



INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Summer ~ 2022



Howard Teasley, Jr.

2022 ITC SYMPOSIUM CONCLUDES

We celebrated the 45th year of the National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) and Tanana Chiefs Conference, held May 16-19, 2022, at the Wedgewood Resort in Fairbanks, AK. The theme for this year's symposium was **"Connecting Tribe and Land Management."**

Sunday-Monday, May 15-16: We offered three pre-symposium workshops. The first workshop "Upper Tanana River Valley Forestry Tour" had 25 individuals attend. The second workshop "Wildland Fire Update" had 26 participants. The third workshop "Emerging Technology" had 21 in attendance. Fees for the optional pre-symposium workshop will directly fund ITC's Truman D. Picard Scholarship, dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources. Thank you for your attendance. If you individuals also have ideas for future



Photo of 2021-2022 ITC Board of Directors
from L to R. Front Row: James "Bing" Matt, Tim Miller, Victoria Wesley, Robin Harkins, Quintin Ellenwood, Cody Desautel. Back Row: Phil Rigdon, Will Putman, Jeffery Lindsey

pre-symposium workshops, please contact us. The Host Icebreaker was held after the events of the day at the Wedgewood: Auto Museum which was well attended.

Tuesday, May 17: The Opening Ceremony, started with an Invocation by Florence Newman of the Artic Village, followed by a performance by the Posting of Colors by the Alaska Native Veterans Association. The Keynote was given by Al Ketzler, Sr., Elder Native Leader who discussed "A Retrospective of Tribal Advocacy and Alaska Native Lands Rights" and followed by Featured Guest Speaker Fawn Sharp, NCAI President / VP Quinault Indian Nation. After the morning we viewed a presentation on "Tribal Forestry Challenges, Opportunities, and Partnership: Interviews for Tribal Forestry Workforce Development, then heard from our first panel "Central Office

Timber Team, " followed by the second panel "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Funding Opportunities in Forestry and Wildland Fire" and ended with the "Tanana Chiefs Conference Host Presentation." We also spent time at the Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds where our hosts treated us to traditional native foods and entertainment including music and dancing.

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President's Message

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

It was great to see everyone at the symposium in Fairbanks! We understand the logistics and travel were a challenge for some and appreciate everyone that attended. I want to thank Tanana Chiefs Conference, Will Putman (and his staff), the Symposium Committee, Laura Alvidrez, and Monica Rushworth for planning and implementing an amazing symposium agenda and tour. It's been a few years and I forgot how much work goes on behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smooth. A symposium in Alaska was long overdue to give us the information and perspectives needed to accurately represent Alaska tribes on the national issues.

I also want to recognize Will Putman for all his contributions to ITC over the years. His insights and guidance on unique Alaska issues have always been extremely valuable to the board. I can recall many occasions where Will would ask "what about Alaska," which typically prompted a long, quite pause from the board. Both Alaska tribes and the ITC are better represented because of your advocacy. Your retirement is well deserved, and we wish you the best.

This report will primarily cover items from our virtual April board meeting.

As those of you that attended the symposium heard, roll out of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) has started. In past newsletters we have shared updates about funding and opportunity that comes with this piece of legislation. I would encourage you to explore and take advantage of the variety of funding allocations in Ecosystem Restoration (Sec 40804), Wildfire Risk Reduction (Sec 40803), and Non-Federal Land Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects and Research (Sec 11002). In addition to the ecosystem and fire management components of the Act, the IIJA includes funding for broadband, drought resiliency, fish passage and habitat restoration, irrigation, and transportation. The funding is intended to be allocated over the next 5, so we have a significant amount of work and opportunity in front of us. ITC will continue to share specific information as we receive it from the funding agencies.

On March 8, 2022, I testified on a panel before the full House Committee on Natural Resources on "Examining the History of Federal Lands and the Development of Tribal Co-Management." On the 2nd panel with me were Assistant Professor Doug Kiel (Northwestern University), CRITFC Executive Director Aja DeCoteau, and former Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn. We stressed the importance of inclusion in both the setting of priorities and the decision-making process. We also stressed the expertise and experience tribes can offer to co-managers. While there was

some discussion unrelated to the content of the hearing, there was good dialogue with the committee. As always, we thank the committee for the opportunity to participate on behalf of tribes and look forward to future opportunities to continue this conversation at the committee or department level.

On May 20 Forest Service Chief Randy Moore announced a 90 day pause from prescribed fire to reassess the while they conduct of review of protocols, decision support tools and practices prior to the fall. The statement noted that 99.84 percent of all prescribed burns are completed according to plan. The statement also recognized that prescribed fire is an important tool to restoring forest conditions and reducing the threat of extreme wildfires. While it is unfortunate when a prescribed escapes and becomes a wildfire, it is important to recognize this is a rare occurrence. In addition, we should recognize that the 99.84 percent of successful burns accomplish many of the goals and objectives we are striving for. However, the use of this tool is largely dependent on public confidence that we can accomplish the goals we strive for while limiting the risk to public safety and infrastructure.

We completed the last listening session on the TFPA 638 authority on June 15. Through the listening sessions we answered many questions from both tribal and forest service staff. We hope this provides the background, or at a minimum starts the dialogue that leads to TFPA proposals in the future. We look forward to continued engagement on this authority and stand ready to assist wherever ITC can be of assistance.

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

(Continued from cover)



Photo of the Pre-Symposium Workshop 1: Upper Tanana River Valley Forestry Tour



Photo of the Tanana Chiefs Tribal Tour during the Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility stop

Wednesday, May 18: The Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Tour was memorable and nothing like we have ever seen in the lower 48 states. The most exciting stop was the Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility learning about the natural phenomenon that underlies most of Alaska and the challenges it presents. Lunch was provided at Pioneer Park where attendees had individual pizza cooked in a wood fire oven. It was a very enjoyable tour. The day ended with a General Membership Meeting at the Wedgewood.

Thursday, May 19: The day's activities started with the President's Report, then updates from the DOI Office of Wildland Fire, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Legislative, and U.S. Forest Service Office of Tribal Re-

lations. Immediately following the updates, the three workshops got underway simultaneously: Workshop 1: Reserved Treaty Rights Land 3.0, Workshop 2: Woody Biomass Energy Development, and Workshop 3: Climate Change and Fire Effects of Indigenous Lifeways.

2022 ITC Board Elections: After the workshops concluded, the Annual Business Meeting of Member Tribes was held. We did not have a quorum of member tribes present for the ITC Board of Directors Elections. There were (6) tribes with terms expiring in 2022. Online voting for the 2022-2024 ITC Board of Directors positions closed on July 7, 2022, at 5:00 pm. Confederated Tribes of Colville, Coquille Indian Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Nez

Perce Tribe, and Yakama Nation will retain their positions on the board. The position vacated by the San Carlos Apache Tribe will be filled by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Other tribes elected 2021-2023 are Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Quinault Indian Nation, and Tanana Chiefs Conference. There were 26 of 55 delegates who participated in the 2022 online election.

Total Attendees: 168 attendees including 45 General or Associate Members, 31 Speakers, 21 Government Employees, 45 All Others, 5 Students, 5 Board Members, 8 Staff, 2 Symposium Committee, and 6 Exhibitors. Thank you to everyone that participated. The Final Proceedings will be mailed to the 2022 Symposium participants later this summer.

General Membership: is offered to tribes for \$250 annually and Associate Membership is offered to individuals and other organizations for \$25 annually. Membership applications can be found on our website http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/.

Next year, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will be hosting the symposium in Walker, MN. We hope you can join us!

A special thank you to the Intertribal Timber Council staff. Great work team! I would like to recognize Monica Rushworth, ITC Program Coordinator, for taking the time to help me with her kind words and retrospect on the symposium this year. I am very appreciative and thank you! Everyone take care and god bless. Qe'ciyew'yew



President's Message

by Cody Desautel

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left, Photo of the Colville Reservation, 144,000 acres burned in 2021.
right, Photo of the Colville Reservation, comparison in 2022.

In closing I want to share a few photos from here on the Colville Reservation. As I noted in my last report, we burned another 144,000 acres in 2021. As tribal people we understand the importance of fire, but sometimes it is helpful to see the resilience of nature and its ability to recover after a fire.



Legislative Update

Matt Hill



Matt Hill

USDA LETS TRIBES INTO FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Forest Service's Landscape Scale Restoration program is a competitive grant program that promotes collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and furthers priorities identified in State Forest Action plans or equivalent restoration strategy. Funding is aimed at projects that

cross multiple jurisdictions, including tribal, state and local government, and private forest land, to address large-scale issues such as wildfire risk reduction, watershed protection and restoration, and the spread of invasive species, insect infestation and disease.

Despite its intent to include tribal lands, the 2018 Farm Bill authorizing the program inadvertently blocked funding from going to Indian trust lands. The ITC repeatedly raised this issue with the Forest Service, arguing that Congress clearly meant to include tribes. At issue is that only "non-industrial private forest land" is eligible for the Landscape Scale Restoration program.

Recently, however, USDA-Forest Service reconsidered its interpretation and concluded that Indian trust lands are included within the definition of non-industrial private

forest land and that projects on Indian trust lands are eligible for the Landscape Scale Restoration program. Indian trust lands held both by Indian tribes and by individual Indians are eligible for participation in the Landscape Scale Restoration program if they are otherwise eligible.

The Forest Service is working to incorporate the eligibility of Indian trust lands into the final Forest Service Manual 3800, which implements the Landscape Scale Restoration program, and the Fiscal Year 2023 Request for Proposals. Recognizing the importance of tribal forest land, the Forest Service will also issue a unique Request for Proposals seeking proposals from federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to restore priority forest landscapes on tribal land.

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Legislative Update

Matt Hill

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ITC SUBMITS TEK COMMENTS

The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy and Council on Environmental Quality is initiating new federal guidance on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (“ITEK”). In response to a request for comments from Indian Country, the ITC submitted written comments that assert

that 1) tribes can braid western science and traditional ecological knowledge together to guide management decisions and actions; 2) ITEK consultation be integrated into the regulations, plans, and projects involved in land management processes; and 3) that Federal land managers should be encouraged to collaborate with local tribes to implement ITEK practices in a manner that is appropriate with

today's changed landscape and climatic conditions.

The ITC will continue to work with relevant federal agencies to encourage them to harness the power of TEK in our national forest and fire management strategies.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

Large wildfire response from Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams are moving toward a Complex Incident Management Team system. This transition is partially due to a lack of qualified workforce to handle an ever-growing need for Incident Management Team (IMT) participation across the nation.

NWCG Tasking Memo 22-001 supplies some background information:

In June of 2018 the Fire Management Board (FMB), National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC), and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) jointly chartered the Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) to provide national leadership to enable long-term development and sustainability of a national inter-agency incident workforce.

On February 19, 2021, NWCG along with the other IWDG parent bodies expressed collective, interagency fire leadership support for the IWDG and the recommendation to explore CIM as the new business model for wildland fire IMTs. IWDG was to provide a CIM action plan outlining:

- The specific components of the system and structure supporting IMTs that will need to be adapted or realigned to this new model.
- Initial timelines for implementation, including recommended piloting of individual IMTs and/or Geographic Areas.
- Draft taskings to the groups, committees, and partners responsible with oversight of the system components, as needed.

In January 2022, the Fire Executive Council (FEC) issued a Memorandum in Support for the Complex Incident Management Action Plan to the FMB, NMAC, and NWCG. The FEC memo tasks these three entities with implementation of the IWDG Complex Incident Management Team Action Plan for Implementation.

CIMT's will help participation and increase capacity for the nation's



Photo of Boulder 2700 Fire in 2021

wildland fire response. The desired end state of Complex Incident Management is to establish minimum qualification and training standards for Command & General Staff positions managing complex incidents.

The intent is not to require all personnel to meet the current Type 1 qualification. To meet this intent, and as part of the phased approach, current Type 1 qualified Command and General staff will be accepted as meeting the minimum requirement of complex incidents. Individuals qualified at the Type 2 Command and General Staff level may be assessed for CIM level competency in accordance with a transition plan that will be developed by NWCG's Incident and Po-

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Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

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sition Standards Committee (IPSC) for the 2022 season, as well as long-term implementation. In addition, NMAC should start planning efforts to support implementation of a national CIMT rotation process as early as 2023.

The Rocky Mountain Geographic Area's (RMA) Incident Management Teams will implement the fire year 2022 CIM pilot. Other geographic areas may choose to take part in the fire year 2022 pilot effort using the IPSC transition plan. The IPSC will lead alignment of the standards for qualifications, position typing, and training to support CIM C&G personnel.

The transition plan may be implemented by those individuals wanting to take part in the pilot and transition to CIM Command and General Staff (C&G) positions:

- Incident Commander Complex
- Safety Officer Complex
- Public Information Officer Complex
- Operations Section Chief Complex
- Planning Section Chief Complex
- Logistics Section Chief Complex
- Finance/Administration Section Chief Complex

The transition plan is valid through December 31, 2022. In January 2023, a nationwide and system-wide transition plan will be issued for the full implementation phase of CIM culminating in April 2024. The January 2023 transition plan will include incident position descriptions, position task books, and position qualifications requirements for the Complex C&G positions. During this pilot phase, Type 1 and Type 2 qualifications will remain active. Added direction

on the future of Type 1 and Type 2 qualifications will be given during the next phase of transition.

Listing of committed CIMT's is now included in the daily National Interagency Coordination Center Incident Management Situation Report and there has already been CIMT mobilized from the RMA as pilots this fire year.

The Rocky Mountain Coordination Center lists their respective CIMT's. So, if you're ordering an incident management team from the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area you will get a CIMT and not your typical Type 1 or Type 2 IMT.

Please forgive the use or overuse of acronyms in this article and stay tuned for more to come as the transition continues to CIM over the next couple of years.

BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland



Peter Wakeland

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Communication: If there is anything that you would like to discuss with the Chief Forester, please feel free to call at 720-237-1800, or send an email or video call invite to peter.wakeland@bia.gov.

Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA): One more Tribe is in the final stage of review and approval for their participation in the Demonstration Project. If approved to participate, the Tribe must then develop and submit an Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP) for forest land management activities on tribal forest lands held in trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the Tribe. The Tribe may also submit for Secretary approval, Tribal Forestry Regulations as part of their ITAMP, which would streamline the process for managing tribal trust forests by allowing the Tribe certain approval authorities currently held by the Secretary. To be considered for approval by the Secretary, the ITAMP must in-

clude certain elements identified in ITARA. Interested, eligible Tribes can still apply to participate in the Demonstration Project. For more information, please contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester; peter.wakeland@bia.gov.

Budget / Funding for Forestry Projects: The final distributions of funding to the Regional Offices and the Office of Self Governance have been completed. NOW is the time to develop proposals at the tribal level for FY 2023. We are aware there is work that needs to be accomplished out there. If you have questions about any of your projects or how to develop them, please contact your Regional Forester; or Caleb Cain, Projects For-

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland

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ester; caleb.cain@bia.gov; or Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester; pete.wakeland@bia.gov.

Funding for Portable Infrastructure Projects: The FY 2022 Forestry Projects Appropriation included funding for Portable Infrastructure (PI) projects. A PI funding announcement was sent out on June 8, 2022, which included the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Activity two Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) announcement. Project proposals for GNA should be sent directly to the Central Office BLM. Their contact is Wade Salverson, wsalvers@blm.gov. Examples of appropriate PI proposals would be the purchase of a portable mill, firewood processor, woodchipper, hammer mill used in conjunction with a pellet mill, other equipment needed to support the proposed project, and any necessary or beneficial training. PI proposals should be requested for \$250,000 or less. For more information, please contact Pete Wakeland at peter.wakeland@bia.gov, or Orvie Danzuka, Timber Sales Forester at orvie.danzuka@bia.gov.

Infrastructure Bill: BIA Forestry received Ecosystem restoration funding for FY2022 and will be coordinating with Tribes to get projects funded. The deadline for FY2023 project proposals has not yet been determined, but Tribes are encouraged to develop and submit proposals as soon as possible. Projects related to climate, revegetation/reforestation, habitat restoration, fuels and wildland fire risk reduction, healthy forests, biomass utilization, and cross-boundary data gathering projects are examples of projects that may be eligible for funding.



left: Photo of Cow Creek Portable Sawmill Processing Fire Salvage Logs.

right: Photo of Turtle Mountain Portable Sawmill Processing Aspen Logs.

We strongly encourage Tribes to read the bill and be creative in producing ideas / projects for funding. BIA Forestry staff is available for any questions or technical assistance, and we can share what was developed internally by for FY2022.

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 has been updating the contract and permit forms and have made revisions that will require a new release of the 53 IAM Chapter 3 Harvest of Forest Products Manual. Revised contract and permit forms and a revised Manual should be released by December of this year. The handbook draft is almost complete and most of the work to update the old illustrations is complete.

TAAMS Updates: An Advanced TAAMS Forestry course is scheduled for August 23-26, 2022, in Dallas, TX. Course sign up can be completed in DOI Talent.

Year End Reporting: Accurate reporting of accomplishments and

Forestry

TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Wood Product samples

The Tribe is producing and filling small batches of lumber

Turtle Mountain Portable Sawmill Investment Update

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Forestry program has made remarkable progress with the setup of a new Wood-Mizer LT50 production-model band saw mill, Wood-Mizer edger (that trims both sides of the cut boards), and MP-260 Planer-Model funded with BIA forestry funds as part of a portable sawmill and infrastructure initiative featured in the July 2021 issue of this newsletter.

Ice Fishing shack under construction for sale

Tribal DNR has been utilizing over-aged aspen timber that was formerly only used for firewood or left to rot in piles to produce rough-cut lumber for outhouses along trails, raised garden beds, benches and picnic table for the TMBCI Senior's Center, a park check-in entrance station, and partitions for the tribal office.

They have also been producing and filling orders for small batches of lumber and have been building and selling ice fishing shacks. The TMBCI are looking to expand operations, seeking the addition of a wood kiln, and considering purchasing wood from other Reservations.

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.

Funding and Position Analysis: The FY2019 Funding and Position Analysis is the sixth survey of the Indian Forestry Program funding and staffing levels spanning the past 30 years. The BIA Summary of Findings Report has been developed and is currently in review. The report evaluates the state of the program in FY2019 and examines national trends over time. Once finalized, the report will be used to share these findings and to highlight the critical resources needed to provide high-quality forest management services to tribes.

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland

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Timber Team: This past spring, the Timber Team marked approximately three hundred acres of internal timber sale cutting units for the Umatilla Reservation located just east of Pendleton, OR. The team also completed a total of 164 continuous forest inventory (CFI) plots across the Cheyenne River, Lake Traverse, and Standing Rock Reservations of South and North Dakota. The team also continues to work on a large-scale GIS forest cover-type mapping project for the Metlakatla Indian Community of Alaska when not conducting field work.

In May, members of the Timber Team attended the 45th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council and the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, AK. The team presented to attendees of the symposium on Timber Team accomplishments as well as advertised our expertise to tribes and agencies that may need assistance in the future with forest resource management.

The Timber Team would also like to welcome our BIA Pathways program interns for the 2022 summer field season. Dawson Garrett is a returning intern from the previous 2021 season and is a Cherokee Tribal member from Oklahoma. He is currently enrolled in Oklahoma State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Forest Resource Management. Zena Greenawald is joining the Timber Team for the first time, and she is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. She is currently enrolled in Oregon State University and pursuing a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with a focus in Policy and Management. Additionally, to her studies, Zena is a student worker as a College of Forestry Ambas-

FY 2021 Accomplishment Data						
Region	Reforestation Planted Acres	Stand Improvement Thinned Acres	Timber Volume Offered (MBM)	Timber Volume Sold (MBM)	Timber Harvested Volume (MBM)	Timber Harvested Value (\$)
Alaska	-	13	9,325	-	-	-
Eastern	80	160	-	-	9,139	671,286
Eastern OK	21	680	455	455	455	23,928
Great Plains	100	70	90	-	90	29,250
Midwest	315	3,053	53,350	50,045	68,748	5,261,946
Navajo	-	-	35,210	32,859	32,859	104,649
Northwest	12,243	16,020	343,911	308,035	262,388	71,047,252
Pacific	-	264	5,558	5,558	4,802	1,501,226
Rocky Mt.	351	308	423	423	423	10,000
Southern Plains	-	-	121	121	121	21,154
Southwest	140	1,550	7,808	7,808	541	23,664
Western	175	1,834	41,567	14,317	15,860	1,162,881
National Totals	13,425	23,952	497,818	419,621	395,426	79,857,236

sador and Student Peer Facilitator at the Native American Longhouse Eena Haws. Welcome to the Timber Team, Dawson, and Zena!

We are seeking proposals for FY23 and federal/tribal staff that would like to work with the Timber Team on any assignment this year. Talk to your Regional Forester if you would like to join the team for any of the planned trips, we have scheduled this year. It would be a wonderful way to gain additional experience and it will also help us since we are short staff at this time.

Forest Health: The BIA Department of Forestry is working with the US Forest Service to distribute approved requests to Central Office. Central Office will make funding available as soon as accounts have been set up. There are four tribes within BIA that have been approved and project totals are \$263,721.00. Examples of forest health projects include insect and disease infestations, mistletoe, blister rust, oak wilt, sudden oak death, etc. The project requests are usually due to the Forest Service around the first week of October, so

plan accordingly. For more information, please contact Orvie Danzuka, Timber Sales Forester at orvie.danzuka@bia.gov.

BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

BOFRP Projects: The BOFRP team is actively working on nine forest inventory projects and is busy preparing the CFI materials for three CFI projects this year. The team is also cleaning and processing six projects that were returned to BOFRP after the tribe had completed their data collection. In addition, the team is also providing support on forty projects currently at the Region, Agency, and Tribe in collecting data, writing their FIA, or cleaning up data to return to BOFRP. If you have questions or are looking for a status update for your forest inventory, please visit the BOFRP Planning Tool on teams or send a request to Dawn.Patterson@bia.gov to be added to the Teams channel. The BOFRP inventory for-

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BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

by Peter Wakeland

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esters must keep the BOFRP Planning Tool updated daily to keep the region, agency and tribes informed.

Field Name Standardization:

The BOFRP team completed the documentation for the Tree field data items and distributed it to the IPOG to share with the tribes in their regions. The comments are due COB 27 June 2022. The document details the observations, issues, recommendations, and IPOG approval or comments per field data item. BOFRP will schedule a meeting with IPOG on 22 June 2022 to review the Regeneration field data items for standardization. The BOFRP team is currently working on the Plots Field data items standardization and will schedule a meeting with IPOG in July. The standardization is a collaboration effort with IPOG to streamline the CFI process and facilitate the BOFRP application enhancements.

Staff Updates: BOFRP has advertised two GS-11 forester positions and an administrative officer on USAJobs. We will have three new team members joining BOFRP by the end of the summer. In addition, we hope to advertise two GS-12/13 forester positions soon on USAJobs. BOFRP has welcomed six new foresters in the past three years and has lost five great foresters due to promotion or retirement.

We will also have another exceptional forester Mr. Wayne Waquiu retiring at the end of July 2022. After 43 years of dedication to serving Indian Country, his hard work, commitment, and contributions will always be valued and remembered. Wayne's forestry career began in January 1979 as a forestry technician with the B.I.A. Branch of Forestry, Albuquerque Area Office. He applied for the first-ever

legacy program "Bridge to Profession Program" to pursue a professional forestry degree and attained his Forest Management degree from Humboldt University in Arcata, California.

He dedicated his entire career to the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a forestry technician and forester and supported the National BAER team. Wayne's experience working as an agency and Southwest Regional Forester prepared him to join and excel as a BOFRP inventory forester. He has helped complete forest inventories, forest inventory analysis reports, forest management plans, and forest health protection projects and was essential in developing and improving B.I.A. inventory databases and applications.

His dedication and national guidance have supported many other projects beneficial to Forestry, including procedural inventory guidelines and the development of the National Silviculture Task Book. Collaborating with his colleagues and the USFS, he has ensured students' success in completing the NASP course. In addition, the National Silviculture Task Book will also streamline the certification process and help future foresters become certified Silviculturists. Thank you, Wayne, for keeping a high standard to ensure Indian Forestry is sustainable, and your hard work will be missed. Thank you for your dedication and a successful career! Enjoy your retirement!

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fuels Management: In collaboration with U.S. Geological Survey, Rocky Mountain Research station and Indian Country, we continue to incorporate the utilization of new technological advancements for



Photo of Wayne Waquiu

quantifying wildfire risk spatially and temporally.

BIA has invested in Light Detecting and Ranging (Lidar) at five reservations to improve strategic placement of treatments that are critical components of fuels management to maximize cost effectiveness, efficiency, and risk reduction. Lidar can provide cost effective strategic landscape-level planning that supports multi-year integrated resource management regimes. Fuels has also engaged Central Office Forestry and Regional Office staff with collaborative work products for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Lidar and Active Management.

Fuels staff is currently exploring the development of Terrestrial Laser Scanning technology and its application for fuels management and post-wildfire recovery and will be hosting field training, in collaboration with San Carlos Apache Tribe, in June 2022.

Fuels staff has been working with the BLM and Forest Service to provide input regarding BIA Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Fuels information for their Tribal Forest Protection Act assessments and coordinated with other interagency partners and OWF to provide

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insight and recommendations on the development of future reporting requirements and design of the NextGen Nation Fire Plan Operating and Reporting System. The development of the BIA Fuels dashboard which combines national BIA Fuels Datasets/maps/websites in a single webpage has continued.

Post Wildfire Recovery Program: The Cerro Pelado fire ignited on April 22, 2022, and burned 45,605 acres, impacting multiple jurisdictions including private lands and lands managed by U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs in New Mexico. The fire moved through Tribal trust areas, affecting 3,274 acres of Pueblo of Jemez land, twenty-nine acres of Pueblo of Santo Domingo land and 830 acres of Pueblo de Cochiti land.

A Department of Interior Interagency Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team was brought in to evaluate soil burn severity and post-wildfire threats to human life, safety, and property as well as critical natural and cultural resources, important to each Pueblo. This interdisciplinary team engaged with Tribal leadership and staff to develop a collective system of emergency treatments to reduce flooding, debris flow and erosion threats to critical values. The Team also developed burned area rehabilitation treatments to initiate the path to long-term recovery and highlighted the opportunity for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to continue ecological restoration and recovery of burned lands.

In total, proposed emergency treatment funds includes \$200,000 for spring and cultural site protections, road stabilization, flood warning



Photo of Wayne Waquiu, BAER Team Forester, discussing the impacts of the Cerro Pelado fire on the Tribe's timber resource with Pueblo of Jemez' natural resources staff members

systems, and point protection and armoring. Burned area rehabilitation treatments include \$1.1 million for reforestation, invasive and noxious weed treatment, and replacement/repair of resource protection and boundary fence.

Operations: The normal seasonal progression of wildfire potential continues across the western states, but there are no active large fires on or imminently threatening Indian lands (excluding Alaska). The first summer-like period of extended hot weather has commenced over most of the southwestern U.S., and lightning risk is increasing as well. Activity on ongoing large fires in New Mexico has moderated due to less extreme weather (more cloud cover, higher RH, scattered showers) and timely progress toward containment objectives. Nonethe-

less, fire potential will remain elevated throughout BIA's Southwest, Navajo, and Western Regions until the onset of the monsoon (expected "on time," around the end of June). Fire potential remains low across most of Oklahoma into the Great Plains due to recurrent precipitation and green-up. Similarly, most areas in the Eastern Region are experiencing the lull in activity due to green fuels. In the Midwest, parts of Minnesota and northern Wisconsin have received less precipitation than normal for this time of year, but live fuels will offset fire danger. The expected early start to the fire season in California has been delayed due to timely precipitation, but parts of southern California are drying rapidly. Fire activity in Alaska escalated significantly over

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

the past few days, with dozens of large fires burning aggressively in the western and southwest parts of the state. Several fires are burning in the vicinity of Alaska Native allotments and point protection tactics are being used where needed.

Training / Workforce Development: Working in collaboration with both DOI and USDA we have moved forward a proposal to build a more holistic career training and education program. This program will focus on day job duties and be strategically designed and facilitated to intervene at the appropriate juncture of an employee's career to better their professional development, increase decision making, and potential for career advancement. The first step is a contracting out a specific competency analysis which will help to define the gaps in current training, define what training is missing and provide a roadmap to finding that missing element. This will provide our GS/Tribal employees with a complete roadmap to successful career planning and a valid continuing education model.

Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Academy (WFAP) - DWFM has recently signed the National Joint Apprenticeship Academy charter as a member. This allows us to utilize the WFAP academy which is designed to specifically target GS 3-5 current and potential employees, more quickly developing their speed to competency, and instilling professional values early in an employee's development. Tribal employees will also be able to attend in student slots when they are available. BIL funding has been proposed as a funding mechanism to enroll the first batch of BIA personnel and we are planning for up to ten enrollees for spring of 2023.

Training recently required a new course and fire qualification for our engine personnel, Engine Operator. This was designed and implemented to further the professionalization of our engine staff which account for around 65% of BIA/Tribal fire responders. NIFC has coordinated and facilitated three geographic courses in Phoenix, Tulsa and Warm Springs and has trained over one hundred current engine personnel. This number also accounts for "train-the-trainer" personnel who are now qualified to return to their respective units and facilitate this new course.

Safety: The DOI Medical Standards Program has updated the current Client Access System contracted through Comprehensive Health Services. The new contract allows for multi-factor authentication and greater security regarding Personally Identifiable Information.

A Firefighter Wellness Program has been established. Through Infrastructure Law funding, the BIA Branch of Wildland Fire will work to fill two positions. One position will be a Program Specialist and will work to coordinate interagency cooperation in Critical Incident Stress Management and Mental Health. The other position will be a Tribal Liaison position, assisting the Program Specialist and working directly with Tribal Wildland Fire Programs.

Budget: The BIA Policy Memo for FY2022 Full-year Appropriations has been signed and distributed to the Regions. Full year preparedness funding has been allocated out to Regional Offices and Self-governance Tribal programs. Regional offices will allocate funding to agency units and 638 Tribal wildland fire programs.

Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding has been released from the Office

of Wildland Fire. This currently includes fuels funding and preparedness funding. For preparedness, BIL funding will be utilized to fill two Central Office BIA positions within the new Firefighter Wellness program.

Planning: Planning staff is currently supporting Southwest Region, Western Region, and Alaska Region Wildland Fire Decision Support System. This system assists fire managers and analysts in making strategic and tactical decisions for fire incidents. It has replaced the WFSA (Wildland Fire Situation Analysis), Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP), and Long-Term Implementation Plan (LTIP) processes with a single process that is easier to use, more intuitive, linear, scalable, and progressively responsive to changing fire complexity.

Final implementation of the latest version of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRSv4) are underway, which requires changes in the configurations for all Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS). Every RAWS should now be associated with one or more of the five new NFDRS fuel models and have critical breakpoints entered in WIMS. Many RAWS in Indian Country, along with many managed by other agencies, still need to have these final adjustments made to complete their transition. Guidance from the NWCG Fire Danger Subcommittee is forthcoming to provide an update on the status of the NFDRSv4 implementation effort and reiterate necessary steps for RAWS managers and other NFDRS-related elements.



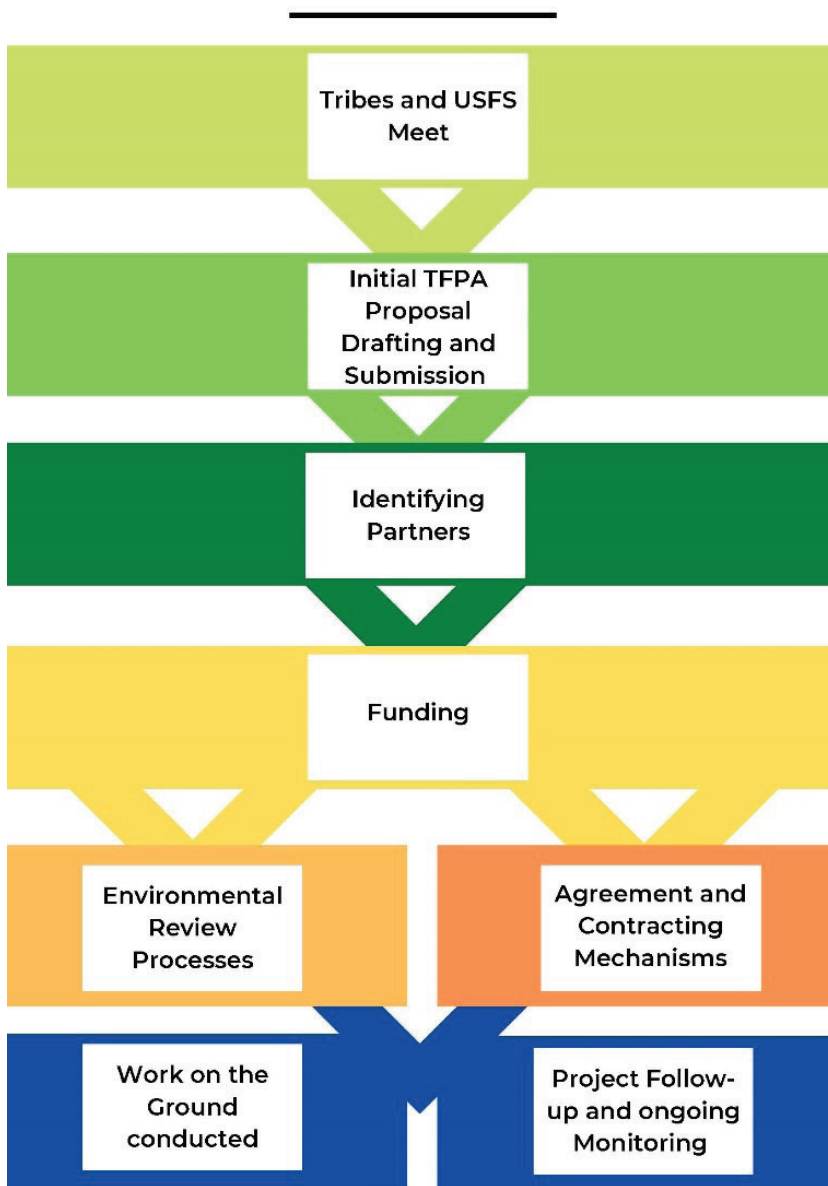
TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT 638 FUNDING

In June 2022, the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) and Forest Service hosted a series of Mini-Workshops designed to support Tribes and FS partners in preparing Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) and USDA FS 638 projects for upcoming funding opportunities allocated to TFPA projects in the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Over 137 participants joined the seven sessions. ITC President Cody Desautel, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, joined Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation, Keith Karnes, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Jennie O'Connor Card, USFS, Gavin Smith, USFS, and Glen Van Zandt, USFS throughout the seven sessions. These speakers shared experiences, recommendations, and insights on implementing TFPA projects. In addition, participants were offered an opportunity to share their project ideas, questions, and problem solve considerations as they developed and identified ways to implement their TFPA proposals.

Thanks to the efforts of our speakers and workshop participants, ITC updated existing tools and resources for Tribes and their Forest Service partners looking to take advantage of TFPA, Forest Service TFPA 638 authority, and new funding opportunities available through the IIJA.

Workshop participants walked through the various stages of a TFPA project (see diagram 1). The dialogue generated through these sessions reinforced best practices shared through Intertribal Timber

Tribal Forest Protection Act Proposal and Implementation Process



Council workshops on TFPA and various reports on lessons learned (see TFPA Reports and Resources). The dialogue also offered additional considerations for Tribes and their Forest Service partners.



Operations Committee

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

Greeting from the Operations committee. There were a few items I wanted to follow up since the last newsletter update, and ITC symposium in Fairbanks.

IFMAT IV: The IFMAT is wrapping up site visits and will begin drafting the report this fall. We hope to have a draft for the oversight committee to review in late 2022 or early 2023. In addition to the review and editing that will happen over the next several months, the oversight committee will discuss how we implement the findings and recommendations of the report. This work typically takes a dedicated team working with Bureau, Department, and administration staff to correct issues identified in the report. Some recommendations will require legislation, so regular interaction with congressional staff will also be needed. IFMAT updates will be a recurring agenda item in board meetings over the coming year. Those interested in participating can engage in those discussions, and we will find a place to put your expertise and motivation to work.

Portable Skidder Bridge Program: The ITC has been serving in an advisory role for USDA this program. The Bipartisan Infra-

structure Law provided funding to States and Indian Tribes to establish rental programs for portable skidder bridges, bridge mats, or other temporary water crossing structures. Allowable bridge structures include short and medium span temporary timber bridges, short and medium span temporary metal bridges, and temporary metal or timber roadway mats. This program was funded at \$40 million over 5 years, with a plan to award up to \$8 million each year. I expect guidance and applications to be available within the next few weeks and may occur before the newsletter is released. I would encourage those with temporary water crossing needs to apply. You can also contact ITC if you have questions, you feel we can answer.

New Wildland Firefighter: We are working with the Department on program authorized under Section 40803(d)(4)(B) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL). This provision authorizes supplemental salary increases of up to \$20,000 per year, or 50% of and employee's base salary, whichever is less. Wildland firefighters employed by the USDA Forest Service, and Department of the Interior are eligible. While the language in the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" document released jointly by USDA, DOI, and OPM specifically references "wildland firefighters that have primary or secondary firefighter retirement coverage status," we feel that definition should include tribal employees working under a P.L. 93-638 contract performing those federal functions. The ITC will send a letter to the Secretary of Interior in hopes that the issue can be resolved. If you have questions, I advise you to review the FAQ's released on June 21, 2022. We hope to have good

news in future newsletters regarding this issue.

Portable Milling Infrastructure Funding: The last item I want to share is a funding opportunity provided by the BIA Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management. Tribes can submit proposals for up to \$250,000 to purchase portable milling infrastructure. The intent is to increase the ability of tribes to harvest their annual allowable cut and add value to the forest products derived from that harvest. While proposals for 2022 are due on June 30, there may be opportunities to apply for this funding in future years. This funding may provide an additional tool as we plan and gear up for the coming investment of infrastructure funding. A letter from the Bureau Director was sent on June 7 with information about this program.



Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman



Photo of Will Putman being presented with a Pendleton blanket for his retirement at the Annual Awards Banquet

2022 EARLE R. WILCOX AWARDS

The 45th National Indian Timber Symposium is now behind us. All of us here at Tanana Chiefs Conference were happy to see so many of you at the symposium, and we hope everybody in attendance had a rewarding and productive trip to Alaska. As always, the presentation of the Earle R. Wilcox awards took place at the Annual Awards Banquet.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

- Todd Couture, Helicopter Manager, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Ronan, MT
- Tim Larkoski, Retired Silviculturist, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Usk, WA
- Daniel Rasmussen, Forester, BIA Rocky Mountain Region, Billings, MT

Our congratulations go out to this year's recipients. It's a great thing to see our peers step up and nominate worthy people for these awards, and it's a genuine pleasure to serve on the Awards Committee and receive those nominations. This next winter ITC will be soliciting nominations for the 2023 Wilcox awards, and we encourage



Photo of Wilcox Award Winner Tim Larkoski at the Annual Awards Banquet

everybody to help us find those worthy individuals that deserve nomination for these awards. You know who those deserving individuals are, and we encourage you to put forward their names and nominate them for an award.

WILL PUTMAN RETIRES, CONGRATULATIONS!!

It's been my pleasure to serve as the ITC Awards Committee chair for the past several years, but I am retiring from my position here at Tanana Chiefs Conference and will

be moving on to the next phase of my life, wherever that leads. Part of that transition also means backing away from my involvement with ITC and the Award Committee, as difficult as that is considering my respect and admiration for all the fine people, I have had the opportunity to work with through ITC. This article represents my last function in this role, but the good work of ITC and the Awards committee will move forward and deserves your continuing support. I hope to see many of you somewhere down the road, wherever that road leads. Thank you!



Education Committee

by Nicole Stiffarm



Nicole Stiffarm

2022 TRUMAN D. PICARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Greetings ITC family! I hope you are reading this in good health. The Education Committee has been working diligently to facilitate the 2022 Truman D. Picard Scholarship. This year we received 21 complete applications. It was a difficult task to rank the applications, as they were all remarkable. I would like to thank the Education Committee members for their time and assistance in selecting this year's scholarship recipients. This year, ITC has awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$30,000 to students representing 11 different tribes. Since 1988, ITC has awarded 542 scholarships totaling \$1,097,000! During the past ten years there has been 92 forestry majors awarded the scholarship.

UNDERGRADUATE \$2,500

- Randall Finley
- Christina Hodge
- Jeniffer LaCounte
- Yvette Picard
- Bryce Norling
- KeyShawn Rogers
- Joni Tobacco



Photos of Picard Scholarship Winners at the Annual Awards Banquet.

*top row L to R: Christina Hodge, Yvette Picard,
2nd row L to R: Jeniffer LaCounte, KeyShawn Rogers.*

GRADUATE \$2,500

- Marquel Begay
- Tyler Everett
- Joshua Friedlein
- Cameron Macias
- Skylar Fetter

Congratulations to each of the recipients!

This year's raffle fundraiser was held during the 2022 Symposium in Fairbanks, AK. With your generous donations we raised \$7,184.00 which will all be used to support the 2023 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Fund. A special thank you to the host tribe volunteers who helped sell raffle tickets during the

symposium including Jolene Bante & Debra Lynne from Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Jacqueline Brockman & Raining White from Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.





INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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First Class
