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## Ghost Hawk Prescribed Fire

~ Steven Ipswitch, FMO, Rosebud Agency  
~ David Peters, BIA, WUI/Prevention Specialist Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions



Engine near the Little White River

The Rosebud Agency (RBA) Fire Management program and the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Game, Fish and Parks Department have been working together to reduce hazardous fuels at the Ghost Hawk tribal park. Since last year RBA fuels crews have been thinning out understory vegetation, such as chokecherry, plums, and cedar trees, removing potentially hazardous snags, as well as other ladder fuels in the park. The mechanical treatments proceed any prescribed burning, since the heavy brush and fuels are treated before fire is put on the ground to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire. Specific objectives of the prescribed burn is for firefighter and public safety, as well as reducing available fuels by 60% and to keep spot fires to no more than 1/5 of an acre.

The Ghost Hawk Park is 60 acres and the burn plan has three units that consist of 20 acres along the Little White River a few miles north of Rosebud, SD. WUI treatment funds are used to treat the park. In order to determine the effectiveness of the fuels treatments and prescribed burning, monitoring plots have been established on all three treatment units. Photos, weather and fire information is gathered during the burns by fire effects monitors. Over time fire staff will be able to determine the effectiveness of the work at the park, since the data collected at the plots will allow them to study the changes in grass and tree species composition in the units. In order to get more complete consumption of fuels next year, the burn plan may be modified to allow 20% relative humidity.



Last year the fire was ignited so that it would be a faster burning head fire, while this fall's burn was designed to be a backing fire in order to burn the vegetation more completely. The Game, Fish and Parks manager is increasing the amount of land in the park that will be mowed after the fuel loads are reduced by the fuels crews and prescribed fire staff.

Fifteen personnel from the RBA were used for this fall's burn, with a third of the staff being full time employees. Robert Oliver, Fire Dispatcher for Rosebud Agency and a trainee Burn Boss Type 2, wrote the plan, which was technically reviewed by James Condon, Fuels Specialist and Burn Boss Type 2 at Standing Rock Agency in Ft. Yates, North Dakota.

Ghost Hawk Park is located at the junction of the Little White River and BIA Road 7, about two miles north of the community of Rosebud. Ghost Hawk Reservoir is located adjacent to the park, and serves as a popular recreation area. It has also hosted the 2009 Rosebud Rookie Fire School.



L to r: Burn Boss trainee Robert Oliver, Firing Boss Trainee Chad Boyd, FMO Steve Ipswitch

The Student Conservation Association established fire monitoring plots in 2008 at Ghost Hawk. These plots document the existing conditions species before, during, and after the

prescribed fire. This is an important part of fire management, as it adds to fire effects data and helps determine how well we are meeting our objectives.



## Administration

# Web 2.0 - People & Information

~ Bryan Rice, Assistant Director - Resource Protection BIA Division of Forestry & Wildland Fire Management, Washington, D.C.



The term Web 2.0 is most commonly associated with many of the new interactive and socially based programs found on the web today. Facebook, Twitter and RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds are all forms of New Media, Social Media and Web 2.0, three commonly used terms ready to be added to your

vernacular. By now nearly every web site has some collection of these noticeable icons that indicate multiple avenues of access. Flickr, Youtube, MySpace, Delicious and Digg are just a few more of this ever growing list that ultimately bring our individual lives closer together through direct communication, status postings, and image sharing. While the three terms may appear to be used synonymously in most situations, the point to remember is that the focal use in any of these programs centers on content being consumed by an interactive community that is geographically dispersed.

Across tribal, BIA and other agency (fed, state, local) communication threads, the ever growing need to share information regarding projects, people, action and news is escalating. The turnaround time in which information is required is growing shorter and the breadth of information required is rapidly expanding. The burning questions to answer in this new era

of communication include: What institutional and operational needs can be met? What policy, program or management information requires broad and rapid dissemination? How is this new medium of information exchange benefitting our current and future operations? The answers may be found in what has already been discovered and through collaboration in identifying the future course to embark upon.

New media has been very successful at providing timely access to rapidly growing information and allowing opinions, observations and conversations to occur across the blogosphere, yet integrating this new culture changing medium in the workplace remains uncharted territory. In addressing this swiftly changing e-environment, DOI Director of New Media, Ms. Katelyn Sabochik, is already looking at how to utilize Social Media within and across DOI Bureaus. Service agreements have been completed with at least twenty

different New Media sites including Facebook, Youtube and Flickr; the security and implementation by bureaus remain. Also, DOI currently has a draft New Media Handbook and Policy circulating for review, which will address how to best utilize these new communication resources. The question seems to have moved past: How long do we have to wait for access? and moved into, What will we do with New Media?

NIFC staff has been quick to engage different avenues to maximize the use of Web 2.0 capabilities. The NIFC podcast is available on the [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov) website, where even Lyle Carlile, BIA Fire Director can be heard addressing the current state of wildland fire. Other examples currently exist within DOI where Bureaus are moving forward with social media outlets exemplified by [www.usgs.gov/socialmedia](http://www.usgs.gov/socialmedia) and <http://twitter.com/USFWSHQ>. This new media requires more thorough engagement and stronger partnerships on all levels. IT staff, Public Affairs, Management, and the users must all be involved to ensure that information is communicated from the intended sender to the intended audience. Please submit comments and ideas to [Bryan.Rice@bia.gov](mailto:Bryan.Rice@bia.gov) or 202-208-4439.

## JD Bowers Joins the BIA

~ JD Bowers, NIFC

JD was born in Elko, Nevada in 1987 and moved to New Mexico when he was three where he resided for the next ten years. In 2001, a new job brought his family to Boise, and he has been a resident ever since. He attended Timberline High School, and after graduation he began seeking a degree at Boise State University. He is currently a senior, who is seeking a Marketing degree with a minor in Political Science. Upon completion of college he hopes to continue his education and one day become a sports' agent.



**JD Bowers**

Some of the activities JD enjoys are generally predicated on watching or playing sports. He plays intramural sports at BSU, and enjoys exercising in any way. In addition, he loves outdoor activities like camping, fishing, and basically anything that puts him out and about.



## Melissa Basso Joins the BIA

~ Melissa Basso

Melissa is a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe in Schurz, NV. She has spent five summers as seasonal wildland firefighter. She began on an engine crew for the US Forest Service on the Bridgeport Ranger District in Bridgeport, CA from 2002-2004. She then joined a BLM Helitack crew in the Ely Field Office in Ely, NV from

2005-2006. Melissa moved to Boise in January 2007 in order to attend Boise State University (BSU).

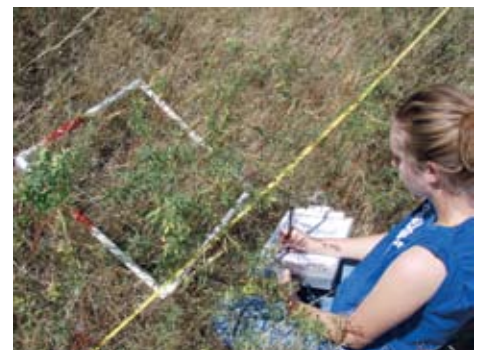
Melissa is currently a Junior at BSU pursuing a double major in Athletic Training and Exercise Science: Fitness Evaluation and Programming Emphasis. She began the Athletic Training Education Program in August and is currently working with Boise State Athletes. Melissa will graduate from BSU in May 2011 and plans to continue onto graduate school to earn a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.



## Fuels

## Fire Effects Monitoring Crew

~ Morgan Beveridge, Regional Fuels Specialist, Great Plains Region



**Jessica Moran conducting quadrat inventory.**

The Great Plains Region 2009 Student Conservation Association (SCA) Fire Effects Monitoring (FIREMON) Crew and SCA Individual Placement (IP) concluded their field season with an end-of-season dinner in Rapid City on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Regional Office awarded each crew member with a certificate of appreciation for their contribution to managing the trust assets of all the Great Plains Tribes.





**Anna Hendricks and Ashley Scruggs completing plant ID**

This year's FIREMON team completed work in South Dakota and North Dakota with a brief stop in Iowa to assist the Midwest Region. Reservations visited were Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Standing Rock, Fort Berthold, Turtle Mountain and Tama (Iowa). Ninety total plots were monitored including 84 re-measured plots that had been previously installed by other SCA crews between 2006-2008, and 6 newly installed plots. In addition to the successful season of plot monitoring, a Plot Synopsis/Fire Effects Summary Report was completed. This report included an analysis of plot data gathered across the Region from 2006 through 2009 including vegetative changes of primary species of concern. Additionally, the IP completed Project File reviews, fire regime/condition class monitoring and polygon verifications at all of the locations visited by the crew plus the Fort Totten Reservation in North Dakota, Cheyenne River, Sisseton and Yankton Reservations in South Dakota and the Winnebago/Omaha/Santee Reservations in Nebraska.



**SCA FIREMON Crew while working on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, Rosebud, South Dakota.**



**Greyson Allen and Brian Leidal IDing plants**

## Home Protection in the Turtle Mountain

~ Dan Falcon, Fuels Specialist, Turtle Mountain Agency  
~ Jim Hamley, BIA North Dakota, Fire Prevention Officer



**Home protection project Turtle Mountain**



**Awards Dinner Photo: Bottom Row (L to R): Tamara Randall, Fuels Technician for Pine Ridge Agency; Ashley Scruggs, Crew Member; Jessica Moran, Crew Member; Anna Hendricks, Crew Member. Top Row (L to R): Brian Leidal, Project Leader; Bobby Woelz, IP; Greyson Allen, Crew Member; Morgan Beveridge, Regional Fuels Specialist.**



Two hazardous fuels projects were started on the Turtle Mountain reservation in 2009. One of the Wildland Urban Interface areas that will be protected by the project is within and adjacent to a stand of conifers that were planted in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This project has been named the Shell Valley pine stand, very close to a housing area. The fire briefly became a crown fire. Since then the stand has been thinned out and pruned to reduce ladder fuels which will prevent wildfire from moving up into the canopies and spreading out of control, thus improving public safety in the area.

In addition to the Shell Valley Project, oaks and ground fuels were reduced near homes in the St. Mary's area as well improving the protection of the area from wildfire.

Both of these fuel treatment projects will make it safer for firefighters to defend homes during future wildfires. The second entry into these areas will be the use of prescribed fire, now that the mechanical treatment is complete.

## Myron Hotinger Joins BIA~NIFC

~ Myron Hotinger, NIFC

Myron grew up on a small farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and started his forestry career on the George Washington National Forest in Virginia during the summer of 1977. After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1979 with a Bachelor's degree in Forest Management, he continued to work in the southern region of the US Forest Service on the Jefferson National Forest. With a desire to see the west, Myron moved to the North Kaibab Ranger District on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona during the early 1980's and then to the Dixie National Forest in



**Myron Hotinger**

southern Utah, working in timber and fire management.

During the late 1980's and 1990's, he worked for the Idaho Department of Lands in northern Idaho as a Forester and Assistant Fire Warden (AFMO). He was IDL's Forester of the Year in 1997. In 2001, he returned to the USFS on the Boise National Forest working as a District and then Zone Fuels Specialist.

In 2005, Myron became the Idaho BLM State Fuels Program Manager. He is a Fire Behave Analyst (FBAN) on Tom Suwyn's Great Basin IMT. He is currently the outgoing chair of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group and has been an ICT3, DIVS, and RXB2 in fire management. Myron enjoys outdoor activities and lives in Boise, Idaho

## Walks Tall Woman is Recognized as a Leader among Many

~ Robyn Broyles, BIA~NIFC, Communication/ Education Specialist

Tamara Randall, member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Fuels Technician at the Pine Ridge Agency, SD has heads nodding in the Great Plains

Region. Named "Ta Ohokipa Igluha Mani Wi" (Walks Tall Woman) by her Grandfather, he saw her gift for inspiring others and her natural ability to lead by example.

Her duel career as a wildland firefighter and college student at the Oglala Lakota College began in 2004. In 2008, Randall earned her first associates degree in Natural Science and in 2009; she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and a second associate degree in Lakota Studies.



**Tamara Randall at Pine Ridge Fire Cache.**

~ Photo by Robyn Broyles

Today, Randall works towards her crew boss qualifications and continues to apply herself to improve the Pine Ridge Fire Management program as their Fuels Monitoring Technician. Among her several duties, she writes prescribed fire and mechanical fuel treatment plans, documents monitoring projects and creates digital maps. "Of all the research, writing and skills I learned in college, I use my GIS skills more than I ever thought I would. I really enjoy making maps," says a grinning Randall.

Despite Randall's dedication to her job, her priority is to her 20-month-old daughter and community. Once a week, she returns to the college to teach intermediate algebra and participates in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Club, a program targeted at Masters of Science students to support continuing education opportunities. Her peers recognize and respect her as one who continually works towards self-

improvement, pushing her personal comfort levels in areas she wants to improve.

Morgan Beveridge, Great Plains Regional Fuels Officer is watching Tamara succeed every day. "I am very proud of Tamara personally and professionally for the work she has accomplished and the professionalism she has helped instill in the Pine Ridge Program," he says.

Perhaps her greatest passion and gift she brings to the Pine Ridge community is her vision and commitment to her Tribe. While her career door is open, Randall says she wants to stay at home and continue to improve the fuels program. One day, she says, "I want to see fuels work being done in all of our communities." Randall is indeed living up to her namesake. On behalf of the BIA Fire Management Program, we would like to recognize her as indeed walking tall among her community and as a leading example for all in the BIA Wildland Fire Management Program.

## Yakama Fall Burn

~ Laura Atkins, NW Region Fire Resource Management Assistant



This past October, the Yakama Fuels program had an opportunity for a boost of 1422 accomplished prescribed fire acres for fiscal year 2010. This brings the grand total for 2010 to 4,169

prescribed fire acres. Since 2003, Yakama has averaged around 2,300 prescribed fire acres burned per year.

In the same joint-venture fashion as the previous fall, Yakama offered positions to tribes in the area to participate in this venture, attracting individuals from Fort Hall, Quinault, Spokane, Warm Springs, and the Northwest Regional office. This time around, there were new challenges though, and with them, opportunities to grow and learn.

The prescribed fire burn plan was originally slated for 2,300 acres of underburning in the Deer Butte, Old Reservation Boundary, Simon Butte and Trout Creek areas. This area was burned in the Simon Butte/ Trout Creek prescribed burn in the fall of 2008. Mother Nature, though had apparently not been made aware of the Yakama's burn plans, and decided to bring in very wet and cold weather conditions. This knocked the underburning plans out of prescription. So what could the Yakama do? They had all the man/woman power needed for the operation, just not the right conditions.

After an orientation given by the Yakama Fuels program which included a prayer given by a Tribal Council member, the new direction for the prescribed burn was considered. With the quick actions of the Prescribed Fire Manager, Karrie Stevens, and the direction of the Yakama Fire/Fuels staffs, a burn plan was completed that took into consideration the wet weather, and

the availability of the large workforce. This new burn plan would focus on pile burning in nine blocks of project areas.

Description of prescribed fire area:

Block	Acres
Deer Butte II	55 acres
Dry Creek North I	26 acres
Dry Creek North II	8 acres
Dry Logy	134 acres
Graham Budworm	213 acres
Kusshi South	204 acres
Piscoe North	107 acres
Piscoe South	42 acres
Yatama	129 acres
Machine Pile acres burned	504 acres
Grand Total for Project:	1422 Acres

Identified in the reworked burn plan were new objectives. These consisted of consumption of greater than 80% of the piled slash, while minimizing scorch and mortality to adjacent trees within these fuel break areas. Fuels to be burned consisted of small diameter thinning slash that had been bucked into small lengths. Pile sizes averaged eight feet high to eight feet in width. Fuels adjacent to piles were short brush, grass, and needle cast.

At one point there were over 50 people working on the different pile burn units. After the week wound down, all planned units had been completed, excluding a few "dregs". This



FEMOs-Roger Brandom, Dino Denison, and Gary Hughes of Spokane  
~ Photo by Bryan Taylor, GIS Specialist, Yakama



essentially caught up the backlog of pile burn acres.

Brent Demko, Yakama Fuels Manager, feels that for the most part, burn objectives were met. Minor known exceptions were piles that were not consumed adequately due to micro site



Animal paw print vs. boot ~ Photo by Bryan Taylor, GIS Specialist, Yakama



Gene Lonning and Don Jones (Yakama)

conditions. Lessons learned from the burn were to be extremely flexible in both planning and operations.

Northwest Regional Fuels staff appreciated the hard work that was again demonstrated in this venture, and look forward to future similar projects.

## Sisseton Restores Grassland Along Interstate

~ Valentino Thompson, Range Technician, Sisseton Agency  
~ David Peters, WUI/Prevention Specialist, NIFC, (Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions)



### Medicine Wheel Wildfire Prevention Education Mitigation Message

The fire and fuels crew at the Sisseton Agency have been restoring native grassland by removing elm (90%) and cottonwood (10%) trees, that have encroached on land in the past 15 years. The forage is already improving in an area where the trees have been



Project next to Interstate 29

taken off the land. The area will be monitored over time to survey how herbaceous ground cover increases, even as the area is grazed by cattle. Grass cover is already at 90%, so it should respond strong to the release of the trees from the site. Visibility will also be improved, which will improve safety for firefighters during wildfire incidents.

This project also benefits people traveling the Interstate 29 corridor which runs through the heart of the

reservation, since it reduces road hazards associated from the trees, such as increased wild game frequenting the area for cover. As we reviewed the project area in November 2009, we noted that game are still using the habitat that is overgrown with trees, which is adjacent to

the Interstate. Currently this stand of trees with nearly 100 canopy closure acts as a wildlife corridor across the Interstate, which is very dangerous for motorists and animals. Fuels management staff are working with tribal landowners to see if a Grassland Restoration sign could be place along Interstate with Community Assistance funds in order to promote the agencies fire management efforts.

From a Regional perspective, this project is the first Sisseton Agency fuel





Fuels next to treated area

treatment to meet National Fire Plan (NFP) guidelines and provides a platform for future projects that will meet NFP goals and objectives for hazardous fuels reduction (HFR), and assist the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribe in managing their hazardous fuels. The Sisseton Agency Fire Management Officer, Heath Estey, has aggressively led the effort to expand the Agency's role in HFR, with an additional 360 acres already on the schedule of work for fiscal year 2010. 2010 fuel treatment projects will include mechanical and prescribed fire applications on several first-entry tracts of trust land.

Tino Thompson recently created the "Medicine Wheel Wildfire Prevention Education and Mitigation" design for use by fire management staff across the country. If you want an electronic version of the design, contact David Peters at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office.

## Rangeland Restoration at Yankton Sioux

~ David LaCompte, Soil Conservationist, Yankton Agency  
~ David Peters, WUI/Prevention Specialist, NIFC



Overall project area - entire watershed is in the future project area



Fuels next to treated area

years to complete. The long term goal of the project is the rejuvenation of native grasses, forbs, cottonwoods, oak, box elder, ash and hackberry. Opening up the stands should improve the habitat for big game and improve hunting opportunities. Western wheat, green needle, bluestem, switchgrass and grammas should increase significantly within a short period of time, once the cedars are removed. Once the mechanical treatments are done, the brush piles will be burned, and prescribed fire will be put on the landscape.

The Yankton Sioux Tribe began a 400 acre restoration project this fall near the Missouri River. The main purpose of the project is the removal of cedar trees that have invaded the landscape over the past 60 years. The cedars have become the dominate species in the area, reducing the hardwoods and the potential of the grassland. The diminished grassland health has limited grazing, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. The cedars have lowered the PH of the soil, which has prevented regeneration of native grasses. The grazing capacity in the area has been reduced by as much as 80% in some watersheds, where the cedars dominated the terrain.

Currently six members of a tribal fuels crew are working under a 638 contract, using chainsaws and brush cutters to clear out the cedar stands. The project should take the crews about two



Crew piling cedar slash



## Operations

# New DVD for Those Who Work along the US-Mexico Border

~ Lisa Outka-Perkins

The Missoula Technology and Development Center has developed a personal safety training program to help land management employees who work along the United States-Mexico border. Drug smuggling and illegal immigration are two issues that employees face in the border area—the land 100 miles north of the border from San Diego, CA, to Brownsville, TX.

The 90-minute DVD “Working Along the United States-Mexico Border” captures the knowledge and skills of Federal and State employees who have years of experience working near the border. The DVD has three modules: Module One—Understanding the Situation, Module Two—Protecting Yourself, and Module Three—Fighting Fire. Additional documents for viewing on a computer also are included.

Employees with access to the Forest Service’s computer network can order the DVD online at <http://fsweb.mtmc wo.fs.fed.us/search/>. Search for “border.”

Anyone can order the DVD by calling MTDC at (406)–329–3978 or by sending an e-mail request for DVD number 0823–2D11 to [wo\\_mtdc\\_pubs@fs.fed.us](mailto:wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us).

Electronic copies of MTDC’s documents are available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/>

(Username: t-d, Password: t-d)

**To Subscribe:** Send an e-mail message with the subject “Subscribe T&D Snippets” to: [wo\\_mtdc\\_pubs@fs.fed.us](mailto:wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us)

## Prevention

# Jicarilla Apache Headstart Class

~ Val Christianson, BIA~NIFC, Tri-Regional Prevention Coordinator

Wildfire staff take upon themselves to develop an open-door policy with the Reservation schools, both BIA and public, and they are always welcome and well received by both students and staff. The Wildfire staff share with the students about the role of fire in the woodlands and on the mountains and how even lightning plays an important role in ‘maintaining’ Mother Earth. They also stress that it is not for young children to be experimenting with man-made fire related items, such as fireworks, matches and lighters because it can take away their happiness and end in sadness.



Jicarilla Apache Headstart children in Dulce, New Mexico at Jicarilla Agency Fire Management. Headstart teacher Hilda Julian, and Fire Technician, Adam Baltazar, as ‘Smokey’.

~ Photo by William Muniz, AFMO, Jicarilla Agency Fire Management

From Fire Season 2002 through 2008, there were almost 400 lightning strikes on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in north-central New Mexico. With the expertise and professionalism of the Jicarilla Agency Wildland Fire initial attack resources, wildland scorched by these lightning strikes were limited to 115 acres. What is more amazing about this very large and sprawling Reservation (high altitude grasslands, pinyon-juniper, Ponderosa and mixed conifer and aspen stands) is that their number of human-caused wildfires has been limited to but 27 starts in seven years. Much of this success is attributed to the regular early childhood intervention programs of the Agency utilizing the appearances of Smokey Bear. The Agency

Again, the regular and consistent visits by the Agency Wildfire staff to the Reservation schools is directly responsible for keeping the number of human-starts so low and the Reservation a much safer place to dwell.

Above is a May Day photo of the young Headstart children at the Jicarilla Apache Child Development Center in Dulce, New Mexico. Teachers Hilda Julian and Guyla Velarde are appreciative of an early Spring visit by Smokey Bear. Instead of munching on grubs and berries, Smokey asked Agency Forestry Technician Adam Baltazar to go and visit these aspiring biologists and forest managers at their school.



# National Fire Prevention Week Lower Brule

~ Alan Lien, fire Management Officer, Lower Brule Agency, South Dakota



Lower Brule Elementary School 1st Grade class with Smokey Bear

The Lower Brule Agency wildfire program hosted a number of activities to promote fire prevention during National Fire Prevention week of October 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 on the Lower Brule Reservation in South Dakota.

The week's activities began with a visit to the Head Start school at Lower Brule. The prevention team visited four Head Start classes with a total of 64 students, and presented a short fire safety program. Each of the students was able to squeeze the hand of the 3 feet tall Big Smokey and hear a message. This worked out great since some of the Head Starters are afraid of the regular Smokey Bear costume. All the class members were presented a litter bag with Smokey Bear prevention items.

The kindergarten through sixth grade were given 8"x14" poster board and tasked with picking a theme and designing a fire prevention poster. The students created some original posters with great themes that made it difficult for the team to judge and award prizes. Smokey Bear dolls, puzzles, banks, and backpacks were given to the first, second, and third place winners from each class.

On Wednesday the kindergarten through sixth grade classes all made



Alfreda LeCompte, retired Fire Secretary and Diane Pourier, retired Realty Clerk enjoying the community meal.

a visit to the Lower Brule Fire Station. There they watched a short DVD and were presented a fire prevention message by the Team. The students all enjoyed watching Lucy, Terry Menzie's Border collie demonstrate the "Stop, Drop and Roll" technique. All of the 166 class members received a litter bag with Smokey Bear fire prevention materials.

The final fire prevention event at Lower Brule was a Community Meal sponsored by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and

served at the fire station. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe purchased the food and the Agency fire staff provided the grills and cooked the burgers and hotdogs. The new fire prevention kiosk was unveiled for the first time at the event along with FIREWISE pamphlets and fire safety information. The DVD *Up in Flames* was shown on a screen inside the fire station and was viewed by the diners. Door prizes also with a Smokey Bear theme were provided to some lucky participants. Over 300 community members attended this event.

Lower Brule Agency would like to thank the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe for their support of the Fire Prevention Week Community meal and program. In addition the following Team

members are to be recognized and thanked for their help in making Fire Prevention Week a success: Brian LaRoche, Range Technician, Sonja McCauley, Natural Resource Assistant, Rich Coleman, Wildland Fire Operations Specialist and Terry Menzie, IHS Sanitarian.

Alan Lien 605-473-5281  
[alan.lien@bia.gov](mailto:alan.lien@bia.gov)



Brian Laroche, Range Technician with the new Lower Brule Fire Prevention Kiosk





Lower Brule Head Start Class and Terry Menzie, IHS Sanitarian

## Where did the Prevention Logo Come from?

~ Robin Broyles, Fire Communication Specialist, NIFC

~ Jim Nanamkin, BIA Prevention Specialist, Pacific Region

~Story contributed by: Sade Esquivel, Graphic Artist



Logo by Sade Esquivel

Of those who have ever seen the powerful Bald Eagle flying into a flaming front of vibrant color and exhausting itself in a sharp powerful bear claw holding the mighty eagle head in an ever-flowing dive, have you ever asked, what does it mean? Where did the design come from? Why choose that as the symbol to represent a program working to prevent the misuse of fire?

The circular movement reminds one of the cleansing and destructive processes necessary for the continuation of a balanced ecosystem. Out of the spiritual governing Bald Eagle, grows

a mighty bear claw, a testament to the strength, power and wisdom needed to uphold and carry the wise use of fire management. All are symbols of a program that strives to educate and prevent the destructive misuse of fire if not honored appropriately.

Sadekaronhes Esquivel was introduced to the world of fire while working



Sade Esquivel

as an office clerk for the Colville Tribe assisting a fire investigation team. Sketching after work, he would capture the different fire scenes he saw throughout the day. Each morning, team members would converse about the cover of their Incident Action Plan and comment on the unique sketches. "I was just keeping the folks out in the field entertained," says Esquivel. Never did he dream his sketches would bring him future attention.

Jim Nanamkin, BIA investigator and member of the Colville Tribe remembers Esquivel's talent and recommend him to Sam Scranton, BIA Fire Prevention Program Lead. In 2006, he asked Esquivel if he would draw an emblem for the first BIA Prevention Academy in Colville, Washington. He did so and the first appearance of the flaming-eagle-bear-claw came to life. Since then, the image has slowly been spreading as a national emblem representing the National BIA Prevention Program.

Esquivel currently works for a video game store in Seattle, Wa as a concept

artist, creating environmental art and world building graphics via the computer.

If any are interested in other drawings done by Esquivel, you may contact him at:

[s.eskeville@gmail.com](mailto:s.eskeville@gmail.com)

## Fire Education Road Shows

~ David Peters, WUI/Prevention Specialist, NIFC (Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions)



FIREWISE Side Nebraska/South Dakota Trailer

The Great Plains Region recently purchased and equipped two fire education trailers. Fifteen reservations in South Dakota, Nebraska and North Dakota now have access to these two educational tools. Both trailers are equipped with flat screen TV's to educate the public about: prescribed fire and fuels management benefits, fire prevention and FIREWISE principles. There is ample storage available in both trailers to hold educational supplies, which can be displayed on counters inside and tables outside the trailer. Educational messages are also displayed on carpeted walls, so the public can learn about various wildland fire management practices, as they work their way through the trailers.



Nebraska/South Dakota trailer 1



Fire staff has a great setting to dialogue with adults and children, as they share educational information with them. Last summer hundreds of children were presented short fire safety presentations in the Nebraska/South Dakota trailer, during a Smokey Day event on the Pine Ridge reservation. Colorful FIREWISE, prescribed fire, fire prevention and protection messages are presented on the outside of the trailer as well. So, even as the fire education trailer travels from one reservation to another for various reasons, wildland fire education topics are being shared with the public.



Inside counter space Nebraska/South Dakota trailer

## FIREWISE in Indian Country

~ David Peters, WUI/Prevention Specialist,  
NIFC (Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions)



Group looks at propane tank

BIA, tribal, state and fire department staff involved in fire/fuels management, and prevention came to Fort Yates, South Dakota to attend the second FIREWISE Advisor workshop held in 2009 in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions. Sixteen people attended the class at the Prairie Knights Casino on the Standing Rock reservation. Students and cadre from Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska and South Dakota came for the two day course. The national "Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone" curriculum was taught predominately in a classroom lecture setting, though informative dialogue occurred between students throughout the sessions. The last day of the

workshop included field time learning how to complete home assessments. Students used the recently revised NFPA 1144 assessment form.

The FIREWISE Advisor workshops prepare BIA/tribal agencies to work better with their communities. In addition to hazardous fuels reduction projects being implemented on the ground throughout Indian Country, staff are increasing their knowledge of a critical WUI issue through this training. A Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) from Palm, that is useful for gathering home data was shown to the class. The PDA information can be linked to software, such as RedZone, which can be used to map homes and assessment data for: fire management planning, fire suppression use, prioritizing WUI fuels projects, and informing homeowners and community/tribal leaders, how they can better protect themselves from wildfires. There is still interest from staff in the two regions to attend future "train-the-trainer" FIREWISE Advisor workshops. A few tribes are now developing FireSafe Councils, so we may be seeing more recognized FIREWISE Communities/USA in the future.



Conference room at the Prairie Knights Casino



## Training

### Mentoring and Educating Program ~ San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico

~ Danny Gomez, Supervisory Forester,  
Northern Pueblos Agency  
~ Dale Martinez, Forestry Technician,  
Northern Pueblos Agency

An eight week long traditional mentoring and education program was initiated by the Pueblo de San Ildefonso for the purpose of educating several school children within the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, New Mexico.



Field Trip to the top of Black Mesa, San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico.





**Field Trip to the Mortendad Canyon, San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico. Students learned the significance of the petroglyphs (drawings).**



**Field Trip to Bayo Canyon, San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico. Students learning native plants.**

This program was funded by a grant through the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council. This grant was used by the Pueblo's Department of Education for the purpose of instilling the Native Tewa language to the children that participated in the program. Dale Martinez, Forestry Tech, Northern Pueblos Agency participated as a Mentor in the program.

The students of the program learned the following:

- Traditional use of Plants
- Scientific and Tewa Language Identification
- Environmental Stewardship
- Traditional Dish Preparation

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the eight week program. The students of the program accomplished several projects and participated in field trips. Some of the projects that the students completed were planting an assortment of trees at the senior center, learning center and ball field of the Pueblo; identifying, collecting and creating a herbarium, planting and growing traditional vegetables, and preparing traditional meals. The students will be picking the traditional vegetables from the gardens this Fall.

The students hiked to several traditional cultural sites where traditional plants still grow. These sites included Black Mesa, Mortendad Canyon, and Bayo Canyon. During



**Mentors: From left to right: Tim Martinez, Darryl Martinez, Eva Moquino and Dale Martinez.**

these field trips plants were identified and the Mentors explained the traditional uses of various plants.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the San Ildefonso Pueblo's Department of Education, student participants, and mentors for making this a successful learning experience.



**Ethan Montoya, Program Student working on his herbarium.**

## Becoming an Effective Facilitative Instructor

~ Steve Jackson, Wildland Fire Operations Specialist, Salt Lake BLM

The BIA sponsored its 8th annual NWCG M-410, Facilitative Instructor training January 11-15, 2010 in San

Diego, California at the Catamaran Resort.

This course meets the requirements referenced in the NWCG Field Manager's Course Guide to instruct 200 level or higher courses. In addition to helping one become compliant with yet another federal policy, this course also focuses on ways to improve:

- The quality of instruction at the local, geographic, and national level;



- Interaction with other teachers and course coordinators in a cadre environment;
- Skills for conducting meetings, briefings, After Action Reviews; and
- Any communication scenario where information sharing within dynamic groups is the key.

This year's course continued the tradition of combining individuals from a variety of fire positions and locations from the wildfire community in an arena where they are encouraged to try techniques and methods that reach beyond fire topics. Furthermore, Tribal and Bureau employees not working in Fire Management are also encouraged to participate.



**Back Row L to R, Pamela Berlin, Arvid Hunt, Rufus Sago, Patrick Kenny (Instructor), Jeffrey Phillips, Steve Jackson (Lead Instructor) Patrick McDowell, John Worthington.**

**Middle Row L to R, Andrea Gilham (Instructor), Laurel Simos (Instructor), Chris Little, Staci White, Jere Classay, Wayne Key, Matthew Soulier, Sam Yazzie, Rene Romero, William Grauel, Michael Brown, Jeff Belvado, Robert Rosenthal, Thomas Naranjo, Mario Dia.**

**Front Row L to R; Leon Ben, Jr. (Instructor), Tamara Randall, Naomi Corbine, Charlene Becenti, Brian Jean, Rich Tobin, Marc Farelli, Joe Morris, Adolfo Osuna, Dave Anderson.**

## Wildland Fire Training in Southwest Alaska a Success!

~ Doug Albrecht, Training and Prevention Officer, Alaska Division of Forestry



**Some students were already certified and helped others to learn to use hoses and nozzles**  
~ Photo by Ed Kessler

Bethel, Alaska- In mid-October, students from villages located along the Kuskokwim River converged in Bethel to participate in wildland firefighter training. The student group included residents from Tuluksak and Kalskag, plus members of the Bethel and Bristol Bay fire departments.



**Instructors Ed Kessler, Josh Luetzinger, Doug Albrecht and students from Bethel, Tuluksak, Bristol Bay, and Kalskag, Alaska**  
~ Photo by Ed Kessler

The success of the experience, which resulted in 16 out of 18 students passing the training, was the result of interagency coordination and student enthusiasm. Division of Forestry personnel traveled to Alaska to teach the two primary courses that are required to become qualified basic firefighters. Additional interagency cooperation for the funding and logistics was of utmost importance due to the location. Support for the training was provided by the Alaska Division of Forestry, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Association of Village Council Presidents. Out of an initial eighteen students who participated in the course, fifteen graduated with "Red Card" qualifications for the first time (and the ability to join Alaska's wildland firefighting community); one already qualified student was made current in their training; and two students were unable to complete the course. Fire crews from rural communities in

Alaska provide a valuable workforce for statewide firefighting operations. The crews also provide support when needed to national firefighting efforts. However, closest to home, individual firefighters and crew members are an extremely important resource to their local area. Agency fire personnel may not always be able to respond as quickly as needed to fires that start in and around rural communities. Agencies work to equip and train personnel in villages to respond to rural emergency wildland fire response needs. The recent training is an example of how multiple agencies and people can come together in southwest Alaska to provide greater independence and local accountability in regards to wildfire protection, vocational training, and educational opportunities.



**Instructor Josh Luetzinger, students Jesse Ranke and Daron Solesbee prepare for the pack test in below freezing temps and blowing snow in Bethel, AK**  
~ Photo by Douglas Albrecht



## Blacksnake's Corner

~ Walt Lara - Yurok Forestry

When I was asked to write for Smoke Signals, I was asked to share my experiences and talk about information relevant to timber lands. For this issue of Smoke Signals, I would like to talk about "Defining Escape Routes" while in the process of falling timber.

When I was fourteen years old, my job was to clear trails for escape routes, brush around the trees that were to be cut, and pack tools. I used to listen to the old timers say, "escape route, escape route, escape route." As I grew older, I learned to look for the worst case scenario, while falling and bucking, and then for a safety zone.

Recently an experienced faller as well as a high climber, was involved in an accident. He was falling a tree and it was a heavy leaner. His undercut was too small, so when he cut the back, it barber-chaired. There was another tree directly behind this tree, approximately 8" DBH (Diameter Breast High), which the faller decided to get behind. The ground was steep, his foot slipped and the barber-chaired tree came down and hit him in the leg, breaking it in two places. This injury could have been prevented had he defined his escape route. Even the most experienced fallers can get hurt taking short cuts.

I'd like to take this opportunity to go over the basic felling procedure from the NFES #2000 (Dec., 1991) Wildfire Power S-212 Student workbook (National Wildfire Coordination Group).

1. Observe Top (widow makers, heavy branches, wind)
2. Establish Lay
3. Check for snags
4. Swamp-out Base
5. Size Up (lean, sounding)
6. Determine Escape Route
7. Walk Out Lay
8. Re-examine Escape Route
9. Face Tree
10. Warning
11. Backcut
12. Escape Stump
13. Analyze Operation

Escape routes are necessary and mentioned four times (numbers 6, 8, 12, and 13). The workbook also states, "In all cutting operations the wildfire powersaw operator has the option of securing the area by flagging the hazard, warning others of the danger and immediately notifying their supervisor. There is no reason to undertake an operation which does not appear to be safe," (pg. 62).

The life you save may be your own. Once, when I was still falling, I had an escape route



Walt "Blacksnake" Lara

picked out. Since the trees were really large my partner stood on the lower side of the tree to guide me up to my "holding wood" on the back cut. The tree started to fall, so we both took off running. He reached the tree that I had identified as my escape route, before I did. As he peeked around the other side of the tree to see if I was ok, I ran into the axe he held in his hand! It blacked my right eye. Sometimes people think they are helping, but create hazardous situations. Define an escape route for you and another safety zone for spectators. The Wildfire Powersaws S-212 Training of technique and safety ensures the well-being of the workers. In our area the training is provided at least twice a year by the Bureau of Indians Affairs for individuals who wish to work on reservations in wildland fire and timber.

In closing, I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Yurok Tribal Council, who took a break from their business meeting on February 10, 2010, and sang Happy Birthday to me. They thanked me for forestry, natural resources, political and cultural contributions. I was presented with a Dry Duck Jacket with a Tribal logo on the back. Pretty good, aye.



Walt Lara (far left) with a 2009 C-faller class

~ Photo by Dave Koch



### Thanks!

Thanks again to those of you who have submitted articles and photographs. Keep up the great work!

### Submission Criteria

Please include the author's name, title and location, captions and high resolution photographs attached as separate jpeg files. The article submission deadline for "Smoke Signals" is as follows:

March 1  
June 1  
September 1  
December 1

Please start submitting articles for the next issue of Smoke Signals as soon as you can! Thank you!

*"If a man does his best, what else is there?" ~ General George S. Patton (1885-1945)*

### Distribution

Please route this publication to your staff as well as to your EFFers. If you need additional copies for your staff, or need copies sent to an another address please contact us. Please make sure your seasonal fire employees have an opportunity to read Smoke Signals!

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### Thank you!

If you don't see your article in this issue of Smoke Signals, you should see it in the next. Thanks again for the high quality articles and excellent response!

### Article Submission Checklist

- ☐ Author's name
- ☐ Author's title
- ☐ Author's agency/location
- ☐ High resolution jpg photos
- ☐ Photo captions
- ☐ Names of people in photo and where they work
- ☐ Contact name, number, and email address