



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Fall ~ 2020



Will Putman

2020 EARLE R. WILCOX AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

The normal range of activities that accompany the Earl R. Wilcox Awards were disrupted in recent months: The 41st Annual Indian Timber Symposium, to have been hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, was postponed because of disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. That meant that the annual Awards Banquet held the last night of the Symposium was not held, and our primary means of recognizing and celebrating our 2020 Wilcox Award recipients did not happen. That does not lessen the importance or need for recognizing this year's Earl R. Wilcox Award recipients, and here they are:

NORTHWEST REGION

Darrell Clairmont, Fuels Program Manager, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), Ronan, MT. Under Mr. Clairmont's direc-



Darrell Clairmont

tion, the CSKT Fuels Program in 2019 accomplished 15,607 acres of fuels treatments, including 8,588 acres of work completed through the Reserved Treaty Rights Land (RTRL) authority in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and the Nature Conservancy. The interagency collaboration required to complete the work and the sheer volume of the work itself are remarkable achievements that the CSKT Fuels Program and its Director can be proud of.

MIDWEST REGION

Keith Karnes works as the Forestry Director for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Mr. Karnes is being recognized for outstanding work over the course of 13 years with the Tribe promoting long-term sustainable forest management, protection of culturally important species, and advocacy of tribal sovereignty and tribal forest resource interests when working with adjacent



Keith Karnes

agencies and representing Indian interests on the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Luther Martinez is the Forestry and Wildland fire Department Director for the Picuris Pueblo. Mr. Martinez is being recognized for many years of exemplary work for his Tribe, including collaborating with agencies on cross-boundary projects, biomass utilization projects,

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President's Message

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

INTRODUCING ITC'S NEW PRESIDENT - CODY DESAUTEL

Greetings and best wishes to all our tribal communities! 2020 continues to be a challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely and disproportionately impacted so many tribal communities, and ITC is doing our best to continue our work given our new circumstances.

First, I want to thank Vernon Stearns of the Spokane Tribe for his outstanding service as outgoing President of ITC. His work in that leadership role and years on the board have been integral to our positioning amongst so many national forestry organizations and initiatives. He was appointed to the Forest Service's Cooperative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Board of Advisors – bringing a tribal fire/fuels/forestry perspective to that entity.

Nationally, COVID-19 continues to have devastating economic impacts on every tribe. Things are further complicated by an upcoming presidential election, pending COVID-19 response legislation, and replacement of another Su-

preme Court Justice. Yet, we are blessed to have natural resources like forests that can continue to provide revenue, jobs, and places to practice our culture when our tribes need them the most. Tribal forest management has never been more important.

It is even more disheartening to see the tremendous loss of forest resources in this year's wildfires, particularly in California and Oregon. As the public and government tries to find strategies to reduce the severity of future wildfires, ITC can play a central role advocating for active forest management and appropriate use of prescribed fire.

It is unfortunate that this year's ITC Symposium had to be cancelled. That is such an important way to share tribal success stories from around the country. We are planning to host a "virtual" symposium next year.

Our ITC Board of Directors has continued to meet virtually each quarter to ensure that our work continues during this harrowing time.

As an example, we are on track for the preparation of the fourth iteration of the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT) report. This congressionally mandated report occurs every ten years, with the next one due in 2023. We are having regular videoconferences with our IFMAT co-chairs to finalize the planned activities and site visits in the coming year. Tribes selected for site visits should be receiving a letter expressing interest in the near future. There are still unanswered questions about how these visits will be conducted in light of the current COVID-19 situation, but rest assured the safety and health of our member tribes is our top priority.

ITC continues to help 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.

The first TFPA 638 contract was signed between the Tulalip Tribe and U.S. Forest Service on September 16, 2020. A public signing ceremony was held that included Tulalip Chairwomen Teri Gobin, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Supervisor Jody Weil, and USDA Under Secretary Jim Hubbard. Both the Tulalip Tribe and Under Secretary Hubbard expressed their appreciation for ITC's work in advancing these new authorities.

Disastrous fire years like this tend to re-focus lawmakers on forest management policy, and Matt Hill's legislative report will reflect on the status of those discussions in Washington, D.C.

I am honored to be ITC's President and will do my best to maintain the positive attitude, work ethic and direction of my predecessors – Vernon Stearns and Phil Rigdon.

To our member tribes and organizations, thank you for your continued support of the ITC and its mission.



Awards Committee

by Will Putman

(Continued from cover)

developing timber utilization from Tribal lands, and searching out innovative funding sources for forestry and fire projects.

As we go into the fall, ITC will be asking for nominations for the

2021 Earl R. Wilcox awards. Announcements will be made to the ITC community on November 1, 2020, and there is a deadline of January 29, 2021 for nominations to be submitted. Details can be found on the ITC website. This is our chance to recognize those co-

workers that provide those shining examples for the rest of us working in Indian forestry and natural resources, and we encourage you to consider worthy individuals for nomination.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



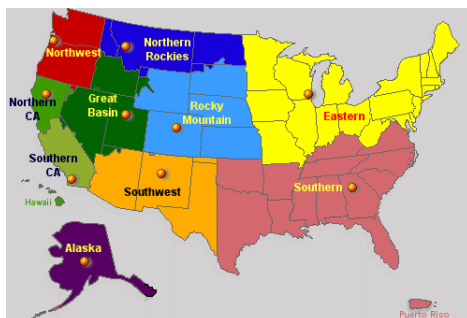
Jim Durglo

GEOGRAPHIC AREA COORDINATION CENTERS (GACC'S)

There is a tremendous amount of predictive service information available to the public and natural resource managers online. This is good information for those interested in tracking wildland fire response during the fire season. My favorite sites are the daily national situation report and the daily weather briefing that is provided on the Northern Rockies site (<https://gacc.nifc.gov/>).

The National Geographic Coordination Center (www.gacc.nifc.gov) website provides a great overview and background. The United States is divided into 11 Geographic Areas for the purpose of incident management and mobilization of resources (people, aircraft, and ground equipment).

All agencies and geographic areas work together under the auspices and direction of the National Inter-agency Fire Center (NIFC)



Map of the Geographic Area Coordination Centers provided at www.gacc.nifc.gov

Although the primary mission of the GACC's are logistical coordination, the Center also has support programs in Predictive Services, Intelligence, and in several Center's Fire Information. Predictive Services consists primarily of professional meteorologists who monitor weather and fuel conditions, conduct briefings, produce fire weather related products, liaison with the National Weather Service, and oversee all aspects of the Remote Automated Weather System (RAWS). The Intelligence Section is primarily responsible for collecting and disseminating wildland fire and prescribed fire activity information, monitoring the status of national firefighting resources, maintaining year-to-date and historical fire occurrence data, and managing the Situation Report and ICS-209 programs. In some GACCs, the Predictive Services and Intelligence sections work as one unit called the Predictive Services Group. The Predictive Services and Intelligence Sections, whether separated or com-



Photo courtesy of CSKT Division of Fire. Magpie Rock Fire, Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana 2020.

bined, work collaboratively producing Weekly, Monthly, and Seasonal Fire Weather/Fire Danger Outlooks.

I visit the intelligence section for a daily update on fire activity. The situation report includes fires and acres burned year-to-date by protection agency. Another key piece of information is the listing of active wildfires by geographic area, acres burned, and the number of resources assigned to each wildfire.

For instance, the National Situation Report for September 24, 2020 reported that over 7.1 million acres have burned year-to-date and that approximately 30,000 personnel are currently assigned to 87 active incidents.

Please take some time and search the website (<https://gacc.nifc.gov/>) for additional information in your respective GACC.



BIA Central Office Forestry

by Dawn Patterson



Dawn Parrweaon

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Central Office Staff: Pete Wakeland is on a detail to the Puget Sound Agency as the Acting Superintendent. Dawn Patterson has detailed in as the Acting Chief Forester, and Stacie Holmes has detailed in as the Acting Branch Chief BoFRP.

Regional Forester's Meetings: Central Office is currently planning a virtual Regional Foresters Meeting in December 2020. We will provide more information during the monthly forestry and fire conference call.

Indian Trust Assets Reform Act (ITARA), 2018 Farm Bill, and 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. ITARA information 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 use 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 generating energy sources by providing reliable sources of biomass fuel for tribal energy generating facilities.

Timber Sales Training: The course is designed to teach BIA and tribal timber sales staff the necessary procedures associated with timber sales and other forest products on Indian lands. It was offered at the BIA Great Lakes Agency in March 2020 to approximately 50 Students. A second course was planned for Albuquerque, which was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our current plan is to attempt to re-schedule the Albuquerque course for March 2021. Should COVID-19 restrictions continue to affect operations a Webinar course would be considered. For more information, contact John Baskette.

Funding and Positions Analysis: The Forestry Funding and Position Analysis (FPA) data collection is currently underway. We challenge all the tribes, agencies, regions, and central office to complete the FPA by the due date. Why is the Funding and Positions Analysis Important? The IFMAT reports have been used to support almost every major forestry-funding request to Congress. We need an accurate picture of Indian Forestry and Forest Management to promote better poli-

cy-making that supports the tribal vision. Although tribes are exercising increased self-determination, all BIA forestry funds come from the same BIA source. Significantly, recurring funding benefits Indian Country. Completion and electronic submission of FY2019 data are due October 31, 2020. For more information, contact Stacie Holmes.

Timber Strike Team: The selections have been made for all the timber team members. We are currently working through the HR process and will onboard when the team members start this fall. The project request form was sent to the Regional Forester to request the team's assistance with timber sale, forest development, and forest inventory projects. All project requests will flow through the Regional Forester to the Chief Forester, and the work scheduled will be announced in January 2021. For more information, contact Caleb Cain.

Staff Updates: Congratulations to the new Central office team members, Caleb Cain, Orvie Danzuka, and Stacie Holmes. Their forestry experience will be a great asset to the Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management!



Caleb Cain

Caleb Cain, Projects Forester, is a member of the Cherokee Nation and has worked for the BIA in the

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BIA Central Office Forestry

by Dawn Patterson

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Rocky Mountain Region for the last 18 years in various positions. Caleb was the Regional Forester for the previous ten years and worked at Crow and Wind River Agency for seven years. He started his career as a Pathways intern while attending Oklahoma State University. He is excited to start a new chapter in his career as the Forestry Projects Forester and work with the newly established Timber Strike Team.

Caleb is stationed at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office located in Billings, Montana, and can be contacted by email caleb.cain@bia.gov.



Orvie Danzuka

Orvie Danzuka is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and has been recently selected as the Timber Sales Forester, serving in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Central Office Headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Orvie is happily married to Shelia, and they have three sons, seven granddaughters, and three grandsons. He enjoys attending his grandkids sporting events, fishing, hunting, and hiking in his spare time.

Mr. Danzuka earned a Natural Resources degree with a watershed ecosystem emphasis at Oregon State University.

Orvie has dedicated the majority of his career to tribal forestry and wildland fire. He began his professional career at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as an entry-level forester and advanced to Senior Forester. He then moved back to Warm Springs to serve as an Area Forester, Assistant Forest Manager, and then Forest Manager. His most recent job was as the Director of Forestry for the Pit River Tribe. He began his wildland fire career in 1996.

Orvie was invited to attend Intertribal Timber Council in 2011 and was happy to serve as the Chair for the Education Committee and as a member of the Symposium Committee, Awards Committee, Research Subcommittee, and Wildland Fire subcommittee from 2011-2018. He also served as Secretary on the Board of Directors from 2013-2018.



Stacie Holmes

Stacie Holmes, Program Analysis Forester, has been a Forester with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Branch of Forest Resources Planning (BOFRP) in Lakewood, Colorado, for the past ten years. Before joining the BIA, Stacie earned a Ph. D. in Forest Science (2009) from Michigan Technological University School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science.

In 2003, Stacie started her career with the federal government work-

ing on the USDA APHIS Emerald Ash Borer Project. Previously, she completed an M.S. degree in Natural Resource Ecology and Management at the University of Michigan and a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences at Michigan Tech University.

Stacie is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and currently serves as the Chair of the Colorado-Wyoming Society of American Foresters. Stacie lives in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains northwest of Golden, Colorado, with her husband, Doug. They enjoy many outdoor activities together, including hiking, backpacking, hunting, kayaking, and skiing.

Stacie is stationed at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Lakewood, Colorado Office. She can be contacted by email stacie.holmes@bia.gov.

BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

Inventory Handbook Team: The Inventory Handbook Team is currently developing the 53 Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) Chapter 8 Handbook. This will be the companion handbook to the updated 53 IAM Chapter 8 Inventory and Monitoring issued March 10, 2020. Foresters from several Regions are contributing to this effort, which can be accessed here https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/public/raca/manual/pdf/53%20IAM%20Inventory%20and%20Monitoring_FINAL_March%202020_signed_corrected%20footer_508.pdf

Funding and Position Analysis: BoFRP sent the Program Funding and Position Analysis (FPA) memo and ITC Letter of Support to the BIA Regional Foresters on August 27. Regional Coordinators

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BIA Central Office Forestry

by Dawn Patterson

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are working with the Agencies and Tribes to collect the Fiscal Year 2019 Data. The fiscal year 2020 data will be collected later this year.

National Document Library:

The National Indian Forest Management Library scanning project is nearing completion. All of the library documents housed in Lakewood, Colorado, have been scanned, and the documents are being quality controlled. The archived BOFRP project files will be scanned in FY2021.

Year-end Reporting: This year BIA Forestry will be using the Indian Forestry Database (InFoDat) application for year-end accomplishment reporting and FY2021 project funding requests. InFodat application reports are due November 14, 2020.

Staff Updates: We are pleased to announce three new Foresters have joined the BOFRP Team. Ben Bagdon, Matt Ruggirello, and Steve Singleton will support inventory and planning projects across the Nation.



Benjamin Bagdon

Benjamin Bagdon joined the BOFRP team in November 2019 and came from Colorado State University in Fort Collins where he was a Research Scientist in the Natural Resource and Environment Laboratory. His research focused on the application of forest simulation and optimization models to

identify and evaluate ecological and economic trade-offs resulting from forest management.

He earned his Ph.D. at Northern Arizona University in 2015 and received his Master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 2011. Ben brings his experience working for private industry and publishing his work in multiple scientific journals. Ben is excited to be a part of the BOFRP team and currently lives in Fort Collins with his wife Andrea.



Matthew Ruggirello

Matthew Ruggirello joined the BOFRP Team in August 2020. He graduated from Northern Arizona University in 2017 with a master's degree in forestry; his graduate work included the study of the internal wood properties of ponderosa pine expressed through acoustic velocity and wood density measurements.

After graduating, Matt worked for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as a forester. Working for the WDNR, he was in charge of managing over thirty Douglas-Fir, genetic-gains-trial research plantations across the state; these plantations helped the agency to selectively breed genetic variants of Douglas-Fir with desirable growing characteristics to be planted across the state.

Later, as a project forester and member of WDFW's forestry team, Matt oversaw every element of multiple restoration timber sales across the state and lead the agency in collecting its first ever batch of forest inventory data. Most recently, he worked on a seasonal conservation crew, hand-felling conifers, planting bebb willow saplings, and collecting plant and animal data as part of long-term scientific studies for The Nature Conservancy at Hart Prairie Preserve in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Additionally, he has over ten years of experience working in tropical conservation, ecotourism, and indigenous advocacy. Matt has traveled to the Ecuadorian Amazon frequently over the last decade to assist indigenous Huaorani communities in directing their ecotourism and forest conservation programs. Before transitioning to a career as a forester, he worked as a Spanish language and environmental education instructor at the middle and high school levels.



Steven Singleton

Steven Singleton

Steve joined the BOFRP Team in September 2020. Steve began his career in forestry in 2002 as a Fire and Fuels Forestry Technician. He spent the next six seasons as an FFT2/FFT1 on local and extended fire assignments, hazardous fuels reduction and prescribed fire crew-

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member, and conducting regeneration surveys and prescribed fire monitoring.

In 2008, after completing a Bachelor's degree in Forest Biology and Master of Science in Forestry from Colorado State University, Steve accepted a position with the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Supervisor's Office as a Forester responsible for contract administration of various resource management projects, timber sale and stewardship contract package reviews, prescribed fire burn plan preparation and monitoring, and database management and coordination of the activity tracking and timber sale contract databases.

In 2014, Steve worked on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests as a Silviculture Forester, responsible for silviculture prescription preparation for timber sales and restoration projects, insect and disease monitoring, contract preparation and administration of common stand exam and timber stand improvement contracts, and year-end accomplishment reporting.

In 2019, prior to accepting his current position with BOFRP, he spent a year working on the Bear Lodge Ranger District on Black Hills National Forest as a Silviculture Forester. In his current position, Steve looks forward to learning about and using his experience to assist the BIA and all of the tribes with their forest management needs!

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT (BWFM)

Administration: The BWFM recently completed a program overview to the Wildland Fire Management User

Group. Fire Management looks forward to continued engagement with the User Group.

The Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) contains the current policies and directives of Indian Affairs. The IAM is organized into sections called Parts, which are the major functions and programs under the authority of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs. Each Part is further divided into chapters, which are permanent policy that describes, in general, what each program or functional area is responsible for (what they do) and under what authority they perform their duties. BWFM has made a strong effort to update the chapters for IAM Part 90, Wildland Fire Management (Part 90). Part 90 has eight chapters and are as follows:

Chapter 1: Overview and Responsibilities

Chapter 2: Fiscal Management

Chapter 3: Preparedness

Chapter 4: Fuels Management

Chapter 5: Wildfire Prevention

Chapter 6: Wildfire Investigation

Chapter 7: Wildfire Response - DRAFT

Chapter 8: Post-Wildfire Recovery

As noted in the table above, Chapter 7, Wildfire Response, is currently in draft form. All other chapters are current. IAM Part 90 can be accessed at <https://www.bia.gov/policy-forms/manual>.

Operations: Fire Management has had a very busy fire season. Staff continue to work with interagency partners, tribes, regional and local fire personnel to provide initial at-

tack coverage while adhering to COVID-19 mitigation plans.

Operations has been working with the DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF) program to acquire two new Fire Dozers with transport trucks and trailers. In addition, Operations is working to acquire new Tactical Water Tenders. Operations and Planning has been coordinating with each Region to determine how many of those apparatus will be purchased through the DOI WCF.

Training: The BWFM Training program is working with the newly formed NWCG Training Delivery Committee to ensure all BIA fire personnel will have available fire training, which adequately and safely prepare our firefighters for the upcoming 2021 season.

Waivers for fire refresher and work capacity tests will not be issued as protocols for both virtual and in-person training are being researched and developed, and will be ready for implementation starting November 15th, 2020.

Safety: Safety provided critical support this fire season with assistance on accident and near miss investigations. Safety continues to work with the Indian Affairs COVID Team in a continued effort to track BIA wildland fire personnel impacted by COVID-19. Safety completed site visits to Western Region, Navajo Region, and Southwest Region in FY20, and continues to be available to assist as needed.

Post Wildfire Recovery Program: The Post Wildfire Recovery (PWR) program, in conjunction with the Fuels Branch of Wildland Fire Management, presented a broad program overview to Office of Trust Services. The presentation included program components,

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policy, budget, accomplishments and priorities. Among these priorities is the hope that an in-person PWR Tribal Training will be able to be held safely in the spring of 2021. Staff continues to develop training material and presenters for this anticipated future event.

As with many things this year, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) took on a much different approach this fire season amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and associated safety protocols. Remote size-up and field analysis using geospatial and satellite data are conducted early on as incidents emerge. Agencies and Tribes are being encouraged to utilize local resources to the fullest extent possible to determine initial risk to critical values, before deploying outside resources to assist. In cases where there is likely to be imminent post-fire threats to human life, public safety and essential infrastructure, National BAER team members are dispatched to aid in field assessments and treatment designs.

Of special note, this season was the National BAER Team (Team) dispatch to Blue River and Dry Lake fires on San Carlos Apache Reservation. The Team had the opportunity to work with and train three Northern Arizona University interns in conducting post-fire assessments and developing soil-burn severity maps. The interns were intimately involved with gathering and analyzing data, discussions of proposed treatment designs, and even helped to present the Teams findings during the Agency closeout. This assignment was also significant in that several of BIA's Safety of Dams (SOD) engineers were immediately available when contacted about the

potential for increased flooding and debris flows affecting downstream infrastructure. SOD quickly provided data and watershed response modelling to the Team. Although it was ultimately concluded that the burned area would not provide significant increased hydrologic risk to the dam, it was a coordinated and cooperative exercise between BIA's PWR and SOD programs.

Fuels Management Program: The BIA Fuels Management Program has been working with Regions to manage any potential carryover. Carryover targets for the DOI OWF remain at 2% of Bureau budgets. BIA Fuels Management staff has worked with OWF to identify budget shortfalls due to underreporting of FTE's. OWF out year budgets development has historically included fixed cost increases based on DOI reported FTE's which did not include tribal FTE's. OWF has now agreed to include Tribal FTE's in the BIA fixed cost calculations for the fuels management program. Tribal FTE's calculations will include both permanents and those on fuels crews. Accurately reporting to the BWFM fuels program the data needed to determine the tribal, FTE's is critical.

The OWF solicited requests for additional funding that the NPS was unable to utilize in September. BIA submitted two proposals, which were accepted. Tanana Chiefs Conference in Alaska Region and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa in Midwest Region proposals were accepted and funded with the caveat that the acres associated would get completed this FY. Funding is on its way to BIA and will be turned around to the regions as quickly as possible.

Spend plans remain a requirement by the Department of Interior for all

Fuels Management Program funding. Quarterly NFPORS updates of fuels treatments and activities accomplishments continue, and are being monitored as far up as at the DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary level.

Wildfire Prevention: Agency and Tribal prevention personnel have continued to adjust to work throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many staff worked remotely while others were sent home and placed on Admin Leave due to not being equipped for teleworking. Large events, public gathering and school programs are the basis for much of the public outreach however with schools canceled or closed to visitors and events cancelled; programs have refocused their efforts on inspections, maintaining signs, making key contacts remotely, increasing patrols and expanding the use of social media to their facilitate messaging efforts and reach tribal publics. Indian Country saw its first virtual Wildfire Prevention Team activated to support the wildfire prevention efforts. Interagency coordination for wildfire prevention effort has increased as fire season continued to build. Fire investigations have continued as required with some regions requesting outside support for wildfire investigations.

The new prevention software, Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) software completion has been delayed. The delay is attributed to more testing time needed and needed workflow changes. An October 1 release date is now anticipated. Two trainings on the use of the software were completed, March 17-19, 2020 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and April 28-30 in Missoula, Montana. Ad-

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BIA Central Office Forestry

by Dawn Patterson

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ditional virtual training dates will be announced this fall.

Budget: CARES Act Supplemental Funding - The CARES Act, signed into law on March 27th, 2020, provided the Department of the Interior \$756M, including \$453M for BIA and \$158.4M for the Office of the Secretary, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally. In accordance with guidance issued by DOI's Office of Budget on March 31, 2020, OWF worked with BIA and other bureaus to submit an Operating Plan specific for Wildland Fire Management (WFM) program needs. BIA-WFM program received \$1.856M for expanded temporary facilities to facilitate social distancing through staging for initial attack and additional crew quarters; \$25K

for labor cost (overtime); and \$1K for personal protective equipment and cleaning services for facilities and vehicles, totaling \$1.882M. As of end of August, approximately \$702.7K were spent.

Two new Budget Analysts were hired. Jessica Wilson started August 16, 2020 she previously worked in the Fuels Section within BWFM. Brenda Racehorse started August 31, 2020, and previously worked with Bureau of Indian Education at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Judy Mitchell, Supervisory Budget Analyst, retired on August 31, 2020. We wish Judy a happy retirement.

Incident Business Update: currently have Jennifer Hebbeler detailed to as the Incident Business Coordinator; she has been on detail from June thru end of September. Jennifer has been working on providing assistance with the OWF

state collections project, hurricane reimbursements, Australia reimbursements, COVID-19 reimbursements, and IPACs from other federal agencies, NERV invoicing, and new policy edits for our (Red Book).

The Contracting Office has completed, and continues to process acquisition actions, for the Branch of Wildland Fire, Management at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, and ensure final requirements are met by fiscal year-end. Some of the contracts or modifications completed include Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Services, Aviation Operations Specialist Services, Database Design Support Services, Youth Firesetter Intervention Program (YFIP), Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS), and WeTip – Anonymous Tip Hotline.



Operations Committee

by Darin Jarnaghan, Sr.



Darin Jarnaghan, Sr.

INTRODUCING ITC'S NEW OPERATIONS CHAIR — DARIN JARNAGHAN, SR.

Hello, my name is Darin Jarnaghan, Sr. I am a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe located in the real northern California where I

was born and raised. I received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry Management from Humboldt State University in the spring of 2000.

Currently I work as the Natural Resources Director for the Coquille Indian Tribe located in North Bend, Oregon. I also serve on the Intertribal Timber Council Executive Board as Vice-President.

Previously I worked as the Forest Manager for Hoopa Valley Tribe. I also served as President of the California Indian Forest and Fire Management Council.

I have been involved with ITC through work and attending events for more than 20 years. I have

served on the Education, Symposium, and Awards Committees. I also had the opportunity to be an ITC Board Liaison for the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT) III.

I am eager to embrace the role of Operations Committee Chair and look forward to working with ITC member tribes and our partners. I can be contacted by email: darinjarnaghan@coquilletribe.org.





Matt Hill

FEDERAL COVID RESPONSE

Congress returned from its August recess, having not previously reached a deal on another COVID relief package. The House had passed a \$3 trillion ‘HEROES Act’, which would have provided an additional \$20 billion for tribes. Senate GOP leadership tried and failed to pass much smaller bill, pricing in at around \$700 million. The “skinny” Senate bill did, however, contain a provision allowing states and tribes to use their Coronavirus Relief Funds (already appropriated) until September 30, 2021. However, no additional funds and no other flexibilities (i.e., lost revenue) would have been provided to tribes.

The question of additional COVID relief to businesses and individuals continues to be a showdown between the Senate, House and White House over cost and politics – all while heading into the November election.

WESTERN WILDFIRES SPUR LEGISLATION, FINGER-POINTING

With record wildfires blazing in California and Oregon, Congress has turned back to discussing the causes, suppression and prevention of catastrophic wildfire. Bipartisan legislation developed by Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) is gaining momentum and received a September hearing in the Senate Energy & Natural Re-

sources Committee. However, environmental groups have criticized the bill for waiving environmental laws. The Feinstein-Daines bill would:

- Provide new authority for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to work collaboratively with state partners in the West to implement wildfire mitigation projects. Projects are restricted to areas most in need of restorative forest management;
- Allow disaster mitigation and preparedness funding to be used to reduce the wildfire risk posed by utility lines and expedite permitting for the installation of wildfire detection equipment;
- Create a program to incentivize the collection of woody biomass and help expand processing facilities to make biomass more economically viable;
- Create a forest workforce development program to train a new generation of workers to help address wildfire and forest health.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden introduced legislation to promote greater use of prescribed fire. The bill, which ITC consulted on, would authorize more money toward prescribed fire and directing federal agencies to do more of it. Specifically, the Wyden bill:

- Establishes \$300 million accounts for both the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to plan, prepare, and conduct controlled burns on federal, state, and private lands.
- Requires the Forest Service and DOI to increase the number of acres treated with controlled burns.
- Establishes a \$10 million collaborative program, based on the successful Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, to implement controlled burns on

county, state and private land at high risk of burning in a wildfire.

- Establishes an incentive program to provide funding to state, county, and federal agencies for any large-scale controlled burn.
- Establishes a workforce development program at the Forest Service and DOI to develop, train and hire prescribed fire practitioners, and establishes employment programs for Tribes, veterans, women, and those formerly incarcerated.
- Requires state-air-quality agencies to use current laws and regulations to allow larger controlled burns, and give states more flexibility in winter months to conduct controlled burns that reduce catastrophic smoke events in the summer.

More recently, the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee worked with ITC on refining legislative language dealing with Clean Air Act compliance for prescribed fire. We urged that tribes be treated similarly to states and that “a prescribed fire conducted on Tribal land by an Indian Tribe that burns more than 1,000 acres per day shall be deemed to be in the paramount interest of the United States and shall be exempt” from the Clean Air Act. This is different from having “Treatment as State” (TAS) under the Clean Air Act, which is still a discretionary decision by EPA.

Aside from specific bills, there is no shortage of partisan finger pointing over the causes of this year’s historic fires. Some would place all the blame upon climate change, while others place it entirely upon failed forest management. Some believe it is “all of the above.”

At a recent hearing of the House Agriculture Committee, Deputy Forest Service Chief John Phipps

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Legislative Update

Matt Hill

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stated that the federal government needs significantly more suppression resources to deal with the scale of fires seen in 2020.

“What we’re seeing on the landscape now is, we used to call them mega fires, but they’re even larger than that,” Phipps said. “They’re landscape-scale fires that can go 250,000 (acres) plus. We have one in California that is 800,000 acres. Moreover, we currently operate at a lesser scale than that. The agency does not have a capacity currently, but we could. We probably need to be scaling up two to three times more, at least.”

REFORESTATION BILL

In July, U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio.), and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and U.S. Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.), Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-Wash.), and Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), introduced the Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees Act or the REPLANT Act, legislation to expand funding for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to carry out reforestation projects in U.S. forestland damaged by events such as wildfires, insects and disease, while creating more than 48,000 jobs over

the next ten years.

To address the Forest Service’s reforestation backlog, the bill removes the current \$30 million annual funding cap for the Reforestation Trust Fund, the primary source of funding for USFS’s replanting needs, making an average of \$123 million annually available for reforestation in National Forests. In addition, the REPLANT Act will direct USFS to quantify the backlog of replanting needs, reduce delays by expanding stewardship contracting, and encourage state and Tribal partnerships. This is accomplished by fixing Good Neighbor Authority to allow tribes full access to receipt retention for project development.

GOOD NEIGHBOR “FIX” INTRODUCED

In July, U.S. Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and Congressman Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho) introduced the “Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act.” The legislation will extend full partnership eligibility for the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) program – which facilitates federal forest restoration and management projects – to Tribes and Counties.

Supporters of the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors

Act include Governor of Idaho Brad Little, the National Congress of American Indians, the Intertribal Timber Council, the Idaho Forest Group, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of State Foresters.

COVID-RELATED LOGGER RELIEF

The ITC is backing a legislative concept from the American Loggers Council that would provide targeted relief to logging/trucking companies who experienced at least 10% losses due to COVID in the first two quarters of 2020. The “Loggers Relief Act” was sponsored by Sen. Collins (R-ME) in the Senate and Rep. Rouzer (R-NC) in the House.

While Congress authorized over \$10 billion in relief to various farm commodity producers, it did not include loggers or timber workers. PPP payments do not calculate equipment costs, which are generally the largest cost for family-owned logging operations.

Discussions are being had with the White House about administratively adding loggers to the existing farm relief programs. After all, cut flowers are an eligible commodity. Why not cut trees.



Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

NATIVE YOUTH REINFORCEMENTS

The Intertribal Timber Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry and Wildland Fire Management Programs are implementing their workforce development strategies that have focused on recruitment and retention to internally fill positions, but both organizations under-

stand that outreach to Native youth is a gap that must be reduced. We must find and connect with Native youth to create the reinforcements.

Where are Native youth located? The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) www.niea.org provides testimony to Congress each year to advocate for funding to as-

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sist 460,000 Native K-12 students nationwide. Approximately 70% of those students live off the reservation and are served by public schools, according to the National Urban Indian Family Coalition (www.nuifc.org).

The Native population has tripled from one to three million since the baby boomer generation entered the current workforce and have been retiring.

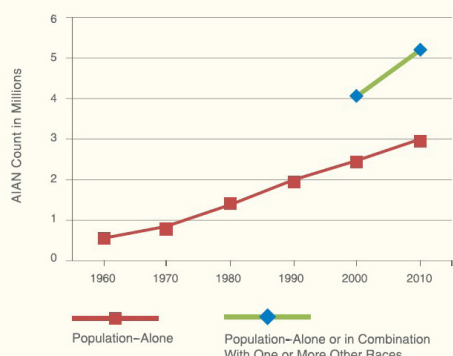
Native youth demographics have changed over the last 40 years, 1980 to 2020, where the reservation youth national population has grown by 50,000, whereas the off reservation has grown by 270,000.

NIEA provided the number of K-12 Native students with the largest populations in the following tables.

Location	K-12 Population
Oklahoma	71,109
Arizona	60,715
New Mexico	36,934
California	24,850
Alaska	24,140
North Carolina	20,612
South Dakota	19,615
Washington	17,103
Montana	15,807
Minnesota	12,954
New York	10,177
Wisconsin	10,140
North Dakota	9,813
Michigan	9,667
Oregon	7,481
Florida	7,216
Utah	6,223
Louisiana	5,511
Colorado	5,389

How do we provide outreach to this large off reservation Native population?

Figure 1. Decennial Census Count of American Indian and Alaska Native Population



TRIBAL ARTICLES IN SAF WESTERN FORESTER WORKFORCE ISSUE

During this summer, I worked with Andrea Watts, editor for the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Western Foresters Newsletter. The Newsletter topic was workforce development and we worked together to provide a Tribal perspective for the issue with an article about our ITC partnership with Ecotrust and also an interview with Angela Noah who describes her experience with providing outreach to Native youth on and off reservation. She mentions the issue of 70 percent of the Native youth living off the reservations in her interview and provides advice to the forestry profession on how to connect with tribal communities. In the interview, she briefly describes her workshops, but I will provide more information that was edited from the article.

I first met Angela Noah in April 2018, during the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Region One Conference in Portland, Oregon. She made a presentation about her experience with the Northwest Youth Corps Program. Her presentation highlighted how the outdoor program provided challenges, opportunities and rewards.

Angela Noah originates from the White Mountain Apache Tribe

American India K-12 Population

- **1980**
- **100,000 on reservation**
- **40,000 off reservation**
- **2016**
- **150,000 on reservation**
- **310,000 off reservation**

from Cibecue, Arizona located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Aside from Apache, she is also Oklahoma Choctaw and Navajo. Angela first worked with Northwest Youth Corps, as a youth then became a crew leader overseeing a trail crew of youth in Eugene, Oregon. Currently, she is the Tribal Stewards Inclusion Coordinator overseeing Northwest Youth Corps and Idaho Conservation Corps' Native American programming. She works with the tribes in the Pacific Northwest Region to bring outdoor opportunities to Native American youth and young adults. Outside of work, Angela enjoys journaling, singing, and attending Powwows in the Northwest. You can also find Angela escaping to the Oregon coast to explore.

She has finished her first year as a student at the University of Oregon and was selected as an Earth Ambassador for the national UNITY Program.

She has traveled around the northwest representing and presenting Northwest Youth Corps at workshops for any Native American youth or young adult ages 15-25 year olds seeking an opportunity to learn how to build trails, camp, earn high school credit, and a stipend of up to \$1,400 during the summer! In a 2019 workshop, Northwest Youth Corps and Idaho Conservation Corps provided an interactive presentation on environment restoration projects that they

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Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

(Continued from page 12)

have conducted across the Pacific Northwest states. During the workshops, she provided the audience a mini-experience of what it is like to participate on a trail conservation crew. During her presentation, she included three examples of cultural development components of the program and involved props, hands on activities and group discussion.

The link to the Western Forester Workforce Development Issue is provided below. The issue includes Angela's front-page interview, the Communication and Collaboration

to Grow the Tribal Forestry Workforce article, an article that connects forestry through their social network and an article that addresses reinventing the forestry workforce to fill logging contractor needs.

Collaborative efforts, like this Western Forester Issue, with ITC, SAF and others will help find Native youth and connected them with forestry and natural resource careers to create Native youth reinforcements.

<http://forestry.org/northwest-office/western-forester/julyaugust-september-2020>



Angela Noah (White Mountain Apache) with her Western Forester Issue



Education Committee

by Nicole Stiffarm



Nicole Stiffarm

Happy fall, ITC family. I hope this new season finds you and yours doing well. The Education Committee is pleased to announce that the 2020 Native American Natural Research Scholarship and the 2021 Truman D. Picard Scholarship are now open and accepting applications.

2020 NATIVE AMERICAN NATURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Native American Natural Research Scholarship deadline is December 1, 2020 5:00 pm PST. This scholarship is open to tribal graduate

students who are conducting tribally relevant research projects.

2021 TRUMAN D. PICARD SCHOLARSHIP

The Truman D. Picard Scholarship deadline is **March 12, 2021, 5:00 pm PST**. This scholarship is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in natural resources.

Changes to Application Process: Complete applications for the Truman D. Picard scholarship will now be emailed to intertribaltimbercouncil@gmail.com. Please do not fax applications, also please note that the originals will still be required to be mailed before the deadline

FAQs: New this year we have a "how-to" guide on our website to assist applicants with the Truman D. Picard Scholarship application process. Please see itcnet.org/about_us/scholarships.html to make sure your application is complete.

Fund Raiser: In addition to the scholarship announcements, we

will be launching the online raffle that will be used to support the Truman D. Picard Scholarship fund. As you are all aware, the ITC Symposium was cancelled for 2020. The raffle that occurs during the symposium is a major source of funding for the scholarship. We are hoping that this online raffle platform will assist us in ensuring that we will continue offering the Truman D. Picard Scholarship in future years. Check the website for updates at www.itcnet.org.

This has been one crazy year, the ITC Education Committee wish you all continued good health and safety as we move through this fall season and into the new year.

This has been one crazy year, the ITC Education Committee wish you all continued good health and safety as we move through this fall season and into the new year.





Native American Natural Resource Research Scholarship



The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC), in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Research and Development is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for Native American graduate students who are planning or currently conducting tribally relevant research in a natural resource issue.

Deadline: December 1, 2020, 5:00 p.m. PST

Award: Varies, not to exceed \$5,000

Purpose: The ITC Education Scholarship is designed to support tribally relevant, natural resource based, research being conducted by Native American scholars enrolled in a graduate program.

Required Material: The ITC Education Committee will review and rank only those applications that completely address the following criteria:

- A. Letter of Application:** The letter must include your name, permanent mailing address, email address and phone number. Discuss your current educational program and how the tribally relevant proposed research fits into both your degree in natural resources and your future plans.
- B. Resume**
- C. Evidence of validated enrollment** in a federally recognized tribe or Alaska Native Corporation, as established by the U.S. Government. A photocopy of your enrollment card, front and back, or Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) is sufficient.
- D. Mini Research Proposal:** Please keep this concise (4-page maximum not counting budget and justification). Required elements include a) abstract stating research merit and explaining how this research is relevant to tribal natural resource interests b) timeline and methodology c) dissemination plan, including a tribal component d) budget and budget justification
- E. Letters of reference/support** from an Academic advisor or committee member is required. Additionally, a **second letter of support from a tribal resource manager** or a tribal representative with tribal approval of the project or the relevancy of the project to the tribe is required.

All requested material must be received by close of business (5:00 p.m. PST) **December 1, 2020**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications should be submitted electronically by email (itc1@teleport.com), or (fax 503 282 1274).

Questions regarding the application process can be submitted to ITC (itc1@teleport.com) (phone 503-282-4296) or Nicole Stiffarm, chair of the ITC Education Committee (nicole_stiffarm@skc.edu).



Truman D. Picard Scholarship Announcement For Native American/Alaskan Natural Resource Students

Deadline: Friday, March 12, 2021, 5:00 p.m. PST

Award: \$2,500 for college students (number of awards varies per year)
\$2,500 for grad students and graduating college seniors that are applying/accepted for grad school
\$2,000 for graduating senior high school students

Purpose: The **Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program** is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources.

Required Materials: The Education Selection Committee will review and rank only those applicants who completely address each area. Please be specific. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. **Letter of Application:** The letter must include your name, permanent mailing address, email address, and phone number. It should be a maximum of two pages in length, and discuss the following:
 - a. Interest in natural resources.
 - b. Commitment to education, community and your culture.
 - c. Financial need.
2. **Resume**
3. **Three letters of reference:**
 - a. On letterhead. (If no letterhead is available through the reference's organization, the referrer should create their own).
 - b. Signed. (Digital and electronic signature accepted).
 - c. Dated within the last six months.
 - d. Open sealed documents, if applicable.
 - e. Reference letters will not be accepted directly from references. (They should be included in complete application, step 7).
4. **Evidence of validated enrollment in a federally recognized tribe or Alaska Native Corporation**, as established by the U. S. Government. A photocopy of your enrollment card, front and back, or Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) will suffice.
5. **Transcripts:** ALL students must include transcripts. Unofficial or official both accepted. Please open sealed transcripts.
 - a. High school students must also provide documented proof of acceptance to an institution of higher education and a review of college class schedule to verify major before a check is released.
 - b. College students must also provide proof of their declared major and current class schedule.
6. **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** ALL students must complete the FAFSA and attach the Student Aid Report. If it has not been completed, include last year's report.
7. **Delivery of application, (3) steps:**
 - a. **First, create one complete email** (PDF attachment preferred) **including:** letter of application, resume, three letters of reference, evidence of validated enrollment, transcripts, college acceptance letter (high school) or declared major, current class schedule (college), and FAFSA student aid report.
 - b. **Second, submit via e-mail** (intertribaltimbercouncil@gmail.com) up until the close of business (5:00 p.m. PST) **March 12, 2021.**
 - c. **Last, mail the originals to be postmarked by March 12, 2021.** Be sure to check your local post office hours. ITC staff will be working remotely and will not be onsite at the ITC office to sign for deliveries.

Inquiries and applications should be directed to the Intertribal Timber Council office:

ATTN: EDUCATION COMMITTEE
INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL
1112 N.E. 21st Avenue, Suite 4
Portland, Oregon 97232-2114
(503) 282-4296 phone

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) has cooperative financial aid agreements with the University of Washington, Oregon State University, Salish Kootenai College, Northern Arizona University and Yale University. Recipients of the ITC Truman Picard Scholarship are eligible to receive additional scholarships including tuition waivers, if attending one of these colleges. For more information, visit the ITC website or contact the colleges directly.

TRUMAN D. PICARD (1946-1986)

To honor Truman D. Picard the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) established a scholarship program in his name. Truman served on the ITC Board of Directors from 1982 to 1985. While working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colville Agency (Nespelem, Washington), in presales he attended the Forest Engineering Institute at Oregon State University becoming one of the first people from the agency to complete this program. In 1977, Truman transferred to the Colville Tribal Forestry organization taking a position as Supervisory Forest Technician in charge of woods operations. Later he was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Forestry Operations. Because of his drive and determination to complete his education Truman returned to Oregon State University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Management. Upon his return from college, he was appointed Director of Colville Tribal Forestry. His work for the Tribe will always be remembered by his individual efforts to bring BIA Forestry and Colville Tribal Forestry together in a joint effort to improve the level of Forest Management on the reservation – truly a lasting legacy.

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

2021 ITC VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM!!

Hautnin awas. Niimiipuu timpt. Blessing to you in our Nez Perce Language. The Symposium Committee is excited to announce ITC's first ever - Virtual Symposium to be held in May 2021! We wish to keep our participants safe and healthy during these uncertain COVID times. The virtual event will maintain most of the traditional in-person

activities while allowing attendees to participate from the comfort of their home or office. Stay tuned for more information in our winter newsletter.

The Athabascan Tribes of the Interior Alaska, the Tanana Chiefs Conference still plan to host our next in-person Symposium in 2022. We would like to await and share the experience together in Alaska.

Future Symposium Dates:

May 17 – 20, 2021 – 44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by ITC, Virtual Event

2022 – 45th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK

2023 – 46th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Walker, MN

2024 – 47th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Eastern Band of Cherokee, Cherokee, NC

2025 – 48th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Confederated Tribes of the Salish & Kootenai Tribes

If you have any questions, please contact Howard Teasley at (208) 621-4620 or email at howardt@nezperce.org.

Help: Intertribal Timber Council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or sponsorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. If a Tribe or business is interested in making a donation, please contact ITC directly.

If you would like to join the ITC mailing list and receive the annual symposium agenda, please contact the ITC Office by email at itc1@teleport.com, or sign up online at www.itcnet.org.

Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

1112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4
Portland, Oregon 97232

First Class