

# **CHARTER INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL FIRE SUBCOMMITTEE**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) is an organization of tribes with the common interest of advancing the management of forest and other natural resources on their lands. Wildland Fire Program activities such as preparedness, prevention, suppression operations, hazardous fuel treatments (WUI/HFR), prescribed fire, burned area rehabilitation and burned area restoration are important components of natural resource management in Indian country. In addition, these activities significantly contribute to the local economies of Tribes and individual tribal members. The ITC believes that the interests of its members would be well served by it formally chartering a Fire Subcommittee to collaborate with BIA, other Federal agencies and private organizations for the purpose of developing effective wildland fire program management strategies for Indian country.

## **AUTHORITY ESTABLISHMENT**

The Fire Sub-Committee (hereafter referred to as the Fire Sub-Committee) is established as a standing Sub-committee of the Operations Committee by and under the Executive Board of the Intertribal Timber Council (hereinafter referred to as the Board) and serves at the Board's pleasure.

**Organization:** The Fire Sub-Committee shall be comprised of at least five members of Board members or alternates, appointed by the President, plus representatives from the BIA Division of Forestry. Board members or alternates shall be appointed by the President of the ITC. Representatives from the BIA Division of Forestry shall be appointed by the Chief Forester with the concurrence of the Board. Other members will be appointed upon recommendation of the Chair of the Committee with the concurrence of the Board. The Chair of the Fire Sub-Committee shall be a member of the Operations Committee and a Board member, and shall be elected by the Board members who serve on the Fire Sub-Committee. Vacancies on the Committee will be filled by the ITC President.

An official quorum shall consist of three Board members/alternates.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the ITC Fire Subcommittee is to improve natural resource management and social/economic results from wildland fire program activities on Indian land. To this end, wildland fire management program activities and the actions of this subcommittee should be considered as a component of overall resource management on Indian land; not as an independent activity and shall include:

Providing information concerning legislative and federal policies affecting the management of Indian forest resources

Facilitate communication among ITC members on fire matters relevant to the management of Indian forest resources.

Advising and working with the BIA and other interested entities to develop the full-potential benefits attainable to Indian people from the management of their forest resources in a manner that achieves a harmony between the needs of people, plants, soil, water, and wildlife.

Encourage the training and development of Native American professionals engaged in management of Indian natural resources.

**Responsibilities:** The responsibilities of the Fire Sub-Committee are preparation and maintenance of strategic plans, including implementation plans, for accomplishing the objectives established by the ITC and assigned to the Operations Committee. The Fire Sub-Committee shall also provide oversight to plans and project management, and detailed review and analysis with recommendations for such matters as assigned by the Board.

The Fire Sub-Committee shall evaluate progress and overall direction of ITC, make recommendations for improvement, review/initiate actions for ITC to undertake, participate in selection/oversight of contractors/consultants, and evaluate/analyze organizational structure and functions of ITC and make recommendations for operational improvement to the Operations Committee.

**Authorities:**

Make recommendations regarding wildland fire matters for consideration of the Operations Committee and Board.

The authorities and responsibilities of the Fire Sub-Committee may not be delegated without prior approval of the Board.

The Committee may request needed assistance that would not result in a cost to ITC. Requests for assistance that would mean a cost to ITC shall be made through the Operations Committee to the Finance Committee.

**Schedule of Meetings:** The Committee shall meet quarterly in conjunction with Executive Board meetings and/or at such times as called for by the Chair and approved by the Operations Committee or Board.