



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Summer ~ 2021

IFMAT IV UPDATE

IFMAT IV tribal site assessments have started, and the team is working on logistics and procedures for collecting the data for the report. The IFMAT IV team contacted over 40 tribes nationwide and has received confirmation from 28 tribes who want to participate in the assessment. The ITC and the IFMAT team will continue to contact the remaining tribes to identify interest in participating.

The potential participants in the IFMAT IV assessment were identified considering geographic distribution, BIA category, governance structure, past participation, and recognizing those tribes who may have not participated in previous assessments.

During the on-site visit, the IFMAT IV team will assess the tribe's opportunities and challenges in managing the natural resources of the tribe and the government's responsibilities in carrying out its trust responsibilities. The assessment includes discussion of funding, staffing, workforce, cross boundary opportunities, climate change impacts, forest products marketing, and a tribal community focus group.

The IFMAT IV process is described in a Site Visit Handbook that outlines the process and procedures for participating tribes. The tribal visit begins with a one-day virtual meeting with a general introduc-



Vincent Corrao



John Sessions



Serra Hoagland



John Gordon



Adrian Leighton

tion to the tribal setting and management situation using a set of questions that parallel those used in the meetings with the regions. These are followed by questions identified in NIFRMA and by ITC. Once the virtual meeting has been completed, the team works with the participating tribe to identify additional questions that will be addressed during the on-site visit.

Please let Manager Vincent Corrao know if you are interested in participating as the team is currently scheduling opportunities to meet over the next 18 months subject to our capacity and sampling needs. corrao@northwestmanagement.com

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President's Message

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

I want to thank everyone for participating in the 2021 Symposium. Out of an abundance of caution we used a virtual format that allowed ITC, member tribes, federal agencies, and partners to share important information about Indian forest management. I look forward to our next symposium being in person and appreciate the patience shown by our tribes this year.

Since our last ITC newsletter, Deb Haaland has been confirmed as the first Indian person to serve as Secretary of the Interior. She has wasted no time putting into motion her plan

for that Department and rapidly developed a budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2022. That document generally increases funding for Indian program, including BIA forestry. Bryan Newland is moving through the confirmation process to serve as the next Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

The situation is different at USDA, where Forest Service Chief Christiansen recently retired and there is no nominee for Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources – a position overseeing the Forest Service.

Our work on the upcoming 2023 IFMAT report continues to progress. ITC is having regular Zoom meetings with our IFMAT co-chairs to finalize the planned activities and site visits in the coming year, funding sources, topics of inquiry and much more. My hope is that the IFMAT-IV report will be the most significant and useful to date. While tribes have many more tools

at their disposal for working with federal agencies on federal land, we are still resource-challenged on our own land.

ITC continues to make progress with federal agencies implementing the 2018 Farm Bill authorities for TFPA and Good Neighbor Authority. Additional legislation is still required to fully allow tribes access to the GNA program. ITC representatives also participated in Timber Harvesters and Haulers Trial listening session last week on June 9, 2021. That program should roll by late June to help those tribal logging and truckers companies impacted by Covid-19. If you have questions about the program, please reach out to ITC staff, and we will do our best to answer them or share the appropriate contact person in USDA.

To our member tribes and organizations, thank you for your continued support of the ITC and its mission.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

Hello and greetings. In this article I will provide a brief update on a few of the issues that we have been tracking. I hope and pray that you have a safe and joyful summer.

WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

Vernon Stearns, Jr. and I had a good discussion with Laura Schweitzer, Executive Director of the Western State Foresters/Western Forestry Leadership Coalition. Like the Intertribal Timber Council, they are looking forward to the upcoming conversations about what a “Fire Plan 2.0” might be, and how their organizations can engage. Laura is interested in how Tribes and ITC might be engaging, opportunities for dialogue, thoughts on what this effort might become. They also partner closely with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council on fire re-

lated issues like the Cohesive Strategy. Reed Robinson, Director, FS OTR and Mike Zupko, Executive Director, WFLC joined in on the discussion. We plan to continue periodic virtual meetings to discuss issues of common interest.

ITC and Reed Robinson, the New Director of FS OTR was asked to present at the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition spring meeting on Exploring Opportunities to Strengthen Partnerships with Indigenous Communities: Of course, using TFPA and TFPA using the Public Law 93-638 authority, and RTRL was discussed.

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Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

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SAGEBRUSH PARTNERSHIP MODEL DEVELOPMENT

The ITC was asked to engage in the Sagebrush Partnership Model Development Process. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is coordinating the development of a conservation strategy with the BLM, USFW Service, USGS, and other key partners. The National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution was asked to identify potential Models for a partnership governance strategy to improve coordination of conservation in the Sagebrush biome. As part of this engagement, a small group of Tribal folks have been participating in development of a proposal for the partnership structures to conceptualize a Tribal Advisory Committee that would be part of any of the partnership structure, as well as an Essential Tribal Engagement Commitment that participants in any collaborative partnership would need to commit to.

To learn about the Sagebrush ecosystem visit: https://www.usgs.gov/ecosystems/environments-program/science/sagebrush?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

CROSS BOUNDARY COLLABORATION USING RESERVED TREATY RIGHTS LANDS FUELS FUNDING

I am pleased to include a brief update on a cross-boundary collaboration from the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes and The Nature Conservancy using Reserved Treaty Rights Lands hazardous fuels reduction funds. This project is located near the Flathead Reservation, western Montana in an area that was extensively used



Photo taken in the project area managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

© The TNC (Steven Kloetzel)
Photo is of Dylan DesRosier, at Primm Meadow Rx Burn, 5/6/21.

Dylan is of the Blackfeet Nation, and a Montana TNC employee.

by tribal people for millennia. The TNC is reintroducing Rx fire on that cultural landscape. Respect is articulated among the partnership.

Ron Swaney, CSKT Fire Management Officer, states in communication with TNC leadership “Thank you for recognizing our Tribes ancestors and treating our aboriginal lands with such respect. I appreciate you and commend you with your work under this RTRL project with the CSKT. TNC reintroducing fire into our cultural landscape and protecting the traces left behind by our people touched my heart.”(Ron Swaney email communication, May 2021)

If you are interested in additional information about any of

these topics, please contact me at jimdurglo@gmail.com or contact the ITC office.

Again, have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Legislative Update

by Matt Hill



Matt Hill

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS

Bryan Newland: On June 9, 2021, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing to consider the nomination of Newland to service as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior. The hearing was generally favorable, and his nomination appears to be heading toward swift Senate approval. One highlight of the hearing for ITC's purposes was a dialogue with Sen. Cortez Masto (D-NV) about tribes and wildfire. Cortez Masto urged Newland to ensure tribal communities are given necessary resources and that there is a coordinated response with federal agencies and tribes.

Newland stated that the Biden Administration has re-constituted the White House Council on Native American Affairs and allows a "all of government" approach on issues such as wildfire. He added that DOI Secretary Haaland and USDA Secretary Vilsack are having direct conversations about wildfire, including resources available to tribes.

Janie Hipp: The U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, voted in favor of the nomination of Janie Simms Hipp, of Arkansas, to be General Counsel

of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hipp is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. She served in the office of tribal relations at USDA in the Obama Administration. After returning to the University of Arkansas in 2013, she launched the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative focusing on Tribal governance in food and in agriculture economic development.

There is still not a nominee to serve as the USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources overseeing the U.S. Forest Service.

FOREST SERVICE CHIEF RETIRES

USDA Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen has announced her retirement after a 40-year career as a professional forester, wildland firefighter, and land manager including 11 years of service at the Forest Service. Chief Christiansen brought her experience and passion for connecting people to their natural resources to her tenure as head of the Forest Service, leading more than 30,000 employees working in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Christiansen stepped into the role of Chief of the Forest Service on March 8, 2018. During Christiansen's leadership tenure, the agency relied on its strong science, innovation, and partnerships to overcome profound challenges and find new solutions to serve the public. From leading the development of new interagency safety protocols that enabled fire response during a global pandemic to bolstering relationships with partners, states, and tribes to improve forest health and combat the effects of climate change, Christiansen led with community in mind.

Forest Service accomplishments under Christiansen's leadership include year after year of histor-

ic timber production and millions of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest resilience to fire. The Forest Service also recently completed a suite of regulatory reforms to modernize and align itself to new legislative authorities that reduce regulatory burdens and expedite critical forest management work.

MERKLEY PLOTS FOREST BUDGET PRIORITIES

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) serves as chair for the Senate subcommittee considering the Forest Service's budget request. In May, he convened a hearing of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee by recalling scenes from Oregon's catastrophic 2020 fire season, in which 11 people died in wildfires, and more than a million acres burned.

"Fires devastated the towns of Detroit, Gates, Phoenix, Talent," Merkley said. "I'll never forget visiting those towns and seeing the incinerated remains."

"We need this large (funding) increase, both for fighting fires across the country, but perhaps more importantly, for making a very massive investment in forest management," he said, adding that he is advocating for a permanent fund to pay for firefighting separately from non-emergency management.

At the senate hearing, Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen called last year's fire season a call to action. "We saw the most acres burned on the Forest Service lands since the Big Burn of 1910," she said. "In many places, forests will not come back on their own, which impacts the potential for carbon storage and limits the land's capacity to mitigate further climate change."

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Legislative Update

by Matt Hill

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Merkley pressed her to provide a long-awaited report to Congress by the end of this month, on how many acres are considered at high risk to wildfire. Biden's FY2022 budget proposal has not yet been released.

Merkley has also stated that he will lobby the Biden administration to spend at least \$1 billion more per year for logging, prescribed burning and other work designed to make federal forests in Oregon and elsewhere less vulnerable to wildfires during a future when climate change is likely to heighten that threat. Merkley said one of his chief goals is to double federal spending, from \$40 million to \$80 million, for "collaborative" projects on national forests.

PRESCRIBED FIRE BILL INTRODUCED

A group of Democratic senators have reintroduced legislation that aims to prevent the blistering and destructive infernos from destroying homes, businesses and livelihoods and becoming more frequent as the climate crisis grows.

The National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021 would support pre-fire season-controlled burns as an essential, science-based strategy for reducing hazardous fuels to mitigate the worst effects of severe wildfire. The legislation would increase the pace and scale of controlled burns, create a technically skilled preseason controlled burn workforce, and give states more flexibility to regulate controlled burns in winter months to reduce catastrophic fires and dangerous smoke in the summer.

The National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021: Establishes \$300 million accounts for both the Forest Service

and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to plan, prepare and conduct controlled burns on federal, state, and private lands.

- Requires the Forest Service and DOI to increase the number of acres treated with controlled burns.
- Establishes a \$10 million collaborative program, based on the successful Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, to implement controlled burns on county, state, and private land at high risk of burning in a wildfire.
- Establishes an incentive program to provide funding to state, county, and federal agencies for any large-scale controlled burn.
- Establishes a workforce development program at the Forest Service and DOI to develop, train and hire prescribed fire practitioners, and establishes employment programs for Tribes, veterans, women, and those formerly incarcerated.
- Requires state air quality agencies to use current laws and regulations to allow larger controlled burns and give states more flexibility in winter months to conduct controlled burns that reduce catastrophic smoke events in the summer.

FEINSTEIN-WYDEN WILDFIRE BILL HAS TRIBAL COMPONENTS

Senators Feinstein (D-CA) and Wyden (D-OR) have introduced the "Wildfire Emergency Act" which has three major components:

- Forest restoration projects: The bill authorizes \$250 million to fund a new U.S. Forest Service program to conduct large-scale forest restoration projects. Currently, forest restoration projects are often narrowly focused, a few

hundred to a few thousand acres. By funding up to 20 projects that are at least 100,000 acres each, the Forest Service will be able to conduct landscape-scale projects, providing the ability to analyze and implement restoration activities on a far larger scale than in the past.

- Critical infrastructure and energy flexibility: The bill authorizes \$100 million for a new grant program to protect critical infrastructure (specifically including tribally owned facilities/structures) and allow for greater energy flexibility. The grant program will help retrofit key structures like hospitals and police, fire, and utility stations so they can function better without power. Funds can also be used to expand the use of distributed energy systems, including microgrids, which will reduce the area that power shutoffs affect.
- Research, training, and disadvantaged communities. The bill establishes:
 - o One or more Prescribed Fire Centers to coordinate research and training of foresters and forest managers in western states in the latest methods and innovations in controlled burns;
 - o A new workforce development program to assist in developing a career-training pipeline for forestry and fire management workers and establish a training center to teach foresters and fire managers in the latest methods and innovations in practices to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fires and improve the health of forests.

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Legislative Update

by Matt Hill

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o An additional \$50 million fund to help disadvantaged communities plan and collaborate on forest restoration, wildland-urban interface, and tribal projects as well as projects increasing equitable access to environmen-

tal education and volunteer opportunities.

- 10 percent of these funds are set-aside for tribes and/or tribal organizations;
- At least two tribes will serve on a national advisory panel overseeing the program.

More information about the legislation can be found at: <https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=D42BB61B-4F08-4E66-BD95-55E5EF32A463>



BIA Central Office Forestry

by Peter Wakeland



Peter Wakeland

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Staffing: Central Office Forestry still has one GS-14 Marketing and Policy Forester position to fill. The position documents are currently with Human Resources and the advertisement should be coming out soon. BOFRP has made two tentative offers for the GS-11 forester positions and hope to get these new foresters onboard soon. We continue to work with Human Resources to fill 3 vacant positions 2-GS/13 and 1-GS/11.

Office of Trust Services Quarterly Newsletter: The OTS is now producing a quarterly newsletter (example article below). Each quarter, the Division Chiefs are now asked to submit a few short articles describing what we have accomplished at the Division level. Dawn Selwyn is putting the media

together and has done a great job. This may be a good opportunity for Tribes as well. If a Tribe has a forestry or fire project or accomplishment that they would like to highlight for Leadership. Your project submission would be very welcome. For more information contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester, peter.wakeland@bia.gov.

Indian Forest Management Assessment 2023: As you all know, the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (NIFRMA) requires that a report on the status of Indian forestry be prepared every 10-years. Collective work continues and we want to stress the importance of tribal data and participation. This is our collective chance to tell our story. The IFMAT report is one of the primary documents that we point to when competing for funding during the budget process. We urge all Tribes to participate in the IFMAT process as fully as possible so that the IFMAT Report 2023 is a true reflection of Indian forestry. The team has met with Central Office and has been meeting with several tribes to collect information to complete this report. For help or questions, please contact Stacie Holmes, Forester / Analyst, Stacie.holmes@bia.gov.

Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA): The IFMAT has been holding conference calls with the regional foresters and staff to gather information for the next IFMAT Report. It became apparent that some regional staff was not familiar with ITARA, which could mean that it is time to get some more information out. Now that two Tribes have approved Indian Trust Asset Management Plans (ITAMP), Central Office Forestry staff will be coordinating and developing a webinar to reintroduce ITARA and share information about what ITARA is, how to request to participate in the Demonstration Project, and the process for developing an ITAMP and Tribal Forestry Regulations. We hope to do this within the next 90 days, and a notification will be sent out well in advance of the webinar.

Portable Infrastructure Projects: The Portable Infrastructure Projects initiative has started gaining some traction and attention. Since 2017, the BIA has funded 15 Portable Infrastructure Projects for Tribes. Approximately \$3 million have been distributed to tribes and they have contributed about \$315,000 of their own monies. Portable Infrastructure Projects can include small sawmills, pelletizers, fuel-

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BIA Central Office Forestry

by Peter Wakeland



Division of Forestry & Wildland Fire Management

Impacts of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased this need as sawmills were temporarily shut down to reduce spread of the virus, but oftentimes they didn't receive direct financial relief and many have closed permanently. These closures have reduced the capacity to process logs, reduced jobs and driven down the value of marginal sawlogs since the haul distance is further.

Grants for Portable Sawmill and Firewood Processors

The Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management (DFWFM) has recognized the need for portable sawmills in the last few years as large, antiquated sawmills have closed.

GRANT AWARDED SINCE 2018

Grants awarded	\$3 Million
Awardees by Tribe	15
BIA Regions	8
Total Tribal contributions to startup costs	\$315,000

Since 2018, \$3 Million in grants to support portable sawmills and/or firewood processors have been awarded to 15 Tribes in 8 BIA Regions. Tribes have contributed about \$315,000 of their own tribal monies towards equipment and startup costs.

Sawmills of Yesterday

Transportation of timber and timber products from mills are cost prohibitive today. Many mills have closed their doors.



Source: Mills & Log Storage view from Indian Creek, 1945. National Archives

Sawmills of Today are Portable

These 15 tribes were all affected by the closure of a sawmill that was competitive in bidding for tribal materials. If not for the portable sawmills, it would not have made economic sense to harvest the materials because haul costs would have been cost-prohibitive, so the project would not have been completed.



See a 5 minute video of a portable saw mill in action at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kruhl5nRs4>

Orvie Danzuka, Timber Sales Forester, orvie.danzuka@bia.gov.

National Policy on Forest Management Deductions (FMD), Direct Pay (DP), and Carbon: Central Office Forestry has received several questions regarding the BIA's policy on Carbon. Some initial work on a National Policy Memorandum (NPM) for carbon was completed several years ago, following a revised Solicitor's Opinion that determined that carbon was not a trust asset. Staff is again working on the NPM and will begin work with the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action (RACA) to move the policy document through the notification and approval process. The FMD and Direct Pay Memorandum has been revised by BIA Central Office and Regional Office representatives. The forms are being reviewed internally and will then be forwarded to RACA and the Solicitor. For more information contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester, peter.wakeland@bia.gov, or Orvie Danzuka, Timber Sales Forester, orvie.danzuka@bia.gov.

Annual Report To Congress: **The** FY 2020 Annual Report to Congress has been completed and submitted for review. Indian forestry experienced a new set of challenges in 2020. Many BIA and tribal forestry programs postponed forest management activities during the Covid-19 pandemic to protect the health and safety of tribal communities and employees. BIA and tribal foresters remained dedicated to the mission of supporting tribal goals for maintaining the health and economic productivity of Indian forests while respecting tribal regulations and guidance throughout the pandemic. Foresters adapted quickly to new circumstances.

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wood processors, and chippers, as examples. This initiative can improve forest health, reduce the risk of wildfire, create local markets for forest and energy products, and provide jobs for tribal members. Central Office Forestry has answered several data calls asking for more information on this initiative, and these are welcome inquiries. Provided funding is available, a request for project proposals will be coming out again soon. We

encourage Tribes to consider how such projects might be beneficial, and to submit your proposals. The Nez Perce Tribe utilized their equipment to provide over 300 cords of firewood for their membership. The Picuris Pueblo are training tribal members to operate their sawmill and provide education to the Picuris Pueblo Boys and Girls Club, Ohkay Owingeh Elementary, and the Penasco Elementary School. For more information contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester, peter.wakeland@bia.gov, or

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es and challenges, and timber harvest increased over 50,000,000 board feet. Thinning acres and reforestation acres, however, fell below FY2019 levels. The accomplishments for FY 2020 are shown below:

FY 2020 INDIAN FORESTRY STATUS REPORT TO CONGRESS

- Management Plan Year – National Totals
 - o (NF=Non-Forested Land Area) – 313
- Reforestation
 - o Planted Acres – 14,608
 - o Need Acres – 548,050
- Stand Improvements
 - o Thinned Acres – 16,835
 - o Need Acres – 489,118
- Available Volume (Allowable Annual Cut)
 - o Timberland (MBM) – 738,487
 - o Woodland (Thousand Cords) – 325
- Timber Volume
 - o Offered (MBM) – 387,622
 - o Sold (MBM) – 347,271
- Timber Harvested
 - o Volume (MBM) – 392,860
 - o Value (\$) – \$53,491,721

Timber Team: The Timber Team has been busy since the last report and field season is in full swing. Below is the list of completed and planned projects.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota, Great Plains Region, 8 Days Duration (April), CFI & Permit Layout
- Uintah Ouray Reservation, Utah, Western Region, 11 Days Duration (April), Salvage Sale Layout
- Winnebago & Omaha Reserva-

tions, Nebraska, Great Plains Region, 12 Days Duration (May), CFI & Black Walnut Timber Sale Layout

- Bad River Reservation, Wisconsin, Midwest Region, 7 Days Duration (May), Fuels Reduction/Hazard Trees Layout
- Potawatomi Reservation, Wisconsin, Midwest Region, 8 Days Duration (May), Stands Exams
- Fort Belknap Reservation, Montana, Rocky Mountain Region, 5 Days Duration (June), Timber Sale Layout

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Fort Belknap Reservation, Montana, Rocky Mountain Region, 5 Days Duration (June), Timber Sale Layout
- Ho Chunk Reservation, Montana, Midwest Region, 7 Days Duration (June), Stand Exams
- Crow Reservation, Montana, Rocky Mountain Region, 9 Days Duration (July), Timber Sale Layout
- Jicarilla Reservation, New Mexico, Southwest Region, 19 Days Duration (July/August), Timber Sale Layout

Two Pathway interns are working with the Timber Team this summer and are gaining great experience while working in multiple locations and different project types. Dawson Garrett is from Oklahoma and is attending Oklahoma State University and Josh Kerstien is from Oregon and is planning to attend Oregon State University this fall.

We encourage Tribes to send in project requests through the Regional Foresters. Questions about the Timber Team can be directed to Philip Frandino, Team Supervisor at phil-

ip.frandino@bia.gov or Caleb Cain, Forester at caleb.cain@bia.gov.

TAAMS: The TSOG continues to develop enhancements to the TAAMS Forestry module. TAAMS version 5.10C released earlier this year included major Forestry enhancements and recently 5 additional TAAMS forestry enhancement proposals submitted by the TSOG were approved. The most significant of these proposals is a timber money and scale ledger to be added to the forestry document toolbar. This will be a live on-screen ledger with options to download information and print reports. This proposal has been many years in the making and we are very excited to see this project implemented.

TAAMS Forestry training has been on hold since the pandemic began. The next CGI forestry training is not anticipated earlier than January of 2022. A small in-house emergency encoder training will take place the week of June 14, 2021, at Coeur d'Alene tribal forestry. John Baskette and Kurt Mettler will be the instructors. We are discussing the idea of a one-day TAAMS Forestry Management Overview for forestry document approvers and supervisors of encoders. We anticipate this may include Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Forest Managers Assistant Forest Managers, and Supervisory Foresters. The course could be delivered via a web platform.

TSOG: The TSOG also continues to work on the combined Harvest of Forest Products Handbook, and this is the primary emphasis of TSOG meeting time. The group is currently finalizing the drafts of the scaling chapter and the forest enterprises chapter and anticipate sending a draft document for informal review by RACA this month.

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Timber Sales Training: Hats off to the Northwest Region for successfully delivering a very successful timber sale workshop this year and making it available to all Regions. That filled the void for this year. In 2022 we anticipate offering the National Timber Sale Training that was suspended during the pandemic. Training will be planned for March of 2022.

BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

Inventory Handbook Team: BOFRP staff are leading and/or participating in eight of the eleven Handbook section groups. The draft Handbook is over 50% completed. Three of the Handbook sections are completed, and substantial progress has been made on five of the remaining eight sections. The team is currently finalizing the draft Research section.

Forestry Projects: The Branch of Forest Resources and Planning is actively working on 19 tribal forest inventory projects in the CFI initiation and data cleaning/processing phases and providing technical support to the region, agency, and tribes on 34 inventory projects in the data collection and FIA phases. We are requesting all regional FMIP foresters to update the BOFRP Project Planning Tool, "Upcoming Projects" tab to help us plan our project workload to meet objectives in the field. If you need access to the Team Channel for the BOFRP Project Planning Tool please contact BOFRP.

National Forest Library: The National Forest Library project is approximately 95% completed and the quality control will be completed by 30 June 2021. Please contact

Mahalia if you need to cross reference your regional library against what we have at BOFRP. The archive project is ongoing. Mahalia has completed 15% of the scanning and filing, this is a huge undertaking, and it is our goal to complete by summer 2022.

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Aviation: The Aviation program is in the process of converting 27 short term career seasonal employees to longer term seasonal employees. These include the Helicopter Assistant Managers and Helicopter Squad Leaders. This is a result from the DOI Workforce Development effort which gave the BIA \$472,000.00. Although this is a 1/4 of what we requested, it is a significant step in the right direction. The Branch will be requesting more as it becomes available to continue creating quality positions that employ more people for longer terms.

Fire Management Fleet and Facilities: As of April 2021, BWFM has detailed Ross Wise from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to Act as the BWFM Fleet and Facilities Manager. During Ross' detail, he will be focusing on evaluating current operational standards, procedures, policies, and inventory to determine the status of the BWFM Fire Management Fleet and Facilities. Ross will also be reviewing revised or new procedures, policies, and standards to improve national fleet and facilities inventory and support. This effort is intended to improve our overall support to ensure adequate and most current fleet and facilities.

Wildfire Prevention: 90IAM 5 – H the wildfire prevention handbook has been approved and released on March 19, 2021. All FY21 funding

has been provided for the wildfire prevention program for the approved and incumbered positions. Multiple regions are requesting wildfire prevention assistance. BIA Regional Prevention Specialists are assisting agencies and tribes to find prevention team leaders, prevention team members and wildfire investigators.

Fire Management Planning: BWFM Planners have been working to analyze current resource types, staffing levels, and overall workload. This effort is combined with the need to continually evaluate models and processes used to ensure our organizations are appropriately configured to manage and respond to various wildland fire needs. A large emphasis is given to successional planning and development or ladder organizations to provide career opportunities from entry level to upper-level management. The concepts are based on cohesive and strategic approaches to wildland fire management.

Severity Management: BWFM will be working to re-evaluate the policies and procedures utilized to manage short- and long-term severity at the Region and Unit Level. Severity funding is authorized to increase staffing levels, extend staffing periods, and boost organizations with additional resources due to conditions that exceed local unit capabilities. These conditions can include, but not limited to drought conditions, fire weather, elevated fire behavior predictions, events that may increase ignitions, etc. The re-evaluation will be done to improve time efficiencies, standardize processes, and reduce workload on fire management personnel to justify



Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



Don Motanic

SAF WESTERN FORESTER TRIBAL ISSUE

During the past spring, the ITC has been busy with preparing for the annual symposium but also involved with promoting tribal forestry with a special tribal forestry issue in the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Western Forester newsletter.

First, I'd like to thank Andrea Watts, the editor of the western Forester who produced the special issue. You can read her comments about the issue in the sidebar. Much of the issue was dedicated to tribal forestry and here is an overview about the articles.

The first article is an interview with Dr. Gary Morishima, Technical Adviser on Natural Resources and the Environment for the Quinault nation. The title of the article is "The Inalienable Rights to Decide: The Intersection of Forestry and Tribal Sovereignty." Gary responded to several questions in the interview. What is tribal sovereignty? Can tribal sovereignty be interpreted differently based upon context? How the concept of tribal sovereignty's changed over the years? What are the misconceptions the general public has about tribal sovereignty? With some management issues taking on more urgency, how does tribal sovereignty allow tribes to manage for these issues such as climate change? What work still needs to be

done to serve to give more tools for tribes to exercise their sovereignty? In the final question. Gary describes the term "collaborative governance" and mentions that "tribes are still the dominant human organizational structure in the world. There are over 370 million Indigenous peoples in the world and over 90 nation states. They still occupy a good portion of the land area. They need to have a substantive voice and place at the table when shaping our collective future."

The second article in the newsletter is an interview with Molly Alves, wildlife biologist with the Tulalip tribe. The interview is about the Beaver Restoration Project that utilizes the 638 authority with the US Forest Service. The article describes the 638 authority and how it's used in action. One key aspect of the project's success has been the long-term relationship between the Tribe and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The third article is an interview with Colby Drake, the Interim Natural Resource Director with the Grand Ronde Tribe. Colby provides information concerning the Tribe's historic loss of land and restoration. He also describes how the program reclaiming cultural fire and creating partnerships to expand the program where they use fire to protect the land.

The fourth article "In a Changing Climate, a Lifetime of Observations Can Inform Research" involves forest observations by Darren McCrae, a Colville Tribal member who has lived and worked on the Spokane Reservation as a technician and logger. He called the ITC Office to voice his concerns about the effects of Climate Change that he observes in the forest and where he can share his observations? The article references some research that matches

some of Darren's concerns and he has now connected with a citizen's community science forum hosted by Washington State University Extension Service. The program is called Forest Health Watch which invites residents to contribute to research and learn more about forest health and is located at foresthealth.org.

The fifth article "Meet the Next Generation of Stewards of Tribal Lands" by Stephanie Cowherd interviews two young tribal professionals Alicia Flores (Hoopa Valley) and Christopher Villarruel (Pit River). They share, in their own words, why they chose forestry and natural resources. They also describe what sparked their interest to pursue forestry and their career journey.

The final article "Enhancing Forest health and Powering Alaska Native Communities" by Dave Nicholls, Forest Service and Art Nash & Daisy Huang, University of Alaska Fairbanks involves a story about nearly 30 community scale wood energy locations in Alaska. There's a description of several locations where they include the installation date, the type of fuel and use.

The SAF Western Forester Newsletter can be found at the following link: <http://www.forestry.org/northwest-office/western-forester/april-mayjune-2021>

WESTERN FORESTER EDITOR

By Andrea Watts

Each issue of the Western Forester is a collaboration between myself and the authors who volunteer to contribute an article, but this issue on tribal forestry has other collaborators who deserve mention. Don Motanic, a technical specialist with the Intertribal Timber Council, and Stephanie Cowherd, the forests and

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Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

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Photo Courtesy of Kari Neumeyer

community program director with Ecotrust, served as guest associate editors by identifying stories to feature and coordinating interviews and articles. Don even contributed two articles! After I finished editing Christopher Villarruel's profile, his closing sentence, "And for anybody who is interested in tribal forestry, it is important to first familiarize yourself with tribal sovereignty," I realized that such an article was needed in this issue. Gary Morishima was gracious to grant me an interview on short notice. These stories are also just a fraction of the ongoing work in the space of tribal forestry, which sparked a second realization: I need to be more proactive in featuring this work in other issues rather than waiting until the theme of tribal forestry is selected again. And speaking

of Western Forester themes, in June the NWO committee will select the themes for 2022. If there is a forestry or natural resources topic you want to learn more about, please send in your suggestions to wattsa@forestry.org. As always, thank you to all the people who were interviewed or contributed articles to this issue. The Western Forester would not be possible without these volunteer efforts. And many thanks to the loyal advertisers who continue to support this publication, as well as the PNW SAF members. WF

Pictured Left: 638 Contract for a Beaver Relocation Project with the U.S. Forest Service - Molly Alves, Wildlife Biologist, Tulalip Tribe



Education Committee

by Nicole Stiffarm



Nicole Stiffarm

Greetings ITC family! I hope you are reading this in good health. The Education Committee has been working diligently to facilitate the 2021 Truman D. Picard Scholarship. This year we received 19 complete applications. It was a difficult task to rank the applications, as they were all remarkable. I would like to thank the Education Committee members for their time and assistance in selecting this year's scholarship recipients. This

year, ITC has awarded 15 scholarships totaling \$37,500 to students representing 14 different tribes. Since 1988, ITC has awarded 530 scholarships totaling **\$1,067,000!** During the past ten years there has been 92 forestry majors awarded the scholarship.

2021 TRUMAN D. PICARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Undergraduate \$2,500

- Tyler Baha
- Lance Baptiste
- Randall Finely
- Christina Hodge
- Keith Johnson
- Sage Lone Bear
- Arika Peacock
- Sidney Sanchez
- Ethan Standridge
- Joni Tobacco
- Christopher Villarruel

Graduate \$2,500

- Joshua Friedlein
- Cameron Macias
- Arielle Quinatana

Congratulations to each of the recipients!

This year's raffle fundraiser was held online during the 2021 Symposium. With your generous donations we raised \$1,345, which will all be used to support the 2022 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Fund.



Operations Committee

by Darin Jarnaghan, Sr.



Darin Jarnaghan, Sr.

On April 14, 2021, the Intertribal Timber Council Operations Committee met virtually via Zoom. Here is a summary of highlights from our agenda and discussion.

ITC-DOI MOU

The committee continues developing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) and the Intertribal Timber Council. It recognizes the mutual interest that both organizations share in reducing the wildfire risk on DOI and tribal lands and acknowledges the importance of communicating and collaborating on wildland fire management (WFM) related issues relevant to and in support of common goals and objectives.

IFMAT IV

The Fourth Independent Forest Management Team (IFMAT-IV) is working with the BIA Branch of Wildland Fire and Forestry to complete the 2019 Funding and Position Analysis Report that is important to provide information for the Independent Assessment of Indian Forest Land and Management Task A. An in-depth analysis of management practices on, and the level of funding for, specific Indian forest land compared with federal and private lands. IFMAT-IV is also contracting tribes to receive permission to conduct site visits during 2021 and 2022. They have

a plan to contact and visit up to forty tribes with their permission. For more information and background about the IFMAT Reports see the following link. https://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/forest_management/assessment.html

SAGEBRUSH PARTNERSHIP MODEL DEVELOPMENT

Sagebrush Partnership Model Development was presented by Mr. Dana Goodson, Mr. Dana Goodson, National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (Udall Foundation) presented the “review of Models for Sagebrush Biome Partnership Governance”. The report was requested by Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, coordinating the development of a conservation strategy with the BLM, USFW Service, USGS, and other key partners. The NCECR was asked to identify potential Models for a partnership governance strategy to improve coordination of conservation strategies in the Sagebrush biome. The Operations Committee was presented a review of the strategy and discussions of ITC engagement in the process, for the Sagebrush Partnership Biome Model Development.

As part of this engagement, a small group of Tribal folks have been participating in development of a proposal for the partnership structures to conceptualize a Tribal Advisory Committee that would be part of any of the partnership structure, as well as an Essential Tribal Engagement Commitment that participants in any collaborative partnership would need to commit to. The ITC will continue to engage throughout the summer.

SUSTAINABLE NORTHWEST

ITC President Cody Desautel was invited to a conversation from Paul

Vandeford, Sustainable Northwest, to develop a tribal producers list of resources to be shared with industry. Although the development of a list seems to make sense, President Desautel discussed many aspects of complexity to such a list relative to Tribes, regions, and Tribal Sovereignty to name a few. At upcoming Operations Committee, the conversation will be on the agenda for member tribes to be part of as well as potential invitation to Mr. Vandeford to present.

LOGGER RELIEF ACT S. 4233

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced, on June 15, 2021, additional aid to agricultural producers and businesses as part of the USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Earlier this year, Secretary Vilsack announced plans to use available pandemic assistance funds to address several gaps and disparities in previous rounds of aid. As part of the Pandemic Assistance initiative announced in March, USDA pledged to continue Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) payments and to provide aid to producers and businesses left behind. Implementation of the assistance announced today will continue within 60 days to include support to timber harvesters, biofuels, dairy farmers and processors, livestock farmers and contract growers of poultry, assistance for organic cost share, and grants for PPE.

Part of that assistance was discretionary language to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses. USDA announced it will make the entire \$200 million available for financial assistance to timber harvesters and haulers.

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Operations Committee

by Darin Jarnaghan, Sr.

(Continued from page 12)

Additional information not included in the release and subject to change is below:

- The USDA and Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold a webinar that will provide those seeking assistance information on how to apply.
- The FSA will be accepting applications for financial relief from July through September or October.
- Applicants will receive an initial nominal payment when the application is received.
- After the application period closes, the remainder of the financial assistance will be allocated.
- There will be a cap on the amount any individual business can receive...possibly \$125,000 per business, subject to change based on demand.

Also presenting during the Operations Committee were **Technical Specialist** Don Motanic, and **Wildland Fire Technical Specialist** Jim Durglo, with a report from Jeff Rupert, Office of Wildland Fire, which a separate report will be provided in the newsletter.

FOREST PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

During the meeting, Don Motanic replied to a question on how to increase forest products capacity beyond the BIA small infrastructure project. Currently the BIA has funded a percentage of the proposals submitted by tribes. The ITC has contacted the Forest Service Forest Products Lab and will see how they can provide more assistance to the tribes. The assistance could be regional webinars that include connecting biomass coordinators with tribes. Here is the link to the US Forest Service Regional Biomass

Coordinators - https://www.itcnet.org/file_download/a2ca50a7-ca8b-4c5e-9ec4-055c39fe8e36

A few highlights from Jim Durglo's report are included below. The ITC has a seat on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) executive board and continues to be engaged in their initiatives. A couple of items to highlight include:

America Burning WUI survey: A group of folks from the Fire Subcommittee completed and submitted the AB WUI survey on behalf of the ITC.

The objective of this project is to conduct a study on reducing wild-fire risk and loss within the wildland-urban interface areas of the U.S. through prevention, mitigation, suppression, and recovery efforts. America Burning – Wildland-Urban Interface: A Call to Action will be a compilation of guidelines and recommendations for residents, all levels of government, and response agencies outlining issues, current gaps, and future recommendations.

This Survey includes a preview of 13 issue areas that will be addressed in the report. diverse organizations' perspective on the challenges within these issues, and the important future recommendations that are provided, can be the "Call to Action" this country needs to reduce the increasing wildland-urban interface threat. Laura Schwartzkopf, Program Manager, America Burning WUI, International Association of Fire Chiefs coordinated the survey response.

Fire Executive Council (FEC): The FEC provides a common, integrated, and coordinated federal agency approach for leadership to wildland fire to establish the strategic vision and priorities for feder-

al wildland fire management. This group is led by Jeff Rupert, DOI Office of Wildland Fire Director and Bill Avey, USFS Acting Director for Fire and Aviation Management. They have hosted bi-weekly virtual meetings to discuss a coordinated, safe response to wildland fire because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ITC continues to follow issues coming from this group.

This concludes my report, have a great day!



Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

2021 ITC VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM CONCLUDES

We celebrated the 44th year of the National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC), May 17-20, 2021, held virtually for the first time ever. The theme for this year's symposium was **"Thriving Through Adversity."** Stephanie Lucero did an excellent job moderating each day of the conference.

MONDAY, MAY 17

The Opening Ceremony, started with an amazing Invocation by Victoria Wesley, followed by a performance by Doug James of the Songbirds Canoe Family, be sure to watch the video if you missed it. Next, we heard Welcomes by ITC President and Delegates, a special shout to the delegates that provided a short welcome video from their tribes and let us know what ITC means to them including - **Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Confederated Tribes of Colville, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, Coquille Indian Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Quinault Indian Nation, Round Valley Indian Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, and Tanana Chiefs Conference.** The Keynote was given by Robin Kimmerer, Distinguished Teaching Professor, and a fantastic storyteller who seamlessly tied in the theme of the conference. The Wisdom of the El-



Invocation by Victoria Wesley, ITC Board Member/Supervisory Forester, San Carlos Apache Tribe



Keynote by Robin Kimmerer, Distinguished Teaching Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

ders were kind enough to allow us to view their film during our break- Native Wisdom: The Peoples of Eastern Oregon: Part 1. After the morning break we heard updates from DOI Office of Wildland Fire, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Legislative, U.S. Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations, and President's Report. We finished the day with the Virtual Mixer hosted on the Toucan social app it was a fun way to interact with attendees and see each other on camera.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

The day began with an IFMAT IV Update from Adrian Leighton and the Assessment Team. Will Putman put together a nice music set for our listening pleasure during the Entertainment Break. Natural Resource Applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems showed us the latest in UAS projects. Thank you to all the students who participated in the Student Scholarship Break it is always great to hear about the recipient's future-plans in forestry, fire, and natural resources. We ended strong with Wildland Fire Update which

had many good questions, and plan to hear more from in the future.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

We opened with the Research Needs Assessment Update. Followed with Wisdom of the Elders Film Break - Native Wisdom: The Peoples of Eastern Oregon: Part 2. After the break Joelene Tamm and Zachary Erickson presented Student Research Forestry & Fire, it is always great hearing about student research. The Tanana Chiefs Conference really sold the sizzle during the 2022 Symposium Host Break, it was an incredible video and I hope to see everyone there next year. We finished with Tribal Carbon Projects which highlighted how tribes could start their own projects.

THURSDAY, MAY 20

Our day started with Growing the Tribal Forestry Workforce a collaborative project between Ecotrust, ITC, ATNI Economic Development Corp, United South & Eastern Tribes, Heritage University, and Yakama Nation. We took an Entertainment Break with the talented Songbirds Canoe Family from Taholah, WA, whom you may remember from the 2018 Symposium. WilSonn Advisory provided a lot of good information during the Economic Market, be sure to check out their quarterly newsletter now featured on our website <https://www.itcnet.org/resources/market-information.html>. Congratulations to the 2020 and 2021 Earle R. Wilcox Awards Recipients who gave acceptance speeches during the Awards Break, keep up the great work. Cross-Boundary Collaboration Using Reserve Treaty Rights Land as the Tool was well received, and attendees requested to see more of in the future. We ended with closing words from ITC President Cody Desautel and Moderator Stephanie Lucero.

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



A cultural scene from Tanana Chiefs Conference's 2022 Symposium Host Break Video

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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/. If you would like to be on ITC symposium mailing list and receive the agenda, please contact the ITC Office by phone at (503) 282-4296, or

email at monica@itcnet.org.

There were 133 attendees including 30 General or Associate Members, 30 Speakers, 21 Government Employees, 19 All Others, 15 Students, 7 Board Members, 4 Staff, and 7 Symposium Committee.

Thank you to everyone that participated. The 2021 Final Proceedings will be mailed to the 2021 Symposium participants this summer. Visit

our YouTube page to view the playlist from 2021 Symposium: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqEkXUISIhCpHRJ0jQ7PWN5bMCmhEK_sO.

A special thank you to the Intertribal Timber Council staff. Great work team! The virtual symposium would not have been possible without you.

Next year, the Tanana Chief Conference will be hosting the symposium in Fairbanks, Alaska date TBA.

I would like to recognize Monica Rushworth, ITC Program Assistant, for taking the time to help me with her kind words and retrospect on the virtual symposium this year. I am very appreciative and thank you! Everyone take care and god bless. Qe'ciyew'yew



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

The 2021 Symposium is now behind us, and many thanks are due to the ITC staff and others on the ITC Symposium Committee who were able to work through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to pull off a successful virtual symposium. As always, the "presentation" of the Earle R. Wilcox awards took place during the symposium, although having to do so in a virtual environment was certainly different. Another difference was that there were presentations for award recipients for 2 years, since the lack of any

symposium in 2020 prevented us from doing so last year. Regardless, it is important that we recognize the achievements of the award recipients from both 2020 and 2021. There were three Wilcox Award recipients nominated and selected in 2020 and one nominated and selected in 2021.

2020 EARLE R. WILCOX AWARDS

Individual Achievement

- Darrell Clairmont, Fuels Program Manager, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe, Ronan, MT
- Keith Karnes, Reservation Forester, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Cass Lake, MN
- Luther Martinez, Director of Forestry & Wildland Fire, Picuris Pueblo, Penasco, NM

2021 EARLE R. WILCOX AWARD

Individual Achievement

- Robert L. "Bob" McCrea, Operations Specialist, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Ronan, MT

Our congratulations go out to this year's recipients. It is a great thing to see our peers step up and nominate worthy people for these awards, and it is a genuine pleasure to serve on the Awards Committee and receive those nominations. This next winter we will be soliciting nominations for the 2022 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. In the meantime, I am sure we are all looking forward to next year when we will hopefully be able to come together in person for the 2022 Symposium, to be hosted here in Fairbanks, Alaska by Tanana Chiefs Conference.





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First Class
