



Intertribal Timber Council TIMBER NOTES

Spring 2016

2016 National Indian Timber Symposium

"Strengthening Traditional Connections to the Land: The Future of Forest Management."



Howard Teasley, Jr.

Spring News Now

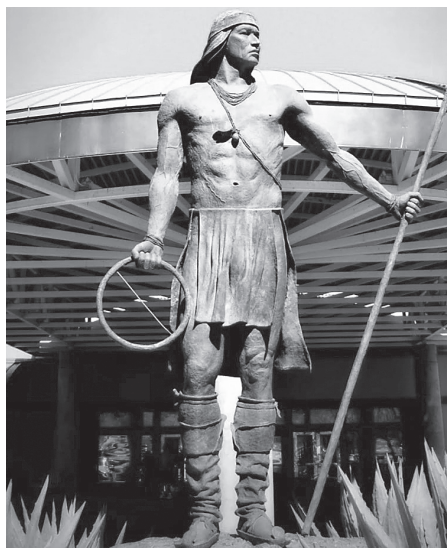
The Southwest is our get-away destination this spring to the wonderful San Carlos Apache Reservation. We will be in south-eastern Arizona, in the town of

San Carlos, two hours east of Phoenix, AZ. If you want a quick fact – here you go! Phoenix is the state capital and one of the largest cities in the United States. If you have not registered, please take time to do so on our online registration system at <https://www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2016>. Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

The 2016 symposium will be held April 4th through 7th at San Carlos Apache Gold Casino Resort in San Carlos, Arizona and hosted by San Carlos Apache Tribe. The theme of this year's symposium is *"Strengthening Traditional Connections to the Land: The Future of Forest Management"*.

Sunday, April 3rd. The annual golf tournament will be held at the Apache Stronghold Golf Club, located directly north of the Resort Casino. The event will be a four person best ball scramble played over 18 holes. \$45 per person. All golf registration must be paid by cash, check or money order to San Carlos Apache Tribe. Registrations 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. Regis-



ter by calling (928) 475-2326, ext. 349, contact Jeff Phillips, jphillips@forestry.scot-nsn.gov

Monday, April 4th. Pre-symposium Workshops:

Please note: In the past, the symposium committee and staff have been under scrutiny for policing the pre-symposium workshops. The Monday workshops directly FUND the ITC's Truman D. Picard Scholarship, which is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education. There are additional fees involved. Thank you in advance.

Workshop #1: Traditional Basket and Cradleboard Crafting – Individuals will have an opportunity to craft baskets & cradleboards all day. This workshop has no maximum capacity of participants.

Workshop #2: Native Foods Field Trip – There are well over 200 documented traditional Apache wild plant foods. This field trip will introduce participants to a number of these

from the desert to grasslands, chaparral, and woodlands. This introduction will include harvesting and tasting some of these foods. Participants can expect light walking and digging. This is a field trip with limited facilities. Please bring appropriate field gear (hat, sun-glasses, sunscreen, etc.). A maximum of 20

Workshop #3: Timber Sale & Resource Benefit Fire Field Trip – This field trip will go through the Hilltop area of the San Carlos Apache Reservation and will visit an active timber sale and see the effects of previous and recent resource benefit fires and prescribed fires. The trip may change depending on the weather. This is a field trip with limited facilities. Please bring appropriate field gear (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc.). A maximum of 40.

Workshop #4 Wildland Fire Update – Wildland fire trends continue to show an expansion in number, size and impact from mega fires. Indian country is not immune from this disturbing trend. Now more than ever it

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President's Message

by Phil Rigdon



Phil Rigdon

I hope that by the time this reaches you, you will have already signed-up for the 40th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium being held April 4-7 at San Carlos in Arizona. It is a beautiful and interesting part of the country, and the San Carlos Apache Tribe has been working to make our stay and meeting there memorable. For those who come early, on Sunday, April 3, the Apache Stronghold golf course will be available for some unusual high desert golf with many natural features.

The Symposium itself will examine several issues of increasing importance in Indian Country, including the role and management of woodlands, which are often an overlooked but heavily relied upon resource for tribes. We will also focus on the role and preservation of traditional foods, as well as the rising threat of wildland fire in and around Indian Country. A final area of attention will be tribal natural resources workforce development and leadership, a field that needs critical attention if tribes and our BIA partners are to have the trained personnel resources needed to guide the future management of our forests. Of course, the Symposium is always an opportunity for all of us to get together, share stories and experiences, and renew friendships. So, be sure to register online and make your reservations, and we will see you there.

On the fire front, up here in the

Northwest, tribes have been working to salvage what we can from this past summer's devastating fires. To do so, we have had to redirect most of our existing forestry capacity to post-fire activities, while we await the arrival of what little Burned Area Recovery funding we might get from Interior. Although the FY 2016 appropriations law was signed two months ago and our need for post-fire funding is immediate, little or none of the \$5.5 million (including the \$2 million tribes got Congress to add) in BAR funding has yet to arrive on the ground. As a result, the timely conduct of recovery activities, like contracting for aerial seeding this spring, are being jeopardized, and the diversion of our base funding and staff to recovery is forcing us to delay or put aside our routine and normal forest management activities.

Meanwhile, efforts to inform senior Interior Department personnel of the severity of the fires, their dire consequences for our tribes, and the need and obligation for prompt and full recovery have been given an unresponsive cold shoulder. Despite our most devastating fire season in memory, Interior is not providing tribes any additional recovery money for FY 2016. To add insult to injury, Interior has not requested any additional funds for tribal post-fire recovery in its recently released FY 2017 budget request. So, with Interior not providing any additional post-fire recovery funds for FY 2016, with Interior not requesting any additional post-fire recovery funds for tribes in FY 2017, and with senior Interior personnel turning a deaf ear to concerns, it is as if, through the eyes of the Interior Department – our trustee –, the fires on our lands haven't even happened. Despite

the fires on our trust land this past summer, there has been zero change in Interior's treatment of tribal forests. It is beyond disappointing and raises grave questions about Interior's conduct of its fiduciary obligations.

On another fire issue, I want to commend the timber tribes. In response to concerns about the future consequences for tribes of the Office of Wildland Fire's proposed Risk Based Wildland Fire Management model, at least nine tribes and intertribal organizations sent letters to Interior Secretary Jewell objecting to the model's movement toward implementation. It is our understanding that BLM's rush to get the model finalized and approved is now slowing down, and the tribal letters no doubt played a part in that. I thank the tribes for their responsiveness.

Otherwise, as noted in other articles in this issue of ITC Timber Notes, the ITC continues to press forward on collaborative forestry efforts, with the Anchor Forest pilot project report going to the printers right now. Also, our links to colleges and universities continue to expand, bringing more focus and opportunity to student recipients of ITC scholarships, and we are working to build the foundations of a broad effort to strengthen and expand the Native American natural resources workforce and foster its future leadership. Despite the frustrations of today, tribal forests are very long-term assets that require careful and enlightened stewardship well into the future, and we all need to bring dedication, patience and foresight to fulfilling these generational responsibilities.

We hope to see you at the Symposium. 🌲

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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is essential that Indian country prioritize their investments to optimize benefits and minimize unwanted fire impacts. This workshop will look at how science can assist Tribes in

making sound investment decisions; why soil is a most precious resource; where BAER policy is heading; and how Tribes have responded in developing rehabilitate strategies for recent mega-fire impacts. This workshop has

no maximum capacity of participants.

The fees for individual workshops are: \$105/participant **before** March 4, 2016 and \$120/participant **after** that date. Make sure you register early. All

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr., Chair

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workshops are provided with refreshments and lunches. And please dress appropriately for field workshops.

Symposium Registration starts at 3:00 pm, and runs until 8:00pm.

Ice Breaker will be held in the Courtyard near the pool, which is sponsored by the Apache Gold Casino Resort.

Tuesday, April 5th. 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 Terry Rambler, Tribal Chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ.; Dee Randall, Forest Manager, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ; Phil Rigdon, President, Intertribal Timber Council. The Keynote Address will be by Jon Waterhouse, Indigenous People Scholar, Indigenous Peoples Program, Institute for Environmental Health, Oregon Health Science University, and Portland, OR.

Our Morning break is sponsored by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes & Yakama Nation.

Our only morning panel is titled “Developing Future Leadership in Indian Country”, the panel will address IFMATIII identified leadership training as one of the highest priorities in the workforce survey from BIA and tribal forestry employees. The panel will build on a finding from last year’s symposium workshop on Workforce Development recommending that the BIA work with ITC to develop a leadership training strategy and program. The panel includes three strong Native American leaders in various roles within and outside of Indian Country. They will share their stories of how they came to be leaders along with their personal perspectives and recommendations to help guide the BIA and ITC as we work through the leadership challenges over the next several years.

ITC Future Leadership Lecture Luncheon Series will be given by College Student poster presenters.

The afternoon panel is titled “Restoring Fire to the Landscape in Indian

Country.” Wildland fire has always been an important component of healthy resilient landscapes. Today we see increasing incidents, intensity and frequency of large wildland fires. Incorporating wildland fire into tribal management strategies to meet resource objectives is a critical component for Tribes to consider. This panel will share how Tribes from different regions of the country are incorporating fire into their management strategies in order to live with wildland fire.

Afternoon Break sponsored by Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa & Hoopa Tribe

The Host Tribe Regional Presentation will be presented by Dee Randall, San Carlos Apache Tribe and Duane Chapman, BIA, San Carlos Agency

This will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening events will start at 6 pm with the Host Tribe Welcome at the Pavilion.

Wednesday, April 6th. San Carlos Apache Tribal Tour: Buses will leave from the Resort & Casino. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the field.

The Tribal tour will take participants on a scenic tour of the reservation, which will include stops focusing on woodlands management, resource benefit fires, and overall forest management. The tour will go through the Point of Pines area. Lunch will be provided at Shoe Tank Junction. The group will be broken into two groups and switch east and west of Shoe Tank Junction. The trip may change depending on weather and transportation constraints. Buses will return to the Casino Resort by 4:30 pm.

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

Thursday, April 7th. The day’s activities will start with the ITC President’s Report, then the updates from the BIA Chief Forester, Legisla-

tive update, a National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Update, and a USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Update. Immediately following the updates our ITC Workshops will start simultaneously: Workshop 1: “Woodland Implementation of IFMAT III,” with the goal of the workshop is to work on implementation of these recommendations through the discussion of woodland issues, beginning with the distribution of forests categorized as woodlands and their ecological importance, and the vitally important role woodlands play in many traditional cultures. The day continues with discussions on current woodland management policy and new cost-effective inventory techniques. Workshop#2: “Ancestral Foods and Knowledge: Empower Native Communities, Land Management, and Economics,” the workshop will explain how Many Native Elders believe that the pre-Reservation way of life was the most beautiful, powerful, and healthy way to live. Some tribes have begun studying pre-Reservation models of health and support systems, natural resource management, food systems, political structures, and economy in order to meaningfully serve their present-day communities. These systems are literally rooted in the natural world, and require the active partnership of natural resources and health managers, and cultural authorities to fully realize their revitalization. Workshop #3: “Fire Prevention,” this workshop will overall strategy of every wildfire prevention program should focus on the “three E’s” of the fire prevention triangle: Engineering, Education and Enforcement. How to use all the efforts on the ground, create awareness, and strengthen traditional connection to the land where fire prevention will be a part of the future of forest management. Following the workshops, there will be the Annual ITC Business Meeting.

The 40th Annual National Intertribal Timber Symposium will conclude with our Awards Banquet to

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Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman



Jim Durglo

The Operations Committee met on February 10th in sunny Alpine, California at the Viejas Casino and Resort. Below is a summary of our discussions:

BIA/ITC Contract

Dave Koch led a discussion on the draft contract that BIA has with the ITC. The current contract expires March 31. There was a lot of discussion of whether or not the contract should go under the PL 93-638 authority or leave it as a commercial contract. The contract provides an avenue for funding support for the Annual Symposium, Meetings and Conferences, Display Booth, the Fire Subcommittee, General Operations, and provides a placeholder for funding the next IFMAT Report. The new contract would also add funding for a workforce development position with ITC.

Tribal Food and Agriculture Codes

We discussed a request for additional time during the symposium to discuss land use and agro forestry codes concurrent with the Wednesday evening General Membership meeting. A workshop entitled *Ancestral Foods and Knowledge: Empowering Native Communities, Land Management, and Economies* is scheduled for Thursday. Though it is an important discussion, we felt that we didn't want to take time away from the membership meeting.

Invasive Species Advisory Council: Call for Nominations

We had a brief discussion about nominating a tribal representative to the Invasive Species Advisory Council. Nominations were due on February 18, 2016. The Federal Register notice states that the US Department

of Interior, on behalf of the interdepartmental National Invasive Species Council, proposes to appoint new members to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Executive Order 13122 authorized the National Invasive Species Council to provide interdepartmental coordination, planning, and leadership for the Federal Government on the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species.

National Tribal Land Association Conference

The Hoopa Tribe has offered to send a representative to speak on tribal forest management at the National Tribal Land Association meeting being held on March 22-24 at the Coeur d'Alene Casino in Worley, Idaho.

BIA Funding Initiative

We talked about developing a funding initiative that would increase the BIA Forestry TPA line item. We need to have support from tribes and the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) to initiate a funding increase for natural resource programs. Dave Koch is coordinating this effort.



Climate Liaison Proposal

Don Motanic has drafted a proposal on behalf of ITC for the BIA sponsored Tribal Climate Science Liaisons notice. The Solicitation of Proposals states that the Secretary of the Interior, through the Office of Trust Services, hereby solicits cooperative agreement/

co-operative agreement proposals for tribal non-profit, non-governmental organizations, Tribal controlled colleges or universities serving management field impacted by climate change to enter into a cooperative agreement for the identification and hiring of tribal climate science liaisons to address tribal climate change science needs. This agreement provides a mechanism for the BIA to provide the Tribal Organization with non-recurring funding for mutually agreed upon tasks in keeping with the climate science needs of the BIA and all tribal communities in the respective region. The BIA Office of/Trust Services, Climate Resilience Program, will evaluate all proposals and select tribal organizations to hire five to seven tribal climate science liaisons to be housed within one of seven USGS Climate Science Centers. If the ITC proposal were awarded, the person would be housed in Corvallis OR, and funded by BIA through ITC.

Anchor Forest Project

Vincent Corrao and Steve Andringa presented an update on the report stating that it will be published in 3 parts, much like the IFMAT reports, including an exec summary, final report, and reports on the 6 tasks. A communications packet and outreach plan is ongoing with Evergreen, and will be presented throughout the next year.

IFMAT III Implementation

Don Motanic is drafting an outline of ongoing implementation efforts of the many findings and recommendations. He is planning to have it available in time for the Symposium.

Media Campaign

We had a discussion about developing a media campaign to share our story about fire management issues and forestry funding discrepancies.

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Operations Committee

by Jim Durglo, Chairman

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We propose to elevate the awareness within the Department of Interior and to members of Congress. Mark Phillips and Matt Hill amongst others are drafting a media campaign plan.

Fast Fire Impact Study

We discussed a proposal for an assessment of the consequences from the 2015 wildfires on tribal forestland and resources. The report will convey 5 key points listed below:

1. A review of the estimates of rehabilitation cost.
2. A recapitulation of previous IFMAT warnings about the consequences of failing to provide adequate resources to fulfill fiduciary trust responsibilities.
3. A statement relating to the need for timely action to minimize environmental damage from the 2015 wildfires.
4. A statement relating to the need

to harvest the timber damaged by wildfires to recover as much value as possible, and

5. Comments regarding other losses such as impacts on future timber supply, jobs and other impacts.

The report is planned to be completed by mid-June of 2016 so stay tuned.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 40th Inter-Tribal Timber Council Symposium in San Carlos, Arizona on April 4-7, 2016. 🌲

Education Committee

by Orvie Danzuka, Chairman



Orvie Danzuka

Congratulations to the 2016 Truman Picard Scholarship recipients! Eight volunteers rated the scholarship applicants on their application letter, resume, academic merit, reference letters

and financial need. The following is a list of the 2016 scholarship recipients in alphabetical order:

High School \$2,000

Carina Keezer Aleah Maskew

Undergraduate \$2,500

Paden Alexander	Tara Lehrmann
Ashley Archer	Truman Merrifield*
Victoria Atencio*	Arielle Quintana*
Tamara Birdsbill	Paul Renaud, Jr.*
Kyle Blackman	Mckenzie Rides At
Kelly Bolton	The Door*
Chad Brown*	Hunter Sturges*
Johnny Buck*	Harlan Tso
Cynthia Coleman	Noah Williams
Lisa Cook*	Alonzo Wilson
Sichangu Lee*	Natalie Wilson*
Colleen George*	

Graduate \$2,500

Chad Avery* Seafha Ramos*
Leslie Brownrigg* Vaughn Vargas*
Jefferson Emm

* Previous Recipient of Truman Picard Memorial Scholarship

Although the number of eligible applications were lower as compared to past years there were other deserving applicants, and the committee had their work cut out for them in assigning individual scores. The awards have been summarized, but the distribution will be contingent on a student's acceptance to an accredited higher education institution and/or continuing on in current curriculum.

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

I hope this helps in determining and/or prioritizing a student's need for attendance at the symposium in San Carlos, Arizona April 4-7.

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

Total scholarships awarded since 1988: **426** (367 undergraduate and graduate, and 59 High School)

Total amount awarded: **\$814,500**

Total Individuals receiving scholarships: **283** (There have been several repeat recipients)

Number of tribes represented as recipients: **106**

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

I would like to close by encouraging everyone to help our Native students continue their journey. Donations can come in many ways; raffle prize donations, monetary donations to scholarship fund, attendance at pre-symposium workshops, inserts in the Symposium packet, symposium booth and purchasing raffle tickets.

In the future be on the lookout for articles on past Truman Picard Memorial Scholarship recipients and their whereabouts.

See you in San Carlos! 🌲

Chief Forester's Report Intertribal Timber Council Executive Board Meeting

Washington Office

Functional Area	INDIAN AFFAIRS	2012 Enacted	2013 Enacted	2014 Enacted	2015 Enacted	2016 Enacted P.L. 114-113	Change from FY16
	OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS						
	BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS						
	TRUST - NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT						
A0N9A	Natural Resources (TPA)	5,116	4,939	5,165	5,089	5,168	79
A0N30	Irrigation Operations and Maintenance	11,920	11,322	11,342	11,359	11,398	39
A0N31	Rights Protection Implementation	28,976	29,437	35,297	35,420	37,638	2218
A0N32	Tribal Management/Development Program	7,705	9,220	9,230	9,244	9,263	19
A0N3A	Endangered Species	1,245	1,170	2,673	2,675	2,684	9
A0N33	Tribal Climate Resilience	200	946	9,947	9,948	9,955	7
A0N3B	Integrated Resource Info Program	2,106	1,996	1,996	2,996	2,996	
	Agriculture & Range	28,836	27,494	30,558	30,494	30,751	257
A0N9B	Agriculture Program (TPA)	25,375	23,734	23,796	23,730	23,982	252
A0N3C	Invasive Species	3,461	3,760	6,762	6,764	6,769	5
	Forestry	43,574	41,742	47,735	47,735	51,914	4,179
A0N9C	Forestry Program (TPA)	26,232	25,414	27,567	27,526	27,643	117
A0N3E	Forestry Projects	17,342	16,328	20,168	20,209	24,271	4,062
	Water Resources	10,134	9,589	10,543	10,297	10,367	70
A0N9D	Water Resources Program (TPA)	4,345	4,162	4,104	3,845	3,898	53
A0N34	Water Mgmt., Planning & PreDevelopment	5,789	5,427	6,439	6,452	6,469	17
	Fish, Wildlife and Parks	11,322	10,782	13,823	13,577	13,646	69
A0N9E	Wildlife & Parks Program (TPA)	4,892	4,681	5,466	5,220	5,268	48
A0N3F	Fish, Wildlife & Parks Projects	6,430	6,101	8,357	8,357	8,378	21
	Resource Management Program Oversight	6,111	5,700	5,986	6,018	6,066	48
A0N5A	Central Oversight	1,682	1,544	1,802	1,809	1,823	14
A0N6A	Regional Oversight	4,429	4,156	4,184	4,209	4,243	34
	Total, Trust-Natural Resources Management	157,245	154,337	184,295	184,852	191,846	6,994



Dave Koch

Branch of Forest Resources Planning

1. Service Center Activities

a. Eastern

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians CFI re-measurement started in December 2015. Assistance is being provided to the Eastern Region and the Tribe with CFI data collection throughout the winter.

A new CFI installation at the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes) in May 2016 and Menominee's CFI re-

measurement in Fall 2016.

b. Northwest

The Makah, Colville, and Fort Hall CFI projects are doing the plot inspection on completed plots and running error checks to ensure clean data. Yakama has finished 100% plot inspection on the plots that were turned in from the contractor and the data collection will resume in the spring. Umatilla is working on the RFP and they anticipate awarding the project by the end of the month.

The Northern Cheyenne project is currently in the error checks phase and there are still plots that need to be measured. The Fort Peck CFI database is near completion and all CFI materials have been completed. The project will start in early April as an in-house project.

c. Southwest

Assistance with Forest Inventory Analyses was provided for Mescalero, Hualapai, Navajo and Hopi. Inventories that have just completed field work and are ready for processing and analysis include Fort Apache and Southern Ute. Active inventories occurring on various reservations within the SW service center include Jicarilla, Zia, Isleta, Taos, Laguna, Santa Clara, and Zuni. Upcoming CFIs include Tule River and Uintah & Ouray.

2. Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations

The MOU for FY2016 to FY2022 between DFWFM and LBBPTN has been signed by DBIA Michael Black, and will enable DFWFM to better fis-

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cally manage the reservation level projects until the completion of the entire Land Buy Back Program. In the past few months, the following has occurred: Round Valley Indian Reservation Project has been completed; Fond du Lac Indian Reservation Project has been completed; work has commenced on Bad River Indian Reservation; and work has commenced on Colville Indian Reservation after a delay due to the severe fire situation this past summer.

3. Intertribal Timber Council Contract

A purchase request package will be submitted by Forestry by the end of February. It will have an award target date of April 1, 2016, and will be similar to the current contract which ends on March 31, 2016 (with a contingency plan to extend short term in case the new contract is delayed). The scope of services and related cost may be a discussion at the February ITC Board Meeting.

4. Staffing

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

The Anadarko HR office recently approved classification for one of two Forest Biometrician positions, (Interdisciplinary Positions-Forester/Mathematical Statistician, 0460/1529). An advertisement for this position should be out by early spring of this year. The second Forest Biometrician position should be classified later this calendar year.

5. Forest Information Reporting Statistics & Tracking Application

The new Forest Information Reporting Statistics & Tracking (FIRST) application (replacement for InFoDat), is into the last phase of quality assurance testing. Testers have provided great feedback and have provided a number of great suggestions that have been added to the application. Static reports and a dynamic reporting tool will be tested over the next few months.

It is anticipated that the delivery date will be toward the end of Fiscal Year 2016. The paperwork with Indian Affairs IT to "Go-Live" is in process as the first step to finding a hosting site. Forestry is working with the Branch of Geospatial Services to find a host site.

6. GIS

The nationwide Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) mapping project is in process. It is taking some time cleaning up past data, and working on conversions of past data. After each tribal entity's CFI projects data is cleaned and ready, a new shapefile is created for each and add it to the map. The project will eventually be a web-based viewable nationwide CFI map that includes all of the following items:

- United States boundary shapefile
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional boundaries shapefile
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional offices shapefile
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Agencies shapefile
- Updated Tribal Entity lands including Trust Lands shapefile
- Creating individual shapefiles of all Tribal entity CFI projects and plot locations, which will include the following data:
 - Plot number
 - Latitude/Longitude
 - UTM Zones
 - Easting/Northing
 - UTM Coordinates
 - Datum
 - Photos of plot directions
 - north, east, south, and west

7. National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP):

The 2016/2017 session of NASP marks the 10th year that the 9 weeks of intensive silviculture course work have been offered. This graduate-level program focuses on advanced silviculture topics including forest ecology, forest stand dynamics, silvicultural systems, adaptive silviculture in the face of climate change, forest planning, landscape ecology, economics, and ecologically defensible silvicultural prescriptions. The course is taught by experts in their respective fields and in four core training modules at the following universities: University of Minnesota, Oregon State University, University of Massachusetts (taught in Flagstaff, AZ), and University of Tennessee.

The selection committee has recently reviewed application packets of the Regional nominees and selected 5 foresters for attendance to NASP10. Fabian Keirn, forester with the Tanana Chiefs Conference; Sean Maiers, Timber Sales Forester with the Midwest Regional Office; Keith Karnes, Forest Manager with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Jason Quade, Forestry Director with Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe; and Jeffrey Sampson, Forester with the Yakama Agency will join a group of 38 professional foresters from the USFS, Tribal, BIA and BLM organizations and start their first 2-week module at the University of Minnesota this June. As in previous years, Central Office will pay the tuition which includes lodging and most meals; leaving travel costs and nominal per diem the responsibility of the sending Agency, Tribe or Region. Our expectation is that each forester, after attending all 4 NASP modules, will complete the process and become certified as a silviculturist through a panel-reviewed prescription defense.

To date 37 foresters have successfully completed the program; 12 are current BIA employees and 22 are tribal staff.

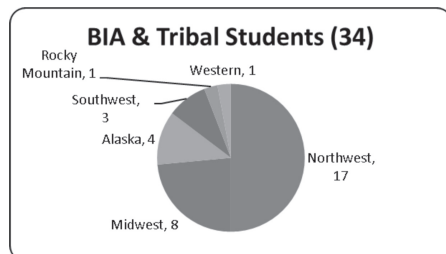
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BIA – Office of Trust Services, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

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Questions or comments about this program may be directed to Karen DeBord, Forester, BOFRP, at (720) 484-3214 or karen.debord@bia.gov .



Branch of Wildland Fire Management

1. Leadership

The Interior Fire Executive Committee (IFEC) conducted a meeting the first week of February to discuss the Risk Based Wildland Fire Management (RBWFM) allocation model. A facilitator was brought in to address the concerns with the model and come to resolution on a path forward. In attendance for the BIA was Aaron Baldwin Branch Chief Wildland Fire Management, Mark Jackson, Director of Fuels Management, and Steven Larrabee, Fire Operations Planner.

2. Budget / Planning

The Branch of Wildland Fire recently reorganized to improve efficiency and program planning by combining the Budget and Planning sections. Linda Tatum is the new Director, Budget/Planning. Linda's primary responsibility is to oversee Budget – Execution; Budget Planning (formulation) and a Service Center which compasses Acquisitions, Contracts, Reimbursable Support agreements and Invoices.

3. Hazardous Fuels Program

Fuels Management Program (FMP) Base Budget for 2016 Final

- Overall budget of \$164M matching the FY15 allocation
 - Reserved Treaty Rights Land” \$10M
 - Indirect Cost Support of Tribal Contracts for Fuels, \$4M

- BIA Fuels projected allocation \$29.26M

- FY16 total \$43.26M
- FY15 total \$43.3M (rounded to nearest 100K)

- Carryover continues to be a focus
 - Regional target for Carryover is .5% (one half of one percent)
 - Regional offices and Tribes have a common benefit of obligating Fuels funds
 - Regions that achieve the target have potential economic benefit (access to greater project funds in the following FY)
 - Region not achieving the target, are reduced the amount carried over in the next FY project allocation

4. Reserved Treaty Rights Land

Reserved Treaty Rights Land (RTRL) distribution of funds was completed with an allocation of \$10M to regions. Thirty three projects were funded or partially funded, and met 33 tribal priorities. Preparations continue to be made for RTRL FY16 funds in order to facilitate proper management and controls of projects that span multiple years.

Going forward: Projects will be limited to \$1M for the life of project

- Projects are limited to 4 years
- BWFM will endeavor to fully fund projects to term with a single allocation.
- Regions will have greater responsibility to manage funding
 - If RTRL funds are not **obligated** to a tribe by March 31 following fiscal year allocated, the project will not be eligible for further funding.
 - Regions will monitor and addresses milestones for projects
 - If receiving unit fails to meet established milestones, regions will intervene and direct mitigation(s).

5. Resilient Landscapes (RL)

An FY16 Santa Clara Mesa Project will be funded at \$800K. New RL projects will not be accepted for FY16 due to a funding back log from prior year.

6. Wildland Fire Prevention

Prevention is now a totally funded under the Preparedness program. Fuels funded \$750K for numerous Prevention positions.

7. Forestry and Fire Internships

The Office of Trust Services Pathways Internship Program managed by Gayla Schock in DC is working with BIA HR and Craig Cook and Rachel Smith from Salish Kootenai College to advertise and recruit Student Trainees for Fire and Forestry student trainee positions.

Internships provide avenues for student trainees to explore BIA and tribal program careers as paid federal or tribal employees, while completing college education. The Pathways Internship Program targets students who have Indian preference, are enrolled in an accredited college or university, and seeking a degree in a STEM (Scientific, Technical, Engineering, and Mathematics) career field.

Jobs announcements are advertised through USA.jobs. Like other federal positions, students must apply by providing their resume and other applicant documentation. Once selected, students will be able to receive an academic stipend (up to \$5,000/year), and gain valuable work experience and on the job training while attending school. Upon graduation, applicants will have the opportunity to move from a student position into a permanent career position with the Bureau or tribal agencies.

The Fire Student trainee job vacancy, is now open and will close February 23. Apply online at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/427577400>. For assistance with completing the applications, the Wildland Fire Application Checklist web page lists many resources for applicants to ensure their applications are complete and competitive. <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/jobs/Application-Checklist/index.htm>

For questions or more information about the Pathways Program contact Gayla Schock by email at gayla.schock@bia.gov or by phone at: 202-208-6410

BIA – Office of Trust Services, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management by Dave Koch, Chief Forester

DOI FY 2016 Allocations

	Preparedness			Fire Risk Management			Other Operations			Total	% Share
	Preparedness	Preparedness Risk Based Implementation	Suppression	Fuels Management	Fuels Risk Based Implementation	[Resilient Landscapes] within Fuels Mgmt	BAR / 1	Facilities	JFSP		
Department-Wide Activities	\$ 41,854	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,584	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,064	\$ -	\$ 5,990	\$ 73,492	9.0%
BIA	\$ 63,715	\$ -	\$ 26,379	\$ 29,260	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,619	\$ 565	\$ -	\$ 123,538	15.1%
BLM	\$ 147,032	\$ 3,876	\$ 68,893	\$ 66,596	\$ 5,397	\$ -	\$ 12,981	\$ 2,334	\$ -	\$ 307,109	37.5%
FWS	\$ 28,422	\$ -	\$ 6,440	\$ 20,743	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,475	\$ 282	\$ -	\$ 57,362	7.0%
NPS	\$ 35,589	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 23,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,073	\$ 3,053	\$ -	\$ 77,755	9.5%
OWF	\$ 3,197	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,577	0.4%
Parent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 174,961	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 193	\$ -	\$ 175,154	21.4%
Total Estimated Funding	\$	323,685	\$ 291,673	\$	160,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,212	\$ 6,427	\$ 5,990	\$ 817,987	100%
% Share of Total		39.6%	35.7%		19.6%	1.2%	2.5%	0.8%	0.7%	100%	

Bureau shares shown above are before the Service-level agreements are distributed.

DOI FY 2016 Allocations after Service Level Agreements & Distribution of Dept.-wide Activities to Sponsoring Bureau

	Preparedness			Fire Risk Management			Other Operations			Total	% Share
	Preparedness	Preparedness Risk Based Implementation	Suppression	Fuels Management	Fuels Risk Based Implementation	[Resilient Landscapes] within Fuels Mgmt	BAR / 1	Facilities	JFSP		
BIA	\$ 64,740	\$ -	\$ 26,379	\$ 39,260	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,817	\$ 565	\$ -	\$ 134,761	16.5%
BLM	\$ 178,849	\$ 3,876	\$ 68,893	\$ 67,149	\$ 5,397	\$ -	\$ 13,198	\$ 2,334	\$ 5,990	\$ 345,686	42.3%
FWS	\$ 27,919	\$ -	\$ 6,440	\$ 20,734	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,656	\$ 282	\$ -	\$ 57,031	7.0%
NPS	\$ 38,456	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 23,362	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,336	\$ 3,053	\$ -	\$ 81,207	9.9%
OWF	\$ 7,028	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,723	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,751	1.3%
Parent	\$ 2,817	\$ -	\$ 174,961	\$ 375	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 205	\$ 193	\$ -	\$ 188,551	23.1%
Total Estimated Funding	\$	323,685	\$ 291,673	\$	160,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,212	\$ 6,427	\$ 5,990	\$ 817,987	100%
% Share of Total		39.6%	35.7%		19.6%	1.2%	2.5%	0.8%	0.7%	100%	

/ 1 - Includes FY 2015 Unallocated funding \$1.242 million

Awards Committee by Pete Wakeland, Committee Chair



Pete Wakeland

Greetings All:

The Annual Symposium is just around the corner, so no need to make this first contribution to the newsletter too long.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to Orvie Danzuka for filling in as the Acting Chair of the Awards Committee during the interim between Johnathan and me. Orvie's commitment to ITC and to the Tribes is quite evident.

I've very much enjoyed my involvement with ITC over the past 21 years. I can remember attending the

symposium for the first time and I was amazed at how many great people were out there. ITC and Indian Country foresters made me feel a part of something much bigger than my own Reservation at Grand Ronde, and I'm blessed for that and for having known many of you for all these years.

We received some solid nominations for the 2016 Earle R. Wilcox Awards. This being my first year reviewing the nominations, I found it interesting and difficult. You've done some good work out there my friends! After careful consideration, we've made the selections, and I look forward to announcing the deserving award winners at the symposium.

I wish everyone a safe trip, and I look forward to seeing you in San Carlos. 🌲



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

Intertribal Timber Council
1112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4
Portland, Oregon 97232
503/282-4296 • www.itcnet.org

Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips

1) 114TH CONGRESS STARTS SECOND SESSION.

At the start of 2016, the House and Senate convened the Second Session of the current 114th Congress. All legislation initiated and not completed in the First Session automatically carries over to the Second Session. Looking at the House and Senate (tentative) calendars, it appears the Session will be short. In addition to customary scheduling and recesses, the Presidential and Congressional elections, which are coming up this November, will tend to paralyze legislative activity after June, and both Chambers are scheduled to take an August recess that extends for a whopping seven weeks. October is also all recess, and the elections are November 1. So, the 114th Congress's Second Session may not be very productive.

2) ADMINISTRATION RELEASES FY 2017 BUDGET REQUEST.

The Administration's requested FY 2017 budget was released Tuesday, February 9. As of this writing, most of the Interior Department's FY 2017 Budget Justifications, including that for the Office of Wildland Fire, have been released and published on-line. The BIA FY 2017 Justification ("BIA green book") has yet to be issued, but the Interior Department's FY 2017 Budget in Brief, which was released on February 9, contains text descriptions and fairly detailed supporting tables for all Interior agencies and offices, including for the BIA. The FY 2017 Interior Budget in Brief is on line at Interior's Budget Office website at <https://www.doi.gov/budget/>. The FY 2017 budget justifications are also presented on that page – just scroll down. The BIA justification, when issued, should be available there.

This will be the Obama Admin-

istration's last budget proposal. It is expected to adhere to the discretionary spending levels put in place by last fall's two-year Bipartisan Budget Act (P.L. 114-74, signed Nov. 2, 2015), which provides a one year increase in the FY 2017 national discretionary budget caps of \$30 billion over FY 2016, to be evenly divided between defense and domestic spending. While the Congressional Republican leadership is also to abide by the budget deal, they no doubt will have a different set of priorities than the Obama White House, and will work to reorder the budget to their own terms. Nevertheless, the hope (as always) is that the budget deal will allow the dozen individual FY 2017 appropriations bills to proceed in regular order to completion before the October 1 start of FY 2017, avoiding the process getting hung up as an election year issue.

BIA FY 2017 FORESTRY AND RELATED BIA BUDGET REQUESTS

The following funding table has been drawn from the Department of the Interior's FY 2017 Budget in Brief, Indian Affairs Highlights, Highlights of Budget Changes, pages BH 90 – BH 92.

	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 Request	Change
BIA Op. of Indian Progs total	\$2.429 billion	\$2.268 billion	\$2.396 billion	+\$128 mill.
BIA Cont. Support + ISDF	[in OIP]	\$277 million	\$278 million	+\$1 million
BIA OIP + Cont Spt + ISDF	\$2.429 billion	\$2.545 billion	\$2.674 billion	+\$129 mill.
BIA Trust & Nat. Res.Mgmt.	\$184.8 mill.	\$191.8 million	\$215.6 mill.	+\$23.7 mill.
Nat. Resources General	\$5.089 mill.	\$5.168 million	\$7.953 mill.	+\$2.785 mill.
Forestry (incl. Projects)	\$47.7 million	\$51.9 million	\$52.2 million	+\$241,000
Endangered Species	\$2.675 mill.	\$2.684 million	\$3.685 mill.	+\$1.001 mill.
Tribal Climate Resilience	\$9.948 mill.	\$9.955 million	\$13.056 mill.	+\$3.101 mill.

In Forestry, specific amounts for TPA Forestry and Forestry Projects will be available when the FY 2017 BIA Budget Justification is released. It is of note that all BIA Trust and Natural Resources Management programs are requested with fairly significant increases *except* Forestry, which only is requested with only a \$247,000 cost-of-living adjustment, and Agriculture and Range, which also is requested with only a cost-of-living adjustment of \$18,000, from \$30.751 million to \$30.769 million.

The Indian Affairs Highlights text

discussion of Trust and Natural Resources asserts that the FY "2017 budget strongly supports the sustainable stewardship of trust lands, natural resources, and the environment in Indian Country" with "a \$15.1 million increase over 2016 across eight natural resource programs to support tribal communities in sustainable resource management and in preparing and responding to the impacts of climate change, such as drought, wildfires, changes in the plants and animals ..." [pages BH 87 – BH 88]. There is no specific discussion, however, on Forestry and Agriculture & Range or why they are held to just cost-of-living adjustments.

OFFICE OF WILDLAND FIRE

The full DoI Office of Wildland Fire Management FY 2017 budget justification, published on the DoI Budget Office web page, is on-line

at https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/FY2017_WFM_Budget_Justification.pdf

Within Preparedness, the \$15 million set-aside continues for tribal workforce development and contract support, and within Fuels Management the \$10 million set-aside continues for tribal projects on reserved treaty rights lands (OWFM justification pg. 5). Also in Fuels, the \$20.9 million reduction for FY 2017 is for the transfer of funds to Resilient Landscapes. In Burned Area Recovery, the justifi-

(Continued on page 11)



Matt Hill

Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

Office of Wildland Fire Mgmt.	FY 2016 approp.	FY 2017 request	change
Preparedness	\$323.7 million	\$332.8 million	+\$9.1 million
Suppression	\$291.7 million	\$276.3 million	-\$15.4 million
Fuels Management	\$170.0 million	\$149.1 million	-\$20.9 million
Resilient Landscapes	[\$10 mill. in Fuels]	\$30.0 million	+\$30.0 million
Burned Area Rehabilitation	\$18.97 million	\$20.47 million	+\$1.5 million
FLAME	\$177.0 million	-0-	-\$177.0 mill.
Fire Disaster fund cap adjust	-0-	\$290.0 million	+\$290.0 mill.

(Continued from page 10)

cation (pg 61) says the \$1.5 million increase is for critical habitat, most likely for the sage grouse. There is a discussion of 2015 tribal land wildfires on justification page 63, although there is no mention of specific funding needed or provided.

3) HOUSE/SENATE INTERIOR BUDGET HEARINGS.

Up in Congress, the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies will hold a hearing for tribal witnesses on the FY 2017 Administration budget requests on Thursday and Friday, March 17 and 18. The Subcommittee's jurisdiction includes BIA, DoI Office of Wildland Fire, US Forest Service, Office of the Special Trustee, and IHS, among other agencies. Testimony can be submitted until March 23, 2016. The Subcommittee's website has information on the hearing and instructions for all written submitted or presented testimony (generally, limited to 4 pages, single spaced, 12 point type). The Subcommittee's website for the hearing is <http://appropriations.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=394370>

In the Senate, the Energy & Natural Resources Committee will be holding an oversight hearing on the Department of Interior's FY17 budget request on February 23. More information about the hearing can be viewed at: <http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=05092CE9-13C0-4D4F-814F-5F86AF46A911> The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will also likely hold an oversight hearing on the Administration's proposed FY 2017 tribally-related budgets, but that has yet to be scheduled.

4) SENATE TO START WORK ON FIRE FUNDING/FOREST MANAGEMENT REFORM.

From meetings and conversations up on the Hill, it appears that Sen. Maria Cantwell's (D, WA) office is working on new legislation regarding wildland fire funding and forest management reform. ITC is working with her staff on potential tribal provisions. Cantwell's legislation is building from the Senate-proposed forestry provisions that failed to make it into the FY16 Omnibus appropriations bill.

Otherwise, on January 27, three leaders of three different Senate committees committed themselves to early action on fire funding reform. Led by Energy & Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), the three took to the Senate floor and agreed in very broad terms on the need to act on fire funding and forest management reforms (see January 27, 2016 Congressional Record pages S247-S248). Chairwoman Murkowski committed to completing action on a bill in her Committee by the end of March. She was joined in the colloquy by Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY), and Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS).

Sen. Murkowski said Congress must act to address fire borrowing by fully funding the 10-year rolling average, and providing emergency funding beyond that level. Budget Chairman Enzi agreed, saying "that fire borrowing has been mischaracterized and conflated with the Forest Service's overall concern about its discretionary budget." He noted that "consensus doesn't exist in the Senate to adjust the caps so the Forest Service can spend more money on other programs within its discretionary budget," but continued "That said, Congress must find a fiscally re-

sponsible solution to wildfire funding and fire borrowing." He then committed that his Budget Committee (which has been a major obstacle to treating some portion of fire suppression costs as emergency or disaster costs) will look for a solution to funding wildfires. But turning to Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R, Kan.), Enzi emphasized that fire funding change must go hand-in-hand with reforms to make federal forest management more efficient and effective.

Agriculture Committee Chairman Roberts noted that H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act (which contains tribal forest management provisions), had been referred to his committee. He said that bill, "while not perfect, includes provisions that attempt to address both the funding mechanism and incorporate meaningful forest management tools which are the paramount issues in the overall wildfire debate. I recognize the challenges that remain ahead with crafting such a legislative proposal that satisfies all interested parties involved in this larger debate."

Chairwoman Murkowski said "My plan is to dedicate whatever time we have in February after (the national energy bill now on the floor) --and the entire month of March--to producing this legislative product. I appreciate Members' willingness to work with us and believe we are on a good track to find real solutions to our wildfire challenges."

5) HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES TRUST ASSET REFORM BILL.

On Wednesday, February 3, the full House Natural Resources Committee unanimously approved and ordered reported H.R. 812, Rep. Mike Simpson's (R, Idaho) Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project Act of 2015, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute that was also unanimously accepted. H.R. 812 was one of 18 bills marked up by the Committee that day. The mark-up is on-line at <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399817>

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Washington DC Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

(Continued from page 11)

The Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on the bill on April 14, 2015.

The full House of Representatives may take up H.R.812 the week of March 22, and it is expected to pass.

In July 2015, the ITC sent a letter of support for the Senate version of this bill (S. 383 by Sen. Mike Crapo, R, Idaho), which the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs approved and ordered reported with a substitute amendment on July 29, 2015.

Both bills authorize individual tribes to voluntarily submit management plans for any or all of their trust assets to the Interior Secretary for approval. The Plans must meet existing laws and treaties and, if approved, would direct how Interior is to manage the specified trust resources. Tribes would be able to take over management under the Plan as well.

6) FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE FINALIZES TRIBAL COLLABORATION POLICY.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized new measures to strengthen the agency's 20-year-old policy guiding government-to-government relations between tribes and the agency. The revised policy guides broader, more open and collaborative dialogue and working relations between the Service and federally recognized tribes and Native Alaskans. The updated policy is designed to sus-

tain effective partnerships that are crucial to meeting the Service's and tribes' joint responsibilities as stewards of the nation's natural and cultural resources.

According to the FWS, the revised policy provides a *"consistent, yet flexible national framework that encourages efficient and creative ways to maximize tribal resource conservation through improved federal-tribal working relationships. It puts stronger emphasis on co-management and collaborative management of natural and cultural resources; places added emphasis on implementation and accountability; promotes building tribal capacity, the use of tribal knowledge in the Service's decision-making, and greater Service and tribal training and education; and enhances collaborative Service-tribal law enforcement efforts where possible."*

The final policy can be viewed at: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/510fw1.html>

7) BRYAN RICE NEW Co-DIRECTOR OF DoI WILDLAND FIRE OFFICE.

Bryan Rice has returned to the Department of the Interior as the Co-Director of the Office of Wildland Fire Management (OWFM), joining Director Jim Douglas, who has announced his intention to retire and is expected to depart soon.

Bryan grew up on a family farm in southern Wisconsin, where his parents were high school teachers. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Forestry from

the University of Illinois in 1995 and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast in 2007. From 1995 to 1997, he worked with a US Forest Service hot shot crew out of Helena, Montana, and then served with the Peace Corps as a community forester in Nepal for four years (1998-2002). In 2002, he joined BIA as a forester at the Yakama Agency until 2004, when he moved to the US Forest Service as a forester and assistant fire manager in Petersburg, Alaska. In July 2005, he rejoined BIA as a planning inventory forester in the Alaska Regional Office in Juneau, during which he chaired a panel on the national inter-agency 2009 quadrennial fire review. He also served a two month stint in Washington DC on BIA personnel matters. In August 2009, he was promoted to BIA Assistant Director for Resource Protection in DC, and in October 2011, he was promoted to BIA Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Services. In 2014, Rice rejoined the Forest Service as the Director of Forest Management. Now, he has come back to Interior as the Co-Director of the OWFM, which is situated in the Office of Policy, Management and Budget currently overseen on an acting basis by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kris Sarri.

The Director's job in OWFM is difficult, trying to balance the funding needs of competing agencies within Interior within a generally insufficient budget.

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

(Continued from page 3)

honor and recognize the recipients of any regional or national Earle Wilcox Awards, and the recipients of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship, and winners from the Poster Board Session. And finally, the winners of the various Education Committee Raffle prizes will be presented at this time.

Housekeeping Items

Registration: This will be our fourth year using the new registration

system online. Here is the address <https://www.regonline.com/ITCSymposium2016>. This system makes it possible for our ITC Staff to plan more efficiently. All Participants planning on attending the symposium must use Regonline. Please be patient, it is very self explanatory.

The Symposium Registration fee includes: Registration Packet, Tuesday and Thursday Luncheons, Wednesday Tribal Tour (includes lunch), Tuesday

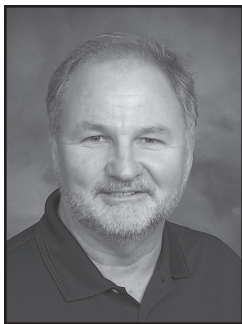
Host Tribe Welcome & Dinner, Thursday Evening Awards Banquet and Final Proceedings CD. Registration fees may be paid online by credit card or purchase order. If paying with a check or money order, please mail payments to:

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

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Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson



James R. Erickson

2015 Wildfire Season Burned Area Rehabilitation

This past summer was a record setting year for wildland fire. Nationally 10,125,149 acres burned in 2015, with nearly 2 million acres burning in the Northwest. Of these Northwest acres nearly 500,000 acres burned on six reservations. The Colville, Spokane, Yakama, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce Tribes all experienced their largest fires in recorded history. These fires were severely impacted by the lack of suppression resources available. National and geographic area priorities emphasized the protection of “life and property” (even recreation property) over natural resources. This situation resulted in fires burning uncontrolled across Northwest reservation for 7-10 days before suppression resources became available. Several fires remained uncontained for up to eight weeks.

Impacts from these fires include an estimated mortality of 1.4 billion board feet of tribal timber worth an estimated green value of \$203 million. Actual values to be recovered will be greatly reduced due to salvage values and the flooding of markets with salvage timber from state, private and tribal lands. The majority of this mortality will never be harvested due to degradation to the timber over time. An even greater concern is the impact to future generations due to the disruption of timber harvest schedules caused by the scale of these fires and the gaps to future timber flow.

On top of all this is the yet to be determined impacts to other tribal resource values; soils, water, cultural resource, fish and wildlife habitats, roads, and sacred places. Many of these values are difficult to impossible to place monetary values on, yet they form the very fabric of tribal life. Current estimates call for the need to

reforest some 92,000 acres of tribal trust property over the next 3-5 years.

BIA estimates for rehabilitation of the 2015 fires totals \$55 million. Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited the Colville reservation to witness the devastation herself, yet the Department only asked for an additional \$2 million in the 2016 budget to cover the \$55 million need. Apparently the Department holds the Sage Grouse in much higher esteem that it does for tribes as it asked for and received \$60 million in 2016 to address sagebrush ecosystems while tribal lands continue to degrade. What will happen when your reservation burns?

Workforce Development

The issue of recruiting, training, developing and retaining our future wildland fire workforce remains high on the ITC priority list. The FMAT III finding that 51% of all BIA and Tribal forestry and fire personnel are over the age of 50 highlights a crisis situation that will not be easy to correct. The aging workforce that will retire within the next 5-10 years could leave Indian country in dire straights. The IFMAT III report also identified that only 1.5% of the entire workforce is less than 30 years of age. Collectively we need to make this issue a top priority and find new ways to recruit young tribal members to enter into the forestry and fire field. The ITC and BIA have made this a priority and are focusing on developing an effective strategy to work with Tribes to recruit, train and retain a younger workforce.

The BIA has contracted with the Salish Kootenai College in Ronan, Montana to administer their Pathways Intern program. This program is designed to provide employment opportunities coupled with an academic stipend to attend collegiate forestry and fire curriculums. This program maintains 45 positions (25 forestry, 20 fire) for tribal members to pursue their natural resource degrees. Details of this program can be obtained by contacting Gayla Shock, BIA Youth Coordinator, at (202) 208-6410. Help us find and recruit local youth for these education/employment opportunities.

Prescribe Burning

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) has issued its 2015 National Prescribe Fire Use Survey report that reflects the number of acres treated nationally using prescribe fire during the 2014 calendar year. This is the second such report and is based upon responses from all 50 state forestry agencies. It outlines national and regional prescribed fire activity, state prescribe fire programs, and identifies impediments limiting the use of prescribe fire. The results include all federal, state and private prescribe fire acres for forestry, rangeland, and agricultural burning.

The survey indicates that approximately 11.7 million acres were treated with prescribe fire in 2014. The majority (76%) was treated for forestry purposes with the balance related to agriculture. The Southeast accounted for just over 8 million acres of the total activity. That leaves only 3.7 million acres prescribe burned across the rest of the nation. The BIA and Tribes burned 109,629 acres in 2014 and averaged burning 73,931 acres over the last ten-year period. At this rate the 18.6 million acres of trust forests and woodlands will receive prescribe fire return interval of 251 years. This frequency places tremendous pressure that the majority of trust acres will receive fire as wildland fires managed as suppression events. Whether these events meet management objectives remains a mixed bag. Good fire versus bad fire will continue to be an ongoing debate. Tribes' ability to control the impacts of wildland fire depends heavily on their ability to treat fuels mechanically, with prescribe fire and accept the outcome of wildland fires.

The NASF study found that weather was the number one impediment to implementing prescribe fire, followed by capacity. The study also found that more states are offering education and training to certify prescribe fire managers.

Smoke

Smoke is a serious, increasing threat to human health. Standards governing smoke are most likely to con-

(Continued on page 14)

Fire Technical Specialist

by James R. Erickson

(Continued from page 13)

tinue to become more stringent over time with each EPA five-year review. Balancing health issues with ecological sustainability will require better understanding of the necessity of fire as an unavoidable ecological process. This leads to the realization that collaboration at the national, regional and local level between land managers and federal and state environmental agencies is critical to finding acceptable solutions.

The importance of land management treatments that help avoid air impacts by capturing and storing potential particulates and carbon through increased forest fuel utilization and conversion into value added products can't be overstated. Efforts to utilize wood products that store carbon may lead to more environmentally acceptable burn intensities of residual fuels and reduced air quality impacts versus uncontrolled wildfires.

Tribes need to be aware of and monitor the EPA air quality regulations closely as they will impact your ability to manage and use fire as a tool.

GACC Coordination

Tribes raised concerns over the availability of suppression resources during the 2015 wildland fire season. In times of high fire danger (Preparedness Level 5) suppression resources often become limited and scarce. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) coordinates the allocation of wildland fire suppression resources between regions of the country by allocating resource to the multi-agency

Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACC). The GACCs then allocate resources to the regional fires based upon current resource priorities. In times of abundant suppression resources, fires generally receive all resources ordered. In times of scarcity, the GACC must prioritize suppression resources based upon agreed to multi-agency priorities. Life and property typically always ranks highest when allocating resources. Natural resource values often come in second and may not receive resources in times of insufficient resources.

Tribes are encouraged to share their priorities with their regional BIA GACC representative on a regular basis. The next best option is to make sure they have adequate trained local resources to deal with surge incidents. Tribes and BIA agencies can also establish agreements with local community and rural fire districts to support wildland fire incidents. Unfortunately the increasing frequency and size of large mega fires will continue to test our nation's suppression capacity. Just this winter three Type 2 Incident Management teams were stood down due to lack of qualified fire fighters. This disturbing trend may only get worse if we can't attract and train our future fire-fighting workforce.

Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA)


The Intertribal Timber Council and Forest Service continue to provide new opportunities for Tribes and neighboring National Forests to learn about TFPA as a valuable tool to address landscape scale risks to tribal lands, resources, values, and reserved rights. Most encour-

aging is the reciprocal benefits that are provided to National Forest lands.

Two TFPA workshops were conducted last year that engaged fifteen Tribes and National Forests to initiate new landscape scale projects. This year there are efforts to conduct two additional workshops in California and the Northwest coastal region. The first workshop is scheduled for Sacramento, California May 24-26, 2016. The second workshop is pending available funding and the location will be determined at a later date.

In addition to the workshops, efforts are under way to develop a joint ITC-FS tracking and monitoring system to document project initiation and progress. This collaborative effort is critical to both this joint effort and to the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy that acknowledges the risk to forest, woodlands, rangelands and grasslands knows no boundaries. Insects, disease and wildland fire will cross our human imposed arbitrary boundaries, so we must address these challenges together.

This project also is developing a roster of TFPA technical experts who can assist Tribes and National Forests in developing proposals, answering TFPA questions, and understanding contract/agreements options for implementing TFPA projects.

Finally, a spreadsheet of funding options for TFPA projects was developed to assist partners in identifying the most efficient and appropriate means to access implementation funding of these landscape scale projects. 

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Help: Intertribal Timber council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or sponsorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. ITC will accept banquet sponsorships that can be of any amount. If a Tribe or business is interested in making a donation, please

contact ITC directly.

Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

2017 – May 15-18, 2017, 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Yakama Nation, Toppenish, WA

2018 – TBD date, 42nd Annual National Indian Timber Symposium

hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation, Oceans Shores, WA

2019 – June 10-13, 2019, 43rd Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Seminole Tribe of Florida, Hollywood, FL

Come and visit the South eastern

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Research Sub-Committee

by Adrian Leighon



Adrian Leighon

It is Spring, and as always, thoughts turn to sun, green things and research, of course! For the second straight year, ITC in partnership with the US Forest Service Southern Research Station has offered the Native American Natural Resource Research Scholarship. Additionally, the year the USFS Northwest Research Station has also contributed to this Scholarship. The Sub-Committee met at the February Board Meeting and awarded approximately \$43,000 in scholarship funds to eleven Native scholars (five PhD candidates, 5 Masters students and 1 undergraduate). Three of the awards (marked with an * after their names in the list below) received scholarships last year, and were awarded a continuation scholarship this year. Those individuals will be offered an additional \$1,000 for travel to the 2016 Timber Symposium so that they can update the ITC membership on the status of their research.

So, without further ado, the envelope please.... The recipients of the 2016 ITC/USFS Native American Natural Resource Scholarships are:

Christopher Cheek (Cherokee). “Evaluating Novel Exclusion Technology to Reduce Entrainment of Endangered Fish in Irrigation Canals and Water Intake Structures”. Christopher is a PhD student at Purdue and conducting his research in collaboration with Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Department

Elsiha Flores (Hoopa Valley). “Assessment of Wildfire Risk in Treated

and Untreated Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) Territories on Tribal Lands”. Elisha is an undergraduate at UC Berkeley and is collaborating with the Mescalero Apache Tribe Division of Resource Management and Protection and the US Forest Service

Carrie Joseph (Hopi). “Assessing the Long-Term Performance of Disposal Cell Covers with Respect to Native American Communities”. Carrie is a PhD student at The University of Arizona and is collaborating with the Hopi Tribe Water Resources Program

Megan Judkins (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma). “Developing Genetic Tools to Aid in the Conservation of Bald and Golden Eagles”. Megan is a PhD student at Oklahoma State University and is collaborating with the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma’s Grey Snow Eagle House

Rachel Smith (Rosebud Sioux). “Mapping Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulus*) on the Flathead Indian Reservation”. Rachel is a Master’s student at the University of Montana and is collaborating with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Division of Forestry

Shanara Spang Gion (Northern Cheyenne). “Characterizing Surface Water and Groundwater Interactions in Rosebud Creek: Co-Existence of Western Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Toward Culturally-Appropriate Natural Systems Management”. Shanara is a Master’s student at Montana Tech and is collaborating with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe’s Department of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources

Crystal Tulley-Cordova * (Navajo). “Stable Isotopes in Precipitation, surface and Ground Waters: Recording the North American Monsoon in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah”.

Crystal is a PhD student at the University of Utah and she is collaborating on her research with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

Chase Voirin (Navajo). “An Investigation of Small Mammal Prey Populations of Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) on the Mescalero Apache Reservation”. Chase is a Master’s student at the University of Arizona and is collaborating with the Mescalero Apache Tribe Division of Resource Management and Protection and the US Forest Service

Victoria Walsey* (Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation). “Bridging Knowledge Systems to Improve Ecosystem Management Along the Yukon River: How Indigenous Peoples can Prepare Themselves for Climate Change”. Victoria is a PhD student at the University of Kansas, her research is supported by the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Government of Fort Yukon, AK, and the Iqurmiut Traditional Council located in Russian Mission, AK

Jaime Yazzie (Navajo). “Perceptions and Concerns of Ecosystem Services under Climate Change: Navajo Nation”. Jaime is a Masters of Forestry student at Northern Arizona University and will be doing her research in collaboration with the Navajo Nation Forestry Department

Kimberly Yazzie* (Navajo). “Aquifer Recharge and Watershed Response to Climate Change in the Upper Umatilla River Sub-basin using the Precipitation Runoff Modeling System” Kimberly is a Master’s student at Portland State University and is collaborating with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Department of Natural Resources- Water Resources Program. 🌲

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Arizona, and spend time on the San Carlos Apache reservation. Check the ITC Website periodically at www.itcnet.org for 2016 Symposium informa-

tion updates.

Li’loyca Godnim Ha’awtnin ee was. Qe’ciyew’yew

If you are not on the ITC mailing list and would like to receive correspon-

dence, please contact the ITC Office by phone at (503) 282-4296, or email at itc1@teleport.com, or view the ITC website online – www.itcnet.org 🌲



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First Class
