Director’s Welcome

“Cherish youth, but trust old age”

This Pueblo proverb reflects this newsletter’s theme — celebrating youth, education, and wisdom. As we prepare youth for the future, we must also respect and learn from the life-long culturally-based experience of Elders. We must teach and we must listen intently.

The Forest Service continues to provide opportunities for tribal youth within the Agency and beyond. You may remember our story on Cody, a tribal intern working in the Eastern Region (R9); in this edition, we catch up with him. We also talk to two other Native students who developed programs to teach the public about Native culture while working on R9 Forest Service projects. In our article on the new USDA Office of Tribal Relations Director, Joanna Mounce Stancil, you will also see how USDA works diligently to include tribal youth.

The Forest Service exchanges many kinds of knowledge with Tribes, and recognizes the value of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). In one endeavor involving tribal youth, SKC students filmed their Elders throughout a multi-agency workshop on TEK and fire hosted by the Salish Kootenai College (SKC). Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) then provided a grant to turn the footage into a documentary. Read about it in our new R&D section.

Leveraging a Memorandum of Agreement with the Tulalip Tribe, the Northwest Region (R6) is restoring huckleberry areas. As you will read, the restoration involves Tulalip youth through a tribal summer work program.

The Forest Service strives to ensure tribal access to Forest Service educational programs, especially programs with tribal Elder input. We thus share the success the Carhart Center (located in Missoula, Montana) has enjoyed with its new Wilderness Investigation programs throughout Indian Country.

The Tribal Relations Program has been active in personnel changes and staff development recently. We welcome two new regional Tribal Relations Program Managers (TRPMs): Bob Goodwin in the Pacific Southwest Region (R5) and Waldo Walker in the Pacific Northwest Region (R6). Alicia Bell-Sheeter, Program Analyst in the Washington Office OTR, enjoyed a two week detail in R9, working with TRPM Larry Heady and meeting with Tribes.

Good work should be acknowledged, and to that end this edition highlights the award that Larry Heady and Mike Martischang (R9 GIS Coordinator) won for their work mapping Indian ceded lands in their region.

Tribal Relations Program employees do not only engage in “field” work in the regions; it even happens in Washington, D.C. For instance, Mariel Murray and Estelle Bowman from the Washington Office OTR planted trees at a local school with Forest Service Conservation Education, learning about the benefits of that activity on reservations.

Last but not least, reflecting the Forest Service’s focus on Safety, we introduce a new section of the newsletter — Safety First. In its debut, we discuss our recent multi-staff safety training held at the NCAI Embassy of Tribal Nations in Washington, D.C.

We look forward to sharing and learning more about tribal youth, education, and wisdom.

-Fred Clark
Getting to Know Joanna Mounce Stancil

As the new Director of USDA’s Office of Tribal Relations (USDA OTR), Joanna Mounce Stancil of the Shawnee Tribe seeks to ensure that USDA OTR continues its important work promoting USDA’s strategic goals of rural vitality, conservation, sustainability, and nutrition and health in tribal communities. Central to this mission is fostering relationships with Tribes and improving consultation and collaboration.

Joanna is committed to building on the strong foundation established by USDA OTR in developing USDA’s government-to-government relationship with this country’s 566 federally recognized tribal governments. She said, “I was amazed at the vastness of the programs and services offered by USDA that could benefit or impact Tribes. My goal is for all of USDA to share a holistic view of Indian Country and how we use outreach, consultation and collaboration to further our mission while meeting the needs of tribal governments, Native farmers and ranchers and tribal communities.”

Armed with a background in marketing and communications, she will continue to raise the visibility of USDA OTR as a bridge between USDA and Tribes. Joanna intends to achieve this goal through proactive outreach, simultaneously giving Tribes a voice in USDA policy-making and advising the Department on tribal issues.

She accepted her current position because she “fell in love with the conservation” side of USDA. In 2005, the National Congress of American Indians passed a resolution to conduct a feasibility study on the creation of National Tribal Conservation Areas. The goal was to create a network of “parks” similar to the National Park System, but owned and operated by Tribes. Joanna was central to that effort, and her partner organizations included the National Wildlife Federation, National Congress of American Indians and its member Tribes, and the National Tribal Environmental Council.

Her approach is to act as a conduit for tribal interests, and always make a place at the table for Tribes at USDA. She noted, “USDA OTR serves a key role in bringing Tribes, Native Farmers and Ranchers, and USDA agencies together at the same table. Here we learn from each other and can explore agency resources and potential opportunities. The need in Indian Country is great, and USDA can help meet many of these needs.”

She also shares a commitment to Native youth and opening doors of opportunity for the next generation of farmers and ranchers. This summer, USDA OTR hosted two American Indian interns with strong Future Farmers of America backgrounds. She is also working with the 1994 Tribal Colleges USDA coordinator on ways to reach more American Indian/Alaska Native youth and raise their awareness of opportunities within USDA. The Forest Service OTR looks forward to working with Joanna and the USDA OTR.
Tulalip Teenagers Help Preserve Traditional Huckleberry

Tulalip Tribe teenagers in Washington state who are interested in natural resource management likely know Jason Gobin. Jason, the Tulalip Tribes’ Forestry Manager, schedules hands-on forest work experience for youth between the ages of 14 and 18. The Tribe has run the Summer Youth Work Experience Program for almost 10 years, giving tribal youth the opportunity to get paid to explore a profession in natural resource management. Having worked on a crew thinning trees straight out of high school, Jason said “I’m trying to get kids motivated to do forestry and realize that they can do whatever they want.”

For those teenagers interested in forest stewardship, Jason and the Forest Service (FS) have arranged for projects on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The 2007 Tulalip-FS Memorandum of Agreement emphasizes the importance of huckleberry, cedar, and other traditional use materials. Washington Tribes value huckleberries as a subsistence ceremonial and cultural resource, and as a way to prevent adult onset diabetes. To manage, maintain, and monitor huckleberry in traditional gathering areas, the Tulalip approached the FS to work together in areas of interest on the Forest. Jason, other Tulalip staff, and Phyllis Reed -Wildlife Biologist/Environmental Coordinator on the Darrington Ranger District- developed a Huckleberry Enhancement Project. Made possible through a regional FS challenge cost-share agreement, the project’s purpose is to remove competing vegetation (trees) from around Bigleaf huckleberry to thereby promote greater berry production. The Tulalip Tribe took the lead in thinning the trees crowding the huckleberry, with the youth assisting with the brush piling. The FS Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF fire staff and Initial Attack crew helped prepare the burn plan and site for the proposed broadcast burn. Western Washington adjunct faculty and students also monitored its design and implementation.

Jason emphasized the positive impact of outdoor work for the youth, noting that many of the youth come back to volunteer after their summer program officially ends. Phyllis explained that the FS encouraged the youth to not only be involved in the outdoor physical work, but to also learn about the behind-the-scenes planning and monitoring. She noted, “the Huckleberry Enhancement Project fosters ownership and interest in the continuing use of the land” for future generations. Jason is currently planning to invite the whole Tribe to the area in an event designed to encourage tribal members- especially Elders- to share oral history of huckleberry’s traditional uses.

The FS is pleased to work with the Tulalip Tribe and other Tribes in maintaining this fruit of such rich cultural tradition.
In 1974, three grandmothers from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes protested against logging in the Mission Mountains of Montana. The Elders met with the Tribal Council to express their concerns, emphasizing the need to care for the Earth, and to pass on the precious Mission Mountains to the next generation. The women then waited respectfully for the Council to vote (and would not leave until the Council voted). Finally, the Council voted against the logging plan. These three determined grandmothers helped preserve part of what would become the beautiful Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness area.

This was one of many stories told during teacher workshops of a newly developed wilderness education program, Wilderness Investigations, run by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in Missoula, Montana. The Carhart Center is an interagency collaboration between the Forest Service (FS), the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that trains wilderness managers, interpreters, and educators on wilderness. Wilderness Investigations is a curriculum designed for fifth through eighth grade students, and teachers interested in using it must first undergo training through these workshops.

Throughout the curriculum’s development, Steve Archibald, Carhart’s Education and Outreach Specialist, wanted to ensure that tribal perspectives were included, and that tribal educators would have access to the finished product. Steve said, that “it was a no-brainer to connect with native communities, as Tribes have respect for and awareness of the landscape.” He reached out to the Salish-Pend-d’Orielle, the first Tribe to designate an area as a Tribal Wilderness area. The Tribe’s Culture Committee, including Tony Incashola, the Director, then provided input. The Committee and the Tribal Education office co-sponsored a two-day teacher workshop held in April 2012 on the Flathead Reservation, and Mr. Incashola even presented. In August, Steve held two workshops in Alaska— in Ketchikan and on Prince of Wales Island; these workshops involved many Alaska Native teachers. The next workshop to be held in a tribal community will occur this November on the Nez Perce Reservation (ID) in partnership with the Nez Perce National Historical Park and the Nez Perce Tribe.

In addition to tribal participation, the FS and other agencies often present as part of each workshop, highlighting local wilderness and wild landscapes on public lands. Wilderness Investigations trainers also often spend time in classrooms with Native and non-Native students, focusing on themes related to wilderness.

Overall, Steve learned the power of partnering with Tribes to learn and teach about wilderness. He looks forward to enhancing these educational partnerships in the future. If interested in sponsoring a Wilderness Investigations teacher workshop in your area, contact Steve Archibald at sarchibald@fs.fed.us.

A young Native student on the Flathead Reservation enjoying her Wilderness Investigations class.
American Indian Interns work on Forest Service Projects

With so much to offer our nation’s youth, part of the Chequamegon - Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) has been designated a **National Children’s Forest** by the Forest Service. The CNNF Children’s Forest is located at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (NGLVC), a collaborative partnership between the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and a local non-profit corporation.

NGLVC offers opportunities for youth and the general public to connect with the great outdoors. It also hosts American Indian youth in various summer programs. This summer, the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations and the National Agroforestry Center jointly sponsored an intern (Cody Westlund, see next story). The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC), with the help of a USDA grant, also sponsored two American Indian students in its Native American Student Summer Internship Program. The WTCAC interns, Allissa LaGrew and Dylan Jennings, are college students focused on natural resources and Native American history. Allissa (Red Cliff Band of Chippewa) and Dylan (Bad River Tribe) worked on many projects, including Forest Service projects. For example, they conducted research for the I-Tree project, software designed to assist urban forest management through benefits assessment tools. Through site surveys, they identified species of tree and shrubs at NGLVC.

Allissa and Dylan also participated in Public Relations, learning about conservation practices in the process. Specifically, they wrote about NGLVCs opening of the Penokee Hills art exhibit, where they witnessed local tribal leaders, including a tribal Elder from the Bad River Reservation, exchange knowledge with a visiting group of indigenous leaders from Chile. Finally, Allissa and Dylan were rewarded with opportunities to become educators themselves. They worked with Jason Maloney, NGLVC director, on a live radio show to promote the Center’s programs. They also developed and presented public programs in the Center’s Northwoods Ed-venture Series. This Series involves interns presenting to visitors throughout the summer. Both Allissa’s and Dylan’s programs incorporated Ojibwa culture. Inspired by her grandfather, Allissa took visitors on bird watching hikes and held bird bingo games, teaching the Ojibwa language through Ojibwa bird nomenclature. Allissa said, “I grew up with the culture and I’m happy to share it.” Dylan taught about the cultural significance of Manoomin (wild rice) in an interactive workshop.

Overall, the experience inspired the interns, who plan to pursue careers in related fields. The Forest Service was also honored to have them work on its projects.

“Amy grew up with the culture and I’m happy to share it.”

Allissa LaGrew, WTCAC Intern
Without the Office of Tribal Relations, the Visitor Center, and other offices working together, this job wouldn’t have happened.”

-Cody Westlund

In our last newsletter, we introduced Cody Westlund, a member of the Red Cliff Band of Chippewa Indians. Cody was sponsored by the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), the National Agroforestry Center (NAC), and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to intern at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (NGLVC) in the Forest this summer. We caught up with Cody after the internship ended to hear him reflect on his experience, to learn about his project accomplishments, and to discover his future plans.

“Without the Office of Tribal Relations, the Visitor Center, and other offices working together, this job wouldn’t have happened,” Cody admitted. He acknowledged that although he grew up close to the Forest, and had the usual interaction with nature through boy scouting opportunities, he never imagined he would end up working there- or working for the government, for that matter. Luckily for the Forest Service, that is exactly where he ended up.

On August 30, 2012, Cody presented his work to an audience of many interested people, including Forest Service staff, NAC staff, NGLVC staff, and even Butch Blazer, the Department of Agriculture’s Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment. Paul Strong, the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Supervisor, noted that Cody was a “galvanizing force” in bringing different people together on his very important projects, and added greatly to the Region’s conservation efforts. DUS Blazer encouraged Cody to consider a career in the Forest Service. He also asked all FS staffs to engage more American Indian and Alaska Native students to consider FS careers.

As noted in our last issue, Cody harnessed his experience as a major in Game Design and Development to navigate the high tech software called CanVis. Using CanVis, Cody was able to provide visual simulations of conservation practices in agroforestry. For example, he depicted a potential windbreak of trees and shrubs at NGLVC, a Poplar tree replanting at the Agroforestry Station, a multi-species plantation at the Agroforestry Station, and a river bank restoration on the Brule River. Everyone was so impressed that they all want Cody to come back after he finishes school.

OTR was happy to sponsor Cody, and wishes him the best!
Bridging TEK and Western Science Through Native Youth

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Western Science stem from distinctive cultures and philosophies, but both play critical roles in forming a modern approach to forest health. In June 2010, 27 people discussed this crucial topic in a two day workshop on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, including Forest Service OTR Director Fred Clark. Seven Elders from the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes shared powerful stories showcasing their experience with wildfire, and the Western Scientists gave presentations as well. Overall, the attendees embraced the need for cross-cultural resource management, especially regarding wildfire.

Native Students from the Salish Kootenai College (SKC), led by their Professor Frank Tyro, videotaped the workshop, capturing over 14 hours of footage. They hoped to create a documentary highlighting the resilience and relevance of their Tribe’s TEK. Moreover, they wanted to raise awareness of the theme that emerged from the workshop—the importance of making TEK and Western Science more complementary. Additional interviews and all the editing and production were dependent on supplemental funding, however, and so the project was put on hold.

Dave Cleaves, Forest Service Chief Climate Change Advisor, and Cynthia West, Forest Service Assistant Deputy Chief of Research and Development (R&D), learned about the project and its funding needs at the Intertribal Timber Council’s Research Subcommittee meeting on June 14, 2012. They decided to offer the needed $50,000 to complete the project through the Forest Service, and the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain Research Stations helped channel the funds to the Salish Kootenai College using a Cooperative Agreement. Salish Kootenai College Media, in partnership with Gale Force Films, will now be able to produce an hour-long documentary to be aired by local Public Television stations, other media distributors, and made available for purchase on DVD. They expect the documentary to be ready by October 2013.

Cynthia has worked extensively with Tribes, acknowledging that they are key stakeholders in land management. She said, “I appreciate that TEK is especially valuable in informing Forest Service strategies in climate change adaptation, including wildfire management, because it provides a different window into the biophysical world.” In comparing TEK to Forest Service use of the historical range of variation, she said that the two perspectives provide “different mirror views of the past.” Most of all, however, Cynthia is excited about the video’s potential to bridge the generation gap. This video will be a great example of that, because Native students had the unique opportunity to hear about TEK from their Elders, and can now share it with the world. It also blends the historic and traditional with new technologies. She emphasized that the Forest Service wants to inspire youth to have curious minds, and increasing access to knowledge furthers that goal.

Through projects like the TEK video, the Forest Service is taking steps to promote cross-cultural resource management, and bring TEK and Western Science together in future generations.
Regional Round Robin

Southwestern Region:
The Forest Service Tribal Relations Program is pleased to welcome Robert A. Goodwin to the post of Region 5 Tribal Relations Program Manager. Mr. Goodwin is a member of the Karuk Tribe, the second largest Tribe in California. He has served his Tribe as a Karuk Tribal Council Member and also as the Self-Governance Coordinator for many years.

The OTR looks forward to working with Mr. Goodwin!

Pacific Northwest:
Welcome New Tribal Relations Program Manager, Waldo Walker!
The Forest Service Tribal Relations Program is pleased to welcome Waldo Walker to the post of Region 6 Tribal Relations Program Manager. Mr. Walker is a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and served as Tribal Chairman.

Mr. Walker is a veteran with a background in graphic design. He is currently getting his Masters in Public Administration.

The OTR looks forward to working with Mr. Walker!

WO Region: Planting trees and “Reservation Preservation”
On September 26, 2012, OTR staff Estelle Bowman and Mariel Murray joined the Conservation Education staff for a volunteer day installing an irrigation system and planting trees at a local high school. These projects were made possible by a FS-Outdoor Nation grant. The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, the NGO helping plant fruit trees at the school orchard, is also heavily involved in planting trees on Indian Reservations. That initiative, “Reservation Preservation,” promotes nutrition and environmental benefits on reservations.

Explore their projects at [http://www.ftpf.org/reservationpreservation.htm](http://www.ftpf.org/reservationpreservation.htm).

Eastern Region: Indian Ceded Land Map Award
Larry Heady, R9 Tribal Relations Program Manager, and Michael Martischang, R9 GIS Coordinator received an award at the 2012 ESRI International User Conference. The Forest Service Geospatial Management Office (GMO) sponsored a Forest Service Map Competition at the conference, and Mike and Larry’s map won the award for Forest Service Best Use of Data. Their map, entitled *Location of Indian Land Cessions Relative to Forest Service Eastern Region Administrative Units*, illustrated Indian land cessions and their overlap with Forest Service land in Region 9. The OTR is creating a similar resource for all regions.

Read more about the conference and the award here:
## Consultation Corner

USDA Forest Service  
Tribal Relations Consultation Schedules  
Updated October 2, 2012

### Table 1 - Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation

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<tr>
<th>Consultation Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wilderness Management – Manual Revision</td>
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<td>Bighorn Sheep Management Directive</td>
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<td>Objection Process Consultation, Revision of Regulations at 36 CFR 218</td>
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<td>Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance</td>
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<td>Invasive Species Management - Handbook Revision</td>
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<td>FSM 2309.13 Recreation Site Handbook</td>
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<td>Groundwater Resource Management (Draft of new manual – FSM 2560)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paleontological Resources Preservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Rule Directives</td>
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<td>Rangeland Management – FSM / FSH Revision</td>
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### Table 2 - Completed Tribal Consultation

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<td>Farm Bill Section 8105 (Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Uses) – Regulation and Directive Revision</td>
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<td>September 1, 2010</td>
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<td>Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program</td>
<td>September 30, 2010</td>
<td>February 20, 2011</td>
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<td>Farm Bill Section 8103 (Reburial) - Manual Revision</td>
<td>October 5, 2010</td>
<td>May 31, 2011</td>
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<td>Planning Rule – Post-publication of Proposed Rule</td>
<td>December 13, 2010</td>
<td>March 27, 2011</td>
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<td>Paleontological Resources Preservation</td>
<td>March 7, 2011</td>
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<td>National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusions Supporting Landscape Restoration</td>
<td>May 6, 2011</td>
<td>August 31, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Rule (120 days prior to estimated date of Final Rule)</td>
<td>July 14, 2011</td>
<td>November 14, 2011</td>
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<td>Sacred Sites (Draft Report to the Secretary of Agriculture)</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>November 2011</td>
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On September 12, 2012, staffs from the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), Forest Management, and Conservation Education met at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)’s Embassy of Tribal Nations in Washington D.C. for a follow up Safety Engagement. The OTR was pleased to introduce different Forest Service staff units to our tribal colleagues at NCAI.

During the Safety Engagement, staffs shared lessons learned, and helped each other generate work plans for improving safety and wellness.

The OTR was happy to share our safety culture with the other staffs, and to learn from them as well. The Embassy of Tribal Nations was not only a beautiful space, but also a welcoming one. Our colleagues appreciated the opportunity to meet one of the OTR’s partners and learn about the Embassy’s history.

Region 9 Mini-Detail

As part of a larger effort to strengthen relationships within the Tribal Relations Program and expand connections with field operations, OTR staff are participating in a series of “mini-details” out to the Regions. OTR Policy Analyst Alicia Bell-Sheeter participated in the first mini-detail to the Eastern Region (R9). Shadowing Larry Heady, R9 Tribal Relations Program Manager, Alicia had the opportunity to meet both FS staff and the Ottawa NF Leadership Team, along with more than a dozen Tribes in the Region, including visits with Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, and the Voigt Intertribal Task Force Committee. Engaging in emerging forest management issues on the ground, and putting a face to the Washington Office for Tribal stakeholders, was a “a great experience,” Alicia said, adding that, “as a newcomer to the Agency, the opportunity to dig in to real-time policy issues was invaluable.”

Erika Luna, OTR Policy Analyst just returned from two weeks out the Northern and Intermountain Regions (R1 and R4), and additional staff will venture out to other Regions this fiscal year.
Helping to build long-term collaborative partnerships with Tribes!

USDA FOREST SERVICE

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Dear readers:

I am excited to be the new Editor of Tribal Relations News! It has been a fascinating journey putting this newsletter together. Thank you for helping me learn all about the Forest Service, including its collaboration with and outreach to Tribes and tribal partners throughout the country.

I was especially impressed by all of the work being done in the area of youth, education, and wisdom, including the OTR’s support of tribal interns and youth outreach in the field.

I am confident that the Forest Service will continue to be a leader in this area.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas for the next newsletter at marieljmurray@fs.fed.us or 202-205-4972.

Editor’s Note