



OFFICE of TRIBAL
RELATIONS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
TRIBAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

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Tribal Relations News

Director's Welcome

The Forest Service and Tribes continue to expand their joint partnerships, creating actions that will improve lives over generations in Native communities, non-Native communities, and within the Forest Service. I'm inspired by the work highlighted in this season's Newsletter, work that stands as a vibrant reminder of the many joint efforts between Tribes and the Forest Service that are making a difference. What you see here is just a sample of those inspiring joint efforts.

A cluster of inspiring articles relate to the College of Menominee Nation, the Sustainable Development Institute, and the Center for First Americans Forestlands, including (1) extending the FS partnership memorandum of agreement there to the year 2020, (2) a series of outreach, workshops, and other events held through the College of Menominee Nation, and (3) the opening of a new biomass energy system at the Menominee Tribal Enterprises' sawmill in Neopit, Wisconsin.

You will also see a report on the successful Tribal Forest Protection Act Workshop, held in Sacramento, California. The third in an ongoing series, this workshop facilitated several partnerships between seven Tribes or Tribal organizations and partnering National Forests so Tribes would be ready to submit proposals. Using the TFPA to get work on the ground is an important way to increase scope and scale of restoration and other kinds of work on the forests. Keep your eyes open for announcements of upcoming additional workshops during fiscal year 2017.

Sage Grouse have limited habitat, and a big push is underway to learn more about their range and to develop ways to ensure their sustainability. We share here an article that explores a summit meeting of about 200 people that focused largely on how best to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into the adaptive management of sagebrush and pinyon juniper ecosystems relating to Sage Grouse in California and Nevada. This is one example of many, where people from agencies and Tribes are working together to better understand and use TEK to help create a better future. Great attendance, TEK, and youth. Certainly inspiring.

Through the award-winning Hopi Springs Restorations Project, the Kaibab National Forest and the Hopi Tribe have restored culturally and ecologically important springs, acknowledging the management of natural waters as sacred

sites. And you don't have to just imagine the project. You can click on a link within the article to access a video that shows the level of collaboration and involvement.

Each year, Wood Innovation Grants go to support traditional wood utilization projects, expand wood energy markets, and promote the use of wood in the construction of commercial buildings. We are very happy to note that two Tribes (the Quinault Indian Nation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians) received grants under this program in 2016. Amazing projects, both.

The Alaska Tribal Leader's Committee is eight years old already. It is still the only formal advising body specifically developed to work with an entire Forest Service Region on all things of tribal interest. Other regions should take note. The ATLC met in Yakutat this spring for its annual meeting, continuing to advance cooperative relationships that promote sustainable forests, resources, and communities. They focused on Youth and Emerging Leader Engagement, a most inspiring endeavor.

Most editions of the Tribal Relations News include a "Getting to Know" section, highlighting someone that readers should be aware of. This edition features the new Forest Service Regional Tribal Relations Program Manager in the Alaska Region, Melinda Hernandez Burke. Please help us welcome Melinda to the Region and the program. She's already doing great things.

Don't forget to check out the round robin news from the regions, as well as our safety message! Stay inspired.

--Fred--

A Busy Year for Tribal Partners and the Forest Service

Jen Youngblood, Tribal Liaison to College of Menominee Nation

KESHENA, WI — The Forest Service and its Tribal partners - the [College of Menominee Nation](#), the [Sustainable Development Institute](#) (SDI), and the [Center for First Americans Forestlands](#) (CFAF) - have had a long and productive few months reaching out to numerous community members, tribal professionals, and youth in the Menominee community and other tribes nationally.

First, a series of pollination ecology workshops were held on Saturdays beginning in February and ending in April. These workshops culminated with a field research project completed by the attendees and scientists. This research is to be published by Dr. Retha Meier, St. Louis University, in collaboration with the SDI at the College, and the Forest Service. These workshops brought in tribal and non-tribal professionals to discuss the importance of western science and traditional knowledge when working with pollination ecology issues.

In April, the partnership reached out to Tribal 4th graders at the Menominee Tribal School. A poster contest addressing *What the Forest Means to Me* helped kick off the Forest Service's "Every Kid in a Park" initiative and the "National Geographic Bioblitz" events. These posters were showcased at the Forest Service Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) signing event along with College of Menominee Nation student posters that were presented at the [First Americans Land-grant Consortium](#) (FALCON) conference in



Forest Service staff, Menominee Tribal professionals, and Menominee traditional knowledge holders partnering and volunteering at the Bioblitz-Earth Day event. Photo credit to Kevin Krueger, Bioblitz volunteer.

Denver. The two sets of posters were presented side by side to show the importance of youth to youth mentoring for future college students in natural resources and forestry.



An SDI intern and Tribal student works with a Menominee youth at the Bioblitz-Earth Day event. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Jen Youngblood.

The month of April also saw the larger Bioblitz event hosted by the Forest Service and SDI-CFAF. Seventeen Forest Service scientific professionals and tribal professionals and traditional knowledge holders were paired to educate Tribal youth (primarily 4th graders), Tribal community members, and others utilizing the College's *Kāēhkēh-mīhekāēhsaeh* or Learning Path. The event was a huge success, allowing those on the tours to learn both the cultural and scientific relevance of plants in the Menominee Forest.



Woody meets with a Tribal member at the Bioblitz-Earth Day event. Photo credit to Kevin Krueger, Bioblitz volunteer.

In May and June, the partnership hosted the Indigenous Planning Summer Institute, the Learning from the Land (LFTL) National Workshop, and the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, and along with the Menominee Tribal Environmental Department and Menominee Tribal Enterprises, hosted a Wisconsin Tribal Pesticide Training Workshop. These workshops, held at the College of Menomonee Nation, included over 100 tribal and non-tribal participants from around the world.

The SDI and CFAF, housed at the College of Menominee Nation, in partnership with the Forest Service, is a tribal resource for tribal research, education, and outreach which incorporates culture and traditional knowledge, technical and policy assistance, climate change issue assistance, ecosystem and forestry issues, workforce development, and many other services.

For more information go to the [College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute website](http://sustainabledevelopmentinstitute.org/) (<http://sustainabledevelopmentinstitute.org/>).



Tribal participants practice pesticide application safely with colored water. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Jen Youngblood.

MOU Signing Extends Tribal-Federal Partnership Through 2020

Jen Youngblood, Tribal Liaison to College of Menominee Nation

KESHENA, WI — The Forest Service, through the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA), the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), the Eastern Region of the National Forest System (R9), and the Northern Research Station (NRS), began a long-standing partnership with the College of Menominee Nation's (CMN) Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) and Center for First Americans Forestlands (CFAF) with discussions that took place in 2000. The signing of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) extends the idea and realization of this partnership through the year 2020, to the 20-year mark.

Historically, this partnership has been unique as it was designed to bring together multiple branches of the Forest Service, the College, and its SDI to work collaboratively and to provide a centralized source of forestry and natural resource information for tribal nations. The CFAF was developed as a center within the SDI in 2009 and was intended to provide communities throughout Indian County with access to training, education, and resources from the College and the Forest Service. Resources are also provided through the network of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) allowing engagement with a more diverse audience while bridging the gaps between tribal students and tribal professionals. The CFAF also assists tribal professionals and students in achieving excellence while serving as a model for federal and tribal partnerships. External partnerships provide for relationships with academic institutions conducting research in forestry and related issues with a common cause for public good.

The MOU signing was held at the College in April and attended by Arthur “Butch” Blazer, who was then serving as the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment; Dr. S. Verna Fowler, President of the College of Menominee Nation; and approximately 50 attendees, including Tribal leadership, partners, and other stakeholders. A welcome to all guests visiting the Menominee Nation was provided by Joan Delabreau, Chairwoman.

One highlight of the event included poster displays presented by CMN students and posters depicting *What the Forest Means to Me* created by 20 4th grade students from the Menominee Tribal School. Former Deputy Under Secretary Blazer spoke of the importance of working with tribal youth to move forward to the future.

The MOU signing was more than a public relations event, as dignitaries present representing both sides of the partnership are the embodiment of each entity they represent whether it be tribal or federal. Their presence and comments during the ceremony reaffirm the commitment to advancing the ideals upon which the partnership and the CFAF were founded. This reaffirmation of the partnership is an important part of recognizing and maintaining this long-term relationship built on the early ideas of those individuals whose dreams have become a reality.



Forest Service and College Of Menominee Nation leaders come together to sign the new MOU. Back Row L. to R.: Tony Ferguson, Acting Director, Forest Products Lab and Northern Research Station; James Barresi, Acting Director Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. Front Row L. to R.: Chris Caldwell, Director, Sustainable Development Institute; Dr. S. Verna Fowler, President, College of Menominee Nation (retired); Kathleen Atkinson, Regional Forester, Eastern Region. Photo credit to Dale Kakkak of the College of Menominee Nation.



Forest Service Leadership Partners Team: L. to R. James Barresi; Jen Youngblood, Tribal Liaison to the College of Menominee Nation; Tony Ferguson; Lon Yeary, Deputy Director, Forest Products Lab. Photo credit to Dale Kakkak of the College of Menominee Nation.

Forest Service Leadership Attends Menominee Tribal Ceremony Unveiling New Biomass System

Jen Youngblood, Tribal Liaison to College of Menominee Nation

NEOPIT, WI — On April 20, 2016, Menominee Tribal Enterprises, in collaboration with the Forest Service and other partners, celebrated the opening of a new biomass energy system at their Neopit, Wisconsin, sawmill. This combined heat and power facility replaces older, less efficient equipment, and will reduce operating costs to the Tribal enterprise and improve air quality in the region.

The new high-efficiency energy system will generate roughly 85,000 million Btu of heat and provide one million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. The unit will consume 8,500 tons of woody debris per year, less than the 20,000 tons consumed annually by the previous system. It is anticipated that this new biomass unit will save up to 11,500 tons of wood residue and reduce energy and maintenance costs by as much as \$500,000 annually. Air quality in the area will also be improved by the system as it will reduce particulate emissions by more than 155 tons annually.

Approximately \$3.8 million in grants and technical assistance helped this project become a reality. A portion of the funding was provided by the Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry's Wood Education Resource Center (WERC) along with six other federal agencies and private entities.



Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) President Norman Shawanokasic; Forest Service leadership Tony Ferguson, Lew McCreery, and James Barresi; USDA Deputy Under Secretary Arthur "Butch" Blazer (retired); and other partners attended the New Biomass Boiler Ceremonies at the MTE Sawmill. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Jen Youngblood.

Former USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment attended the ribbon cutting, stating:

“I applaud the collaborative effort led by the Menominee Tribal Enterprises that has resulted in the successful development and completion of this exciting wood energy project. I am confident that this pending Tribal wood energy success story will lead to others out in Indian Country.”

Forest Service leadership and tribal relations staff in attendance at the ceremony were James Barresi, Acting Director of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry; Lew McCreery, Acting Director of the Wood Education Resource Center; Tony Ferguson, Acting Director of the Forest Products Lab and Northern Research Station; and Jen Youngblood, Tribal Liaison to the College of Menominee Nation.

The Forest Service has an MOU partnership with the College of Menominee Nation and works closely with Menominee Tribal Enterprises as well. Menominee Tribal Enterprises manages more than 219,000 acres of Tribal forestlands and operates both a lumber drying operation and sawmill; all products are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Menominee Tribal Enterprises celebrated its centennial in 2008.

Pacific Southwest Region Hosts Tribal Forest Protection Act Workshop in Sacramento: “Working Together”

Dirk Charley, Tribal Relations Specialist, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests

SACRAMENTO, CA — The Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) was selected as the latest region to host the [Intertribal Timber Council](#) (ITC) and Forest Service Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) workshop due to the strong interest and support of California Tribes, R5 forests, and the regional office. The TFPA was passed in 2004 with the intent to reduce risk to Indian lands from threats on adjacent land administered by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

From May 24 through May 26, 2016, over 40 participants convened at the McClellan Training Center in Sacramento, California, to hear the latest information about TFPA and apply it to proposed TFPA projects with on-site technical assistance. The workshop was designed to encourage collaboration between tribes, national forests, and other partners to address the threats to federal lands that have the potential to affect tribal trust lands and communities. The workshop also addressed the need for restoration on national forests where there are tribal rights and interests.

The workshop covered aspects that make up successful TFPA proposals and implementation plans. Experts from various fields, including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Forest Service contracting, provided information and technical assistance to Tribes and Forest Service TFPA partners at this workshop. Many of the projects focused on landscape-scale collaboration between key partners to restore and sustain resilient ecosystems.

The following tribes and tribal organizations were in attendance: Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Hammawi Band of Pit River Indians, Greenville Rancheria, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and the Maidu Summit Consortium.



Participants of the TFPA workshop. Photo credit to Marc Garman of Lab Rat Pictures.

Comments from participants included:

“This workshop brought us ... to a clear and positive starting place of trust and visions for our future as land managers.”

“As a tribal leader this was very helpful ...”

“Outstanding session!”

For more information about the workshop, pre-workshop webinars, presentation materials, success stories, please visit the [Intertribal Timber Council’s website](http://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/tfpa/tfpareports.html) (http://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/tfpa/tfpareports.html).

A video from the workshop should be available on this site by September 2016.

See the text of the [Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/documents/policy/statutes/public_law_108-278.pdf) (http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/documents/policy/statutes/public_law_108-278.pdf).

Safety Corner

Protect yourself from heat stress by avoiding heavy exertion, extreme heat, sun exposure, and high humidity when possible.

- DRINK PLENTY OF WATER; EVEN IF YOU DO NOT FEEL THIRSTY. AVOID DRINKS WITH CAFFEINE.
- NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN OR PETS ALONE IN CLOSED VEHICLES.
- CHECK ON FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS WHO DO NOT HAVE AIR CONDITIONING AND WHO SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME ALONE.
- GO TO A DESIGNATED PUBLIC SHELTER IF YOUR HOME LOSES POWER DURING PERIODS OF EXTREME HEAT. STAY ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OUT OF THE SUNSHINE IF AIR CONDITIONING IS NOT AVAILABLE.
- AVOID STRENUOUS WORK DURING THE WARMEST PART OF THE DAY. USE A BUDDY SYSTEM WHEN WORKING IN EXTREME HEAT, AND TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS.
- DRESS IN LOOSE-FITTING, LIGHTWEIGHT, AND LIGHT-COLORED CLOTHES THAT COVER AS MUCH SKIN AS POSSIBLE. AVOID DARK COLORS BECAUSE THEY ABSORB THE SUN’S RAYS.
- PROTECT FACE AND HEAD BY WEARING SUNBLOCK AND A WIDE-BRIMMED HAT.
- POSTPONE OUTDOOR GAMES AND ACTIVITIES.

TEK Summit in the Bi-State Sage Grouse Area

Grace Newell, Tribal Relations Specialist, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

CARSON CITY, NV — The [Nevada Indian Commission](#), in conjunction with the Bi-State Sage Grouse Executive Oversight Committee, hosted a three-day (June 28 - 30) Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit for tribal leaders, tribal members, and agency resource managers in the Bi-State sage grouse area to discuss management practices for sagebrush and pinyon-juniper ecosystems. Participants met at the [Stewart Indian School](#), an historic Indian school in Carson City, Nevada.



Stewart Indian School Administration Building.
Photo courtesy of the Nevada Indian Commission.

The focus of the summit was to discuss and identify how best to incorporate TEK into the adaptive management of sagebrush and pinyon juniper ecosystems.

The Bi-State Sage Grouse Executive Oversight Committee consists of agency executives from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, who are working together to restore and conserve a distinct segment

of the Greater Sage Grouse that inhabits the eastern Sierra Nevada region, straddling northern Nevada and eastern California.



Map illustrating the range of the Bi-State sage grouse.

Agenda topics were derived from the concerns federal agencies heard while conducting a series of listening sessions in tribal communities who call “the Bi-State sage grouse habitat area” home. This area includes the geographic regions of the Eastern Sierra north of Bishop, California, up to Carson City, Nevada, and as far east as the Mount Grant and Pine Nut Ranges in western Nevada.

Approximately two hundred people attended the summit. Tribal members, tribal leaders, and land management professionals and managers traveled from throughout Nevada and eastern California.

Highlights included a Native youth panel discussion that revealed an intellectually vibrant, up and coming tribal generation dedicated to keeping cultural traditions flourishing and protecting indigenous plants and wildlife.



Native youth summit participant. Photo courtesy of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

A field trip on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the last day of the summit gave participants an opportunity to view past and upcoming treatment projects and to look over a newly designated 1700-acre “Pine Nut Conservation Area”.



Participants of the field trip on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Photo courtesy of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Welcoming remarks to the three-day summit were provided by Washoe Tribal Chairman Neil Mortimer, Director of the Nevada Indian Commission Sherry Rupert, and Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt -Toiyabe National Forest Bill Dunkelberger.

The interagency cooperation demonstrated between federal partners and the Nevada Indian Commission provided the catalyst to make the summit a success. Participants recognized the value of integrating TEK with best science to achieve better outcomes for both the land and people and identified steps to improve communication and ensure integration.

During the Traditional Perspective panel discussion Raymond Andrews (Kutzadika’a, Mono Lake and Bishop Paiute), who is the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Bishop Paiute Tribe, shared his thoughts on TEK. Andrews told participants *“while growing up, we didn’t know Traditional Ecological Knowledge was what we were doing. TEK is a new term, it is just a part of our lives. We were just doing what we learned.”*



Participants of the Traditional Perspective panel discussion. Photo courtesy of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Forest Supervisor Bill Dunkelberger noted, *“The TEK Summit was a wonderful opportunity to listen and learn from our tribal partners. The productive discussions and field trip highlighted the importance of meaningful consultation. By incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and tribal wisdom in land management we can better support tribal sovereignty through shared stewardship of our natural resources.”*

Hopi Springs Restoration Project, Kaibab National Forest

Michael Lyndon, Tribal Liaison, Kaibab National Forest

FREDONIA, AZ — The Kaibab National Forest and [Hopi Tribe](#) have been working together on the collaborative management of sacred places in Arizona since the 1990s. Through consultation it became evident that the management of natural waters as sacred sites was very important to the Tribe.

In 2006, the Kaibab National Forest began revising its forest plan, a document that provides guidance and direction to Forest Service staff so they may best fulfill stewardship responsibilities in order to meet the needs of the American people, now and for future generations. During consultation on the new forest plan, tribal partners identified concerns for the conditions of natural springs and a desire to build partnerships to restore these vital resources. Protecting the Kaibab's natural waters came forward as an important concern for both the tribes and the Forest Service.

This springs restoration project is the first Tribal-Forest Service collaborative project to be implemented since the February 2014 publication of the new Forest Plan for the Kaibab National Forest, and the concept of shared stewardship is a commitment that the Forest Service and the Hopi Tribe plan to expand on over time.



Hopi members and Forest Service staff building water catchment at Castle Springs. Photo courtesy of the Kaibab National Forest.

function and vegetation on two springs of importance to the Tribe. Tribal elders directed the methods used for the project and shared traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and techniques to be integrated into future Forest Service spring management protocols. This project helped Tribal youth understand and employ TEK techniques, and educated them about career opportunities in natural and cultural resources management.

The Hopi Tribe and Kaibab National Forest were recently honored with a 2015 “Rise to the Future” award for this collaborative project. The [Hopi-Kaibab National Forest Springs Restoration Project video](#) is featured on the official USDA YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5eeAoJVzaI>).



Hopi youth performing a range management project. Photo courtesy of the Kaibab National Forest.

Hopi elders, along with the Forest Service and Hopi youth, spent a week working together to restore the hydrological



Pond reflections at the Big Springs administrative area. Photo courtesy of the Kaibab National Forest.

Two Tribes among Recipients of 2016 Forest Service Wood Innovation Grants

TAHOLAH and WELLPINIT, WA — The Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant Program seeks proposals that stimulate or expand wood energy and wood products markets that support the long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands. Awards help expand or support wood energy markets that use wood residues for heating, cooling, or electricity production, and promote markets that create or expand the demand for non-energy based wood products, such as projects that support commercial building markets or other markets that use innovative wood products.

Priorities for the 2016 Request for Proposals included:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands;
- Reduce costs of forest management on all land types; and
- Promote economic and environmental health of communities.

Table 1. Fiscal Year 2016 Wood Innovation Grant Tribal Recipients

| Project Title | Tribal Entity | City, State | Funding |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Quinault Indian Nation Pellet Manufacturing Facility Engineering & Design | Quinault Indian Nation | Taholah, WA | \$146,250 |
| Spokane Tribe Biomass District Energy System for Wellpinit, WA | Spokane Tribe of Indians | Wellpinit, WA | \$212,630 |

The Quinault Indian Nation will utilize thousands of tons of woody biomass slash annually in support of producing fuel pellets for a biomass heating facility. The Nation recently completed a Pellet Manufacturing Feasibility Study which concluded that a pellet mill can be an economically viable business in the Taholah

area and that it should be pursued not only to provide employment, but also to reduce both pollution and reliance on fossil fuel. The Quinault Indian Reservation contains approximately 185,000 acres of operable forested land that produces in excess of 50,000 tons of biomass in the form of woody biomass slash annually which has historically been piled and burned as a means of removal from the forest floor.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians will complete final design and engineering of a Biomass District Energy Facility that will provide heat for multiple buildings in the downtown core of Wellpinit, Washington. The program strengthens Spokane Tribal energy independence and Tribal sovereignty while supporting forest health on the Spokane Indian Reservation. The biomass project makes use of locally-sourced material that improves forest health and supports community wildfire risk reduction, while reducing energy costs for key community facilities.

Annual Meeting of the Alaska Tribal Leader's Committee

Melinda Hernandez Burke, Region 10 Tribal Relations Program Manager

YAKUTAT, AK — The mission of the Alaska Tribal Leader's Committee (ATLC) is to advance cooperative relationships, collaboration, and the furtherance of government-to-government partnerships in promoting sustainable forests, resources, and communities. The ATLC officially launched in December 2008, and meets regularly via teleconference and holds one in-person meeting annually. The ATLC works together on issues suitable for regional-level discussion. However, the ATLC does not preclude nor is it a substitute for government-to-government consultation between the agency and Tribes.



**Participants of the 2016 meeting of the Alaska Tribal Leader's Committee.
Photo courtesy of Forest Service employee Melinda Hernandez Burke.**

Membership is comprised of nine Forest Service members (including the Regional Forester, Deputy Regional Forester, two Forest Supervisors, and Tribal Government Relations staff), six elected tribal delegates (three each from Southeast and Southcentral), and two emerging leaders (young adults). The focus area for 2015/2016 is Youth and Emerging Leader Engagement, and the annual meeting was held in Yakutat, May 24 and 25, 2016. This gathering included participation from the local Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Mt. St. Elias Dance Group, and a panel discussion with local emerging leaders to discuss implementation strategies for the current focus area of connecting with youth through agency opportunities and initiatives. The Committee was also able to visit different sites and projects throughout the community and surrounding area to connect with the public, Forest Service staff, and local tribes.



Alaska Tribal Leader's Committee visits Cannon Beach with Yakutat Ranger District Ranger and staff. Photo courtesy of Forest Service employee Melinda Hernandez Burke.

Regional Round Robin

Southwestern Region

Region 3 held their annual tribal consultation meetings with the Regional Forester in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on June 14, and Flagstaff, Arizona, on June 16. The Washington Office supported the Arizona meeting with participation from Estelle Bowman.

Southern Region

Lexie Rue-Harris will be acting as Tribal Relations Program Manager for Region 8 while Ian Ritchie is on detail in Region 6. Welcome, Lexie!

Pacific Northwest Region

Region 6 along with the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians hosted the first pilot of the Sacred Sites Facilitated Learning Engagement near Seattle, Washington, from June 21 through 23.

Washington Office

Estelle Bowman is beginning a detail with Cooperative Forestry, and Mariel Murray recently accepted a permanent position with the USDA Office of Budget and Program Analysis. Congratulations, Mariel!

Getting to Know Melinda Hernandez Burke

Following the retirement of Region 10 Tribal Relations Program Manager Lillian Petershoare, Melinda Hernandez Burke was selected for this position and reported in December 2015. Melinda previously served as a Regional Subsistence Council Coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, in Anchorage, Alaska. She was the Designated Federal Official for two of the federally chartered advisory committees that provide recommendations on federal subsistence management. She served as a liaison between the subsistence program and Alaska tribes and Native organizations across the state. She worked with federal and state agencies, rural communities, local governments, stakeholder groups, and the general public regarding various topics relating to subsistence and Alaska Native cultures. She has statewide experience with Alaska Native tribes and organizations, and has served in leadership roles facilitating communications between subsistence users and the subsistence program in formulating management decisions.



Melinda Hernandez Burke, Region 10 Tribal Relations Program Manager.
Photo courtesy of Forest Service employee Melinda Hernandez Burke.

Melinda has a good understanding of Alaska Native issues, tribal dynamics, tribal consultation responsibilities, and the complex interplay of social and political factors in Alaska public land management. Melinda previously worked for the Tongass National Forest as a social science analyst, and has served as a firefighter with Bureau of Land Management in Idaho. She has a B.A. from the University of Alaska – Southeast, with a major in Social Science – Anthropology and a minor in Alaska Native Studies. Melinda and her husband Kirk were thrilled to return to Juneau and to the Forest Service family.

USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Consultation Schedule

Table 1. Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation. Updated July 27, 2016.

| Topic | Type | Start Date | End Date |
|---|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| Bighorn Sheep Management Directives | Manual | Delayed | To Be Determined |
| Rangeland Management Directives | Manual and Handbook | Delayed | To Be Determined |
| Recreation Site – FSH 2309.13 | Handbook | Delayed | To Be Determined |
| Ski Water Rights – FSH 2709.11 | Handbook | Delayed | To Be Determined |
| Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance Directives | Manual | Delayed | To Be Determined |
| Wilderness Management Directives | Manual | Delayed | To Be Determined |

Table 2. Completed Tribal Consultation. Updated July 27, 2016.

| Topic | Start Date | End Date |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Farm Bill Section 8105 (Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Uses) – Regulation and Directive Revision | April 20, 2010 | September 1, 2010 |
| Administrative Appeal Rule – 36 CFR 214 | August 11, 2010 | January 10, 2011 |
| Wind Energy – Directive | August 25, 2010 | February 1, 2011 |
| Planning Rule – Pre-publication of Draft Proposed Rule | September 23, 2010 | December 13, 2010 |
| Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program | September 30, 2010 | February 20, 2011 |
| Farm Bill Section 8103 (Reburial) - Manual Revision | October 5, 2010 | May 31, 2011 |
| Planning Rule – Post-publication of Proposed Rule | December 13, 2010 | March 22, 2011 |
| Paleontological Resources Preservation | March 7, 2011 | July 13, 2011 |
| Management of National Forest System Surface Resources with Non-Federal Mineral Estates | March 7, 2011 | July 13, 2011 |
| National Aerial Application of Fire Retardant Environmental Impact Statement | April 25, 2011 | August 25, 2011 |
| National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusions Supporting Landscape Restoration | May 6, 2011 | August 31, 2011 |
| Burned Area Emergency Response – Manual Revision | May 24, 2011 | October 7, 2011 |
| Planning Rule (120 days prior to estimated date of Final Rule) | July 14, 2011 | November 14, 2011 |
| Sacred Sites (Draft Report to the Secretary of Agriculture) | July 2011 | November 2011 |
| Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program – Policy Directive | February 1, 2012 | May 31, 2012 |
| Objection Process Consultation, Revision of Regulations at 36 CFR 218 | April 2, 2012 | September 7, 2012 |
| Planning Rule Directives | February 27, 2013 | June 28, 2013 |
| Paleontological Resources Preservation | May 23, 2013 | July 22, 2013 |
| Fire and Aviation Management Directives | June 6, 2013 | October 6, 2013 |
| Special Forest Products | June 6, 2013 | October 6, 2013 |
| Solar Energy Directives | December 4, 2013 | April 4, 2014 |
| Heritage Program Directive | December 4, 2013 | April 4, 2014 |
| Commercial Filming Interim Directive | December 4, 2013 | April 4, 2014 |
| National Forest System (NFS) Bundled Tribal Consultation | December 4, 2013 | April 4, 2014 |
| Research and Development's Tribal Engagement Roadmap | January 10, 2014 | May 11, 2014 |
| Groundwater Resource Management – FSM 2560 | May 6, 2014 | October 3, 2014 |
| Tribal Relations Directives | June 6, 2013 | September 22, 2015 |
| Community Forest Program – Proposed Rule | September 29, 2015 | February 3, 2016 |
| Change in Requirements for Public Comment | January 22, 2016 | May 23, 2016 |
| Invasive Species Management Directives | January 22, 2016 | May 23, 2016 |

Contact the Office of Tribal Relations

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The Office of Tribal Relations would like to express gratitude for the
valuable contributions to this newsletter.

Please contact Rebecca Hill with any comments or future story
suggestions for the fall 2016 newsletter.

Thank you.