



# INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Spring ~ 2021



Howard Teasley, Jr.

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2021 VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM!!

Hautnin awas. Niimiipuu timpt. Blessing to you in our Nez Perce Language. We have endured one year of a pandemic and unusual circumstances, where our symposium committee and ITC have done their due diligence over the past months to orchestrate our first virtual symposium. I am very proud and thankful to announce this. Instead of having a golf tournament, pre-symposium workshops, tribal tour, etc. We are planning on few new and upbeat phases to the symposium – a two-part series film and entertainment during the breaks for the enjoyment of the participants. ITC wants to make your experience memorable during the four-day event. Please mark your calendars and times so you don't miss out. The symposium will take place on Pacific Standard Time and start daily at 8:55 am and conclude around 1pm. I would like to pray to our Creator God for safety and good health to our Sisters' and Brothers' out there. Until we met

again. Amen. Qe'ciyew'yew Yokalo - Thank you and I am finished.

The **44th National Indian Timber Symposium** will be held **May 17-20, 2021**, themed **"Thriving Through Adversity"** and hosted virtually by the **Intertribal Timber Council**.

Follow this link to register online: <https://www.eventsquid.com/event/11073>

### MONDAY, MAY 17

**Moderator Introduction:** Stephanie Lucero, Senior Program Manager, John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution, Udall Foundation, Sacramento, CA

**Opening Ceremony Performance:** Songbirds Canoe Family, Taholah, WA

**Invocation:** Victoria Wesley, Supervisory Forester, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ

**Welcome:** Cody Desautel, ITC President / Natural Resource Director, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA; ITC Delegates

**Keynote:** Robin Kimmerer, Distinguished Teaching Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

**Wisdom of the Elders Film Break: Part 1:** Native Wisdom - The Peoples of Eastern Oregon. Directed by Lawrence Johnson and Tim Keenan Burgess. Indigenous

scientists, artists, and elders from several Oregon interior tribes share observations of their changing environment, natural resource issues, and the beauty of tribes' traditional arts, music, and storytelling.

**Office of Wildland Fire Update:** Jeff Rupert, Director, DOI, Office of Wildland Fire, Washington, D.C

**Bureau of Indian Affairs Update:** Pete Wakeland, Chief, BIA, Office of Trust Services, DFWFM, Albuquerque, NM

**Legislative Update:** Matt Hill, Information & Research Spec., Lone Rock Strategies, Washington, DC

**Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations Update:** Reed Robinson, Director, U.S. Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations, Washington, DC

**President's Report:** Cody Desautel, ITC President / Natural Resource Director, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA

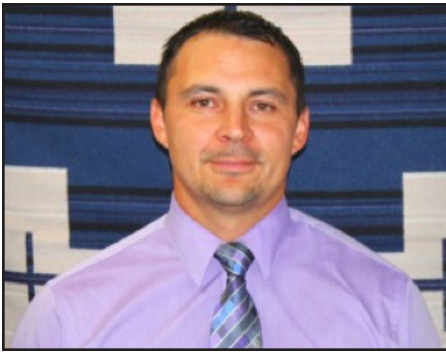
*(Continued on page 3)*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Symposium Committee</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>President's Message</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Legislative Update</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BIA Central Office Forestry</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Technical Specialist</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Technical Specialist</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ITARA</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Operations Committee</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Education Committee</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Awards Committee</b>	<b>14</b>

## President's Message

by Cody Desautel



Cody Desautel

Spring is upon us; the days are getting longer, and another calendar year is well underway. As vaccines get distributed across the country, we keep the health and safety of our communities at the forefront of our thoughts.

With the start of the 117th Congress we see a change in both Senate and White House. The new Biden Administration is filling its ranks and policy priorities are being developed. At the time of publication, Deb Haaland is well-poised to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as Secretary of Interior, and the first Indian person to hold a federal Cabinet position. Bryan New-

land was named Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, and we await the appointment of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

More appointments will be forthcoming at the Department in the coming weeks. The ITC looks forward to working with Secretary Haaland and her team on both forest management, wildfire, and budget issues.

The same is true at the Agriculture Department, where Tom Vilsack will be making a comeback appearance from the Obama Administration to be USDA Secretary. There has not been an announcement to fill Jim Hubbard's former role as USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources – a critical position for working with ITC and tribes on cross-boundary authorities such as Tribal Forest Protection Act and Good Neighbor Authority.

Our work on the upcoming 2023 IF-MAT report is also well underway. ITC is having regular videoconferences with our IFMAT co-chairs to finalize the planned activities and site visits in the coming year, fund-

ing sources, topics of inquiry and much more. My hope is that the IF-MAT-4 report will be the most significant and useful to date. While tribes have many more tools at their disposal for working with federal agencies on federal land, we are still resource-challenged on our own land.

ITC continues to make progress with federal agencies implementing the 2018 Farm Bill authorities for TFPA and Good Neighbor Authority. Additional legislation is still required to fully allow tribes access to the GNA program income, which seems to have limited use of this new tool. 638 contracting authority for Tribal Forest Protection Act projects has been successfully used by the Tulalip Tribe in western Washington, and both the Colville Tribe, and Yakama Nation have approved TFPA proposals that utilize the 638-contract mechanism.

To our member tribes and organizations, thank you for your continued support of the ITC and its mission.



## REGISTER NOW!!



### 44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium

**"Thriving Through Adversity"**

**May 17-20, 2021 - Virtual Event**

**Hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council**

**Please follow this link to register:**

**<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/11073>**

## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

*(Continued from cover)*

### TUESDAY, MAY 18

**IFMAT IV Update:** Adrian Leighton, Ph.D., Co-Chair IFMAT IV, Director / NR Dean, SKC TREES, Missoula, MT. The National Indian Forest Resource Management Act (NIFRMA) requires a decadal, independent assessment of the status of tribal forests and forestry programs throughout the United States, otherwise known as the IFMAT report. Planning for the fourth IFMAT report has been underway since early summer 2020. The IFMAT-IV team will provide an update project progress including development of the Work Plan with specific metrics in response to NIFRMA mandated tasks and site visit travel plans considering COVID-19. The presentation will introduce the core team, technical specialists, and student participants.

**Entertainment Break:** Will Putman, Forestry Director, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK

**Natural Resource Applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems:** Nick Adkins, Dir. of Operations, Alaska Center for UAS Integration, Fairbanks, AK; Brian McKenna, Fisheries Biologist, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK; Joe Don Morten, Military Zone Aviation Manager / UAS Coordinator, BLM Alaska Fire Service, Ft. Wainwright, AK. Examine the use of small unmanned aerial systems (UASs drones) in applications relevant to natural resource and wildland fire management. Discuss the regulations, certifications, and training required for drone operation. Presentations on various natural resource, forestry & fire applications.

**Student Scholarship Break:** Nicole Stiffarm, ITC Education Chair, Program Manager, SKC TREES, Pablo, MT. 2020 Native American Natural

Resource Research Scholarship Recipients and 2021 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Recipients.

**Wildland Fire Update:** Ron Swaney, FMO, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Ronan, MT; J. Mark Jackson, Director of Fuels Management, BIA, BWFM, Boise, ID; Joshua Simmons, Director of Fire Operations, BIA, BWFM, Boise, ID; Darryl Martinez, National BAER Director, BIA, BWFM Albuquerque, NM; Garth Fisher, National Training Officer, BIA, BWFM, Boise, ID. This presentation will provide participants an opportunity to interact with the leadership of our wildland fire community and hear directly about the new developments and challenges in Tribal and BIA wildland fire management.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

**Research Needs Assessment Update:** Michael Dockry, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Forest Resource Department, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN; Amit Pradhananga, Ph.D., Research Associate, Forest Resource Department, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. The ITC Research Subcommittee will present a summary of tribal research needs identified in the second assessment to understand the research needs, priorities, and interests of Native American tribes' forest resource managers and decision-makers. The assessment identifies tribal natural resource professionals research needs, accessibility to published research and interest in participating in primary research. The assessment informs federal research entities and universities in planning efforts and establishing research priorities that are aligned with the needs identified by tribal communities.

**Wisdom of the Elders Film Break: Part 2:** Native Wisdom - The Peoples of Eastern Oregon. Directed by Lawrence Johnson and Tim Keenan Burgess. Indigenous scientists, artists, and elders from several Oregon interior tribes share observations of their changing environment, natural resource issues, and the beauty of tribes' traditional arts, music, and storytelling.

**Student Research Forestry & Fire:** Joeline Tamm, Graduate Student, University of California Riverside, Pauma Valley, CA. This presentation will discuss potential tool development for Indigenous Cultural and Prescribed Burning for Goldspotted Oak Borer Control, a joint project between the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, University of California Riverside, and oversight from the Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station. Zachary Erickson, Graduate Student, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. This presentation will discuss development of a true co-management relationship with the Wiyot Tribe within Humboldt State University's newly acquired Jacoby Creek Forest tract in Humboldt County, California.

**Symposium Host Break:** A preview of Tanana Chiefs Conference and the tribes of interior Alaska.

**Tribal Carbon Projects:** Cody Desautel, ITC President / Natural Resource Director, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA; Elmer Moonin, Chief Operating Officer, Port Graham Corporation, Anchorage, AK; Brian Shillinglaw, Managing Director, New Forests, San Francisco, CA. Forest carbon perspectives and experiences in Indian Country. Discussions regarding current forest carbon projects, lessons learned, and how to develop and maintain projects.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

*(Continued from page 3)*

### THURSDAY, MAY 20

**Workforce Development:** Stephanie Cowherd, Forests and Community Program Manager, Ecotrust, Portland, OR. In Fall 2018, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation, United South and Eastern Tribes, Heritage University, Intertribal Timber Council, and Ecotrust began a joint, collaborative project - Growing the Tribal Forestry Workforce in the PNW and Beyond. The project brings together partners with similar goals and expertise in economic, natural resource management, research, and education fields to collaborate on ways to address the tribal forestry and green infrastructure workforce need.

**Entertainment Break:** Songbirds Canoe Family, Taholah, WA.

**Economic Market Update:** William Sonnenfeld, Principal, WilSonn Advisory, LLC, Rollingbay, WA. This presentation will provide an overview of the wood products industry. It will examine some of the more important indicators underpinning the industry on the demand side, review drivers on the supply side, and discuss trends in wood product prices and log prices. There will also be commentary on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the wood products industry in the past year, and which of the changes may persist post-pandemic.

**Awards Break:** Will Putman, ITC Awards Chair / Forestry Director, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK. 2020 and 2021 Earle R. Wilcox Recipients.

**Cross-Boundary Collaboration Using Reserve Treaty Rights Land as the Tool:** J. Mark Jack-

son, Director of Fuels Management, BIA, BWFM, Boise, ID; Brad Donahue, Jr., Assistant Fire Management Officer & Fuels, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Warm Springs, OR; Darrell Clairmont, Fuels Mgr., Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Ronan, MT; Butch Gregg, Fuels Specialist, BIA, Fort Apache Agency, Whiteriver, AZ; Scott Hamlet, Fuels Specialist, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Tahlequah, OK. The BIA, Branch of Wildland Fire Management and Fuels Management Department has been appropriated for the purpose of treating and restoring tribal landscapes within and adjacent lands. Treaties with Native American Tribes have established a unique set of rights, benefits, and conditions for those Tribes and within the various processes utilized to establish tribal and native organizations relationships with the U.S. government, States, and others. Retention of ancestral rights remains a common recognized connection. The history and development of the Reserve Treaty Rights Lands will be discussed along with four case studies. These programs are the modern bridge that will get the collaborative projects in the adjacent and ceded tribal territories underway.

**Closing Remarks:** Stephanie Luce-ro, Senior Program Manager, John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution, Udall Foundation, Sacramento, CA; Cody Desautel, ITC President / Natural Resource Director, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA.

Visit the ITC Website for Symposium updates: [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org).

**Help:** Intertribal Timber council is nonprofit organization and is always looking for donations and/or spon-

sorships during the Annual Timber Symposium. We still have a one full break sponsorships left to fill. ITC will accept banquet sponsorships that can be of any amount. If a Tribe or business is interested in donating, please contact ITC directly.

### FUTURE SYMPOSIUM DATES

**May 17-20, 2021** – 44th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted virtually by Intertribal Timber Council

**2022** – TBA, 45th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK

**2023** – TBA, 46th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Walker, MN

**2024** – TBA, 47th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Eastern Band of Cherokee, Cherokee, NC

**2025** – TBA, 48th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, MT

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





Matt Hill

### CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP UPDATES

The 117th Congress (2021-22) is off to an awkward start. There is a 50-50 split with VP Harris giving the Democrats a technical majority. This forced the two parties to hash out a power-sharing agreement on procedures, budgets, staff, etc. This agreement resembles the 2001 power sharing agreement where committee membership will be evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, but Democrats can break a tie with committee votes.

Here is what Senate and House Committee leadership looks like for the 117th Congress (for committees of interest to ITC):

#### Senate Committee Chairmanships

- Indian Affairs: Sen. Schatz (D-HI)
  - Vice-Chairman: Sen. Murkowski (R-AK)
- Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry: Sen. Stabenow (D-MI)
  - Ranking Member: Sen. Boozman (R-AR)
- Appropriations: Sen. Leahy (D-VT)
  - Ranking Member: Sen. Shelby (R-AL)

- Budget: Sen. Sanders (D-VT)
  - Ranking Member: Sen. Graham (R-SC)
- Energy & Natural Resources: Sen. Manchin (D-WV)
  - Ranking Member: Sen. Barasso (R-WY)
  - Forests/Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman: Sen. Wyden (D-OR)
- Environment & Public Works: Sen. Carper (D-DE)
  - Ranking Member: Moore Capito (R-WV)
- Finance: Sen. Wyden (D-OR)
  - Ranking Member: Sen. Crapo (R-ID)

#### House Committee Chairmanships

- Agriculture: Rep. David Scott (D-GA)
  - Ranking Member: Rep. Conway (R-TX)
- Appropriations: Rep. Rosa LeLauro (D-CT)
  - Ranking Member: Rep. Granger (R-TX)
  - Interior Subcommittee Chairman: Pingree (D-ME)
    - Ranking Member: Rep. Joyce (R-OH)
- Natural Resources: Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
  - Ranking Member: Rep. Westerman (R-AR)
  - Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples: Rep. Leger Fernandez (D-NM)
    - Ranking Member: Rep. Don Young (R-AK)

#### **NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

Here is the latest overview of Biden Administration nominees (of particular interest to ITC):

- Deb Haaland, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Nomination
- Robert Anderson, Solicitor, Department of the Interior, Acting
- Rachel Taylor, Asst. Secretary: Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, Acting
- [No nomination made], Asst. Secretary: Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Nomination
- Bryan Newland (see below), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary: Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Appointed (no confirmation needed)
- Tom Vilsak, Secretary, USDA, Confirmed
- Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Senior Advisor for Climate, USDA, Appointed
- Vicky Christiansen, Chief, USFS, USDA, Unchanged
- Chris French, Undersecretary for Natural Resources, USDA Acting
- [No nomination made], Undersecretary for Natural Resources, USDA, Nomination
- Heather Dawn Thompson, Director, Office of Tribal Relations, USDA, Appointed

#### **HAALAND NOMINATION CLEARS COMMITTEE**

On March 4, a divided Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced, Rep. Deb Haaland's nomination as Interior secretary on an 11-9 vote, moving the New Mexico Democrat a crucial step

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

closer to becoming the first Indian head of the department.

While expressing doubts about Haaland's possible approach to energy development, Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska joined all of the panel's Democrats in voting for President Biden's nominee. The closely watched thumbs-up today from Murkowski, combined with a statement of support offered by Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, means Haaland is effectively assured of Senate approval.

Still, Haaland, a liberal lawmaker now in her second House term, will have to sustain her momentum to prevail over GOP conservatives who resist her nomination. In two days of nomination hearings, GOP senators pressed Haaland about her previously articulated positions, particularly dealing with energy development. Haaland did not disavow those positions, but frequently cited limits that would be imposed by a Cabinet secretary position.

### **NEWLAND APPOINTED TO INDIAN AFFAIRS POSITION**

Bryan Newland (Bay Mills Indian Community) has been appointed to serve as the Interior Department's Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs ("PDAS"). This is the position held by John Tahsuda in the Trump Administration. Newland recently completed his tenure as Bay Mills Tribal President. From 2009-12 he served as a Counselor and Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and the Michigan State University College of Law.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

As part of his racial and equality initiative, President Joe Biden has

signed a Presidential Memorandum that reaffirms tribal sovereignty through tribal consultation. Specific to Indian tribes, the president spoke about respect for tribal sovereignty that was weakened during the Trump administration: "Today, I'm directing the federal agency to reinvigorate the consultation process with Indian tribes. Respect the tribal sovereignty — respect for tribal sovereignty will be a cornerstone of our engaging with Native American communities," President Biden said.

The Presidential Memorandum directs federal agencies to complete the following actions:

- consult with tribal nations to develop and then submit detailed tribal consultation action plans to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy (APDP) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) within 90 days;
- designate an agency official to coordinate implementation of the plan and prepare progress reports;
- submit to the Director of OMB annual progress reports on the status of each action plan; and;
- for the Director of OMB, in coordination with APDP, to submit to the President a report on the implementation of Executive Order 13175.

In response, several agencies have scheduled tribal consultations before developing detailed agency plans to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (Nov. 6, 2000), and to submit the plan to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by April 26, 2021. Following Pres-

ident Biden's direction, the U.S. Department of the Interior, including its bureaus and offices is currently seeking Tribal input on how to best improve its implementation of E.O. 13175 to consistently achieve meaningful consultation.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL COVID RELIEF LEGISLATION**

The Democratic-controlled Congress is working through a complex process of budget justifications that could lead to a substantial revenue stream to tribes in the coming weeks.

The House narrowly passed a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill as lawmakers try to prevent unemployment lifelines from expiring next month. The package includes \$1,400 direct payments to most Americans, a \$400 per week jobless benefit supplement and an extension of programs making millions more Americans eligible for unemployment insurance. It also puts \$20 billion into Covid-19 vaccinations, \$50 billion into testing, and \$350 billion into state, local and tribal government relief.

As written the tribal portion of the bill would provide \$20 billion to Indian tribes -- \$1 billion distributed equally amongst all tribes and \$19 billion left to the discretion of the Treasury Department. It is expected (but not certain) that the Senate will leave the House language in place and defer the distribution formula to the Treasury Department.

The House language did, however, broaden the eligible uses of the \$20 billion in funds provided to tribes. It allows the funds "to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease





## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Peter Wakeland



Peter Wakeland

### PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

**Regional Forester's Meeting:** Regional Foresters' meeting was held virtually this year due to Covid restrictions. The meeting occurred over a three-week period between January 5th and January 21st. There is no substitute for being together, but the virtual meeting did work well. One of the benefits was that we had approximately 45 – 50 participants on the calls, including some of the IFMAT members! When meetings are held in person, we are limited to about 25 people due to cost. We want to thank everyone who participated. The staff and guest presentations were very well done, and you all made the meeting a huge success.

**Office of Trust Services Quarterly Newsletter:** The OTS is now producing a quarterly newsletter (example article below). Each quarter, the Division Chiefs are now asked to submit a few short articles describing what we've accomplished at the Division level. This may be a good opportunity for Tribes as well. If a Tribe has a forestry or fire project or accomplishment that they would like to highlight for Leadership. For more information contact Pete Wakeland, Chief Forester, [peter.wakeland@bia.gov](mailto:peter.wakeland@bia.gov).

**Indian Forest Management Assessment 2023:** As you all know, the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (NIFRMA) requires that a report on the status of Indian forestry be prepared every 10-years. Collective work continues and we want to stress the importance of tribal data and participation. This is our collective chance to tell our story. The IFMAT report is one of the primary documents that we point to when competing for funding during the budget process. We urge all Tribes to participate in the IFMA process as fully as possible so that the IFMAT Report 2023 is a true reflection of Indian forestry. For help or questions, please contact Stacie Holmes, Forester / Analyst, [Stacie.holmes@bia.gov](mailto:Stacie.holmes@bia.gov).



The Timber Team

**Timber Team:** The six-person Timber Team is now established, and all six team members are stationed in Billings, Montana. At the time of this writing, the team is on site at the Eastern Oklahoma Region conducting a timber trespass cruise. The team will be on the road for the majority of the next 4 months before taking any down time. All travel will be subject to

Covid restrictions and some projects may be delayed. We encourage Tribes to send in project requests through the Regional Foresters. Questions about the Timber Team can be directed to Philip Frandino [Philip.Frandino@bia.gov](mailto:Philip.Frandino@bia.gov), Team Supervisor or Caleb Cain, Forester, [caleb.cain@bia.gov](mailto:caleb.cain@bia.gov).

### BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING (BOFRP)

**Inventory Handbook Team:** In 2020, BOFRP staff co-lead the update to the 53 IAM Ch. 8 Forest Inventory and Planning Handbook. Staff scheduled and led two separate three-day meetings in lieu of the four scheduled in-person meetings and nine two-hour meetings, to coordinate work on the Handbook. BOFRP staff are leading

and/or participating in eight of the eleven Handbook section groups. The draft Handbook is over 50% completed. Three of the Handbook sections are completed, and substantial progress has been made on five of the remaining eight sections. Thank you to Stacie Holmes, Karen DeBord, and Wayne Waiquiu

*(Continued on page 8)*

## BIA Central Office Forestry

by Dawn Patternson

*(Continued from page 7)*

for their work as co-leads, alongside Ben Bagdon, to the Inventory Handbook group.

### **FMIP A-123 Program Audit:**

The signed A-123 memorandum was distributed to the Regions for the Forest Management Inventory and Planning (FMIP) A-123 Program Audits. Thank you to Ken Borchert, Taurus Diaz, and the BOFRP Team for updating the field test form. Randomly selected are the Midwest and Southwest Regions for the A-123 Field Visit during the week of 17-21 May 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Waquiui at 720.484.3204 or [angelo.waquiui@bia.gov](mailto:angelo.waquiui@bia.gov).

**National Forest Library:** The National Forest Library project has been in the works for years. The goal is to save our forestry documents in digital form, where it was previously held in hard copies. The quality control of the library documents continues, and we have completed approximately 70%. BOFRP staff Mahalia and Keisha are tackling the archive documents scanning and cataloging, and it's our goal to complete the project by December.

### **BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT**

**The Aviation program:** is in the process of converting 27 short term career seasonals to longer term seasonals. These include the Helicopter Assistant Managers and Helicopter Squad Leaders. This is a result from the DOI Workforce Development effort which gave the BIA \$472,000.00. Although this is a 1/4 of what we requested, it's a significant step in the right direction. The Branch will be requesting more as it be-

comes available to continue creating quality positions that employ more people for longer terms.

### **Fuels Management Program:**

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 (reduction of human fires) investments can return up to 35 times the dollar investment through Avoided Cost of suppression and resource loss.

FY21 First quarter Indian Country achievements include:

- Fuels treated 36,260 acres.
- Fuels FY21 allocation \$49.6M.
- Workforce Initiative: \$3.85 total \$3.5M to Tribes; \$385K to BIA.
- Workforce Initiative (transformation) seeks to establish permanent federal firefighting force.
- Spend plan due March 5, 2021, once approved funds may be released to BIA.
- All carryovers should be obligated no later than March 31, 2021.
- FTEM reporting continues to be an Indian Country strength.

**Wildfire Prevention:** 90IAM 5 Wildfire Prevention was updated and released last year, now 90IAM 5 – H the wildfire prevention handbook is in final editing with the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action (RACA). The Bureau Director issued a memorandum announcing the release



of the Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) software application and requiring all prevention programs to migrate planning and accomplishment reporting into this system by January 1, 2022. Multiple WPSAPS virtual trainings are being offered for wildfire prevention program staff as well as other potential users. Contact your Regional WUI/Prevention Specialist for details or go to: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/communication-education-and-prevention-committee> for additional information. Prevention of human ignitions: Investment of \$4.5 million in wildfire prevention resulted in an estimated range of resource loss and suppression costs avoided of \$9 - \$158 million.





## Technical Specialist

by Don Motanic

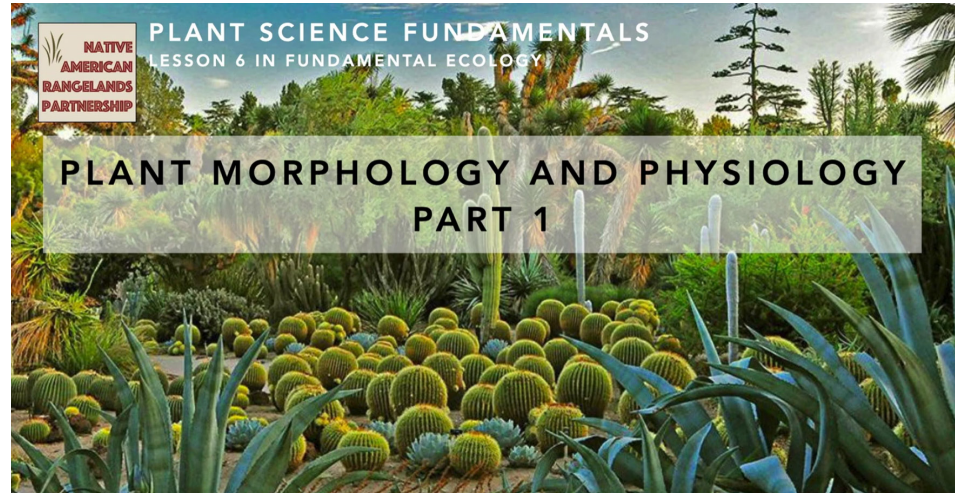


Don Motanic

### NATIVE AMERICAN RANGELANDS PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPING VIDEOS

The Intertribal Timber Council participates with the Native American Rangeland Partnership (NARP) along with many of the national tribal organizations that represent natural resources such as the Intertribal Ag Council and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. NARP has been developing videos over the past few months for the online training and wanted to share a sample and requested feedback with the video. Here was a message from NARP:

*2020 was an odd but productive year for the Native American Rangelands Partnership as well as we continue to iron our wrinkles and find better ways to serve our Tribal partners in rangeland conservation. As with anything in life, we can use difficulties as stepping stones, and that has certainly been the case for this project. As we stumble across barriers for our students and stakeholders, this helps us to adapt and find better ways at providing training needs that are culture- and place-based, but delivered virtually. I have been working hard to translate and reproduce new material that is tribally relevant, and am always looking for help. One thing I would love to do is have some of our partners help to narrate our teaching videos, but with COVID, that is still off in the future unless I can figure out a way to do this remotely with the*



*high quality sound that we need. I will also be reaching out to a few of you to help with field videos of rangeland techniques that I can incorporate into the teaching videos.*

*I interviewed a number of our students when our activity was at a near halt prior to the holidays. The overall consensus was that while they really liked the content, everyone was sheltering in place where they did not have decent internet access. My hopes is that our new administration will finally dedicate the necessary resources to get Tribal communities connected with decent internet options! Many of our students were also pulling double-duty at work as a result of sick or lost co-workers, which certainly is taking its toll on Tribal staff offices and communities. We've backtracked to create "downloadable folders" for our course material that our students can download when they visit town or a library with better band-widths. I've noticed that class activity is starting to pick up again, so I think this helped out quite a bit. Out of 60 students, less than 10 are active right now. Each video takes me several days (or sometimes weeks!) to produce, and now we're putting some new course material together to include things like native seed production programs and*

*buffalo-rangeland management approaches thanks to some collaborative efforts with experts in those areas. Here is a sample of one of our class videos: <https://youtu.be/L0WfrCW8Yag>. If you have input, please send it along!*

The input can be sent to DIANA CRIDER, [diana@animopartnership.org](mailto:diana@animopartnership.org)

For more information about the Native American Rangeland Partnership, you can view the website at <https://nativeamericanrangelands.org/>

The website is designed to host educational and training material for tribal rangeland management and provide online support. Range manager resources will include downloadable presentations, documents, data sheet templates, video clips, funding sources and opportunities, announcements, and tribal success stories. Public and educator resources would be open access from the front-end of the website. Links will highlight professional organizations, tribal websites, and other relevant online sources. This website will be managed through a partnership effort with important links to partner websites. The site can be expanded to include all-natural resource related components later, if partners desire.



## Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

How do we get more beneficial fire on the landscape? The federal fire policy and guidance allows for application of wildfire use and prescribed fire, as directed in land and fire management plans.

Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February 2009) can be found at: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/2009-wfm-guidance-for-implementation.pdf>

Wildland fire is a general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Wildland fires are categorized into two distinct types: **Wildfires** – Unplanned ignitions or prescribed fires that are declared wildfires and **Prescribed Fires (Rx Fire)** or planned ignitions.

Something relatively new to the policy is that wildland fire may be concurrently managed for one or more objectives and objectives can change as the fire spreads across the landscape.

An important component of the federal policy is that they direct management response to a wildland fire on federal land on objectives established in the applicable Land/ Resource Management Plan and/or the Fire Management Plan.

This allows local jurisdictions to decide their own objectives and response strategies.

Federal fire policy also states: Use planned and unplanned ignitions to achieve land and resource management goals. Fire management is one tool in the restoration toolbox and should be integrated with other land management activities. Preference will be given for natural ignitions to be managed in meeting the role of fire as an ecological process. Decision support processes encourages strategies to manage fire to restore and maintain the natural fire regimes where safe and possible. Incident objectives will identify resource objectives for wildfires managed to achieve resource objectives. Beneficial accomplishments will be measured through specific quantified objectives.

I recently visited with Tony Harwood, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Fire Management Officer and Forestry Division Manager for Project Planning, semi-retired, about this issue. He stated that “In the late 1990’s we visited with the Tribal Council about their interest in using multi-objective, less than full perimeter control for resource benefit fire use objectives. The Council’s preference was to remain with a full suppression management strategy. The 2000 Forest Management Plan describes evaluating all CSKT wildland fires for full suppression, but that less than full perimeter control could be chosen for firefighter safety concerns. The resulting use of monitor, confine and contain actions do result in fire situations that produce wildland fire resource benefits, but by policy the BIA could not give the agency credit for these achievements (i.e.,



Photo of Aerial ignition Using a Drone Rx Burn Operation Near Tallahassee Florida, 2020

the 4,500-acre Ashley Lakes Fire in 2006). To promote more wildland fire use we would have to get Council approval to change the 2018 Wildland Fire Management Plan that mirrors language in the 2000 Forest Management Plan.

Receiving credit for accomplishing or exceeding fuels treatment targets have ramifications when applying for competitive fuels reduction funding. Tribes or agencies that meet or exceed fuels treatment targets, typically receive additional funding because they have demonstrated success in effectively and efficiently applying those funds.

I find that not only do you need to specifically outline wildland fire and prescribed fire management objectives in local planning documents, but also require the support of Tribal leadership.

The Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS-484) establishes national interagency standards for the planning and

*(Continued on page 11)*



## Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Photo courtesy of CSKT Division of Fire.

*(Continued from page 10)*

implementation of prescribed fire. These standards:

- Describe what is minimally acceptable for prescribed fire planning and implementation.
- Provide consistent interagency guidance, common terms and definitions, and standardized procedures.
- Make clear that firefighter and public safety is the priority.
- Ensure that risk management is incorporated into all prescribed fire planning and implementation.
- Support safe, carefully planned, and cost-efficient prescribed fire operations.
- Support use of prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risk to communities, municipal watersheds, and other values, and to benefit, protect, maintain, sustain, and enhance natural and cultural resources.
- Support use of prescribed fire to restore natural ecological processes and functions, and to achieve land-management objectives.

To implement Rx fire, minimum qualifications standard as outlined

in the Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide, PMS 310-1 must be met. State employees, local co-operators and contractors working on federal agency prescribed fires must meet the PMS 310-1 standards unless local agreements specify otherwise. During prescribed fire planning and operations, all federal agencies will accept each other's standards for qualifications.

In order to apply more Rx fire on the landscape we need qualified, experienced workforce and again the support of Tribal leadership. Along with the workforce and support, weather always plays a major role when trying to get good fire on the ground.



## ITC OFFICE UPDATE

**The ITC office is maintaining normal business hours, while also allowing staff to work from home during the pandemic. We will continue to be responsive to emails and phone calls, please leave a voicemail if trying to reach us by phone. Be sure to update your contacts with our new email addresses.**

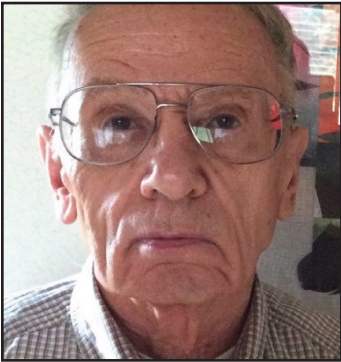
### Updated Email Addresses:

Laura Alvidrez, Program Manager, [laura@itcnet.org](mailto:laura@itcnet.org)

Don Motanic, Technical Specialist, [donmo@itcnet.org](mailto:donmo@itcnet.org)

Monica Rushworth, Program Asst., [monica@itcnet.org](mailto:monica@itcnet.org)





George Smith

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GIVES APPROVAL FOR TWO NORTHWEST TRIBES TO ASSUME FULL CONTROL OVER MANAGEMENT OF TRUST FOREST LANDS**

The Coquille and Cow Creek Tribes are the first two Tribes nationwide to obtain approval of Indian Trust Asset Management Plans by the Assistant Secretary --Indian Affairs (ASIA) providing authority for the Tribes to have full control over management of their Tribal trust forestlands.

Both Tribes were previously approved by the ASIA to participate in a 10-year Demonstration Project established under the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA). Participation in the Demonstration Project allows Tribes to develop an Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP) for management of their trust forest lands under Tribal law and regulations rather than under federal requirements.

After nearly two years of work by Tribal leadership and staff and numerous meetings with federal officials, the Coquille and Cow Creek ITAMPs were approved by the Department of the Interior (DOI) in November (Coquille) and December (Cow Creek) of 2020. Approval of the ITAMPs by the DOI provides the Tribes with full authority to carry out forest management activities on trust forest lands without involvement of

the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). As part of the process in development and submission of the ITAMP, the Tribes developed and adopted Tribal Forest Resources Management Ordinances (Law). Tribal Forestry Regulations which implement the adopted forest management law were also prepared and approved by the Tribes and the ASIA.

The Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA - P.L. 114-178) was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in June 2016. TITLE II of the Act establishes a Demonstration Project which provides opportunity for participating tribes to develop Indian Trust Asset Management Plans (ITAMPs) for forest land management and surface leasing activities. Once the Secretary of Interior has approved a participating Tribe's ITAMP, including specific authorization, the Tribe has authority to carry out forest land management activities and surface leasing transactions without further approval of the Secretary regardless if the activities or transactions would otherwise require such approval under applicable federal law or regulations.

The ITC supported passage of the ITARA legislation and established a working group under the Operations Committee to provide ITARA implementation information to ITC member Tribes. The working group also provided a forum for identifying issues and working with the DOI to facilitate Tribal participation in the Demonstration Project and development of ITAMPs for forest management activities.

Under existing statutes and BIA regulations, there are a several forestry programs functions and numerous approval actions related to these functions that are residual, non-tractable trust functions that must be performed by a designated federal

(BIA) official. The capacity and expertise within the BIA to perform these retained functions has diminished significantly over the years as budgets and staffs have been reduced in response to more and more Tribes performing direct operations of programs under Indian self-determination arrangements (compacting, contracting and cooperative agreements). Past and present policies of the federal government promote Tribal self-determination and ITARA reaffirms these policies. ITARA addresses delay and other issues associated with securing BIA approval by providing opportunity for Tribes with approved ITAMPs to carry out forest land management activities under Tribal law and regulations without approval of the BIA. This enables Tribes to exercise sole Tribal approval for many, if not all, forest management actions now requiring approval of the BIA. The ITAMP may authorize the Tribe to conduct forest management planning, timber sales, NEPA and ESA compliance, administration of forest management deductions, and other forest management activities under Tribal authority if these activities are expressly authorized by the Tribe to be included in the ITAMP and are carried out in a manner meeting the requirements of ITARA.

ITARA does not enhance, diminish, or otherwise affect the trust responsibility of the United States to Indian Tribes or individual Indians. The act does provide that the United States shall not be liable for any losses sustained if a Tribe performs forest management activities pursuant to Tribal regulations incorporated into an approved ITAMP. Also, the United States shall not be liable for any loss resulting from forest management activities performed under terms of an ITAMP that provides for management of the trust asset

*(Continued on page 13)*

## ITARA

by George Smith

*(Continued from page 12)*

at a less stringent standard than the Secretary would otherwise require or adhere to in absence of an ITAMP.

In addition to strengthening Tribal sovereignty and advancing self-de-

termination, carrying out forest management activities under an ITAMP and Tribal regulations provides opportunity for more efficient and Tribally focused forestry operations.

For those interested, additional infor-

mation regarding ITARA and development of ITAMPs for forest management activities can be obtained by contacting the ITC office at (503) 282-4296 or email: [laura@itcnet.org](mailto:laura@itcnet.org).



## Operations Committee

by Darin Jarnaghan, Sr.



Darin Jarnaghan, Sr.

On February 10, 2021, the Intertribal Timber Council Operations Committee met virtually via Zoom. The Operations meeting was well attended, and participants had plenty of dialogue. Below is a summary of highlights from our agenda and discussion.

### BIA DIVISION ENERGY AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT (DEMD)

We had a brief presentation from Josh Gregory, who shared insights on the DEMD Program. The program seeks to develop tribal managerial and other expertise on tribal lands, develop legal structure, establish tribal charter organizations, establish sections 17's, predevelopment stage for energy development, resource assessments and exploration studies (quality and quantity) used to fulfill tribal goals, feasibility studies, engineering design, and market analysis to name a few.

The Division of Energy has a microgrid group, natural gas & hydrogen group, solar resource group, geothermal resource development

group, wind energy group, hydro-power group, biomass resource development group, all ready to assist tribes who have more questions. Announcements will be in late summer to early fall with deadlines to submit applications to the DEMD are usually in September. The ITC webpage will have notifications with more information in the future.

### LOGGER RELIEF ACT S. 4233

John Crockett, USFS Associate Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry presented the language provided in the act as follows:

“This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to make payments to a timber harvesting business or timber hauling business that, as a result of the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic, experienced a loss of not less than 10% in gross revenue during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on July 31, 2020, as compared to its gross revenue during the same period in 2019.

The amount of a payment made to an eligible entity shall be equal to 10% of the gross revenue of the business during the period beginning on January 1, 2019 and ending on July 31, 2019.”

Funding potentially for contractors associated with harvesting: fallers, truckers, loggers, etc., with more specific information provided in the S.4233 Loggers Relief Act.

### IFMAT IV

The Indian Forest Management Assessment Team has sent site visit notifications to a total of 38 federally recognized Tribes including Alaska Native Corporations. To date, 17 site visits are confirmed, and scheduling has commenced. The site visits are planned to occur beginning Spring 2021 and continuing thru early 2022.

### USDA FARM BILL / 638 CONTRACTS, GRANT UPDATE, AND 2021 WORKSHOPS

ITC has partnered with the USFS to developed up to four virtual workshop sessions to assist with developing Tribal 638 agreements/contracts with the USFS. The first workshop for 2021 are scheduled for March 24, 2021, with a 2-hour session and optional 1-hour additional working session, if needed. Follow up workshops will occur March 25, 2021, March 30, 2021, and April 1, 2021. To date 29 tribes have registered for the event.

### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TRANSITION PAPER

With the new U.S. President, the ITC will be developing a Transition Paper to provide ITC positions and request participation on natural resource related policy. The transition paper will provide guidance to new Presidential appointee's that will be working with ITC member tribes and Indian Country.



## Education Committee

by Nicole Stiffarm



Nicole Stiffarm

Greetings ITC family, I hope that you are reading this newsletter in good health. The education committee convened virtually in February and discussed Truman Picard Scholarships, the Tribal Forestry Student Summit, and the fast-approaching 2021 ITC Virtual Symposium. I am pleased to report that we have selected a panel to review

the completed Truman D. Picard Scholarship applications for 2021. I am extremely grateful to have the level of support provided by the education committee members who continually offer their time to assist in supporting the next generation of professional foresters. The next issue of Timber Notes will include a full list of the 2021 Truman D. Picard Scholarship recipients.

Regarding the Tribal Forestry Student Summit, discussions included the timing of the proposed event hosted by NAU. We also discussed the timing of the vaccine availability throughout Indian country as well as the original intent for the summit. Ultimately, we opted to keep the in-person event rather than attempt a virtual one. To guarantee student involvement,

the decision was made to postpone the summit to sometime in 2022 to ensure safety when we gather. As we continue to plan, we will make announcements on the ITC website as they become available.

We are gearing up as a committee to gather in a virtual setting for the upcoming symposium. There will be an online raffle component to this year's symposium much like the raffle that normally takes place but on a smaller scale. In addition, we will also have student presentations and scholarship awardees on the agenda. I hope to see you all there and be able to participate in this year's symposium. Please continue to be safe.



## Awards Committee

by Will Putman



Will Putman

The ongoing pandemic has made for challenging circumstances for many things, including the holding of ITC meetings. However, the ITC Awards Committee was able to meet virtually during the winter ITC Board meeting. The main order of business was the review of award nominations that were received by the January 29, 2021 deadline; this

was done, and we have an Earl R. Wilcox Award winner for 2021! Many thanks are due to the individuals who stepped up to help review award nominations this year.

The postponement of the National Indian Timber Symposium in 2020 due to the pandemic produced a situation where we were not able to adequately recognize the 2020 Earl R. Wilcox award recipients at that time. This year's virtual Symposium still does not give us the opportunity to recognize and congratulate our award recipients in person, but we will be doing so as best we can during the virtual Symposium in May for both the 2020 and 2021 recipients.

Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian forestry and natural re-

sources. These awards are given in honor of Mr. Earle R. Wilcox, who will always be remembered for his significant achievements on behalf of Indian people and their forests. If you have a coworker or know of a person working in forestry, fire or natural resources in Indian Country whose contributions and work stand out and deserve recognition, we'd love to hear about them. Please remember to consider nominating them for an Earl R. Wilcox award next winter when ITC will be accepting nominations for 2022.







**Forty-Fourth Annual  
National Indian Timber  
Symposium**  
*"Thriving Through Adversity"*  
**May 17-20, 2021**  
Hosted by:  
Intertribal Timber Council  
Virtual Event



Day	Time (Pacific)	Description
Monday, May 17	8:55 am to 9:00 am	Introduction
	9:00 am to 9:30 am	Opening Ceremony
	9:30 am to 10:00 am	Keynote
	10:00 am to 10:30 am	Wisdom of the Elders Film Break: Part 1
	10:30 am to 10:50 am	Office of Wildland Fire Update
	10:50 am to 11:10 am	Bureau of Indian Affairs Update
	11:10 am to 11:30 am	Legislative Update
	11:30 am to 12:20 pm	Break
	12:20 pm to 12:40 pm	U.S. Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations Update
	12:40 pm to 1:00 pm	President's Report
Tuesday, May 18	8:55 am to 9:00 am	Introduction
	9:00 am to 9:30 am	IFMAT IV Update
	9:30 am to 10:00 am	Entertainment Break
	10:00 am to 11:00 am	Natural Resource Applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems
	11:00 am to 11:30 am	Student Scholarship Break
	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Wildland Fire Update
Wednesday, May 19	8:55 am to 9:00 am	Introduction
	9:00 am to 9:30 am	Research Needs Assessment Update
	9:30 am to 10:00 am	Wisdom of the Elders Film Break: Part 2
	10:00 am to 11:00 am	Student Research Forestry & Fire
	11:00 am to 11:30 am	2022 Symposium Host Break
	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Tribal Carbon Projects
Thursday, May 20	8:55 am to 9:00 am	Introduction
	9:00 am to 9:30 am	Workforce Development
	9:30 am to 10:00 am	Entertainment Break
	10:00 am to 11:00 am	Economic Market Update
	11:00 am to 11:30 am	Awards Break
	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Cross-Boundary Collaboration Using RTRL as the Tool
	1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Closing Remarks

**Register online at:**

<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/11073>

Registration Types	Fee
General or Associate Member	\$275.00
Government Employee	\$300.00
All Others	\$325.00



## **INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL**

1112 NE 21st Avenue, Suite 4  
Portland, Oregon 97232

---

**First Class**

---