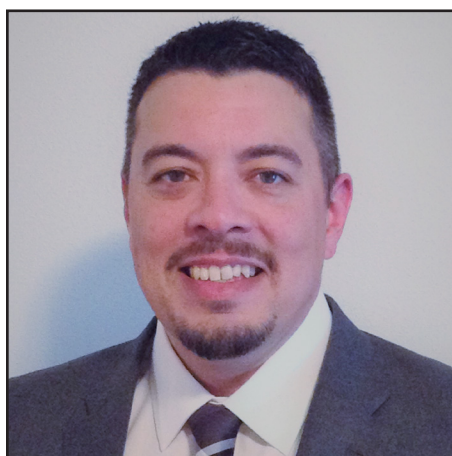




INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Winter ~ 2020



Vernon Stearns, Jr.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings and best wishes to all our tribal communities during this season of thanks and renewal!

The Holiday Season is a great time to reflect on the past with hopes of finding inspiration for the coming year. Tribal programs throughout the country strive to do what is best for their local communities and natural resources. The work we do in natural resource management is a constant reminder of the importance of the place we each call home. I often think about the sacrifices made by my ancestors, the displacement and loss that they suffered in exchange for a permanent home with the promise of federal trust responsibility. It has been and continues to be well documented that the management of our trust resources can be improved through various ways, including but not limited to increasing funding. The ITC will continue to advocate for improved performance in meeting the federal trust responsi-

bility, but we must also individually assess our contributions to securing the social, economic, and ecological wellbeing of our homelands.

One important document that has provided guidance to ITC has been the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT) reports. An oversight committee has been established to begin preparation for the IFMAT IV report. This congressionally mandated report occurs every ten years, with the next one due in 2023. The first step is recruiting co-chairs, which is already underway. ITC must also secure multi-year funding for the IFMAT, identify study parameters, and identify any new questions that can be addressed. Member Tribes engaged in IFMAT-IV discussions and provided comments for consideration at the 2019 General Membership Meeting at Seminole. ITC will continue to investigate specific questions to address.

ITC is helping federal agencies implement new forest management authorities. Our agreement with the U.S. Forest Service provides for ITC's outreach to tribes to learn about and take advantage of both Good Neighbor Authority and the development of the new 638 contracting authority for the Tribal Forest Protection Act. Both of these authorities were the result of successful lobbying by the ITC in the halls of Congress over several years. A joint ITC-FS Oversight Committee has been working together to develop two workshops to bring interest tribes and nation-

al forests together to explore opportunities of shared stewardship. These workshops are tentatively scheduled for spring 2020, more to come on this activity!

The legislative report will provide more details of the need to tweak that legislative language to ensure that tribes are fully able to utilize the receipt retention component of Good Neighbor Authority.

On the federal funding front, federal agencies have been operating under stopgap "continuing resolutions" rather than having a new appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2020. We do not expect an increase in BIA Forestry funding this year, but ITC will continue to make the case for increased funding as Congress begins creating the FY2021 appropriations bills in early 2020.

Since this time last year, we have a new Senate-confirmed Secretary of the Interior (David Bernhardt). There has been shifting of BIA positions from Washington, D.C. to Albuquerque, although BIA

(Continued on page 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Education Committee	2
Technical Specialist	3
Operations Committee	5
BIA Central Office Forestry	6
Legislative Update	10
Research Subcommittee.	12
Wildland Fire Technical Specialist . .	13
Symposium Committee	14
Awards Committee	15

President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.

(Continued from cover)

seems to be exempt from the Department's larger vision of reorganization. The ITC will continue to monitor efforts associated with DOI's Reorganization and any tribal implications that may arise.

One of our greatest challenges is to get collective action to create a coordinated outreach program to recruit tribal and non-tribal people into the workforce. BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire has a workforce development planning team that has begun addressing their workforce needs internally. Still there are several pieces to the workforce puzzle, and I do not think we've even identified all of the pieces quite yet. The BIA is one piece, the ITC is another, tribes certainly have

a piece, and several other entities fit in as well. Although activities are occurring, the momentum is needed for recruitment to keep pace, let alone catch up to retirement is lagging. The long-term sustainability of our natural resources is highly dependent upon the regeneration of our forestry and wildland fire workforce. ITC has been tracking progress of implementation of our Workforce Development Strategic Plan. One of the next critical steps has been to secure funding to enhance internal capacity for ramping up recruitment and engagement efforts. Through the work of the ITC Board and committees, funding proposals have been developed and will be shopped around to targeted funding agencies who have expressed a desire to assist.

Finally, I am looking forward to this year's Annual Timber Symposium, to be hosted by the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska during the first week of June 2020. Our time there will allow us to focus on uniquely Alaskan forestry issues and take in some spectacular landscapes. Please save the date and come join the discussions, your participation and voice is essential to our shared success of enhancing natural resource management.

As always, I am proud of all the work ITC does and the support we receive from member tribes. Thank you all for your ongoing support of the ITC and its mission.



Education Committee

by Nicole Stiffarm



Nicole Stiffarm

Greetings ITC family, I hope you all had a great holiday season and enjoyed time with your families! The Education Committee met early in December at the ITC Headquarters in Portland, OR. We had a full agenda of items to discuss as well as a couple of guests who were able to attend the meeting.

Stephanie Cowherd from Ecotrust informed the committee on the progress they are making on the workforce development survey conducted earlier this year, and plans to move forward with follow up interviews soon.

We were also able to move closer to establishing an ITC student representative. The proposal was presented by OSU Graduate student Elisha Flores, a former recipient of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. We are one-step closer to taking applications for the first ever ITC student representative. Stay tuned for that announcement!

The announcement for the 2020 Truman D. Picard Scholarship is out, and we are currently accepting applications. The deadline for this year is March 11, 2020. Please help us and send the announcement

to your networks to get the word out to as many students as possible. Only complete applications will be considered, so please read the application criteria carefully. The Truman Picard Scholarship is offered annually to Native Americans pursuing higher education in the field of natural resources. The breakdown for recipients is \$2,000 for high school recipients and \$2,500 for undergraduate and graduate recipients.

Lastly, the planning for a 2020 Forestry Summit hosted by Northern Arizona University is underway. A save-the-date announcement will be sent out soon. The ITC Education Committee wishes you all the best in 2020!



Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

HONORING THE PROMISES – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

THE PAST

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) produces an annual budget request to congress each year and back in the FY 2012 budget request information contained a document called “Honoring the Promises: The Federal Trust Responsibility in the 21st Century.”

This budget request was produced with the collaboration of many people and programs within Indian Country, and was important that Indian forestry programs continue to be one of those partners. Information from the FY 2011 Funding and Position Analysis was one of the cornerstones to help create the Tribal Forestry Section in the 2018 Farm Bill.

THE PRESENT

The FY 2020 NCAI budget request document, “Winds of Change – Protecting Our Nations and People into the Future,” provided information from the 2013 report produced by the Third Independent Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT-III) to support three key items:

- Add \$20 million to BIA Forestry Projects for continued post-fire

recovery and rehabilitation activities on Indian trust land. Making the addition to BIA Forestry Projects rather than the DOI Office of Wildland Fire Management will simplify and speed delivery of funds to on-the-ground projects. The post-fire recovery and rehabilitation funding should be continued annually through FY 2020 to provide for longer-term activities such as replanting and habitat restoration.

- Increase annual funding by \$12.7 million for BIA Forestry Projects to initiate a BIA Forestry Workforce Development program
- Increase overall base BIA Forestry funding (TPA and Forestry Projects) by \$25 million, as a first step toward providing the \$254 million for management and fire-related support the BIA needs as minimum annual funding to achieve parity with other federal forestry programs.

The information to support the next budget request needs to be updated, and will provide information for the Fourth Assessment of Indian Forest and Forest Management Report by IFMAT-IV.

BIA and tribal forestry programs will be receiving a notice to complete the FY 2019 Funding and Position Analysis (FPA) report, which is one of most key pieces of data, collected for the independent assessment of Indian Forest and Forest Management in the United States by the fourth Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT-IV). The information collected in this report will be used to address the first task in the assessment:

- A. An in-depth analysis of management practices on, and the level*

of funding for, specific Indian forestland compared with similar federal and private forestlands.

The information collected in the FPA report will also assist with addressing another one of the eight tasks, which is:

- C. An evaluation of staffing patterns of forestry organizations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and of Indian tribes.*



The FPA report will ask programs about the funds they received in FY 2019 and the staffing used to perform the services in that year. FPA will also request information about future funding and staff needed to perform management activities for the program. This information was requested in past FPA reports, most recently in FY 2011, and will request information regarding hours of training and additional training needs. Another category will request information about estimated retirements over the next five years.

The categories for this FPA report are due to the training, recruitment and retirement issues that was addressed by IFMAT-III.

The ITC, along with Ecotrust, Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians and United South and Eastern Tribes, are working on a workforce assessment to gather information about needs but also the demographics of

(Continued on page 4)

Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

(Continued from page 3)

American Indians and Alaskan Native that will supply the workforce where the general Native population has grown since 1970, from \$1 million to \$3 million in 2010. Once the demographics have been identified then an outreach strategy can be developed to connect the 460,000 tribal K-12 youth (National Indian Education Association) with natural resources.

The FPA report will also request road funds and staff needed to perform services for designing, constructing and maintaining a forest transportation system.

The FPA report will contain a two-tab spreadsheet. The first tab requesting basic information about the program location, forest statistics, funding allocations from the federal agencies and tribal contributions then the staffing needed to perform the management. The second tab will be the funding and staffing needs along with the training needs and retirement information.

The information in the FPA report and other information provided by IFMAT has been utilized by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to justify seeking additional funds and staffing for Indian forestry.

THE FUTURE

Your help is needed, during January 2020, to provide information for this FPA report. It is important to not only read and follow the instructions provided by the BIA's Branch of Forest Resource Planning, but also contact your tribal leadership and other tribal natural resource to seek input into this report.

Tribal leadership and the other tribal natural resource departments

can provide some important information to fill out the sections that request data about IRMP, wildlife, fisheries, recreation, cultural and archeological needs.

ITC TRAINING WEBPAGE UPDATED

The ITC training webpage has been updated to reflect some of the successful training practices and resources used by the Member Tribes based on Ecotrust Workforce Survey responses. Tribes have been working with university forestry extension service programs and connecting with Youth Corps Programs in their areas. A list of extension services and youth corps are now listed on the training website. The updated website can be found at www.itcnet.org/resources/training.html.

NW YOUTH CORPS TRIBAL STEWARDS PROGRAM EXPANDING

One program, NW Youth Corps (NYC), has been expanding to serve Tribes in the NW and could become a model for the nation. The website can be found at www.nwyouthcorps.org/m/OurPrograms/TribalStewards.

NYC is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth and young adults to become successful, resilient members of their communities. To achieve this, NYC provides a variety of outdoors, conservation-specific programs to youth and young adults throughout the Northwest emphasizing education, leadership, and personal growth.

Since 1984, NYC and its resource management partners have provided opportunities to over 19,000 youth and young adults to learn, grow, and experience success. NYC's programs serve over 800 youth and young adults annually,



Meeting with Chemawa Students at NW Youth Corps

with programs operating in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California.

Tribal Stewards model is a program rooted in cultural and ancestral knowledge of the Northwest tribal communities. Tribal Stewards works closely with tribal communities to engage Native American participants in our traditional Youth Corps Camping model. To date, there are collaborative project efforts with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribe, Burns Paiute Tribe, Chemawa Indian School and Shoshone Bannock Tribe.

TRIBAL STEWARDS YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM - WARM SPRINGS TRIBE & BURNS PAIUTE TRIBES

A collaborative effort with the Confederated Tribe of the Warm Springs in eastern Oregon, Burns Paiute Tribe, NYC and Oregon Natural Desert Association are dedicated to launch an all Native American crew ages 19-24 for Warm Springs and Burns Paiute tribal young adults.

TRIBAL STEWARDS YOUTH PROGRAM - SHOSHONE BANNOCK

A (tentative) collaborative effort with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes,

(Continued on page 5)

Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

(Continued from page 4)

NYC and the Idaho Conservation Corps is dedicated to launch an all Native American Sho-Ban trail youth crew ages 16-19 for Warm Springs tribal youth. Projects are being verified with the Rock City Council on ancestral Shoshone Bannock land.

TRIBAL STEWARDS YOUTH PROGRAM- CHEMAWA INDIAN SCHOOL

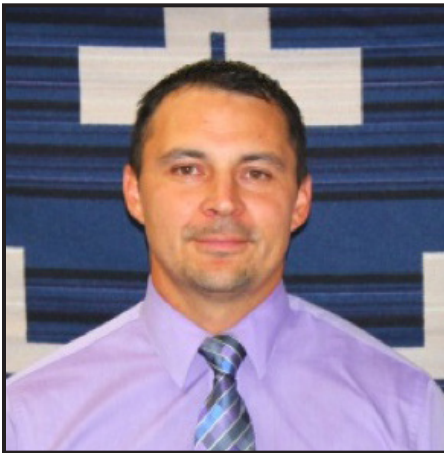
An ongoing collaborative partnership with a Native American boarding school, Chemawa Indian School, students ages 16-19 who represent various different tribal

nations. Chemawa originally started in 2016 and has continuously grown since then.



Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

This report will include updates from the December board meeting.

TFPA 638/GNA

We continue to make progress on training and workshops to assist tribes and National Forests in the implementation of 638 contracting for Tribal Forest Protection Act proposals, and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). Finding solutions to the contracting issues has been challenging. This will likely delay the webinars until next spring. We have identified potential locations and dates for the TFPA/GNA workshops. Pending availability of facilities and presenters the workshops will occur in March and May in Albuquerque and Spo-

kane. We have a number of tribes interested, and invitations will be sent once ITC has confirmation on dates and locations.

IFMAT IV PLANNING

We have secured limited funding to start work on IFMAT IV. A draft RFQQ is being developed to select the Co-Chairs. This should be available by the end of December 2019, with evaluation of proposals and selection occurring at the February board meeting. Once these positions are filled the ITC will draft RFQQ's for the Program Manager and Team Members for circulation as well. Once the team is established the ITC will coordinate site visits with selected tribes. This will occur over two years to alleviate travel pressure, and allow more preparation time between site visits. We look forward to the opportunity to review the exciting work happening in Indian country.

After continued discussion, the Operations committee has recommended we evaluate the eight legislatively mandated questions along with questions regarding climate change and shared stewardship. Other topics that were considered can be evaluated within the eight mandated questions, including trust responsibility and workforce. The IFMAT team will make a concert-

ed effort to evaluate these questions through a modern context.

RESEARCH

The ITC and others continue to work on a strategic plan for research. This plan will be based on results of the Tribal Research survey. An initial report should be presented to the ITC board during the February board meeting. Once complete the plan will be circulated to member tribes, and interested research institutions.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I'm honored to serve with this amazing group of people for another year. They continue to do great work for their respective tribes and Indian Country. I look forward to another productive year in 2020.



BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland



Pete Wakeland

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Pete Wakeland's detail as the Acting Associate Deputy Bureau Director, Natural Resources ended on October 23, 2019, and he is now back to his full time position as the Chief Forester. Matt Anderson has returned to the Midwest Region as the Regional Forester, and Caleb Cain has returned to his Regional Forester duties in the Rocky Mountain Region. Our sincere thanks to Matt and Caleb for all the good work they did for all of us while detailed to Central Office. Any BIA employee interested in gaining experience from the national perspective is welcome to take a turn through Central Office on a temporary assignment ranging from 2 weeks to 120 days. Please contact Pete Wakeland or John Baskette for further information.

REGIONAL FORESTER'S MEETINGS

A Regional Foresters' meeting was held December 10-12, 2019 at the BIA Office in Albuquerque, NM, with nearly 25 people in attendance. Discussion included updates from Central Office staff on budget, staffing, BOFRP inventory projects, training, and ongoing development of the Forest Information Reporting Statistics

& Tracking (FIRST) database system; Pathways; Use of UAS; Portable Infrastructure Projects, Timber Strike Team, and updates from the Regions. Our thanks to Kurt Mettler and John Cervantes for their work in planning and coordination for the meeting.

TIMBER HARVEST 2019

Hats off to everyone. The Tribes and the BIA accounted for nearly 60% of the total timber harvest within the Department of the Interior.

ITARA, 2018 FARM BILL, & S-245 INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY ACT

Two tribes have been approved to participate in the ITARA demonstration project and are currently developing the Indian Trust Asset Management Plans required under ITARA. Technical assistance is available to tribes who are approved for, or are considering participation in the demonstration project. Information on ITARA can be found at <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-development-and-or-under-review/itara-demonstration-project>. For more information, contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester.

Tribes are also encouraged to make use of new authorities granted to them under the 2018 Farm Bill and the Indian Energy Act. The Farm Bill extends Good Neighbor Authority to tribes, allowing them to manage National Forest System land under cooperative agreements with the Forest Service. The Forest Service has also been granted authority to enter into self-determination contracts with tribes directly under P.L. 93-638. The Indian Energy Act mandates the Forest Service and BLM to assist tribes in generation of energy by providing reliable sources of biomass fuel for tribal energy generating facilities.

TIMBER SALES TRAINING

Central Office and Regional staff are planning to hold a Timber Sales Training:

BIA - Introduction to Timber Sales Process Training - Tri-Region
March 24-26, 2020
National Indian Programs Training Center, Room 234,
Albuquerque, NM

Course Summary: This course is designed to teach BIA and tribal timber sales staff the basic procedures associated with the selling of timber and other forest products on Indian lands.

Intended Audience: Regional, Agency and Tribal Foresters who are responsible for the preparation and administration of timber sales contracts and permits. For more information, Contact John Baskette.

WILDLAND FIRE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (WFLC)

The next WFLC meeting is scheduled in Tallahassee, FL, February 8-11, 2020. The Chief Forester and the Wildland Fire Director will attend the meeting. Contact Pete Wakeland or Leon Ben for more information.

FUNDING AND POSITIONS ANALYSIS

Work has started on data collection for the Funding and Position Analysis that will be used in the development of the next IFMAT Report. Information and instructions on how to complete the request for data have been sent to the Regions. Tribal data is very important in accurately describing the status of Indian forestry, and we strongly encourage Tribes to participate by submitting their data to the Regions. The IFMAT Report

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

is mandated by NIFRMA, and the next report is projected to be complete in 2023.

TIMBER STRIKE TEAM

Central Office staff continues to stand up the Timber Strike team that was approved by the BIA Director this past summer. Position descriptions and hiring packets are near completion. Once implemented, the strike team will be dispatched to locations where help is needed to complete timber sale planning and layout. Contact John Baskette or Caleb Cain for more information.

BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

CFI APPLICATION

Work continues on incorporating the BIA specific volume equations used for CFI that are not in the USFS National Volume Estimator Library. The Forest Service has entered these equations and BOFRP is in the process of testing the results. In addition, BIA CFI-to-FVS data translation is available to facilitate processing using FVS. BOFRP has been updating the field-data collector program for use on a Windows-based tablet. The tablet data collector will have the desktop version of BOFRP Apps and will include more thorough error checking, reporting errors at time of data entry. This will be available within the next year.

FIRST

BOFRP continues to work on several issues the regions were experiencing during last reporting season. Robin Lovato is near completion with the F.I.R.S.T training materi-

als and is available to provide on-site training: please submit your request for the first quarter of the calendar year. Central Office staff worked individually with Regional staff on final reporting, and the time spent was very productive. We will continue to do this in the future to ensure we have the best data possible. Thanks to everyone for your diligence in reporting. These numbers really do make a difference.

NATIONAL FOREST LIBRARY

The scanning of the forestry documents in the BOFRP library is still a work in progress. We are currently scanning the Regional documents; the goal is to complete scanning the entire library within a year.

BOFRP OBJECTIVES

Our goal is to serve the Tribes. We are committed to improving the data collection process, and simplifying post-inventory by merging analysis into a single unit to streamline CFI processing at all stages.

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

The BIA has the responsibility to protect over 57 million acres of trust lands. Within this landscape, tribal homes, home sites, and other infrastructure intermix with natural vegetation occupying approximately 30% (nearly 18 million acres) of the BIA's trust land base. For the most recent five year period (Fiscal Year 2015 - Fiscal Year 2019), Indian Country experienced an annual average of 4,500 wildfires that burned over 510,000 trust acres which directly affects tribal communities and governments. Based on the five-year average, the BIA expends nearly \$12.5 million annually on

activities associated with managing wildfires and providing wildfire assistance to our federal, state, and other local government cooperators.

To assist with wildfire response, the BIA hires Administratively Determined (AD) firefighters to increase our capability to manage fires and other incidents. Over the past five years, the BIA has employed an average of 1,739 emergency firefighters that expends an average of \$12.3 million each year from the Suppression account. In Calendar Year 2019, the BIA spent 17.7% of its suppression expenses on the AD payroll and accounted for 37% of the DOI Casual Payment Center workload.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM & TRAINING

Beginning in 2016, the BIA has utilized the Federal Pathways hiring and internship program to recruit and guide Native American college students interested in beginning careers in fire management with the BIA or Tribal fire management programs. The BIA Pathways program is managed in partnership with Salish Kootenai College (SKC), a Native American College located in Pablo, Montana. The Partnership between SKC and the BIA represents a force multiplier that allows flexibility and extends the support that each student trainee receives.

In 2019, the BIA Fire Pathways program had 13 Student Trainees in the program. Each student trainee is assigned a summer work location with either a BIA or Tribal Fire program; and receive NWCG fire training courses and work as a member of a fire management unit. In most cases, these student interns fill a vital role in assisting in fire management duties to support the

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

fire suppression responsibilities of the unit. The goal of the Fire Pathways program is to provide meaningful fire experience to the student interns that will provide a solid experiential foundation that will prepare them to begin working in Fire Management upon graduation from college.

Once a student trainee (Fire) amasses 640 internship hours working and graduates from college, they are eligible for non-competitive placement in a job for which they are qualified. To date the BIA Fire Pathways program has a 100% placement rate for Student Trainees that have completed the program. Two of our students graduated this year with their bachelor's degrees, and they were placed at Fire Management Units. Mitchell Kurtz graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; and was placed at Umatilla Agency in Pendleton, OR. In addition, Philbert Woody graduated from New Mexico State University; and was placed at Southern Ute Agency in Ignacio, CO. Mitchell Kurtz met the Inter-agency Fire Program Management (IFPM) qualifications of a senior firefighter and therefore was eligible for a GS-05, senior firefighter position. Mr. Woody will begin his career as a GS-04, firefighter with Southern Ute Agency.

The BIA recognizes that once a Fire Intern is converted from student to full time employee status, it will take continued effort to ensure each new employee is afforded the opportunity to gain the necessary training, experience and qualifications needed to be ready to step up into the middle management positions that are increasingly filled

by those nearing retirement. Fire management understands that this requisite for on-the-ground experience cannot be short cut without affecting operational effectiveness and firefighter safety. However, the BIA is confident that getting college graduates with fire internship experience started in fire management will reap benefits in the future by helping to fill pending vacancies in the near future.

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The BIA's Wildland Fire Management programs work to protect lives, property, and resources while restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Produced in partnership with Injunuity the BIA is proud to release "Native Fire," a short educational video about native use of prescribed fire. View it online at: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/fireandforestrystories/native-fire>.

"Native Fire" discusses Native American's historic use of fire and addresses how traditional practices in the southern plains states have influenced its modern-day application. In it, fire research specialists speak to this history and address some of the complex challenges facing landscapes today.

AVIATION

BIA is steadily growing its UAS capacity, the number of DOI approved Remote Pilots has doubled in the last fiscal year. From three in 2018 to seven at the end of 2019. Three of these remote pilots are ICQS Unmanned Aircraft System Pilot (UASP) trainee's working on Task books. In addition, two more remote pilots are ready to attend the required training and then to be assigned trainee status and assigned task books for UASP.

The only operational wildland fire

missions to occur on BIA incidents took place on the San Carlos Indian Reservation. Agency Fire Management determined the need for UAS capabilities and ordered a UASP with aircraft. The "Bylas" Fire flew about six hours of infrared mapping and some perimeter mapping for the Incident Management Team (IMT). On the "Panel" Fire another twelve hours were flown, again primarily infrared mapping for the IMT. There were also a few hours (less than 4) flown on other smaller IA fires. IMT and Agency managers considered the UAS a very useful tool. Aircraft utilized was a 3DR Solo which is now an older UAS, one issue occurred in which the UAS would not perform satisfactorily during the heat of the day, resulting in operations being conducted very early in the day just after legal sunrise.

Bureau UAS program managers continue to field inquiries and see a growing interest in UAS implementation in wildland fire management. Fire Managers are slowly realizing the benefits of the tool and accepting the process to build a UAS program for their unit.

A handful of project aviation safety plans have been reviewed for Prescribed Fire monitoring for both pre and post burn condition data. As of the close of the fiscal year no UAS activity for Prescribed Fire has occurred.

BIA had 1,271 Flight Hours for 2019. This includes Exclusive Use, On-Call Air Attack and Alaska Hours flown under the Exclusive Use Contracts. It does NOT include any on-call orders placed by dispatch using the National On-Call task order numbers, which are paid by BLM using the National Suppression IAA.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

WILDLAND FIRE FIRST AID PROGRAM

In 2019, the DOI Office of Occupational Safety and Health endorsed the BIA Wildland Fire First Aid Minimum Guidelines, Scope of Practice and both levels of first aid training. In so doing, the Office of Wildland Fire is now looking at BIA's First Aid Programs two levels of first aid training as a template other bureaus can adopt for all field-going firefighters.

Two Trainings offered in this Program:

The first is a 40-hour Medical Incident Technician (MIT) training course. The intent is to have a minimum of two MIT per crew and have those MIT trained to teach the eight-hour Medical Incident Leadership (MIL) training course internally.

The second is an 8-hour MIL training course finished development in 2019. This course addresses the same concepts as the MIT in a condensed time frame and is the first-ever wildland fire-specific Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) compliant eight hour class taught internally by any land management agency. The intent is to have every field going personnel trained internally using MIT instructors.

In 2019, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) joined the BIA in its First Aid Program. It is implementing the two levels of first aid training in an interagency effort led by the BIA.

In 2019, under the supervision of the DOI medical director the program implemented the first ever wildland fire first aid program that trains, distributes and successful-

ly uses the lifesaving epinephrine auto injector. The Turkey Creek RX Incident after action review documented where an MIT used the program issued auto injector on another BIA employee who was experiencing severe life threatening anaphylaxis symptoms in a remote area with extended transport times. The availability, training, and successful use of the epinephrine auto injector had a direct positive impact on this medical incident within an incident.

ADMINISTRATION

Huge accomplishments for suppression were made in the world of Finance this year, particularly in response to the heavy fire season experienced at the San Carlos Agency. The fire activity this year demanded extensive operations and logistical coordination to respond to wildfires, which required a well-organized and highly functioning finance section to track costs.

Led by Amanda Boatright (Rocky Mountain Region), Julie White (Pacific Region), Robin White (NIFC), Regina Hoffmann and Lena Almeter (both from Northwest Region), this finance team were able to support the fire resources by providing a presence to teach, explain, and correct any issues pertaining to incident business or fire finance. This presence familiarized and taught firefighters, old and new, about several incident business timekeeping issues, specifically about hazard pay policy established by the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The finance team was able to ensure that proper documentation was created and maintained to justify excessive shifts and work/rest mitigation, in field promotions, property damage and loss, and the processing of Administratively

Determined (AD) batch payments through the Casual Payment Center. In total, the finance team left the local agency with nine document boxes full of all the finance records for all 156 incidents that were tracked.

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In the course of doing their jobs, firefighters unavoidably experience stressful and even traumatic situations that can lead to emotional and behavioral health problems including anxiety, burnout, depression, alcoholism, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide. Current approaches to addressing these problems tend to focus on assistance and treatment that takes place following traumatic events or after symptoms emerge.

The BIA Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program was established during the summer of 2019, as an effort to improve mental well-being and maximize individual and organizational resilience. This CISM program provides an organized approach to address everyday stressors, as well as crisis-situations resulting from exposure to critical incidents. The CISM program provides skills to build resistance to face adversity, improve performance and mental preparedness, and ability to bounce back from crisis or stressful situations.





Matt Hill

FY2020 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

At the time of writing this article, the Congress has still not passed appropriations legislation to fund the government through Fiscal Year 2020 (which began on October 1). Earlier this year, the House and Senate passed their own versions of appropriations bills, including the Interior appropriations bill, which funds the BIA, IHS, etc. Currently (as of mid-December) the two chambers are seeking to resolve their differences and arrive at a final “conference” position on the Interior appropriations bill. Congress passed a second “Continuing Resolution” (“CR”) to extend government funding at FY19 levels through December 20, 2019. At this point, it appears that Congress has reached a tentative agreement on all 12 appropriations bill and will pass them before heading home for the holidays.

Under the original Trump budget for FY2020, proposed earlier in 2019, DOI would see an overall 14% decrease, with significant cuts coming from BIA programs. The Trump Budget proposed a near-\$1 million reduction in BIA Forestry.

In March, ITC President Vernon Stearns testified in front of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is support of increased funding for BIA forest management and ongoing encouragement by Congress for federal agencies to quickly, implement the new forest management authorities involving tribes.

Unfortunately, both the House and Senate versions of the Interior bill would reduce the BIA forestry line item by \$118,000. However, this is \$714,000 more than the Trump budget level. Either way, this is the first time in many years that the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee – now under Democratic control – has proposed a reduction in BIA Forestry.

The House also included the following report language clarifying how the funds should be allocated:

“Within the \$55,473,000 provided for Forestry, the Committee recommends \$28,524,000 for Forestry Program (TPA), \$142,000 below the enacted level and \$684,000 above the budget request, and \$26,949,000 for Forestry Projects, \$24,000 above the enacted level and \$30,000 above the budget request.”

GOOD NEIGHBOR FIX IN THE WORKS

The 2018 Farm Bill attempted to extend federal “Good Neighbor Authority” (GNA) to Indian tribes and county government. Previously, GNA allowed states to perform forest restoration work on federal lands. Some states have aggressively used the authority on federal lands, including post-fire salvage and rehabilitation work.

The 2018 Farm Bill specifically added tribes and counties to the entities that can carry out GNA proj-

ects on federal lands. However, in subsequent legislative language clarifying that receipts derived from GNA timber sales could be used to plan future projects, Congress inadvertently left out tribes and counties. That is a key component of building capacity in a GNA program and tribes have been reticent to utilize the authority.

Rep. Fulcher (R-ID) is drafting legislation that would amend the Farm Bill language, to authorize specific tribes and counties to use timber receipts from one project to carry out future projects. The draft bill would also require states (but not tribes) using GNA to share 25% of timber receipts with the applicable county. This is intended to reflect how traditional timber sales work – outside of GNA and Secure Rural Schools Act “safety net” payments to counties (which have expired). The draft bill also allows (but does not require) a state/tribe/county to transfer GNA timber sale revenue back to the Forest Service to carry out the required reforestation work if the GNA contractor would prefer the agency to carry out that work.

SCIP HEARING ON “BROKEN PROMISES” REPORT

In November, the House Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples (“SCIP”) held an oversight hearing on a report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (called “Broken Promises”) detailing decades of underfunding, poor data collection and lack of coordination that have hamstrung federal programs intended to help Indians.

Civil Rights Commission Vice Chair Patricia Timmons-Goodson said little has changed since 2003, when the commission first looked at the problem of funding for tribal

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

programs. Fawn Sharp, president of the National Congress of American Indians, said the report reiterates a lot of what Native communities already know – that the federal government hasn't lived up to agreements made with tribes. That has led to dire consequences for Indian Country and hampered tribes' ability to help themselves, she said.

The committee also heard from two officials with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, two agencies heavily criticized in the report. Jason Freihage of the BIA acknowledged problems, but said his agency is working to overcome persistent funding challenges cited in the report.

The report specifically addresses Indian forest management and cites the ITC:

“During this [2016] listening session [at Quinault], the Commission received testimony from the Intertribal Timber Council, which raised the issue of the impact that wildfires have on Indian forestry. The Council indicated in its statement that BIA consistently receives about a third of the funding given to the Forest Service, and this has caused a 440,000-acre thinning backlog, which will exacerbate the costs of future wildfire suppression. A 2015 wildfire report released from the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team estimated the cost of fire suppression and rehabilitation following five wildfires on reservations in 2015 to exceed \$200 million, which is more than three times the national budget for management of all Indian forests in the country. Furthermore, these fires destroyed over 338,000 acres of forest and 1.2 billion board feet of tribal trust

timber valued at over \$143 million, with an estimated \$377 million in lost wages and services.”

Ultimately, it is up to Congress to determine funding levels for Indian programs. As noted earlier, this year is the first time in several years where BIA forestry has seen a decrease in funding.

MCGREGOR TO BE DEPUTY INTERIOR SECRETARY

In October, President Trump nominated Kate MacGregor to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Interior. She is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff exercising the authority of the Deputy Secretary at DOI. MacGregor has served in several positions at the Department since joining the Trump Administration in January 2017, including Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Lands and Minerals Management. In her time at the Interior, MacGregor has worked on issues with respect to responsible domestic energy and mineral development, BLM timber management, ending violence against American Indians and Alaska Natives, enhancing rural broadband, and other Administration priorities. Before joining the Department, she worked on Capitol Hill for ten years, serving two Chairmen of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Doc Hastings (R-WA), and Representatives Eric Cantor (R-VA) and Thelma Drake (R-VA). MacGregor is a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

MacGregor's nomination was reviewed by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources (“ENR”) Committee. Very little of the ENR hearing focused on Indian issues, although in her opening statement, MacGregor

stated that *“I have worked hard with our Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Tara Sweeney, to address the outrage of Missing and Murdered Native American women. In fact, one of the two personal stories I heard on my recent trip to Bethel, Alaska, to discuss these issues will stay with me forever. I will never again take for granted that access to justice sometimes relies upon a navigable road.”*

The ENR Committee approved MacGregor's nomination; however, her approval by the full Senate has been held up by Republican Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) over his concerns about oil/gas drilling off the Florida coast. Presumably, his concerns will be addressed by the Department and MacGregor's nomination will be approved by the Senate.

AS-IA SWEENEY NAMES NEW BIA OFFICIALS

In October, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney announced the appointment of two leadership posts within the Bureau of Indian Affairs:

- Johnna Blackhair, a member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe in Montana, will serve as Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Services at the Bureau of Indian Affairs's headquarters in Washington, D.C., and
- Patricia Mattingly, of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota, will serve as Regional Director of the Bureau's Southwest Regional Office in Albuquerque, N.M.

Ms. Blackhair has 28 years of federal service starting in September 1991 with the BIA's Uintah and Ouray Agency in Fort Duchene,

(Continued on page 12)

Legislative Update

Matt Hill

(Continued from page 11)

UT. From April 2010, she gained extensive experience in the management of land titles and records, real estate services, probate, agriculture, and cadastral surveys, coordinating with the Bureau of Land Management as the Regional Realty Officer in the Southwest Regional Office. She has held a number of BIA field leadership positions including Mescalero Agency Superintendent (2011-2012); Uintah and Ouray Agency Superintendent (2012-2013); Eastern Regional

Office Deputy Regional Director (2013-2014); and Eastern Regional Office Regional Director (2014-2015). Prior to her recent appointment, Ms. Blackhair had served as BIA Trust Services's acting Associate Deputy Bureau Director since January 2018, and as acting Deputy Bureau Director since April 2018.

The BIA Office of Trust Services is primarily located in Washington, D.C. and Albuquerque, N.M., and assists tribal governments and allottees in managing, protecting and developing their trust lands

and natural resources, which total 56 million surface acres and 60 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. Trust Services programs aid landowners in the stewardship of their resources not only to protect their cultural, spiritual and traditional uses, but also to optimize those, which tribal governments depend on through the revenues and jobs they generate.



Research Subcommittee

by Serra Hoagland



Serra Hoagland

Guu-wat-see (Greetings) ITC! The holiday season allows us time to reflect on what we are thankful for and the ITC family is one that tops my list every year. Adrian and I are honored to serve the Research Subcommittee as co-chairs and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated committee members, guests and affiliates that help us meet our mission of advancing the management of forests and other natural resources of Indian lands. We continue to firmly believe in the 'potential benefits from research activity in Indian Country' and that tribal communities are enhanced by

developing recommendations on natural resource research plans, priorities and initiatives. Thank you to those of you who continue to serve your respective tribal communities and your dedication to the ITC.

Our subcommittee met in December in Portland during the regularly scheduled Board Meeting. We had a highly productive meeting and hosted a guest speaker (Meredith Jacobson, OSU graduate student) to discuss her findings on Anchor Forests. We also heard from Paul Steblein from the USGS on Fire Science initiatives and Mike Dockry provided an update on the ITC Research Needs Assessment.

Janet Leak-Garcia, who served as the USFS R&D Tribal Research National Program Lead and tragically passed away in April 2019, has been replaced by Greg Arthaud in the Washington Office. We hope to work with Greg to continue to pursue another agreement to support the USFS/ITC joint Native American Research Scholarship. We are continuing to assist with planning

for the Northern Arizona University Forestry Summit in the fall of 2020 and keeping track of McIntire Stennis funding for 1994 land grant institutions.

Please call attention to Monique Wynecoop who is starting a Traditional Knowledge and Fire in the Pacific Northwest biannual newsletter. If you have any ideas or topics you would like to submit for her newsletter please reach out to her at Monique.wynecoop@usda.gov.

Our committee plans to meet again in February 2020 in Palm Springs where we may begin a transition of ITC Research Subcommittee leadership. More details to follow in the coming months. If you would like a copy of any of the materials discussed at the meeting please do not hesitate to reach out to Adrian Leighton at adrian.leighton@skc.edu or Serra Hoagland at serra.j.hoagland@usda.gov. Hope you had a safe and happy holiday season and da'wa'eh (thanks)!



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Save the date and plan to go to Fairbanks, Alaska for a workshop scheduled for June 4, 2020, as part of the 44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Tanana Chiefs Conference. The workshop is titled "Climate Disturbance, Including Large Fire, Impacts to Indigenous Lifeways." It will provide background and provide some relevance to the importance of recognizing the impacts of climate disturbances to native communities. Alaska has been experiencing profound environmental change related to extreme weather events and deviations from the historical climate. Sustained warmth, large wildfires, sea ice loss, coastal and river corridor flooding and erosion have impacted the lifeways of not only Alaskans but native communities throughout the world. At this workshop, we hope to be informed by a respected Elder and hear presentations from regional experts in climate science and wildland fire management. We also plan to have some leaders in Tribal Climate Planning present some case studies and share how they are coping with a changing environment.

Indigenous people of the world have a special moral stature on this issue (climate change) and have a special role to play in coming together to advocate for action- Salish-Pend d' Oreille Culture Committee

We will have a great opportunity to hear directly from Indigenous professionals about the impacts of a changing world has on their respective cultures and traditions. We realize the scale of tribal histories, tribal connections to the landscape goes back farther than most other histories in terms of living in one place.

As with all things, most indigenous people follow the circle of life. Our worldview encompasses the circle pathway. Our elders have always told that all things are connected and that any impact or action on one resource will impact all. Climate disturbances including flood, erosion, warming and rising seas, drought, wind events, and devastating wildfires will all impact our tribal resources and lifeways. As a result, will impact our culture, traditions, and our subsistence gathering, and spirituality. Impacts are also expected to be place based. Impacts in the high elevation region will be different from impacts to resources in the dry grass and sage steppe eco-regions and from coastal regions of the nations.

This workshop will highlight climate disturbance issues in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest; however, we realize that the discussion is relevant on a global scale. We

Impacts From a Changing Climate



Photo courtesy of Alaska Fire Science Program

hope to learn how Indigenous peoples are planning for environmental change and what can be expected in the future.

Below are links to information that may be of interest as you plan your trip and attendance to our workshop:

- Intertribal Timber Council:
<https://www.itcnet.org>
- Tanana Chiefs Conference:
<https://www.tananachiefs.org>
- Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy:
<https://uaf.accap.org>
- Joint Fire Science Program, Fire Science Digest:
<https://www.firescience.gov/Digest/FSdigest20.pdf>
- Karuk Tribe Climate Plan:
<http://www.karuktribeclimatchangeprojects.com>
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Climate Plan:
<http://www.csktclimate.org>

The next ITC Fire Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2020, at the Agua Caliente Casino Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage, CA. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the ITC office at 503-278-4297 or myself at 406-531-6172 or jimdurglo@gmail.com.



Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley



Howard Teasley, Jr.

Meele Kismes 'Eey sin'. Hautnin awas. Niimiipuu timpt. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Blessing to you in our Nez Perce Language. I would like to invite our Intertribal Timber Council family to the 49th state and the largest of all...Alaska. A quick fact about our northern most state, it has the highest peak in North America, What is it? Denali and it is located southwest of Fairbanks. Be safe and Blessed. 'Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

The **44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium** will be held **June 1-4, 2020**, and hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) and **Tanana Chief Conference (TCC)**, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The theme of this year's symposium is **"Connecting Tribes and Land Management."**

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

Sunday, May 31 - Monday June 1
Workshop 1: Upper Valley Forestry Tour. This year's location gives attendees a unique opportunity to experience a two-day forestry tour. Participants would require addi-

tional lodging on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31. Please look for additional information when the final agenda is released.

Monday, June 1

Workshop 2: Traditional Crafting: Birch Bark Baskets.

Workshop 3: Wildland Fire Update.

Workshop 4: Natural Resource Applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems.

Immediately following the workshops, we will begin the **Host Ice Breaker**.

Tuesday, June 2

The symposium officially starts with the Opening Ceremonies - Invocation, Posting of the Colors, and Welcomes from the TCC Chief/Chairman, Doyon, Ltd President & CEO, and ITC President. **The Key-note Address** will be by Al Ketzler, Retired Native Leader, Nenana, AK. Then Panel 1 will start: **Tribal Carbon Projects**, followed by the **ITC Leadership Luncheon** with Chris Maisch, Alaska State Forester, Division of Forestry, Fairbanks, AK, and then Panel 2: **Student Research Forestry & Fire**, and finally, the **Host Presentation** will occur. This will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening event will include the **Host Welcome Dinner**.

Wednesday, June 3

The TCC Tribal Tour will give symposium participants an opportunity to see natural resource activities occurring on the reservation. Tentatively planned tour stops include a Pellet Mill, Cold Climate Housing Research, Joint Fire Science Program: Shaded Fuelbreak Study, Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility, and NOAA Facility: Remote Sensing. Please check back in the spring newsletter for more details.

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

Thursday, June 4

The day's activities will include Updates from the ITC President, Office of Wildland Fire Director, BIA Chief Forester, Legislative Specialist, and USFS OTR Director. Immediately following the updates our ITC Workshops will start simultaneously:

Workshop 1: Climate Change and Fire Effects of Indigenous Lifeways.

Workshop 2: Biomass Utilization.

Workshop 3: Collaboration for Funding.

Following the workshops, there will be the Annual **ITC Business Meeting**. The Symposium will conclude with our **Annual Awards Banquet** to honor and recognize the recipients of any regional or national Earle Wilcox Awards, and the recipients of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. Lastly, the winners of the various **Raffle prizes** will be presented.

Help: The ITC is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or sponsorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. The break sponsorships are full, but 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.

Future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

June 14-18, 2021 – 45th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium,

(Continued on page 15)

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley

(Continued from page 14)

hosted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Walker, MN.

2022 – 46th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, NC

2023 – 47th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, hosted by

the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

We hope to see all of you back in June 2020, in Fairbanks, AK, hosted by the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Check the ITC Website periodically at www.itcnet.org for 2020 Symposium information updates.

Take Care and God Bless you. Qe'ci-yew'yew Godnim Hautnin awas

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



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

2020 EARLE R. WILCOX AWARDS

We hope everybody has had a rewarding holiday season with your families and friends and that the

good work continues in Forestry with our tribes. This time of year also marks the time where ITC is looking to receive and review nominations for the Earle R. Wilcox awards. Please consider submitting a nomination by the deadline of January 24, 2020. Information on how to submit a nomination can be found on the ITC website or by calling the ITC office at (503) 282-4296.

Award recipients will be announced and recognized at the 44th National Indian Timber Symposium Annual Awards Banquet on June 4, 2020, in Fairbanks, AK. Nominations will be considered for the Earle R. Wilcox Individual Achievement

and National Forester of the Year awards. The Wilcox awards are how ITC recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions to Tribal forestry and natural resource management. We all benefit from work by our colleagues that goes above and beyond normal expectations, and it is important that we step up and recognize good work when it occurs. Although the word “Timber” is part of ITC’s name and identity, please keep in mind that people whose contributions come from the broader array of natural resource disciplines are also eligible for the awards.



SAVE THE DATE!!

June 1–4, 2020

44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium

Hosted by:

**Intertribal Timber Council
& Tanana Chiefs Conference
in Fairbanks, AK**





INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

1112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4

Portland, OR 97232

First Class
