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Work Hard, Play Hard: A Summer of Fun & Feats



Tribal Relations News

Director's Welcome

Ah, to be outside. Those of us toiling in offices often wistfully anticipate our next trip to “the field” or at least out of the office, especially when there is a lovely view outside as I have over the sparkling Potomac. Luckily, I do get out to the great outdoors to some very special places.

Many Native students enjoyed the great outdoors at camps this summer. We showcase camps targeting high school students, including the inter-agency Kwiyamunsi camp in Utah’s Dixie National Forest and the Forest Service-sponsored Youth Conservation Corps Camp in California’s Mendocino National Forest. We also introduce Margeau Valteau and Clint Scott, recent Native graduates who joined the Forest Service. I hope they got to go camping too.

Working outside is not always easy – or fun. Firefighters from all backgrounds work tirelessly with the Forest Service to battle fires nationwide, risking their lives day after day during fire season. We hope all of them return home safely every day. We take the opportunity in this issue to highlight and thank California Native fire departments like the Yocha-Dehe Wintu Nation and Greenville Rancheria for their service.

Our Forest Service leaders were out in the field a lot this summer too, busy meeting with tribal partners. First, Forest Service Executives, including Chief Tidwell, Associate Chief Mary Wagner, and California Deputy Regional Forester Jeanne Wade Evans, did a “Chief’s Review” of Forest Service activities in Alaska. They were pleased to learn a lot about our Alaska Native partners. Second, a team from the Santa Fe National Forest, including Forest Supervisor Maria Garcia, Deputy Forest Supervisor Joe Norrell, and CFRP Coordinator Ruben Montes did a tour of Indian Country in New Mexico, learning about many tribal partners there.

I will hold especially dear a memorable trip to the great outdoors this summer. I was with Forest Service leaders who met with tribal cultural experts and spiritual leaders at a sacred place in a South Dakota field. We listened and discussed the

importance of protecting sacred sites through implementing the Sacred Sites Report recommendations.

Finally, the Office of Tribal Relations’ own Mariel Murray had an exceptional field experience, visiting with tribal leaders and Forest Service staff on a two week site visit to Arizona and New Mexico in September. Among other things, she presented on the draft Tribal Relations Directives in tribal consultation sessions.

Now I look forward to some fall fun, preferably outside amidst the falling leaves, and more sunsets over the Potomac.

-Fred Clark

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Dorashana Padilla of Grindstone Indian Rancheria digging at the NCC’s Tribal Youth Conservation Corps Camp.

Photo credit: NCC staff

Getting to Know Margeau Valteau

Fresh off her first official business trip participating in the [Forest Legacy](#) Regional Managers meeting and the National Land Conservation Conference Rally, Margeau Valteau talked excitedly about her developing career with the Forest Service (FS). She was recently hired full time as a Program Specialist for [Cooperative Forestry](#), working on partnership development, website management, and implementing landowner assistance programs. Her recent trip allowed her to see the Forest Service working on-the-ground, and its outreach to various partners. She was impressed with the Land Trust Alliance Rally that provided her training and networking opportunities.

Margeau is a Navajo woman originally from the Arizona portion of the [Navajo Nation](#). Margeau's Navajo clan is To'dichinii and her father's people are Creole from New Orleans, Louisiana, as her paternal grandfather was Creole. Her maternal grandfather's clan is Tsi'naajinii. She was raised in the Navajo Nation Capitol town of Window Rock, Navajo Nation (AZ). Her parents and maternal extended family still live on the Navajo Nation reservation. She attended Navajo Nation public schools, then went on to earn a degree in Urban and Environmental Policy with a minor in Biology from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California.

Margeau first became aware of the Forest Service opportunities through the American University [Washington Internships for Native Students \(WINS\) program](#). Cooperative Forestry welcomed the college junior to serve as their WINS summer intern in 2011. Margeau quietly let on that her first choice was an internship with the Environmental Protection Agency, which she thought fit best with her major. However, after receiving a warm welcome and excellent internship experience working with Ted Beauvais, Scott Stewart, and Maya Solomon in Cooperative Forestry, she was eager to continue looking for opportunities to work for the FS. Margeau was able to join the Cooperative Forestry staff permanently in July 2013 upon successful conversion through the [Pathways Program](#) by way of the former Student Career Experience Program. She is grateful to the Cooperative Forestry staff for guiding her through the hiring process and is glad to serve on their staff.

"Culturally, I was raised to respect the land, so I consider it a privilege that my job revolves around this work," Margeau explained. She therefore plans to build her FS career. When asked about her five year plan, she answered that it probably includes graduate school. Ten years from now was a little harder to predict, but 25 years was very easy for her: she intends to work for the Navajo Nation and give back to her community. Who knows, she may eventually be the Navajo Nation EPA Director.

Welcome Margeau!



Photo credit: Dominic P. Cumberland,
FS Office of Communications

"Culturally, I was raised to respect the land, so I consider it a privilege that my job revolves around this work."

Getting to Know Clint Scott

“Have goals, but reassess them often” is what Clint Scott, the new National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Coordinator for the Coeur d’Alene River Ranger District on the [Idaho Panhandle National Forest](#), advises young American Indians/Alaska Natives starting their careers. Clint had many goals growing up, but had to reassess them often himself- his path to working for the Forest Service is rather unconventional.

Clint is a member of the [Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma](#), and grew up in Colorado. Upon graduating high school, he spent seven years in the Navy as a journalist. He then continued his interest in writing by studying anthropology at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. After college, he satisfied his sense of adventure by working three years on oil rigs and traveling worldwide, with stops in places like India and Vietnam.

Upon his return home, Clint started thinking about giving back to the Tribal community, and decided to combine his passion for writing with his interest in Federal Indian Law. His first step was enrolling in the Prelaw Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives at the American Indian Law Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Institute served him well when he then attended Cornell Law School and focused on Federal Indian Law. During law school, he spent summers working at the Office of The Solicitor at the Department of the Interior and as a [Washington Internships for Native Students \(WINS\)](#) intern at the National Indian Gaming Commission in Washington, DC.

With this great practical experience working on Federal Indian law, he proved to be a perfect candidate for the [Presidential Management Fellow](#) program, which selected him in 2011. This prestigious program selects fellows and helps place them in federal government offices. After talking to Lillian Petershoare, Forest Service Region 10 Tribal Relations Program Manager, at the PMF job fair, Clint was inspired to start his fellowship with her at the [Alaska Tribal Relations office](#). He then had rotations at the US Department of Agriculture’s Office of General Counsel and the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After his final rotation, he drove four days from Juneau to Idaho to start his permanent job with the Forest Service as a NEPA Coordinator. This job was appealing because he enjoys the great outdoors of Idaho as well as working on engaging and educating the public in environmental policy.

Clint hits the ground running and enjoys his work, especially work involving environmental policy and Federal Indian law. His last piece of advice for those young people out there is encouraging: “work hard and keep an open mind- you’ll get where you want to go.”



Clint traveling on a Forest Service float plane to meet tribal members in Southeast Alaska.

Photo credit: Forest Service Law Enforcement

“Work hard
and keep an
open mind-
you’ll get where
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go.”

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and Forest Service Partnership Heats Up As They Fight Fires Together

In a recent speech, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack cited some troubling facts about wildfires: fire seasons are at least 60 days longer than they were 30 years ago, and annual acreage subject to wildland fire may double by 2050. These challenges make it crucial for the FS to work closely with state, local, and tribal governments to prepare for, fight, and recover from wildfires.

One tribal fire department that the FS has successfully worked with is the Yocha Dehe Fire Department (YDFD) in California's Capay Valley. Formed in 2003 by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, YDFD has 32 uniformed and three administrative employees, and a host of equipment. Besides fire suppression and emergency medical services, YDFD performs technical rescues.

YDFD is the only internationally-accredited tribal fire department in the world, and has already earned a reputation for working well with state and local partners. The YDFD is a member of the California Fire Assistance Agreement, and an unprecedented Fire Mutual Aid Agreement. Thus, YDFD contributes to its local county's emergency response force, and partners on federal firefighting efforts with access to Bureau of Indian Affairs reimbursement.

YDFD is a very active partner with the FS. So far, in 2013, YDFD has responded to eight different incidents, including the Hoag Fire on the Plumas National Forest and the Rim fire in Tuolumne County. In August, four YDFD paramedics were deployed to the Orleans Complex fire in the Six River National Forest, where two fires merged to burn 21,680 acres. YDFD paramedics provided

critical treatment to heat-exhausted firefighters, and to one firefighter with a bee sting who went into anaphylactic shock.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation describes itself as "an independent, self-governed nation that supports our people and the Capay Valley community by strengthening our culture, stewarding our land and creating economic independence for future generations." In addition to fighting local fires, it is committed to working closely on economic programs, public safety, health, education and cultural programs with its neighbors as well as other Tribes. For example, the Tribe is the largest private employer in Yolo County, and the philanthropic Yocha Dehe Community Fund has provided more than \$20 million in support to schools, social programs and cultural efforts in the past 10 years. Fire Chief Gary Fredericksen thus claimed that "the Yocha Dehe Fire Department is the ambassador to the county."

The Tribe also collaborates on an array of projects with other tribes in the region, helping to preserve and protect culture and history, develop educational opportunity and build healthy communities. Its work with neighboring tribes includes fire response and assistance with developing their own tribal fire departments.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and Forest Service look forward to growing their strong working partnership, including the development of coordinated fire trainings. With the threat of wildfire growing dangerously, as Secretary Vilsack pointed out, the FS and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation share a critical goal: to bolster local, tribal and FS wildfire preparedness and response in the region.

"The Yocha Dehe Fire Department is the ambassador to the county."

Greg Fredericksen, Yocha Dehe Fire Department Fire Chief



The Yocha-Dehe Fire Department battling the massive California Rim Fire in the summer of 2013.

Photo credit: Paul Brewer, YDFD Captain

Forest Service Kwiyamuntsi Camp Teaches “Building Careers Through Tradition”

By Karen Schroyer, District Ranger, Dixie National Forest

Among the red rocks and Ponderosa Pine of the Powell Ranger District on the beautiful Paunsaugunt Plateau, tribal youth enjoyed a special summer camp in August. The Dixie National Forest in Utah hosted a four day summer youth camp for 7th-9th graders from the Southern Paiute Nation called Kwiyamuntsi Camp. This was a collaborative effort between the Dixie National Forest, Bryce Canyon National Park, Tribal Governments, Bureau of Land Management, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Southern Utah University, and the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, with a generous grant from the National Park Foundation. Tribes from Arizona, Nevada, and Utah were represented, including the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of Arizona, Moapa Band of Paiutes of Nevada, and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (Cedar, and Shivwits Bands). The theme of the camp was “Building Careers through Tradition.”

The youths enjoyed a unique learning experience, as Tribal Elders teamed up with Agency Specialists worked to blend tribal traditional knowledge with public land manager perspectives on Hydrology, Wildlife, Plants, Fire, and Astronomy. Among the Agency Specialists was the Forest Service’s own Angie Bullets, Forest Supervisor on the Dixie National Forest and member of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of Arizona. The youth learned about Leave No Trace (LNT) principles, and how LNT is directly tied to “RESPECT” – a value that was emphasized throughout the week. The youths also hiked through the hoodoos in Bryce Canyon National Park. They kept journals of their camp experiences and shared their thoughts with the Elders each evening during their Share Circle. The youths were well rewarded with delicious traditional meals, including elk burgers and fried rabbit.

On the last day of camp, they heard from Natives who work for the various land management agencies, learning about future career opportunities. These Native leaders expressed the importance of a college education. At the end of the four days, the youths walked away with a better understanding of their responsibility to the land inherited from their ancestors, and Agency employees learned more about Southern Paiute culture and traditions. The camp was a great example of how partners come together to make a positive difference in the future of America’s youth.



Kia Woods, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah-Shivwits Band and Maria Castello, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians

Photo credit: BLM-Utah and Caitlynne Spute (student)



Brooke Shakespeare, Dixie NF-Escalante Ranger District Hydrologist, teaches Yvette Lopez, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians

Photo credit: BLM-Utah and Caitlynne Spute (student)



Campers at Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

Photo credit: BLM-Utah and Caitlynne Spute (student)

Chief's Review Team learns about Alaska Natives

By Lillian Petershoare, Forest Service Region 10 Tribal Relations Specialist

“Our tribal partners helped the Region tell its story about building relationships with Alaska Natives.”

One fifth of Alaska’s population is Alaska Native or Alaska Native descendant; no wonder a key component of working for the Forest Service (FS) in Alaska is relationship-building with Alaska Natives. [The Region](#) is committed to maintaining and enhancing these relationships, particularly with the Tribes, Corporations and Alaska Native communities of South-central and Southeast Alaska.

In late August, the Alaska Region hosted Forest Service Chief Tidwell and his Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for a Chief’s Review. As part of the Review, the ELT experienced the richness of Alaska Native cultures, including a social event where all of our partners and stakeholders were invited.

The Juneau Arts and Culture Center was chosen as the social event’s venue because its tall walls feature large, colorful Tlingit clan crest designs. To show their respect to the FS, the One People Canoe Society brought their stunning 35-foot raven canoe to grace the stage, along with a hand-woven traditional Chilkat blanket, esteemed regalia. In addition, the regional tribe [Central Council of](#)

[Tlingit and Haida Indians](#) displayed repatriated artifacts, regalia, and the hand-carved acknowledgment staffs. These staffs honor the healing journey begun when former Regional Forester Denny Bschor acknowledged that in the mid-20th century, the FS removed fish camps and smokehouses on National Forest System Lands, which from time immemorial have been Southeast Alaska Native traditional clan lands.

The Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp 70 catered the event with delicious Alaska Native subsistence foods including smoked salmon, herring egg salad, seaweed salad, shrimp salad, and seaweed rice balls. As subsistence had been a key discussion topic during the Chief’s Review, it was important for the ELT to taste regional traditional foods while talking informally with Alaska Natives about it.

In the evening, Tlingit Professor Lance Twitchell and four Alaska Native university students addressed attendees in Tlingit and English. The ELT learned about the complex Tlingit language, and students delighted in

speaking their own languages.

As the evening winded down, the One People Canoe Society presented Regional Forester Beth Pendleton with a canoe paddle adorned with a FS shield. The next day, she brought the paddle to a meeting with the Chief, his ELT, and Alaska Region’s FS employees, describing how the [Tongass National Forest](#) recently provided safety resources to the Society during a weather incident in its ocean journey for the rededication of the Chief Shakes Clan House (see [OTR Summer Newsletter](#)). The paddle now has a home in the Regional Forester’s office.

Our tribal partners helped the Region tell its story about building relationships with Alaska Natives like the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian. Their participation in the event with friends, partners, and FS stakeholders enabled the Agency to create an atmosphere celebrating the Region’s respect for Alaska Natives and their cultures.

A Chilkat blanket made of cedar and mountain goat tells a story about the clan and their traditional lands. -Photo credit: Jeanne Wade Evans, Region 5 Deputy Regional Forester



A canoe shows the raven, one of two moieties (descent groups) in Tlingit and Haida Society. Together with the eagle/wolf, the crests bring balance to these cultures.

-Photo credit: Jeanne Wade Evans, Region 5 Deputy RF

Youth Conservation Corps Unites Native Youth and the Forest Service

“My friends keep asking me when they can join the program.”

- Jessica Burrows, Grindstone Indian Rancheria student

“You have to know who you are.” This message greets you on the [official website of the Mechoopda Maidu Indians of California](#). Clearly, this Tribe cares about maintaining its traditions and identity, especially through its youth. The Forest Service (FS) respects this mission, and has sponsored the [Northern California Consortium \(NCC\)](#), an environmental education, outreach and recruitment program, to recruit Mechoopda youth to join its Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) on the [Mendocino National Forest](#) this year. For the past two years, the NCC hosted YCC crews with the Grindstone Indian Rancheria out of Glenn County, California, and this year expanded to include Mechoopda youth.

As Natosha Mauer, Program Director for the NCC and member of the Wintu Tribe of Northern California noted, it has been a great partnership where FS staff and tribal youth work together and learn from each other in the Forest.

The YCC program includes two weeks of professional development and training followed by six weeks of project work. First, the tribal youth and their parents receive an orientation on the Forest Service. Then, the tribal youth receive hands-on-training to prepare them for their project work, including first aid, C.P.R., map reading, vehicle maintenance, safety, and using hand tools and handheld radios. Finally, the YCC crew is ready for restoration and conservation projects.

Jessica Burrows is a 17 year-old student from the Grindstone Indian Rancheria who participated last year. Using her traditional knowledge of uses of plants, Jessica developed a project involving conducting surveys of plant locations and then using GPS units to plot the plant locations. She worked with the FS botanist and archaeologist to target areas that were easier to access. This project helped build the relationship between the botanist, the archaeologist, and the Tribe. Her research will also be used by both the FS as well as the Tribe.

Rachel McBride, Executive Director of Four Winds of Indian Education and a member of the [Yurok Tribe](#), worked with Natosha to recruit tribal youth attending local high schools. Rachel also arranged for the school district to award academic credit for YCC work- YCC crews learn about the environment with each project completed, and are eligible to receive at least 40 hours of environmental education.

So far, eight students from Grindstone and two Mechoopda students have participated in the

YCCs on various projects, including installing fire rings, cleaning up around eagle nests to build fish habitats, and removing and replacing old animal feeders. As Rachel said, “these kids are in full gear, but they love it!” The last week is dedicated to solidifying lessons learned, as each crew prepares presentations to showcase their project work to an audience of tribal members and FS staff.

In an area of such rich natural beauty but also economic depression, it is useful for these tribal youth to learn about career options and life skills. Overall, YCC crew members emerged with a new-found motivation to invest in their future, as well as some hard-earned pocket money. At the same time, the FS was able to harness the youths’ energy and learn from traditional knowledge, building relationships in the process. Jessica even admitted, “my friends keep asking me when they can join the program.” Hopefully the Northern California Consortium will be able to further expand the tribal Youth Conservation Corps next year.



Grindstone Indian Rancheria campers Derrick King, Nathan Bill, Dorashana Padilla, and Jessica Burrows take a break from their restoration project.

Photo credit: NCC staff

Mariel's Southwest Site Visit

Living ancient cities, sacred places long revered, serpentine rivers cut through red deserts alongside majestic pine-covered mountains were some of the awe-inspiring sights greeting the Office of Tribal Relations' Mariel Murray as she weaved through Arizona and New Mexico on a two-week site visit. This Region 3 site visit concludes OTR's effort to have all Washington Office staff gain insight of Tribal Relations from a field perspective.

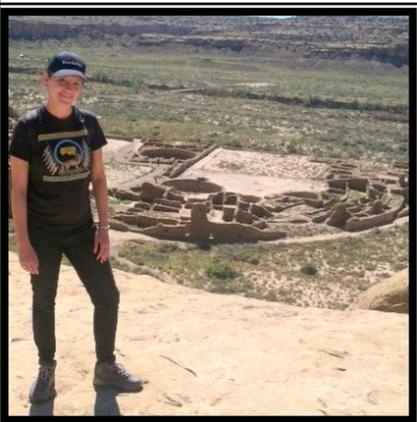
Shadowing Dan Meza, [Region 3 Tribal Relations](#) Program Manager, was part of the site visit. Dan's 30 year career with the Forest Service includes work as part of a fire crew, in Civil Rights,

and as an engineer before he became the Tribal Relations Manager two years ago—he is practically a Forest Service legacy! Dan has worked closely with Tribes and Pueblos throughout his career, and then specifically in Region 3 to ensure consistent communication, collaboration, and understanding.

For months before traveling to the area, Mariel coordinated with Dan and local forests to organize tribal consultation on the draft Tribal Relations directives, Fire and Aviation Directives, and the Special Forest Products Draft Final Rule. The consultations were held on the [Coronado National Forest](#) in Tucson, the [Coconino National Forest](#) in Flagstaff, and the [Cibola National](#)

[Forest](#) near Albuquerque. She was pleased to meet so many committed Forest Service colleagues, and honored to speak with many local tribal members in the process. "With so many years living on these lands, the Tribes and Pueblos are intimately tied to their natural surroundings, and bring this important spiritual and cultural perspective to Forest Service work," observed Mariel.

Overall, Mariel was grateful for the opportunity to travel to this captivating part of our country, to see how the Forest Service works with Tribes and Pueblos in this historic area.



Mariel at New Mexico's Pueblo Bonito, the ancient Great House of Chaco Canyon, a sacred site to many Pueblos today.

Photo credit: Dan Meza



A ceremonial building, or kiva, at the Acoma Pueblo's Sky City in New Mexico
Photo credit: Mariel Murray

A tribal dancer in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Photo credit: Mariel Murray



Greenville Rancheria and Forest Service Firefighters Promote Cultural Forest Stewardship

“The Plumas National Forest goes above and beyond to work with the Greenville Rancheria Fire & Fuels Crew.”
-Danny Manning, Greenville Assistant

In the mountains of northeastern California, the Greenville Indian Rancheria Fire & Fuels Crew has been thinning for fire safety, enhancing culturally important plants, collaborating successfully with the Plumas and Lassen National Forests, and training a new crew of Tribal firefighters. The Crew has been working successfully with the Forest Service (FS) over the past five years, after establishing interagency agreements with the FS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to fight fire with Agency crews on Agency lands.

The Tribal Crew has ten members (nine of which are Maidu), led by Crew Boss Mike Savala (Maidu) and managed by Assistant Fire Chief Danny Manning (Maidu). The Tribal Council has consistently supported the tribal fire program, and manages the Crew. Since 2009, the Crew has worked on FS, private, and Indian trust land, and has been steadily growing. The Crew has won a FS High Achievement Award, and acquired a Wildland Fire Engine through the FS Federal Excess Property Program.

The Crew has been a resource for the FS in terms of fighting fires, but also in effective Maidu cultural site protection during fire fighting. This year, on the Hough Lightning Complex, the Crew coordinated with Maidu elders and the FS to provide on-site cultural monitoring in fire-threatened areas. The Crew also trains alongside FS crews; this year, they trained together on chainsaw and crosscut saw use. These opportunities help both crews build complementary skills.

The Crew works closely with the Plumas National Forest Greenville Workstation on local fire prevention and outreach. In 2013, they worked together on the One Less Spark Program, appearing at local events and parades to put up awareness posters, hand out brochures, and teach young Natives and others about fire prevention with Smokey the Bear. For the past three summers, the Crew also offered hands-on fire prevention sessions to up to 40 children at the Roundhouse Council Indian Education Center Traditional Ecologi-

cal Knowledge summer camp. The youth learn about firefighting careers and equipment, try firefighting gear, listen to the story of Smokey the Bear, and meet Smokey himself.

The Plumas National Forest also helps with tribal traditional burning. The fall season offers opportunities to do traditional burns of culturally important plants, including beargrass, which is burned to produce material suitable for weavers to make baskets. In 2011, the Plumas National Forest helped the Crew, including providing some financial assistance, to successfully arrange a beargrass burn on FS land. Manning and honored Maidu elder Frenchie Mullen led the Crew, which partnered with Forest Service Burn Boss Ryan Bauer, Mike Donald, Megan Martinez, and Engine 20 to conduct the burn. The Crew is now working with the FS to plan another burn nearby.

This year, the Crew also started working closely with neighboring Lassen National Forest after entering into a Participating Agreement. Under the agreement, the Crew is conducting trail maintenance on 20 miles of trails in the Ishi Wilderness through 2014. The work involves hiking in, camping, and using non-mechanical tools to maintain trails. In the spirit of collaboration, the Crew subcontracted some work to Mooretown Rancheria’s fire crew.

The Greenville Indian Rancheria Fire & Fuels Crew will continue to implement local, culturally relevant fire and fuels reduction projects in the Maidu homeland, and work with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other on fire fighting. The Crew is proud to work alongside FS personnel, the Crew is planning future collaborative fire management, fuels reduction, and fire prevention.



The Greenville crew-FS training on crosscut saw use- Mike Savala (Crew boss) and Freeman Merino sawing left of Bobby Bridgman.

Photo courtesy: Danny Manning

The Shape of Things That Have Been: The Power of Sacred Sites

By Fred Clark

“They made the rocks and the site come alive for us, reinforcing the need to further protect places like this.”

Looking over the rock patterns, a feeling of curiosity was palpable among the group of visitors to this South Dakota field. The rocks formed patterns that seemed tantalizingly organized and purposeful.

We learned that these stone formations had been misinterpreted several years ago by one archaeologist as teepee rings- circles of rocks left after having served their purpose of holding down the edges of teepees. He had deemed these features as “insignificant” in terms of historical value. Having worked as an archaeologist for some twenty years, including having mapped and excavated teepee rings in Montana and Wyoming, I was also aware that these forms were far from the evenly rounded rings I’d seen many times before. They were shapes, but shapes of what?

Us visitors, members of the Forest Service’s Sacred Sites Executive and Core Teams, had been tasked with developing ways to fulfill the recommendations from the [USDA/Forest Service Report to the Secretary of Agriculture: USDA Policy and Procedures Review and Recommendations: Indian Sacred Sites](#). Visiting this sacred place was part of our education: helping us find the right attitude as we started three days of meeting on how to best implement the recommendations.

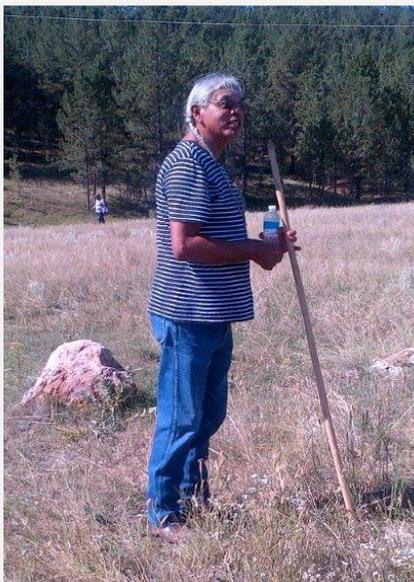
We were guided and educated, at least as much as can be done in just one morning’s time, by Mr. Arvol Looking Horse and Mr. Tim Mentz, Sr. At 12 years of age, Mr. Looking Horse had been given the enormous responsibility of being the 19th generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe. He is a spiritual leader for the Lakota Dakota Nation. Mr. Mentz is a cultural resource expert with the [Standing Rock Sioux Tribe](#); he was their first Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and continues to be an amazing source of information about cultural sites for his Tribe.

These guests were invited to explain their perspectives on how the individual features are orga-

nized, relate to the surrounding landscape, the directions, other sites, and a bit about what the features’ functions might have been. They pointed out the meaning behind the features and talked about how these places have current and ongoing power.

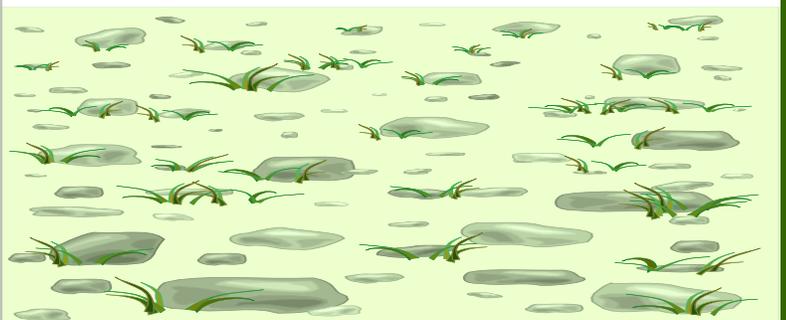
Mr. Mentz and his crew also mapped the entire site while we were visiting, and related the physical shapes and functions to hundreds of other sites they had recorded. They also talked about how very many of these types of sites had already been destroyed by development, and how many are endangered. They made the rocks and the site come alive for us, reinforcing the great need to further protect places like this.

While many of the sites being destroyed are on private land, the message was one of urgency and relates directly to our task of doing a better job within the Agency of protecting Indian Sacred Sites. Having elders like Arvol and Tim share this kind of information, we are better prepared to bring to this work a good mind and a good heart- better able to affect the shape of things to come.



Mr. Tim Mentz, Sr., Standing Rock Sioux cultural resource expert, interpreting the sacred site.

Photo credit: Fred Clark



Safety Corner

Tips for Lifting Properly

- If you are approaching a box and don't know what's in it, try moving it a little with your foot first to see how easily it moves. This will help you gauge how heavy the box is.
- Always wear nonskid shoes when you are lifting often or lifting potentially heavy objects.
- Never bend at the waist and lift the box up with your back. Keep your upper body straight and parallel with your lower legs. Grab the item and push up with your legs, not with your back.
- Never jerk your body around when lifting. You may feel fine after doing this once, but repeated occurrences can easily lead to injury in even the healthiest workers.

www.scssafetyandhealth.com



Regional Round Robin

Northwestern Region: Forest Service meets with Tribal Council WTCAC

The Office of Tribal Relations' Director Fred Clark met with the [Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council \(WTCAC\)](#) in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, on September 23, 2013. The Forest Service was well represented with Larry Heady (Region 9 Tribal Relations), Paul Strong (Forest Supervisor, [Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest](#)), Barb Tormoehlen ([Northern Area, State and Private Forestry](#)), Deahn Donner ([Northern Research Station](#)), and others from the Chequamegon-Nicolet. WTCAC tribal representatives included the [St. Croix Chippewa](#), [Menominee](#), [Forest County Potawatomi](#), [Oneida](#), and the [Sokaogon Chippewa Mole Lake Band](#).

The WTCAC was originally set up to work with USDA's [National Resource Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) to serve as a voice for conservation on tribal lands; it provides a forum for the 11 tribes in Wisconsin to identify and solve natural resource issues on tribal lands. With the good work of the WTCAC and Forest Service leaders, the partnership has now extended beyond NRCS and includes the Forest Service. This cross-Deputy area, cross-USDA, and cross-tribal partnership meeting was a headwaters event, one that marks the beginning of the flow into greater collaboration downriver. Hold on—it's going to be a great ride.

Southwestern Region: Santa Fe National Forest Leaders Visit Indian Country

[Santa Fe National Forest](#) Supervisor Maria Garcia, Deputy Forest Supervisor Joe Norrell, Cuba District Ranger Allan Setzer, and CFRP Coordinator Ruben Montes, visited with tribal leaders on a two-day swing to areas bordering the west zone of the sprawling 1.6 million acre forest in September.

They met with the [Jicarilla Apache Nation](#), regarding sacred sites and collection of traditional forest products on NFS

lands. Next they met with four different [Navajo Nation](#) local units of government, known as Chapters, to discuss firewood collection for elderly residents—a topic of great concern with winter approaching and wood burning stoves being the primary source of heat for many of these residents. Lastly, the group met with the [Zia Pueblo](#) to address post-Las Conchas Fire rehabilitation and potential collaborations on forest restoration and watershed improvement projects with the Pueblo.

National: Forest Service Tribal Training Group Update

The Forest Service Tribal Relations Training Group is working with the [Interagency Sacred Sites MOU](#) Training Workgroup to compile and catalogue existing trainings (in all areas of Tribal Relations, not only sacred sites). If you know of any existing trainings relating to Tribal Relations or Indian Country, please send the information to Ericka Luna at elluna@fs.fed.us.



A Navajo traditional home, or hogan, being built with a Forest Service [Collaborative Forest Restoration Program \(CFRP\)](#) grant from the Region. The Santa Fe National Forest supplied the logs and administered the grant. Ruben Montes, CFRP Coordinator, showed Maria Garcia and Joe Norrell the finished hogan on this tour.

Photo credit: Jan Willem

Jansens

Consultation Corner

USDA Forest Service
Tribal Relations Consultation Schedules
Updated October 30, 2013

Table 1- Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation

Topic	Type	Start Date	End Date
Tribal Relations Directives	Manual and Handbook	June 6, 2013	November 27, 2013
Bighorn Sheep Management Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Recreation Site - FSH 2309.13	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Groundwater Resource Management - FSM 2560	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Invasive Species Management Directives	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Rangeland Management Directives	Manual and Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Wilderness Management Directives	Manual	Delayed	To Be Determined
Solar Energy Directives	Manual and Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Heritage Program Directive	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Commercial Filming Interim Directive	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

Table 2 - Completed Tribal Consultation

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

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Editor's Note



I would like to thank everyone for their valuable contributions to this newsletter, including those in the OTR.

As always, it is inspiring to learn about all of the collaboration between the Forest Service and Tribes.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or story suggestions at 202 306 5121 or marieljmurray@fs.fed.us.