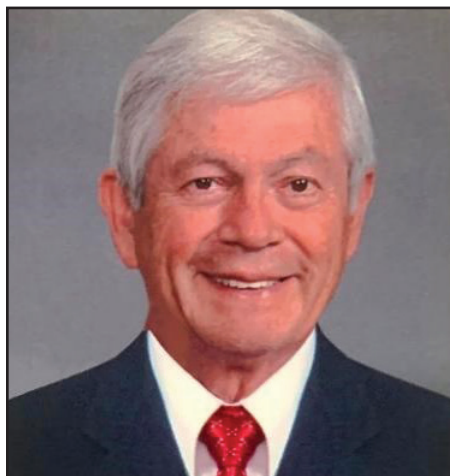




INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Summer ~ 2020



REMEMBERING KEN SMITH – ITC'S FIRST PRESIDENT

Kenneth L. Smith, a Wasco member of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, a founder of the Intertribal Timber Council, and a former U.S. Interior Department Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs passed away May 13, 2020 at his home in Warm Springs, Oregon. Ken was 85 years old.

Ken Smith was born March 30, 1935, and was raised by his grandparents at their ranch on the Warm Springs Reservation. He attended BIA Boarding School at Warm Springs for grades 1-6, was Junior Class President at Madras High School, and in 1959 earned his BS degree in Business Administration, with emphasis in accounting, from the University of Oregon. He was U of O's second Native American graduate. He then went to work for the Warm Springs Tribes, starting

as an accountant and rising to General Manager in 1971. In 1981, he was nominated by President Reagan to be Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, a position he held into 1984.

Ken made numerous lasting contributions to tribal forestry. At Warm Springs, as part of the Tribe's management team, he participated in the Tribe's acquisition and upgrading of a private sawmill located on the Reservation.

In the early 1970s, when it was increasingly apparent to Warm Springs and other tribes that the Bureau of Indian Affairs' trust management of the overall tribal timber resource was failing. Ken became engaged in broad discussions among the timber tribes, the BIA, and others about these matters and how they might be addressed. In the mid 1970's, several major developments arose in Indian forestry. First, Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA, PL93-638) was signed into law, providing an opportunity for tribes to become more actively involved in managing their natural resources. Second, Congress appropriated \$10 million to address backlogs in reforestation, timber stand improvement, and other issues that had developed over decades. Last, the American Indian Policy Review Commission (AIPRC) was established to investigate a wide range

of issues relating to federal-Indian relationships.

As one consequence of Ken's participation in tribal timber matters, in 1975 when Congress established the AIPRC to examine and make recommendations on a wide range of federal Indian policy issues, Ken was appointed to work with the AIPRC Task Force on Reservation and Resource Development and Protection, which covered tribal forests and their BIA trust management. Problems with management of Indian forests were prominent among the issues investigated by AIPRC task forces. The AIPRC submitted its Final Report to Congress in May 1977, and the Report's Chapter on Economic Development identified the BIA's numerous and basic problems in its trust management of tribal trust timber. It included five recommendations, one of which called for the formation of a special task force of tribes, independent experts and the

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President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.



Vernon Stearns, Jr.

Greetings and best wishes to all of our tribal communities! No doubt 2020 has been a challenging year thus far. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected so many tribal communities, and much like everyone else, ITC is doing our best to continue our work given our new circumstances.

COVID-19 has had devastating economic impacts on every tribe. Yet, we are blessed to have natural resources like our forests that can continue to provide revenue, jobs, sustenance, and refuge when our tribes need them the most. Tribal forest management has never been more important. As many of us slowly return to the workplace, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 while carrying on the long-standing tradition of land stewardship.

One of the major COVID-19 impacts to the ITC has been the unfortunate cancellation of this year's Annual Timber Symposium and Tribal Student Summit. Due to the impossibility of hosting such an event with appropriate health and safety measures, we are hoping to reschedule the Fairbanks Symposium and the Student

Summit for 2021. The Annual Timber Symposium is one of our best opportunities to bring together a vast array of partners to share and exchange information all in the spirit of advancing natural resource management.

One component of the Symposium that carried on was the awarding of the Truman D. Picard Scholarships. This year we seen an above average number of students pursuing forestry or wildland fire management related degrees submit applications. Competition was very high again, and after all scholarships were awarded, I am excited to announce that the ITC has reached a major milestone by surpassing the \$1 million mark for awarded scholarships since its inception! This has been made possible in part due to the incredible contributions made to the raffle during the Symposium, thanks to all who made this possible and congratulations to all scholarship recipients.

As the summer season progresses, so too will wildland fire potential. COVID-19 presents additional challenges to managing wildfire this year. Jim Durglo, ITC Fire Technical Specialist, remains engaged with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and Fire Management Board and has shared a lot of the information that has been developed to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 to our wildland firefighting workforce. Earlier in the year there was a bit of speculation that fire resources may be less available this year. Some of that concern has been lifted with some State and Federal agencies reporting they will have resources to share across boundaries. Discussions at the local level should still take into consideration the possibility of resource shortage and be prepared to use available strategies

and tactics that enhance initial attack success while maintaining firefighter and public safety. The ITC will remain engaged in discussions with our partners around the wildland fire community. We have been thankful for the continued engagement of Interior's Office of Wildland Fire and BIA Branch of Wildland Fire Management.

The ITC has been focused on preparing for the fourth iteration of the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT) report. This congressionally mandated report occurs every ten years, with the next one due in 2023. We are having regular videoconferences and calls with our co-chairs for the Team to identify study parameters and questions to be asked. The IFMAT report provides findings and recommendations for improving forest management throughout Indian Country. The same intent will be delivered with IFMAT IV.

The entire IFMAT process is born out of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (NIFRMA) and directs the Secretary of Interior to conduct an assessment of Indian forest lands and Indian land forest management practices. Eight mandated questions must be addressed in each assessment. With IFMAT IV we hope to not only address the eight mandated questions, but to also assess those questions for current relevancy. Much has changed within the forestry and wildland fire management programs since the passage of NIFRMA and IFMAT I, our hope is to take an angle at each question that is adaptive and germane to current policies, practices, and procedures.

ITC continues to help federal agencies implement new forest manage-

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Remembering Ken Smith – ITC's First President

by Mark Phillips

(Continued from cover)



Ken Smith at the First Annual National Indian Timber Symposium

BIA to evaluate BIA forest management practices and develop a modern and comprehensive forest management program for the Bureau. Another recommendation called for Congressional appropriations for the reforestation of cut-over and unregenerated tribal trust forest land.

Another consequence of Ken's participation in tribal timber issues was his involvement, on the behalf of the Warm Springs Tribes and in conjunction with representatives of the Quinault Nation, in exploring the development of a tribally led effort to improve the management of Indian forests in 1976. Discussions quickly centered on the idea of convening a national Indian timber symposium to bring the tribes, the BIA, and outside expertise from gov-

ernment, industry, and academia together to share perspectives on contemporaneous issues and approaches for forest management.

The First Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, "Making Dollars and Sense out of Indian Forestry" which was held in Seattle in February 1977, identified numerous issues with the BIA's approaches to forest management. Tribal representatives who attended the symposium recognized they were faced with an important decision as to how best to address those issues. On the one hand, pursuing lawsuits would be expensive, divisive, and acrimonious; litigation would take years to complete and there was no guarantee that long-standing problems would be corrected. Ken and other symposium organizers decided to

take another path to work collaboratively with the BIA and others to produce more efficient, effective and timely improvements in Indian forest management. Following the first symposium, Quinault, Warm Springs and several other timber tribes organized and formally voted to found the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) in 1977. The path leading to collaboration would serve as the cornerstone for the ITC, future timber symposiums, and a framework to develop and monitor implementation of recommendations for improving management of Indian forests. Ken served as an early ITC Board member and as the ITC's First President until 1980.



President's Message

by Vernon Stearns, Jr.

(Continued from page 2)

ment authorities that address tribal priorities and values. Our agreement with the U.S. Forest Service provides for ITC's outreach to tribes to learn about and take advantage of both Good Neighbor Authority and the development of the new "638" contracting authority for the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA). Both of these authorities were the result of successful lobbying by the ITC in the halls of Congress over several years. Although we had to postpone the workshops, focus has shifted to putting together the agenda for the 2 webinars for utilizing 638 au-

thority for TFPA. A save the date announcement has been sent out and reminders are forthcoming, space is still available for both the July 29, 2020 and August 4, 2020 events so be sure to register online. Registration information can be found on our website.

The legislative report will show where ITC's work with Capitol Hill is resulting in tribal forestry provisions being included in comprehensive natural resources and forestry legislation.

As always, I am proud of all the work ITC does and the support we receive from member tribes, part-

ners, and individuals dedicated to improving natural resource management. This will be the last time I address you all as the ITC President. It has been an extreme honor over the past couple of years to represent the organization. The work done by ITC is very important, strenuous, and requires a collective group effort. Thank you all for your ongoing support of the ITC and its mission.



BIA Central Office Forestry

by Leon Ben, Jr.

Leon Ben, Jr.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Central Office Staff: Pete Wakeland has taken a detail to Puget Sound Agency as the acting Superintendent. Leon Ben, Jr., current Fire Director has detailed in as the acting Chief Forester. In Leon's place, Joshua Simmons, current Direct of Fire Operations, will detail as the acting Fire Director.

Regional Forester's Meetings: A Regional Forester's meeting was planned for April 28 – 30; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was postponed. Planning will continue on location, agenda and logistics. Anyone interested in assisting with planning the meeting should contact Leon Ben, Jr., acting Chief Forester.

Indian Trust Assets Reform Act (ITARA), 2018 Farm Bill, and S-245 Indian Tribal Energy Act: Two tribes have been approved to

participate in the ITARA demonstration project and are currently developing the Indian Trust Asset Management Plans required under ITARA. Technical assistance is available to tribes who are approved for or are considering participation in the demonstration project. Information on ITARA can be found at <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-development-and-or-under-review/itara-demonstration-project>. For more information, contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester.

Tribes are also encouraged to make use of new authorities granted to them under the 2018 Farm Bill and the Indian Energy Act. The Farm Bill extends Good Neighbor Authority to tribes, allowing them to manage National Forest System land under cooperative agreements with the Forest Service. The Forest Service has also been granted authority to enter into self-determination contracts with tribes directly under P.L. 93-638. The Indian

Energy Act mandates the Forest Service and BLM to assist tribes in generation of energy by providing reliable sources of biomass fuel for tribal energy generating facilities.

Timber Sales Training: Central Office and Regional staff planned to hold two Timber Sales Training. The first training was held at the BIA Great Lakes Agency, March 10 – 12, 2020 with 45 students. The training was well received. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the second planned training has been postponed to 2021.

BIA - Introduction to Timber Sales Process Training - Tri-Region

March 24-26, 2020 – *postponed to 2021*

National Indian Programs Training Center, Room 234
Albuquerque, NM

Course Summary: This course is designed to teach BIA and tribal

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BIA Central Office Forestry

by Leon Ben, Jr.

(Continued from page 4)

timber sales staff the basic procedures associated with the selling of timber and other forest products on Indian lands.

Intended Audience: Regional, Agency and Tribal Foresters who are responsible for the preparation and administration of timber sales contracts and permits.

For more information,
Contact John Baskette.

Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC): The WFLC conducted a one-hour call on May 11, 2020. The intent of the call was to keep the membership informed. Briefings were provided on the 2020 fire season, WFLC Cross-Boundary Initiative, Smoke Management and Air Quality Policy priority and Prescribed Fire Data Standards. Contact Pete Wakeland or Leon Ben, Jr. for more information.

Timber Strike Team: Central Office staff continues to stand up the Timber Strike team that was approved by the BIA Director this past summer. Positions were advertised with one selection made. Currently, working to re-advertise for five positions. Once implemented, the strike team will be dispatched to locations where help is needed to complete timber sale planning and layout. Contact John Baskette or Caleb Cain for more information.

BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

CFI Application: We are improving the processing functionality of BOFRP Applications for quicker data processing turnaround. BOFRP hired a programmer to help with these issues. The analysis programs are being verified and the FORTRAN programmer is fixing

the codes to ensure accuracy in the outputs. Currently, BOFRP is verifying the Northwest and Western Analysis programs. It has been our goal to release a new field data collector program for use on a Windows-based tablet, BOFRP is happy to announce the hiring of a new programmer in July 2020, to dedicate their time developing a tablet based field data collector. The tablet data collector will have the desktop version of BOFRP Apps and will include more thorough error checking, reporting errors at time of data entry.

Funding and Position Analysis: We are updating the Funding and Position Analysis (FPA) reporting application with all the great feedback we received from the regions for improvements. The FY2011 reported data is also being entered, which will be available to view in the next release. The data call for the FY2019 FPA memo will be sent in July 2020 to all regions and data collection to occur in August and September 2020. The tribal entities who reported during the testing phase in February 2020, the data is saved to the database and recommend updating if needed.

Reporting Applications: The legacy reporting application INFO-DAT will be used to request 2021 project request and 2020 program accomplishments for the end-of-the-year reporting this September 2020. We have uploaded the past data and performing quality control on the FY2017 through FY2020 data. BOFRP will have the reporting application ready for use by mid-August. BOFRP continues to work with IT to ensure the FIRST reporting application is brought back online as soon as possible. The application was taken off line January 2020, and we will continue

to work with IT requirements. We will keep the Regional Foresters informed of the operational status of FIRST.

National Forest Library: The scanning of the forestry documents in the BOFRP library is still a work in progress. We are currently scanning the Regional documents; the goal is to complete scanning the entire library within a year.

BOFRP Objectives: Our goal is to better serve the Tribes. We are committed to improving the data collection process, and simplifying post-inventory by merging analysis into a single unit to streamline CFI processing at all stages.

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

As of June 8, 2020, Mr. Leon Ben Jr. began a detail, not to exceed 120 days as the Acting Chief, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management. At the same time, Mr. Josh Simmons began a detail, not to exceed 120 days as the Acting Chief, Branch of Wildland Fire Management (BWFM). The BWFM will be working to back-fill Mr. Simmons' normal position as the Operations Director during these detail assignments.

Operations: On June 15, 2020, the National Preparedness Level was raised to three due to increased initial attack and large fires in multipole geographic areas. Also, the interagency community is seeing more commitment of resources and personnel. Operations continues to monitor effects to resource availability and the Bureau's ability to maintain initial and extended attack capabilities as they have seen some impact by COVID-19. Currently the

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BIA Central Office Forestry

by Leon Ben, Jr.

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Operations Section has made Severity funding more available to ensure adequate staffing needs and resource availability is being met at units that are seeing increased fire activity and risk as we move in to our more traditional fire season. Normally, Severity is utilized due to heightened fire activity and conditions that exceed normal and capabilities of local units. However, as we see reduced staffing levels and resource availability, it was determined that more flexible use of Severity funding will allow us to move resources around nationally to augment units that are not able to maintain appropriate staffing levels. Operations continues to work on an interagency level with the National Multi Agency Coordinating Group to provide clarity and guidance as it relates to resource management.

Wilderness First Responder:

Michelle Moore continues to work on options for 2021 for in-person training, and determining what that type of training may look like, given impacts of COVID-19. To date, the BIA has been able to conduct 3 of 6 planned Medical Incident Technician (MIT) trainings. Michelle continues to provide support to the field with providing epinephrine Auto-Injector (EpiPen) guidance on how MIT's can continue to operate and protect themselves. Continual engagement efforts exist with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior with the program; however, this is being put on hold with the heavy attention given to COVID-19 guidance.

Budget: This Fiscal Year (FY), the BWFM received \$66.6 million in Preparedness; \$44.4 million in Fuels; \$4.6 million in Burned Area

Rehabilitation (BAR); and \$.512 million in Facilities. The BWFM distributed all the FY 2020 wildland fire funding to the BIA regional fire programs, of which approximately 1/3 of it has been spent.

Additionally, a non-recurring supplemental was passed under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, P.L. 116-136, as supplemental funding to support extraordinary costs related to COVID-19 pandemic. BWFM received \$1.882 million of which \$1.856 were distributed to the Regions to (A) acquire support services through contracts to serve in providing temporary ready rooms/staging areas to ensure crew members in firefighting modules are separated to reduce the risk of exposure or outbreak across fire units, and/or to serve to provide firefighters in existing government housing units with common shared living areas be separated to reduce the risk of exposure or outbreak across fire units. Or (B) to acquire additional facilities through agreements to serve as temporary ready rooms/staging areas to ensure crew members in firefighting modules are separated to reduce the risk of exposure or outbreak across fire units, and/or to serve to provide firefighters in existing government housing units with common shared living areas be separated to reduce the risk of exposure and outbreak across fire units.

Hopefully, the shortage of staff in BWFM Budget office will soon be eliminated. A selection was made for the position of Budget Analyst GS-560-12. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Permanent change of station (PCS) travel has been delayed. Our Budget Analyst GS-560-9/11 position will

be advertised soon with a 21 day-turn-around.

Jennifer Hebbeler from the Northwest Regional Office is currently on a 120-day detail, as our Program Analyst (Incident Business Coordinator), thru September 27, 2020. This position is being classified, and hopefully will be advertised this fall.

BWFM wants to thank all wildland fire management stakeholders for providing support and patience, as we have had our vacancies in the budget.





Don Motanic

SYMPOSIUM CLASSIC NETWORK – THE NEXT DANCE

Since the next Indian Timber Symposium will be postponed due to COVID-19, I thought it would be a good time to review and watch some of the highly rated Symposium presentations from the past. I watched some Symposium videos and created a Symposium Classic Network to watch. The steaming video presentations recorded by Ruraltech.org will provide some historical background for the new staff and students to see some timeless information and some information that will prepare our programs for the upcoming Fourth Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Lands by the Independent Forest Assessment Team (IFMAT-IV).

The first classic set of two presentations relate to tribal economics from the 2012 Symposium, the third presentation will provide background about the Third Independent Assessment of Indian Forestland and Forest Land Management in the United States in a report developed by the third Independent Forest Management Team (IFMAT-III).

May 17, 2012 Workshop: Efficient and Effective Management



Tribal Tour participants at the 2016 Symposium hosted by San Carlos Apache Tribe in San Carlos, Arizona

of Tribal Resources: The Importance of Integration and Cooperation to Achieve Success: To compete in today's world markets requires that Tribal and BIA resource and enterprise managers develop and maintain close working relationships with non-traditional partners in order to achieve Tribal political, resource, economic and enterprise objectives. This workshop will look at the characteristics of successful businesses, elaborating on the importance of coordination and cooperation in developing and sustaining utilization of Tribal Forest Products.

The workshop will share how tribes have adapted to their local working circle and what they anticipate will be future challenges and opportunities. Participants will gain insight into how they can use these concepts to adapt locally to become more efficient and compete in today's evolving global markets.

Characteristics of Successful Tribal Operations: This presentation will provide an overview of how Tribes successfully integrate Tribal Government with programs and enterprises. Presented by Faline Haven, Senior Forester, BIA Division of Forestry and Wildlife Fire

Management, Washington, DC.

http://www.ruraltech.org/video/2012/ITC_Timber_Symposium/05-17-2012/WS_03/03_Haven/index.html

Creating Indigenous Economies and Sustainable Communities: This presentation will provide an overview about the history of indigenous economies and opportunities for individual business development through organizations like the Oregon Native American Business Entrepreneur Network.

http://www.ruraltech.org/video/2012/ITC_Timber_Symposium/05-17-2012/WS_03/04_Miller/index.html

June 26, 2014 Workshop: Forest Economics & Managing Resources in a Rising Market: The purpose of this workshop is to examine how improving wood markets and developing stewardship opportunities are affecting Indian forestry. Discussion will include log and lumber market analyses (domestic and export), emerging markets (such as wood to energy), stewardship contracting and forest restoration, and other topics. Findings from the Indian Forest

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Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

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Management Assessment Team (IFMAT-III), Tribal Forest Protection Act Analysis, ITC study of Marketing and Branding of Indian Forest Products, and the ITC Anchor Forest Initiative will be presented to establish context and to help inform development of recommendations for Indian forest management.

Changing Markets, Timber Economics, and Indian Forestry: What Have We Learned: In 2013, the IFMAT-III report was released and presented to Congress. Con-

clusions and recommendations suggest that for many understaffed and underfunded tribes responding to improved market opportunities will be difficult. The Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) has been around for several years but how is working? Ten years since passage, the TFPA program appears limited to pilot projects insufficient in scale to adequately address forest health problems that threaten tribal resources. The Marketing and Branding study, conducted by ITC a couple of years ago, offered suggestions to help improve market returns to

forest-managing tribes. These recommendations will be revisited in the context of more recent market and policy developments.

Presented by Larry Mason, Forestry Consultant, Alternate Dimensions Inc., Seattle, WA

http://www.ruraltech.org/video/2014/ITC_Symposium/06-26-2014-Camas/02_Mason/index.html



Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

Hautnin awas. Niimiipuu timpt. Blessing to you in our Nez Perce Language. With the pandemic, travel restrictions and social distancing procedures, ITC and the board of directors decided to postpone the 2020 symposium to a later date, to be announced later. I do appreciate all of work the Athabascan Tribes

of the Interior Alaska, the Tanana Chiefs Conference did in preparation for this year's symposium and look forward to them hosting next. Qe'ciyew'yew - Thank you.

Help: Intertribal Timber Council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or sponsorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. If a Tribe or business is interested in making a donation, please contact ITC directly.

Here are the future Symposium locations for planning purposes:

44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK

45th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

46th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Eastern Band of Cherokee, Cherokee, NC

47th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Confederated Tribes of the Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Ronan, MT.

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) is and has been committed to Indian Forestry and working with Tribes and its affiliates' for over forty years. The ITC Symposium Committee has taken on the task of helping defray the cost of our lobbying and other associated expenses, due to the new BIA contract structure that will not allow the ITC to cover those directly. Our lobbying contractors have a long history of successfully lobbying for funding increases in Forestry and Fire, and passage of legislation critical to expanding tribal management priorities.

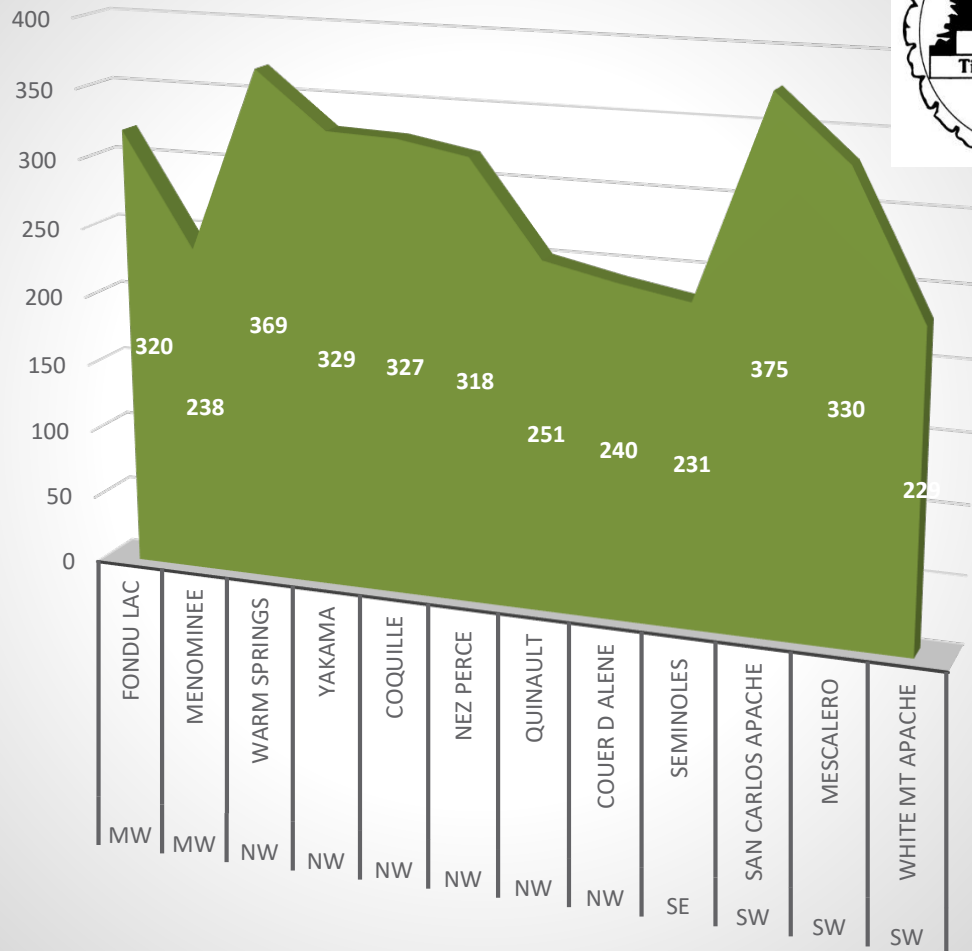
However, due to COVID-19 the ITC was unable to raise enough funds in 2020 to cover lobbying

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

ITC Symposiums 2008 to 2019 by Participant Total/Region



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expenses. We are asking member tribes to give a discretionary extra donation or sponsorship, if possible. Each sponsoring tribe will be recognized in ITC newsletter and next year at the Annual National Timber Symposium. For your consideration please contact ITC. The ITC understands the difficult financial situation many Tribes are in, so your additional support during this hard time is appreciated. We wish you many blessings and good health.

If you have any questions, please contact Howard Teasley at (208) 621-4620 or email at howardt@nezperce.org.

We have been all over the Indian Country visiting symposium locations for 40 plus years. The last 12 years have been spent mostly in the Northwest, then Southwest, Midwest, and Southeast. Over this time frame we have had an average of 296 participant per year with a maximum of 375 in San Carlos Apache (2016) and low of 229 at White Mountain Apache (2008) in

the same region nine years apart. I thought we could observe our past locations.

Li'loyca Godnim Ha'awtnin ee was. Qe'ciyew'yew





Matt Hill

GENERAL COVID IMPACT ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Since COVID has hit the United States, Congress has generally halted business except for passing comprehensive legislation to address the crisis itself. To date it has passed three major pieces of legislation, each of which contain significant provisions to assist tribes and Indian Country.

At this point, it is unclear if Congress will enact further legislation. The House recently passed the HEROES Act, which would provide tribes with at least \$20 billion in new funding to deal with the impacts of COVID. However, it is highly unlikely that the Senate will take any action on that particular bill.

Congress is still adjusting to how it conducts regular business, such as legislative hearings. Some committees are hosting virtual hearings and webcast “roundtables.”

While legislation continues to be written and introduced, it is unclear how much business will be conducted for the remainder of the

year. The House has been passing bills under “suspension” and even voting in blocks to keep a limited number of Members on the House floor. The Republicans have filed federal litigation over a Democratic plan to allow “proxy” voting in the House.

There are rumors that Congress will fully come back to session in August, when it is usually in recess. However, this may not mean their offices are open for visitors or meetings. Soon, we will be bumping into presidential election year craziness (aka, “Silly Season”) – which itself is creating novel practices from the candidates.

WYDEN FOREST INVESTMENT BILL

In May, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced legislation that would bolster wildfire prevention and preparedness to protect the health and safety of communities during the unparalleled combination of threats posed by wildfire season and the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation also would provide relief and job creation measures that equip rural economies to respond to the unique threats they are facing during this public health and economic crisis.

Wyden’s office specifically requested feedback from ITC, which is reflected in the bill (“21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act”), which:

- Provides an additional \$45 million to the BIA to be used for tribal forestry projects. Funding provided will help advance landscape scale restoration and forest health treatments on reservations and Indian trust land, while also helping to recruit and train the necessary workforce to accom-

plish projects. Indian Tribes can and should be key partners in restoring the health of public lands and reducing fire risk to communities. The funding will be divided as follows:

- o \$20 million for tribal forestry projects;
- o \$20 million for tribal grants, to be used for large landscape-scale forest health treatments; and
- o \$5 million for a forestry workforce development initiative to help retain forestry professionals on tribal land.

The bill also:

- Provides an additional \$3.5 billion for the U.S. Forest Service and \$2 billion for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to increase the pace and scale of hazardous fuels reduction and thinning efforts, prioritizing projects that are shovel-ready and environmentally-reviewed;
- Establishes a \$7 billion relief fund to help outfitters and guides who hold U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior special use permits – and their employees – stay afloat through the truncated recreation season;
- Establishes a \$9 billion fund for qualified land and conservation corps to increase job training and hiring specifically for jobs in the woods, helping to restore public lands and watersheds, while providing important public health related jobs in this time of need;
- Provides an additional \$150 million for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the flagship program for commu-

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Legislative Update

Matt Hill

(Continued from page 10)

- nity forest restoration and fire risk reduction;
- Provides \$6 billion for U.S. Forest Service capital improvements and maintenance to put people to work reducing the maintenance backlog on National Forest System lands, including reforestation;
- Provides \$500 million for the Forest Service State and Private Forestry program, which will be divided between programs to help facilitate landscape restoration projects on state, private and federal lands, including \$100 million for the Firewise program to help local governments plan for and reduce wildfire risks;
- Provides \$10 billion for on-farm water conservation and habitat improvement projects;
- Provides full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has broad bipartisan support; and

- Provides \$100 million for land management agencies to purchase and provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to their employees, contractors and service workers.

NEPA REFORM

In May, President Trump issued another Executive Order that directed all Federal agencies to waive regulations where they can adopt new or use existing emergency procedures to reduce regulation and stimulate the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. Specifically, Trump's Executive Order states that:

“The heads of all agencies shall identify regulatory standards that may inhibit economic recovery and shall consider taking appropriate action, consistent with applicable law, including by issuing proposed rules as necessary, to temporarily or permanently rescind, modify, waive, or exempt persons or entities from those requirements, and to consider

exercising appropriate temporary enforcement discretion or appropriate temporary extensions of time as provided for in enforceable agreements with respect to those requirements, for the purpose of promoting job creation and economic growth, insofar as doing so is consistent with the law and with the policy considerations identified in section 1 of this order.”



REGISTER NOW!!

USDA Forest Service 638 Authority Webinars

Please Register by following this link:

<https://forms.gle/2bTuHkjD2irF8dDv6>

You will have an option to sign up for either:

Option 1: July 29, 2020 - 1-3pm PT/ 2-4pm MT / 3-5pm CT/ 4-6pm ET/ or

Option 2: August 4, 2020 - 10am-12pm PT/ 11am-1pm MT/ 12 -2pm CT/ 1-3pm ET

For further information, please contact Stephanie Lucero via email at Lucero@udall.gov or call (520) 901-8532.

Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

We concluded our virtual board meeting using GoToMeeting, which was an interesting experience. This report will include updates from the last few months.

IFMAT IV

As I reported in the last update, the Operations committee reviewed proposals for the IFMAT Co-chairs, and selected Dr. John Gordon and Dr. John Sessions. During the virtual board meeting the board selected Adrian Leighton and Serra Hoagland as two transition Co-Chairs, and Northwest Management Inc. as the Project Coordinator. Dr. Gordon and Sessions have done an amazing job leading the previous three IFMAT reviews, and I'm sure will do the same for IFMAT IV. The transitions Co-Chairs will have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Gordon and Sessions to ensure IFMAT V and beyond are of the same quality in the future. This group will determine who the additional team members will be based on the subject matter to be covered in IFMAT IV.

An important component of IFMAT is the Funding and Position Analysis (FPA) report. ITC and the Co-Chairs have worked with BOFRP to review data from the 2019 data call, and will provide additional recommendations to the BIA staff for the 2020 report. This data is critical to make accurate comparisons between Tribal/BIA programs and

other land management agencies. To assist Tribal managers, and ensure the quality of this data a webinar will be developed to assist in completing the report. At this point we do not have dates or content, but will provide updates in the future.

FARM BILL/INDIAN ENERGY WORKSHOP

Dates have been set for the ITC Shared Stewardship and 638 Webinar. Those webinars will occur on July 29, 2020 and August 4, 2020. Save the date notifications have been sent. If you did not receive the information, please visit the ITC website to sign up. The webinar platform can accommodate many viewers. The Farm Bill/Indian Energy workshops have been postponed to the spring of 2021.

CLIMATE CHANGE & CARBON SEQUESTRATION

There continues to be conversations about climate change and carbon management, both nationally and internationally. President Trump affirmed a commitment to the "One Trillion Trees Initiative" in his State of the Union Address. In response the BIA has reviewed planting and forest health accomplishments across the country. Not surprising to those of us from Indian Country, but the BIA is responsible for the majority of both within the Department of the Interior. As awareness of this issue grows I expect tribal examples to help in-



IFMAT III site visit to Tule River Tribe.
Photo by Larry Mason.

form decisions made by other land management agencies.

I will close by expressing my disappointment in the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 ITC symposium. Obviously the health and safety of each of you is our top priority, so the decision to cancel the symposium was the right decision. Sometimes you don't realize how important certain events are until those opportunities are taken away. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy, and I look forward to the next opportunity to see you all.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

There has been a great deal of planning and preparation for wildfire suppression in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. People across fire management agencies have been developing protocol and practices to protect people and resources as best they can while still trying to support wildfire suppression activities.

Here is an update on some of the early efforts from the Fire Management Board, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and the National Multiagency Coordinating Group.

FIRE MANAGEMENT BOARD (FMB)

Information about the FMB can be found at their web portal at <https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/fmb/home/covid19-portal>

Membership includes representatives from the following groups. USFS Fire and Aviation Management, Assistant Directors, DOI-Deputy Director from the Office of Wildland Fire, DOI-Deputy Director from the Office of Aviation Services, BIA Fire Director, BLM Fire Director, FWS Fire Director, NPS Fire Director, US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Wildfire Program Manager, and US Fire Administration.

The FMB provides a mechanism for coordinated and integrated federal wildland fire program management and implementation. The FMB takes strategic policy and program direc-

tion from the Fire Executive Council, directs, coordinates, and oversees the development and implementation of federal wild land fire policy and programs to provide consistent and cost-effective program management.

Listed below are some of the documented guidance developed by the FMB:

- 20-001 Adjustments to Wildland Fire Preparedness Activities for the 2020 Fire Year in response to COVID-19
- 20-002 Delegation of Authority to COVID-19 Coordinators
- 20-003 Coordination of Response Efforts Between NWCG and FMB COVID-19 Coordinators
- 20-004 Adjustments to Aviation Qualifications in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic
- 20-005 Establishment of COVID-19 Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team
- 20-006 Establishment of Wildland Fire COVID-19 Screening Interim Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
 - o 20-006a Interim Screening Protocol and Tool
- 20-007 Errata to the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (May 2020)
- 20-008 Establishment of Interim Guidance for Prevention of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) During Wildland Fire Operations
 - o 20-008a Interim Guidance for Prevention of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) During Wildland Fire Operations
- 20-009 Laboratory Testing for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) – Wildland Fire Management Personnel

NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP (NWCG)

The NWCG provides national leadership to enable interoperable wildland fire operations among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. Information about the NWCG can be found at their website [nwcg.gov](https://www.nwcg.gov).

The NWCG has also been diligent in developing and providing consistent guidance documents in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Below is a list of recent documents developed by NWCG:

- Memo 20-003 NWCG Standards for Aviation Operations in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
- Memo 20-002 NWCG Infectious Disease Guidance for Wildland Fire Incidents

NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (NMAC)

Learn about the NMAC at <https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/index.html>

The NMAC has mobilized and tasked the Area Command Teams to develop response plans to protect fire fighters and communities during wildfire suppression operations. Information about COVID-19 planning efforts can be found at <https://www.nifc.gov/fire-info/covid-19.htm>

This group is also looking at the supply chain of resources that support wildfire suppression operations.

The fire year of 2020 is shaping up to be a very challenging year. Please do what you can to protect yourself, our firefighters and our communities from the further spread of COVID-19 this fire season. Stay safe!



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 through the quarantine to facilitate the 2020 Truman D. Picard Scholarship. This year we had 30 complete applications come in. 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 17 scholarships totaling \$42,000 to students representing 13 different tribes. Since 1988, ITC has awarded 515 scholarships totaling \$1,029,500! During the past ten years there has been 93 forestry majors awarded the scholarship.

2020 TRUMAN D. PICARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HIGH SCHOOL \$2,000

Robert Dempsey

UNDERGRADUATE \$2,500

Lance Baptiste
Kelly Bolton
Jason Clairmont
Justin Fasana
Randall Finley
Michael Fisher
Cody Goklish



Top-left: Kelly Bolton at the 2018 Symposium. Picard recipient 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2016.

Top-right: Trenton Pimms at the 2018 Symposium. Picard recipient 2020 and 2018.

Left: Michael Leecy at the 2019 Symposium. Picard recipient 2020 and 2019.



Jeniffer Lajeunesse
Michael Leecy
Nadira Mitchell
Ryan Nelson
Bryce Norling
Trenton Pimms
Christopher Villarruel
Jonathan White

GRADUATE \$2,500

Krista Erdman

Congratulations to each of the recipients! We at ITC are extremely excited about reaching the million-dollar mark in scholarships awarded. None of this would be possible without the support of the ITC Family. Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Education Committee and the Truman D. Scholarship over the years. One major funding source for the scholarship is the raffle that usually occurs during the Annual Timber Symposium. As this year's Symposium has been cancelled, we

have lost that source for replenishing funding for next years scholarship. We will be embarking on an online fundraising campaign soon that will help us in the continuation of funding the 2021 cohort of scholars. Details will be out soon on the ITC website.

The Tribal Forestry Summit that was originally scheduled for October of this year on the Northern Arizona University Campus has been postponed to a date to be determined in 2021. Due to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to err on the side of caution and meet when it is safe for both presenters & attendees.

We look forward to a future date when we can all gather again, until then please stay safe & healthy.



Research Subcommittee

by Serra Hoagland



Serra Hoagland

Guu-at-see! Greetings ITC member tribes. We hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and safe. Our thoughts go out to all of you in Indian Country who may be impacted by COVID-19. We pray that our minds and bodies stay resilient and we use the teachings from our ancestors to help us through this pandemic. The ITC Research Subcommittee met virtually on June 2, 2020, and we discussed several items.

ITC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

First, we went over preliminary findings from the ITC research needs assessment. Here's a few of the highlights and a full publication with more information should be available by this fall.

- We had 59 people respond to the survey, 43% were native, 78% were male, 58% worked for a tribe and 67% were forestry professionals.
- The top three information needs by mean ranking score (1-5 low to high) were forest health (4.49), culturally significant species (4.44), and workforce development/training (4.42).

Dr. Serra Hoagland waving goodbye to the ITC Research Subcommittee co-chair position from the Pinyon Juniper.

- We did a factor analysis to adequately categorize the responses and found that there were significant differences between tribal and non-tribal members in that tribal member rated the following more important than non-tribal members: post-fire response and valuation/merchandising; fire; resilience/long term forestry and post disturbance harvest; and indigenous burning.
- 80% of respondents said access to scientific journals was very or extremely important in performing their jobs
- Lastly, tribal members ranked protecting and curating tribal data as more important than non-tribal members

NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

Second, we had a brief update from the Research & Development branch of the USFS concerning the Native American research scholarship agreement, which should be signed this month. We hope to begin announcing the scholarship opportunity through our network by the fall.

Third, we talked about some recent publications that may be relevant to our community and had a brief round robin with those on the virtual call.

TRANSITIONAL CO-CHAIRS FOR IFMAT-IV

Lastly, Adrian and I have an announcement to make about the ITC Research Subcommittee. We will be leaving our positions as co-chairs of this subcommittee to serve as the transition co-chairs for IFMAT-IV.

Please let us know if any of you are

interested in filling in and leading this research subcommittee. We can provide you with more information. It is a great way to stay up to date on the latest research, help support students through our research scholarships and other opportunities, as well as stay connected to the ITC issues that support tribal forestry programs across the nation.

Serving the Research Subcommittee since 2015 has been a huge honor and I have learned so much from our ITC family over the years. I'm eager to begin working on IFMAT but I will continue to stay involved as a member of this subcommittee moving forward. Lastly, we missed seeing everyone for our symposium in Fairbanks but our next in-person gathering will be that much sweeter! Have a wonderful summer and wash your hands!

A NOTE FROM ADRIAN LEIGHTON

It has been a truly great honor to serve as an ITC Research subcommittee co-chair since its inception back in 2010. Serving alongside all of the dedicated members and fellow co-chairs Laurel James and Serra has been a wonderful learning experience and a chance to try to create better connectivity between tribes, Native students, academia, federal research agencies. I cannot wait to see what the sub-committee gets up to in the next decade, and I look forward to playing an active and supportive role as it moves forward.





INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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