



# INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Summer ~ 2018

## BIA Central Office Forestry



Pete Wakeland

### OUR SINCERE THANKS

From all of the staff here at Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, we extend our sincere thanks to Phil Rigdon. Your dedication and hard work through the years has had a real impact on Indian country. We wish you all the very best in all you do.

We also want to thank Vernon Stearns, Jr. We look forward to working with Vernon as he assumes his new role as the ITC President. Congratulations!

Our sincere thanks, as well, to Aaron Baldwin. Aaron has been a tireless and dedicated leader in his work as the Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management. We wish Aaron much success as he moves on to the next phase of his career.

### GETTING WORK DONE

Creativity is still the key. Everything around us is changing and

that means we need to change too. What has worked well in the past, may not be working well now, and we need to continue to find creative, efficient, and effective ways to accomplish our work. Through the Bureau, the Division has recently funded some “portable projects”. These projects bring production capacity to the forest, instead of trying to bring forest products to a milling or processing facility. We’re hoping this is a positive step toward opening up local markets for such things as specialty wood products, pellets, and firewood. Further, we believe that this can provide for tribal jobs, create a valuable product, help provide support to local economies, and improve forest health by getting treatments accomplished on the ground. Stay tuned for updates.

### INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT

At the time of this writing, all responses to comments received during tribal consultation sessions have been developed, as well as all of the guidance documents. The responses and guidance documents are in review, and once they are approved and made available to tribes, the Demonstration Project can be established soon thereafter. For more information, contact Pete Wakeland.

### MANUALS AND HANDBOOKS

- Handbook 7, Forestry Trespass, has been approved and will be released soon.

- Handbook 8, Forest Inventory and Monitoring, is in the final stages of drafting and will be made available for review once completed. It’s expected that the review period will begin before the end of March.
- Handbook 3, Contract Sales of Forest Products, and Handbook 4, Permit Sales of Forest Products, are next up for revision. The Timber Sale Operations Group (TSOG) will be starting this effort soon.
- Handbook 5, Forest Development, is in the early stages of revision.
- The Forestry Collections and Distributions Handbook is currently in revision. This isn’t an official Handbook so the name will be changed slightly.
- Looking for volunteers to draft Handbook 6, Forest Pest Management.

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## President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.



Vernon Stearns, Jr.

Hello and good day all. By way of introduction, I am Vernon Stearns, Jr., the ITC's new President, selected by the ITC Board of Directors at this year's Timber Symposium annual business meeting held June 7th in Ocean Shores, Washington, and hosted by the Quinault Nation.

It is my honor to succeed former President Phil Rigdon of Yakama. Phil retired from the Presidency as of the June 7th annual business meeting, and I want to join everyone in thanking him for his exemplary service to the timber tribes and all of Indian Country during his many years on the ITC Board and during his Presidency. It was my pleasure to serve as Vice President during Phil's tenure, and I hope to carry on the active, effective, and personable leadership he displayed during his tenure. His willingness to step forward on the behalf of the timber tribes and our federal partners made a big difference, and his inclusiveness and humor were principal elements of his leadership.

In addition to my having served as the ITC Vice President, I am the Fuels Manager for my Tribe, the

Spokane Tribe in eastern Washington State. My professional background is encompassed by serving my Tribe in various capacities in wildland fire management which has also allowed me to participate in fire activities throughout the country. I was first formally introduced to the ITC in 2007 when I attended an ITC Quarterly Board meeting and haven't missed one since.

Joining the ITC leadership team is Darin Jarnaghan, Sr. as Vice President. Darin is the Natural Resources Director for the Coquille Tribe in western Oregon, which is a new Member of the ITC Board. Our other officers are Quinault Councilwoman Clarinda "Pies" Underwood, continuing her service as the ITC Board Secretary, and Tim Miller, the Reservation Forester for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, who remains our Treasurer.

Also at the June 7th ITC annual business meeting, delegates of ITC member tribes voted to fill the six Board of Director positions for the tribes whose two year terms had expired. In close balloting, the Coquille Tribe was elected as a new Board Member, whom we welcome. Great appreciation is also expressed for the Tanana Chiefs Conference of Alaska, the outgoing Board Member, and their Delegate Chaaiy Albert of the Tanana Chief's Board and to Will Putnam, their Forestry Director, for their dedicated participation on the ITC Board and their contributions to the ITC's undertakings. Alaska is a very big place, and the Tanana Chief's voice provided important input in ITC Board deliberations. We hope they will be able to continue attending Board meetings, where the participation of guests as well as Board

Members is welcomed. Otherwise, Colville, Hoopa Valley, Nez Perce, San Carlos Apache, and Yakamas were re-elected to the Board. We thank them for their steady support.

Each year's Annual ITC Business Meeting also selects the tribe to host the Symposium four years out. Host nominations are taken and the Delegates vote on the location, and for 2022, the ITC Symposium will be conducted at the Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina. Over the years, Eastern Band has hosted several memorable Symposiums, and we look forward again to their wonderful hospitality.

I am sure the ITC membership joins me in expressing special thanks to the Quinault Indian Nation for their graciously hosting the Forty-Second Annual National Indian Timber Symposium in their beautiful country on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. The Symposium covered a great range of topics, from a technical refresher on forest products forecasting and log pricing analytics to a tour opportunity to examine Quinault sea-going and racing canoes. There was a wealth of contemporary forestry information that was informatively and engagingly presented, and the Tribe's Quinault Beach Resort and Casino was a great venue for the Annual Awards Banquet.

Next year's Symposium is going to be on the continent's other ocean shore – the Atlantic, where the Seminole Tribe is hosting the 43rd Symposium at their Hollywood, Florida resort and casino on June 10-13, 2019. Be sure to mark it down on your planning calendar. We have been assured you won't have to look too hard for alligators.

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## President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.

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After that, the 2020 Symposium is off to Fairbank, Alaska, where the Tanana Chiefs Conference will host, and in 2021, we go to the Lake States, with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe hosting in Walker, Minnesota. And as previously mentioned, 2022 will be with the Eastern Band in North Carolina as

the annual Symposium continues to foster a broader understanding, familiarity and unity throughout the great community of Native American forestry.

More immediately, I look forward to stepping onto the ITC's leadership path, working with the other ITC officers, Board members,

committee chairs, and our partners, guests and friends to continue the work of Phil and those who preceded him to advance the cause of Native American forestry. Until next time, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and safe summer.



## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland

*(Continued from cover)*

### BOFRP

Interviews for the BOFRP Branch Chief were conducted on June 26, 2018. We hope that as you read this edition of Timber Notes, that our new Branch Chief is in place, and that the important work done at BOFRP continues to be accomplished.

### FOREST INVENTORY REPORTING STATISTICS & TRACKING SYSTEM (FIRST)

FIRST is operational and queries are being handled individually. Paula is working on "how to" guides that will be posted online soon.

### BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

#### OPERATIONS

The first six weeks of calendar year 2018 have seen above-average wildfire activity nation-wide. In Indian Country, 2018 has started with fewer fires than average; however, the number of acres burned so far is more than double the typical output. Thus, 2018 suggests a continuation of the trend observed over recent years, where BIA experiences a decline in the number of wildfires (due, in part, to effective prevention activities), but those



fires burn more acres than normal (large fires are getting larger). Especially notable is the 2018 year-to-date statistics. While only 4% of the nation's wildfires have occurred on Indian lands, these fires account for one quarter of the acres burned nation-wide. By far, most of the Indian acres burned have occurred in Eastern Oklahoma, with over 17,000 acres (five large fires) at Osage Agency and 2,500

acres (five large fires) at Okmulgee Agency.

Looking forward to the late winter and spring months, the 2018 Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook predicts above normal activity across the Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma Regions, with abnormally low fuel moistures persisting past the normal green-up period in April and into May. Indeed, Southern Plains Re-

Wildfire Occurance	Nation Wide		Indian Country	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Jan 1 - Feb 12, 2018	4,616	100,989	166	24,426
(vs. Historical Average)	(+79%)	(+64%)	(-19%)	(+119%)

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## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Pete Wakeland

*(Continued from page 3)*

gion activated Long-Term Severity resources in early February, with the intent to add 10 extra engines and increase prevention and fire investigation activities. Interagency aviation assets mobilized to Oklahoma include two Aerial Supervision Modules (dual air attack/lead planes, hosted by BIA), one large airtanker (USFS), and six Single Engine Airtankers (OK State Forestry). Above-normal fire potential is also predicted for Great Plains, Rocky Mountain, Navajo, Southwest, and Western Regions.

### FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

BWFM Fuels is facilitating the development of the “Avoided Cost” concept as a new reporting metric for the Fuels program. A comprehensive “Avoided Costs” metric would demonstrate the true benefit of the Fuels program.

To date, the FY17 Fuels program has obligated greater than 99% of our program allocation of \$41,720,943. Key to understanding the total Fuels program allocation is recognition of the three funding pools that make up the \$41.7M total: RTRL (\$10M) is primarily focused on non-trust acres that have been identified as tribal priorities. Resilient Landscapes was ~\$855K with the balance ~\$30.8M funds our Base program. A projected change in FY18 is the Resilient Landscape program may not be funded, potentially re-directing funds directly to Bureau programs. The final disposition of RL funds will not be known until a final budget is approved.

### WILDFIRE PREVENTION

BIA continues to lead the development of an inter-agency wildfire prevention analysis and planning software. This software uses spa-

tial risk assessment tools to develop prevention strategies that demonstrate effective program implementation. The web-based application is in the development and testing phase. Developers expect to release an alpha version by the end of the current fiscal year.

The BWFM distributed 35% of the 2018 FY prevention budget to regions and OSG. Staff is developing the amounts for additional distributions from the last CR allocation.

### AVIATION

BIA National Aviation Office created an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Fleet Inspector position and filled it with long time aviation specialist, Dave Underwood.

- Currently developing organization, funding sources and protocols and purchasing a handful of small UASs.
- UAS program locations have not been determined; however, they should be operational in FY18.

Working with DOI Office of Aircraft Services, the BIA Aviation is pursuing a 365 day helicopter contract for Indian Affairs users at Supai Village. Procuring contract will significantly increase the level of safety and save money. See attached story for background and outcomes of program.

Office received approval to fund Two Single Engine Air Tanker Base Manager positions for high use regions. Western and Northwest regions will receive funding, which in the past, were filled by either AD or Fuels personnel.

In 2018, two Aviation Management Specialists positions will be hired with the goal of hiring within the aviation program. This will create upward movement and prepare for

future retirements.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The National Multiagency Coordinating Group (NMAC) approved the 2018 Annual Themes for information officers and others to use in wildland fire messaging. See attached document.

### WEB UPDATES

New content was loaded onto the BIA Forestry and Fire Management Web page. These are:

- Fire Stories: <https://www.indianaffairs.gov/bia/ots/dfwfm/bwfm/forestry-fire-management-stories>
- BIA Forest Trespass Documents: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/dfwfm/trespass>
- Student Internship Program for Wildland Firefighters: <https://www.bia.gov/fire-internships>

### SOCIAL MEDIA

The Branch is sponsoring two new social media pages BIA Forestry & Wildland Fire Management. Individuals can “Like” the page to receive regional fire management information. These are:

- Southern Plains Region: <https://www.facebook.com/BIA-Forestry-Fire-Management-Southern-Plains-Region-441442859605315/>
- Yankton Agency: <https://www.facebook.com/YanktonFireMgt/>



## Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

I would like to start by thanking the Quinault Indian Nation for their hospitality, and an amazing ITC Symposium. I would also like to thank those who attended and presented. It was a great opportunity see the ITC family, and share the amazing work happening in Indian country. Included are updates from both the symposium and the April board meeting.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

The ITC is working on their organization's strategic plan, and a workforce development strategic plan. Both documents were developed over the last 6 months, and presented during the General Membership meeting at the Symposium. Based on the feedback we have received from member tribes we plan to complete both plans in the coming months. We will also discuss implementation for both plans at future ITC board meetings. Final versions of both documents will be shared once comments are incorporated.

### IFMAT 4

As ITC continues to work on implementation of IFMAT 3 recommendations, it's time to start thinking about preparation for IFMAT 4. This will include consideration of Indian Forest/Fire management issues that need evaluation along with

the eight legislatively mandated topics of inquiry. This assessment is national in scope, so we look forward to working with tribes around the country to determine the state of Indian Forestry.

### INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT (ITARA)

We continue to make progress on the implementation of ITARA. George Smith has led the ITARA implementation effort as a sub-committee within Operations. Tribes have provided comments, and the pilot projects are scheduled to begin this summer. I hope to have an update on the first Indian Trust Asset Management Plans (ITAMP's) by the end of this calendar year. If anyone has questions about ITARA or the implementation of the ITAMP's please contact the ITC office for more information.



## Research Subcommittee

by Serra Hoagland



Serra Hoagland

Guu-at-see (Greetings!) fellow ITC members! We hope you've been getting plenty of Vitamin D and have roasted enough marshmallows and enjoyed the recent fireworks! During the ITC symposium two of our Native American Research Scholarship

recipients, Crystal Tulley-Cordova and Electa Hare-Redcorn, presented their research at the opening icebreaker. The students received an additional \$1,000 for presenting their findings. Crystal (far right below) stayed for a significant portion of the symposium and presented her research on Examining ground water resources on the Navajo Nation, AZ. Crystal is a PhD candidate at the University of Utah. Electa (far left in orange jacket) is a PhD student at University of Arkansas and discussed her research question: what influences tribal leaders to support or negate natural resource and land use decisions at the policy level?

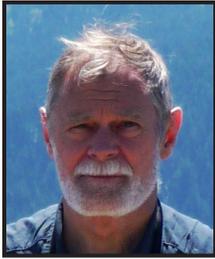
At the symposium, the Research Subcommittee co-chairs (Dr. Hoagland and Dr. Leighton) met with

Dr. Janet Leak-Garcia (USFS WO R&D) and Dr. Mike Dockry (USFS NRS) to discuss future plans for the second assessment of research priorities. Earlier this year we received \$25k from the WO of the Forest Service to reinstate the research needs study by Beatty and Leighton in 2012. We anticipate a second face-to-face meeting in late August in DC to determine a path to move forward.



## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill



Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

### 1) FY 2018 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS LAW HAS +\$500K FOR BIA FORESTRY, REQUIRES REPORT ON DOI FIRE FUNDING PRIORITY FOR TRUST FORESTS.

#### THE LAW PROVIDES FULL YEAR FUNDING

On March 23, the day the fifth continuing resolution expired, President Trump signed the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act (informally referred to as the FY '18 omnibus appropriations bill), making it P.L. 115-141. The legislation (H.R. 1625, originally called the TARGET Act), totaling more than 2,200 pages, provides full year funding for the federal government – including the Interior Department – for Fiscal Year 2018, which started back on October 1, 2017. Funding in the meantime was provided by a series of continuing resolutions that temporarily extended FY 2017

amounts. The FY '18 Consolidated Appropriations Act replaces all those temporary FY '17 amounts with amounts for the full FY 2018.

#### ABOUT THE BILL AND IT'S JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act is divided into “Divisions.” The Interior, Environment and Related Agencies FY '18 funding provisions are in Division G. Accompanying the bill is a Joint Explanatory Statement that basically serves as a conference report, explaining and detailing the specific funding levels and directives in the Act. The statement is divided into Divisions corresponding to the appropriations Divisions in the Act. At the back of the statement for each Division is a detailed funding table showing amounts for all the various agencies and programs within that Division. The Joint Explanatory Statement for Division G, Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, is on line at <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180319/DIV%20G%20INTERIOR%20SOM%20FY18%20OMNI.OCR.pdf>.

In addition to the FY '18 appropriations provisions, the bill includes several Divisions at the end that are various authorizing laws, including

as Division O the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act, discussed below.

#### FY 2018 BIA TOTAL FUNDING UP OVER FY '17

The Congress generally rejected the Administration's proposed FY '18 cuts to BIA and provided modest increases over FY 2017. For BIA Operation of Indian Programs, the omnibus provides \$2.411 billion, up \$72 million over FY'17 and \$329 million over the Administration request. The big gainers over FY '17 are Indian Ed (+\$23 million) and Public Safety and Justice (+\$19.8 million). BIA Construction is \$162 million over FY '17, mostly for schools.

The Indian Health Service, also funded in Division G, is up \$500 million over FY '17, from \$5.0 billion to \$5.5 billion. The overall total for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Division increased \$3 billion, from \$32.2 billion to \$35.2 billion, or almost 10%. It is \$8 billion over the Administration's request.

Amounts in \$ thousands					
BIA Program	FY '16 Final	FY '17 Final	FY '18 Admin Request	FY '18 Final	FY '19 Admin Request
BIA Operation of Ind. Programs total	2,267,924	2,339,346	2,082,506	2,411,200	2,002,996
Trust & Nat. Res. Gen.	5,168	4,953	4,829	4,882	4,866
Endangered Species	2,684	2,685	1,302	2,693	1,306
Coop. Landscape Conservation	9,955	9,956	-0-	9,956	-0-
Forestry	51,914	54,155	49,013	54,877	48,872
[Forestry TPA]	[27,643]	[27,590]	[26,696]	[28,337]	[26,880]
[Forestry Projects]	[24,271]	[26,565]	[22,317]	[26,540]	[21,992]
Contract Support	277,000	278,000	241,600	241,600	231,000

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## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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The Division G Joint Explanatory Statement also makes clear that any significant reorganization of the Interior Department will be subject to Congress's restraints on the Administration's reprogramming of appropriations.

### **FY 2018 BIA FORESTRY FUNDING GETS \$500K INCREASE, HAS FISHERIES MONEY MOVED**

FY 2018 full year funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs is discussed beginning on page 35 of the Division G Joint Explanatory Statement. The BIA funding table begins on page 109 (as displayed on the download's page count; designated as page 89u on the face of the table itself) of the statement. Below is a table showing FY '16, '17 and '18 final funding amounts for selected BIA programs, as well as amounts requested by the Administration for FY 2018 and for upcoming FY 2019.

or FY 2018, BIA Forestry received a \$500,000 increase over FY '17, as recommended by the House and supported by the ITC. FY '18 Forestry TPA and Projects final amounts reflect final FY '17 amounts plus FY '18 internal transfer and fixed cost adjustments plus the \$500,000 increase and subtracting \$355,000 in Northwest fisheries funds that in FY 2018 are permanently shifted out of Forestry and over to the Tribal Management Development Program (TMPD). TMPD is a separate line item in BIA Trust containing about two dozen specific on-going projects for individual tribes and tribal organizations. The Northwest fisheries funding was added to the Forestry budget more than 20 years ago by then-Rep. Norm Dicks (D,

WA), and in the years since has been problematic. The Joint Explanatory Statement for Division G states on page 37, "The agreement includes \$355,000 in the Tribal Management Development Program (TMPD) for fisheries activities previously funded within the Forestry program. Future funding requests should reflect the transfer of this activity to TMPD."

Because the \$355,000 has always been spent on NW fisheries activities, its removal from the Forestry budget does not represent any reduction in actual spending for Forestry.

### **CONGRESS EXPECTS EXPANDED USE OF TFPA, DIRECTS REPORT ON INTERIOR'S PRIORITIZATION OF SUPPRESSION AND REHAB FUNDS FOR INDIAN FORESTLAND**

The Division G Joint Explanatory Statement for BIA also includes a statement that "The Department of the Interior is expected to expand the use" of TFPA (and any similar authority) to protect Indian trust resources. Note this applies to all of Interior, not just BIA, but does not reference the Forest Service, which is already engaged in some TFPA projects. The Joint Explanatory Statement also directs a report from the Office of Wildland Fire Management and BIA on how the Interior Department prioritizes fire suppression and rehabilitation funding for Indian trust land. On page 37, the statement says –

"The Department of the Interior is expected to promote and expand the use of agreements with Indian Tribes to protect Indian trust resources from catastrophic wildfire, insect and disease infestation, or other threats from adjacent feder-

al lands, as authorized by law. The Committee directs the Bureau to coordinate with the Office of Wildland Fire to submit a report describing how the Department determines the use of wildfire suppression and rehabilitation resources and prioritizes Indian forest land, the title to which is held by the United States in trust."

There is no specific due date for the report.

### **2) FOR DOI WILDLAND FIRE, FY '18 OMNIBUS REJECTS PROPOSED CUTS, ADDS FUELS FUNDING**

For the Interior Department's Office of Wildland Fire Management (OWFM), the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act generally rejected the Administration's proposed cuts in its budget and increased Fuels Management by \$4 million. The OWFM discussion in the FY '18 Division G Joint Explanatory Statement is on page 47. The funding chart is on page 120. Below is a table showing FY '16, '17 and '18 final amounts, plus the Administration requests for FY '18 and upcoming FY 2019.

The OWFM FY 2018 requests designating \$23 million in Preparedness for tribal contract and agreement support and \$10 million in Fuels Management for tribal fuels activities on non-trust federal lands where the tribe has reserved rights (aka RTRL) were not changed by the House or Senate and so remain in effect for FY 2018.

### **3) FOR THE FOREST SERVICE, OMNIBUS DIRECTS UPDATED FIRE PLAN, FIRE POTENTIAL MAP, FUELS COLLABORATION WITH**

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## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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Amounts in \$ thousands					
Office of Wildland Fire Management (OWFM)	FY '16 Final	FY '17 Final	FY '18 Admin Request	FY '18 Final	FY '19 Admin Request
Preparedness	323,685	332,784	322,179	332,784	322,117
Suppression	362,673	395,000	389,406	389,406	388,135
Fuels Management	170,000	180,000	149,466	184,000	150,603
Burned Area Rehab	18,970	20,470	9,467	20,470	9,467
Fire Facilities	6,427	8,427	-0-	187,427	-0-
Joint Fire Science	5,990	5,990	3,000	3,000	-0-
Joint Fire Science	887,745	948,671	873,518	948,087	870,384

### NEIGHBORS, PROVIDES +\$500 MILLION FOR SUPPRESSION AS PART OF NEW SUPPRESSION FUNDING LAW

For the U.S. Forest Service, the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act both rejected the Administration's proposed cuts and provided some increases over FY '17: State and Private Forestry is \$113 million over FY '17; Hazardous Fuels (shifted from the Fire account to the National Forest System account) is \$45.5 million over; and Wildland Fire Management Suppression receives +\$500 million above the 10 year average as part of the policy shift to the new suppression funding law carried as Division O (as in the letter O) of the omnibus (see item 4 below). The Joint Explanatory Statement discussion of FY '18 for the Forest Service begins on page 66. The funding chart begins on page 132. Among various comments and directives for the USFS in the Joint Explanatory Statement are the following:

- USFS is directed to “review and update the National Fire Plan”, working with Interior and other agencies. Pg. 67.

- USFS is directed to develop a Fire Hazard Potential mapping tool to better target management activities to protecting other lands. Pg 67-68.
- USFS received \$430 million for hazardous fuels (+\$45.5 million over '17) with increased cross-boundary collaboration with landowners near USFS lands. Pg 70.
- USFS wildland fire suppression funding received +\$500 million over 10 yr average. Pg. 74.

### 4) FEDERAL FOREST FIRE FUNDING “FIX” AND MANAGEMENT LAW IN THE OMNIBUS

The FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, considered “must-pass” legislation unless the federal government was to encounter another shutdown, had attached to it a number of non-appropriation riders as Divisions M through V. Division O is the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act. In the pdf text of the enrolled version of H.R. 1625, on-line at <https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1625/BILLS-115hr1625enr.pdf>, the new forest fire funding and management law runs from page 712 to 733.

The Forestry Act's Title I, Wildfire and Disaster Funding Adjustment, basically provides emergency relief for federal catastrophic wild-fire suppression costs for either the Forest Service or the Interior Department by allowing catastrophic fires to be declared disasters under the Stafford Act and then eligible for emergency wildfire suppression disaster budget accounts with increased budget caps. These accounts are separate from the suppression budgets in USFS and DoI and are intended to stop so-called wildfire “borrowing” when federal suppression costs exceed their USFS or DoI appropriated amounts. The law would direct annual USFS and DoI suppression funding at the 10-year average (more or less), but then creates additional budget authority for a contingency fund for suppression. Starting in FY 2020 with \$2.25 billion, this emergency budget authority increases to \$2.95 billion in 2027. USDA/DOI have to submit an annual report to Congress detailing the cost effectiveness of suppression activities, as well as the

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## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

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effectiveness of pre-fire fuels reduction treatments on the ground. To help bridge the potential suppression-funding gap between FY 2018 and 2020, the Interior appropriations in Division G provide an additional \$500 million in suppression funding in the USFS.

Title II, Forest Management Activities, includes:

- Amendments to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) to encourage additional fuels treatments to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire;
- Allowing NEPA categorical exclusion (CE) of hazardous fuels reduction projects (in dry forests) up to 3000 acres if they maximize old growth characteristics, include a collaborative process, are located within the WUI or an area of extreme fire risk (if outside the WUI), and are consistent with the relevant land management plan. Federal agencies must provide an annual report of the use of this or any other CEs. (This might be of interest for Anchor Forest projects).
- Fuel breaks and fire breaks: allows these projects to occur with only an action/no-action alternative.
- Stewardship contracts: Agencies may enter into 20-year stewardship contracts under HFRA, with a preference to contractors who would “promote an innovative use of forest products, including cross-laminated timber.”
- Requiring the USFS to develop a map of wildfire hazard severity for communities-at-risk.
- Good Neighbor Authority amendments to allow states to repair or reconstruct federal forest

roads.

- And a “Cottonwood Decision” fix, in response to a court decision out of Montana, to free land management agencies from immediately having to re-consult under ESA on land management plans when a new species is listed or new critical habitat is designated.

Title III is Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Reauthorization.

Title IV is extension of the Secure Rural Schools program providing funding assistance to counties reliant on federal timber receipts.

Title V has to do with the drawdown of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

### **5) FY 2019 INTERIOR APPROPS**

The FY 2019 appropriations process is well underway up on Capitol Hill. The Administration issued its proposed FY 2019 budget in February 2018, as discussed in the Spring 2018 edition of ITC Timber Notes, and ITC President Phil Rigdon (now retired) presented testimony comment May 9 to the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies during its hearing for tribal witnesses. Phil’s testimony urged additional funding and filled personnel positions for BIA Forestry, full and direct funding for post-fire rehabilitation of tribal forests burned in 2015, an increase in fuels management funds for the DoI Office of Wildland Fire, and the continuation of the Joint Fire Science Program. Representatives from the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation also testified in support of increased BIA Forestry funding.

On June 6, 2018, the House Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies bill, and introduced and reported the bill on June 19 (H.R. 6147, House Report 115-765). The Committee generally maintains FY 2018 BIA Forestry and includes a \$500,000 increase. For the Interior Department Office of Wildland Fire Management (OWFM), the House rejected all but one of the Administration’s proposed cuts, maintained FY 2017 funding levels for Preparedness (\$332.8 million), Suppression (\$389.4 million), Burned Area Rehabilitation (\$20.47 million), and Joint Fire Science (\$3 million), and added \$10 million to Fuels Management (\$194 million). Fire Facilities funding is recommended to be zeroed out, as requested by the Administration (-\$18.43 million).

On June 14, 2018, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported its version of the FY 2019 Interior appropriations bill (S. 3073, Senate Report 115-276). It generally maintains the FY 2018 level for BIA Forestry and restates the directive contained in the FY 2018 omnibus bill’s Joint Explanatory Statement that Interior be more active in protecting Indian trust forest resources from threats off adjacent federal lands and directing BIA and OWFM to submit a report on the prioritization of wildfire suppression and rehabilitation funding for Indian trust forests. For OWFM in FY 2019, the Senate report recommends slightly lower funding as requested by the Administration for Preparedness (-\$10.6 million) and regular Suppression

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Legislative Update

by Mark Phillips and Matt Hill

*(Continued from page 9)*

(-\$1.3 million), but provides an addition Suppression fund of \$179 million. Funds for Fuels Management are increased by \$4 million (\$188 million), and maintains FY 2018 levels for Burned Area Rehabilitation (\$20.47 million), Fire Facilities (\$18.427 million), and Joint Fire Science (\$3 million).

### 6) FARM BILL UPDATE

Congress is moving closer toward enactment of a Farm Bill, which covers a range of programs from purely agricultural, to food/nutrition assistance and forestry. At a cost of roughly \$100 billion a year, the Farm Bill is not small potatoes, so to speak. Past Farm Bills have paid increasing attention to federal forest management, establishing authorities for stewardship contracting and Good Neighbor Authority.

ITC has supported a robust forestry title in this year's Farm Bill, and has worked with the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and key congressional leaders to advance our priorities. The House version of the bill includes a number of forest management provisions originally included in Rep. Westerman's "Resilient Federal Forests Act." These would include streamlining of TFPA timelines, 638 authority for contracting TFPA planning, and tribal management of federal lands under NIFRMA. The committee also added tribes to Good Neighbor Authority. The bill also includes other authorities for federal land managers such as new categorical exclusions to treat fuels and bug/disease infestations.

The House version of the bill initially failed a vote on the House floor in May 2018 when a cadre of House Republicans withheld support of the Farm Bill over a disagreement with their leadership on immigration issues. The House bill also contains controversial provisions about work requirements for food assistance programs, prompting opposition from the entire Democratic caucus. However, the bill re-emerged and passed the House in late June.

The Senate was slower to produce its version of the Farm Bill, which was released June 6. It does not contain the same work requirements as the House bill and enjoys bipartisan support. On the forestry side, it does not contain the same suite of management tools as the House bill does. However, the bill was amended in committee to include tribes in Good Neighbor Authority.

Apart from the forestry, the Senate version of the Farm Bill contains a numbers of positive provisions for Tribes:

#### NUTRITION AND NATIVE FOODS

- Improvement of the Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations, including the ability for tribes to enter into self-determination contracts to directly procure agricultural commodities for themselves;
- Allows tribal agencies to use other federal resources (i.e. Indian Health Service funds) to meet the matching requirement in the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive program.
- Makes Tribes eligible to participate in local food programs to help Tribes grow, process, and market native foods.

#### RURAL COMMUNITIES, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

- Includes language that will provide refinancing authority to USDA projects made in Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) to make finance improvements to electric, broadband, and water infrastructure in underserved Tribal communities.
- Includes language to codify community connect for tribes and other underserved communities.
- Prioritizes tribes and other underserved communities in grants and loans for broadband.
- Reauthorized Tribal College and University essential community facilities.

#### RESEARCH

- Includes language to add 1994 Tribal Colleges to be eligible for McIntire-Stennis Forestry program capacity funding.
- Creates a Native American student scholarship fund for tribal students who attend land-grant universities and colleges.

#### USDA PARTICIPATION AND TRIBAL FARMERS AND RANCHERS

- Creates a new Tribal Advisory Council to provide advice to the Secretary on tribal related issues and policies throughout the Department.
- Creates permanent mandatory baseline funding for outreach, education, and training for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including Tribal farmers and ranchers in the new Farming Opportunities Training Outreach program.
- Makes hemp farming legal and creates new State and Tribal plans to develop and expand hemp production.



## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

### USFS FOREST PRODUCTS LAB - FUTURE WEBINARS WITH ITC

During the 2018, ITC Symposium, Vincent Corrao, President, Northwest Management, Inc. from Moscow, ID coordinated and moderated a panel on Forest Products/Log Forecasting. The panel addressed some of the recommendations made in the third Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Land by the third Independent Forest Management Assessment Team (IF-MAT-III). Vincent was also an IF-MAT-III member that helped assess the report's Task D - An evaluation of procedures employed in timber sales administration, including preparation, field supervision, and accountability for proceeds.

The panel addressed several of the recommendations in Task D (page 157, IFMAT-III report) that include:

- D1. Forest Management Plans and Integrated Resource Management Plans should include strategies for long-term harvest planning and marketing of tribal forest products.
- D4. Develop a timber market reporting system that monitors and periodically publishes log and

stumpage price values to compare domestic and international sale values.

The panel also addressed one recommendation in Task F - A comprehensive review of the adequacy of Indian forestland management plans, including their compatibility with applicable tribal integrated resource management plans and their ability to meet tribal needs and priorities.

The forest products related recommendation in Task F (page 181, IF-MAT-III report):

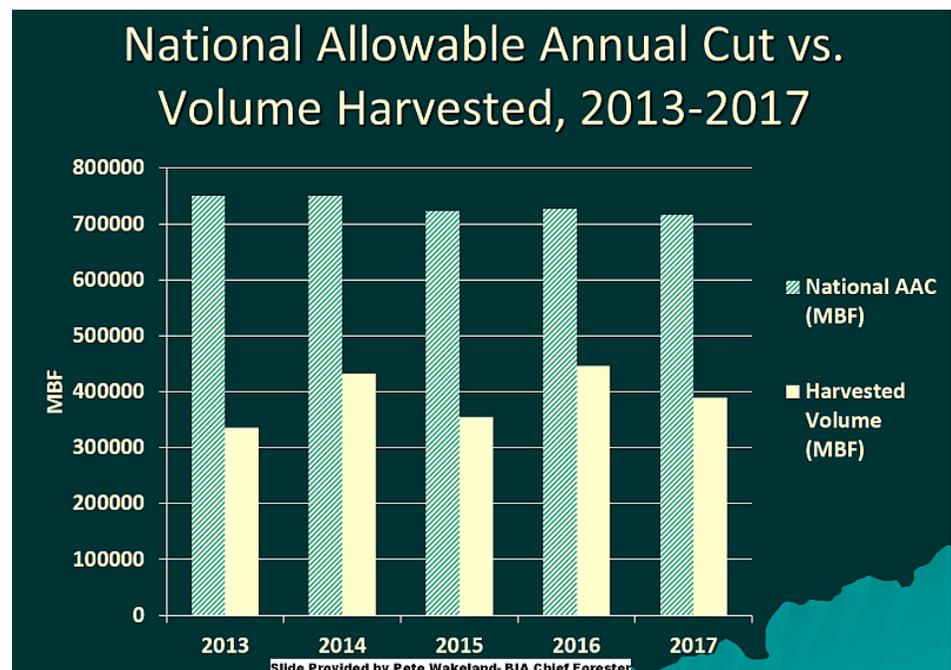
- F6. Forest plans should consider current and future manufacturing infrastructure.

The panel that addressed these recommendations included Thomas Montzka, President, Straight Arrow Consulting Inc., Boise, ID and Gary Cantrell, President/CEO, Affiliated Timber Investment Conversion Advisors, Inc., Terrebonne, OR and

David New, President, Growing Excellence, Boise, ID. A copy of their three presentations can be viewed on the ITC Facebook Page.

Also during the Symposium, there were discussions how to assist the ITC member Tribes with addressing these issues. Brian Bradshaw, Program Manager, Forest Products Lab (FPL), U.S. Forest Service has offered to assist ITC with producing webinars. They will focus on technology and opportunities available to help address the gap between the national Annual Allowable Cut and the current harvest over the past five years that was presented by the BIA Chief Forester, Pete Wakeland in the included graph.

The workforce development needed to address the necessity for timber sale preparation a one of the ways to address the gap. Technology is another way to address this gap and future webinars with the Forest Products Lab could be beneficial.



(Continued on page 12)

## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

*(Continued from page 11)*

\*\*Brian Bradshaw has provided the following article about how FPL has assisted tribes in the past. ITC will be working with Brian and FPL to develop webinars to assist the ITC Member Tribes.

US Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory Partnerships with Tribal Forestry

by Brian Bradshaw, Program Manager and Ann Sarnecki, Partnership Coordinator

USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI

At the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), in Madison, Wisconsin, researchers are finding ways to use our Nation's wood resources wisely and efficiently, while keeping our forests healthy. Research at FPL includes focuses on advanced structures and composites; nanotechnology and biorefining; and utilization of woody biomass. Research at FPL spans from fiber and chemical science to modern engineered composites like cross-laminated timber (CLT). Whether it is putting a self-adhesive, environmentally friendly stamp on an envelope or walking into a tall timber building, FPL has in some way contributed to developing and supporting countless products and innovations people use every day.

The Forest Products Laboratory and FPMU have collaborated on a number of projects with Tribal governments across the country. Cooperative projects include utilizing technical assistance, consultations, grant application support and awards. After more than 25 years working with FPMU, and specializing in the units' Tribal partnerships, Forest Products Specialist Rusty Dramm reflects

that "in terms of true partnerships, learning experiences, and positive outcomes for our forests, working with the tribal community has been incredibly rewarding."

Examples of past and current partnerships where FPMU has worked closely with tribal nations include:

- FPMU worked with the Mescalero Apache Tribe, in Mescalero, NM, providing technical assistance on small log conversion for the Mescalero Forest Products sawmill. FPMU continues this partnership today by providing technical assistance and review of the Mescalero Apache's evaluation and planning for redevelopment of their forest products enterprise.
- FPMU and FPL's Economics Research Unit have provided technical assistance to the Yakama Nation in reviewing their timber appraisal system and compared it to alternative methods for valuation of timber. Follow-up work included a technical assessment visit of the Yakama Forest Products sawmill operation in White Swan, Washington.
- FPMU worked with Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE), a tribally owned and operated forest management and wood products manufacturing operation. FPMU supported MTE in a study to evaluate the feasibility and profitability of product and marketing efforts for their secondary manufacturing operation division. Technical assistance from FPMU included wood utilization recommendations, marketing strategy, marketing message, marketing tools, and promotional products. Employee training recommendations were also addressed in the study. MTE has also worked with FPL's Engineering Research Unit

to assess wood quality in standing trees, logs and lumber in support of MTE's forestry and sawmill operations.

- Currently, FPL is reaching out to Tribal college students, by hosting an upcoming Forest Service Career Workshop at the College of Menominee Nation, Keshena, WI on April 5, 2018. This year's workshop aims to alert college students to the Forest Service units located in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan and to share information about potential summer internships or career options. This workshop will be sponsored by the Forest Products Laboratory, Northern Research Station, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Northeastern Area—State and Private Forestry, and the College of Menominee Nation. Students of all educational backgrounds and interests are encouraged to attend. Pre-registration is required. For more information, go to <https://usfscareerfair2018.eventbrite.com>.
- FPL continues to be a strong supporter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and their efforts to improve opportunities for native students in STEM professions. The 2018 AISES National Conference will be in Oklahoma City this October. FPL will be hosting a career fair booth to make connections with high school and college students about FS career pathways and opportunities throughout the Agency."



## Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

Impacts from the devastating fires of 2015, initiated the ITC leadership to direct two separate studies of issues relating to fire management on Tribal Trust lands.

In 2015 alone, five reservations in the Northwest, namely Yakama, Colville, Spokane, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs burned 338-thousand forested acres, damaging 1.2-billion board feet of timber. The tribes suffered an estimated \$521-million in timber losses. To date, only about half of the marketable timber has been recovered and tribes are working on extensive reforestation projects.

The First Study titled “Wildfire on Indian Forests, A Trust Crisis” was done by many of the authors of the IFMAT Reports, including Vincent Corrao, John Bailey, John Gordon, Adrian Leighton, Larry Mason, Mark Rasmussen, and John Sessions.

The ITC asked the IFMAT, to investigate the following five topics and provide statements regarding the 2015 fire season:

1. Department of the Interior (DOI) Burned Area Emergency

- Response (BAER) plan estimates of rehabilitation costs and if the methodology is appropriate and are cost estimates reasonable?
2. Previous IFMAT warnings about the consequences of failing to provide adequate resources to fulfill fiduciary trust responsibilities.
  3. The need for timely action to minimize environmental damage from the 2015 wildfires.
  4. The need to harvest the timber damaged by the wildfires to recover as much value as possible.
  5. Other losses, such as impacts on future timber supply, jobs, etc.

IFMAT found that:

- Since the passage of National Indian Forest Resource Management Act (NIFRMA) in 1990, 4.8 million acres nationally of Indian forestlands have been burned by wildfire, and the annual losses are only increasing. In 2015, a record 539,000 acres of Indian forests were scorched, nationwide.
- The 2015 fire season burned 338,110 forest acres on the five subject reservations, damaging 1.2 billion board feet of tribal trust timber. The cost and impact to other resource values has not been calculated in this analysis, but can be expected to be many times the cost of suppression.
- The 338,110 forest acres included 126,393 acres of high and moderate severity burns, which require reforestation, salvage activities, road restoration and maintenance, fence repairs, resources for lost fish and wildlife, and risk for non-native invasive species and noxious weeds.
- The cost of fire suppression on the 338,110 acres exceeded \$97-million. Rehabilitation costs are generally equal to the suppression costs, but can be as much as

three times higher. The Department of the Interior has estimated that the cost of rehabilitation for the five subject reservations at \$55-million. The study team estimates that actual rehabilitation costs are likely to be over \$100-million. Only \$8.7-million has been made available to date for rehabilitation; the ability to provide the balance of funding is uncertain.

- Three times in the past 20 plus years, Indian Forest Assessment Teams (IFMATs I, II, III) have issued warnings about the dire current and future consequences of chronic federal failure to provide adequate resources to Indian forestry programs, which were mandated by Congress in 1990 with passage of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (NIFRMA) to fulfill its fiduciary trust responsibilities. This is especially urgent with respect to forest and fire management.
- Throughout all three IFMAT investigations, tribal members consistently reported that protection of Indian forests should be paramount, yet their forests are increasingly in jeopardy.
- DOI/BIA estimated that \$55-million was needed from the Office of Wildland Fire Management Burned Area Rehabilitation (OWFM BAR) to fund five years of post-fire recovery from the 2015 wildfires on Indian trust forests nationwide, with \$9-million urgently needed in this fiscal year (FY 2016) and into the next 5 years to meet this need. But OWFM has only designated \$3.4-million of its \$19-million BAR FY '16 budget for Indian trust forest recovery due to a policy (Secretarial Order 3336) that changed the funding mechanism.

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

*(Continued from page 13)*

- The Department of Interior needs to find the additional resources immediately from non-BIA budgets to fully fund the \$9-million needed for Indian forest rehabilitation in FY 2016, and, in addition, must fully fund the remaining four years needed to institute full rehabilitation and recovery, beginning with a request for \$13 million needed for FY 2017. The \$55-million in funding does not include cost of rehabilitating tribal lands that may be damaged by wildfire in subsequent years.
- Tribes operate their forests using sustained yield, multiple-use principles. This means that the amount of volume harvested annually on a reservation is regulated and consistent from year to year, providing a stable annual revenue stream to the Tribes. However, when a catastrophic fire occurs, it alters that plan and consequently lowers the future cash flow associated with a long-term enterprise. This is exacerbated by delayed salvage or complete loss of timber. The fire losses, if left unmanaged and uncompensated, will have catastrophic impacts on employment, the environment, and social values within tribes as well as the regions that contain them.
- The BIA has an average reforestation budget of approximately \$3.2-million (a budget of \$3.2-million would cover planting of less than 11,000 acres as reforestation costs are at least \$300 per acre). This funding is earmarked for normal year reforestation activities that do not include catastrophic fire events.

The Second Study builds from the first study and is titled “Improving

Efficiency, Equity and Effectiveness of Wildfire Impacts on Tribal Trust Resources”, completed in April of 2018 had a focus of 5 questions: Vincent Corrao, Jim Erickson, and myself conducted many of the interviews, with folks from around the country, representing diverse backgrounds, experience, and location, from interior Alaska, to Arizona, to the mid-West.

The first question was about the allocation of suppression resources: The ITC is very concerned with the national and regional allocation of suppression resources during times of extreme wildland fire (2015 – PNW).

We tried to provide a clear understanding of how national fire suppression resources are allocated from the national level to each geographic area, down to Tribes and agencies. The review also looked at the roles and responsibilities for the national, regional and Tribe/Agency personnel to ensure that individual fire information is properly recorded and submitted to make the process work effectively.

The second question was about DOI administrative efficiencies: Tribes have expressed concern over administratively imposed rules and regulations guiding allocation and use of fire funding, particularly hazard fuel reduction funding. The Department prioritized allocating fuel funds based upon programmatic (operational/permanent salaries) over projects (contracting) forcing Tribes to use hired crews to complete projects. This has resulted in a steep decline of acres accomplished over the term of this DOI guidance, taking away Tribal flexibility in operating their programs.

The third question is about Emer-

gency Stabilization (ES), Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) planning, and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) planning funding allocation process: The ITC seeks to better understand the current logic for distribution of funds for burned area recovery to DOI bureaus based upon historic average needs instead of current year fire needs.

We also tried to identify alternative funding sources for post fire emergency stabilization/rehabilitation/restoration needs, including fire suppression, emergency stabilization, BAER, BAR, NRCS, FEMA, and others.

The fourth question was about the cost avoidance concept, which is based upon proactive resource management: The ITC recognizes the unwanted impacts of severe wildfires on Tribal resource values. These impacts could be avoided by proactive land management treatments to restore and maintain resilient forests, woodlands and rangelands that are adaptable to periodic wildland fire.

The Bonus Question number five was to ask our fire professionals what their priorities are.

We heard that Tribal Priorities fall into two main areas:

1. Protection of Tribal resources requires Adequate and Stable funding, and
2. A well trained workforce to ensure that adequate current and future firefighting resources are available.

Throughout the reports, you will hear common themes:

- Trust Obligation and Responsi-

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## Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



*(Continued from page 14)*

bility: this is something we have been talking about for a long time and is a story we need to keep telling.

- Consultation with Indian Tribes: there are many directives that demand effective consultation. This is something we need to push forward.
- Funding Allocation models that put Interior Agencies at odds with one another. We need to find a better way. We, with other Interior Agencies, and with the DOA, need to find a better way to get the work done.
- The Avoided Cost concept; meaning proactive land management treatments to restore and maintain resilient forest, woodlands and rangelands that are adaptable to periodic wildland fire.
- Workforce Development: The ITC recently developed a Workforce Development Strategic Plan which attempts to view the need in a comprehensive manner, from recruitment and retention of

our youth, providing scholarships and internships for students, offering continuing education for our existing workforce, and mentoring, and trying to re-engage our retirees.

- Post Fire Rehabilitation and Recovery: We are way behind what is needed to reforest or otherwise rehabilitate and restore areas that have been severely burned. We need to find other ways of evaluating rehabilitation and restoration needs and find additional funding sources to meet the need.

The second report also comes with an implementation strategy as a way to move forward on some of the key issues.

The strategy calls for:

- Additional leadership training for Tribal and BIA personnel that would improve collaborative partnerships and communication between agencies.
- Continued efforts on the Workforce Development Strategy that addresses training, mentoring, re-

cruitment and retention, and succession planning.

- The development of an avoided cost model based on Tribal specific criteria
- The planning of a nationally available Trust Symposium
- Clarification of funds transfer mechanisms, such as charge codes to allow Rx burning or other fuels treatments cross boundary,
- The improvement of Tribal Consultation as directed by the many directive, and
- Updating position descriptions and job duties of human resources and administrative staff for wildfire.

The second study has been presented to the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) in Washington DC on May 23, 2018, at the 42nd Annual Indian Timber Symposium in Ocean Shores, WA on June 5, 2018, and to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) on June 13, 2018. The ITC leadership has been invited to continue discussions of the issues identified in the study with BIA and Department of the Interior, and US Forest Service leadership in Washington DC. That meeting is currently being arranged through Harry Humbert, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Public Safety, Resource Protection and Emergencies, and Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior.

Both studies are available on the ITC website at <http://www.itcnet.org>.



## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

We celebrated ITC's 42nd Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation and produced the Intertribal Timber Council, held June 4-7 at the Ocean Shores Convention Center and the Quinault Beach Resort & Casino in Ocean Shores, WA. The theme for this year's symposium was "Forest: Our Heritage from the Past, Our Legacy to the Future." Here is a recap of the highlights.

The 70 degree temperatures and the ocean breeze during our stay was amazing and the last time I had spent this much time near the Pacific Ocean was during my days as a young boy, helping pull fishing nets on the Quinault River. I was very impressed by the Quinault's and their hospitality. Thank you.

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 3**

The annual ITC Pre-Symposium Golf Tournament was held at the Ocean Shores Golf Course. It was a four-person best ball scramble with 6 teams participating and a total of 24 golfers; the event collected \$720 to be donated to the Truman D. Picard Scholarship and the first place honors went to Steve Rigdon, Yakama Nation; Darin Jarnaghan,



Opening Ceremonies - Performance by the Songbird Canoe Family

Coquille Tribe; River Spry, Grand Portage; and Howard Teasley, Jr. Nez Perce Tribe.

### **MONDAY, JUNE 4**

We offered four Pre-Symposium Workshops. The first workshop "Traditional Cedar Bark Crafting," was enjoyed by 17 participants. The second workshop "Forestry Operations Field Tour," had 40 individuals. The third workshop "Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)," had 12 attendees. Our last workshop "Forest Technology and Standing Inventory," had 31 participants. Fees for the Pre-Symposium Workshops directly fund the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. Thank you for your attendance. The day concluded with the Host Tribe Icebreaker at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 5**

Started with the Opening Ceremonies, Invocation, Posting of the Colors, Host Tribe Welcomes, and the

Keynote given by Quinault President, Fawn Sharp. This day was a little different without our good friend and colleague ITC President Phil Rigdon; however, newly appointed ITC President, Vernon Sterns did an excellent job of stepping in. Our first panel was "Forest Products/Log Forecast," next was the second panel "Farm Bill: Reauthorization and Opportunities" and then the "Host Tribe Presentations." We finished the day with the Host Tribe Welcome Dinner at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino, which was filled with delicious seafood and entertainment by the Song Bird Canoe Family.

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6**

It was a great day to be on the Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Tour. We visited Point Haynisisoos Cultural Site, Quinault Indian Nation Seed Orchard, and a 50-Year Old Conifer Stand & 5-Year Old Plan-

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



*Quinault Indian Nation Seed Orchard Speaker Mitch Bumgarner, Tree Improvement Technician*

*(Continued from page 16)*

tation. After the tour, we held the General Membership Meeting.

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

The General Session started with the ITC President's Report, then updates from the BIA, Legislative, and a US Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations. Immediately following our three concurrent workshops got underway Workshop 1: Fee to Trust, Workshop 2: Project Learning Tree and Workshop 3: Future Fire – Where Are We Going? After the workshops concluded, the Annual Business Meeting of Member Tribes was held. We introduced a new member Tribe to the Board of Directors – Coquille Indian Tribe.

And a new location for the future symposium of 2022 in Eastern Band of Cherokee, Cherokee, North Carolina.

General Membership is offered to tribes for \$250 annually and Associate Membership is offered to individuals and other organizations for \$25 annually. Membership applications can be found on our website [http://www.itcnet.org/about\\_us/](http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/).

There were 312 attendees, 12 exhibitor booths, 100 pre-symposium participants, and 41 tribes represented from all over Indian Country. Thank you to everyone that participated. The 2018 Final Proceedings will be mailed to the 2018 Symposium participants in the fall.

Lastly, a special thank you our exhibitors, our donators, and the Quinault Nation!

Next year, the Seminole Tribe of Florida will be hosting the symposium during June 10-13, 2019.

Take Care and God Bless. Qe'ci-yew'yew

If you would like to join the ITC mailing list and receive correspondence, please contact the ITC Office by phone at (503) 282-4296, or email at [itc1@teleport.com](mailto:itc1@teleport.com), or visit the ITC website online – [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org).



## Education Committee

by Victoria Wesley



Victoria Wesley

Dagotei' (Hello) from Apache Country. Thanks to the Quinault Indian Nation for sponsoring the National Indian Timber Symposium this year. The Ocean Shores Convention Center and Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores, Washington were such beautiful places to hold the symposium. Special thanks to everyone who attended and bought raffle tickets. Aiyie'. Thank you, thank you.

We all look forward to visiting the different Indian countries that sponsor the National Indian Timber Symposium and visiting with old and new friends. We experience different forest ecosystems, and see how tribes utilize their ecosystem services. Our traditional beliefs are intertwined with the natural world in a similar way. As Indian nations, we manage the forest through different management practices but always looking into the future, seven generations down the road. Plus we fight the same demons, in a sense that binds us to one nation. Every year it is good to reconvene the nation to re-focus and re-strategize.

Every year, the monies from the

raffles have been increasing, and this year was no exception. After recounting the money raised from the raffle, we actually had \$10,165. It was still an increase from the previous symposium. It seems that every year, tribes are bringing in such beautiful artwork with cultural pride springing through gifts for the raffle. We appreciate your gifts that "keep on giving". That is to say, these gifts will continue to bless the hands that receive it. The money raised from the raffle contributes toward funding the Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program. The Picard Scholarship supports Native American students seeking college degrees in the field of natural resources. This year, the ITC awarded 29 scholarships. To

date, 477 scholarships have been awarded to Native Americans totaling over \$938,500. We hope to continue to support the many students majoring in natural resources in Indian Countries across the United States.

It was a pleasure walking on the Quinault Indian land in my moccasins. Aiyie'



2018 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Recipients

(L to R) Front Row: Joyce Miguel, Jessica Lackey, Kelly Bolton, Elisha Flores, Nizhoni Harvey, Rachel Tom, ShiNaasha Pete

Back Row: Trenton Pimms, Deland Olney, Cameron Macias, Zachary Erickson, Kaleb Pemberton

## Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

The 42nd National Indian Timber Symposium is now behind us, and many thanks are due to the Quinault Indian Nation for hosting a great week and a wonderful opportunity to view some of their homeland in Western Washington. The final event of the symposium, as always, was the Annual Awards Banquet held on Thursday evening at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino, and a key part of any Awards Banquet is the presentation of awards. We were pleased to be able to do that for a couple of worthy recipients this year. For both recipients this year, the awards represent recognition for long and productive careers in Indian Country.

Steve Olson will soon be retiring from his position as Reservation Forester after working 34 years with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Minnesota, and was on hand to receive an Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Individual Achievement Award. In addition to all the good work he has accomplished over the years in Minnesota, Steve has also been involved with ITC, including being a prime organizing force when Fond du Lac hosted the symposium in 2011.

Dave Koch has also recently re-

tired from a long career in Indian forestry. His career has taken him to a number of locations, from Mescalero in New Mexico, to the National Interagency Fire Center in Idaho, to the BIA's Central Office in Washington DC to finish his career in a number of high-level positions with the BIA's Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire. Dave was also in attendance at the symposium to accept his Earle R. Wilcox National Achievement Award.

year's recipients! This next winter we will be soliciting nominations for next year's Wilcox awards, and we encourage everybody to help us find those worthy individuals that deserve nomination for these awards. You know who those deserving individuals are, and we encourage you to put forward their names and nominate them for an award.



Our congratulations go out to this



2018 Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards  
(L to R) Steve Olson, David Koch, Will Putman



**INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL**

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**First Class**

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