

Intertribal Timber Council

FY 2002

Annual Report



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OVERVIEW of the INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

Native people are becoming increasingly involved in the management of their timber resources. The Intertribal Timber Council was established in 1976 to provide a forum for communicating between tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on matters relevant to the pursuit and development of timber resources for the benefit of Indian people.

PURPOSE

The primary purposes of the Intertribal Timber Council are:

1. Promoting sound economic management of natural resources so as to sustain Indian forests and dependent economies in accordance with tribal goals and objectives.
2. Providing information concerning legislative and federal policies affecting management of Indian forest resources.
3. Facilitating communication among members on matters relevant to the management of Indian forest resources. The Intertribal Timber Council distributes a quarterly newsletter (nationally) to tribes, BIA, and other interested people.
4. Advising and working with BIA and other interested entities to develop the full potential benefits attainable to Indian people from the management of their forest resources in a manner that achieves a harmony between the needs of people, plants, soil, water, and wildlife.
5. Assisting the establishment and development of Indian business enterprises that will utilize forest resources.
6. Encouraging the training and development of Native American professionals engaged in management of Indian natural resources. As an example, the Intertribal Timber Council accomplished, through recommendations to the BIA, the Forester Intern Program for tribal members, which is in its ninth year.

The Intertribal Timber Council has for the past twenty-five years coordinated and conducted an Annual National Indian Timber Symposium. The symposium is designed to facilitate communication from the perspective of tribes, the BIA, private industry, legislative bodies, and academia on issues and concerns of current forestry management practices.

Symposium participants produce findings and recommendations, which are submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and other federal agencies for follow-up. This procedure gives the Intertribal Timber Council and the BIA a foundation to analyze the progress occurring to resolve the issues being confronted. Published final proceedings of the symposium serve as comprehensive documentation and are mailed to each participant and Bureau official.

The Bureau, after receiving and reviewing the findings and recommendations, schedules follow-up meetings with the Intertribal Timber Council Executive Board to discuss the responses of the administration.

INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

General Membership in the Intertribal Timber Council is open to any Indian tribe or Native Alaskan Corporation with a demonstrable interest in the management of Indian forest resources. Presently there are sixty-one General member Tribes, located from Maine to Alaska to New Mexico. Associate Membership is open to any person or organization supporting the purposes of the Intertribal Timber Council. The Executive Board shall approve or disapprove the application. Presently there are sixteen associate members.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Intertribal Timber Council operates under the direction of the Executive Board, consisting of eleven tribes. The Board of Directors is elected by member tribes= representatives at the annual general meeting held during the annual symposium. The Executive Board then elects from its membership a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each board member serves a two-year term.

President's Message

Nolan C. Colegrove, Sr.



The ITC Executive Board has been working on many issues facing Indian country. I am very appreciative of the job that has been done over this past year by our ITC staff, and also want to express my personal gratitude to the Tribes who have committed time and resources to the efforts of the ITC this year as well. Without your contributions, we would not be able to be as successful as we have become.

Of particular importance this year, given that President Bush, who I met in August 2002, has developed the Healthy Forest Initiative, we have been following it and other issues with the US Forest Service very closely. As you recall from the 2002 symposium, we began to develop legislation to amend the Farm Bill, which later did not pass. Since then we have been in contact with the Forest Service staff working on ways that we could still get the services that we sought in the Farm Bill amendments.

The 2002 ITC Symposium at Mescalero was very successful. There were over 375 attendees, and ITC raised over \$6,300 for scholarships. We were able to discuss and address many issues facing Indian Country, while at the same time provide great educational opportunities for the membership. It was good to see old friends, while at the same time meet first-time symposium participants and to make new friends. Many thanks to Chairman Misquez and the Mescalero Tribal Council for their gracious hospitality and generosity. A special thanks to John Waconda, Southwest Regional BIA Forester for his personal commitment in assisting ITC with the symposium.

The additional time slot for a second business meeting was well received. Attendees responded positively about continuing this format at next year's meeting. The discussions were documented and will be published in the symposium proceedings. Since this trial run went so well, we will try to make this an annual event.

The ITC is closely monitoring the changing faces of Trust Reform. Gary Morishima continues to participate as a technical advisor to the Trust Reform Task Force, and attends the meetings on our behalf.

In April of 2002, the ITC provided testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior and Related Agencies. Of course, we are seeking increases to specific budgets, such as, Tribal Priority Allocations, ESA, Forest Development, FMI&P, IRMP, Woodlands Management, Cultural Resource Surveys, and an increase in Fire Budgets for crew leadership training.

I represented the ITC at the Signing Ceremony of the National Fire Plan, in Boise, Idaho in May 2002, with the Western Governors Association, Secretary Of Interior Norton and Secretary Of Agriculture Veneman. This signing ceremony was a culmination of months of work that went into the plan.

The ITC continues to evaluate the possibility or "idea" of the forest products market moving towards preferred clients, based on land management practices, keeping in mind that Tribal Timber is a significant portion of the log and lumber market today. We should be cautious about the motives of "Certification" and other interest groups that want to have influence on land management of our lands. Therefore, the ITC is actively evaluating the most appropriate way to proceed forward in the best interests for Tribes. The forest sustainability resolution, BIS-020, passed by the National Congress of American Indian's is on our ITC website.

In August of 2002, the ITC was invited to participate in a high level meeting with Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman to continue discussions on the National Fire Plan. The meeting included a field visit to the Apple Gate Valley watershed to compare the effects of a wildfire on treated versus un-treated forests. Of course we responded and accepted the invitation. Then, in addition to the two Secretaries coming, they upped the stakes and said President George Bush was now coming to review the effects of wildfires in the West and to announce his "Healthy Forests Initiative". This news was surprising to both Joann and me.

To conclude, I would like to say that I consider this opportunity to serve as president of the ITC to be a great honor. Although, I can never fill the shoes of the great leaders who have served the ITC in the past, I can remember their vision, their messages, and try to provide the leadership that continues to make management on our lands better in the future for all generations.

Education

The education committee continued raising funds for the scholarships, attended meetings for the Haskell Indian Nation University Natural Resource Advisory Board, and sponsored a booth at the November 2001 American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference in Albuquerque, NM.

ITC Scholarships

The Intertribal Timber Council awarded nine Truman D. Picard college scholarships totaling \$15,000 for the 2003-2004 school year. Thus continues the Intertribal Timber Council's commitment to support Native American students who pursue professional degrees in the field of natural resources.

More than \$150,000 in scholarships have been awarded since 1988. The seven current college students were awarded \$1,800 each while the two high school students were awarded \$1,200 each. Six members of the ITC Education Committee reviewed the scholarships. The scholarship applicants were rated based upon their application letter, academic merit and financial need. Congratulations to all of the recipients.

Name	Major	Tribal Affiliation	College
Christopher Caldwell	Natural Sciences	Memominee	University of Wisconsin
Dianna Hay	Natural Resources	Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	Stone Child College
Katherine Humphrey	Indigenous Studies	Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma	University of Kansas
Jack Omelak	Wildlife Biology	Inupiaq Eskimo	University of Oklahoma
Sharon Randall	Natural Resources	Can Carlos Apache	Eastern Arizona College
Dale Sebastian	Forest Resources	Spokane Tribe	University of Idaho
Emily White Hat	Forestry	Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Colorado State University
Nate Lundgren	Natural Resources	Muscogee Nation	(High School Category) Humboldt State University
Katrina Wechouski	Natural Resources	Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa	(High School Category) University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

Awards

All the nominations submitted to the Awards Committee for the 2002 Earle R. Wilcox Memorial National and Individual Achievement Awards were selected.

The regional award recipients included Lake States Regional Award, Ronald Ackely, Forester, Stockbridge Munsee Community, Bowler, WI; Northwest Region, Scott Rodgers, Forester, BIA, Nespelem, WA; Southwest Region, Tom Gavin, ESR, USFWS, Roswell, NM.

The national award recipient, outstanding forester of the year was awarded to Jaime Pinkham, for his work as the Nez Perce Tribe's Department of Fisheries Resource Management, Lapwai, ID.

The nominees selected were honored at the Awards Banquet at the Twenty-Sixth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium on April 25, 2002 in Mescalero, New Mexico. The following individuals were honored with the 2002 Earle R. Wilcox National and Individual Achievement Awards.

The Earle R. Wilcox memorial awards are presented, at each Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, to honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian Forestry or Natural Resources. Nominations can be submitted by anyone involved with Indian Forestry at Tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs level. We encourage people to assess your Indian Forestry staff or Tribal staff for an individual who is making significant achievements on behalf of Indian people and their forests at the local, regional or national level. We encourage to start the nominations procedures for each year's awards ceremonies in late fall and early winter.

Symposium

The theme for the Intertribal Timber Council's 2002 Annual Timber Symposium was "Facing The Front: Focusing On Wildland Fire Management." Approximately 375 participants attended the symposium hosted by the Mescalero Apache Tribe in Mescalero, NM. On Wednesday, participants experience first hand the host tribe's approach to resolving problems and issues by viewing operations and sharing perspectives with other resource management professionals. The symposium had three workshops that included; Tribal Off-Reservation Reserved Rights and Federal Responsibilities, Burned Area Emergency Stabilization And Rehabilitation, and Carbon Brokering. Participants took part in discussion and developed findings and recommendations during the workshops that focus on current issues affecting the ITC member tribes and their partnerships.

Proceedings were developed in a CD and hard copy format and mailed to the participants after each symposium.

Operations

The Operations Committee meets in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the Executive Board of Directors and first and foremost spoke of our great satisfaction with the turnout and active participation at the Special Meeting of the ITC membership held on Wednesday, April 24, 2002 of the symposium in Mescalero, NM.

ITC, through Gary Morishima, Quinault Indian Nation, has participated on the US Forest Service's Tribal Relations Task Force (TRTF). Subsequent to the Task Force's completion of its report last year the Tribal Relations Implementation Team was established and is working with several sub-committees to draft activities to implement the recommendations in the report. We'll report again this fall the progress of this endeavor.

ITC put forward amendments to the Farm Bill with the persistent efforts of Mark Phillips working with Senator Murray and Senator Daschle's offices. While they were removed from the bill, efforts continue with a stand-alone bill in the works. ITC also participates in the Wildfire Coordinating Group Meetings which involves intergovernmental agencies involved with wildland fire management.

The ITC was involved with two major projects in 2002, IFMAT-II and the Northwest Forest Plan.

IFMAT-II

The Second Assessment of Indian Forest Management and Forest Land in the United States is a requirement that directs Congress to conduct an assessment of Indian Forest Management and Forest Lands every 10 years. The Bureau of Indian Affairs contracted with the Intertribal Timber Council to complete this assessment, which was then subcontracted to the company Interforest. Interforest made the arrangements to conduct site visits on Indian forest land and complete the report.

The Second Assessment of Indian Forest Management and Forest Land in the United States completed field visits to 30 tribal sites by the Second Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT-II). The team visited the following sites; Metlakatla Indian Community, Tanana Chiefs, and Chugachmiut, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council, Round Valley Indian Tribes and Tule River Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Coeur D'Alene Tribe, Nez Perce, Penobscot Nation, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Fond du Lac Reservation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, White Earth Band of Chippewa, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Blackfeet Tribe, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Lummi Indian Business Council, Makah Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Quinault Indian Nation.

The site visits were completed and individual reports were submitted to each tribe in November 2001. The full comprehensive report is schedule for completion in FY 2004.

Northwest Forest Plan (NFP)

The ITC participated in the assessment of the NFP Economic Adjustment Initiative by assisting with funds to a contractor, Forest Community Research (FCR). FCR completed a study of 34 communities in a region affected by the NFP and included seven tribes; Warm Springs, Coos and Lower Umpqua, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Skokomish, Colville and Makah. The assessment was completed in 2002 and follow-up workshops will be conducted with the tribes in FY 2003 – 04.

Intertribal Timber Council

Statement of Activities

Year Ended September 30, 2002

	Grant and Contract Fund	Membership Fund	Scholarship Fund	Total All Funds
Revenue, gains and other support:				
Federal program	\$ 525,055	\$	\$	\$ 525,005
Registration fees		77,686		77,686
Members' dues		10,259		10,259
Interest		759		759
Donations		24,150		24,150
Miscellaneous		8,858	6,552	
Net Revenue, gains and other support:	525,055	121,712	6,552	653,319
Expenses				
Consulting and professional fees (IFMAT-II)	293,632	3,000		296,632
Northwest Forest Plan	25,002			25,002
Meeting facilities	1,044	18,654		19,698
Office expense	33,757			33,757
Payroll and payroll taxes	77,382			77,382
Reproduction costs	9,498			9,498
Travel and symposium expenses	61,448	1,211		62,659
Scholarships			12,600	12,600
Miscellaneous	6,928			6,928
Depreciation	2,523	149		2,672
Total expenses	511,214	23,014	12,600	546,828
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted Net assets from operations	13,841	98,698	(6,048)	106,491
Investment settlement		122,657		122,657
Unrealized loss on investments		(4,253)		(4,253)
Loss on disposal of equipment		(161)		(161)
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	13,841	216,941	(6,048)	224,734
Unrestricted net assets (deficit), Beginning of year	4,461	128,121	10,620	143,202
Fund transfers	15,270	(16,783)	1,513	
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	\$ 33,572	\$ 328,279	\$ 6,085	\$ 367,936

Intertribal Timber Council Board of Directors

Annual Terms

<u>Position/Name</u>	<u>Tribal or Alaska Corporation Representative</u>
President Nolan C. Colegrove, Sr.	Hoopa Valley Tribe
Vice-President Frank Johnny Endfield, Jr.	White Mountain Apache
Secretary Reggie Atkins	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Treasurer Alfred Ketzler, Sr.	Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.

Members

D. Fred Matt	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
C. Larry Blythe	Eastern Band of Cherokee
Norman W. Deschampe	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Nathan Tyler	Makah Tribal Council
Aaron Miles, Sr.	Nez Perce
David E. Martin	Quinault
Ross K. Sockzehigh	Yakama Nation

Office Administration

Joann Reynolds	Program Manager
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Board of Director Meetings for FY 2002

December 12 – 13, 2001	Portland, Oregon
February 19 – 21, 2002	Portland, Oregon
June 11 – 13, 2002	Portland, Oregon
September 18 – 19, 2002	Cherokee, North Carolina (symposium site visit)