

Cross Boundary Collaboration Between Tribes and the United States Forest Service

Success Stories from Forest Systems Using the Tribal Forest Protection Act

USFS Northern Region

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Lolo National Forest, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Bison Range

USFS Pacific Northwest Region

The Yakama Nation and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

USFS Eastern Region

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest

USFS Pacific Southwest Region

The Karuk Tribe and the Six Rivers National Forest



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many tribes throughout the United States are well respected for the resource management conducted on their respective trust lands. This report looks at four tribes that have extended their expertise and experience outside of reservation boundaries onto lands managed by others, including the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, and The Nature Conservancy. Each of the tribes represented in these stories used or, in the case of the Karuk, were influenced by the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) authority to propose and complete projects on adjacent federal lands and other partnerships to expand the scope of their resource management. Some of the tribes leveraged Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) fuel reduction funding provided from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

For each of these projects, success is defined in a number of ways: completing a specific project that reduces risk of catastrophic fire; providing employment opportunities for tribal members; building relationships with federal and non-federal partners to plan and accomplishing fuels reduction work; building projects that accomplish common goals. Success is not measured by the completion of a single project, but built over an extended time-period with long-term goals and accomplishments in mind.

TFPA is an effective tool to initiate the successful forest management highlighted by these projects. However, in the long-

run, tribes should be included in comprehensive, long-term land management plans (LMP) process without the necessity of TFPA authority to prioritize fuels and resource management work to reduce the risks from insects, disease, or destructive wildland fire coming from adjacent federal lands onto tribal lands. LMPs can also identify lands where there are tribal rights and interests in need of restoration.

Beginning in 2015, as much as \$10 million in the BIA RTRL budget has annually been appropriated for the purpose of treating and restoring tribal landscapes, within or adjacent to, reserved treaty right lands. This allocation is provided through the Department of the Interior's Wildland Fire Management appropriation. This is one example of resources that tribes can utilize to reduce risk to tribal resources from Federal lands and meet both tribes and their partners' forest management goals. For example, in 2017, the BIA reported that 276 jobs were created or supported, 178 partnership opportunities were facilitated, goals of the National Cohesive Strategy were advanced, and over 44 Tribal and 54 partnership priorities were met.

In fiscal year 2018, three of the four tribes in this report are utilizing a portion of the RTRL funds disbursement to perform fuels reduction work on adjacent federal lands. Much of this work builds on projects completed under the TFPA authority. Tribes are using tribal crews to perform the mechanical treatments including timber harvesting,

thinning, piling, pile burning, and underburning, TFPA and similar projects, as well as supporting US Forest Service or non-tribal contractors to ensure the work is completed.

These case studies show that building good working relationships is key in developing successful projects. Good relationships require early engagement with tribes in planning, respect, and constant effort and communication from both sides and at multiple levels of each organization. These projects also demonstrate how resources provided to tribes, utilizing the principles of TFPA, can expand the scope and scale of cross-boundary forest restoration projects. 🌲

¹Many tribes contend that funding from the DOI/BIA should be allocated to tribes to accomplish tribal hazard fuels reduction priorities on tribal trust lands. The ITC worked on language in the Farm Bill to improve the application of the TFPA authority. One of the proposed improvements establishes timelines for review and implementation of projects, and allow tribes to contract under Public Law 93-638 guidance the administrative work in preparing projects, similar to what is commonly used by tribes and the Department of the Interior.

USFS NORTHERN REGION: MONTANA

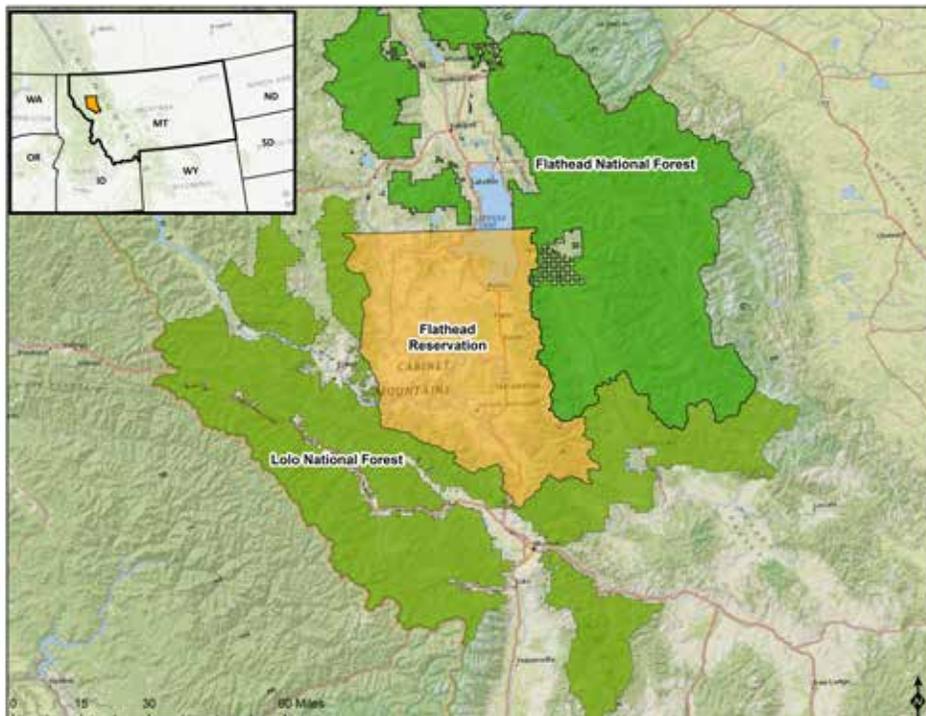
The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation, and the Lolo National Forest, USFW Service, Montana DNRC, Bureau of Land Management, and The Nature Conservancy

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are located in northwest Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The tribes are made up of the Salish, Pend d' Oreilles, and the Ksanka band of Kootenai. The 1.3 million acre reservation was formed as a result of the Treaty of Hellgate in 1855, which also ceded rights to approximately 22 million acres of what is now much of western Montana and eastern Idaho. The tribes still practice traditional use of much of the aboriginal territory for hunting, berry picking, fishing, and gathering medicinal plants. There is oral history and archaeological evidence that the tribes have occupied these lands for over 10,000 years.

The reservation is bordered by the Lolo National Forest on the west, the Flathead National Forest on the north and east and are highly engaged with the Bitterroot National Forest to the south, and the Kootenai National Forest to the northwest.

The Lolo National Forest spans 2 million acres from the reservation boundary on the east to the Idaho border on the west. The Lolo NF was established in 1906 with 1.2 million acres. In 1931 part of the Missoula National Forest was added, followed by portions of the Selway NF in 1934 and part of the Cabinet NF in 1954.

The tribes and the Lolo National Forest have a long and successful working relationship. The rela-



tionship was built and maintained mostly around the need to work collaboratively in sharing wildfire across boundaries and with the cooperative work being done by the District and Forest Archaeologist and staff from the CSKT Tribal Preservation Office.

The CSKT and the Lolo National Forest and Flathead National Forest share approximately 144 miles of common boundary.

Project Description

After completion of the McGinnis/Cabin Stewardship Contract (McGinnis Project) using the TFPA authority, the CSKT and the Lolo National Forest continued collaborative work using BIA fuels funding to tribal crews to perform fuels reduction projects including

under burning recently thinned areas and other prescribed fire projects.

Currently CSKT has five active RTRL projects with five different cooperators, building from the original TFPA projects (USFS-Plains District, USFS-Missoula District, USFWS-National Bison Range, BLM-Missoula Field Office, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC)). See Table 1: CSKT Cross-boundary Collaboration Projects. Each cooperator has its own contracting requirements which makes some projects more difficult than others, by requiring additional coordination.

Table 1: CSKT Cross-boundary Collaboration Projects

PROJECT	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	AUTHORITY	STATUS
Lower Flathead River RTRL Project- (Collaborative project between CSKT & NBR, and CSKT & USFS-Plains District)	McGinnis Creek Area	60 acres of pile burning 920 acres of underburning 611 acres of noxious weed treatments 320 acres of thinning Photo monitoring of all pile burning	Financial Agreement between CSKT and Lolo National Forest 2016-2018	Complete
USFWS- National Bison Range	National Bison Range complex	445 acres of thinning 450 acres of piling 450 acres of pile burning; 342 acres of under burning; 690 acres of noxious weed treatments Programmatic Burn plan for National Bison Range WPA's Helicopter Burn plan for National Bison Range	Financial Agreement between CSKT and NBR 2016-2018	Complete
<p>The following completed activities are tied to the research on the NBR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Condition Report for 3,400 acres - Restored and digitized 50+ historic photos - Completed forest inventory worksheet and program - Completed 70 acres of forest inventory - Collection of fire scar data on 1,000 acres 				
Marshall Woods RTRL Project- (Collaborative Project between CSKT & USFS-Lolo National Forest)	North of Missoula, and south of the FIR	Completed work using contributed (US Forest Service) funding: Project NEPA (EA) 980 acres of thinning and handpiling; 150 acres of pile burning using RTRL funding	Financial Agreement completed for 2017 through 2019	Complete
Perma-Knowles RTRL Project- (Collaborative project between CSKT & USFS-Plains District, Montana DNRC, Fish, Wildlife and Parks	The Lolo National Forest is working cooperatively with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to improve bighorn sheep habitat and reduce hazardous fuels in this vicinity through the use of prescribed fire. The Tribes' proposal includes approximately 2823 acres of prescribed burning on the Flathead Indian Reservation, located immediately east of the Knowles Creek project. The State of Montana proposal includes prescribed burning on about 740 acres (Montana DNRC – 455 acres; Montana FWP – 285 acres). Collectively on all ownerships, prescribed fire would be applied to approximately 6,100 acres to meet management objectives.			
Lower Blackfoot River RTRL Project- (Collaborative project between CSKT & TNC, and CSKT & BLM)	Southeast corner of FIR. On lands currently owned and managed by TNC	Started agreement process between CSKT & TNC; Started agreement process between CSKT & BLM; and starting on tribal employee contracting agreements for work tied to the RTRL project.		

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Defining Success

Darrell Clairmont, CSKT Fuels Manager and Ron Swaney, CSKT Division of Fire states that RTRL is still relatively new, so CSKT & cooperators are still trying to determine what RTRL success looks like and how it should be measured. The on-the-ground work that is being completed through the RTRL funding is definitely needed and beneficial, for all parties involved.

Recently, the McGinnis Creek RTRL project was used to hold the south end of the 2,500 acre Garden Creek Fire from moving onto US Forest Service managed lands.

The Tribe and the cooperators involved believe that working on TFFPA inspired RTRL projects builds stronger working relationships. It gives tribes leverage in treating non-tribal lands that they have concern or interest in treating. For CSKT, these interests have been tied to treating lands near the boundaries and protecting culturally significant areas that are not located on the reservation or other tribally owned lands. RTRL also provides financial opportunities for the tribes and its members.

As with TFFPA projects, collaborative projects across jurisdictional boundaries require commitment from tribes and coordination with partners, which can be challenging. Using RTRL funding to complete work on adjacent federal lands poses similar challenges:

- Working with RTRL increases the work load of existing staff. (This is very difficult, especially

with limited staff and the need to meet accomplishments on-reservation.)

- RTRL projects are not always as high of a priority of work for collaborator as it is for the Tribe.

- The guiding rules for RTRL projects are not very clear, and can change.

- It is difficult to find a tribal work force that is willing to travel off reservation (in some cases several miles for days, weeks, or months) to work on adjacent forest projects. Especially when the same work is being offered closer to home.

In RTRL as in TFFPA, every collaborator/partner may have a different agreement development requirements. Financial agreements, where the work is completed and the cooperator bills back for reimbursement, are the most straight-forward. These allow for good financial tracking as well as accomplishment tracking. The agreements that require advance funding in order to do the work are difficult to track, both on the financial side as well as work completed.

Dave Hattis, US Forest Service, Lolo National Forest, Plains/Thompson Falls District Ranger shares information about building trust and becoming familiar with the tribes and gaining a greater understanding of the relationship of the tribes and the area landscape. His perspective

The CSKT and Lolo NF staffs continue to build on their relationship. They are going beyond projects to gain a greater understanding of the regional cultural landscape and its implications for forest management.

is broader than looking at the fuels reduction work, but more on building trust and improving relations between the forest and employees from the tribes.

The Lolo National Forest, west zone archaeologist, Ms. Karuzas, has worked closely with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Preservation Department (CSKT TPD) since she started working in the heritage program on the Lolo. In 2012, Erika Karuzas asked the CSKT TPD if they would visit a site located near Missoula in the Marshal Woods project. At the time, Mike Durglo Sr. and Arlene Caye came out to visit a sweat lodge along a site near Rattlesnake Creek. It was from this interaction, that the relationship grew and a trust began to form. Over the years, at each annual meeting, Mike Durglo Sr. would talk to Ms. Karuzas about sites on the Lolo and ask her to monitor them. On a trip back from the annual consultation, Ms. Karuzas asked the rest of the heritage staff who had been on the Lolo longer, if they had heard of some of the sites that Mike Durglo Sr. asked her to monitor. When the rest of the staff said they had not, Ms. Karuzas realized that the information shared to her was of a private matter, and continued to respect their relationship. The importance in developing this trust is exhibited in the ability to ensure greater understanding is developed by US Forest Staff of important cultural resources without undermining traditional values on when and how certain information is shared.

In 2014, Mike Durglo Sr. visited a small project near Plains, but he talked about the great importance of the Clark Fork River and the surrounding area. Ms. Karuzas found out that two rock art sites

MONTANA

had recently went from private land to state land stewardship, therefore, she took Mike Durglo Sr. and Arlene Caye to those locations. At the time of the visit, it was mentioned that these sites had been lost, and they were appreciative to have the sites back into memory and able to visit. More discussions about other rock art locations were discussed. In addition, a site that had been recorded, was visited, and Mike Durglo Sr. recalls the place as fishing camp, and told stories about that location. The information that was shared in these interactions continues to help the Lolo National Forest Staff understand the cultural landscape.

In the spring of 2015, Ms. Karuzas visited the Salish/Pend d'Oreille and the Kootenai elders meetings to talk about a large project where she found many Native American sites that had not been previously recorded. At this meeting, Ms. Karuzas asked the elders if they should record the entire ridge system as a trail since there were so many sites found in the project area. Both the Salish and Pend d'Oreille and Kootenai

elders were pleased with this proposal and the related the work that sprang from this improved relationship and supported the findings.

In 2016, during the Copper King Fire, Ms. Karuzas brought out Kyle Felsman, the new Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to the rock art sites that Mike Durglo Sr. had visited a couple of years prior and showed him how the sites were being protected from the fire as well as from the fire fighters. Since they were in the area, Ms. Karuzas took Mr. Felsman to the fishing camp site to talk about the project that was proposed at the site and what the late Mike Durglo Sr. had said was important there. At a meeting held just for this project over the winter, the CSKT TPD, along with the Salish and Pend d'Oreille elders decided that Ms. Karuzas would be allowed to read an ethnography that CSKT compiled for the Thompson River area which greatly enhanced the understanding of the area and why it is so important to the CSKT.



Summary

The CSKT staff and the staff from the Lolo National Forest continue to build on long-standing positive relationships. These relationships are the bedrock of successful fuels reduction projects, wildland fire suppression efforts, protection of important Tribal cultural resources, and gaining a greater understanding of the regional cultural landscape. This greater understanding has led to a tremendous trust and improved communication between the partners.

The partnership is growing to include not only the US Forest Service, but the US Fish and Wildlife, Montana State DNR, the Bureau of Land Management, and The Nature Conservancy. The current expectation is to treat over 8,600 acres of adjacent federal lands using RTRL fuel reduction funding from the BIA, and strategies developed in the original TFPA project. As these treatments continue, other resources staff continue to build positive working relationships as well. The CSKT staff received \$2,036,100 in RTRL funding for FY2018, to support TFPA and TFPA related projects. 🌲



Yakama Nation in Central Washington and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District

The Yakama Indian Reservation is located in southwestern Washington State and is 1,130,000 acres in size. It was created by the Treaty of 1855. The reservation is located on the east side of the Cascade Mountain range and encompasses the eastern portion of Mount Adams. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation is made up of the Klikitat, Palus, Wallawalla, Wanapam, Wenatchi, Wishram, and Yakama peoples. The aboriginal territories of the tribes spanned much of Washington State, from the Cascade Mountains to the west, south to the Columbia River, east to the Snake River, and north to the Wenatchee River and Lakes of Clelum to where they bumped into their relation the Colville Tribes.

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is located to the west of the Yakama Reservation. It extends along the western slopes of the Cascade Range from Mount Rainier National Park to

the Columbia River. The forest's highest point is 12,276 feet at the top of Mount Adams. The Gifford Pinchot is one of the oldest National Forests in the United States. Included as part of the Mount Rainier Forest Reserve in 1897, this area was set aside as the Columbia National Forest in 1908 and renamed the Gifford Pinchot National forest in 1949 in honor of Gifford Pinchot, a leader in the creation of the national forest system in the United States.

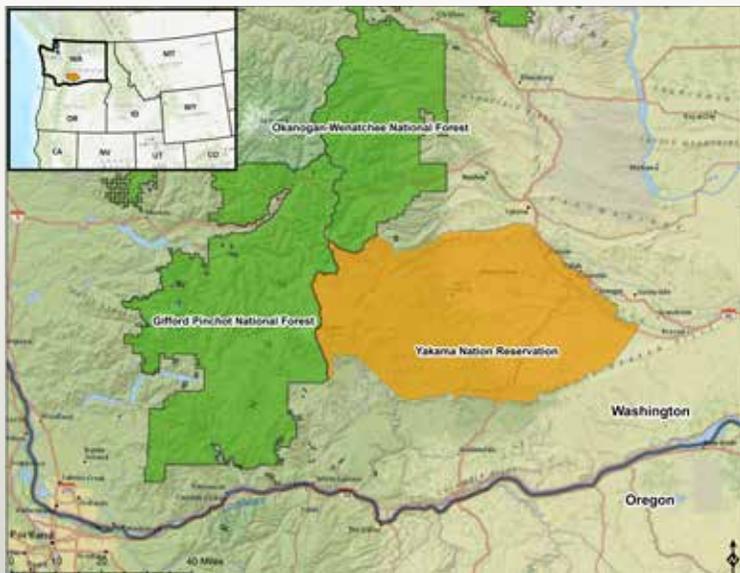
The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests are located north of the Yakama Reservation. Both National Forests were formed in 1908. The Okanogan-Wenatchee US Forest Services administratively combined as the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in 2000. The Yakama Nation and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest share approximately 43 miles of border and about 12 miles of common border with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Steve Andringa, Admin Forester for the Yakima Nation, notes that success cannot be measured by a snapshot, but requires a longer time frame. He suggests a more critical question might be "are you heading on a path towards success?"

Project Description

Initial discussions about this opportunity began during the TFFPA workshop held in Spokane, WA in 2013. Members of the Yakama Nation expressed interest and held discussions with US Forest Service representatives about what projects might be available on the forest. Fortunately, the forest had a project that was "shovel ready". The Dry Restoration Stewardship project was initiated through the TFFPA authority and is located on the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District. The Integrated Resource Stewardship contract includes 548 acres of commercial thinning to improve forest health and reduce megafire risk across the landscape where Forest Service lands are adjacent to or border Indian trust lands near Naches, Washington. In addition to thinning, overall forest health will be improved through aquatic restoration efforts and sediment reduction.

The contract was managed through the Yakama Forest Products Enterprise, a tribal company, under a Stewardship Contract and completed in 2016.





Defining Success

Steve Andringa, Administrative Forester, Yakama Nation, states “success should be viewed as a two-way street, meaning that both parties should have benefited.” There are many factors to consider when defining success, including for example, was the project at a scale to produce significant results? Was the quality of silvicultural treatments achieving the desired results or outcomes? These questions can be very subjective and may take months or years to determine, but they are valid and relevant questions to ask when defining success.

Another component to measure success should be the effort the parties put into projects. Was the effort, time and energy, worth the results? Andringa provided that another measure of success is whether, “we [can] build upon this project to produce others with, hopefully, the same or with better results.” Andringa shared that “success should not be measured in one snapshot in time, but over a long timeframe and by several people at various levels on both sides of the project. Perhaps a more critical question would be: are you heading on a path to lead toward success?”

Dave Lucas, Presale Forester, Naches Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest states “The TFPA agreement was very successful with regards to building a relationship with the Yakama Nation, and with the timely and effective completion of the restoration work activities included in the stewardship contract.” Lucas also found that the success of building a positive relationship was founded on the tenets of trust and commitment. Trust was developed through constant communication in the form of meetings, phone calls, and informal discussions.

Lucas found that “We have been committed by being transparent in our communications about potential Forest Service TFPA opportunities, the status and needs of maintaining operations for Yakama Forest Products mill, and clarification of policy and regulation hurdles encountered by the Forest Service during the planning and development of large landscape restoration projects.”

Summary

The successful completion of the Dry Restoration Stewardship project in 2016 starts the beginning of what may develop into a long-term constructive working relationship between the Yakama Nation and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

The project accomplished the intended objectives of reducing hazardous fuels, restoring forest health, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wild fire impacting tribal trust resources.

The Yakama Nation is engaged in the Anchor Forest Pilot project to look comprehensively at natural resource management at a much larger scale than just the reservation or the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Yakama Nation will be a driving force in pushing the Anchor Forest concept into action in much of Washington State. The TFPA authority will be one of many tools that will be used for the Anchor Forest program to get more management accomplished in the region. 🌲

The Anchor Forest Initiative is a multi-jurisdictional initiative involving federal, tribal, state and private land owners.

USFS EASTERN REGION: MINNESOTA

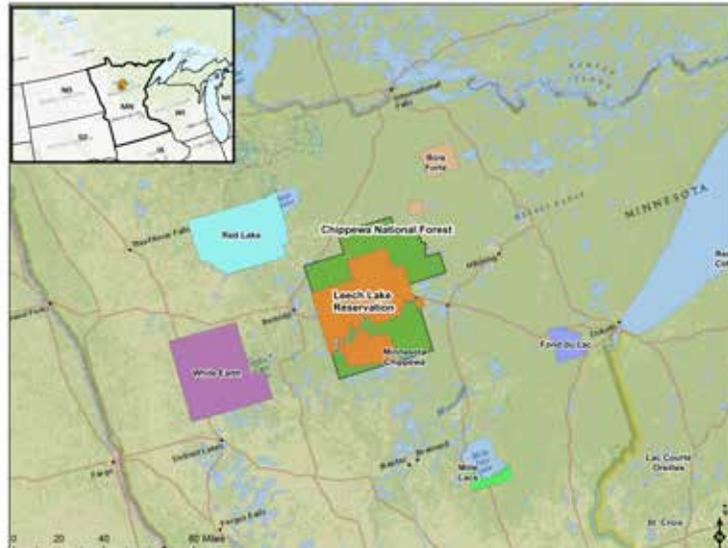
The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Central Minnesota and the Chippewa National Forest

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is located in north-central Minnesota on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. The Reservation forms the land base for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, one of six bands comprising the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes, organized in 1934 under the Indian Reorganization Act.

The Chippewa National Forest was created in 1908 and was originally called the Minnesota National Forest. The name was changed in 1928 to honor the original inhabitants. The Forest and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe share ownership of most of the land holdings

within the Reservation. Nearly 90% of the reservation is located within the National Forest and the reservation makes up nearly one half of

the Chippewa National Forest. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest share approximately 189 miles of common boundary.



Project Description

PROJECT	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	AUTHORITY	STATUS
Conifer Thinning	Northwest corner of Leech Lake Reservation	52 acres and first thin with understory mastication	All projects done under a master MOU between Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the CNF	Complete
Chippewa National Forest forest-wide thinning	Forest-wide	Approximately 16,000 acres, but will be ongoing as part of the CNF's regular planning	All projects done under a Master MOU between Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the CNF	Ongoing
Secondary habitat restoration for snowshoe hare to allow space for reproduction and expansion of this species	Potentially Forest-wide	Approximately 150 acres (the pilot), but could increase upon success of the pilot to expand across the CNF		Ongoing
Aspen Management	Forest-wide	Decrease acreage of this early successional species and work towards later succession and increased stand diversity. This project is approximately 70,000 acres and will also be ongoing as part of the CNF's regular planning		Ongoing

MINNESOTA

Defining Success

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe look at success as a long-term goal. In their correspondence with the Forest Service, Keith Karnes, Leech Lake Reservation Forester, states, 'We are quick to remind the US Forest Service these projects do not have a 'finish line', but rather they call for a shift in how management is done. He believes that things are moving forward in a positive manner.

The fact that Leech Lake is engaged in planning efforts on the National Forest shows a lot of improvement from the previous relationship. Karnes also states that the US Forest Service is going to incorporate Leech Lake's 'Desired Vegetative Conditions', reflecting how Leech Lake would like to see US Forest Service lands within the reservation boundary managed for the tribes. "All of our projects call for improved ecological management and habitat restoration." Karnes also states "As TFFPA and RTRL move forward I suspect there will be a tremendous upswing in stewardship work coming to the tribes, perhaps having enough work to call in neighboring Tribal reservations employees. Ojibwe and Chippewa people performing stewardship on their ancestral lands would be a huge success."

Jim Gries, US Forest Service, Natural Resource Staff Officer, Chippewa National Forest agrees that the work being done by the Leech Lake Band is successful. He states, "I would say that they have been a success based on several metrics. First, the projects succeeded because they were either completed or are in process



to get completed. This improved our land management and gave us a push in getting some things moved along." He also states, "Perhaps an even greater success is the increased communication on both sides about possibilities and limitations that we are both facing". He hopes that increased communication will eventually lead to no longer needing to submit a TFFPA project proposal, but that both the Tribe and US Forest Service jointly develop goals and objectives for different projects.

Summary

Communication between the partners is the key to the successful implementation of projects between the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest. Effective collaboration is leading to increased participation in planning long-term, large scale land management activities that include the goals of the tribes.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has been very successful in submitting and obtaining RTRL fuels reduction funding through the BIA Branch of Wildland Fire Management, contributing approximately \$791,000 in FY2018 alone to joint Tribal and Forest Service projects, including TFFPA. The long-term goal for both agencies is to build on communication and continue to participate in land management planning and implementation, through TFFPA or other authorities. 🌲

Keith Karnes, Leech Lake Reservation Forester states that the CNF is going to reflect the Tribe's view on how this national forest is managed. The FS will incorporate the Tribe's "desired vegetative conditions" in its long-term land management plan within the reservation boundary.

The Karuk Tribe of Northern California and the Six Rivers National Forest



The Karuk Tribe is located in northwestern California within the communities of Orleans, Happy Camp, and Yreka, California. The Karuk and many of the Tribes in California were left without reservation land because none of the 18 treaties in California were ratified by Congress in 1851. The Karuk have since purchased lands within their aboriginal homelands and have placed approximately 900 acres into trust status. The Tribe was one of the first to submit a TFWA proposal to the Forest Service (Six Rivers National Forest). The Tribe is now a Co-lead of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, which has identified a 1.2-million-acre planning area and is in the early phases of implementing the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project.

The Six Rivers National Forest was created by Presidential Proclamation in 1947. The Forest is named after the six major rivers that run within its boundaries; the Smith, Klamath, Trinity, Mad, Van Duzen, and Eel.

An interesting fact is that the Six Rivers has more than 1,500 miles of streams, constituting nine percent of California's total freshwater runoff.

Project Description

The Somes Bar Project is the first project developed by the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership to address dense stand conditions focused around the community of Somes Bar. The project will apply a variety of proposed manual and mechanical fuels reduction treatments and prescribed burning across 5,500 acres near Rogers Creek, Ti-Bar, Paterson Ranch, and Donahue Flat Neighborhoods. The collaboratively developed Project NEPA decision document was signed in June of 2018.

Bill Tripp, Karuk Tribe, states that the Tribe and partners have been the foundational workforce for gathering all the data associated with the specialist reports. They have collaboratively collected the plot data, cultural surveys, wildlife surveys, riparian delineation, unit boundary marking, flagging, tagging, painting etc. for the projects. They now have two tribal members that are certified US Forest Service timber cruisers. The Karuk Tribe employees and partners participated in the development of land management treatments founded upon traditional ecological knowledge.

Defining Success

Bill Tripp, Karuk Tribe, states that, "Building trust among the federal, tribal, state and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners is a great measure of success. All project proposals for the Somes Bar Integrated Wildland Fire Management and Capacity Development Project were collaboratively developed among federal, tribal, and NGO partnership leads. This in of itself is a rare event and worth highlighting."

Tripp also mentions that The Cultural Resources Specialist Report has been nominated for the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation which is a great measure of success as well. Nolan Colgrove Sr., Six Rivers National Forest, District Ranger, former Forest Manager for the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and former ITC President states "The effort is really about building relationships and processes to provide for future collaboration between the US Forest Service and externals. There are some extraordinary and exciting things happening between the Karuk Tribe and the Forest Service."

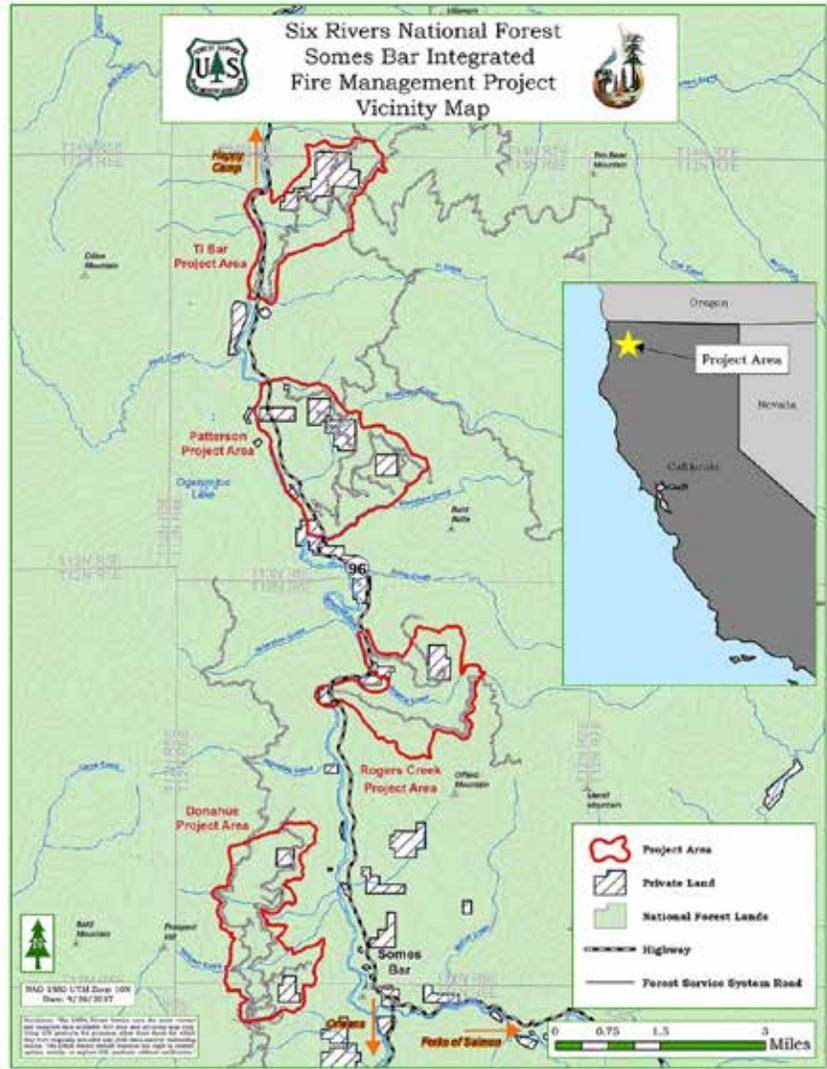
Colgrove also states "The local US Forest Service district and the Tribe have reached new ground, especially with a coordinated effort on compliance with Section

The Karuk Tribe is represented on the Six Rivers National Forest Interdisciplinary Team for key projects. Traditional ecological knowledge is a basis for forest management decisions.

CALIFORNIA

106 of the National Historic Protection Act.”

This definitely is a partnership that is developing more and more as time goes on. One of the current efforts in the agency right now is focusing on partnerships. In terms of successes, other than the current projects, the successful relationship has led to many good outcomes, greater understanding, and better incorporation of tribal perspectives and values in US Forest Service decision-making. One of the ties to their partnership is to the cohesive strategy which also focuses on cross-boundary relationship building.



Highlights From the Last Several Years:

- Karuk Tribe participated as a member of a Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team.
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge was used as a driver/basis for a Forest Service Decision.
- The US Forest Service entered into a national interagency agreement to perform work on National Forest lands, the Karuk Tribe and partners are performing the work, i.e. assistance with NEPA left side planning and sale prep.
- The Karuk Tribe and the US Forest Service have entered into a Master Stewardship Agreement and Supplemental Project Agreement to implement the project including fuels and timber.
- The Tribe and US Forest Service have a prescribed burn agreement.

Summary

The Karuk Tribe’s historic and pre-historic relationship with the landscape in which they live is being exercised in reintroducing vegetative and fire management in this region. The tribes have taken a leadership role in performing prescribed fire to benefit native plants, foods,

and habitat dynamics. Having ‘Champions’ representing each partner like Bill Tripp, Karuk Tribe, and Nolan Colgrove Sr., Six Rivers Forest Supervisor, is key to building successful working relationships. Building positive relationships allows the tribes to become more involved in

planning and implementation of fuels treatments using thinning and prescribed fire on US Forest Service lands. The Tribe has successfully accrued \$999,300 in RTRL funds in FY2018 for fuels treatments to support these collaborative projects. 🌲



CONCLUSION

Many tribes are recognized leaders in resource management within their own regions. These success stories show how TFPA is a valuable tool for tribes to initiate, improve, and promote the appropriate government to government relationships between tribes and US Forest Service. Each of these relationships and projects are as unique and multifaceted as the tribes involved. They look towards forest health, forest management infrastructure, species habitat, cultural resources, etc. These success stories demonstrate the magnitude of success that can come from TFPA projects through a willingness to respect these varying tribal goals. Building on those relationships through projects with available funding resources like RTRL can expand the scope and scale of these collaborations and lead to greater cross boundary forest health. 🌲



ACRONYMS

BIA Bureau of Indian Affairs	FY Fiscal Year	TFPA Tribal Forest Protection Act
BLM Bureau of Land Management	ITC Intertribal Timber Council	TNC The Nature Conservancy
CNF Chippewa National Forest	LMP Long-term Land Management Plans	TPD Tribal Preservation Department
CSKT Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	MOU Memorandum of Understanding	USFS US Forest Service
DNRC Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	NEPA National Environmental Policy Act	USFWS US Fish and Wildlife Service
DOI Department of the Interior	NF National Forest	
FIR Flathead Indian Reservation	NGO Non-governmental Organization	
FWP Fish, Wildlife and Parks	RTRL Reserved Treaty Rights Lands	

Cross Boundary Collaboration
Between Tribes
and the US Forest Service:
*Success Stories the Tribal Forest
Protection Act*

Prepared for:
Intertribal Timber Council



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