connection to the land and resources that sustain our daily lives. Enrollment by tribal member in natural resource fields falls far short of pending needs.

But, to be successful, everyone must increase their individual efforts to identify and recruit the next generation of resource managers. Passing the torch to the millennial generation will require new strategies and perspectives. What extra steps and efforts can you undertake to assist this effort?

The *third passing of the torch* relates closely to the first two in that the passing of the torch of tribal ecological knowledge and experience of the long proven techniques that Native people used for thousands of years. Unfortunately, too often our society dismissed and even suppressed time proven traditional fire management practices. This is especially true in regards to tribal fire management strategies. Tribes everywhere had their purpose and uses for fire. Misguided federal policy has bounced around on this issue for the past 100+ years. First was the federal suppression policy taking fire away from Natives, only to realize some time later that fire is an integral, essential component of healthy, resilient ecosystems.

Today agencies spout “best available science” over experiential learning on how to manage fire. Today the system makes people afraid to manage fire as a friend and tool. It is too often safer to do nothing than to take any risk. Working with fire will always require taking calculated risks. The

key is being smarter than the fire.

With nearly 100 years of federal policy to suppress all wildfires there is the risk that much of the tribal traditional knowledge may have been displaced or lost. Every generation that does not pass on this knowledge increases the risk that it will be lost. Still the most valuable lesson we can learn from generations past is that the skill to effectively manage fires is gained by actually experiencing burning. Studying fire in books and classrooms can help to prepare individuals to burn, but only actual burning will increase the skillset needed to manage fire as an effective tool.

A tribal elder from California once told me that the best way to learn about fire is to start during periods of cooler and wetter weather. His message was that practitioners learn best when conditions are safe and they can effectively observe fire. Gradually as skills improve fire practitioners can gradually burn during warmer and dryer conditions as they gain knowledge of the power and effects of fire.

I hope each of you will have the wisdom and courage to tame fire and make it your friend and ally, and not your enemy. Fire ecosystems will continue to burn. How do you want them to affect your resources?

This year I hope you can join us at the 41st National Indian Timber Symposium June 26-29, 2017 in Yakima, Washington. The Wildland Fire Workshop on June 26 will have presentations that share future fires and traditional fire uses to stimulate your senses.



## TFPA Project Update

by Stephanie Lucero and Sonia Tamez



Stephanie Lucero and  
Sonia Tamez

### The Tribal Forest Protection Act Project Update

As the new administration formulates policies affecting tribal governments and forest management, we want to bring your attention to the resources needed to implement the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (TFPA).

#### Background

The TFPA was passed in the aftermath of catastrophic fires and extensive losses in 2002 and 2003. The legislation provides a means for Tribes to propose projects on Forest Service (FS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that would protect tribal lands, resources and communities by reducing



Sacramento TFPA Workshop Participants  
Photo Credit Lab Rat Productions

threats from wildfire, insects, and disease from FS and BLM managed lands. The TFPA also supports proposals for restoration of these federally administered lands that are significant to a Tribe.

Over the past six years, the ITC entered into agreements with the FS to improve the implementation of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA). We want to share the accomplishments and TFPA resources so you can go forward with your own TFPA projects.

#### The Workshops

A 2013 analysis conducted by the ITC, in partnership with the FS and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), indicated a need for more

TFPA training for Tribes and FS to fully implement TFPA and realize its potential. Three major workshops in Albuquerque, Sacramento and Spokane were undertaken in 2015 and 2016 with associated webinars and follow-up assistance. One hundred and seventy-one participants from 37 Tribes and 34 adjacent national forests, and others attended.

The TFPA workshops helped participants move from concept to reality. Participants applied the Act's purpose and specific requirements to the local needs. The workshops assisted participants define for themselves what "adjacency", "threats", "risk" and "restoration"

*(Continued on page 8)*

## President's Message

by Phil Rigdon

*(Continued from page 2)*

dures to strengthen our operations and keep in step with new federal contracting and auditing requirements. There are changes in the ITC Board and support team as some longtime participants depart for retirement or changing circumstances. While it is difficult to say good bye to old friends, it is

also gratifying to see new people stepping forward and growing into the mission and tasks of the ITC. The organization remains dedicated to our mission and goals, and our BIA partners are steadfast by our side. Together with our member tribes, with our leadership and support team, and with our BIA partner, we will move forward

with our message, practice, and shared spirit of innovative and inspired tribal/federal forestry. And to that end, I join all the Board in looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming Forty-First Annual National Indian Timber Symposium at Yakama. See you there in June. 🌲

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley

*(Continued from page 4)*

are concluded. The format of our banquet is as follows:

A plated dinner with the world-renowned singer, entertainer and guitarist, Will Putman, Forester, Tanana Chiefs Conference. We will introduce the board member/delegates and announce the election results of the board. Our Education Committee, Chairman, Orvie Danzuka will introduce award winners for the Truman D. Picard Scholarship Awards & Native American Natural Resource Research Scholarships. Will Putman, our newest Chairman to the Award Committee will introduce the Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards. Next, we will hear from Orvie again on the Raffle Drawings that have been donated by the member tribes and organizations. We will have closing remarks from our host Tribe, Yakama Nation, and receive a welcome for next year hosts, the Quinault Indian Nation for June of 2018.

Book your lodging soon. The Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center is located within a short 3-minute walk of the Yakima Convention Center. Single occupancy rate is \$91 per night, plus taxes. Double occupancy rate is \$111 per night, plus taxes. **This special rate is only available until June 3, 2017, or until the room block sells out.** Reservation requests after this date will be booked at the best available rate and are not guaranteed availability. To reserve by phone call 1-800-325-4000 and reference the Intertribal Timber Council. To reserve a room online follow the link on ITC's Symposium webpage.

There is no need to worry if

the room block happens to sell out. There are thousands of hotel rooms near the Yakima Convention Center, most within walking distance. Other properties to consider include the Best Western, Howard Johnson, and Holiday Inn. Please note we do not have room blocks at these three properties.

I encourage you to donate raffle items for the symposium. Through your generous donations, the ITC generated more than \$12,486 at last year's symposium. All of the funds go towards the ITC Truman D. Picard Scholarship. To date, the ITC has awarded over \$868,000 in scholarships.

Feel free to bring your gifts to the ITC Symposium in Yakima, or you may send your gifts to: Intertribal Timber Council, Attn: Raffle Donations, 1112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4, Portland, OR 97232. **All shipped items must be received by Wednesday, June 21, 2017.** Please do not ship items to be received after this date. Our staff will be onsite at the symposium and your packages will not make it.

In order to help the ITC Education Committee catalog your donated items, please provide a brief description of the item, estimated value if known, and donor contact information. This information will help the Committee give credit to the correct donors and send letters of appreciation after the symposium. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are available upon request. Thank you for your generous support of this most important cause.



This is an example donated raffle item, which was designed by Nakia Williamson, Nez Perce Tribal member, and made exclusively by Pendleton Mills for the Tribe in conjunction with the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in 2004. The embroidery was completed by Pro-Stitch Embroidery, Omak, WA

Please come enjoy a great week in Yakima, WA, with our gracious hosts and the people of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.



## TFPA Project Update

by Stephanie Lucero and Sonia Tamez

*(Continued from page 6)*

really look like locally instead of in the abstract.

Both agency and tribal partners found out more about each other's program of work and priorities. They all greatly widened their field of potential funding sources and partnerships. In each session, there were Tribes and National Forests that had existing agreements regarding consultation protocols and/or management of specific areas. They were able to build upon this foundation to include bilateral arrangements for TFPA projects. Others were able to start from the beginning with agreements to address both agency and tribal priorities.

Ongoing communication and collaboration between Tribes and FS are essential elements in every phase of TFPA project development and are emphasized in the workshops. Other elements include early coordination, openness to find mutual interests, willingness to discuss alternatives, creating and expanding partnerships, and seeking funding from a variety of traditional and nontraditional sources for project implementation. These components are emphasized in the

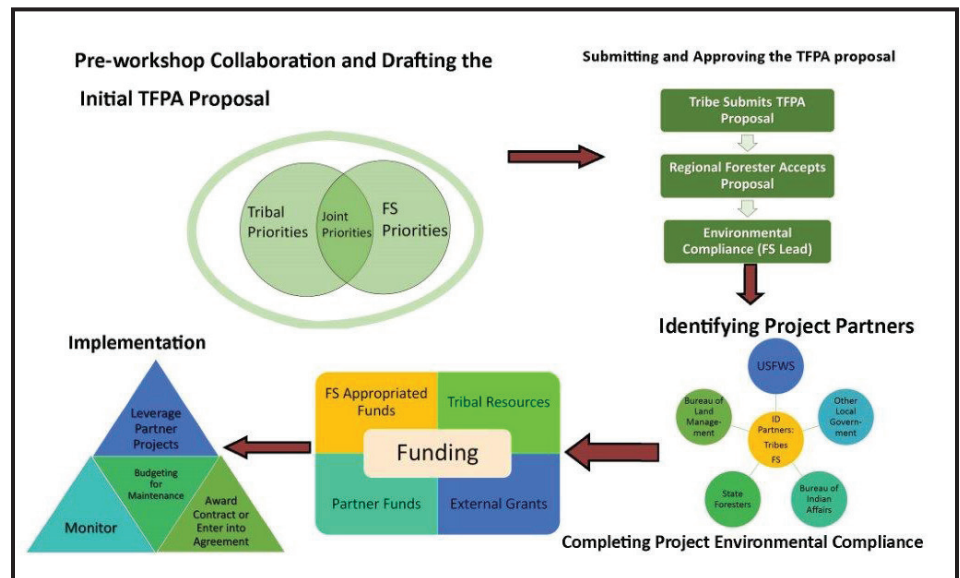
Workshop Template, represented in the figure below.

### The Resources

What kinds of projects can TFPA support? How can we go with a "sole-source" contract or should we have an agreement?

Click on the TFPA You Tubes for the answers. ITC has developed a TFPA resources page, including You Tubes, you can find at: [http://www.itcnet.org/issues\\_projects/issues\\_2/tfpa/](http://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/tfpa/)

You can find out about future TFPA webinars and workshops. You can also access PowerPoint presentations, templates, frequently asked questions and YouTube videos of TFPA workshop talks and interviews. We have also provided a more detailed content page to access the TFPA Analysis Report, which contains an assessment of the TFPA, its implementation, success stories, lessons learned and more. 🌲



The Template urges Tribes and the FS to collaborate on TFPA proposals identifying mutual interests and goals; seeking and developing resources; and extending partnerships.

## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman

*(Continued from page 4)*

be available from the ITC Office, while the video of the hearing should be available at the Interior Appropriations Committee website. Highlights of the testimony include:

- This workshop will 1. A request of an additional \$5 mil-

lion for 67 more foresters, including a multiplier for economic effects. Highlighting that the trustee has responsibility to develop and approve sales, benefits realized outside Indian Country, Indian logs feed non-Indian mills, and jobs;

- A request for an additional \$2 million for thinning and other timber stand improvement work;
- A request for an additional \$3 million for replanting;
- An additional \$49.5 million

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

### ITC Education Committee News Article – April 2017

Thank you for those whom attended the most recent quarterly board meeting in Tulsa! There

were a lot of important discussions over the three-day meeting, and the possibility of a Workforce Development Coordinator position was the hottest topic in the Education Committee meeting. The position was so important that it was also discussed in the symposium breakout, as well as the Operations Committee. Other organizations have a similar position and it is helpful in recruitment, retention and development of native professionals. Unfortunately, with the looming budget cuts ITC will not be able to fund this position, so it is crucial that we all collectively focus our efforts on this important issue in-house.

It is a sobering thought for each

of us to contemplate and groom the person who will eventually “carry on the torch” when each of us respectively retires, but it is also of utmost importance. There are many people who are pioneers in the Forestry and Fire Management professions, but we can’t let their blood, sweat and tears be for naught. I don’t think the pioneers in our industry want for us to be comfortable with the work they have accomplished.

I’d like to share a quote that I think is applicable with minor adjustments. “I don’t want my children to follow in my footsteps...I want them to take the path next to

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman

*(Continued from page 8)*

for Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR);

- \$206 million for fuels treatments; and
- A request for expanded support for TFPA and Anchor Forests projects.

### Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is a multi-billion dollar omnibus bill that is developed every 5 years or so by congress and deals with both agriculture and all other affairs under the Department of Agriculture. The Ag Act of 2014 funds farm programs through 2018.

There are a number of items that the committee has discussed for inclusion in the upcoming Farm Bill:

- TFPA streamlining provi-

sions, and consideration of provisions from the Good Neighbor Authority;

- Authority for tribes to manage adjacent federal lands pursuant to NIFRMA and a request of a pilot project;
- Include tribal colleges with Forestry programs in the MacIntire Stennis funding allocation; and
- Request that when fire suppression resources are dispatched, that protection of Indian trust lands receive the same priority as the protection of life and property.

### Executive Order 13781

On March 13, 2017 EO 13781 was issued for the purpose to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the executive

branch of government by directing the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to propose a plan to reorganize governmental functions and eliminate unnecessary agencies, components of agencies, and agency programs. As a response to this EO, the ITC will draft some input for consideration, including working on PL-93-638 contracting within USDA programs and reviewing the Consultation policies. Stay tuned for more on this issue.

### Second ITC Fire Study

The ITC has received a Proposal from Northwest Management with guidance from the oversight committee to write another, more detailed study about large wildfire impacts tribal lands and economies. The committee recommends

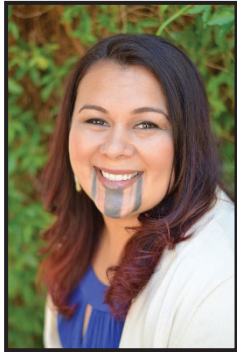
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## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

*(Continued from page 3)*

I had an opportunity to meet Dr. Seafha Ramos. She wanted to let the ITC member Tribes and supporters know that she's thankful for the support and it made a difference for her with her education,



Dr. Seafha Ramos, (Yurok) Faculty, Humboldt State, Univeristy Coordinator, Research Experience for Undergraduates  
<http://www2.humboldt.edu/reu/node/30>

which has led to her faculty position with Humboldt State University and also a coordinator with Dr. Frank Lake for the National Science Foundation funded Research

***"Our culture is completely dependent upon fire. Without Fire, our culture will not survive. It's that simple."***

***- (IPBN 2016)***

This image and Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN) quotes was one of her poster's centerpiece.

Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program called, rroulou'sik Wiyot for "rising up" (Pronunciation is approximately "doo-loot-seek.")

I also had an opportunity to meet one of the REU students, Marlene Dusek (Payom Kawachum) who is a senior at HSU and studying Environmental Science and focused her research on traditional burning. Her interest in fire was influenced by the San Diego area fires in 2003 and remembers the event destroying their homes on her Rancheria. She made a presentation of her poster called Rekindling the Old Ways of Traditional Burning as a Land Management Practice with the Yurok Tribe. A copy of Marlene's poster and re-

search can be viewed at this link:

**<https://mldmaps.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/mdusekposter.pptx>**

For further information about the REU projects by tribal students, you can find on this link. **<http://www2.humboldt.edu/reu/Intern-projects>**

Partnerships at the Conference – Present and Future at Humboldt

The AISES Regional Conference had several panels that included presentations on career opportunities and partnerships between tribes and federal agencies.

Merv George, Forest Supervisor for the Six Rivers National Forest talked about his experience as a student at Humboldt, as Hoopa Valley Tribal Chairman and how his career evolved towards his cur-

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman

*(Continued from page 9)*

to move forward with the study with further input from the oversight committee to include case studies.

### Transition Plan – ITC Fire Technical Specialist

Jim Erickson plans to retire after about 40 years (yes, he started very early) of service to Indian Country, both with the Colville Tribes and


with the Intertribal Timber Council, at the end of this year. A Request for Proposals based on the current contract and scope of work will be developed prior to the symposium. The Fire Subcommittee will review the proposal.

### USGS Burn Severity Tool & GIS Training Proposal

The USGS will be presenting on the use of a burn severity tool at

the Symposium in Yakima, Washington in June. The USGS has also offered to develop GIS training for tribes. Jim Erickson will draft a request to USGS for the GIS training.

### Marketing

There was a discussion on the marketing of forest products. There remains an interest in how the BIA and ITC can assist tribes with marketing. Stay tuned for more on this issue. 

## Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman

*(Continued from page 9)*

me and go further than I could have ever dreamt possible.” I found this on a Facebook meme and could not credit the individual responsible for coining this phrase, but it moved me nonetheless. The quote holds true for me in that I want my successor to learn from me and continue to advance beyond anything I may have contributed during my professional tenure.

I came to this conclusion because I realize that for many years I was able to turn to a man whom I held in the highest regard, but he passed away and I was saddened by the fact that I ignorantly thought he would be around forever for consultation. My high school forestry teacher, Bill Wysham, always pushed me to work hard and continue learning. He was an encyclopedia of knowledge and I errantly believed he would be just a phone call away. I can no longer call him to ask him questions he would have gladly answered before. I know that others didn’t take him for granted and gleaned every bit

of knowledge from him they could and are now passing on his infinite wisdom to the next generation.

I was in my late twenties before I realized that it was now my charge to teach others what I had learned from Mr. Wysham and pass that on, as he did. This is the best way I could figure to honor the legacy of this man since he was so influential to me. This is not new to us because we have always been challenged to listen to our elders as they pass on their wisdom. Now is the time for us to share what we have learned and share it with others so that nobody has to, “reinvent the wheel.”

There are many people with different experiences, and it makes sense that we all share our respective experiences, so that we don’t have a need to experience the same thing, but can rather learn from each other’s experiences. This is something we can do, and must do. What is working for you in your efforts? Share that with others so that they may try it out and gauge the success at their home. Infor-

mation on both successes and failures can be shared.

Each tribe can use this information to expand on their successes, and learn from their failures. Who wouldn’t be happy to gain such valuable information?

I’m sure that some tribes excel at recruitment, some excel at retention and still others excel at training the staff working at their facility. If we could all share our information we would be in a much better position to shape the future of our organizations.

Another lesson I’ve learned is that a sign of a good leader is that when they move on, the organization isn’t left with a huge void and confusion, but rather runs smoothly. The reason for this is because their mission has been shared with the organization and everybody understands their contributions to the mission and can execute with little oversight. We all need to be responsible for gathering of information and sharing with others... similar to what our elders have

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic


*(Continued from page 10)*

rent position. He was joined by Dr. Frank Lake, Researcher, Forest Service and they both talked about how building partnerships was important to their careers and the need for networking and getting people meeting so promote traditional knowledge as a way to help manage natural resources.

Gerald Jones, Regional Forester with the BIA and Scott Aiken, Tribal Liaison, US. Fish and Wild-

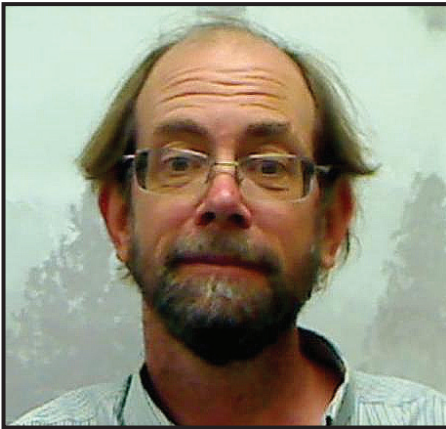
life Services were also on the panel and they both talked about their opportunity to work for the federal agencies and trying to change those agencies to help tribal management from the inside.

At the conclusion of the conference, I had a chance to talk with Dr. Erin Kelly, Faculty, HSU Forestry School to discuss a proposed ITC and HSU MOU similar to the other agreements that the organization has with other universities like the

University of Washington, Salish Kootenai College, Oregon State University, Northern Arizona University and Yale University. They seemed open to the invitation and a former Picard Scholarship recipient, Dr. Ramos, is an example of how ITC support has assisted with creating a Native American faculty member for their university. Seafha said that she will help however she can to reach another agreement for the future at Humboldt. 

## Research Sub-Committee

by Adrian Leighton



Adrian Leighton

The ITC Research subcommittee met in person and via conference call on Tues April 18th during the Board Meeting in Oklahoma. Brett Butler from the US Forest Service FIA program discussed including tribes in the next national tribal woodlands owner survey that would identify ownership, management practices, challenges and barriers of tribal woodland management. The group discussed several components of the survey and envisioned some tribal capacity building as part of the process.

Salish Kootenai College and the US Forest Service are offering a new Resource Assistants Program (RAP). The RAP program offers paid interns to work with US Forest Service staff and upon graduation and completing 960 hours in

the program the interns are eligible for non-competitive hiring status with the agency.

The Joint Fire Science Program was a topic addressed by the group and how to involve more tribal projects with this research program. During the discussion, it was noted that fire and forestry was not part of the US Department of Interior's STEM strategic plan 2013-2018. Paul Steblein was going to look into the omission or where forestry and fire management is part of this program. The link to the USDOJ Strategy can be found at: <https://nctc.fws.gov/programs/education-outreach/DOI-STEM-Strategic-Plan-2013-2018.pdf>

The Journal of Forestry special issue on Tribal Forest Management is slated for publication in September 2017 and will include 25 peer reviewed articles focused on Indian forestry.

Don Motanic mentioned several students were working on NFS funded research at Humboldt State University through a Research Experience for Undergraduates with Dr. Frank Lake. Here's one of the projects on their website and more information about the program in Don's article: <http://www2.humboldt.edu/reu/Intern-projects>



Courtney Brown  
(Navajo and Laguna Pueblo)

Observing Treated and Untreated Forest Stands and Their Effects of Understory Vegetation. The purpose of this research was to achieve a better understanding of the understory vegetation species diversity at Whiskeytown National Recreational Area its response forest stand treatment in the context of multi-year drought conditions. It was hypothesized that stands that have been treated will have a higher percentage of vegetative cover compared to untreated stands. Variables used during the research process to test the hypothesis included: the presence and ascents of life forms, canopy cover, stand density, and the species richness in the understory. 🌲

## Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman

*(Continued from page 11)*

been doing for generations.

Each winter our elders would sit and tell stories and we are expected to retain these stories and pass them on to our children and grandchildren. We now need to share the stories we've been told in the

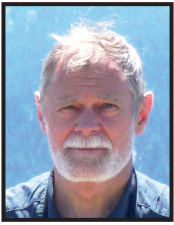
workplace and share them with the next generation of employees.

Let's share our stories with our successors so that all the institutional knowledge they have gained will not be lost. It is now our time to pass on our knowledge as many times as necessary that the next

torchbearers can move on to greater heights! 🌲

## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

### Washington Update

#### 1) Interior Department developments and changes

Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) was confirmed as Interior Secretary on March 1. He brought with him several of his key staffers from the congressional office, including his chief of staff, legislative director and communications director. However, the highest ranking departmental employees were already in the building prior to Zinke's confirmation:

- Jim Cason is currently serving as acting Deputy Secretary, the #2 position in the department. He is expected to remain at DOI, eventually assuming the role of Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. Cason served in a number of senior positions in the G.W. Bush Administration, including Interior Associate Deputy Secretary where he also administered the BIA from 2005 to 2007 while the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs position was vacant.
- David Bernhardt previously served as Solicitor for DOI during the G.W. Bush Administration, and led the Trump transition team at DOI. He is expected to serve as Solicitor again.
- Mike Black returned to D.C.

earlier this year to serve as acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. This position will eventually be filled by someone formally appointed by the Trump Administration.

DOI has already taken steps to slow the fee-to-trust process for tribes. Similar to action taken during the Bush years, guidance has already been issued to the BIA regional offices that all off-reservation applications will now be reviewed in the Washington, D.C. office.

#### 2) Administration issues Exec.Order and OMB memo to reorganize Exec. Branch, cut staff and funds

While the new Trump Administration has been struggling to develop and advance a legislative agenda, it has issued a blizzard of Executive Orders (EO) and similar directives. One EO of interest and its follow-up OMB memo are:

Executive Order 13781, March 13, 2017, Comprehensive Plan Reorganizing the Executive Branch: to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the executive branch by directing OMB to propose a plan to reorganize governmental functions and eliminate unnecessary agencies. Within 180 days of March 13, each agency must submit a plan to OMB to reorganize the agency to achieve the above goals. OMB, as announced April 12, 2017 (see below), is providing an opportunity for the public to make their own suggestions, and within 180 days of that comment period closing, OMB is to submit a comprehensive reorgani-

zation plan to the President, including the elimination and merging of agencies, programs and functions. OMB is to take the following into account when developing its comprehensive plan:

- (i) if turning an agency or program over to a state or local government or the private sector is appropriate;
- (ii) redundancies among agencies and programs;
- (iii) redundancies in administering agencies and programs;
- (iv) whether the costs of continuing to operate an agency or program are justified by the public benefits it provides; and
- (v) the costs of shutting down or merging agencies or programs.

OMB April 12, 2017 Memorandum on Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce: This memo provides OMB's "guidance" to agencies to comply with the EO on Comprehensive Reorganization and reducing the federal workforce. It requires all agencies to start immediate actions to reduce workforce and save costs in line with the FY 2018 Budget Blueprint, develop a plan to maximize employee performance by June 30, 2017, and submit an Agency Reform Plan to OMB in September 2017 as part of the agency's FY 2019 submission. Public input is being solicited at the website <https://www.whitehouse.gov/reorganizing-the-executive-branch>. It appears that all public comment must be submitted electronically by selecting and fill-

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

*(Continued from page 13)*

ing in fields on the website. The deadline for submitting comment is June 12, 2017.

### 3) Legislating off to a slow start

From a legislative perspective, the new Trump Administration and the new 115th Congress are getting off to a slow start. Both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue spent the first few months of the year getting organized, and have since turned attention to trying to sort out the legislative items in Trump's campaign priorities, including "repeal and replacement" of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), infrastructure spending, the southern border wall, and tax reform. These have absorbed a large amount of Congress's attention, especially as they are proving to be more difficult than first thought. As a result, most other legislative agendas are on the sideline for the time being. As noted in the specific items below, many committees have been holding hearings on federal infrastructure issues

### 4) SCIA moves bills on Biomass Demo, Tribal Labor Sovereignty

In the Senate, the Indian Affairs Committee has been active. A February 8 mark-up approved nine bills, most of which have been re-introduced from the last Congress. Approved bills include –

- The Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Amendments (S. 245), which includes at Section 202 a Tribal Forest Protection Act amendment to establish the

Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project requiring at least four projects on USFS or BLM land over each of the next five years (FYs 2017-2021). The projects can incorporate tribal forest management plans to the extent practicable. There is also a very similar program for Alaska Native tribes and organizations. Section 204 seeks to speed up appraisals for mineral and energy projects.

- The Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act (S. 63), to exempt tribes from the Federal Labor Relations Board, as are state governments. The bill has been reported (S. Rpt. 115-3). The ITC submitted a letter of support.
- The Tribal Infrastructure and Roads Enhancement and Safety Act (TIRES Act or John Smith Act) (S. 302): To speed up approval of tribal transportation safety projects, including categorical exemptions from NEPA. The bill has been reported (S. Rpt. 115-27).

On March 8, the SCIA held an oversight hearing on tribal priorities for the Trump Administration at which Secretary Ryan Zinke testified in strong support of sovereignty and self-determination and stating the Administration's tribal priorities are economic/energy development and infrastructure improvement. Tribal testimony also highlighted economic/energy development and infrastructure, as well as improved consultation and collaboration, tax incentives, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, sufficient funding, and wise

stewardship of natural resources.

On March 17, the Committee, in conjunction with the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, hosted a roundtable discussion on tribal infrastructure issues. Focus was on bricks and mortar sorts of projects – roads, schools, hospitals- and on "modern" and "innovative" ways to pay for them.

### 5) House, Senate Resources committees focus on infrastructure

In the House, the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs has gotten off to a slow start. To date, the Subcommittee has only held one tribally-related hearing: a March 9 oversight hearing on IHS facility needs and the U.S. territories' Capital Improvement Project grant program. The hearing was one of a series of Natural Resources subcommittee hearings focusing on infrastructure issues, in anticipation of some form of infrastructure initiative touted by President Trump. On March 17, the House Natural Resources Committee co-hosted with the SCIA a Roundtable on tribal infrastructure issues. The actual development of that initiative has yet to take much of a concrete form.

On March 16, the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands Subcommittee held its infrastructure oversight hearing on "innovative" ways to pay for the infrastructure needs of the National Park Service and the US Forest Service. The USFS has a \$5.2 billion main-

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

*(Continued from page 14)*

tenance backlog, of which \$3.2 is for roads and \$1.2 is buildings. Witnesses suggested removing costly regulations, imposing user fees, and stopping land acquisition as ways to direct more funds into USFS infrastructure maintenance. The National Association of Counties testimony included suggesting a pilot program allowing states to manage some federal forestlands pursuant to state law.

In the Senate, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee has also focused several of its hearings (March 14, 21 and 30) on infrastructure issues, particularly relating to energy development.

### **6) Congress disapproves BLM Planning Rule 2.0**

On March 27, 2017, President Trump signed H. J. Res. 44 disapproving the BLM's Planning Rule 2.0. The disapproval, authorized by the Congressional Review Act, passed the House February 7 and the Senate March 7. The resolution, introduced and passed by Republican majorities, objected to the increased federal regulation under the new BLM land planning rule.

### **7) Appropriations**

Appropriations and budget issues for the balance of FY 2017 and for FY 2018 are up in the air at this time.

FY 2017: The funding of the federal government until April 28, 2017 was provided by a continuing resolution that basically extended FY 2016 funding levels into FY 2017. As of this writing, Congress has passed a short term continuing resolution that further extends

FY '16 funding until May 5, 2017, avoiding a governmental shutdown while Congress and the White House try to reach a compromise on several last minute funding issues in larger appropriations legislation that is expected to fund the government through the September 30, 2017 end of Fiscal Year 2017. This larger appropriations bill will likely be an "omnibus" bill, in which the dozen regular FY 2017 appropriations bills are combined. It is not expected to be another CR, and will include changes in funding levels from FY 2016 amounts. Among other requests, the Trump White House has asked that this FY 2017 bill shift \$57 billion from domestic programs to defense. Negotiators are reported to be close on a final FY '17 bill, but if negotiations break down and a larger appropriations bill cannot be agreed upon, Congress might still have to resort to another CR for the remainder of this fiscal year.

FY 2018: With this being a presidential transition year, FY 2018 appropriations are running behind the already slow customary approps process. The Trump Administration on March 16 released a "blueprint" or outline of its anticipated FY '18 budget request, called the "skinny budget." It contains almost no dollar details, and for the Interior Department only says that a 12% cut overall is to be proposed from the annualized FY 2017 CR level, a reduction of \$1.5 billion to \$11.6 billion. A bullet point covering Indian Affairs says the proposed budget will support tribal sovereignty and self-determination, focus on "core funding and services," and reduce funding

for demonstration projects and initiatives that serve only a few tribes. For wildland fire, it says it budgets "responsibly" and uses the 10 year average for suppression. More detailed FY 2018 agency budget justifications are not expected until mid-May.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies announced April 12 it will hold FY 2018 hearings for tribal testimony on May 16 and 17. The deadline for requesting to testify was April 24. The deadline for submitting written testimony is May 24. Details, including format requirements for written testimony, are online at <http://appropriations.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=394837>.

The ITC testified before the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee at 2:50 on May 16. The ITC FY 2018 appropriations requests will include 1) +\$5 million for 67 more BIA foresters to meet tribal planned harvests, 2) +\$2 million for thinning and +\$3 million for replanting, 3) +\$49.5 million in OWFM for BAR on the 2015 trust forest fires, 4) a study on elevating suppression on trust forests to the same level as life and property, 5) \$206 million for OWFM fuels reduction, 6) on Anchor Forest projects, encouraging more around the U.S. and urging implementation of USFS harvest as identified in completed Anchor Forest studies, and 7) encouraging more TFPA projects. The ITC testimony will stress the economic benefits and necessities of these requests.

*(Continued on page 16)*

## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland, Chief



Pete Wakeland

### Greetings All.

We hope everyone has enjoyed the past few months and wish you a safe and productive summer. For

us, after a stretch of unusually mild weather, the DC area is starting to heat up and bring expected typical weather – warm and humid!

Data calls remain a steady diet. In answering those, the Division continues to take every opportunity to highlight the importance of Indian forestry and how your work significantly contributes to the health of ecosystems and local communities. This becomes an ever important message as budgets remain near the center of the radar screen.

We made it through the April 29th deadline and the government continues to operate on Continuing

Resolutions. Staff has been putting forth best efforts to get funding out the door and to the Regions. If you have questions or concerns, please call us.

Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, Caleb Cain, detailed into the Central Office recently, and completed the revision of the Forest Development Handbook. The Division wishes to thank to Caleb for the great work, and we also wish to thank Regional Director, Darryl LaCounte, for his support.

Central Office Forester / Program Analyst Matt Anderson, and Supervisory Timber Sale Forester

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

*(Continued from page 15)*

### 8) Farm Bill

Farm Bills are generally considered every four years by Congress. The last Farm Bill was the Agriculture Act of 2014, so Congress, and particularly the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, are starting to ramp up new Farm Bill considerations. To that end, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held an oversight hearing March 16 on the “Effectiveness of Forestry Initiatives,” at which Chair Frank Lucas (R, OK) emphasized active forestry in his opening statement.

ITC is developing testimony for submission to the House Ag. Subcommittee and its Senate counterpart, which has not yet held or scheduled a Farm Bill forestry hearing. ITC requests for the Farm Bill include:

- Tribal Forest Protection Act: Include the TFPA streamlining provisions from the Daines tribal forestry bill (S. 3014, 114th Cong.); and applying 638 to TFPA projects on USFS or BLM lands from the Daines bill.
- Authority for tribes to manage adjacent federal lands pursuant to a NIFRMA pilot project.
- MacIntire-Stennis parity: Include direct participation of tribal colleges in the MacIntire-Stennis program.
- Fire suppression priorities: Elevate fire suppression on Indian trust land to a first priority, equal to protection of life and private property.
- Workforce development: Authorize USDA to fund a Native American forestry workforce coordination and development

program through an intertribal organization familiar with forestry issues.

- Anchor Forests: Authorize broad application of Anchor Forest pilot projects.

### 9) Other forestry bills

Timber Innovation Act: Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), ranking member of the Senator Energy and Natural Resources Committee, along with Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and several of their Senate colleagues, reintroduced on March 7 the Timber Innovation Act (S. 524) – bipartisan, bicameral legislation that aims to find new and innovative uses for wood as a building material. The House counterpart bill is H.R. 1380. The

*(Continued on page 17)*

## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland, Chief

*(Continued from page 16)*

John Baskette recently completed the FY 2017 training sessions in TAAMS Forestry. Training sessions were put on in Phoenix (Introductory and Advanced TAAMS Forestry) in November and February, in Billings (Introductory) in March, and in Portland (Advanced) in April. This was an important mission that required significant coordination, planning, and time away from home. A job very well done guys. Thank you for the dedication.

Don Kasten retired from his position as Timber Sales Forester for the BIA Rocky Mountain Region in Billings, Montana. Don had served the Region for many



years in positions at Crow Agency and the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, as well as extended field assignments at several of the Agencies in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions. Don's

service to Indian country extended far beyond the duties contained in his job description and he dedicated considerable effort to all aspects of the timber sales program,

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

*(Continued from page 16)*

legislation aims to accelerate the research and development of wood for use in construction projects – such as cross-laminated timber – focusing on the construction of buildings more than 85 feet in height. The bill was referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The Timber Innovation Act would incentivize investment through the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Lab and American colleges and universities to conduct research and development on new methods for the construction of wood buildings. Additionally, the bill would support ongoing efforts at the U.S. Department of Agriculture to further support the use of wood products as a building material for tall buildings.

Cottonwood Decision:

U.S. Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Jon Tester (D-MT) have introduced legislation (S. 605) that would reverse the ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Cottonwood Environmental Law Center v. U.S. Forest Service*.

The Litigation Relief for Forest Management Projects Act seeks to codify the Obama administration's position that federal agencies are not required to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service at a programmatic level when new critical habitat is designated or a new species is listed. The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Currently, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service consults with the U.S. Forest Service on projects that may affect endangered species; projects are routinely tailored to protect habitat

for these species. The consultations are based on programmatic directions for each listed species.

The recent Cottonwood decision would mean that projects could be held up when changes to the programmatic directions are under consideration. The Forest Service estimates that 80 vegetative management projects, including timber sales, are on hold because of the Cottonwood decision. Similar lawsuits have been filed around the country.

There are conflicting circuit court interpretations in the Ninth (Cottonwood Environmental Law Center v. Forest Service) and Tenth Circuits (Forest Guardians v. Forsgren) on this matter of wide-ranging import, but the Supreme Court denied the Department of Justice's petition to settle the discrepancy. 🌲

## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland, Chief

*(Continued from page 17)*

including providing training in timber appraisal, log scaling, and TAAMS. He often went beyond the call of duty to work one on one with people from around the country, trying to ensure that everyone he worked with understood how to do their job well. A dedicated mentor, Don's guidance aided in the development of three current or past BIA Regional Foresters and numerous Forest Managers and other staff throughout the country. Don's service to the Indian forestry program will be missed, but his impact will be felt for many years through the service of those he helped train.

### The 2003 Forestry Collection and Distribution Handbook

Work is underway on revising the 2003 Collections and Distribution Handbook. A revision of this Handbook was originally completed in 2006 but was made obsolete just before its release by major enhancements implemented in TAAMS. Since then the task of updating the revised manuscript has passed through several hands, and there has been a lot of input from the field on the importance of updating this key reference. The project now has Central Office Forestry staff assigned to it as a priority, and a full revision of the draft is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Completion of this project will complement efforts on revising other guidance including 53 IAM Handbook 11, Forest Management Deductions; a national TAAMS Forestry business rule template; and other guidance related to the handling of non-trust monies such as bid deposits and



The Awakening at National Harbor.  
Seemed appropriate for the time of year!

cash performance bonds and record requirements for tribes who manage timber sales with Direct Pay authority.

### 53 IAM Handbook 7, Forest Trespass

A team of Central Office and Northwest Regional Forestry staff have been hard at work revising 53 IAM Handbook 7, Forestry Trespass, for the past two years and their work is nearing completion. A new manuscript for the Handbook has been drafted, and the team is now focused on developing the Handbook illustrations and final edits. The revised Handbook will be submitted for approval this summer and is expected to be issued in its final form before the end of the calendar year.

### 53 IAM Chapter 8 Inventory and Monitoring

### Manual & Handbook

Joe Mortzhiem, Midwest Regional Office Forest Biometrician is detailed to BOFRP. We hope to have this completed by the fall of 2017. We thank Joe for taking on the task, and we also thank Midwest Regional Director Ms. Tammy Poitra for her support.

### Forestry Training Courses

Central Office Deputy Chief Forester – Timber Sales Dave Koch is planning training courses for the fall of 2017. Announcements will be sent out ahead of time.

### Forest Products and Marketing

Central Office Forest Products Forester Roger Jensen is working on the development of an MOU with the USFS Forest Products Lab. He is also developing a quar-

*(Continued on page 19)*

*(Continued from page 18)*

terly market report, and analytical tools that can be used to evaluate possible niche markets.

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

In June 2016 the President signed the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act into law. Public Law 114-178 seeks to provide tribes with greater autonomy in managing trust assets on their land, including timber and other forest products. Central Office Forestry staff is working with the Solicitor's office to develop guidelines for implementing the law. Implementation of the law appears to be a priority for the new administration, and work on implementation is steady and ongoing.

### **TAAMS FY 2018**

Planning for the FY 2018 TAAMS Forestry training program is underway. Training sessions will be scheduled at various BIA Regional Office locations during the period from October 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018. Anyone interested in learning more about the BIA's official system of record for trust asset management is encouraged to contact the TAAMS Forestry Point of Contact in their Region.

## **Branch of Wildland Fire Management**

### **Fuels Management**

A final FY2017 budget has not been established for Wildland Fire Management (WFM) which includes Fuels [Base, Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) and Resilient Landscapes (RL)], Pre-

vention and BAER funds. FY2017 forecasts are that Fuels should experience a reduction from FY2016 funding levels in the Base budget (RTRL and RL are projected to remain stable in 2017). Lack of certainty regarding both FY2017/2018 WFM budgets increases the risk of filling permanent Fuels positions in FY2017 especially with potential budget reductions in FY2018.

### **Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) Network**

The BIA's RAWS maintenance and repair contract is nearing expiration on June 30, 2017. A new contract has been developed and is currently under review and preparation for solicitation. The BIA provides the oversight of the RAWS network throughout Indian Country which has 80 permanent and 19 portable stations located predominately throughout the Western US with a few stations residing in the Southern and Southeast portion of the Country. These weather stations collect and catalog important weather observations that are utilized by a number of weather and fire potential models to support fire management programs with making determinations that impact firefighter safety, whether or not to initiate a fuels treatment prescription, air quality, crew readiness, and strategic seasonal and multi-year resource allocations, etc.. The new RAWS contract will continue to provide for the future maintenance and repair of the current RAWS network as well as upgrade the data transmitter components in the permanent stations nearing the end of their life cycle and also to provide for refurbishment of the

portable stations over the term of the contract.

### **Reserved Treaty Rights Lands**

Reserved Treaty rights Lands budget for fiscal year 2017 is expected to be \$10 million. 2017 RTRL Project proposal deadline was extended to April 7, 2017. Proposals submitted by the original November 7 deadline have been evaluated and those meeting the requirements have been funded for the current FY. To date in FY 2017, 11 new proposals were received, 4 were approved for funding, 4 were incomplete and 3 are pending

### **Fuels Treatment Monitoring**

In 2016, 100 instances of wildfires burning into fuels treatments were reported by Indian Country in the Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring (FTEM) system. Almost 80% of FTEM reports were from Great Plains Region, with additional reports from the Northwest, Southwest, Western, and Southern Plains Regions.

### **Wildfire Prevention**

Nationally Prevention continues to invest in Indian Country youth through the Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program (YFSIP). The program formally began in 2009 when we realized just how serious the issue was with kids setting fires. YFSIP is coupled with an active wildfire prevention program that has helped Indian Country reduce children caused wildfires from over 7,000 to approximately 3,000 nationally. BWFM will continue to provide YFSIP opportunities to tribes and agencies into

*(Continued on page 20)*

*(Continued from page 19)*

the future with hope to have even a greater impact. Contact your regional WUI/Prevention Specialist for more information on the program

### **Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Program**

Under the current Continuing Resolution (CR), Indian Country has received \$2.4 million dollars of BAR funding with the Emergency Stabilization (ES) program limited to approximately \$6.5 million dollars for FY 2017. Current requests for FY 2017 ES funding is approximately \$2 million dollars as tribes move into field season to accomplish treatment work. Forest Development funds are augmenting the BAR deficit in the Northwest Region by \$1.5 million dollars for post-wildfire reforestation projects. The current request of FY 2017 BAR funding in Indian Country is over \$10 million dollars, with the largest need continuing to be in the Northwest Region from the FY 2015 fire season.

### **Branch of Forest Resources Planning**

#### **Eastern/Alaska Service Center (Stacie Holmes)**

- A new Stand Exam Field Manual for Eastern Oklahoma Region and Southern Plains Region is near completion. We will begin work designing a stand-level inventory system for both regions. We are also working with the Regions to determine if the National Indian Forest Man-

agement Library contains all current forest management, inventory and planning documents.

- Database work is being completed for the Southwest Service Center.

#### **Northwest Service Center (Dawn Patterson)** **Northwest Region and Rocky Mountain Region**

- The Makah Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) data cleaning was completed in December 2016 and is delayed in the processing phase of BOFRP Apps. Once the program is fixed the processing will continue.
- Yakama CFI data collection is completed. They are cleaning their data prior to sending it to BOFRP.
- Colville CFI re-measurement was finished in November. Data cleaning is nearly complete with the help from Colville.
- Umatilla is still re-measuring their CFI plots and they are still collecting data. BOFRP continues to provide inventory application support to the field.
- The new Fort Hall CFI was installed in 2014. In July of 2016, an additional 15 plots were added to the inventory within the cottonwood corridor of the Fort Hall Bottom lands because it supports habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo. BOFRP continues to provide inventory application support to the field.
- The Warm Springs CFI re-meas-

urement is gearing up again this spring. Provided technical data collector support to contractors as they getting ready for measurements. BOFRP will continue to provide inventory application support.

- The Annette Island CFI is coming up in FY2017. The field manual is in rough draft and verifying the past database code to codes listed in the field manual.
- Fort Peck is in the Forest Inventory Analysis phase
- The Northern Cheyenne CFI project is still in progress and they plan to revisit some plots for measurement inconsistencies. BOFRP will provide support for data cleaning for the Northern Cheyenne CFI.
- Wind River is in the Analysis phase, the contractor has received an updated analysis program to continue the analysis

#### **Southwest Service Center (Karen DeBord)** **Navajo Region, Pacific Region, Southwestern Region and Western Region**

- Navajo contractor has resumed the forest inventory analysis and BOFRP is providing support.
- Hoopa Valley is collecting, entering and error checking their CFI data. Tule River is collecting CFI data.
- BOFRP is preparing the database and materials for Yurok's CFI project.

*(Continued on page 21)*

## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland, Chief

*(Continued from page 20)*

- Several databases and start-up materials have been and are being prepared for CFI projects in the Southwest Region. Once these are off and running, Southwest Service Center support will focus on the projects that are ready for processing and analysis.
- Southwest Region Projects where the CFI is either in progress or complete with on-going data entry and error checking:
- Southern Ute CFI data is ready for processing.
- Santa Clara Pueblo stocking studies is in the data entry phase. Their timber CFI and woodland CFI have been mostly processed and almost ready for analysis.
- Stocking studies data are being collected on Acoma, Jicarilla, Southern Ute, and Zuni woodlands
- Hopi CFI analysis data have been delivered. Hopi is currently writing their Forest Management Plan (FMP) and will use the inventory analysis data in their FMP.
- Uintah and Ouray is preparing for a 2017 CFI.
- Hualapai is working on their forest inventory analysis and forest management plan.
- Fort Apache CFI data is ready for data processing

### Forest GIS (Jennifer Kennedy)

- Stand maps for the Southern Plains Region, Anadarko Agency – Wichita Caddo Delaware

(WCD), are being updated to match the stand exam inventory manual. The forested acres are currently being calculated from the digitized stands. Soon after, the same process will be done for the Anadarko Agency's – Kiowa Comanche Apache, and then Fort Sill. In the meantime, data from the forested tribes Continuous Forest Inventories (CFIs) is being collected for an ongoing project. Also, we have been asked to assist in a dashboard web-viewer type map for the Bureau of Indian Affairs intranet page, which is currently being created by a small team of Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists.

### Student Intern

In January, BOFRP sponsored fire intern, Alyssa Samoy. She is a sophomore at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Alyssa worked on various projects that included fire policy, database management, and GIS. In March she attended the Forest Management Inventory & Planning meeting here in Lakewood, where she received an introduction to forest management and networked with Foresters from 12 regions. Reeve Armstrong and Robert Juhola men-



Alyssa Samoy - Intern

tored her on the Fire Program. Bill Yemma, Stacie Holmes, Jennifer Kennedy, Dawn Patterson and Karen Debord were her mentors for Forest Inventory and Planning. Alyssa will be spending the summer working at Salish Kootenai to finish her first internship. 🌲

# ENGINE OLYMPICS



## Sign Up

To sign up email your team name and roster to Farrell Aleck at [aleck316@gmail.com](mailto:aleck316@gmail.com). Questions can be directed to Farrell's office 509-865-6653 or cell 509-480-5802.

## Event Details

Engine Staffing and Equipment: Type 6/4: 3-man crews with one alternate. Engine dispatch weight ticket and engine inventory must be provided. Full PPE is required for all events, no exceptions. Failure to have full PPE will result in a +2 second time penalty.

Start at 7:00 am in the Kmart parking lot at 2304 E Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima, WA 98901, to receive a map of the starting coordinates. Crews will have 60 minutes to get their lunches and get to the starting point. Please come prepared.

Events begin precisely at 8:00 am and end at 5:00 pm and will be timed starting in or from the engine. Each event will have a specialist who provides an informal briefing on each event prior to start to help inform contestants of local characteristics and situations.

1. **Fire Line Construction:** Crews will construct 4.5 chains of fire line with a 1" cut down to bare mineral soil and 12" scrape across. Rules: Any section of fire line that fails to meet the requirements stated above will result in a time penalty of +2.5 seconds.
2. **Hose Lay:** Crews will layout one 300-ft. progressive hose lay with three nozzles from their Agency Engine. The hose lay must contain the following: three sections of 1½" hose, three 1" laterals, and three Forester Nozzles. All required hardware necessary to complete hose lay (gated wyes and adapters). Rules: All listed items must be used to complete hose lay. Failure to use proper items will result in +.5 seconds per item.
3. **Drafting Station:** Engine will be drained to refill level. Crew will wait in engine until signaled to exit engine to set-up drafting hose. Event will be completed once engine tank is full and crew sprays water from nozzle. Rules: All crew members must remain in engine until signaled to exit for event. Anyone caught jumping the time will result in a +1 second per crewmember. Judges may change valve configuration to test crews troubleshooting abilities.
4. **Pulaski Chop:** Each crewmember must use their Pulaski to chop 8" log in half. Event will be completed once all three logs are chopped in half.
5. **Bladder Bag Relay:** Crews will be in truck waiting. Teams will participate in a relay consisting of a down and back course the length of 400 ft. Each team member will carry a full Fed-Co (bladder bag) 400 ft. and fill a container to designated level. Team members will then carry container back to the starting point while maintaining fluid level. Once the first team member finishes their leg of the relay, the bladder bag will be handed off to the second team member to complete the same routine. The third team member will do the same. Once all three team members have successfully completed the relay, the event will be complete. Rules: Failure to maintain water level in container will result in +1 second time penalty per container.
6. **Fire Shelter Deployment:** The 3-man crew will begin the event seated in their engine. Once given the signal they will exit the engine and deploy their fire shelters. The team will be timed according to when the last team is fully within the fire shelter.
7. **MRE Eating/Cooking Demonstration:** Separate awards will be provided for these events. Each team will select one member to represent their team. MRE eating will be a head-to-head competition to consume one MRE. Please note lunch is not provided.

## June 26, 2017

Do you have  
what it takes to  
**WIN??**

Test the readiness  
and skill of your  
engine crew

Compete in 7  
timed events

Prizes awarded for  
the best teams

Sign up now!

While you're in town  
register to stay the rest  
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41<sup>st</sup> Annual National  
Indian Timber Symposium  
Hosted by Yakama Nation  
June 26-29, 2017

For details visit ITC's  
website [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org)

## Registration

**Register online at**  
<https://www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2017>

Registration Fee Types	Price
General or Associate Member	\$375.00
Government Employee	\$400.00
All Others	\$425.00
Pre-Symposium Workshops	\$120.00
One Day Only	\$200.00
Exhibit Booth Space (includes 2 registrations)	\$650.00

Merchandise		Onsite guest tickets are only available until Monday, June 26, 2017. Please purchase in advance online.
Company Registration Packet Inserts	\$500.00	
Guest Luncheon Ticket	\$ 35.00	
Guest Awards Banquet Ticket	\$ 50.00	

The Symposium Registration fee includes a Registration Packet, Tuesday Luncheon, Host Tribe Welcome Dinner, Wednesday Tribal Tour, Thursday Luncheon, Thursday Awards Banquet, and Final Proceedings CD. Pre-conference workshop fees include lunch.

Registration fees may be paid online by credit card or through the mail by check or money 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

Payments must be received by Friday, June 16, 2017

The ITC uses symposium fees to cover symposium-operating costs. Therefore, we have established the following refund policies:

- All refund requests must be in writing.
- Refund requests received after Friday, June 9, 2017, will be charged a \$100 processing fee.
- No refunds will be issued after Friday, June 23, 2017.
- A NSF fee of \$12 will be charged for returned checks.

If you have any questions, please call us at 503-282-4296.



## **INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL**

112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4  
Portland, Oregon 97232

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**First Class**

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