



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Spring ~ 2019



Howard Teasley, Jr.

2019 SYMPOSIUM

Hautnin awas. Niimiipuu timpt. Blessing to you in our Nez Perce Language. We are heading to sunny Florida for this year's symposium. Make sure to check the weather before you come. The month of June climate and weather history shows: average temperatures from a low of 77 degrees to high of 88 degrees with 73% humidity. Plan accordingly. Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

The 43rd Annual National Indian Timber Symposium will be held June 10-13, 2019, at The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida, hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The theme of this year's symposium is *"500 Years of Change."*

Monday, June 10: 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 Scholarships, 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: Swamp Buggy Tours of Big Cypress Reservation Forestry. Maximum: 20.

Workshop #2: Traditional Seminole Craft. Maximum: 20.

Workshop #3: Wildland Fire Update. No limit of attendees.

Workshop #4: Everglades Tree Island Airboat Tour. Maximum: 20.

Workshop #5: Lidar, Drone, Inventory, Production and Investment for Working Forests. No limit of attendees.

The fees for individual workshops are \$105/participant **before** May 10, 2019, and \$120/participant **after** that date. Make sure you register early. All workshops are provided with refreshments and lunches. Please dress appropriately for field workshops.

Onsite sales of guest tickets for the Tuesday Luncheon and Thursday Awards Banquet end Monday, June 10, 2019. Please purchase in advance online.

Symposium Registration starts at 4 PM, and runs until 7 PM.

Host Tribe Ice Breaker from 5 PM

to 7 PM at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino: Terrance Corridor D/C.

Tuesday, June 11: Registration, Exhibits, and the Raffle begin at 7 AM. The symposium officially starts at 8 AM with the **Opening Ceremonies** – Invocation, Posting of the Colors, and Welcomes. **The Keynote Address: Health of the Land in the Southeast and Connection to Fire** by Cecil Frost Ph.D., Landscape Fire Ecologist Research Collaborator, University of North Carolina. **The Host Tribe Presentation** will occur, and then **Hydrology Changes Over Time**, the panel will address two examples of tribes working to overcome hydrological changes to improve the land health. Followed by the **ITC Luncheon**. The afternoon panel will consist of the **Changes in Fire Management through the Years**. The third panel is **Workforce Development: The Emerging Needs and Opportunities for Tribal Forestry and Our Federal**

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President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.



Vernon Stearns, Jr.

Members and friends – 2019 has been off to a bumpy start with the longest federal government shut-down in history, which challenged the continuity of many Indian programs, among others. Fortunately, an agreement was struck and the government has been funded for the remainder of the 2019 Fiscal Year. ITC fought for additional appropriations for BIA Forestry, and was successful in securing a \$740,000 increase to the program, which has modestly but steadily grown in the past several years.

With the government back in swing, ITC is busy working with our federal partners on our membership's priorities. As is reported in the Legislative Update of this newsletter, the new Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives brings new leaders of key committees. ITC will have a delegation in Washington, D.C. in March to testify on our appropriations priorities. We will also be meeting with officials at the Interior Department and the U.S. Forest Service to discuss implementation of several new legislative authorities that give tribes new tools for forest management projects on federal lands.



The Intertribal Timber Council recently went to Washington D.C. to testify for the House Appropriations and meet with Federal Agency Partners and Congressional Staff.

Pictured L to R: Cody Desautel, Jim Durglo, D. Fred Matt, Darin Jarnaghan, Sr., Vernon Stearns, Jr.

Although the fiscal year budget does not provide specific funding to implement the new authorities, opportunities continue to grow. Natural resource management throughout Indian Country continues to be looked at as a model for sustainable management that leads to a sustainable future. Much of what we do is about the specific place we all come from. That connection to the land is much more than an occupation, rather it is a way of life connecting our past,

present, and future. The new authorities, such as the Good Neighbor Authority extension to tribes in the Farm Bill, allows for a re-connection to lands beyond our reservation borders. The ITC hopes to facilitate implementation of these new authorities that ultimately results with enhanced landscape conditions and an improved quality of life for all. As we learn more we will share.



Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley Jr.

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Partners. This will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening events will start at 6:00 PM with the **Host Tribe Welcome Dinner** (location TBD).

Wednesday, June 12: Seminole Tribal Tour: Buses depart the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel. The Tribal tour will give visitors the opportunity to hear the history of the tribe and land management practices. We will be experiencing warmer temperatures, so bring the appropriate hat and footwear!

Stop 1: Seminole Cattle and history with the Tribe

Stop 2: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Collection, and Village Tour

Stop 3: Billie Swamp Safari

Stop 4: Big Cypress Native Area Management

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

Thursday, June 13: The day's activities will start with the **ITC President's Report**, then the **Updates:** from Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Legislative, and U.S. Department of Agriculture. Immediately following the Updates our ITC Workshops will start simultaneously:

Workshop 1: Contract and Consultations. This workshop will provide information on the benefits and cost of contracting forestry and fire programs along with changes in the contracting formats and expectations.

Workshop 2: Funding Opportunities for Tribes. This workshop will show case private, foundation, and natural resource funding opportunities and processes available to tribes.

Workshop 3: Indigenous Use of Fire. This workshop will provide background and provide some relevance from research and consideration of climate disturbances, to the importance of recognizing the Tribal worldview of allowing fire to take a more natural role on the landscape.

Following the workshops, there will be the Annual ITC Business Meeting.

The 43rd Annual National Intertribal Timber Symposium will conclude with our **Annual Awards Banquet** to honor and recognize the recipients of any regional or national Earle Wilcox Awards, and the recipients of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. And finally, the winners of the various Education Committee Raffle prizes will be presented at this time.

Come and visit Florida! The Seminole Tribe and Intertribal Timber Council will see you in June.

The 2019 Symposium information will be released soon. Visit our website for updates regarding registration, agenda, lodging, and exhibitors at www.itcnet.org

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

Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

June 1-4, 2020 – 44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by **Tanana Chiefs Conference**, Fairbanks, AK

2021 – 45th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by **Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe**, Walker, MN

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

Searching for a Host Tribe: Each year, the member tribes of Intertribal Timber Council vote by ballot and choose a future site for a tribe wanting to host the event. This occurs during the Business Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2019, after the Symposium workshops. During the meeting, there is an election of Board Members and a decision on the next location.

2023 – 47th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium is open for a tribe wanting to highlight their reservation area, tribal organization, natural resources, and resort casino. ITC has developed a planning document, which outlines every aspect of hosting, both in the forefront and behind the scenes. This will answer any questions and help weigh in on a tribe's decision. Is your Tribe interested? Please contact us.

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

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





Matt Anderson

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

1) Central Office Staff

Pete Wakeland is on a 120-day detail as the Acting Associate Deputy Bureau Director, Natural Resources. Filling in for Pete is Matt Anderson who will serve as Acting Chief Forester for 120 days. Also detailed to Central Office Forestry are Caleb Cain and Ed Morgan. Central Office Forestry is scheduled to move to Albuquerque on April 14. More information on the move will be forthcoming. Our thanks to the Regions for their support in Plending us their staff!

2) Regional Forester's Meeting

Central Office staff is planning another Regional Forester's Meeting in April 2019. Planning and logistics are currently in progress – the meeting is awaiting final approval and is tentatively scheduled for April 16-18 at the BOFRP office in Lakewood, Colorado. The target audience is the regional foresters plus one additional staff from each region. If there are items you would like to see on the agenda, please send them to Ed Morgan as soon as you can.

3) Secretarial Order 3372

The Division is actively accomplishing tasks outlined in this secretarial order. The DOI Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) will oversee

the tracking and coordination of these accomplishments.

4) Indian Trust Assets Reform Act (ITARA), 2018 Farm Bill, and S-245 Indian Tribal Energy Act

By the time you read this, the first two ITARA Demonstration Project applications will have been approved. Tribes approved to participate in the project will develop and submit an Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP) for the management of tribal trust assets. ITARA documents are posted on line at <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-development-and-or-under-review/itara-demonstration-project>. For more information, contact Matt Anderson, Acting Chief Forester. Central Office Forestry staff are also working to develop projects utilizing the authorities granted under the 2018 Farm Bill and the Indian Tribal Energy Act.

5) Manuals and Handbooks

- Handbook 8, Forest Inventory and Monitoring, is in the revision process. Significant re-formatting and editing need to take place before the document is available for review and may not be completed for several months.
- Manual Chapter 3, Contract Sales of Forest Products, and Manual Chapter 4, Permit Sales of Forest Products, are in the process of revision by the Timber Sale Operations Group (TSOG). John Baskette is the lead for this. The documents should be ready for review soon. Upon completion of the Manual Chapters the group will begin revision of the corresponding Handbooks and hope to have these drafts completed by the end of the calendar year.
- Handbook 5, Forest Development, is in the early stages of revision.
- The Forestry Collections and

Distributions Handbook is currently in revision. This is not an official Handbook so the name will be changed slightly.

- Central Office Forestry is looking for volunteers to draft Handbook 6, Forest Pest Management.

6) TAAMS Training

As you may be aware, some of the TAAMS training classes were rescheduled. A revised schedule has been mailed out, and registration is via the DOI Talent website. Please contact John Baskette if you have questions or need anything regarding TAAMS.

Branch of Forest Resources Planning (BOFRP)

CFI Application

Contractors from the US Forest Service are working collaboratively with the BOFRP staff to update and incorporate the volume equations we use for CFI that are not in the USFS National Volume Estimator Library. We have the opportunity to work with the USFS FVS group to get these incorporated into FVS. The staff started testing the released processing steps and we are in the process of verifying the results, some issues have been detected and the programmer is addressing these issues to continue processing our projects. The main priority during the next few weeks will be to complete the FVS portion of the processing steps. BOFRP staff will test the new FVS portion when it becomes available. Our priority is to ensure the CFI database and the BOFRP Application are operational for CFI database development, processing, and analysis.

FIRST

Robin Lovato has been designated as the point of contact for all questions and support for FIRST. Rob-

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in has been working on a “how to” guide and training materials. We hope to share the “how to” guide and provide on-site training to the regions prior to the next reporting season. Barriers to efficient operation continue to be encountered. We will work with the contractor to address the issues identified this past reporting season. In the near future, we will be working with the Regions to verify and update data in FIRST.

Project Status

- CFIs competed (data books or analysis program provided to Agency, Tribe or Contractor for use in FIA report) or nearly completed (BOFRP processing data and running it through the analysis program): Fort Apache, Southern Ute, Zia, Warm Springs, Colville, Yakama, Quinault, Northern Cheyenne, and Nez Perce.
- CFI data collection in progress: Passamaquoddy, Uintah and Ouray, Sokaogon (Mole Lake), Skokomish, Umatilla, Makah, Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, Fort Hall, Hoopa Valley, Tule River, Yurok, Round Valley, Isleta, Jicarilla, Mescalero, Taos, Picuris, Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna.
- Upcoming CFIs: Crow, Ramah, Penobscot, Flathead, and Swinomish
- Stocking studies in progress: Santa Clara, Acoma, Jicarilla, Southern Ute, and Zuni.

BOFRP Objectives

Our goal is to better 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.

National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP)

The selection committee reviewed several applications and selected four foresters to attend the 2019-2020 NASP13 session that starts in July. Congratulations go to Keith Karnes, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Michael Hoyt, Blackfeet Tribe; Rachel McDonald, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; and Malcolm Vollmer, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs! The selection process is quite competitive and we wish we could have sent everyone; we encourage them to apply again next year.

Branch of Wildland Fire Management

BIA Eastern Region enters into the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission Compact

Fire Commissioners from each of the Compact’s Executive members approved BIA Eastern Region’s request to join the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission Compact (NFFPC) August 2.



NFFPC’s mandate is to provide the means for its member states and provinces to cope with fires that might be beyond the capabilities of a single member through information, technology and resource sharing (mutual aid) activities. Now an Associate member, BIA and Eastern Region Tribes will join the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, seven states and five Canadian provinces in supporting its mandate.

In addition to providing mutual aid for each other, NFFPC also works to establish and improve procedures

to leverage mutual aid. They also assist with developing integrated forest fire management plans and helping each other maintain appropriate forest management services.

Eastern Region Fire Management Officer, Lucas Minton expressed his sincere appreciation for the resolve it took to complete the compact. “I want to thank Tom Parent, NFFPC Executive Director for his support during this process. It has been a successful collaborative effort that has taken over two years to complete.”

The BIA Eastern Region encompasses a dynamic and diverse mix of Tribes and natural resources. There are over 87,000 Tribal Members that make up 35 federally recognized Tribes under the Eastern Region’s jurisdiction. The service area includes 496,899 acres held in trust, and 105,797 acres of restricted lands. The Eastern Region’s jurisdictional area generally covers eleven states, from Maine to Florida to Louisiana.

Rural Fire Relief and Rural Fire Assistance funding helps Passamaquoddy Tribe host basic fire school training

During the week of June 23, regional fire management staff from Eastern and Midwestern Regions completed a basic Wildland Firefighting Training school, (S-130,190, I-100, L-180) at the Passamaquoddy Tribal Government- Indian Township in Maine.

This was a collaborative effort with students and instructors from the Indian Township Fire & Rescue, Passamaquoddy Forestry Department, National Park Service Fire and Aviation Management in Acadia, and the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. The basic wildland fire training provides students with an introduction to fire behavior

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ior and a field-day portion containing instruction on how to safely construct fire handline.

As a result of this successful program, the Tribe is now able to increase their wildfire response capacity while providing employment opportunities that assists the national wildland fire management effort.

Rural Fire Readiness projects are designed and funded to improve the safety, capacity and capabilities of rural and volunteer cooperators who play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires. In Fiscal Year 2018, The Department of the Interior, Office of Wildland Fire provided BIA \$125,440.00 in funding to support seven projects. In addition to Passamaquoddy Tribe, Hill County Rural Fire Council, Bighorn County Fire Department, Fort Belknap Volunteers, Hardin City Fire Department, Western Nevada Agency and Freemont County Fire Protection Districts received funding for similar equipment, supplies and training.

Umatilla Agency Participates in Oregon National Guard Training

Adapted from Oregon Department of Forestry, Northeast Oregon District

On July 10, 2018 firefighters from the Oregon Department of Forestry-Northeast Oregon District and Bureau of Indian Affairs, Umatilla Agency, gathered near Meacham, Oregon for a unique training opportunity with the Oregon National Guard. 30 firefighters were on scene to participate in an interagency training session with Guard members using their Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopter, a large helicopter used for transporting water during wildfire suppression activities.

The Oregon Department of Forestry

(ODF) may request the Oregon National Guard when other firefighting assets in Oregon are depleted. Because of the uniqueness of their duty, aerial assets are often some of first resources ODF orders. While use of these resources isn't uncommon, many firefighters never have the chance to train with them.

Participants at the Northeast Oregon District training day were offered the chance to communicate directly with the helicopters to practice requesting bucket drops with the large water delivery systems. This training afforded pilots, flight crews and firefighters the opportunity to gain experience and understanding of each of the differing agencies capabilities under a controlled and simulated conditions.

During the 14 drops performed during training, the Oregon National Guard pilots worked with on-scene Aerial Tactical Group Supervisors (ATGS) to receive mission information. Firefighters in turn practiced making radio contact with the pilots, guiding them to where water drops were needed, just as they would on a wildfire incident. On hand to assist firefighters were trainers who provided tips on how to briefly communicate critical information to pilots so they could hit targeted "hotspots."

This training was an excellent representation of the value of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy and the tenant of improving wildfire response. The experience gained by participating in the exercise helped firefighters and guard members prepare for working together and supporting each other during wildfire incidents.

New improvements in the Department of the Interior Fire Treatment Effectiveness Model

may be improving the way treatment effectiveness is measured

Many Tribes conduct frequent fuel (live vegetation, leaf and needle litter, sticks, twigs, and logs) treatments in and around their communities as a means of protecting their homes, resources and other values from the damaging effects of wildfires. For scientist wishing to prove the effectiveness of these treatments, collecting documentation can be difficult. This is because treatments can only be evaluated after a randomly occurring wildfire burns the treated area. New developments in the Department of the Interior Fire Treatment Effectiveness Model (FTEM) may help overcome this challenge.

Researchers have used a variety of methods to examine the frequency of wildfire-treatment encounters. Depending on the study, estimated annual encounter rates range between <1% and as high as 16% (Thompson et al 2017, Rhodes and Baker 2008, Barnett et al 2016). A new spatial dataset released in June of 2018 from the FTEM reporting system shows that annual encounters rates in Indian Country may be as high as 22%.

Data collected from FTEM system, in use since 2012 and now map-based, show that Reservations in Colorado (6%), North Dakota (11%), Idaho (14%), Washington (19%), and Arizona (22%) all demonstrate Indian Country fuels reduction treatments are frequently burned into by wildfires at a much higher annual wildfire-treatment rate than has previously been reported.

These higher rates help BIA validate treatments are being strategically placed, and that treatments, when performed near communities, do in fact assist firefighters

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with protecting community values.

A case in point occurred on the Cheyenne River Agency in September this year when the Habitat Prescribed Fire helped firefighters contain the Short Stop Wildfire.

The Short Stop Fire started from an escape spark from a firework on September 12, 2018. It was a warm, breezy day; ripe conditions for a wildfire.

While four fire engines and a water tender from the Cheyenne River Agency and local volunteer fire department quickly responded, it was a burn scar from the recently performed Habitat Prescribed Fire that managed to give firefighters a chance to catch it before the fire could threaten structures or cause significant damage to Habitat, a nearby community of about 40 homes.

The 65 acre Habitat Prescribed Fire was conducted in the spring of 2018. The treatment was designed to prevent wildfires started in the community from escaping while also preventing wildfires from threatening the community. By reducing grass and brush around Habitat, the treatment proved to be an effective tool in preventing the Short Stop Fire from causing damage to the community.

Red Lake Helitack Crew beats cold temps to complete 10,000 acre prescribed fire on the Red Lake Reservation

Red Lake Reservation, located in the northern reaches of Minnesota, is home to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. In May 2018, the Red Lake Helitack module assisted the Tribe with completing a 41,000 acre hazardous fuel reduction project designed to thin the forest understory and restore the forest ecosystem.

Because the project area was remote with limited access, the Red Lake Helitack crew was largely used to aerially ignite and monitor the prescribed fire. Helitack personnel flew a total of eight hours using a Red Dragon Plastic Sphere Dispenser (PSD) machine that was installed in the helicopter. They also assisted with monitoring the prescribed fire as firefighters operating an ATV ignited from roadways and trails.

The timing of this large project was important to ensure the prescribed fire effectively removed the grass understory, but did not burn the timbered over story. To accomplish this, firefighters chose to conduct the prescribed fire during the spring, shortly after the snow melted from the grassy fields, but before it could melt from the shaded timber. This meant working in 30 degree temperatures, adding an additional layer of complexity as they were competing with icy conditions.

The project involved 20 firefighters and took 24 hours to complete. Despite the cold and added logistical challenges, firefighters successfully completed the prescribed fire which will help maintain a healthy forest ecosystem.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Sponsors Wildfire Prevention Training



Learning how to write key messages and using those messages in the right context and platform can be tricky. That is why the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma sponsored

“Getting Your Message Out, Wildland Fire Prevention Key Message Training for Indian Country.”

During the three day training, 26 students from across Indian Country participated in training that taught students how to develop key messages for targeted audiences and how to use those messages in new releases, public service announcements and social media platforms. Michelle Finch-Walker, a Public Information Officer with Oklahoma Department of Forestry, also provided tips for students interested in working with the media.

Branch of Wildland Fire Management staff gains news skills to help regions and agencies respond to critical incidents

On July 10, all Branch of Wildland Fire Management staff attended a Stress Management and Resilience Training (SMART) in Boise, ID. The training was designed to give staff a deeper understanding into how to support regions and agencies with dealing with serious incidents while giving staff skills to manage stressful work environments.



Nelda St. Clair, Program Manager (left), Jim Duzak, Retired Smokejumper, PA/NP Medicine and Psychiatry (center) and Asad Rahman, BLM Carson City, NV Battalion Chief (right) discuss ways for individuals to become more resilient during July 10 SMART training, July 10. Not shown Dennis Terry, Retired, GACC Assistant Center Manager, Smokejumper, Hotshot
Photo: BIA

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BIA Central Office Forestry

by Matt Anderson

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The National Wildland Fire and Aviation Critical Incident Stress Management program, located in Boise, ID., presented the four-hour training. Topics included ways to recognize and mitigate stress as well as raising awareness of suicide in the wildland fire community and what to do if an intervention is necessary. Presenters also covered how to request a peer support group, and what their specific response times and roles are when requested.

BIA Student Internship Program for Wildland Firefighters



Wendy Wells (left) and Russell Felicia shake hands during luncheon welcoming Russel to Rosebud Agency. Photo: BIA

Russell Felicia, a graduate of South Dakota State University, recently completed the BIA Office of Trust Services Pathways Internship Program for Wildland Firefighters. Upon successfully completing the program, Russel began working with the BIA Rosebud Agency as a Rangeland Management Specialist. Wendy Wells, Russell's new supervisor says of him, "From day one, he has shown strong work ethics, and a willingness to learn. I couldn't be happier to have him here with us!"

In FY18, the Branch provided \$406,000 in Preparedness funding to hire 25 student interns for BIA's forestry and fire management programs. Bureau and Tribal programs hosted 15 interns studying wildland fire management and 10

interns studying forestry. Since the program's inception in 2016, there have been four fire interns converted to permanent positions, two each with BIA and tribal programs.

Branch of Wildland Fire Management New Employees



Josh Simmons, 2018 Pacific Region FMO. Photo by: BIA

Josh Simmons is an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, and grew up with his family on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. As the National Fire Operations Director, Josh will help lead the wildland fire management program on behalf of Indian Country, helping guide workforce development initiatives, the Interagency Hotshot Crew Program and the Model 52 Engine Program. He will also represent Indian Country as the representative of the National Multi-agency Coordinating Group.



Cheryl Bright Hiking with Tru above the Snake River, south of Boise, ID. Photo by Cheryl Bright

Cheryl Bright accepted the Fire Management Specialist, Wildland Fire Planner position in Boise, Idaho in June 2018. Over the past 5

years, she has worked on the Willamette National Forest in western Oregon, Vale District BLM in eastern Oregon, and most recently, the Boise District BLM in Boise, Idaho. In all of these positions, she has served in fire operations and fuels management. Her fire qualifications include Crew Boss, Engine Captain, Division Supervisor and Type 2 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss. Additionally, Cheryl has worked on Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3 Incident Management Teams, holding positions in both Operations and Planning. She is currently serving on a Type 1 Pacific Northwest Incident Management Type as a Situation Unit Leader and Fire Behavior Analyst trainee.



Jessica Wilson

(pictured to the left) joined the BIA in December this year as the new Fuels and Budget Program Support Assistant.

Jessica has a broad range of experience in government agency offices, most recently the Administrative Coordinator for the Teton County Planning and Building Department in Jackson, Wyoming. Her prior history includes being a Department Specialist for the City of Meridian, Idaho and a Data Analyst for the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS). Jessica was born and raised in Boise, Idaho and is an enrolled member of the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.



Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

INCREASING NATIVE AMERICANS IN FOREST BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The Intertribal Timber Council and the University of Georgia Langdale Center for Forest Business, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources will be working together to empower Native American Forest Management through Forest Business Leadership.



Dr. Jacek Siry from the University of Georgia has developed six master of forest resource fellowships funded through the US Department of Agriculture, National Needs Graduate Fellowship Program. Dr. Siry along with Pete Bettinger and Richard Mei are the Program Directors.

The fellows will receive a stipend of \$18,500 per year for two years

Inter-tribal natural resource information and management **website**.

General information & resources, information hub for tribes and Native non-profit organizations, project successes, grant information, inter-tribal calendar, student resources, and outreach toolkit downloads.



and a full tuition waiver. Fellows will engage in leadership training, participate in summer internships with major land and tribal forest management organizations, enhance their knowledge of tribal issues, and participate in national and international conferences. The program will provide extensive support services for Native American students.

The University of Georgia is seeking highly motivated applicants at the master's level. Prior degrees and job experience in the natural resources field are desirable. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited program. All majors are encouraged to apply. Past majors accepted outside of natural resources field have included business and political science degrees. The forestry profession encompasses economic, ecological, social and cultural dimensions of forest resources.

The program information is on the ITC website: itcnet.org/scholarships. ITC has sent out the announcement to the forestry schools and business schools throughout the nation with large American Indian and Alaskan Native populations (OK, AK, NM, AZ, CA, NY, WA,

OR, MN, MI, ID, MT) which total over 7,000 students nationwide.

The desired start dates are Fall 2019 (August) or Spring 2020 (January), or until filled. For more information contact Dr. Jacek Siry- email jsiry@uga.edu or phone 706-542-3060. School information can be viewed at : <https://www.warnell.uga.edu/graduate>

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) is working with Intertribal Agriculture, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, Society of Range Management, NRCS and the U.S. Forest Service to develop a website for Inter-tribal natural resource information and management. The website will provide general information and resources and become a hub for tribes, Native non-profit organizations, project successes, grant information, inter-tribal calendar, student resources, and outreach toolkit downloads.

The partnerships is part of a range technician training project where some of the material can be used for a forestry technician training program. The ITC is part of an advisory group providing oversight with the project.



Our Partners





Matt Hill

NEW CONGRESS ORGANIZES

The 2019 year marks the beginning of the 116th Congress (2019-2020). With a new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives comes new leaders and policy directions for committees of interest to Indian Country. In the House, Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) is the new Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction for both forest management and Indian Affairs. As an indication of that new direction, the Committee held seven oversight hearings on climate change in its first month.

Also notable is that the Committee's Indian Affairs subcommittee's name has been changed to the "Indigenous Peoples of the United States" Subcommittee. Also, Native congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM) was appointed to serve as vice-chair of the full committee (alongside Grijalva) and will also chair the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee. The leading Republican on the committee and subcommittees will no longer be called "Ranking Member" – but rather "Republican Leader."

Otherwise, here's how the committee leadership looks:

Full Committee

- Chairman: Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
- Vice-Chairman: Deb Haaland (D-NM)
- Republican Leader: Rob Bishop (R-UT)
- Deputy Republican Leader: Daniel Webster (R-FL)

Subcommittee for the Indigenous Peoples of the United States

- Chairman: Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
- Republican Leader: Paul Cook (R-CA)

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

- Chair: Deb Haaland (D-AZ)
- Republican Leader: Don Young (R-AK)

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

- Chairman: Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)
- Republican Leader: Paul Gosar (R-AZ)

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

- Chairman: TJ Cox (D-CA)
- Republican Leader: Louie Gohmert (R-TX)

Subcommittee on Oceans & Wildlife

- Chairman: Jared Huffman (D-CA)
- Republican Leader: Tom McClintock (R-CA)

In the Senate, where Republicans maintain the majority, Committee leadership looks largely similar to last Congress. The Indian Affairs Committee will continue to be chaired by Sen. Hoeven (R-ND), with Democratic Sen. Udall (D-NM) serving as Vice-Chair. New members on the committee include Sen. Martha McSally (R-AZ) and Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN).

The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee remains chaired by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), but the Ranking Member has changed. Former Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) gave up the ENR gavel for one at the Senate Commerce Committee. In her place, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) has assumed that role for the committee.

CONGRESS PASSES FY19 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

On February 17, Congress ended a record 35-day partial government shutdown by successfully passing a bill to fund the government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2019.

The legislation, which was released just before midnight on Wednesday, includes funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including \$1.375 billion to build 55 miles of barrier in the Rio Grande Valley – far short of President Trump's call for \$5 billion for a wall on the southern border. For Indian Country, the numbers look mostly positive, with most BIA functions seeing increases from last year. BIA Forestry received a \$714,000 increase – bringing its total appropriation to \$55.5 million.

Below are some of the appropriation levels for federal Indian programs and functions:

- Human Services: \$161.4 million (+ \$353K)
- Natural Resources: \$206.7 million (+ \$2.66 million)
 - Forestry: \$55.5 million (**\$714K increase from FY19**) — this is by far the largest increase within the Natural Resources function.
- Education: \$904.5 million (- \$9.85 million)

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- Public Safety & Justice: \$411.5 million (+ \$6 million)
- BIA Contract Support Costs: \$247 million (+ \$5 million)

Indian Health Service will see a **\$266 million increase** from FY18:

- Services: \$4.1 billion (+ \$151 million)
- Facilities: \$878.8 million (+ \$11 million)
- Contract Support Costs: fully funded (+ \$104 million)

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER ON FOREST HEALTH, WILDFIRE

Just before Christmas, President Donald Trump moved forward with policies aimed at preventing catastrophic wildfires. Trump issued an Executive Order to allow for active management of forest and rangelands, including thinning and removing debris from millions of acres of federal lands.

The order also calls on federal officials to streamline regulations and permitting processes to allow the harvest of at least 3.8 billion board feet from U.S. Forest Service lands and 600 million board feet from Department of the Interior-managed lands.

Specifically, for DOI, the Executive Order directs the Secretary of the Interior to:

- Review 2019 budget justifications and to address...
 - o Treatment of 750,000 acres of DOI-administered lands to reduce fuel loads,
 - o Treating 500,000 acres of DOI-administered lands to protect water quality and mitigate severe flooding and erosion risks arising from

forest fires,

- o Treating 750,000 acres of DOI-administered lands for native and invasive species,
- o Reducing vegetation giving rise to wildfire conditions through forest health treatments by increasing health treatments as part of DOI's offering for sale 600 million board feet of timber from DOI-administered lands, and
- o Performing maintenance on public roads needed to provide access for emergency services and restoration work.

The Secretary of Agriculture is similarly directed to consider several objectives, including:

- Treating 3.5 million acres of Forest Service lands to reduce fuel load,
- Treating 2.2 million acres of Forest Service lands to protect water quality and mitigate severe flooding and erosion risk arising from forest fires,
- Treating 750,000 acres of Forest Service lands for native and invasive species,
- Reducing vegetation giving rise to wildfire conditions through forest health treatments as part of USDA's offering for sale at least 3.8 billion board feet of timber from Forest Service lands, and performing maintenance on roads needed to provide access on Forest Service lands for emergency services and restoration work.

By March 31, 2019, the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture are also directed to identify salvage and log recovery options from lands damaged by fire during the 2017 and 2018 fire seasons, insects, or disease. In addition, they are asked to streamline agency

administrative and regulatory processes and policies relating to fuel reduction in forests, rangelands, and other federal lands.

The secretaries are directed to collaborate with federal, state, tribal and local partners to develop a strategy to support local federal land managers in project decision-making and inform local fire management decisions related to forests, rangelands and other federal lands, thereby protecting habitats and communities and reducing risks to physical infrastructure.

On January 2, then-Secretary Zinke issued a "Secretarial Order" to implement Trump's Executive Order. The Secretarial Order directs that:

- All management plans under review and all future management plans must incorporate the principles of active forest management;
- Within 60 days, a plan will be developed to revise/amend land management plans in areas at the highest risk of catastrophic wildfire;
- By March 31, identify all salvage options from the 2017/18 fires
- Within 30 days, identify and catalog all CE's that address wildfire management and develop new CE's;
- Streamline ESA timelines for wildfire management activities;
- Within 90 days, identify opportunities for use of Good Neighbor Authority (with states, tribes, counties);
- Assess condition of roads needed for wildfire/fuels management and develop a maintenance strategy;
- Within 120 days, establish a FACA-chartered board of advisors that includes a Tribal representative;

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Legislative Update

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- Within 45 days, report to the Deputy Secretary on the challenges of existing statute and litigation on managing wildfire risks.

BERNHARDT NOMINATED FOR DOI SECRETARY

President Trump has nominated Acting Secretary (and former Deputy Secretary) David Bernhardt to serve as Secretary of the Interior. Bernhardt is a former lobbyist

whose clients included oil, gas and water companies that had business with the Department, a fact that is certain to be a concern for Democrats. He also acted as Solicitor for DOI during the George W. Bush Administration.

Bernhardt's nomination highlights a significant problem at the Department. Of the 17 leadership positions at Interior that require Senate confirmation, 10 remain filled with personnel serving in an acting ca-

capacity. And while the 1998 Federal Vacancies Reform Act limits the length of time an official may remain "acting," some of those interim appointments have been in place almost since Secretary Ryan Zinke took the helm in March 2017.

Mr. Bernhardt's nomination will be reviewed by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee. The Committee has not scheduled a hearing for his nomination, however.



Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

I hope that 2019 is off to a wonderful start for everyone. This report will have limited information due to the government shutdown, but will include updates from the February board meeting.

FARM BILL

I mentioned exciting new opportunities authorized in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) in my last letter. Sadly, due to the government shutdown we have not met with staff at USDA and Forest Service. Those meetings are scheduled for March 6th and 7th, so I plan to have good news in my next update.

INDIAN ENERGY BILL

The Indian Energy Bill was pro-

posed in 2017, and was signed into law Dec. 21st, 2018. Effective dates on the demonstration projects were originally 2017-2021, and were not changed prior to the bill being passed. Subsequently implementation for pilot projects associated with this bill will happen on a shortened timeline. The law requires the Secretaries to consult with Tribes and issue eligibility criteria for projects within 120 days of the law's enactment. We are nearing the end of that 120 day deadline. Please contact the ITC if you have questions or interest in participating as one of the five demonstration projects for FY 19.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REORGANIZATION

The ITC learned at the December board meeting that Central Office BIA Forestry staff are scheduled to move to Albuquerque in early 2019, and that message stayed consistent at the February board meeting. Although we have a new acting Secretary of Interior, the Department is committed to the President's Reorganization Executive Order 13781. ITC will continue to share information as it comes available.

MARKET INFORMATION PAGE

You will find a new link on the ITC webpage. The "Market Information" link can be found under Publications and Resources. The page includes market forecasts, housing reports, publications, product news, and press releases. This can be valuable information when making management and economic decisions about harvest, infrastructure, and development. Please share your thoughts on the information provided, and any suggestions you have to improve the page.

IFMAT IV PLANNING

It's time to start work on IFMAT IV. An After Action Review (AAR) is ongoing to determine if any changes are recommended from previous IFMAT's. Those recommendations along with content for IFMAT IV will be presented at the General Membership meeting in June. The ITC will also work with BIA staff to complete the Funding and Position Analysis in 2019. I will provide updates as we make progress toward completion of IFMAT IV over the next 4 years.

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Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel

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SECRETARIAL ORDER (SO) 3372

On December 21st, 2018, the President issued an Executive Order (EO) titled “Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Land to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk.” The Department of Interior respond-

ed by issuing Secretarial Order 3372 to meet the goals of the EO. Directives in the SO included fire management best practices, coordination and collaboration with land-managing partners and stakeholders, Use of active land, vegetation and wildfire management techniques, and maximizing wildfire management benefits of physical features. A number of timelines associated with this SO

have passed. ITC representatives will discuss implementation of this order with DOI staff during our March visit. Additional updates will be forthcoming.

I hope to see many of you at the 2019 ITC Symposium in sunny Hollywood, Florida.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

New tools are becoming increasingly available to tribes to develop partnerships and perform much needed work cross boundary. The Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA), Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, (PL 93-638), Reserved Treaty Rights fuels funding, and the Good Neighbor Authority are relatively new authorities that are now available to tribes.

The TFPA has been available since 2004. Recently, the ITC has been engaged in trying to make the TFPA a better tool. Approval of the Farm Bill provides two amendments to the TFPA, one provides a more efficient response timeline and the other allows the TFPA proposal to be

administered using the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (PL-93-638) authority.

The TFPA of 2004 (PL 108-278) was passed in the aftermath of catastrophic wildfires in order to provide a means for tribes to propose projects that would protect their rights, lands, and resources, by reducing threats from wildfire, insects, and disease from nearby lands. The TFPA offers a means of helping the US fulfill its federal responsibilities to protect the trust corpus, while promoting restoration of healthy forest ecosystems on the landscape.

In 2012 the ITC, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) examined why so few projects were proposed and completed under the TFPA since it was passed in 2004. Between 2004 and 2013, only six TFPA projects were completed nationwide. The US Forest Service, BIA, and tribal employees participated in a comprehensive on-line survey, oral interviews, and assessment which are discussed in the 2013 ITC report, “Fulfilling the Promise of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004”.



Photographs provided courtesy of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Forestry Dept., Div. of Fire Mgmt.

The Forest Service and ITC recognizes that TFPA is a critical but underutilized tool to get forest management work accomplished.

A publication was recently completed titled “The Tribal Forest Protection Act Workshops 2014 - 2018 Sustaining Forests And Communities Partnership Between the Intertribal Timber Council and the United States

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Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

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Forest Service.” provides an overview of TFPA and TFPA-like projects, insights and recommendations, and a monitoring and tracking tool. This report and everything TFPA are located on the ITC website at www.itcnet.org.

TFPA PL-93-638 AUTHORIZATION IN THE NEW FARM BILL

In the early 1970s, Congress passed the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act that allowed Indian tribes and tribal organizations to acquire increased control over the management of federal programs that impact their members, resources and governments. These agreements are referred to as “638 compacts and contracts.”

Contracts and compacts are very similar. **Self-Determination contracts** are authorized under the 1975 Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act. **Self-Governance compacts** are made possible by 1994 amendments to the 1975 Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Implementation of PL 93-638 created a process known as self-determination contracting, under which “the employees and administrative control of an otherwise federal program are transferred to the tribal government via a “638 contract”. Under these contracts and currently with the BIA, tribes agree to set up a particular program (in areas such as resource management, law enforcement, education, childcare, and environmental protection) while meeting federal requirements and guidelines in order to receive funding and support.



RESERVED TREATY RIGHTS LANDS FUEL FUNDING INITIATIVE (RTRL)

Beginning in 2015, \$10 million annually in Fuels Management Funding has been appropriated for the purpose of treating and restoring tribal landscapes within the reserved treaty right lands. RTRL projects are on lands that are non-trust in which the tribes bring fuels funding, and in some cases, the workforce to complete the work.

In 2017, the BIA reported that many jobs were created or supported; 178 partnership opportunities were facilitated, advancing goals of the National Cohesive Strategy, and over 44 Tribal and 54 partnership priorities were met. The RTRL funding does not come without debate. Many tribes contend that funding from the DOI/BIA should be allocated to tribes to accomplish tribal hazard fuels reduction priorities on tribal trust lands

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY (GNA) FOR TRIBES

The Good Neighbor Authority passed in 2014 allowed the Forest

Service, Forest Systems, to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States and Puerto Rico to allow States Department of Natural Resources and Conservation programs to perform restoration and forest management work on Forest Systems lands. The Farm Bill of 2018 now allows the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with tribes, much like they are with states to perform the work. There are a few states in the west that have been active using the GNA to contract work on forest service lands.

The ITC plans to work with the Forest Service to develop implementation strategies for the new Farm Bill provisions.

In the long-term, tribes should be included in land management planning process without the necessity of TFPA or GNA authorities to prioritize fuels reduction and other resource management work accomplished to reduce the risk from insects, disease, or destructive wildland fire coming from adjacent federal lands onto tribal lands.



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

The ITC Awards Committee met at the winter ITC Board meeting, with the primary agenda item being the review of award nominations and selection of 2019 award recipients. A number of award nominations

had been received by the January 25 deadline, and committee members had a chance to review the nomination packages for about a week prior to the meeting. Many thanks are due to the individuals who stepped up to help review award nominations this year. It was a great group, and there were good discussions about the nominees. Many thanks are also due to the folks out in Indian country who took the time to submit nominations. Award recipients will be announced and recognized at the awards banquet on the final night of the 43rd National Timber Symposium being hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida in Hollywood, Florida June 10 to June 13, 2019.

Legitimate questions and issues were raised by committee members at our last meeting. The specified criteria for the Earl Wilcox and other awards, with the desire to be sure that the criteria are consistent with the original intention of the awards and with the broad array of interests and disciplines that work with natural resource management in Indian Country. Committee members are being asked to critically review those criteria for discussion at the next ITC Board meeting; it should make for an interesting meeting



Research Subcommittee

by Adrian Leighton



Adrian Leighton

Greetings from the Research Subcommittee. Spring is in the air, meaning the return of baseball, flowers, mud season, and.... Surveys! Despite a delay brought about by the Government shut down, Mike Dockery has created a draft of the new ITC Research Needs Assessment, which was then sent out to a small group to beta-test. Thirteen respondents took both the draft assessment, and supplied comments on a variety of topics including format, clarity of language and inclusiveness of questions. Mike, Serra Hoagland and I are in the process of taking this feed-

back and creating a final draft of the assessment. The research subcommittee will meet during the April 2-4 ITC Board meeting to finalize the assessment and prepare a distribution strategy. By the time you read this, you may well have already received the link to the online questionnaire. Please contact Serra or myself if you have not had an opportunity to take the assessment. We are excited to see what we learn from this new assessment and we encourage you all to contribute your views, opinions and expertise.

Another survey that should be making its way out to you soon is the workforce needs survey that is a partnership between EcoTrust, ITC, USET, ATNI and Heritage University. This survey, entitled Growing the Tribal Forestry Workforce in the PNW and Beyond, is designed to understand current capacity, identify gaps and assess challenges in communications related to tribal natural resource workforce, training and green infrastructure programs.

The survey can be accessed at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tribalforestry>

Research once again gave its meeting time during the February Board Meeting to the Workforce working group. The working group used this time to finalize a mini-proposal for funding that would support an ITC Workforce Coordinator and allow for the launch of several key next steps that were identified in the ITC 2018-2022 Workforce Development Strategic Plan. The plan is now posted on the ITC website, and we encourage you to check it out if you have not had a chance to see it yet. The mini-proposal was created to support conversations that ITC leadership will be having this spring with key federal partners in DOI and USDA.

Enjoy the spring weather, fill out lots of surveys, and when in doubt... think research!





INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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First Class
