



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

Tribal Relations News

Assistant Director's Welcome



In the 2015 fire season, thirteen wildland firefighters made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the lives of others, and the aftermath of the devastation is still being felt today. Despite one of the most challenging fire seasons on record, the work must continue. Those of us who work for land management agencies understand that we not only do our work for the benefit of our fellow citizens but for our future generations.

President Obama hosted the seventh annual White House Tribal Nations Conference on November 5, 2015, where he answered questions and discussed Indian Country priority issues with a panel of tribal youth. Each youth, an ambassador of the White House Generation-Indigenous (Gen-I) Challenge, articulated the critical need for federal agencies and tribal nations to work together to provide a better future for the leaders of tomorrow.

In honor of Native American Heritage month, Forest Service Director Fred Clark (Citizens Band Potawatomi) will be serving on a November 19, 2015, panel along with USDA Natural Resources & Environment Deputy Undersecretary Butch Blazer (Mescalero Apache) and Lawrence Shorty (Navajo) Director of 1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. The panel will be focused on youth, "Growing Native Leaders-Enhancing Our Seven Generations." Leslie Wheelock (Oneida), USDA Office of Tribal Relations Director, will moderate the panel.

In this issue, several of the articles highlight programs that presented opportunities for Native youth to incorporate elements of their culture with science and technology. The ongoing outreach and support for our Native youth is also the focus of the special assignment that Estelle J. Bowman is working on with DUS Blazer. We are looking forward to reading about the strategy they are developing along with our colleagues within federal service and the many partners working to promote and advance Native youth.

The Forest Service recently launched an online Tribal Connections GIS tool that allows viewers to research current land topography through a historical lens. This will help to inform future planning activities with tribes as well as facilitate cultural preservation and exchange programs with tribal partners. The Forest Service hosted an open house for visiting Tribal Leaders and staff to demonstrate the Tribal Connections mapping tool the Friday after the White House Tribal Nations Conference.

Finally, I would like to introduce myself to the Forest Service family and many partners. My name is Christopher Koepfel, and I will serve as the second Assistant Director for the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations. I recently served as Division Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison for the US Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) and provided support and expertise to six MVD districts as senior technical and policy advisor for tribal issues. I have 25 years of experience in tribal relations, environmental compliance, and cultural resources management at various institutions and agencies in the Midwest and southern states. I have taught cultural resources/tribal consultation workshops for private industry, non-profit organizations, and state/federal agencies. I have spent my career working with tribal nations on collaborative projects and partnerships and I am excited to continue that here. I look forward to working with the wonderful OTR team, staff in the field and all of you. I live in Springfield, Virginia with my wife, Sarah Koepfel and my two young children, Sebastian and Adelaide. Please contact me at (202) 503-6118 or ckoepfel@fs.fed.us.

Chris Koepfel, Assistant Director
Office of Tribal Relations

Inside

<u>Article</u>	<u>Page</u>
Tribal Connections	2-3
Camp Onji-Akiing	4
Visitors at SFNF	5
Apache Youth	6
College of the Menominee	7
Regional Round Robin	8
Tribal	9

Forest Service Releases Interactive Tribal Connections Map

Provides Historical and Current Tribal Lands in Relation to National Forests and Grasslands

WASHINGTON, DC—On October 1, 2015, U.S. Forest Service released [Tribal Connections](#), a new online interactive mapping tool that shows how lands managed by the agency connect or overlap with current tribal trust lands and lands tribes exchanged with the federal government prior to 1900. This reference tool will help Forest Service employees and the public better understand historical treaties and the role they play in making current land management decisions.



“Our country has a deep, yet sometimes forgotten connection to indigenous people and their lands, which all Americans now call home,” said Arthur “Butch” Blazer, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. “By showing historical and modern connections to public lands in one place, we can all understand that land management decisions should take into account more than what meets the eye.”

Tribal Connections compiles information from hundreds of Smithsonian Institute maps and displays them in a single visual presentation. Forest Service mapping experts have used information by Smithsonian ethnographer Charles C. Royce published in 1899. At the time, Royce used the best tools and information available, but incorporated geographic descriptions that have been difficult to replicate with modern technology.

Tribal Connections contains multiple layers that include information on forests and grasslands managed by the agency, lands owned by tribes and historical data on lands ceded by treaties. Nearly 4,000 miles of shared boundaries between tribal lands and Forest Service-administered/owned land are identified.

Clicking on the map provides additional current and historical detail for each location. Tribal Connections uses the most current data available from Federal Census Bureau, Forest Service, Smithsonian, and other sources. Having this information easily available in one online resource will improve the efficiency of agency-tribal coordination, collaboration, and consultation.

Tribal Connections can serve as a helpful reference tool; however, it is not a legally binding map nor a source for legal descriptions.

The Forest Service will use the map to help improve decision-making on incident and resource management and to honor and strengthen treaty rights and the federal trust responsibility. It will also help identify opportunities for new and expanded partnerships between tribes and the agency.

Continued from page 2...

“Tribes are an integral part of our American story, leaders in our natural resource heritage and the original stewards of the lands we hold dear,” said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “Tribal Connections helps improve agency collaboration with Tribes and allow for new opportunities by visually depicting just how much of our natural and cultural resource interests overlap and meet geographically.”

The U.S. holds approximately 52 million acres of land in trust for various Indian tribes and individuals. The largest is the 16 million-acre Navajo Nation Reservation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Much of the lands managed by the Forest Service and other federal agencies were ceded to the United States by tribes. Although they no longer reside on these lands, many tribes retain rights and interests in national forests and grasslands by treaty.

The Forest Service [Office of Tribal Relations](#) worked with the agency’s Geospatial Service and Technology Center to develop the map. The map includes information from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Smithsonian Institution, with input from other federal agencies, intertribal organizations, and individual tribal members.

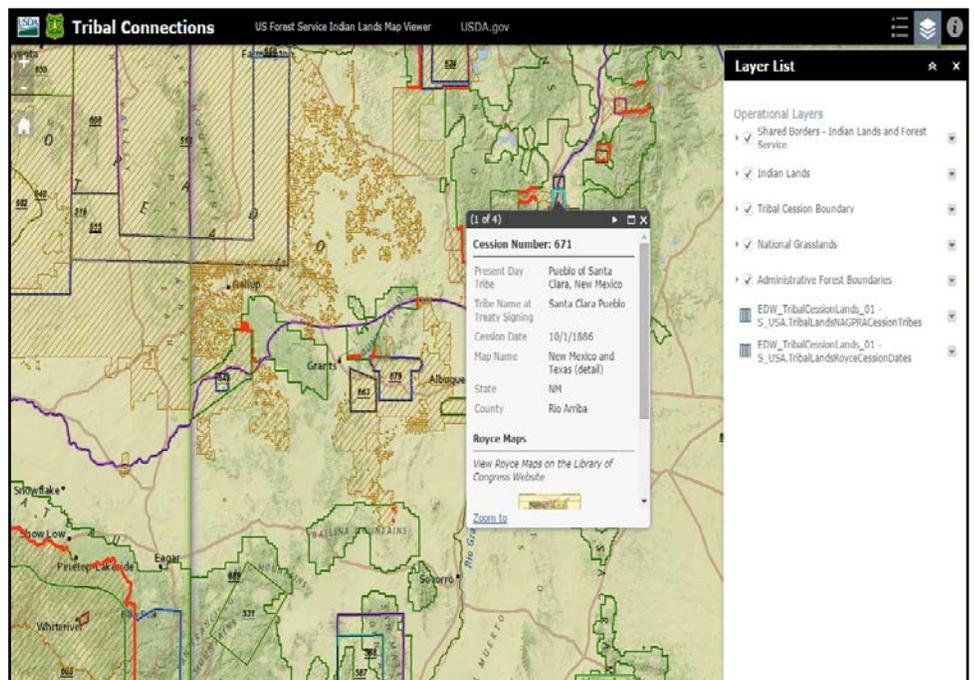
The Tribal Connections viewer is available online through the Forest Service Geodata Clearinghouse, the online collection of digital data related to forest resources.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands managed by the Forest Service contribute more than \$13 billion to the national economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency also has a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., including 100 million acres of urban forests where most Americans live.

For more information on the Tribal Connections map, please contact Katherine Sosbe at kgsosbe@fs.fed.us.

Editor’s Note: This originally appeared as a Forest Service News Release on October 1, 2015.

Tribal Connections contains multiple layers that include information on forests and grasslands managed by agency lands, lands owned by tribes, and historical data on lands ceded by treaties.



Students Enjoy Another Summer at Camp Onji-Akiing

Mary Rasmussen, Chequamegon-Nicolet, Hiawatha and Ottawa National Forest

You wake up at 6:00 a.m. The sun is coming up over a beautiful lake and the birds are rushing you to get out of bed. You throw back the covers, jump down from your bunk, and rush out to take part in the morning's first activity: a nature walk in the northwoods along Lake Nesbit, Michigan. It's going to be another great day at Camp Onji-Akiing!

LAKE NESBIT, MI—This year marked the 8th year the Ottawa National Forest and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) hosted Camp Onji-Akiing (meaning “From the Earth”). Fifty-five students and six junior counselors participated in the 5-day residential camp intended to help tribal youth learn about careers in natural resources, environmental sciences, and Native American treaty rights. The camp is designed as a hands-on learning opportunity for students to become immersed in an outdoor classroom, while building leadership skills and environmental stewardship. During their time at Camp Onji-Akiing, students gain a better understanding of the natural and cultural aspects of the Great Lakes area. Through team-building and personal growth activities, students learn the skills and attitudes they will need to succeed in the future.

Forest Service employees provided programs on aquatic ecology, fisheries, and wildlife and participated in a Natural Resources Career Fair, which allowed campers the opportunity to talk one-on-one with natural resource managers. A high-ropes course taught the students how to face challenges and overcome obstacles, while a low-ropes course helped foster teamwork. GLIFWC Wardens and staff were on hand to support archery, cultural exploration, native plant workshops and, of course, swimming. Over 30 Forest Service and GLIFWC employees shared their time and talents to create a learning and supportive environment, which challenged campers to try new things while learning more about themselves and others. Special funding this year provided campers with the



Forest Service staff hosted a career fair highlighting the various professions and displaying equipment and tools of the trade (U.S. Forest Service).



Youth experiment with a stream table, where they learned about stream dynamics from Forest Service ecologists (U.S. Forest Service).

opportunity to learn more about the practice of harvesting wild rice (*Manoomin*). Campers made their own push poles and ricing sticks, and learned canoe safety as part of this new program. It was another great year!

Plans are already in progress for next year's camp and students are already lining up! Many of these students will tell you that their experience at Camp Onji-Akiing has been life changing in some ways. And, you know what? The camp counselors, volunteers, and support staff will tell you the same thing!

Camp Onji-Akiing is a cooperative effort between the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the Ottawa National Forest. The goal is to introduce tribal and non-tribal children to the natural world through integrated educational and recreational programs.

Central Asians Visit Santa Fe National Forest

Reuben Montes, Santa Fe National Forest



Natural Resource staff from Ohkay Owingeh show visitors the restoration work along the Rio Grande Rive (U.S. Forest Service).

SANFA FE, NM—On September 17, a group of natural resource professionals from the Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan met at the Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor's Office as part of a tour of two Forest Service regions, the Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions. The group toured Colorado and New Mexico with Forest Service International Programs to learn about management of wildlife and protected areas in the United States. The Washington Office and the U. S. Agency organized the visit for International Development (USAID).

At the Santa Fe National Forest, the 21-member group, which consisted of 11 Russian speaking protected area and conservation specialists, interpreters, and representatives from USAID and the International Programs office of the

WO, received an overview of the Southwest Region's Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) and Tribal Relations Programs at the Santa Fe National Forest Service's Office. Afterward, a three-vehicle caravan proceeded about 30 miles north to the tribal administrative offices of the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.

Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo Governor Earl Salazar warmly received the delegation. Salazar gave a brief history of his tribe and explained their organizational structure. In turn, delegation members presented him with a decorative woven livestock whip used by indigenous peoples from Central Asia.

The delegation was led on a tour of CFRP funded riparian restoration work in the bosque along the Rio Grande by tribal natural resource staff. The main purpose of the visit was to display how the Forest Service interacts with external partners to accomplish landscape scale restoration across multi-jurisdictional boundaries. In particular, the visitors wanted to see examples of restoration projects on non-Forest Service lands that have been funded through Southwest Region's CFRP. The group was intrigued by the concept of a federal agency program providing funding to a sovereign Native American tribe to conduct important restoration work within the boundaries of a tribe.

While traveling through tribal lands, members of the delegation remarked that the traditional hornos (ovens) and adobe home construction was very similar to their own architecture.



Central Asian visitors and Ohkay Owingeh tribal staff with tribal flag inside tribal council room (U.S. Forest Service).

Apache Youth Spend Summer Stewarding Land

SPRINGVILLE, AZ—Five White Mountain Apache youth spent this past summer learning about fisheries, wildlife, range, trails, archaeology, and future natural resource careers during their eight-week summer program in Arizona. The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT), the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF), and the Southwestern Tribal Fisheries Commission (SWTFC), with the goal of educating youth on natural resources and inspiring them to explore natural resource careers, sponsored the program. The tribal youth crew worked jointly between tribal lands and national forest lands on various projects with several WMAT and ASNF program managers and specialist.

The program began on June 15, 2015 at the Woodland Lake Park on the Lakeside Ranger District on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The youth spent four weeks working with WMAT biologists on elk collaring, game counts, creel surveys, lake surveys, archeological survey techniques, and nuisance wildlife. They spent another four weeks on the ASNFs with district and forest program managers on stream habitat sampling, fish surveys, hawk surveys, restroom vent retrofits to protect cavity nesting birds, range management, recreation and wilderness management. The youth crew also engaged in classroom presentations from range management, Game Rangers, Fort Apache Hot Shots, CPR, 1st Aid Training, and resume writing.

The crew was given the equipment they would need, which included hiking boots, gloves, orange safety vests, backpacks, waders, safety glasses, water bottles, journals and crew shirts they helped design. The crew leader was WMAT Game and Fish officer Velda Massey, and the crew included Shanaki Hopper, Geron Beatty, Hiram Kessay, Justin Gatewood and Dheus James, all 17. Hopper said he saw an ad for the program and applied for it. “Actually, my teacher Ms. Dewitt encouraged me to do it. I am proud of myself for doing it and it gave me ideas for the future.”

A small graduation ceremony was held on August 7 at Paradise Creek on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation marking the end of the first joint Tribal Youth Crew. Forest Supervisor Tom Osen, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor Cid Morgan, and Ecosystem Staff Officer Nancy Walls all attended the picnic lunch to recognize the achievements of the youth crew over the summer. Tom Osen gave ‘Certificates of Appreciation’ to each of the crewmembers and crew leader. WMAT Fisheries Biologist Tim Gatewood praised the Forest’s dedication, efforts, and partnership in creating the Tribal Youth Crew and making the summer a great experience for the crew. Stuart Leon, Director of the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission, also attended and gave each crewmember certificates and their CPR/1st Aid training certification cards. The skills they learn this summer will help them as they finish their last year of high school and begin making decisions for their futures.

Stephanie Coleman, ASNFs fisheries biologist who worked closely with the youth crew, said, “We had an amazing group of teenagers that were open and excited about all the various work we had them do. They worked hard and learned a lot of different resource areas. This program is well supported by the ASNF and we hope to continue the program into the future. It allowed us to build a stronger relationship with the White Mountain Apache Tribe, one that we hope to continue to build upon.”



Tribal Youth Graduation Day, pictured with Forest Service, Southwestern Tribal Fisheries Commission, and White Mountain Apache Tribe staff. (U.S. Forest Service).

Partnership at College of the Menominee Nation

Jen Youngblood, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry

KESHENA, WI.—Since June 2015, the partnership between the Forest Service and the College of Menominee Nation, the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) and the Center for First Americans Forestlands (CFAF), has been moving forward developing new and exciting programs in the areas of education, applied science research, outreach, and technical assistance for Tribal students and Tribal communities and developing a long-term research agenda with all four funding units (S&PF, Northeastern Area Region 9, NRS, and FPL). SDI and CFAF have been successfully incorporating areas of emphasis including TEK/Indigenous ways of knowing, forest ecology, climate change, and advancing the concept of sustainability.



CNM Interns Samy Nelson and Citralina Haruo present their summer intern research at the poster presentation during the “Measuring the Pulse” event in Keshena, Wisconsin (Photo courtesy of Jen Youngblood.).

Some quarterly highlights include:

June 2015: The Summer Institute for CMN Interns was held at the College to educate student interns on concepts of indigenous planning, sustainability, and preparing them for their work over the summer in areas such as forestry, climate change, ecological data collection, agricultural research, and sustainability.

July 2015: A community meeting for the Measuring the Pulse of the Forest work was done with numerous community members, students, and college faculty and staff in attendance. Students were able to give presentations on their work and interns, Keith Kinepoway, Mario Kaquatosh, Briana Levsen, Brenda Miller, and Oren Hill-Sackatook, who worked at Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) through CFAF, delivered presentation on topics like oak wilt and forest health.

August 2015: The College hosted the Partnership Leaders Team. This team consists of leadership from the College, SDI, CFAF, and four funding units of the Forest Service. The meeting was held to identify needs of the partners and define a path to grow the Center with the assistance of the partnership leaders.

September 2015: The College, CMN Faculty, SDI, and CFAF hosted the first in an ongoing series of student-faculty engagement sessions. The series is designed to encourage students to think about protection of cultural and natural resources as future stewards in the Tribal and global community. Students had the opportunity to discuss personal and professional stewardship ethics across academic disciplines. The next of these ongoing events will be held at the College on October 23, 2015.

The Northeastern Climate Science Center Annual Fellows Retreat was also held in September. Many of the fellows shared exciting research related to forestry and forest health. The USFS Tribal Liaison was invited to present on ways scientists can work within indigenous communities.

Regional Round Robin

Intermountain | Northern Region

2015 Tribal Natural Resources Education Summit. Christine Bradbury presented at this summit along with members of Nez Perce Tribe Education Department. They spoke about the tribal youth camp and the 29 years of working together. In 2016, the University of Idaho will host the first-ever National Tribal Climate Boot Camp, with members of tribes from across the United States convening on campus for a week-long educational experience. The event is geared toward learning from traditional knowledge and perspectives and finding ways to partner in addressing challenges posed by climate-related impacts.

2016 Equus International Film Festival was held in Missoula, Montana this past September. Rudy Shebala presented on impacts of federal land management in the southwest to traditional grazing of the Navajo Nation. Christopher Cegielski presented on filmmaking and the point of view of a native filmmakers enrolled in UM Native film program.

Washington, DC Updates

President Obama hosted the 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC on Thursday, November 5, 2015. The conference provided leaders from the 567 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with high-level federal government officials and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

Safety Corner



USDA Forest Service
Tribal Relations Consultation Schedule
Updated October 10, 2015

Table 1 - Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation

Topic	Type	Start Date	End Date
Community Forest Program - Proposed Rule	Manual	September 29, 2015	February 3, 2016
Bighorn Sheep Management Directives	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
Recreation Site - FSH 2309.13	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Ski Water Rights – FSH 2709.11	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

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
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

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The Office of Tribal Relations would like to thank everyone for their valuable contributions to this newsletter.

Please contact Chris Koepfel with any comments or future story suggestions for the Winter 2016 newsletter.

Thank you.