



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

WINTER ~ 2022



Don Motanic

DON MOTANIC TECHNICAL SPECIALIST RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS WITH ITC

This is my final article as the ITC Technical Specialist and expressing appreciation for the years spent with the organization and future plans. I've appreciated the opportunity to work with ITC, first as a forest manager while at Umatilla in 1984 where I met and enjoyed talking with Truman Picard from the Colville Tribe during a Northwest Regional BIA/Tribal Forest Managers Meeting. I was thinking about leaving my Indian forestry career to accept an engineering position with Rockwell at Hanford, Washington with a pay raise and a corporate career, but my conversations with Truman and Rutger van Houten from the Nez Perce Tribal Forestry Program and others helped convince me that tribal forestry and the people associated with ITC was a special world and dimension.

I spent my first 17 years of my career with the BIA, from 1978 to 1995, living and working at Yaka-

ma, Umatilla, and Spokane/Kalispel Agencies before moving to the Regional Foresters Position in Billings, Montana. I was happy to return closer to home in the northwest to accept the Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement with the ITC and the BIA in Portland and work with Joann Reynolds from 1995 to her passing in 2011. We were all fortunate to experience an amazing smooth transition during a hectic 2011-2012 with Laura Alvidrez as Program Manager and Monica Rushworth as Program Assistant up to the present. During those years and beyond, I appreciated all the insight and leadership by Dr. Gary Morishima, who I remember meeting with him and Joe DeLaCruz at the 1987 Symposium and was inspired by two of the founders who evolved the ITC, along with generations of tribal leaders into one of the most enduring, well respected, and unique tribal organizations in the world. Our family appreciated the generosity from the ITC family throughout the years of meetings, symposiums, and events.

My future will involve continued recruiting additional reinforcements of Native youth and the non-tribal champions to help reset a fractured society by harmonizing the western science and traditional knowledge melodies. I plan to continue volunteering with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and Wisdom of the Elders, Inc., along with various Native advisory committees and historical research, which I



Photo of Don Motanic with his retirement blanket. "In Honor of Don Motanic, For 26 Years of Service at the Intertribal Timber Council, Congratulations on your Retirement! December 31, 2021."

hope can grow partnerships with ITC. My last day as ITC Technical Specialist is December 31, 2021. With Much Gratitude and Qe'ci'yew'yew' (Thank You).

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President's Message

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

Happy New Year to all the ITC family. As we wrap up another challenging year, we have a few significant accomplishments to look back on. This report will primarily cover items from our virtual December board meeting.

First, I want to express my deep appreciation for Don Motanic. The accomplishments and contributions over his long and distinguished career in both ITC, and Indian forestry are to be commended. The relationships Don built through the years helped establish the foundation that ITC continues to work from today. Don retires on December 31, 2021. We wish him well as shifts into the next phase of his life.

I would also like to thank Tony Incashola, Jr. for taking a leadership role as the new Operations Committee Chair. I am confident he will do an amazing job managing the complex and important issues that come before the committee. The success of ITC is dependent on the next generation of tribal leaders stepping into these important roles to represent Indian forestry.

Passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in mid-November presents a unique opportunity for tribes. This legislation includes several forestry and fire provisions for management of both tribal and adjacent federal lands. Specific



Photo of Chuweah Creek fire, started by lightning on July 12, 2021, burned 54 square miles and 14 structures in and around Nespelem, Washington.

funding for TFPA and Good Neighbor Authority gives tribes the opportunity to take further advantage of authorities expanded in the 2018 Farm Bill. An additional \$3.369 billion was authorized for wildfire risk reduction for both the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. There are many other provisions in this comprehensive infrastructure package that will benefit Indian Country. Please refer to Matt Hill's update for additional information. With a proactive strategic plan that addresses increased staffing and administrative capacity we should be able to maximize the benefit of this funding package for Indian country, and all those off reservation areas tribes hold dear.

On October 26, 2021, the ITC was given the opportunity to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indigenous People of the United States. The hearing was on "Strengthening Indigenous Communities Through Cultural and Environmental Preservation." In

our testimony we stressed how environmental preservation was cultural preservation for tribes. We also pointed out the expectations of tribal and BIA staff with limited funding and capacity compared to other federal agencies, and how despite those challenges we regularly accomplish more with innovative approaches to management. We continue to engage with Congress whenever given the opportunity to advocate for tribes and tribal issues.

In early January 2022 we are scheduled to meet with the new Forest Service Chief. ITC's relationship with the Forest Service continues to improve, and ensuring we maintain these relationships as staff change is critical. We thank those forest service employees that opened doors in the past, and those that diligently work to ensure tribal voices are consistently at the table. Tribal/Forest Service relationships will be particularly important as we take advantage of increased fund-

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President's Message

by Cody Desautel

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ing for TFPA and Good Neighbor. If you don't already have a working relationship with your neighboring forest, I encourage you to reach out. Take advantage of the new year to build momentum toward projects that benefit both tribal members, and the local community.

With another tough fire year at Colville, I am constantly reminded how important our work is. I

know our situation is not unique, and many tribes face the same challenges. As an organization the ITC is here to support each of you. Please reach out if you ever have questions, or recommendations about issues important to your tribe or Indian country.

In closing I want to thank the ITC staff for their work and dedication. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure

we have the tools and information to represent tribal issues with the limited time board members and contributors have. Our next board meeting is scheduled for February 14-18, via Zoom. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with your family and stay safe as we navigate this next Covid variant.



Education Committee

by Nicole Stiffarm



Nicole Stiffarm

2021 NATIVE AMERICAN NATURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you've all enjoyed the holidays. We on the Education Committee are excited to announce the 2022 recipients of the Native American Natural Resource Scholarship. As in years past, we've had an excellent group of applicants for this scholarship. As a committee we had a difficult task to complete in selecting this year's recipients. Many thanks to those who volunteered to review

applicants and assist in the selection process. This year we have selected two PhD candidates:

- **Daniel Bird**, (Santo Domingo Tribe), University of Montana, pursuing a PhD in Wildlife Biology, "Identifying migration routes, stop-over sites, habitat use, and potential barriers to elk movement on the Blackfoot Nation Indian Reservation and the surrounding landscape"
- **Cameron Macias**, (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), University of Idaho, pursuing a PhD in Natural Resources, "Ecosystem services provided by bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) to the timber industry"

Congratulations to you both! We at ITC are proud of the work you have accomplished and eager to see what your careers will bring to the greater tribal natural resource management field.

As many of you now know the 2022 ITC Symposium will be held in-person this coming May. We on the education committee are excited to be able gather in person and hope to see you all there in Fair-

banks, Alaska. We will be conducting our annual ITC Raffle to assist in raising funds to support the Truman Picard Scholarship. All the proceeds go directly to our scholarship recipients each year. Please reach out to me for any donations, or questions regarding the raffle.

During our last meeting the Education Committee reengaged in discussions about the Tribal Forestry Student Summit at Northern Arizona University that was cancelled due to COVID-19. We are happy to announce that we will begin planning for an in-person Summit in 2022! A save-the-date will be forthcoming as our planning process moves forward.

We wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and hope to see you in 2022!



Operations Committee

by Tony Incashola, Jr.



Tony Incashola, Jr.

INTRODUCING ITC'S NEW OPERATIONS CHAIR – TONY INCASHOLA, JR.

Hello, my name is Tony Incashola, Jr. I am a member of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) in Ronan, Montana, where I live with my wife Kim and three kids Kieran, Kysen, and Kaylyn. I received a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Salish Kootenai college in 2007. Currently I work as the Forest Manager for CSKT where I began in 2018. I have worked for CSKT since 2002 and previously I worked as the as a timber sales forester and eventually the Forest Development manager until moving into my current position. I have been actively participating in ITC since 2005 on various levels with the operations, fire sub-committee and symposium committees. I am excited to take over the role of Operations Committee Chair and look forward to working with ITC member tribes and partners. I can be contacted by email at tony.incashola.jr@cskt.org.

The Operations Committee meeting was held on December 8, 2021, via zoom. The meeting was well attended with Tribal, BIA, and USFS representatives present. Following is a summary of the discussions.

IFMAT IV: The Indian Forest Man-

agement Assessment Report is a congressionally mandated report to be performed every ten years. The report is designed to be an independent assessment of natural resource management by professionals and experts in the natural resource field. The fourth Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT IV) is led by Co-chairs John Gordon and John Sessions. Virtual and site visits have been scheduled through 2021 and 2022. During 2021 some site visits have been delayed due to some COVID-19 traveling restrictions, but the team reported they expect to be on track and budget through 2022. Preliminary finding based on visits completed to date are consistent with past IFMAT reports. ITC would like to thank the tribes that have participated in the virtual and site visits to date and would like to encourage all selected tribes to reach out to ITC or Vinny Corrao if they have questions or need additional detail to facilitate planning. ITC Board of Directors approved renewing four student contracts during the December board meeting.

Forest Service POD's Framework: Kit O'Connor, USFS Research Ecologist from the Rocky Mountain Research station in Missoula Montana, gave ITC a presentation outlining the USFS Potential Operational Delineations (POD) program that using GIS mapping software to identify possible wild-fire operational footprints based on topography, weather, and current forest conditions. The program can be used by managers to locate possible containment lines and identifying values at risk cross jurisdictional boundaries. The program is capable of producing various outputs and maps for managers to use including; fire behavior potential, containment lines, suppression difficulty index, and suppression tac-

tics capabilities map. USFS plans to contact tribal organizations across the nation for consultation on values at risk and to improve local data used surrounding trust lands. These tools can be used to prioritize treatment areas for long term fuels and forest management planning.

Office of Tribal Relations: ITC has been invited to participate in a Task force that will review the Office of Tribal Relations formal Functional, programmatic, operational standpoint and evaluate the scope of USDA FS's advisory and oversight capacity within the agency. ITC believes it is critical to have tribal representation on this task force to ensure the tribal perspectives are adequately known throughout their process.

Firewood Marketing: The committee discussed putting together a working group that can promote and outline the successes and potential firewood markets for tribes nationally. Very few tribes currently market firewood as a constant wood product but many tribes may have the capability to capture quantities at times salvage operations. The small working group is also evaluating the new infrastructure bill language to see if possible tribal opportunities for firewood products are outlined.

Pandemic Assistance for Timber Haulers and Harvesters (PATHH): In 2021 the USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program offered financial relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced losses in 2020 do to COVID-19. This program was part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative. A total of \$385 million was received in request and \$200

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Operations Committee

by Tony Incashola, Jr.

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million dollars will be or have been distributed to timber haulers and harvesters. It is unknown at the moment of the report how much of the \$200 million has been distributed to Indian country.

Indian Trust Asset Management Reform Act (ITARA): Indian

Trust Asset Management Reform Act (ITARA): The Office of Assistant Secretary on Indian Affairs has received and approved the Coquille Indian Tribe and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, Indian Trust Asset Management Plan. The ITAMP will allow for increased sovereignty of natural resource management and associated deci-

sion making on natural resource assessments. The Coquille Tribe has successfully begun implementation of their first timber sale under their ITAMP. If your tribe is interested in more information for applying for ITARA please contact ITC or your BIA regional office.



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

2022 EARLE R. WILCOX AWARDS DEADLINE

As I write this, it is cold and the days are short here in interior Alaska, but it is also that time of year for reflecting on the past year. It has been another challenging year for everybody, but there is always much to be thankful for in our lives and in our work. While reflecting on how this past year has been for you, please keep in mind that this is also the time of year when ITC is looking for your help to recognize the special achievements and work accomplished by our coworkers in Indian forestry, fire, and natural resource management.

Earle R. Wilcox was a forester who spent a lengthy career with the BIA

working in a number of tribal locations in Montana, Washington, and Oregon, as BIA Area Forester for the Portland Area Office, and finishing his BIA career as Chief of the BIA Forestry Program. After retirement in 1973, he stayed active with tribal forestry, helping to establish tribal enterprises in several locations and contributing to the development of the Intertribal Timber Council. The ITC awards named after Earle R. Wilcox in recognition for his leadership, devotion, and accomplishments in Indian forestry. The Earle R. Wilcox awards are how ITC recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions to Tribal forestry and natural resource management.

The deadline for submission of Wilcox award nominations is January 28, 2022. Nominations will be considered for the Earle R. Wilcox Individual Achievement and National Forester of the Year awards. Award recipients will be announced and recognized at the 45th National Indian Timber Symposium, hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference, May 16-19, 2022, in Fairbanks, Alaska. Visit ITC's website for information on how to submit a nomination at https://www.itcnet.org/about_us/awards.html.

The challenging times we have all experienced also extend to our efforts to continue the excellent work in forestry and natural resource management for our tribes. I am sure there are outstanding examples across Indian Country where forestry and natural resource staff have risen to the occasion to complete and extend their work in the face of the pandemic through innovation and creativity. We would all like to hear about and recognize the finest examples of that work. We all benefit from work by our colleagues that goes beyond normal expectations, and it is important that we step up and recognize excellent work when it occurs. Although the word "Timber" is part of ITC's name and identity, please keep in mind that people whose contributions come from the broader array of natural resource disciplines are also eligible for the awards.



Legislative Update

Matt Hill



Matt Hill

INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

In November, President Biden signed into law the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, scoring at over \$1 trillion. The bill contains a number of new funding mechanisms for forest management that can be accessed by tribes and the BIA:

Good Neighbor Authority/TFPA: **\$200M** to be available to states and Tribes for Good Neighbor or TFPA projects of which—

- \$40,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior; and
- \$160,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture;

Wildland Fire Management: Up to **\$2 million** per year (2022-26) available for TFPA implementation, fuels management.

Wildfire Risk Reduction: **\$3.369 billion** is authorized to DOI/USDA, for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for treatment of Federal land or Indian forest land or rangeland that has been identified as having an extremely high wildfire hazard potential. By September 2027, restoration treatments and improved Fire Regime Condition Class must be accomplished on 10,000,000 acres in either the WUI or a public drinking water source area.

Other provisions:

- Establish a 5-year monitoring plan for reducing wildfire risk by restoration treatments on ten million acres of federal or tribal forest land.
- **\$200,000,000** shall be made available for contracting or employing crews of laborers to modify and remove flammable vegetation on Federal land and for using materials from treatments to the extent practicable, to produce biochar and other innovative wood products, including using existing locally based organizations that engage young adults, Native youth, and veterans in service projects, such as youth and conservation corps
- **\$30,000,000** shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to States, Indian Tribes, and units of local government to establish and operate Reverse-911 telecommunication systems;
- **\$1,200,000** shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, to develop and publish, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, a map depicting at-risk communities (as defined in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511)), including Tribal at-risk communities;

Ecosystem Restoration:

\$400,000,000 is made available to DOI to provide grants to States, territories of the United States, and Indian Tribes for implementing voluntary ecosystem restoration projects on private or public land, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, that prioritizes funding cross-boundary projects. Another **\$400,000,000** shall be made available to USDA to provide financial

assistance to facilities that purchase and process byproducts from ecosystem restoration projects.

Post-fire recreation site improvement: **\$100,000,000** is to be made available to restore, prepare, or adapt recreation sites on Federal land, including Indian forest land or rangeland.

Landscape scale restoration program for water quality/fish: **\$80,000,000** shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, to establish a collaborative-based, landscape-scale restoration program to restore water quality or fish passage on Federal land, including Indian forest land or rangeland.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program: a new program under which the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the States, shall award grants to at-risk communities, including Indian Tribes to develop or revise a community wildfire protection plan; and to carry out projects described in a community wildfire protection plan that is not more than 10 years old.

Non-Federal Land Forest Restoration, Fuels Reduction:

- **\$9 billion** in grants to tribal, state, local governments (plus regional orgs or nonprofits) to support forest restoration work on non-federal land including to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- **\$1 billion** in grants to implement community wildfire protection plans, purchase firefighting equipment, provide firefighter training, and increase the capacity for planning, coordinating, and monitoring projects on non-Federal land to protect at-risk communities;

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Legislative Update

Matt Hill

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- **\$250 million** in grants to aid in the recovery and rehabilitation of burned areas, including reforestation;
- **\$250,000,000** in grants to expand equitable outdoor access and promote tourism on non-Federal forested land for members of underserved groups;

Wildfire Commission: Established within 30 days of enactment to study and make recommendations to improve Federal policies relating to the management of wildland fires and the rehabilitation of land devastated by wildland fires. The commission will be composed of about 11 federal representatives and 18 others from various stakeholder backgrounds.

Other Provisions: \$50,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants to States and Indian Tribes to establish rental programs for portable skidder bridges, bridge mats, or other temporary water crossing structures, to minimize stream bed disturbance on non-Federal land and Federal land.

CHUCK SAMS SWORN IN AS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) DIRECTOR

On December 16, 2021, Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III (Umatilla) was ceremonially sworn in as Director of the National Park Service (NPS) by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. Chuck is the first Tribal citizen to lead the agency, which has been without a Senate confirmed leader for five years.

“Everyone should have access to the outdoors no matter where they live, how much money they have,



Photo of Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III (Umatilla) ceremonially sworn in as Director of the NPS by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland on December 16, 2021.

or what their background is. Chuck Sams understands the importance of connecting people to nature, and I am thrilled to work with him as the Interior Department works to make our national park system accessible to all Americans,” said **Secretary Haaland**. “Under his leadership, the National Park Service will continue to protect our public lands for generations to come and make critical investments in the vast infrastructure that sustains our public lands and national parks.”

“I am honored to serve as Director of the National Park Service and thank President Biden and Secretary Haaland for entrusting in me the care of one of America’s greatest gifts: our National Park System. I am also incredibly proud to work with the dedicated employees of the National Park Service. I have no doubt that together, we’ll be able to expand access to the outdoors, protect America’s public lands, and upgrade our nation’s infrastructure system through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” said **Director Sams**.

In his capacity overseeing the NPS, Chuck will help implement the Great American Outdoors Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In addition to historic funding for climate resiliency initiatives and legacy pollution clean-up, the infrastructure law provides for a five-year reauthorization of the Federal Lands Transportation Program, which will help invest in repairing and upgrading NPS roads, bridges, trails, and transit systems. The law also invests in projects that will help fund bridge replacements and resiliency, repair ferry boats and terminal facilities, and maintain wildlife crossings that keep people and surrounding wildlife safe.

Chuck has worked in state and Tribal governments and the non-profit natural resource and conservation management fields for more than 25 years. He most recently served as a Council Member to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, appointed by Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

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Legislative Update

Matt Hill

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He has held a variety of roles with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, most recently as their Executive Director. He has also had roles as the President/Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Country Conservancy, Executive Director for the Umatilla Tribal Community Foundation, National Director of the Tribal & Native Lands Program for the

Trust for Public Land, Executive Director for the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Executive Director for the Community Energy Project, and President/Chief Executive Officer for the Earth Conservation Corps.

Chuck holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Concordia University-Portland and a Master of Legal Stud-

ies in Indigenous peoples law from the University of Oklahoma. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Chuck is an enrolled member, Cayuse and Walla Walla, of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, where he lives with his wife and their four children.



BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland



Peter Wakeland

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Communication: If there is something that you would like to discuss with the Chief Forester, please feel free to call at (720) 237-1800 or send an email with a video call invite to peter.wakeland@bia.gov.

Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA): Two more Northwest Tribes have submitted applications to participate in the Demonstration Project. Both applications are currently in the review process. If approved to participate in the project, the Tribes must then develop and submit an Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP) for forest land management activities on tribal forest lands held in trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the tribe. Tribes may also submit for

Secretary approval, Tribal Forestry Regulations as part of their ITAMP, which would streamline the process for managing tribal trust forests by allowing Tribes certain approval authorities currently held by the Secretary. To be considered for approval by the Secretary, the ITAMP must include certain elements identified in ITARA. Interested, eligible Tribes can still apply to participate in the project. For more information, please contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester; peter.wakeland@bia.gov.

Budget / Funding for Forestry

Projects: We are currently operating under the first two Continuing Resolutions (CR) for FY 2022, and while we do not have a full budget approved by Congress, we do have funding available for forestry projects. Central Office has received project proposals from the Regions, and the first distributions of funding have been completed. NOW is the time to continue developing proposals at the tribal level so that your projects will be considered for funding during the next distribution. We know there is a lot of work that needs to be accomplished out there, so please get your projects submitted. If you have questions about any of your projects or how to de-

velop them, please contact your Regional Forester; or Caleb Cain, Projects Forester; caleb.cain@bia.gov; or Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester; pete.wakeland@bia.gov.

Portable Sawmill Investment Update- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Portable Sawmill Success:

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Forestry program has made remarkable progress with the setup of a new Wood-Mizer LT50 production-model bandsaw mill, Wood Mizer edger (that trims both sides of the cut boards), and MP-260 Planer-Molder funded with BIA forestry funds as part of a portable sawmill and infrastructure initiative featured in the July issue of this newsletter. Tribal DNR has been utilizing over-aged aspen timber that was formerly only used for firewood or left to rot in piles to produce rough-cut lumber for out-houses along trails, raised garden beds, benches and picnic tables for the TMBCI Senior's Center, a park check-in entrance station, and partitions for the tribal office. They have also been producing and filling orders for small batches of lumber and

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland

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have been building and selling Ice Fishing shacks. The TMBCI are looking to expand operations, seeking the addition of a wood kiln, and considering purchasing wood from other Reservations. They are also considering opportunities for use of tree and lumber operation waste to produce by-products such as pellets and firewood. This is an excellent example of the great tribal work being accomplished with portable milling infrastructure. Other interested tribes are strongly encouraged to contact their Regional Forester, or John Baskette, john.baskette@bia.gov; or Orvie Danzuka, orvie.danzuka@bia.gov.

Infrastructure Bill: The passing of the Infrastructure Bill included significant and has created many opportunities for Tribes. Projects related to climate, habitat restoration, fuels and wildland fire risk reduction, healthy forests, biomass utilization (which likely includes portable infrastructure projects), and cross-boundary data gathering projects to assess risk, health, and management priorities are examples of projects that may be eligible for funding. The ITC has been very proactive in coordinating efforts for the implementation of the Infrastructure Bill, and the BIA is participating in those planning efforts. The BIA is also coordinating internally, and with the Regions, on strategies that could allow Tribes to utilize funding made available. The collective effort will take time because the Infrastructure Bill is very large and covers many management areas. We strongly encourage Tribes to read the bill and be creative in coming up with ideas / projects for possible funding.

Timber Sales Operation Group (TSOG): As part of the effort to re-

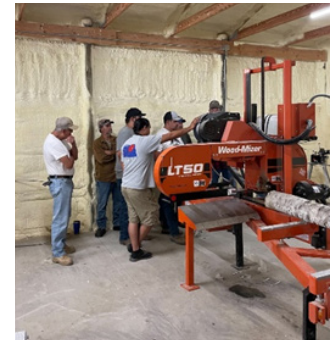


Photo of Turtle Mountain. From left to right: Display Board, Ice Fishing Shed, and Portable Sawmill

visit and combine the timber sale and permit handbooks into one handbook, the TSOG has been updating the contract and permit forms and have made revisions that will require a new release of the 53 IAM Chapter 3 Harvest of Forest Products Manual. Revised contract and permit forms and a revised Manual should be released in the 2nd quarter of FY 22. The handbook draft is nearly complete and most of the work to update the old illustrations is complete.

TAAMS Updates: TAAMS Forestry enhancements submitted and approved in FY 2021 have taken a back burner as the contractor CGI is working to complete and release a new TAAMS probate module. That work is coming to completion, and we are hopeful our forestry enhancements including the timber money ledger will be completed soon. We have also been approved to hold two CGI led TAAMS Forestry sessions in FY-22, subject to change based on Covid restrictions. The planned schedule is: Introductory TAAMS Forestry, April 4-8, 2022 and Advanced TAAMS Forestry, April 25-29, 2022. Both courses will be offered in the CGI training room in Dallas Texas.

Year End Reporting: Accurate reporting of accomplishments and program needs are vital to the Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management for reporting program metrics to Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Interior, to senior Indian Affairs leadership, and others. This data is used to justify our Forestry budget to the President, and factors into funding formulas for forestry project work. Please assist your Agencies and Regions in meeting their end of fiscal year reporting deadlines.

Competency Gap Analysis: Forestry has been working with Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

FY 2020 Accomplishment Data				
Region	Reforestation Planted Acres	Stand Improvement Thinned Acres	Timber Volume Offered (MBM)	Timber Volume Sold (MBM)
Alaska	-	19	9,571	10
Eastern	88	-	17,345	17,345
Eastern OK	-	25	-	22
Great Plains	3	58	30	-
Midwest	471	1,790	40,803	32,124
Navajo	-	155	35,210	32,859
Northwest	13,659	10,001	283,156	248,200
Pacific	83	498	1,054	1,054
Rocky Mt.	20	315	74	74
Southern Plains	-	-	1	1
Southwest	130	1,221	58	1,313
Western	154	2,753	320	14,269
National Totals	14,608	16,835	387,622	347,271

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland

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on developing an occupational analysis and gap assessment questionnaire targeted specifically for forestry technicians GS-0462 non-fire role and their supervisors. OPM is working with agency subject-matter experts to systematically identify competency (or skill) gaps for workforce planning and development purposes. OPM's governmentwide competency models are customized to fit the 0460 and 0462 occupation series. These models will provide a framework for identifying gaps in the current workforce and projecting requirements for the future.

Funding and Position Analysis:

The FY2019 Funding and Position Analysis (F&PA) data collection and quality control work concluded in June 2021. Thank you to all the BIA and tribal forestry and fire programs that participated! The FY2019 F&PA is the sixth survey of the Indian Forestry Program funding and staffing levels spanning the past 30 years. Currently, we are analyzing the data to benchmark the state of the program in FY2019 as well as evaluate national trends over time. A report will be developed to share these findings and to highlight the critical resources needed to provide high-quality forest management services to tribes.

2-Year Forest Development Accomplishments					
REGIONS	FY 2020		FY 2021		Total
	Plant	PCT	Plant	PCT	
Great Plains	3	58	100	70	231
Southern Plains	-	-	-	-	-
Rocky Mtn.	20	330	351	308	1,009
Alaska	-	19	-	13	32
Midwest	471	1,073	315	2,927	4,786
Eastern Oklahoma	-	25	21	21	67
Western	154	1,525	125	1,769	3,573
Pacific	83	498	-	-	581
Southwest	50	608	50	1,262	1,970
Navajo	-	155	-	-	155
Northwest	2,286	5,387	2,521	8,436	18,630
Eastern	-	-	-	60	60
TOTALS	3,067	9,678	3,483	14,866	31,094



Photo of Timber Team. From left to right: Tree Marking, and Field Recon.

Timber Team: Since October, the Timber Team has laid out 141 acres of salvage timber and cruised 106 plots on the Flathead Reservation in Montana and laid out approximately 400 acres of salvage timber on the Colville Reservation in Washington. The team continues to work on a large-scale GIS forest cover-type mapping project for the Metlakatla Indian Community of Alaska when not conducting field work.

The Timber Team has a three-week trip scheduled in January 2022 at Catawba, SC and Cherokee, NC to work on timber sale prep, forest inventory, trespass, and timber cruising. February 2022, the Timber Team will travel to Florida for three-weeks to work on the Seminole Big Cypress Reservation. Staff will be obtaining an accurate volume estimate with specificity on pole and sapling species that are heavily utilized

for cultural uses (primarily cypress and certain oak species). This assignment may require additional help, if you or your staff would like to get out of the cold weather and brave the swamps of South Florida, please let your regional forester know.

Other 2022 Scheduled Assignments:

- May - Collection of CFI data for the Narragansett Tribe, RI.
- May - Collection of CFI data on the Standing Rock Reservation, ND/SD.
- August - Timber sale prep on the Umatilla Reservation, OR.

We are still seeking proposals for FY22 and FY23, work with your regional forestry staff on getting a proposal submitted. Federal and Tribal staff that is interested in working with the Timber Team on any assignment for FY22 should contact your regional forester, assignment rotations are available. All travel is dependent on COVID restrictions, and Regional, Agency, Tribal agreement that work can be done at the work site.

BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

The BOFRP staff is actively working on and supporting 58 forest inventory projects. If you have questions or are looking for a status update for your forest inventory, requests can be sent to Dawn.Patterson@bia.gov.

National Forest Library: Scanning of the library documents housed in Lakewood, Colorado has been completed and the National Forestry Library database has been quality controlled. The archived files scanning project is 35% complete.

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BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fuels Management Program: Fiscal Year 2021 has been laced with both positive and negative program challenges. Multiple issues have contributed to these challenges including COVID-19, as well as an early and extended wildfire season that has drawn field level staff away from normal duties. A noted concern is the movement of moderate-risk acres to high-risk acres. We must continue to adapt our thoughts, within Indian Country, concerning acres at risk and investment strategies to quickly combat changing climate conditions in an effort to decrease the risks of both fire and ecological health issues to our natural resources.

Active Management activities supported restoration and maintenance of healthy forests, woodlands and rangelands; Forestry, Fuels, and Post Wildfire Recovery investments can return a range of 2 to 30 times the cost of suppression in the form of Avoided Costs (a loss not yet incurred i.e. soil erosion, water quality). Prevention, or the reduction of human fires, investments can return up to 35 times the dollar investment through Avoided Cost of suppression and resource loss.

FY21 Indian Country achievements to date include:

- Fuels treated 122,774 acres 67% of planned target.
- Fuels FY21 allocation \$49.6M, obligated \$43.9 (88%) with potential Carryover of \$5.6M (12%)
- Workforce Initiative: \$3.85 total \$3.5M to Tribes; \$385K to BIA.
- Preliminary Program of Work (PPOW) is in the final process of completion.
- Office of Wildland Fire is “clawing

back” carryover from FY12-17, this will have minimal impact to us.

- FTEM reporting continues to be an Indian Country strength.

Wildfire Prevention: Regional WUI/Prevention Specialists working with Tribes and Agencies to complete migration of existing wildfire prevention plans into the Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) software application are on track to meet the January 1, 2022 deadline.

90 IAM 6 Wildfire Investigation revision has received comments back from the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action (RACA) and is in the process of reviewing and revising for final approval.

Prevention staff is currently working with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) classifiers to complete the development Bureau Standardized Position Descriptions (SPD's) for the prevention program. A total of are 5 SPD's are pending approval.

This season, a total of three Fire Prevention and Education Teams have been mobilized across Indian Country. Teams were placed within the Northwest Region at the Colville Tribe; the Rocky Mountain Region with the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Agencies; and Great Plains Region at the Rosebud and Turtle Mountain Agencies.

Post Wildfire Recovery (PWR) Program: The PWR Program has experienced substantial activity this season, with Western, Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions having the heaviest need for Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) resources. To date, ten BAER plans have been approved and nearly \$2 million in emergency stabilization funding has been authorized. Five additional plans are

currently being finalized. This fire season alone, over 200,000 trust acres have been affected and would benefit from post-wildfire recovery project assistance.

The PWR program allocated \$4.625 million in FY2021 for Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) projects such as cultural planting, reforestation, and noxious weed treatments on 11 reservations. Already the need for FY2022 BAR funding stands at \$6.7 million and is expected to rise with final submission of pending 2021 BAER plans

Training: BWFM Training has just recently hired a new Training Specialist, whose focus will be on Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Tribal training development programs with regards to fire recruitment measures. This position will reside at the National Interagency Forestry Center (NIFC) but will be dedicated to assisting with instruction, coordination, management and presentations regarding new and renewed branch level training/recruitment and retention programs. These programs will include The Wildland Fire Apprentice Academy, Pathways and the College to Careers Internship programs, the BIA Fire Mentoring Academy, and the possible invention of both a nationwide Detailer Program and Fire Management Officer (FMO) “boot camp” style program. This position will work closely with our interagency partners and our national level workforce development team.

It is also important to note that while we have done an excellent job of working around travel restrictions and have produced some fantastic blended and online courses, the nature of our duties does not allow for all training to be conducive to virtual platforms. We are expecting new

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland

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direction to be given from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Executive Board, to guide the Department of Interior (DOI) and US Forestry Services (USFS) bureaus in reconsidering training as

mission critical services, ultimately allowing individuals to begin travelling for in-person hands-on training programs.

Our goal is to gather national, regional, and tribal support to allow our personnel the best training av-

enues possible. More information to be provided as the guidance suggestions progresses through the various channels of authorization.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC): Hosted listening sessions for local and state entities, and tribal interests to identify and understand potential barriers, limitations, and inefficiencies in implementing proposed increases in funding in infrastructure, reconciliation, and other legislative proposals.

Eric Litzenberg, International Association of Fire Chiefs, stated that they do not have the level of capacity and experience in applying for grants. Across the system, there is a lack of capacity. More flexibility and spending timelines were highlighted as a way that could be helpful; simplifying and streamlining grant processes including the reporting and application processes; one grant process with technical experts to fit them into the proper funding buckets was one idea.

George Geissler, National Association of State Foresters, summarized the state listening session. Capacity was one of the primary issues raised. Contract administrators and fiscal support in addition to the foresters and others doing work on-the-ground are needed. Clarity for implementation and the reporting will be needed in advance. He also stated that rapid implementation means everyone will be competing for the same workforce pool, in addition to the other sectors within the bill which may overlap the workforce needs as well. There is a need to collectively work on this in the long-term.

Laura McCarthy, State Forester from New Mexico mentioned that sustainability of this funding is needed. Infrastructure and contractor capacity needs a longer-term investment to really ramp up. A transition is needed post funding so we can get the partnership and investment being sought to accomplish this work.

Vernon Stearns, Jr., ITC Fire Sub-Committee Chair, summarized the tribal listening session. Building greater efficiency into existing authorities and programs that can be utilized to promote self-governance and determination authorities- but these need capacity on both the federal and tribal side to use. Hiring of staff, facilities to expand staff, pay-scale, tribal cost-share amounts, and



Photograph courtesy of Michael Umphrey, CSKT Division of Fire, Boulder 2700 Road Fire, 2021

administrative burdens continue to be challenges. He stated that the entire landscape is important, tribal livelihoods are closely connected to the lands. Lands and homes are one in the same. Tribes are also looking for equity and parity in funding allocation.

The Aspen Institute and The Nature Conservancy: Facilitated a roundtable discussion, mostly to hear from USDA and Forest Service leadership about their initial considerations for a short and long-term wildfire risk reduction strategy, and the role for partners.

Brian Ferebee, Wildfire Resilience Infrastructure Team, USDA Forest Service; Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Dep-

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Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Photograph courtesy of Michael Umphrey, CSKT Division of Fire, Boulder 2700 Road Fire, 2021.

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uty Chief of State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service; and Chris French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, USDA Forest Service discussed

1. The role of the Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team
2. Intra- and interagency coordination
3. Role for partners
4. Prioritization and science of assessing risk
5. Scenario investment planning
6. Workforce and contracting

Also, Andrea Bedell-Loucks, External Affairs and Strategic Partnerships Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team (WRRIT), USDA Forest Service presented to the ITC Fire Subcommittee on December 6, 2021. She covered the WRRIT Strategic Plan for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding for use in USDA Forest Service fuels and fire risk mitigation work.

As a reminder, the ITC published a report titled 'Improving Efficiency, Equity and Effectiveness of Wildfire Impacts on Tribal Trust Resources' back in April 2018 with the intent of identifying

and addressing the challenges that most have again stated.



Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

2022 ITC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

We had an excellent virtual symposium in 2021. So, after extensive discussions, we are wanting to get back to some normalcy, the ITC Board of Directors and our Symposium Committee have decided to plan for an onsite meeting this spring in Alaska. This is our second attempt and would like to invite our Intertribal Timber Council family to the **Forty Fifth Annual Nation Indian Timber Symposium, May 16-19, 2022, hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, Alaska.** The theme of this year's symposium is **"Connecting Tribes & Land Management."** Check the ITC website periodically for 2022 Symposium information updates.

Safety for all - ITC will require full COVID-19 vaccination of all attendees. All attendees must provide proof of vaccination in advance of the meeting. ITC will follow federal, state, and local health requirements. Face masks must be worn. We want to create a safe environment for our attendees, families, and brothers & sisters around Indian Country.



Photo Credit: Karen Wilken/Explore Fairbanks.

Midnight Sun Season runs from April 22 to Aug 20. There will be 24 hours of sunlight during the 2022 ITC Annual Symposium in Fairbanks, Alaska. The town celebrates the sun with a variety of middle-of-the-night events and activities during this period.

Sunday, May 15: Pre-Symposium Workshops: **Workshop 1: Upper Tanana River Valley Forestry Tour (2 Days),** this tour will have participants come in on Saturday. Sunday starts field tour to the north of Fairbanks to Tanacross where stay the night and return south on Monday. More information to follow.

Monday, May 16: Pre-Symposium Workshops continued: **Workshop 2: Traditional Crafting Birch Baskets,** teaching the significant to Athabascan culture of basket making with paper birch, black spruce root, and young willow stems. **Workshop 3: Wildland Fire Update,** be ready to receive the latest from the fire world. **Workshop 4: Emerging Technology,** Introduction to High Resolution Lidar (12") and Forestview Webapp, Prescribe Fire Burn App, Post-Fire Planting with Drones and Everyday work, Satellite Facilitated Stand Based Inventory, and 10m SiteGrid Meth-

od. Symposium registration will start and will end the day with the Ice Breaker.

Tuesday, May 17: We will start the day with the Registration and Exhibit Booths opening, raffle items and tickets sales will begin as well. **Opening Ceremony, Welcomes, and Keynote** address will follow. Our morning break will bring us to our two panel discussion for the day. **Panel 1: Central Office Timber Team,** introduction of team and projects completed and planned across Indian Country. While **Panel 2: Infrastructure Possibilities/Potential,** will include a detailed observations and discussions of all the new monies coming our way. This will be followed by the **Tanana Chiefs Conference Host Presentation.** Then we end the day with the **Host Welcome Dinner** at the David Salmon Tribal Hall.

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Photo Credit: Sherman Hogue/
Explore Fairbanks.

The Festival of Native Arts is held each spring by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and invites people of all cultures to learn and share traditions of indigenous Alaskans from around the state.

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Wednesday, May 18: Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Tour will consist of four stops, Pellet Mill Tour, Shaded Fuelbreak Demonstration Site, Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility, and Fairbanks Fuel Break and Shovel Creek Fire. Lunch and transportation will be provided. The day will end with the **General Membership Meeting**.

Thursday, May 19: Registration and Exhibit Booths will be open, and the raffle will continue. We will first begin the day with the **ITC President's Report**, Updates from the – Department of the Interior, Office of Wildland Fire; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Legislative; and U.S. Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations. After the updates will be our three breakout workshop sessions - **Workshop 1: Climate Change and Fire Effects of Indigenous Lifeways**, **Workshop 2: Biomass Utilization**, and **Work-**

shop 3: Reserved Treaty Rights Land. Finally at the end of the day, the **Annual Business Meeting**, and the **Annual Awards Banquet**.

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

Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

2023 ITC Symposium hosted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Walker, MN

2024 ITC Symposium hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, NC

2025 ITC Symposium hosted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, MT

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

ITC'S NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Please note our new mailing address as of December 18, 2021:

Intertribal Timber Council
PO Box 11790
Portland, OR 97211
503-282-4296

If you are not on the ITC mailing list and would like to receive the annual symposium agenda, please contact the ITC online at https://www.itcnet.org/get_involved/mailling_list.html.





INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

PO BOX 11790

Portland, Oregon 97211

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