



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

FALL ~ 2021



Jim Durglo

WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

There are two fire management workforce related initiatives that the ITC is involved with. The first is with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) on how we can understand and overcome potential barriers and inefficiencies in implementing the proposed increases in funding and programmatic offerings currently included in the infrastructure package, reconciliation, budget, and other legislative proposals. The second is with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Services (OTS), Workforce Planning and Development Office to gather human resources data for BIA direct service and tribal contracted programs. The BIA has been successful in gathering BIA workforce data but has identified data gaps when it comes to tribal program HR resources and needs.

WFLC

A task group from ITC developed a list of apparent barriers and inefficiencies that will be shared with the



Photo of CSKT Fuels Crew implementing underburning project on CSKT lands. CSKT Division of Fire.



Photo of CSKT Type 2 IA crew and Fuels Crew working on fuel break. CSKT Division of Fire, 2021.

Wildland Fire Leadership Council at their next meeting. The goal is to be able to recognize the barriers and inefficiencies and work toward better utilization of new resources. We also recognize that adding additional funding to programs does not solve the administrative inefficiencies and that it will take some time to ramp up programs to accommodate funding increases. We all hope that these proposed funding increases would become consistent. The lack of consistent funding and understaffing has been well documented (IFMAT I, II, III).

You may also recall that in April 2018, the ITC led the publication of a report titled "Improving Efficiency, Equity and Effectiveness

of Wildfire Impacts on Tribal Trust Resources", which identifies several challenges. That report is available on the ITC website. Also, in 2016, the ITC asked members of the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team, to investigate issues regarding the 2015 fire season. That report is titled "Wildfire on Indian Forests, A Trust Crisis," view at https://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/fire.html.

BIA OTS, WORKFORCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The BIA OTS, Workforce Planning Office will partner with the ITC and others to build a task group to

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President's Message

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

I hope this update finds you and your respective tribes in good health, as the covid-19 pandemic lingers on. Because of this our September board meeting was held virtually.

Darin Jarnaghan, Sr. recently accepted a new position. Darin has been a long-time contributor to the ITC, serving as a Board Member, Operations Committee Chair, and Vice President. We appreciate Darin's dedication and contributions to the ITC over his tenure and wish him the best in his new role. Phil Rigdon will return to a leadership role as the new Vice President. As many of you know Phil served as the president over 5 of the most productive years in the organization's history. We look forward to adding his experience and contributions to this role.

Despite the pandemic there are many opportunities on the horizon. Two of the most exciting are implementation of IFMAT IV site visits, and substantial funding increases for forestry and fire proposed by both Congress and the administration.

By now many tribes have hosted the IFMAT team. Those sites visits will continue through the fall and conclude in 2022. While there have been some cancelations due to COVID, the team remains diligent in visiting reservations where appropriate. This critical information gathered from these site visits will be compiled into the IFMAT IV report and presented to Congress in 2023.

As I mentioned above, there are several funding proposals working their way through Congress. Matt Hill's report will go into more detail. In general, there seems to be strong support for forestry and fire management, and opportunities for shared stewardship across boundaries. We recently completed a call with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council Executive Director, discussing what challenges tribes might face implementing projects with these funding increases in the short term. The ITC recognizes the workforce challenges in Indi-

an country, and continue to share that message with both DOI, and USDA. While there will be challenges, there is also opportunity to grow tribal programs to meet the Tribe's management goals and needs of their membership.

I am also happy to report that the Colville Tribe recently signed the second TFPA 638 contract. This was a funding mechanism that ITC worked on for many years and was ultimately included in the 2018 Farm Bill. I know a few other tribes have submitted TFPA proposals requesting 638 contracts to their adjacent national forests. We hope to see broad utilization of this tool to include tribal perspectives and priorities into land management activities on national forests.

Entering another year as the ITC President I would like to restate how honored I am to serve in this position. I am humbled every time we meet by the dedication and passion of the ITC staff, our federal partners, and tribal representatives that participate. To our member tribes and organizations, thank you for your continued support of the ITC and its mission.



Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

We are in a new era of the Inter-tribal Timber Council Symposium planning due to the pandemic and restrictions. Everything that the committee has developed thus far is still up in the air, one year later. Please take this situation at hand very seriously – Mask Up, Social Distance, and Get Vaccinated! I will report more when I know more after the December

Board meeting. Please bear with us, be safe, and God Bless! Qe'ci-yew'yew



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

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better capture Tribal fire management workforce data and concerns as well.

OTS in partnership with the Office of Personal Management is currently in the strategic organizational analysis and workforce planning phase in identifying and establishing a repeatable methodology for conducting organizational analysis and workforce activities for Forestry & Wildland Fire Management (FWFM) positions.

The BIA/ITC task group would establish guidelines and principles and create an action plan in capturing Tribal FWFM positions. The task group will be working on the following steps:

Organization Design Review: Assess whether the design of the organization supports efficient and effective mission execution

Workload Planning and Analysis: Identify and establish a methodology to conduct workforce analysis

Workforce Plan Development: Co-Management between ITC & BIA OTS WPDO to confirm the vision and a strategic direction. Develop a robust and repeatable workforce gathering analysis process.

Role and Responsibilities: Develop survey/questionnaire, staffing priorities & needs, and identify workforce concerns and identify processes for incorporating Tribal priorities.

This group will begin reaching out to Fire Management leadership over the next few months. It is very important that you participate and voice your concerns and needs. There is an opportunity for positive change for tribal fire management programs. For more information about this initiative, you can contact Nathan Lillie, BIA Natural Resource Specialist (Special Projects), Trust Strategic Recruitment and Workforce Planning Office at nathan.lillie@bia.gov.



Education Committee

by Nicole Stiffarm



Nicole Stiffarm

Happy fall, ITC family. I hope this new season finds you and yours doing well. The Education Committee is pleased to announce that the 2021 Native American Natural Resource Research Scholarship and the 2022 Truman D. Picard Scholarship are now open and accepting applications. Please share widely and encourage any eligible students to apply.

2021 NATIVE AMERICAN NATURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Native American Natural Resource Research Scholarship deadline is **November 30, 2021, 5:00 pm PT**. This scholarship is open to tribal graduate students who are conducting tribally relevant research projects.

2022 TRUMAN D. PICARD SCHOLARSHIP

The Truman D. Picard Scholarship deadline is **March 11, 2022, 5:00 pm PT**. This scholarship is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in natural resources.

FAQs: We have a “how-to” guide on our website to assist applicants with the Truman D. Picard Scholarship application process. Please see itcnet.org/about_us/scholarships.

html to make sure your application is complete.

This has been a challenging year; the ITC Education Committee wish you all continued good health as we move through this fall season and into the new year.



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2022 EARLE R. WILCOX AWARDS

In our part of the world here in interior Alaska things are feeling like winter is on its way, which serves as a reminder that for the ITC Awards Committee, it's time to start our process for soliciting nominations for the Earle R. Wilcox awards.

Once again, the Intertribal Timber Council will be accepting nominations for the Earle R. Wilcox Individual Achievement and National Forester of the Year awards. Our congratulations go out to the recipients of these awards this past year, recognized at the National Indian Timber Symposium that was hosted virtually this past May. The Wilcox awards are how ITC recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions to Tribal forestry. Good work is too easily taken for granted and deserves recognition, and it's important that we all step up to find and recognize those people whose contributions have had significant and positive impacts to our forestry programs. ITC is a forestry-centric organization with "Timber" in the name and there will always be an emphasis on individuals working directly in forest and fire management, but please keep in mind that people whose contributions come from the broader array

of natural resource disciplines are also eligible for the awards.

Greetings from Alaska. Submit your applications now for the 2022 Earle R. Wilcox Awards!

You may know somebody in your office or somebody that you interact with regularly that has made some sort of special contribution through their work in Tribal forestry, and you may be wondering how this person can be considered for an Earle R. Wilcox Award. The details of how to do this can be found on the ITC website or by calling the ITC office at 503-282-4296. A quick summary:

- The application requires filling out a form and getting two letters of support.
- The awards are focused on contributions to Tribal forestry programs at local to national levels. Other natural resource specialists whose work is significant and benefit tribal forests will be considered as well.
- You can email or mail the applications to ITC.
- Letters of support need to be on official letterhead when appropriate and possible.
- Candidates can be nominated for regional awards, or the national award based on the level of their contributions to Tribal efforts.
- If someone was nominated in the past but did not receive an award, they can be nominated again. Regional award recipients can be nominated again, but not within ten years of receipt of first or prior award. Past winners of the National Award cannot receive the award again.
- Please ensure that all information is filled out completely and accurately and all supporting documentation is included. Incomplete ap-

plications will not be considered.

Notifications of ITC's acceptance of Earl R. Wilcox award nominations will be mailed out later this Fall to ITC members and other interested parties. Applications can be prepared and submitted to ITC. The deadline is **January 28, 2022, 5:00 pm PT.**

In addition to finding deserving nominees for the awards, we are also always looking for interested folks to participate in the Awards Committee. Current work being done by the Committee includes working to ensure that award announcement documents, award criteria, and nomination scoring guidelines are consistently worded and appropriate, and of course there is always a brief period of significant effort required to review and evaluate submitted nominations later this winter. As always, I greatly appreciate the Committee's work on this. If you would like to get involved and are willing to participate in ITC Awards Committee meetings, let us know. The next meeting will be virtual and will be held during the week of the next ITC Board meeting scheduled December 6-10, 2021.





Matt Hill

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

New Forest Service Chief: In June, President Biden appointed Randy Moore to serve as the first African American to hold the role of Chief of the Forest Service, and the 20th Chief of the USFS.

Randy Moore served as Regional Forester in the Pacific Southwest Region in California since 2007 where he had responsibility for 18 national forests, covering one-fifth of the state on 20 million acres of land. Additionally, he oversees State and Private Forestry programs in Hawaii and the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands.

Previously, Moore served as the Regional Forester for the Eastern Region headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisc., for five years.

Moore started his career in conservation in 1978 with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in North Dakota. His Forest Service career began on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests in Colorado and the Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands in Kansas. He served as Deputy Forest Supervisor on the National Forests of North Carolina and the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri before serving as Forest Supervisor of the Mark Twain National Forest. Moore also has national-level experience in Washington,

D.C., serving as acting Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System and the National Deputy Soils Program Manager.

Moore earned a bachelor's degree in plant and soil science from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He and his wife Antoinette have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandsons.

DOI Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs: In early August, the U.S. Senate voice voted to approve the nomination of Bryan Newland to serve as Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior.

The Assistant Secretary is the Department's highest-ranking Senate-confirmed official in Indian Affairs and has the solemn responsibility of maintaining the United States' government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal Nations. Newland's nomination received letters of support from more than 40 Tribes and Tribal organizations.

USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources: In June, Dr. Homer Wilkes was nominated to serve as the USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources, overseeing the U.S. Forest Service. Wilkes has worked with USDA for more than 41 years. He currently serves as the Director of the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Division, where he has been integral to restoring the health of the Gulf Coast ecosystem after the BP Oil Spill of 2010. Dr. Wilkes holds his Bachelors, Master of Business Administration, and Ph.D. in Urban Conservation Planning and Higher Education from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

His nomination was reviewed in August by the Senate Agriculture Committee and must still be approved by the full Senate.

Other tribal nominations of note include:

Janie Hipp: Hipp, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate July 30 as general counsel for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hipp has more than three decades of legal experience, mostly in agriculture law. At her confirmation hearing in May, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., introduced Hipp as the first nominee in 20 years with such an expansive background in agricultural law.

Charles Sams: Sams, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, was nominated in August to oversee the National Park Service. His nomination is pending in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Jaime Pinkham: Pinkham, a member of Idaho's Nez Perce Tribe, was nominated as principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, yet another first-time non-traditional appointment to a federal position.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY "FIX" BILL INTRODUCED

Senator Risch (R-ID) and Rep. Fulcher (R-ID) have introduced the "Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act." The legislation will extend full partnership eligibility for the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) program – which facilitates federal forest restoration and management projects – to Tribes and Counties.

In the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress amended GNA to make Tribes and Counties eligible to enter into Good Neighbor Agreements. However, Tribes and Counties were not afforded the same authority as states to retain GNA project receipts to

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reinvest in conservation, reducing a significant incentive to partner on forest management projects.

Additionally, the 2018 Farm Bill removed the ability for restoration services to take place off of federal lands. This means adjacent state, tribal, county, and other land that is essential to the health and productivity of National Forests can no longer be restored as comprehensive landscapes.

The Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act provides Tribes and Counties with the ability to reinvest receipts in authorized restoration and enables all GNA partners to perform restoration not just on federal lands, but also on lands approved under the project's Good Neighbor Agreement.

Supporters of the bill include the Intertribal Timber Council, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of State Foresters, and the National Congress of American Indians.

CONGRESSIONAL "RECONCILIATION" PROCESS

Both chambers of Congress are working through a complex process of reconciling federal authorizations with budget assumptions in the recently passed budget resolution. This requires committees of jurisdiction to make "adjustments" to federal law and spending levels – outside of the normal appropriations process.

For example, the House Natural Resources Committee passed a reconciliation package that authorizes \$100 million in new funds (over 10 years) to implement the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (NIFRMA). The language reads:

"TRIBAL WILDFIRE PREVENTION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appro-

priated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2031, except that no amounts may be expended after September 30, 2031, for carrying out the National Indian Forest Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) for renewable and manageable resources, communications, economic and cultural benefits, and to protect Tribal forest lands from wildfire."

The committee also approved massive amounts of new spending on federal Indian programs, including Indian water rights, health facilities construction, road maintenance, etc.

The House Agriculture Committee forwarded a controversial measure that provides record amounts of funding for wildfire management, but also contains new restrictions on active management. For example, the bill provides \$10 billion for hazardous fuels removal—to projects only within the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

The bill includes a separate investment in hazardous fuels reduction outside the WUI—\$4 billion—that cannot be spent until the USDA Secretary determines that the WUI has been "effectively treated", and even then, not on commercial projects and only removing small diameter trees. Critics charge that limiting work to small diameter trees guarantees incomplete treatment, and risks creating a monoculture forest when wildlife needs a forest mosaic.

At the time of writing, congressional Democrats were still negotiating the scale and cost of the reconciliation package with moderate Senate Democrats, whose support is the lynchpin of passing the bill along party lines.

A DEAL ON INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

At the time of publication, the U.S. House of Representatives was set to vote on a final deal on a national infrastructure package. Among the significant investments in forest health and wildfire prevention are the following allocations that could benefit tribes:

- \$35.6M per year for 5 years for DOI to carry out hazardous fuels reduction projects. This includes \$2 million/year for 5 years under the Tribal Forest Protection Act.
- \$45M/year for 5 years for DOI Burned Area Rehabilitation projects.
- \$102.8M/year for 5 years for the Forest Service to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects, including \$8 million/year for Tribal Forest Protection Act projects, and \$12M/year for Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grants.
- \$3.3 billion for DOI/Forest Service funding for community wildfire defense grants, mechanical thinning, controlled burns, CFLRP and fire-fighting resources.
- \$400 million to states and tribes to carry out "voluntary ecosystem restoration projects" on public or private lands.
- \$200 million to state and tribes to carry out Good Neighbor or Tribal Forest Protection Act projects.
- New program directing USDA/DOI to establish a 5-year monitoring, maintenance, and treatment plan to reduce the risk of wildfire by conducting restoration treatments and improving the Fire Regime Condition Class of 10,000,000 acres of Federal land or Tribal Forest land or rangeland that is identified as having very high wildfire hazard potential.



BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Caleb Cain



Caleb Cain

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Timber Sales Operation Group (TSOG): As part of the effort to revise and combine the timber sale and permit handbooks into one handbook, the TSOG is currently revising the old handbook illustrations. The old illustrations will become online forms, forestry documents on the division's page at bia.gov, and handbook attachments. Several of the illustrations in the current handbooks have been identified as obsolete. Major revisions will occur to the Power of Attorney for Allotment Timber Sale, Scale Report, Report of Timber Cut, Statement of Completion, and Summary of Operations forms. All these forms are currently available as TAAMS reports which will be updated to correspond to the revised form versions.

Year End Reporting: Accurate reporting of accomplishments and program needs are vital to the Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management for reporting program metrics to Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Interior, to senior Indian Affairs leadership, and others. This data is used to justify our Forestry budget to the President, and factors into funding formulas for forestry project work. Please assist your Agencies and Regions in meeting their end of fiscal year reporting deadlines.

Competency Gap Analysis: Forestry has been working with Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on developing an occupational analysis and gap assessment questionnaire targeted specifically for forestry technicians GS-0462 non-fire role and their supervisors. OPM is working with agency subject-matter experts to systematically identify competency (or skill) gaps for workforce planning and development purposes. OPM's governmentwide competency models is customized to fit the 0460 and 0462 occupation series. These models will provide a framework for identifying gaps in the current workforce and projecting requirements for the future.

Funding and Position Analysis: The FY2019 Funding and Position Analysis (F&PA) data collection and quality control work concluded in June 2021. Thank you to all the BIA and tribal forestry and fire programs that participated! The FY2019 F&PA is the sixth survey of the Indian Forestry Program funding and staffing levels spanning the past 30 years. Currently, we are analyzing the data to benchmark the state of the program in FY2019 as well as evaluate national trends over time. A report will be developed to share these findings and to highlight the critical resources needed to provide high-quality forest management services to tribes.

Timber Team: The National Timber Team has conducted fieldwork for 13 tribes/agencies across 7 different states over the past six months. This fieldwork included remeasuring 115 Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plots across three reservations (Rosebud, Omaha, and Winnebago) in South Dakota and Nebraska, completing 180 stand exams on two tribal trust lands (Ho Chunk and Potawatomi) in Wisconsin, cruising over 8,000 acres



Timber Team staff reviewing cruise data for a salvage sale layout on the Uintah & Ouray Reservation.

of mixed conifer/hardwood stands across seven different reservations (Rosebud, Bad River, Uintah-Ouray, Jicarilla, Northern Picuris Pueblos, Northern Cheyenne, Crow, and Fort Belknap), and preparing 3,300 acres of timber sale cutting units totaling approximately 37 MMBF of merchantable volume.

The Timber Team is currently assisting with a large-scale GIS forest cover-type mapping project for the Metlakatla Indian Community of Alaska. In October through December, the Timber Team has timber sale preparation and cruising work trips planned for the Flathead Reservation in Montana and the Colville Reservation in Washington. All travel is dependent on COVID restrictions, and Regional, Agency, and Tribal agreement that work can be done at the work site.

Pacific Regional Forester, Gerald Jones Retirement: Gerald Jones retired at the end of August as the Pacific Regional Forester after 20 years of service at the Pacific Regional Office, following a forestry career going back to 1986. While at Pacific Region, Gerald held several positions including the Southern California Agency Fire Management Officer from 1999-2001, Pacific Regional Assistant Fire Management Officer, Acting Regional Forester,

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Caleb Cain

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and Regional Forester. Gerald also worked for the Lassen National Forest and Mark Twain National Forest prior to coming to BIA. We thank Gerald for his work ethic, determination, and for his care and patience with respect to mentoring and teaching BIA and Tribal employees.

BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

The BOFRP staff is actively working on and supporting 58 forest inventory projects. If you have questions or are looking for a status update for your forest inventory, requests can be sent to dawn.patterson@bia.gov.

National Forest Library: Scanning of the library documents housed in Lakewood, Colorado has been completed and the National Forestry Library database has been quality controlled. The archived files scanning project is 35% complete.

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT (BWFM)

“Through continuous communication, requests, and the support of the regional office, we’ve been able to build a more efficient and reliable Fuels Program. The success of our Menominee Fuels program would not be possible without the active partner participation the Midwest Regional Office brings. I would like to thank Marty Cassellius at the Midwest Regional Office for the amazing support and buy in to the Fuels Program goals here at Menominee. Without the support of him and obviously the National Office our program would not have made the progress it has achieved.” Curtis Wayka.

Fuels Management Program: Fiscal Year 2021 has been laced with



Menominee staff gather around their new mechanical equipment that will help with completing more fuels management projects this year.

both positive and negative program challenges. Multiple issues have contributed to these challenges including COVID-19, as well as an early and extended wildfire season that has drawn field level staff away from normal duties. A noted concern is the movement of moderate-risk acres to high-risk acres. We must continue to adapt our thoughts, within Indian Country, concerning acres at risk and investment strategies to quickly combat changing climate conditions in an effort to decrease the risks of both fire and ecological health issues to our natural resources.

Active Management activities supported restoration and maintenance of healthy forests, woodlands and rangelands; Forestry, Fuels, and Post Wildfire Recovery investments can return a range of 2 to 30 times the cost of suppression in the form of Avoided Costs (a loss not yet incurred i.e. soil erosion, water quality). Prevention, or the reduction of human fires, investments can return up to 35 times the dollar investment through Avoided Cost of suppression and resource loss.

FY21 Indian Country achievements to date include:

- Fuels treated 122,774 acres 67% of planned target.

- Fuels FY21 allocation \$49.6M, obligated \$43.9 (88%) with potential Carryover of \$5.6M (12%).
- Workforce Initiative: \$3.85 total \$3.5M to Tribes; \$385K to BIA.
- Preliminary Program of Work (PPOW) is in the final process of completion.
- Office of Wildland Fire is “clawing back” carryover from FY12-17, this will have minimal impact to us.
- FTEM reporting continues to be an Indian Country strength.

Wildfire Prevention: Regional WUI/Prevention Specialists working with Tribes and Agencies to complete migration of existing wildfire prevention plans into the Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment Planning Strategies software application are on track to meet the January 1, 2022, deadline.

90 IAM 6 Wildfire Investigation revision has received comments back from the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action and is in the process of reviewing and revising for final approval.

Prevention staff is currently working with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) classifiers to

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Caleb Cain

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complete the development Bureau Standardized Position Descriptions (SPD's) for the prevention program. A total of are 5 SPD's are pending approval.

This season, a total of three Fire Prevention and Education Teams have been mobilized across Indian Country. Teams were placed within the Northwest Region at the Colville Tribe; the Rocky Mountain Region with the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Agencies; and Great Plains Region at the Rosebud and Turtle Mountain Agencies.

Post Wildfire Recovery (PWR)

Program: The PWR Program has experienced substantial activity this season, with Western, Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions having the heaviest need for Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) resources. To date, ten BAER plans have been approved and nearly \$2 million in emergency stabilization funding has been authorized. Five additional plans are currently being finalized. This fire season alone, over 200,000 trust acres have been affected and would

benefit from post-wildfire recovery project assistance.

The PWR program allocated \$4.625 million in FY2021 for Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) projects such as cultural planting, reforestation, and noxious weed treatments on 11 reservations. Already the need for FY2022 BAR funding stands at \$6.7 million and is expected to rise with final submission of pending 2021 BAER plans

Training: BWFM Training has just recently hired a new Training Specialist, whose focus will be on BIA and Tribal training development programs with regards to fire recruitment measures. This position will reside at the National Inter-agency Forestry Center but will be dedicated to assisting with instruction, coordination, management and presentations regarding new and renewed branch level training/recruitment and retention programs. These programs will include The Wildland Fire Apprentice Academy, Pathways and the College to Careers Internship programs, the BIA Fire Mentoring Academy, and the possible invention of both a nationwide Detailer Program and Fire

Management Officer "boot camp" style program. This position will work closely with our interagency partners and our national level workforce development team.

It is also important to note that while we have done an excellent job of working around travel restrictions and have produced some fantastic blended and online courses, the nature of our duties does not allow for all training to be conducive to virtual platforms. We are expecting new direction to be given from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board, to guide the Department of Interior and US Forestry Services bureaus in reconsidering training as mission critical services, ultimately allowing individuals to begin travelling for in-person hands-on training programs.

Our goal is to gather national, regional, and tribal support to allow our personnel the best training avenues possible. More information to be provided as the guidance suggestions progresses through the various channels of authorization.



Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Operations committee met virtually on September 15, 2021. With Darin Jarnaghan, Sr. moving on to a new position we currently have a vacant Operations Committee Chair seat. There was discussion, but a replacement has not been appointed yet. This is a critical position within ITC, and we must appoint a replacement at the December board meeting.

FIRE/FUELS APPROPRIATIONS

Proposed budget increases in both fire and fuels for fiscal year 2023 prompted much discussion in the Fire subcommittee. That discussion carried over into Operations, where there was further discussion about allocation, administrative capacity in BIA to move increased funding in a timely manner, and the ability of tribes to ramp up staffing

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Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel

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and accomplishments to utilize this additional funding. This discussion will continue over the next few meetings as we gain more clarity on these increases. Preparation and consultation will be important to ensure tribes can take advantage of these much-needed funding increases if they are approved in the FY 2023 budget. ITC will continue to engage in these discussions and share updates through the board meetings and quarterly updates.

IFMAT IV

The IFMAT IV team started making field visits this summer, and that work will continue through the fall and into 2022. ITC would like to thank the tribes that hosted field visits to date and encourage those on the schedule to reach out to either ITC or Vinny Corrao if they have any questions or concerns. We understand that COVID has created unique challenges not encountered in past IFMAT's. ITC and the IFMAT team also understand how critical protecting the public health of each respective tribe is. The information gathered to date demonstrates that many of the long-standing issues identified in past IFMAT reports persist today. Understanding the scope and scale of those issues, and accurately reporting that information to Congress will be enhanced with your participation.

INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT (ITARA)

Progress continues with the implementation of ITARA. The Coquille Tribe is implementing their first timber sale under their approved Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP). ITC has tracked this issue throughout the development and passage of the legislation, and implementation

of the authority. We will continue to monitor the two approved ITAMP's, and answer questions for tribes interested in submitting application to the BIA.

FIREWOOD MARKETING

ITC began this discussion about a year ago and has carried the agenda over the past year. A few tribes have firewood as one of their current forest products, but small quantities sometimes limit available markets. We are exploring how firewood could be expanded as a forest product to other tribes, and how tribes could potentially combine firewood production to take advantage available markets. There are also questions about where wood might be processed, stored, and how deliveries to potential markets would be managed. This discussion will continue at the next Operations meeting, and any finding will be reported in an upcoming newsletter.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In the past two years the Operations committee has annually revisited the strategic plan. That review took place again this year. The committee determined the goals and objectives in the 2018 strategic plan are still valid. We are making progress on most objectives but have limited accomplishments on the workforce goal. The ITC Workforce Development strategic plan goes into additional detail. Until we find funding to hire the workforce development coordinator position, we will likely struggle to accomplish the goals we laid out in both strategic plans. Goal 1 in the strategic plan is Communication. Please let us know your thoughts on ITC's efforts to get information to our member tribes, and Indian Country. We feel that we have been successful but want

to know if there are opportunities to improve.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

An informational webinar was hosted by the USFS and FSA on Thursday, Sept 9, 2021, for the PATHH (Pandemic Assistance for Timber Haulers & Harvesters). The deadline for application is October 15, 2021. Information was shared for both the webinar and application deadline. Hopefully loggers and truckers in Indian country take advantage of this program.

ITC will also be developing a priority list with the USFS Office of Tribal Relations. That meeting is scheduled in the coming weeks. If you have thoughts about these priorities, please contact us with your comments.

In closing I would like to congratulate Darin Jarnaghan on his new position and thank him for all his contributions to the Operations Committee. The next meeting will be held virtually on December 8, 2021. I hope to see everyone there.



Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic



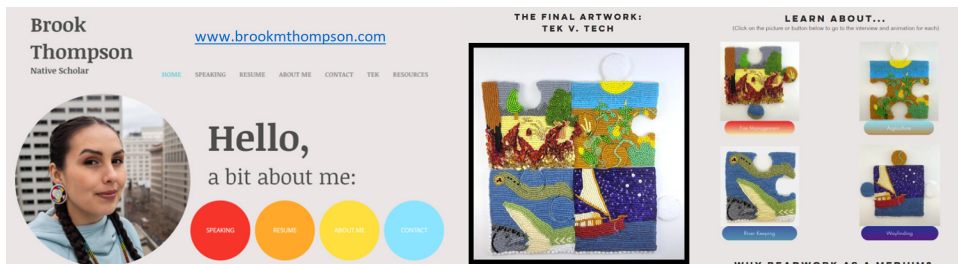
Don Motanic

A STUDENT'S INDIGITIZED TEK & TECH RESEARCH

Brook Thompson (Yurok) is a Stanford graduate student working on her M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering. I participated in her YouTube presentation on June 10, 2021, about her traditional knowledge and STEM research connections. I have known Brook through AISES since she was a freshman at Portland State University where she graduated with a Civil Engineering degree.

The YouTube presentation introduces her research that highlights fire, water, agriculture, and way-finding. She discovered wayfinding, a Māori navigation tradition, during her research in New Zealand. Brook uses her beadwork to describe a four directions puzzle in the video and her website. She combines indigenous knowledge with beadwork and a digital format to create an Indigitized TEK & TECH research project. Brook's mentor for the fire section has been Margo Robbins from the Cultural Fire Management Council.

Partial Transcript from the Fire Audio: My name is Margo Robbins, I am the co-founder and executive director of the Cultural Fire Management Council. I am also a co-lead of the Indigenous peoples burn network. I am a Yurok tribal member from the traditional village of



Moreck, along the lower Klamath River. I am a cultural practitioner, a mom, and a grandma. Traditional ecological knowledge is part of who we are as native people. For thousands of years, our ancestors have tended this land that we live on, and one of the ways that we do that is with fire. The knowledge of our ancestors is written in our DNA. I'm sure many of you have heard about epigenetics. It is a new, semi-new, discovery by scientists that on our DNA is another layer that they talk about holding our trauma, and that's true. But in addition to holding the trauma, it also holds all the memories of all the good things, and all of the knowledge of the generation, generations that have gone on before us. And so this knowledge of how to take care of the land comes down through our bloodlines, we have never left our home place. We are intimately familiar with the lay of the land, the plants and animals that grow here, the flow of the water, the wetter weather patterns, the wind patterns - what the land needs to be healthy - and the water.

Brook's YouTube Video describing her research and beadwork puzzle: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWX-mc4tVmQg

Brook also provides a YouTube Scholarship Workshop with her website that includes her story where she has attended school "basically free." In the workshop she provides how to not only apply for scholarships, but how to keep up



left: Tech (from website digital video)
right: TEK (beadwork)

with deadlines, recommendation letters, and learned how to not get overwhelmed by the process. On her website, she provides a scholarship tracking sheet to help track scholarships due dates and help prioritize applications. The "About me cheat sheet" is a word document that students can fill out as a reference when applying to scholarships or colleges. It should be a master list of volunteer opportunities, jobs, their respective dates and hours, awards, classes, and test scores. The cheat sheet can be used to copy and paste readily asked for information so that fatigue can be minimized. If you would like her to do give a workshop to a group or class on applying for scholarships/ colleges, please click on the "Contact" tab and fill out the form. She needs at least three weeks' notice ahead of time. She includes a list with various websites that offer STEM related scholarships that includes the ITC's website.

Brook's Scholarship Workshop: www.brookmthompson.com/scholarship





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