



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Fall ~ 2018

President's Message



Vernon Stearns, Jr

Members and friends, good day. As I write this, I am getting ready for a trip to Washington, DC, my first as ITC President. I am going to be accompanied by Jim Durglo, ITC's Wildland Fire Technical Specialist Contractor, and Cody Desautel, who chairs the ITC Board's Operations Committee, and we will be guided through our DC rounds by Matt Hill, our in-coming DC-based Research and Information Specialist.

For me, the trip will be introductory in nature. But, I take great confidence in that the ITC's message and issues to be discussed with senior agency officials and on Capitol Hill are the continuation of longer term efforts with which the ITC Board, staff and consultants are well versed fostering familiarity with and support for timber tribes and our programs and activities, touching base with BIA, saying hello to new officials or renewing old acquaintances, pursuing more

equitable consideration of tribal forestry and fire priorities, and keeping an active hand in legislative deliberations.

In making this trip, two things particularly stand out. The first is the constant state of change that encompasses our world, and the second is the ITC's sense of stability and continuity in the face of that change. This change occurs both at home and externally, and within the ITC as well. The management of Indian timber itself must deal with change and uncertainty, often uncontrollable. At home, we regularly face such risks as wild fire and disease, climate change, and fluctuating timber markets. With our federal partners, there are seemingly never-ending shifts in personnel, programs and support. And here at the ITC, we have a new President and Vice President, our Fire Specialist and Operations Committee Chair are relatively new to their jobs, and Matt Hill is stepping in as our DC representative with Mark Phillips' retirement.

Despite all this change, the ITC remains a strong, engaged and effective organization for tribal timber. While many of us in ITC posts are fairly new to those jobs, we have careers in tribal forestry and have spent time being active in the ITC organization and its issues. We are fortunate to be part of an ITC Board that is steady and dedicated, and we are also fortunate for the steady participation of non-Board

timber tribes and Native organizations whose voluntary contributions are vital to the ITC and the support of tribal forestry, including those stepping forward as gracious hosts of the ITC's annual Timber Symposium.

The functions of the ITC Board and its contributing tribes and Native organizations are underpinned by the professional dedication of our permanent staff: Program Manager Laura Alvidrez, and Technical Specialist Don Motanic. They truly make the wheels go around. While most of us attend to our regular jobs, these three attend to the ITC's operational nuts and bolts, outreach to other groups and organizations, and the many technical issues that arise for our organization. They arrange the annual Timber Symposium and our quarterly Board meetings, organize and oversee the flow of our correspon-

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President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.

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dence, including the Timber Notes newsletter, administer our projects, and attend to the many details involved in shepherding forward our relationship with our federal partners. They are the efficient engine that moves the ITC forward day by day, month by month, year by year.

Finally, the true weight of our organization, the source of the ITC's gravity and authority, rests with our member tribes and Native organizations. Your steady membership, your regular participation in the annual National Timber Symposium and, of course, your active and long term management of your timber resource form the ITC's very foundation. Your support is what sustains and propels the ITC and its Board, and I want to ex-

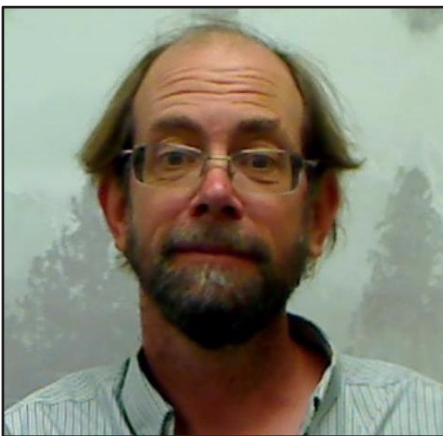
tend an open invitation to any ITC Member to attend and take part in our Board meetings. The Board and committee meetings are open, informative and inclusive, and we would welcome your participation.

Perhaps it is the very nature of our forests and our management of them – the long time horizons- that give the timber tribes, their forest management, and the Intertribal Timber Council, its Board and its staff the similar determination to move steadily and confidently through the tumult of change. In any event, as I head to DC, I fully appreciate this steady, long-view characteristic in the ITC and its membership, and will draw upon it as we bring our message to the Nation's capital.



Research Subcommittee

by Adrian Leighton



Adrian Leighton

Greetings from the Research Subcommittee. It has been an eventful few months since our last newsletter, and there are exciting developments that should be coming soon. Here are a few important updates and announcements:

- We are proud to announce that

the Native American Natural Resource Research Scholarship is back, and open for applicants. This scholarship provides up to \$4,000 for a Native American student (graduate or undergraduate) to perform research in partnership with a tribal natural resource entity or department. Please help spread the word- applications are due December 5, 2018. More details can be obtained at the ITC website or by contacting Adrian Leighton by email at forestry@skc.edu. This scholarship is funded primarily by the USFS Southern Research Station celebrating its fifth year. To date, 21 Native American students have been supported.

- The Sub-Committee is hard at work preparing a new Tribal Research Priorities survey. The last survey, circulated in 2011 was

the impetus for the creation of the subcommittee and provided fundamental information that has been used to direct many of the group's activities. A working group consisting of Serra Hoagland, Mike Dockry, Jim Durglo and myself met in Washington D.C. in September to create a new draft survey. We should start beta testing with a small group in late October and sending out the survey to tribal forestry and natural resource departments by November. Results of the survey will be available at the 2019 Timber Symposium in Hollywood, Fl. If you have any questions concerning the survey or want to make sure that you get on the distribution list, please contact either Serra or myself.

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Research Subcommittee by Adrian Leighton

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- On October 4, 2018, a group of sub-committee members presented information on current initiatives and next steps to the USFS Forest Service Research Executive Team (FSRET). This group includes the Heads of all regional research stations and the Washington Office leadership. After a brief history of the sub-committee, we had a great conversation about ways that ITC can work with the FSRET leadership to expand opportunities for tribal involvement in forest service research activities. FSRET committed to working with ITC to create opportunities for interested tribal representatives to meet with their regional Station leadership. Look for more details on this exciting opportunity soon.



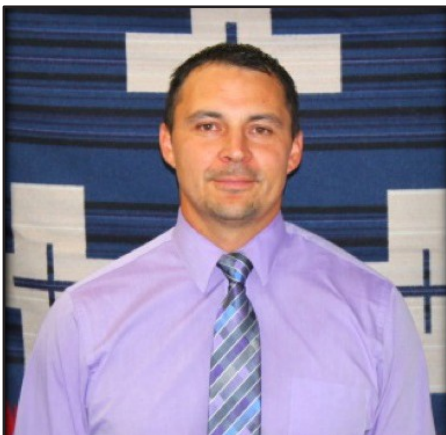
Pictured (L to R) Adrian Leighton, Mike Dockry, Janet Leak-Garcia, Serra Hoagland, Jim Durglo

In order to create a time for the Workforce Development Working Group to meet in person, the sub-committee will meet by phone in the month of December instead of

during their usual Tuesday afternoon timeslot.



Operations Committee by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

September's board meeting found us in sunny Florida with the gracious Seminole tribe. The Seminole homelands are amazing, and I encourage everyone to attend the symposium there next June. This report will include updates from the September board meeting.

TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT (TFPA)

Over the past few years, ITC has coordinated webinars and workshops to assist tribes and the Forest Service with TFPA implementation. Very few projects were completed in the 10 years since TFPA was passed. The workshops were intended to increase understanding and utilization of the Tribal Forest Protection Act. A final report is being drafted to summarize the success of these workshops. A secondary report documenting success stories will also be completed. To ensure the use of TFPA continues ITC will create and maintain a tracking system.

Last week President Stearns, Jim Durglo, and I met with USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Jim Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard expressed a strong interest in expanding use of TFPA. We will be reaching out to tribes to identify where potential projects exist, and how the ITC can assist in developing TFPA proposals.

DRONE OPPORTUNITY

Drone technology has continued to advance, and the BIA has taken advantage of this opportunity by acquiring a number of drone platforms. Included with these platforms the BIA will provide pilots and staff with experience and knowledge to assist tribes. Joel Kerley, acting BIA Fire Director, has challenged tribes to submit proposals for this new tool. The BIA has made investments in equipment and training, so please consider how this could be used

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Operations Committee by Cody Desautel

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to improve management or data gathering capabilities. Contact the Aviation program in Boise at (208) 387-5371 with questions or proposals.

INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT (ITARA)

After a lot of work from tribes, BIA, and ITC, we will have our first approved Indian Trust Asset Management pilot projects. The proposals were submitted a number of months ago, and ITC has been informed approvals for those projects should be signed this week. George Smith had taken an active leadership role in this process. George is great contact if interested tribes have questions about the legislation, Indian Trust Asset Management Plans (ITAMP), or the pilot projects. ITARA has the potential to be the next step in Indian self-determination.



DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REORGANIZATION

Consultation meetings have concluded and the comment deadline closed on September 22, 2018. A new version of the regional map was also released in August identifying 12 regions, which is one less

than the original proposal. There are many unknowns that point. We will continue to track this, and share information as it becomes available.



Technical Specialist by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

NATIONAL NATIVE WORKFORCE PARTNERS ARE GROWING

I spent the summer talking with and emailing various tribes, government agencies, organizations, companies

and universities. One discussion could help bridge a gap.

On July 17, 2018, I had the opportunity to share an update concerning the Our Natural Resource (ONR) workforce discussion draft dated January 30, 2018, with Ross Racine, Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC). During my conversation with Ross, I had a chance to listen to their IAC story about their member tribe priorities, as it would relate to the efforts of ITC's workforce development and other projects. Ross had a pretty simple phase to capture their efforts with agriculture. He said, "We need to feed ourselves as sovereign people."

As I listen to Ross describe their organization's focus and drive, he summarized his vision similar to ITC's Anchor Forest concept where tribal governments could feed their membership with a model program. The model program happened to be with the Quapaw Tribe in Oklahoma who also happens to be a recent member of the ITC. The Quapaw Tribe has helped design a pilot project that I would call the "Anchor Foods", the same way that the Yakama and Colville Tribes have worked on the Anchor Forest concept. It occurred to me that IAC's efforts could be connected with an American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) project with their

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Technical Specialist by Don Motanic

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Keepseagle Settlement fund project to fill a regional gap not covered by the Ecotrust workforce development project that has a focus on the NW and eastern region of the country through the partnerships with the Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians (ATNI) and the United South and Eastern Tribes. The regional gap with the Ecotrust project currently exists in the southwest, plains, Midwest, California and Alaska regions of the country. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) also has a workforce project that could also provide resources to fill the regional gaps. New partners for our workforce efforts also include Diana Crider at Texas A&M's Natural Resource School who's working with Tribes in Texas and The Campbell Group who's interested a mentor program and has donated \$2,000 to the Picard Scholarship Program.

More information about the Keepseagle Settlement funds that are creating education and outreach opportunities for tribal farmers and ranchers and youth to help create the National Native Workforce can be seen at www.indianfarmclass.com.

ECOTRUST HELPS CONNECT TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

The tasks and actions outlined in the ONR discussion draft dated January 30, 2018, that include; Forming a Team, Gathering the Facts, Professional staff and Youth have been funded by a Forest Service grant secured by Ecotrust that includes partnerships with ITC, Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians (ATNI), United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), and Yakama Nation with Heritage University.

The project manager at Ecotrust,

Stephanie Cowherd (San Carlos Apache), conducted a meeting on August 20, 2018, with the partners to develop a timeline of activities that can be viewed in a google project folder <http://bit.ly/2C6DJgc> and follows steps outlined in the discussion draft, (page 3-4). A partner meeting will be conducted at Heritage University in Toppenish in October 2019, date to be determined. Main topic will be developing a survey by Nov-Dec 2018.

NATIVE AMERICA CALLING

On Monday, September 24, 2018, the Native America Calling radio show hosted a program called, Timber for profit in Native America. On the show the guest in-

cluded Marshall Pecore, Forest Manager, Menominee Tribal Enterprises; Steve Rigdon, General Manager, Yakama Forest Products; Brett Black, Chief Operation Officer, Colville Tribal Forest Products; and Waylon Beymer, Warm Springs Tribal member/President of Chikat Logging, Inc.

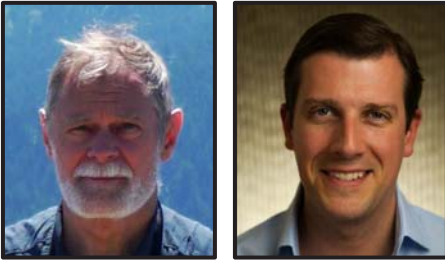
The program can be heard in the archive section on www.nativeamericacalling.com.



Don Motanic with tribal students at the NW Youth Corps Office in Eugene, OR

Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

1) TIME RUNNING OUT ON THE 115TH CONGRESS.

The Second Session (or second year) of the 115th Congress is rapidly heading toward its conclusion. As of September 20, there are only 16 scheduled days for the House to be in session before recessing for the November 6 midterm elections and then only 16 days after that before the December 14 target adjournment of the current 115th Congress. The Senate, which tries to work five days a week when in session, has about 45 scheduled legislative days before the December 14 adjournment target to end the 115th Congress.

With the limited time and coming elections, Congressional activity customarily grinds to a near halt during the coming weeks. However, two bills of significance to the ITC – the FY 2019 Interior appropriations bill and the Farm Bill – are near the conclusion of their legislative process and could clear Congress and get signed into law before the election recess.

2) FY 2019 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS GOES TO CONFERENCE.

A) HOUSE RECOMMENDS +\$500K FOR BIA FORESTRY, BUT BOTH CHAMBERS MISTAKENLY REDUCE BIA FORESTRY BY \$375,000.

Legislation including FY 2019 appropriations for the Department of the Interior (DoI), including the BIA, BIA Forestry, and the DoI Office of Wildland Fire Management

(H.R. 6147), has passed the House and the Senate. Upon House passage July 19, the appropriation legislation for Financial Services and General Government was added to the bill, and the Senate, upon its August 1 passage, added appropriations bills for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Food and Drug Administration and for Transportation, Housing and Rural Development. On September 6, both the House and Senate appointed their conferees to resolve differences between the House and Senate passed versions on all four appropriations measures now in H.R. 6147.

When appointing the House conferees, Appropriations Chairman Rod Frelinghuysen (R, NJ) said he expects to conclude the conference negotiations within “the next few weeks” so the legislation can, hopefully, be sent to the President before the September 30 end of Fiscal Year 2018. Appropriations Committee staff from both Chambers have already been working at compromises on minor differences, and the Members will now be engaged in hammering out issues that are more difficult.

To calculate FY 2019 funding levels for all BIA programs in the Operation of Indian Programs account, the House and Senate both started with the final FY 2018 funding levels, rejecting all the Trump Administration has proposed FY 2019 programmatic funding cuts as an initial matter. To that final FY 2018 amount, the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees then made blanket adjustments to include all the BIA internal transfers of funds and all the fixed cost increases requested by the Administration for FY 2019. On top of those adjustments, the House recommended various program-funding

adjustments, including a programmatic increase of \$500,000 for BIA TPA Forestry. The Senate made the same adjustments to calculate its FY '19 base BIA budget, but did not then add \$500,000 for BIA TPA Forestry. A multi-year funding comparison table for overall BIA Operation of Indian Programs, BIA Forestry, and several other BIA Natural Resource programs is located on the next page.

When the BIA submitted its proposed FY 2019 budget to Congress, it included a proposed internal transfer of \$375,000 to move a 20-year-old fisheries program out of the BIA Forestry Projects budget, where it had been added by Congress years ago, to a different BIA Natural Resources budget category called Tribal Management Development Programs (TMDP). Efforts to increase the special fisheries program's budget had been causing difficulties for the Forestry Project budget, and prompted its proposed move to the more appropriate TMDP budget category.

Congress received the BIA's FY 2019 proposed budget, including the fisheries transfer, before it had completed the FY 2018 Interior appropriation, and so took the opportunity to make the transfer in the FY 2018 bill rather than wait until FY 2019. Additionally, Congress made the transfer in the amount of \$355,000 rather than the \$375,000 requested.

However, when the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees developed their base FY 2019 funding levels for BIA, they did not exclude the \$375,000 for the internal transfer of the fisheries program to TMDP,

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Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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Amounts in \$ thousands						
BIA Program	FY 2015 Final	FY 2016 Final	FY 2017 Final	FY 2018 Final	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
BIA Operation of Indian Programs	2,429,000	2,267,924	2,339,346	2,411,200	2,436,821	2,403,890
Natural Resources General		5,168	4,953	4,882	6,919	4,919
Endangered Species	2,675	2,684	2,685	2,693	2,697	2,697
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	9,948	9,955	9,966	9,956	9,956	9,956
BIA Forestry	47,735	51,914	54,155	54,877	55,236	54,736
[TPA Forestry]	[27,526]	[27,643]	[27,590]	[28,575] ¹	[29,259] ²	[28,759]
[Forestry Projects]	[20,209]	[24,271]	[26,565]	[26,302] ¹	[25,977] ²	[25,977]

¹ FY 2018 Fsty TPA: \$27,590 ('17 final) + \$116 ('18 Int. Trans.) + \$369 ('18 Fixed Costs) + \$500 (House add-on) = \$29,575

¹ FY 2018 Fsty Projects: \$26,565 ('17 final) + \$-0- ('18 Int. Trans.) + \$92 ('18 Fixed Costs) - \$355 (Fisheries transfer to TMPD) = \$26,302

² FY 2019 Fsty TPA: \$28,575 ('18 final) + \$-0- ('19 Int. Trans.) + \$184 ('19 Fixed Costs) + \$500 (House add-on) = \$25,259 (Senate: no add-on)

² FY 2019 Fsty Projects: \$26,302 ('18 final) - \$375 ('19 Int. Trans. for 2nd fisheries trans.) + \$50 (fixed costs) = \$25,977

and so inadvertently reduced the Forestry Projects budget a second time for the \$355,000 transfer they had already carried out in the FY 2018 bill.

The ITC believes this was an unintended error, has notified the Committees about it, and hopes it will be corrected in the final FY 2019 Interior appropriations conference agreement, which is expected to

be completed and issued early next week (week of September 24, 2018).

B) FY'19 HOUSE & SENATE WILDFIRE FUNDING.

The House and Senate passed versions of FY 2019 funding for the Interior Department's Office of Wildland Fire Management have gone into final conference negotiations as part of H.R. 6184, the FY 2019 In-

terior Appropriations bill (now expanded to include three additional appropriations bills). A comparison between FY 2018, the Administration's FY 2019 request, and the House and Senate recommendations for FY 2019 appropriations for the Interior Department's Office of Wildland Fire Management is below.

Amounts in \$ thousands				
	FY 2018 Final	FY 2019 Admin.	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
Preparedness	332,784	322,179	332,784	322,179
Suppression	389,406	388,135	389,406	388,135
Additional Suppression	-	-	-	175,865
Fuels Management	184,000	150,603	194,000	188,000
Burned Area Rehab	20,470	9,487	20,470	187,427
Fire Facilities	18,427	-	-	20,470
Joint Fire Science	3,000	-	3,000	3,000

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Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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The Senate's additional Suppression funding is in the event the 10-year suppression average is insufficient to cover the costs of wildland fire suppression during FY 2019, which, based on suppression cost's current and recent history, will likely be the case.

C) ITC FY '19 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE LETTER. With the House and Senate now in final conference deliberations on the FY 2019 Interior appropriations measure, the ITC sent a letter in mid-August to the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees expressing the ITC's following preferences for the House - Senate FY 2019 conference:

- A) A reminder to correct the inadvertent second reduction of the BIA Forestry program by \$375,000 for the NW fisheries transfer already carried out in FY 2018,
- B) Adoption of the House-recommended \$500,000 increase for BIA TPA Forestry, and
- C) For the Interior Department's Office of Wildland Fire, adoption of -
 - I) The House recommendation for Preparedness
 - II) The Senate recommendation for Suppression, including the Additional Suppression funding of \$175,865,
 - III) The House recommendation on Fuels Management, and
 - IV) The Senate recommendation for Fire Facilities.

3) FARM BILL UPDATE.

House and Senate conferees are currently negotiating a final version of the 2018 Farm Bill (H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018). There are major differences between the two versions of the bill.

The largest of these is the House "work requirements" for the Supplementation Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP", formerly known as "Food Stamps"). The controversial provision led the House bill to be passed without a single Democratic vote. The day before the first official conference meeting last week, President Trump tweeted about this issue, stating "#FarmBill with SNAP work requirements will bolster farmers and get America back to work."

Assuming the larger debate over SNAP is resolved, the Forestry Title of the Farm Bill remains controversial as well. The House passed bill contains a number of the forest management reforms from Rep. Westerman's "Resilient Federal Forests Act" – including enhanced timelines for TFPA projects and 638 authority to tribes to contract TFPA projects with DOI and USDA.

The 638/TFPA provision has surprisingly stirred concern amongst congressional Democrats, even though it was originally authored by Democratic Rep. Lujan-Grisham (D-AZ). Liberal House members sent a letter to Farm Bill conferees opposing "anti-environmental riders" – listing the 638 provision among them. They accused several provisions of weakening "protections for federal lands and bedrock environmental laws." On the Senate side, Democrats objected to including the 638/TFPA provision as written in the House bill because they were concerned that somehow it could skirt environmental laws. Instead, they drafted an amendment that would severely restrict the 638/TFPA authority to a five-year pilot program limited to only 10 projects nationwide. Further, the demonstration program would be limited to tribes that can "demonstrate a

history of success in managing forest activities, including forestry activities carried out through contracts or self-governance compacts under this Act."

ITC has worked with congressional offices on new legislative language that would not overly restrict the 638/TFPA program but would address concerns raised on Capitol Hill. However, other objections have been filed by the congressional delegation from Alaska over the fact that forestlands owned by Alaska Native Corporations are not eligible as "Indian forest lands" under TFPA. This is an ongoing discussion about the primary purpose of the TFPA in terms of a trust responsibility to protect Indians lands from threats from adjacent federal lands.

4) TARA SWEENEY SWORN IN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Tara Sweeney, Inupiat from the Village of Barrow on the Arctic Slope of Alaska, was sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior in early August. The first Alaska Native to serve as Assistant Secretary, Sweeney has worked over the past two decades for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, most recently as the Executive Vice President for External Affairs. The DoI press release on her swearing in is online at www.doi.gov/pressreleases/history-made-alaskan-leader-tara-mac-lean-sweeney-becomes-first-female-alaska-native. Sweeney was nominated by President Trump in October 2017, but White House errors in her nomination submission delayed her Senate confirmation until June 28, 2018. She joins John Tahsuda, Kiowa, who was appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Sec-

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Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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retary for Indian Affairs on September 3, 2017.

5) JIM HUBBARD CONFIRMED.

At the end of August, the Senate has confirmed Jim Hubbard as USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

Hubbard's nomination on April 14th of this year drew widespread support from Forest Service stakeholders. The ITC co-signed a letter over 150 organizations saying "Jim's background, experience, and understanding of forests and the important role these lands play – from providing clean air and water, places to recreate, hike, hunt, and fish, habitat for fish and wildlife, jobs in rural America, to products we use every day – make him the right person for the job."

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said Hubbard's "service with the Forest Service and the Department of Interior makes him exceptionally qualified for this post." He added "Congress passed and President Trump signed into law meaningful reforms and forest management tools that will help us better maintain our national forests. Under Jim Hubbard's leadership, we will put these tools to use, restore our forests to health and get them back to work for the taxpayers."

Hubbard worked for the Colorado Forest Service for 35 years, serving as the state's chief forester for the last 20. During his two decades as state forester, he served on multiple National Association of State Foresters (NASF) committees, most notably as chair of the legislative committee.

Hubbard has worked as director of

the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination for the U.S. Department of the Interior and deputy chief for state and private forestry at the USDA Forest Service. In 2011, he received the NASF Lifetime Achievement Award. Hubbard received his bachelor's in forest management with honors from the College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University.

6) DOI RE-ORGANIZATION.

The Department of Interior continues to move forward on a plan to reorganize the Department. On August 23, the Department held its final tribal consultation session in the field in Seattle. At the time of writing, there appears to be a Washington, D.C. meeting being scheduled with tribal leaders and Assistant Secretary Tara Sweeney and Secretary Zinke to further discuss the reorganization proposal.

7) FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES NEW WILDFIRE STRATEGY.

The ITC was invited to attend an announcement in the U.S. Capitol Building regarding new USFS wildfire strategy revisions. The announcement was led by USDA Secretary Perdue and acting Forest Service Chief Vicki Christianson. Also in attendance were Senators Daines (R-MT), Wyden (D-OR), Murkowski (R-AK) and Cantwell (D-WA). The announcement included a new report titled "Toward Shared Stewardship across Landscapes: An Outcome-based investment Strategy" --outlining the Forest Service's plans to work more closely with states (and presumably tribes) to identify landscape-scale priorities for targeted treatments in areas with the highest payoffs.

A key component of the new strategy is to prioritize investment decisions on forest treatments in direct coordination with states using the

most advanced science tools. This allows the USFS to increase the scope and scale of critical forest treatments that protect communities and create resilient forests.

The USFS will also build upon the authorities created by the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill, including new categorical exclusions for land treatments to improve forest conditions, new road maintenance authorities, and longer stewardship contracting in strategic areas. The agency will continue streamlining its internal processes to make environmental analysis more efficient and timber sale contracts more flexible.

The FY 2018 Omnibus bill also includes a long-term "fire funding fix," starting in FY 2020, that will stop the rise of the 10-year average cost of fighting wildland fire and reduce the likelihood of the disruptive practice of transferring funds from Forest Service non-fire programs to cover firefighting costs. The product of more than a decade of hard work, this bipartisan solution will ultimately stabilize the agency's operating environment.

Finally, because rising rates of firefighter fatalities in recent decades have shifted the USFS's approach to fire response, the report emphasizes the agency's commitment to a risk-based response to wildfire.



BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland



Pete Wakeland

CONGRATULATIONS: MR. LEON BEN

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Leon Ben has been selected as the next BIA Fire Director.

Leon earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff, Arizona. He was one of the first cooperative students to be sponsored by the San Carlos Apache Tribe's Forest Resources Program. Leon was a Guardsman with the Arizona National Guard from 1988 to 2002, and is currently serving on the Advisory Council for NAU's School of Forestry.

Leon's started his Tribal career in 1994, as a Woodland Forester with the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona. In 1996, he was selected as the Tribal Fire Management Coordinator for San Carlos' 638 fire management program. Leon became a federal employee with the BIA in 1998, as the Area Assistant Regional Fire Management Officer at the Phoenix Area Office (now the Western Regional Office). In 1999 he became the Area Fire Management Officer. He had a 7-month stint as the Western Region's NEPA Coordinator before he was rehired as the Regional Fire Management Officer in 2007.

In 2010, Leon participated in the BIA's Pathways to Leadership Program, and completed a program-required detail with the Office of Self-Governance in Washington, D.C.

Leon has worked as the National Safety Program Manager for the Branch of Wildland Fire Management since March 2018, and served prior as the Regional Forester in the Western Region. He is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache

Tribe and is also Navajo on his father's side. He grew up in various parts of Arizona. His parents, Wally and Nella Ben, reside in Peridot, Arizona. Leon is married to his wife, Lynndella, and they have two daughters, Lucina and Courtney. They are also proud grandparents to Emelia, Ethan, Eli and Erik.

CONGRATULATIONS: MS. DAWN PATTERSON

As the new Branch Chief for the Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, Dawn brings with her a wealth of experience and information from working as a Forester for BLM; developing silviculture prescriptions for upcoming timber sales for BIA; to working as the Installation Forester, Forestry Program Manager for Fort Carson, Department of Defense.

At the BLM, Dawn performed all the duties required of a professional forester. She prepared and wrote silviculture prescriptions for timber sales, established unit boundaries using cadastral survey notes and plats or locating monuments, conducted timber cruises, prepared sale reports and sale/bid announcements, reviewed bids, oversaw contract administration as COR, and contracted closeout procedures.

At Fort Carson, she served as the representative and resident forestry matter expert, and was regarded as an excellent performer by her supervisors. She also wrote and developed a comprehensive Forest Management Plan for both Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Prior to becoming Branch Chief,

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Dawn was hired as an Inventory Forester for the BIA. She served as the Northwest and Rocky Mountain service area representative and provided technical support to the regional office and tribal forestry. She successfully developed, cleaned, and processed complex CFI databases for several tribes in the Northwest. Dawn provided on-the-ground training to tribal forestry and ensured software was installed successfully on tribal and contractor devices. She conducted training on collecting data with the field data recorders, uploading to BOFRP Apps and running error checks. Training also involved reviewing the handbook and answering questions.

Dawn was born and raised on the Navajo Reservation and is an enrolled member of tribe. She continued her education at Northern Arizona University where she earned her Bachelors of Science in Forestry and a Master of Forestry Degree. She graduated Cum Laude – Forestry Honor Society Xi Sigma Pi.

Dawn is married to Scott Patterson. She has two sons, Lane and Kage Walker who both attend college. Dawn lives with her family in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**CONGRATULATIONS:
MR. ROGER JENSEN**

Mr. Roger Jensen, Forest Products Forester, Central Office Forestry, has retired after a long and productive federal career. Roger's last day was September 28, 2018. We wish Roger all the best in retirement, and we thank him for all the years of service to the Bureau and Indian

country.

**INDIAN TRUST ASSET
REFORM ACT (ITARA)**

Ms. Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, signed the Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the establishment of the Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project on October 1, 2018. Establishing the Demonstration Project was a top-10 priority for the Bureau in 2018. Accomplishing this goal has been a collective effort, and we thank the Tribes, the Inter-Tribal Timber Council, and all of the people who have worked with us over the past year to move this project forward.

We offer a special thank you to Ms. Lauren DiFilippo, Attorney Advisor – Solicitor's Office, for her hard work and dedication. Lauren was our partner from the beginning, and she contributed greatly to our effort.

ITARA documents are posted on line at <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-development-and-or-under-review/itara-demonstration-project>. For more information, contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester.

SOUTHERN BORDER PROJECTS

Southern Border Fuels Projects - The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) transferred \$560K to the BIA/ Branch of Wildland Fire Management to fund the Cocopah Southern Border Fuels Project. The project will increase safety and visibility by reducing fuels and vegetation along the Arizona-Mexico-Cocopah border area. The project supports the Secretary's priority to make the border safe, and is projected to begin in

October, 2018. BIA/Wildland Fire Management staff is working with Regional and Tribal staff to identify and develop additional projects that will help accomplish this important work.

**PORTABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
PROJECTS**

Earlier this year, we solicited through the Regional Offices for portable infrastructure project proposals. We asked that proposals be limited to a maximum of \$250 thousand, and we received 29 projects from 9 Regions. The projects submitted were primarily portable sawmills and support equipment, and firewood processing projects. Six portable infrastructure projects were recently funded at locations across six Regions. Tribes are now utilizing the funding to implement their projects. These projects are intended to accomplish forest treatments, reduce fuel loading, improve forest health, provide Tribal jobs, produce a product stream, and help support Tribal economies. As projects come on line over the next 2 or 3 months, site visits will be conducted to assess the impacts that these projects have on the management of forest resources, and Tribal communities. We are hopeful to fund additional projects, as funding is made available. If you have ideas for project proposals (sawmills, firewood processors, chippers, pelletizers, etc.) please contact your Regional Forester, Pete Wakeland, or John Baskette.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

The fire report “Improving Efficiency, Equity and Effectiveness of Wildfire Impacts on Tribal Trust Resources”, completed in April of 2018 states that ‘it is critically important to the Tribes that resources are safeguarded through proactive management that protects the communities, economies and traditional uses. Effective management provides long-term stability to the health and welfare of families and supports ecological and cultural needs. Without considerable investment in proactive treatments on tribal lands, many areas will continue to experience extensive loss due to wildfires, insect outbreaks and community impacts at both local and regional scales.

This discussion did not begin in recent years. Back in 2007, the General Accounting Office (GAO) was asked to complete a report on fuels funding allocation methods and found that: In allocating fuel reduction funds and selecting projects, the Forest Service, Interior, and the four Interior agencies use both quantitative processes (such as computer models or scoring systems) and professional judgment.

Calculating avoided costs provided by proactive management treatments can help Tribes and federal agencies quantify and justify funding for active land management. Proactive management treatments have been shown to reduce suppression cost and rehabilitation needs.

Developing an avoided cost model would allow Tribal resource managers a tool to systematically plan and analyze the impact and role of wildland fire across all fire regimes. It is apparent that fire suppression activities drive federal fire budgets. It is critical to develop sound information to support greater proactive management including timber harvest, forest thinning, piling of slash, burning of slash piles, and applying prescribed fire across the landscape in all fire regimes.

Tribal management strategies involving fuels reduction treatments continue to show significant savings in fire suppression cost as supported by numerous studies. These provide examples of investing in proactive management. Healthy forest, woodlands, and rangelands are more resilient to impacts from catastrophic wildfire and become adapted to periodic fire.

There is recent work already pointing to the concept of Avoided Cost. Dr. Mark Finney, in his presentation at the Annual Intertribal Timber Symposium, characterized this as a Systematic Trade-off Assessment or

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Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

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Analysis.

The Joint Fire Science Program, under the work of John Cissel and M. Steven Palmquist developed the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) (iftdss.sonomatech.com). This is a web-based software and data integration framework that organizes previously existing fire and fuels software application to make fuels treatment planning and analysis more efficient and effective. IFTDSS provides access to data and models, all in one place, through one user interface. Version 2.0.1 beta is currently available for use, testing, and evaluation. It will continue to be developed with input from interagency partners and advisors over the next few years. Although development work is ongoing, many features are available now, including: Hazard Analysis using BEHAVE, FLAMMAP MTT and flow paths.

The National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Fuels Management (FMC) provides national leadership to unite the NWCG member agen-



cies wildland fuels management programs under the common purpose of reducing risks of wildfire to communities while improving and maintaining ecosystem health. Their primary objectives include: enable coordinated and effective national interagency wildland fuels management; minimize negative impacts of wildland fire to wildland/urban interface infrastructure; and to maintain and restore healthy vegetative communities in other wildland areas. We see the NWCG FMC contributing greatly to the discussion of proactive management across agency boundaries.

There are plenty of great examples of proactive management reducing the impacts of wildfire and reducing

suppression costs on Tribal lands including the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Chippewy Creek Fire 2007, and the recent Garden Creek Fire 2018, White Mountain Apache Tribes San Carlos Apache Tribes and the Rodeo-Chediski Fire 2002 and the Wallow Fire in 2011.

Work will begin on a Tribal Avoided Cost Model in early October 2018 by Mark Jackson, BIA Fuels, Adrian Leighton, SKC, Jim Durglo, ITC Wildland Fire Technical Specialist Contractor, and a to-be-assigned Tribal representative. We are also working on getting participation from Mark Finney, Rocky Mountain Research Station. The TACM will be presented to the ITC membership, the Department of the Interior, Office of Wildland Fire leadership and presented to the Office of Management and Budget staff to show the beneficial investment of proactive management including fuels reduction treatment programs.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (406) 531-6172, or send me an email at jimdurglo@gmail.com.





Native American Natural Resource Research Scholarship



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

Deadline: December 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m. PST

Award: Up to \$4,000

Purpose: The ITC Research Scholarship is designed to support tribally relevant, natural resource based, research being conducted by Native American scholars (graduate or undergraduate).

Required Material: The ITC Research Sub-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 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 5, 2018**. 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 Adrian Leighton, co-chair of the ITC Research Sub-Committee (adrian_leighton@skc.edu).





Thursday, Workshop 3: Project Learning Tree (PLT) at the 2018 ITC Symposium. Pictured attendees Ron Corn and Jennifer Bryant discuss one of the provided lessons to support their forest outreach and educational programs. PLT is an award winning educational program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from pre-school through grade 12.



2018 – 2019 ITC Board of Directors

(L to R) Front Row: President Vernon Stearns, Jr., Spokane Tribe; Treasurer Tim Miller, Grand Portage; Edwin Lewis, Yakama Nation; Vice President Darin Jarnaghan, Sr., Coquille Indian Tribe; Leonard Two Teeth, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes; Rodney Cawston, Confederated Tribes of Colville. Back Row: John Bryson, Jr., Quinault Indian Nation; John DeGroot, Nez Perce; Kevin Lane, Hoopa Valley Tribe; Dee Randall, San Carlos Apache Tribe



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

Deadline: Friday, March 15, 2019, 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 if available, 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. Students **MUST** complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and attach the Student Aid Report or have the report sent to the ITC office. If it has not been completed, send last year's report.
2. **Resume**
3. **Three letters of reference:**
 - a. On letterhead (If no letterhead is available through the reference's organization they should create their own)
 - b. Signed
 - c. Dated within the last six months
 - d. Open sealed documents, if applicable
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.
6. **Delivery of application, TWO STEPS:**
 - a. **Submit via fax** (503-282-1274) or **e-mail** (itc1@teleport.com) up until the close of business (5:00 p.m. PST) **March 15, 2019**,
 - b. **AND mail the originals to be postmarked by March 15, 2019.** Be sure to check your local post office hours.

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.

Education Committee by Victoria Wesley



Victoria Wesley

The Education Committee has finalized dates for the 2019 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Announce-

ment. The deadline is Friday, March 15, 2019. If you are interested, or know someone interested, please encourage those individuals to submit an application before the deadline. Visit the ITC website or call the ITC office for more information. In addition, announcements will be sent out to tribes and agencies.

The Truman D. Picard Scholarship is offered annually to Native Americans pursuing higher education in the field of natural resources. The amounts awarded are \$2,000 for high school recipients and \$2,500

for undergraduate and graduate recipients.

Our last meetings have been focusing on recruiting younger generations into the field of natural resources more specifically in Forestry. There is a desperate search of Foresters to fill natural resource positions in Indian Country, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Forest Service and Park Service etc. The ITC provides scholarships for students majoring in all aspects of natural resources such as wildlife, environmental sciences, rangeland management, etc. but we have not seen an increase in students major-



Pictured: Nowhi ni' nlt'eego anlsih elementary group with the teachers and counselors. On this day students observed electrical shocking technique to collect fishes with US Fisheries Biologist Chris Kitcheyan in the Salt River to look at the different species of fish populations and its habitat.

(Continued on page 18)

SAVE THE DATE!!



43rd Annual National Indian Timber Symposium June 10-13, 2019

Seminole Tribe of Florida • Hollywood, Florida
Theme: “500 Years of Change”

Education Committee by Victoria Wesley

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ing specifically in forestry. ITC has contracts with certain universities to match ITC scholarship amounts for students majoring in forestry or environmental sciences, or funding to support research for Native Americans. Information of these opportunities can be found on the ITC website: http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/scholarships.html.

All efforts to increase students majoring in Forestry. So do we have an increase in foresters? Of these opportunities with the different universities, successes have not been counted. Universities are searching for the data and will be noted in the next article. In retrospect of the past ten years since 2008, ITC has awarded 300 scholarship of these awards 87 were in Forestry related fields. Moreover, data of when the first scholarship was awarded to present should be evaluated to review our selection and recruitment process. However lately we have been awarding

all the students whom applied for scholarship. But should we be focusing on increasing the number of students majoring in forestry? We are discussing increasing scholarship award amounts for students majoring in forestry; however we are still discussing it and it may soon be a reality.

In San Carlos, we started the Nowhi ni' nlt'eego anlsih (Take Care of Our Land) Natural Resource Youth Practicum to recruit students in the natural resource field or forestry field. San Carlos Forestry Program sponsor's practicum for the elementary, junior high and high school level throughout the summer. This year's practicum was nearly cancelled due to the severe fire dangers in our forest but we scrambled around to improvise. We held day camps for different age groups, the elementary practicum was held on June 11-13, the junior high had their practicum from June 25-26, and high school practicum was held July 16-27.

Since it started 2002, we had a few

students graduating with natural resources degree. A few pursuing a fire career and completing the 401 Fire Series from Northern Arizona University. But about six people in the forest and fire technician positions are the results of the Nowhi ni' nlt'eego anlsih (Take Care of Our Land) Natural Resource Youth Practicum. Currently we have three students attending Coconino College in Flagstaff. They are on pathway to Northern Arizona University, a program called CC2NAU pursuing Forestry degrees. One student attending NAU's forestry program. The San Carlos Forest Resources Program hopes to increase Native Americans Natural Resource professionals as the current employees retire in Indian Country.



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

It's Autumn, and for those of us in northerly locations there are plenty of signs that winter is once again looming. The ducks and geese are leaving, leaves are turning color and dropping, the nights are getting longer... and for the ITC Awards Committee it's time to start our process for soliciting nominations for the Earle R. Wilcox awards,

Once again, the Intertribal Timber Council will be accepting nominations for the Earle R. Wilcox Individual Achievement and National Forester of the Year awards. Our congratulations go out to the recipients of these awards this past year, recognized at the National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation and held in Ocean Shores, Washington this past June. The Wilcox awards are how ITC recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions to Tribal forestry. Good work is too easily taken for granted and deserves recognition, and it's important that we all step up to find and recognize those people whose contributions have had significant and positive impacts to our forestry programs. ITC is a forestry-centric organization with "Timber" in the name, but please keep in mind that people whose contributions come

from the broader array of natural resource disciplines are also eligible for the awards.

There are a couple minor changes this year in terms of award nominations and how awards are determined. One change is that award nominations can be submitted fully digitally now. In the past, applications could be submitted via email or fax, but original applications and supporting documents also had to be mailed to ITC, postmarked by the closing date. Now, all application documents can be submitted via email or fax without the additional mailing requirement. Letters of support still need to be on official letterhead and signed, but the letters can be scanned and emailed or faxed for submission. Another change is how individual achievement awards are distributed or limited by region. In the past, each region (Northwest, Southwest, Northern, Lake States, or Eastern) was assigned a specific maximum number of individual achievement awards per year, presumably in an attempt to prevent any one region from dominating the awards. The Awards Committee has decided to do away with those regional limits and simply evaluate each application on its own merits.

You may know somebody in your office or somebody that you interact with regularly that has made some sort of special contribution through their work in Tribal forestry, and you may be wondering how this person can be considered for an Earle R. Wilcox Award. The details of how to do this can be found on the ITC website or by telephoning the ITC office at (503) 282-4296. A quick summary:

- The application requires filling out a form and getting two letters of support.

- The awards are focused on contributions to Tribal forestry programs at local to national levels. Other natural resource specialists whose work is significant and benefit tribal forests will be considered as well.
- You can email, mail or fax the applications to ITC.
- Candidates can be nominated for regional awards or the national award based on their contributions to Tribal efforts.
- If someone was nominated in the past but did not receive an award, they can be nominated again. Regional award recipients can be nominated again, but not within ten years of receipt of first or prior award. Past winners of the National Award cannot receive the award again.
- Please ensure that all information is filled out completely and accurately and all supporting documentation is included. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

In addition to finding deserving nominees for the awards, we are also always looking for interested folks to participate in the Awards Committee. If you'd like to get involved, let us know.

The deadline for submitting nomination applications for the 2019 Earle R. Wilcox awards is January 25, 2019. We will be working this Fall and Winter to get the word out to find those deserving people for these awards.





INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4

Portland, Oregon 97232

First Class
