



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Winter ~ 2019

ITARA Title II Demonstration Project Established



George Smith

On October 1, 2018 Assistant Secretary--Indian Affairs, Tara Sweeney, sent a letter to Tribal leaders announcing establishment of the ITARA Title II Ten-Year Demonstration Project and providing guidance for Tribes to submit letters requesting to participate (ASIA letter, responses to Tribal consultation and guidance documents are posted on BIA website: Regulations, Documents in Development, ITARA Demonstration Project -P.L. 114-178).

Title II of ITARA directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a ten-year Demonstration Project and requires Tribes who have requested and been approved to participate in the Project to submit a proposed Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP). Trust assets involving forest land management and/or surface leasing activities may be included in the ITAMP. Participation in the Demonstration Project is

entirely voluntary for Tribes. Tribes indicating interest, view managing Tribal trust forests under an approved ITAMP as an opportunity to strengthen Tribal sovereignty and advance self-determination. Tribes may include in an ITAMP a provision authorizing the Tribe to carry out forest land management activities under Tribal forestry regulations and without further approval of the Secretary once the ITAMP is approved. This will enable the Tribe to exercise sole Tribal approval for many forest management actions now requiring approval of the BIA.

Following the 2017 Timber Symposium, the ITC established an ITARA Working Group (see Fall 2017 ITC Timber Notes) to provide ITARA implementation information to ITC member Tribes and to provide input and assistance to the BIA in establishing the Demonstration Project. Tribal consultation sessions occurred during the winter of 2018 with final Tribal input submitted in March 2018. Tribes desiring to participate in the Demonstration Project must submit a complete application package in accordance with requirements contained in the ASIA's October 1, 2018 letter. Participation requirements are summarized below:

General Requirements:

- Must be a self-governance Tribe carrying out forestry program activities under an Indian Self-Determination agreement (contract, compact, etc) with federal funds

provided through processes (ie. Annual Funding Agreement) authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638),

- Must have forest land held in trust or restricted fee status,
- ITARA/ITAMP only applies to Tribal lands, not allotments (Note: additional review is underway to address the question of including allotted lands under certain conditions),
- Must have, or be in the process of obtaining, an approved Forest Management Plan, and
- Must include a Tribal resolution or other appropriate action by the Governing Body of the Tribe authorizing the application and stating the Tribe is requesting to participate in the Demonstration project.

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President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.



Vernon Stearns, Jr.

Members and friends – Happy New Year. 2018 was certainly an eventful one for the ITC. First and foremost, I want to note the ongoing but successful recovery of immediate past-president Phil Rigdon. We were all happy to have Phil's participation in the December ITC board meeting in Portland. Phil's fighting spirit continues to be an inspiration to me personally and I look forward to his ongoing input and advice moving forward.

Many of the accomplishments ITC achieved last year are the result of many years of Phil's work – whether at lengthy board meetings, congressional testimony or behind-the-scenes work with congressional staff. It is notable that while the final Farm Bill, as passed by Congress, did not include many forestry provisions – ITC's priorities made it into the end product. There is more information in Matt Hill's legislative report in this newsletter. In summary, Congress enacted ITC's request for a pilot project to allow tribes "638" contracting authority to develop and implement Tribal Forest Protection Act projects. Congress also added tribes to "Good Neighbor Authority" – putting tribes on par with states and created funding parity for tribal college forestry programs.

Now that these tools have been authorized by Congress, the ITC will play a critical role in working with



(1) left: Winter timber harvest operations, and
(2) right: local contractors getting wood to mill on the Spokane Indian Reservation.
Photo courtesy of Neal Abrahamson.

federal agencies to implement them on the ground. ITC did exactly this over the past two years in implementation of the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, which George Smith will be reporting on in this newsletter. It is also what the ITC continues to do with respect to the Tribal Forest Protection Act – ensuring that the tools created by Congress for improving forest health and management and ultimately used to their greatest potential.

Looking deeper into the year ahead, the ITC will have new relationships to develop at the federal level. We will have a new Secretary of the Interior and new leadership in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives. I believe that Indian forest management is a wonderfully non-partisan issue and we have strong allies on both sides of the political aisle.

The ITC will also be advocating for increased funding for the management of tribal forests and appropriate funding for suppression of and recovery after wildfires affecting Indian lands. Traditionally, the ITC has testified before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and I look forward to maintaining that presence in Washington, D.C.

With the ITC Board approving an update to ITC's Strategic Plan and Workforce Development Plan, along with new land management tools supported by an Executive Order signed by President Trump that promotes active land management, many piec-

es of the puzzle are coming together. Tribes are in a great position to lead the way in applying these overarching strategies. Partnerships and collaborations continue to be the theme in addressing forest/range land health and wildland fire risk. Here at ITC our work is accomplished through partnerships with our member tribes. Please consider attending or hosting a Board Meeting in the coming year. Your engagement is crucial to efforts of promoting stewardship of forests for the benefit and advancement of Indian people.

Finally, I want to note the retirement of Mark Phillips as ITC's Information Specialist. For decades, Mark served as the ITC's Washington, D.C.-based lobbyist and information specialist. He helped the ITC achieve passage of landmark legislation such as the Tribal Forest Protection Act and to fight for appropriations for Indian forestry. When Mark moved back to Portland from the nation's capital, he continued to provide the ITC service as an information specialist. He continued to brief the ITC board on budget and legislative happenings and his remarks at the ITC symposium were always a popular agenda item. As much as anyone, Mark provided the institutional knowledge of the ITC. With him and his wife, Jeanette, residing in Portland, we hope that Mark continues to be part of the ITC family.

Until next time, may your New Year be blessed.



ITARA

by George Smith

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Tribal Specific Requirements:

- Summary of Tribe's goals for participation in the Demonstration Project, and
- Identification of Trust assets the Tribe intends to include in an Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP).

Following submission of a complete application, the BIA will provide a written notice to each Tribe regarding approval or disapproval of their request to participate in the Demonstration Project. Once selected to participate:

- The Tribe must prepare and submit a proposed ITAMP to BIA for approval, and
- The Tribe may submit proposed Tribal forestry regulations for forest land management activities.

Content requirements for ITAMPs are set forth in the BIA guidance documents for the ITARA Demonstration Project and in the ITARA statute, SEC.204 --Indian Trust Asset Management Plan.

Review of ITAMPs will be conducted by DOI and BIA subject matter experts appropriate for the trust assets proposed for Tribal management and approval. The Secretary/

BIA must approve or disapprove a Tribe's proposed ITAMP no later than 120 days after the date on which the Tribe submits the ITAMP. If the Secretary/BIA fails to approve or disapprove a proposed Plan within 120 days, the Plan shall be considered to be approved.

For those interested, additional information regarding the ITARA Demonstration Project implementation and ITC Working Group activities can be obtained by contacting the ITC office at: (503) 282-4296, or email: itc1@teleport.com.



Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

As usual, we got together in Portland for the December board meeting. It's always great to see everyone, and share the holidays with the ITC family. This report will include updates from the December board meeting.

FARM BILL

There were two very exciting opportunities approved in the 2018 farm bill. Good Neighbor Authority was extended to Tribes and counties, and PL 93-638 contract

authority was extended to TFPA. The ITC has put significant effort into these two forestry provisions, and I want to recognize the hard work of the staff and organization. ITC will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture to define a process for implementation. More information will be shared as we make progress on this.

As a side note, industrial hemp was also decriminalized. It is unknown at this point, what the implications to forest products might be. Hemp has a variety of uses, some of which may compete with, enhance, or substitute for current forest products.

INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT (ITARA)

The BIA is now accepting Indian Trust Asset Management Plans (ITAMP). Three ITC member tribes intend to submit ITAMP's for review in the very near future. As I've reported in past updates, this is a great opportunity for some tribes to further self-determination and self-governance.

INDIAN ENERGY BILL

The Indian Energy Bill was also signed into law this month. Section 202 of this bill will allow for up to four Tribes per year, over the next three years, entering in to long-term stewardship contracts. Initial contract terms are up to twenty years, with an additional ten-year option. This legislation also has language that potentially allows Tribes to use on-reservation management practices on Forest Service land within these projects.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REORGANIZATION

To recap prior reports, 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. We learned at the December board meeting that Central Office BIA Forestry staff were scheduled to move to Albuquerque in early 2019. No oth-

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Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel

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er details of the reorganization were shared. This seems to be a fluid situation, and we will continue to provide updates as we get them.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Two important planning documents were approved at the December board meeting. First, ITC updated the 2007 strategic plan. This process started almost one year ago, and we have a new document to help guide the organization going forward. The plan will be revisited annually to track progress and priorities.

The Workforce Development Strategic Plan was also approved



Camas response to a spring burn a few years ago on the Colville Reservation. All the white flowers are camas coming up in response to the fire.

at the December board meeting. ITC recognized the workforce challenges facing Indian country. The plan gives ITC direction on collaboration and tasks over the

next three to five years to reverse the current trend. While the plan is short term, the ITC recognizes the solution to this problem will take long-term planning, implementation, and coordination with other organizations.

I want to thank the ITC family, and all the member tribes for another amazing year. It is my privilege to serve as the Operations Committee Chairman. I look forward to continued success for Indian Country in 2019. **Happy New Year!**



Research Subcommittee

by Serra Hoagland



Serra Hoagland

Greetings from the ITC Research Subcommittee! We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and your families continue to be blessed with love, health and happiness.

We are pleased to announce our five ITC/US Forest Service Research Scholarship recipients for the 2019 year:

- Aaron Cook (Metlakatla Indian Community) is an undergrad at

University of Alaska Fairbanks studying the effects of two enhancement efforts on shared site geoduck and sugar kelp grow-out.

- Stephanie Cowherd (San Carlos Apache) is a graduate student at Oregon State University studying the effects of treatment protocols in Emory Oak restoration seedling sprout and acorn production.
- Loga Fixio (Seminole Nation of Oklahoma) is developing a framework for cultural indicators/criteria to evaluate the success of ecological camas restoration projects at Syracuse University of New York for his masters.
- Natasha Myhal (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians & Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) is an undergraduate at the University of Colorado Boulder, and is working on understanding the intricacies of natural resource management as it supports Anishinaabe traditions.

- Tazia Wagner (Metlakatla Indian Community) is an undergrad at University of Alaska Fairbanks and is assessing how to successfully breed *Parastichopus californicus* (red sea cucumber).

We have invited the students to attend the upcoming National Indian Timber Symposium at hosted by the Seminole tribe in June 2019, so please welcome their attendance. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients!

This batch of scholars will absorb the final amount within the SRS-ITC Challenge Cost Share Agreement of \$12,958.93. The SRS-ITC Challenge Cost Share Agreement expires on December 31, 2018, and will have supported 25 Native American students with their tribally relevant natural resource related research. Finally, our Research Subcommittee intends to initiate a new agreement with the Washington Office of the Forest Service to

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Research Subcommittee

by Serra Hoagland

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continue this research scholarship for the next five years.

Our Research Needs Assessment has been sent to a small pilot group of tribal forest managers and the final link to the assessment will be emailed to ITC member tribes in late January or early February. We'd like to thank forestry and fire staff in advance for their time and contributing to this important effort. More information on the assessment will be sent with the link.

The ITC Research Subcommittee gave up its December board meet-

ing slot so that the Workforce Development Working Group could meet in person. At this meeting, the Working Group finished edits on the Workforce Development Five Year Strategic Plan which was begun in February of 2018. The plan was then recommended to the Board for approval. The approved plan is now available and we would love to hear your feedback. If you are interested in participating in ITC Workforce working group meetings (which will be held quarterly by conference call) please contact Adrian or Serra.



In December, Salish Kootenai College (SKC) and SKC TREES honored Dr. Colin Hardy, Program Manager of USFS RMRS Fire Lab, for his tribal relationship and engagement as he retires January 2019.

Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

'Eey sin'. Hautnin awas. Niimiipuu timpt. Happy New Year and Blessing to you in our Nez Perce Language. On behalf of our ITC families, Members Tribes, Committee Members, and Executive Board of Directors, I would like to invite you all to FLO-RID-A. The home of FSU, Florida State University, and the only school that I know of that asked for the permission to use the Seminoles Warrior as their mascot. The symposium will be hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. We

are on southern east coast this year. Up close and personal with the Atlantic Ocean, Everglades, and large males with teeth. Be safe and Blessed. 'Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

This symposium logistically will be similar to last year. The symposium location will be at the Seminole Hard Rock, but our sleeping arrangements will be held by a different contractor. Two locations and lots of transportation issues. Stay tuned!

The 2019 symposium will be held June 10-13 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood, FL and hosted by the Seminole Indian Nation. The theme of this year's symposium is *"500 Years of Change."*

Sunday, June 9: Currently, there will be "NO" ITC Pre-Symposium Golf Tournament in Florida and not just because of the heat and humidity. I will leave it that! We will have a detailed description of **Pre-Symposium Activities**, which will include fishing and sightsee-

ing. Please look for information in the next newsletter.

Monday, June 10: Pre-symposium Workshops: Fees for the optional Workshops directly fund ITC's Truman D. Picard Scholarship. The Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources.

Workshop #1:
Swamp Buggy Tours of Big Cypress Reservation Forestry.

Workshop #2:
Traditional Seminole Craft.

Workshop #3:
Wildland Fire Update.

Workshop #4:
Everglades Tree Island Airboat Tour.

Symposium Registration Runs from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Host Tribe Ice Breaker from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

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Tuesday, June 11:

Registration, Exhibits, and the Raffle begin at 7:00 AM. The symposium officially starts at 8:00 AM with the Opening Ceremonies – Invocation, Posting of the Colors, and Welcomes from Seminole Tribe Chairman, Seminole Tribe President and Vernon Sterns, Jr., ITC President. **The Keynote Address** will be by Johnny Stowe, Wildlife Biologist, South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources. **The Host Tribe Presentation** will occur, then Panel 1: “**Hydrology Changes Over Time,**” followed by the **ITC Luncheon** and then Panel 2: “**Changes in Fire Management Through the Years,**” and finally, Panel 3: “**Workforce Development.**” This will conclude the afternoon sessions and the evening events will start at 6:00 PM with the **Host Tribe Welcome Dinner.**

Wednesday, June 12:

The Seminole Tribal Tour will give symposium participants an opportunity to see natural resource activities occurring on the reservation. The stops for the tour are still being developed. Tentatively planned stops include a Cattle Tour, the Museum, Billie Swamp Safari, and Johns Grade. Please check back in the spring newsletter for more details.

After the tour, there will be a General Membership Meeting, which will consist of an open forum with topics of discussion given at

a future date. This will also give member Tribes the opportunity to communicate with the ITC Board of Directors about their concerns.

Thursday, June 13:

The day’s activities will start with an update from the Office of Wildland Fire, the ITC President’s Report, and then the updates from the BIA Chief Forester, Legislative update. Immediately following the updates our ITC Workshops will start simultaneously:

Workshop 1:

“Contracts and Consultations”

Workshop 2:

“Funding Opportunities for Tribes”

Workshop 3:

”Indigenous Use of Fire”

Following the workshops, there will be the Annual ITC Business Meeting. The 43rd Annual National Intertribal Timber Symposium will conclude with our Annual Awards Banquet to honor and recognize the recipients of any regional or national Earle Wilcox Awards, and the recipients of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. And not to forget, the winners of the various Raffle prizes will be presented.

Help: Intertribal Timber council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or sponsorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. The break sponsorships are full, but ITC will accept

banquet sponsorships that can be of any amount. If a Tribe or business is interested in making a donation, please contact ITC directly.

Here are the future Symposium dates for planning purposes:

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

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

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

We hope to see all of you back in June 2019, Hollywood, FL, hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Check the ITC Website periodically at www.itcnet.org for 2019 Symposium information updates.

Take Care and God Bless you. Qe’ciyew’yew Godnim Hautnin awas.

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



SAVE THE DATE!!

43rd Annual National Indian Timber Symposium

June 10-13, 2019 · Seminole Tribe of Florida · Hollywood, FL
Theme: “500 Years of Change”



Education Committee

by Victoria Wesley



Victoria Wesley

Da go' tei',

Our last board meeting was held in Portland, Oregon. Thankful, we were not snowed in this year. To my surprise, it snowed here in San Carlos Arizona.

The Education Committee changed the due date of the Truman Picard Scholarship to accommodate more students who want to apply. The due date is now March 15, 2019 at 5:00 pm. Applicants can submit their application via email or fax by the due date; however, you must mail your hard copy post marked March 15, 2019. Please follow the instructions of submission requirements to qualify. More information on the scholarship can be found on www.itcnet.org.

We want to remind everybody to bring your donated items to the upcoming ITC symposium June 10 – 13, 2019, hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, at the Hard Rock

Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida. Raffle items are the expression of gratitude and pride of the tribe's that donate. I am always amazed at the artistic design, time and dedication of each donated item. Each year these raffle items assist Native American students in pursuing their educational goals in natural resources. So please work on your donation items.

We look forward to the New Year, with recruiting more Foresters for Indian Country. Ahi'ye ie (Thank you). Goo Shoo dooleh (May your day be peaceful). Sho-na-bish (Seminole translation Thank you)



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

Everyone appreciates a good success story. A series of stories titled "Cross Boundary Collaboration Between Tribes and the United States Forest Service-Success Stories from Forest Systems Using the Tribal Forest Protection Act" is now complete and available on the Intertribal Timber Council website at www.itcnet.org. These stories include work initiated by the:

- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Lolo National Forest, USFWS National Bison

Range, and The Nature Conservancy, Montana.

- The Yakama Nation and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington.
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota; and,
- The Karuk Tribe and the Six Rivers National Forest, California.

The report was completed using support from the Intertribal Timber Council and the Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations as part of a partnership agreement. The report looks at four partnerships that have extended treatments outside of reservation boundaries onto lands managed by the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, and forest lands owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. Each of the tribes represented leveraged success using the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) authority to propose and complete



This photo depicts a slash pile burning on the National Bison Range in Montana. Photo courtesy of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Division of Fire.

projects on adjacent lands and expand the scope of their resource management success. Some of the tribes continue to use the TFPA, many building on work initiated under the TFPA, now leveraging funding provided from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Reserved Treaty Rights Lands fuel reduction funding.

For each of these projects, success is defined in many ways; completion of a specific project that

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Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

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reduces risk of catastrophic fire; providing employment for tribal members; building relationships with federal and non-federal partners to plan and accomplish fuels reduction work; building projects that accomplish common goals. Success may not be measured by the completion of a single project, but may be built over an extended time-period with long-term goals and accomplishments in mind.

The TFPA is an effective tool to initiate the success exhibited by these projects. However, some suggest that in the long-run, tribes should be included at the initial land management planning process without the necessity of TFPA authority to see important fuels and resource management work accomplished to reduce the risks from insects, disease, or destructive wildland fire coming from adjacent federal lands onto tribal lands.

Much of this work builds on projects completed under the TFPA authority. Tribal involvement in RTRL projects vary, similar to TFPA projects. Some tribes are using tribal crews to perform the mechanical treatments including timber harvesting, thinning, piling, pile burning, and underburning. Other tribes are providing the funding to the US Forest Service or non-tribal contractors to ensure the work is completed.

The ITC has worked on provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill 2018) to improve the application of the TFPA authority. One of the improvements would establish timelines for review and implementation of projects; the other would allow tribes to contract under Public Law 93-638 guidance for management and administrative functions in preparing and implementing projects, similar to what is commonly used by tribes and the Department of the Interior.



Figure 1 Photo, courtesy of CSKT Division of Fire

Building good working relationships is still key in developing successful projects. Good relationships require early engagement with tribes in planning, respect, as well a commitment and constant effort and communication from both sides and at multiple levels of each organization.

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



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

We hope everybody has had a rewarding holiday season with your families and friends and that the good work continues in Forestry with our tribes. This time of year

also marks the time where ITC is looking to receive and review nominations for the Earle R. Wilcox awards. By the time you're reading this, the deadline of January 25, 2019 for receiving award nominations will probably have passed, but in the event it has not, please consider submitting a nomination by the deadline. Information on how to submit a nomination can be found on the ITC website or by calling the ITC office at 503-282-4296.

Award recipients will be announced and recognized at the 43rd National Indian Timber Symposium to be hosted by the Seminole Tribe in Hollywood, Florida. Nominations will be considered for the 2019 Earle R.

Wilcox Individual Achievement and National Forester of the Year awards. The Wilcox awards are how ITC recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions to Tribal forestry and natural resource management. We all benefit from work by our colleagues that goes above and beyond normal expectations, and it is important that we step up and recognize good work when it occurs. Although the word "Timber" is part of ITC's name and identity, please keep in mind that people whose contributions come from the broader array of natural resource disciplines are also eligible for the awards.





Matt Hill

SECRETARY ZINKE LEAVING THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

President Trump and Secretary Ryan Zinke have publicly announced that Zinke will leave the Department at the end of 2018. Zinke stated that “after 30 years of public service, I cannot justify spending thousands of dollars defending myself and my family against false allegations. It is better for the President and Interior to focus on accomplishments rather than fictitious allegations.” President Trump thanked Zinke for his service and said that a new Secretary would be announced in the near future (no announcement has been made at the time this article was written).

Any nominee for Secretary of the Interior will be formally submitted to the U.S. Senate for consideration, review and confirmation. This will include a nomination hearing before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and a vote by the full Senate.

Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives will be under a new Democratic majority in 2019 and will likely be exercising its oversight authority to review policies and decisions made by the Interior Department. The likely incoming chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee stated that even with his departure, Zinke has got “serious problems that he has to

deal with in terms of the investigations, in terms of the oversight our committee is going to do.”

FARM BILL FINALIZED

In early December, the House and Senate passed a final conference agreement on the 2018 Farm Bill. Negotiators largely scrapped the Forestry title as passed by the House, which included pieces of Rep. Westerman’s “Resilient Federal Forests Act.” However, two tribal forestry pieces were successfully maintained in the conference agreement.

The agreement includes a provision that extends Good Neighbor Authority to both Indian tribes and counties – allowing them to participate in the existing program. Additionally, the bill clarifies that timber receipts may be retained from projects for use in future projects.

The conference report also includes the ITC-backed provision that authorizes a pilot program for tribes to “638” contract Tribal Forest Protection Act (“TFPA”) projects with both the Forest Service and Department of the Interior. While the provision was opposed by some Alaska Native Corporations because TFPA is limited to protecting tribal trust land, the conferees maintained the authorization.

The bill also:

- Establishes a PL 93-638 tribal pilot project to bolster greater local control over procurement of goods for tribal nutrition programs.
- Provides funding parity for Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- Makes permanent the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee to provide technical assistance to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Promotes trade opportunities for local producers by directing the Secretary, when applicable, appoint Tribal producers to international trade missions.
- Includes a technical fix for names of Tribal Colleges and Universities

including Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College in New Town, ND.

Finally, the Farm Bill effectively legalizes hemp production and authorizes new tribal plans to self-regulate, develop, and expand hemp production; provides technical assistance to tribes in developing plans; and requires that states permit a tribe to transport hemp across a state so long as the hemp is lawfully produced under a tribal plan.

INDIAN ENERGY BILL

In December, the House of Representatives passed the final version of S. 245, the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2017. The bill was supported by the Intertribal Timber Council for its inclusion of a tribal biomass demonstration program. The demonstration program is a mandatory requirement upon the Forest Service and Department of the Interior to enter into stewardship contracts or similar agreement with tribes to carry out projects that promote biomass energy production on Indian land and in nearby communities by providing woody biomass from federal land.

There are to be four new demonstration projects a year during the 5-year authorization of the program. Each project may last for up to 20 years, with a possible extension of 10 years (for a total of 30 years). However, Congress failed to update the dates in the bill – so the demo program only lasts from 2017-2021. This can be corrected later in a technical corrections bill or slipped into some other legislation (like an omnibus spending package).

It’s also interesting to note that the bill directs the federal agencies to incorporate the management plans in effects on Indian forest land, to the extent practicable – meaning that the tribal forest management plan could extend onto the federal lands.

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Legislative Update

Matt Hill

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The bill directs the agencies to make eligibility criteria publicly available within 120 days and to consult with Indian tribes. It is unclear whether the agencies will develop guidance or implementation regulations.

In addition, the bill:

- Directs the Department of the Interior to provide Indian tribes with technical assistance in planning their energy resource development programs.
- Expands the Department of Energy Indian energy education planning and management assistance program.

- Amends the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to give Tribes, in addition to states and municipalities, preference for the receipt of preliminary hydroelectric licenses.



Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

UBER APP FOR TRIBAL LOGGERS?

ITC Member Tribes' forest products companies have started to get more "air time" on public, Native media and WebTV this past year and in the future. First, the public can see a new basketball floor at Northwestern University that was made from Menominee Timber Enterprise Lumber (MTE). Next, MTE along with Yakama Forest Products, Colville Tribal Enterprise and Chilkat Logging from the Warm Springs Reservation area participated on the Native America Calling radio program on September 24, 2018. The radio program can be heard via podcast on nativeamericacalling.com/monday-september-24-2018-timber-for-profit-in-native-america/

What's in the future for these enterprises, an Uber App for Tribal Loggers?

The ITC has started to get involve with a project called 2020 Workforce

for OR/WA Forest Contractors. The project involves the forest industry's goal of addressing workforce issues facing forest contractors in the northwest and that includes the Tribal workforce. One of the goals is to increase the number of Regional Workforce Boards (RWB) in the northwest that address the forest industry. Currently there is only one RWB, the Pacific Mountain Workforce Board, out of 21 boards in the Oregon and Washington area that devote any resources for the forest industry. The material for the Pacific Mountain Workforce Board can be viewed at <https://pacmntn.org/regional-sectors/#wood-section>.

The Association of Oregon Loggers has contracted with the DevonShire-Group to help produce a series of WebTV events in 2019. Tribal forest enterprises will be involved in the events, so the broadcasts will be announced and updated on the ITC website and Facebook page.

One of the most interesting topics will a discussion about the potential for outsourced administrative services and systemic workforce matchmaking. A panel of industrial engineers, labor experts and human resource directors familiar with the forest industry will start to describe how they see the possibility to match a landowner's forest contracting needs with contractors available in the area similar to an Uber-like App or similar to how



Photo: Northwestern University with Menominee and Northwestern University Leaders at the November 2, 2018 Floor Dedication, made with Menominee Timber Enterprise Lumber.

the firefighting community orders strike teams via the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). The forest industry community is now addressing the workforce issues and the ITC Member Tribes will be part of this community.

Here's a sample of the outreach material used by the Pacific Mountain Workforce Board:

Why Work In Forest & Wood Products?

In a state built from a logging heritage, forest and wood products continue to play a major role in the local economy and remain vital to the success of our communities. The industry is focused on the future with an emphasis on high tech equipment and forest conservation efforts. The impact of the forest and wood products industry reaches far and wide, meeting the unique and varied needs of purchasers and distributors while working to maintain healthy regional forests.

Key Industries¹

- Logging
- Sawmills
- Forestry and Conservation
- Wood Product Manufacturing
- Paper and Pulp Mills

Get Ready Now!

These high-demand jobs are growing in the next decade²

- › Logging Equipment Operators
- › Forest and Conservation Workers
- › Sawing and Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
- › Logging Workers (other)
- › Millwrights

1. EMU, Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, J. Robinson and Co. Targeted Cluster Identification & Strategic Alignment, September 2020.

2. Data pulled from PacificMountain Jobs 2020 spreadsheet.

Learn more at www.pacmntn.org



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.