



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

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Director's Welcome

As the season has transitioned from the last hot days of summer (whether the dripping humidity of the East to the dry and brittle baking of the West) to the cooler days of fall, we've seen beauty and relief that inevitably lead to winter. With the coming of winter we know some of what to expect, but some transitions are more uncertain. And the transitions are not just in the weather. We've just experienced a major shift in our political landscape with the election of a new President. I glimpsed a piece of this shift as I escorted the USDA Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment to breakout sessions as part of the 2016 White House Tribal Nations Conference, the final one in the Obama Administration. Tribal leaders spoke eloquently on the effects of changing climate, the importance of key natural resources, and the need for improved partnerships between federal agencies and Tribes. Federal leaders reinforced the need to have career public servants in place to bridge between administrations.

The Forest Service is experiencing many other transitions, with long-time friends and associates like Larry Heady moving on to retirement after 35 years with the Forest Service, and with new energy coming to some of the Forest Service's tribal relations positions, such as the energy Yolynda Begay brings as the new Regional Tribal Relations Program Manager for the Southwestern Region. These two individuals are spotlighted in this edition. I also want to honor here the service and leadership of Jim Hubbard, now retired Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, who provided vision and support for the Forest Service Tribal Relations Program for the past 11 years. We will miss also the Forest Service's long-time Heritage Program Manager and Federal Preservation Officer, Mike Kaczor, who also retired this month.

As we anticipate more employees moving on for advancement or retirement, it is imperative that we keep focused on growing the next generation of public servants. We are constantly devising new ways to involve young people in the work of the Forest Service, and Native Youth has been a major focus. Articles in this edition highlight some of those efforts and some of the stars of that show. You should read about the exciting Native American Research Assistantship Program, the second Native American Youth Camp at Grey Towers, and the exuberance of interns from the College of Menominee Nation.

Our climate is in transition too, and the G-WOW climate literacy model integrates place-based evidence of climate change and traditional ecological knowledge of the Lake Superior Ojibwe with climate science. In another article,

we provide a specific example related to the drought in California, and how it is bringing Tribes and the Forest Service together.

There are some exciting developments in the policy world. The Forest Service has published new regulations on providing, free of charge, forest products to Tribes for cultural and traditional purposes, and there is a new Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Tribal Treaty Rights.

I heard a long time ago the adage “Change is not hard. Changing is.” As we continue through these many, many changes, remember that transitions both challenge us and make us stronger.

-=Fred=-

Native American Research Assistantship Program: Recruiting the Next Generation of Native American Resource Professionals

Serra J. Hoagland, PhD (Laguna Pueblo), U.S. Forest Service Biological Scientist

MESCALERO, NM — At sunset on a steep, north-facing slope, standing at 7,500 feet among massive Douglas-fir trees, research assistants Chase Voirin (Navajo) and Elisha Flores (Hoopa) imitated the four-note territorial call of the Mexican spotted owl (MSO). “Who! Who-who! Whooooo!” They anxiously waited for a response. Within minutes, an owl hooted in the distance, and Voirin and Flores began following the sound of its call within their study site on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation in south-central New Mexico. This was their first introduction to working with spotted owls, and immediately they were captivated by the birds’ calm, confident, unique demeanor. The experience would lead to a deep passion for working in tribal forests with a threatened species that carries cultural connotations unlike any other.

As participants in the Native American Research Assistantship Program (RAP) provided by the Forest Service and The Wildlife Society (TWS), Voirin and Flores often hiked in remote areas to locate, monitor, and assess any changes in occupancy and reproduction of MSO breeding pairs. Developed and coordinated by [Dr. Serra Hoagland](#), Forest Service biological scientist and

co-point of contact for tribal relations for the Southern Research Station, this research was part of an assessment of wildfire risk in MSO habitat on the Reservation and one of 13 unique research projects providing assistantship opportunities to Native American students since the RAP’s inception in 2015. Students apply to the program in the fall to work with Forest Service Research & Development scientists during the following field season.

The Native American RAP enhances the diversity of resource professionals and recognizes that traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and expertise held by Indian people and tribal communities hold great promise for sustainable ecosystem management. Forest Service research projects included in the program must address regional wildlife conservation issues, data gaps and, most importantly, wildlife management issues that are important to the subsistence, livelihood, cultural, or spiritual values of one or more tribes. These goals are in direct response to maintaining Forest Service federal-tribal trust responsibilities and ensuring that Forest Service science is meeting research needs identified by tribal communities.

Projects have ranged from black oak restoration in California to wolverine and bat monitoring projects in the Rocky Mountain and Lake States regions, respectively.

Throughout the summer of 2016, Voirin and Flores not only monitored owls and their nests, but also collaborated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on a forest fuel-load sampling project. "It's great to see the Forest Service, The Wildlife Society, and Bureau of Indian Affairs work with the Mescalero Apache Division of Resource Management and Protection on the management of these forested ecosystems, as well as the conservation of a culturally iconic species like the Mexican spotted owl," says Voirin. "This is a great example of successful collaboration between federal, tribal, and non-governmental entities, and can serve as an example for future projects involving tribes and wildlife conservation." Additionally, Voirin and Flores worked with Northern Arizona University researchers and forestry faculty on a tee-pee pole climate change vulnerability analysis and a wildfire reconstruction project, and assisted with small mammal post-treatment monitoring on tribal lands through a Collaborative Forest Restoration Project. The variety of fieldwork and research experience they gained will assist them in their future endeavors as professionals whose work places a strong emphasis on building trusting relationships when conducting research on tribal lands.

Training and recruiting the next generation of Native American wildlife professionals is a win-win for all parties involved. Forest Service scientists are able to accomplish their field research tasks, tribal community research needs are met, and Native American students gain valuable insights into careers with the Forest Service. Reflecting on her experience, Flores says, "It was extremely encouraging and

important to me to see The Wildlife Society and the Forest Service supporting Native students and professionals on current projects taking place in collaboration with Native tribes. Native representation is often lacking in these fields, and I appreciate The Wildlife Society and the Forest Service for seeking ways to actively address this issue. The amount of support I received while being involved with this program was more than I could have asked for, and the new experiences I gained exceeded my expectations. This program helped me feel more prepared and opened my eyes to so many possibilities. This was a summer I will never forget."



A female Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) is mid-air between Elisha Flores (left) and Chase Voirin (right) on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, New Mexico. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Serra Hoagland.

2016 marks the second year of the partnership between the Forest Service and TWS in providing the Native American RAP. The program is slated to continue in 2017 with a list of projects and opportunities available [online](#).

Grey Towers National Historic Site Native American Youth Camp

Ken Sandri, U.S. Forest Service Preservation and Resource Manager, Grey Towers National Historic Site

MILFORD, PA — For the past two summers young adults from the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe, and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians have traveled from their home towns in Oklahoma and Wisconsin to experience their distant ancestral homelands. The Forest Service and the National Park Service (NPS) co-sponsor the two-week long Native American Youth Camp (NAYC) during the month of July, hosting five Native youth, a chaperone, and elders from each Tribe.



Photographed at the National Park Service's Bushkill Information Center are Lauryn French of the Delaware Nation, Ken Sandri of the Forest Service, and Andi Weber of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians. Lauryn and Andi were chaperones for the Lenape youth in 2016. (Not pictured is CeCe Biggoose Runnels, chaperone for the Delaware Tribe).

The NAYC is designed to provide experiences for tribal youth and the opportunity to connect to their ancestral homelands and cultural history by living in and enjoying the 73,000 acres of federal lands located within the place called *Lenapehokink* in the native language. For millennia the Lenape inhabited the area along the

Atlantic coast from western Connecticut to southern Delaware and westward, including the Hudson and Delaware River valleys. This event may be the largest collective gathering for tribal members in their homeland since their departure in the 18th century.

Travel costs, room, and board are shared between the federal agencies and the Tribes. Lodging and meals are provided at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania. The PEEC is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing environmental education to youth in the region. Activities and experiences are planned and carried out through the collaboration of two federal units, the Grey Towers National Historic Site (Forest Service) and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (NPS). Most of the events are held within the federally-managed areas, but a few activities take participants to other places in the region connected to the Lenape history.

A welcome ceremony and refreshments at Grey Towers marked the beginning of two weeks filled with numerous activities, such as canoeing, camping, hiking, and participating in an archeological excavation managed by Temple University. The young adults also enjoyed programs on plant identification and traditional crafts, and evening presentations on various subjects, including the petroglyphs of Pennsylvania. Early on, the group visited the Minisink Archeological National Historic Landmark to honor their ancestors. The last full day was dedicated to a "Career Day" where youth

were provided guidance on employment and careers with federal land management agencies.

One day was dedicated to experiencing the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey and the island of *Mannahatta*, or New York City. The ocean provided a sensory experience for the youth, and the visit to New York City included a tour of the National Museum of the American Indian, an opportunity to float on the waters of the New York Harbor, a visit to the natural areas of Central Park, and a chance to experience the cityscape and varied local foods.

A special evening hike was organized up to the western escarpment over Minisink Archeological

National Historic Landmark. From this place 500 feet above the Delaware River Valley the youth and chaperones experienced an uninterrupted vista of their homeland to contemplate their visit.

Planning for future years of the NAYC is underway. Forest Service Tribal Liaison Ken Sandri hopes to continue the Forest Service involvement in bringing the Lenape youth, and elders, home. “The tribes can benefit all of us by being partners in the stewardship of federal lands. My hope is for these tribal representatives to experience more of the significant places and sites in future years, and then to share them with the next generations.”

Tribal College Student Interns: Adding to the Forestry and Resource Management Knowledge Base

Jen Youngblood, U.S. Forest Service Tribal Liaison to College of Menominee Nation

KESHENA, WI — This summer two non-traditional college students attending the College of Menominee Nation completed internships on a long-term study funded by USDA and designed to identify how much impact deer browse is having on the regeneration of targeted hardwood trees in the Menominee Forest. The target tree species for this research is sugar maple which is a shade tolerant species and one of the most economically viable trees in this Forest. This research is incorporating all facets of the partnership between the Forest Service, College of Menominee Nation’s Center for First Americans Forestlands (CFAF), and Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE). This collaboration resulted in having two students, Brandon Boyd and Adam Schulz, participate in an internship, and they were able to learn more about the forest and the relationship of its ecosystems. The experience has caused them to decide on a career in forestry.

Brandon is an enrolled member of the Menominee Tribe and has an eight year-old son. He has eight

nephews, four sisters, and two brothers, of which he is the middle brother. He is currently enrolled at the College majoring in Liberal Studies and Natural Resource Management, also receiving a certificate as an electrician, and will graduate in fall of 2017. Brandon has lived and worked in the Menominee Forest all his life and has gathered culturally relevant traditional forest resources and worked with logging crews. Brandon says he has always had a deep love and respect for the forest and the wildlife who call it home, and he felt that this internship opportunity was “meant just for me.”

Adam is a descendant of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, and is a father of three beautiful girls. Adam is currently enrolled at the College for Natural Resource Management, and will graduate in May 2017. He plans on re-enrolling at the College after graduation to obtain a bachelor’s degree in Business and Public Administration. Adam says he hopes to eventually work in a managerial position in either

forest health or animal health related to forest ecosystems.

The goal of this study was to set up base line data collection to see if deer browse is effecting the regeneration of target tree species in human manufactured canopy gaps. The study is being conducted with the guidance of MTE Foresters and the CFAF Director using traditional forestry methods and accepted means of tree surveys and data collection.



Brandon Boyd (left) and Adam Schulz (right), College of Menominee Nation interns. Photo courtesy of Forest Service employee Christel Kern.

Brandon and Adam began each day at a briefing with a forestry mentor from MTE, gathered the necessary supplies, and proceeded to the work site. On some days they would have to pick a suitable work site based on pre-determined study variables. Once at the site, they would lay out plots by finding the center then measuring out a specific radius from the center of the plot. They would then take an inventory of all tree species located within the plot, putting species into height classes based on a system developed by MTE. They gathered other site data including basal area, canopy density, gap length and width, and whether the site was in a forest or gapped plot. Fences were placed around ex-closures on the controlled plots, and open plots (non-fenced) were also set up and inventoried. This study and future

internships will be ongoing with the results to be available at a later date. Their work on this study was presented at the College during the intern report outs in August and formally at the 2016 First Americans Land-grant Consortium (FALCON) November 5-7, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This internship and the exuberance of the interns themselves demonstrates how the Forest Service’s partnerships with tribal colleges and tribes and work with youth are invaluable and assist in getting students excited about forestry and natural resource management and thus, looking to future careers. Brandon and Adam want to share their stories and their lessons learned with other students and forestry professionals. Their hope is to guide interested youth to a career in forestry or natural resource management whether with the Forest Service or their own Tribal Nation.

They believe that it is important for students to follow their dreams, no matter what age they may be, while understanding it will definitely be challenging at times but well worth the effort. They also hope that tribal youth will take advantage of internships or any programs offered because they feel that students will find that learning outside of the classroom will become more exciting and will create more opportunities. Finally, they want students to understand that it is important to reach out to the amazing people on your path who can guide you. Adam said the internship was labor intensive but very informative, and if a student is serious in pursuing forestry as a career he would highly recommend internships whether at the Forest Service or with a tribe.

The advice they would give to career seekers and the future generation is “find a career field you love and strive for it. Do not trick yourself into thinking that it will always be a pleasant and easy

journey. Prepare for headwinds and an occasional failure. It is not how many times you fail, but what you learn and how many times you pick yourself up from failure that matters.”

As for hiring tribal youth and increasing diversity in the agency, they believe the Forest Service can be a strong leader by actively collaborating with

schools or school districts and having students participate in external mentor programs. This will help students become successful by introducing them to careers and preparing them for future academic studies. When youth gain a better idea of what they want to do in the future, they can better select courses they should be taking for success.

Guiding For Tomorrow Place Based Climate Change Institute: Hear the Water Speak

Cathy Techtmann, Environmental Outreach Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Environmental Resources Center

ASHLAND, WI — Despite severe flooding and storms, the 2016 Guiding for Tomorrow (G-WOW) "Hear the Water Speak" Institute provided climate change professional development training to 28 educators and community leaders. This year's Institute attracted participants from across the country and Canada, including five First Nations Tribal elders from Ontario and officials from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The four-day professional development institute was held July 18-21 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, in Ashland, Wisconsin. The 2016 Institute is part of the “*Gikinoo’wizhiwe Onji Waaban* (Guiding for Tomorrow) or “G-WOW” climate change initiative partnership between the Forest Service Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, National Park Service Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Participants were trained in using the G-WOW climate literacy model that integrates place-based evidence of climate change and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of the Lake Superior Ojibwe with climate science. G-WOW institutes equip participants with the tools and confidence to develop culturally relevant climate change

educational outreach within their communities that will result in action to address climate change. Educators receive follow-up support and share resources via the [G-WOW website](#) and through G-WOW climate change “camps” offered for school groups.

The 2016 Institute demonstrated climate impacts on the region's environment, culture, and economies classroom training within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and surrounding tribal lands. For example, research from the Forest Service Northern Institute on Applied Climate Science (NIACS) on climate impacts to forests was applied through the “Forest Winners and Losers” activity. Participants marked tree species that research indicated would be affected by climate change to visually see how the composition of a forest may change. Making Ojibwe birch bark containers from paper birch, a species that climate change is projected to impact, integrated science and TEK. Participants gained insights into how climate is affecting the sustainability of tree species and the cultural and economic practices they support.

The 2016 Institute focused on climate impacts to water and aquatic ecosystems. Each participant

brought water from their home watershed which was mixed and used to create a watercolor painting capturing reflections of what they learned.

“We definitely heard the ‘water speak’ in the place-based evidence participants experienced at the Institute due to storm impacts on local communities,” states Cathy Techtmann, UW-Extension, Environmental Outreach Specialist and Institute director. Flooding caused rescheduling of several field investigations done in partnership with the Bad River Tribe, including investigating climate impacts on wild rice. It punctuated the climate research that projects an increase in the frequency of heavy precipitation events, particularly in the Lake Superior basin.

This year's Institute was professionally filmed and will be used to create a training video to help others to develop G-WOW institutes within their communities.

Regional Round Robin

Southern Region

Region 8 announces that this year's [To Bridge A Gap](#) meeting is being hosted by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in Catoosa (Tulsa), Oklahoma. The dates are earlier this fiscal year – February 21-24, 2017. Follow the link for registration and hotel information.

Pacific Southwest Region

Wade McMaster began his tenure as the Tribal Relations Program Manager for Region 5 in September. Congratulations, Wade!

Eastern Region

In October, the Forest Service Tribal Liaison to the College of Menominee Nation (CMN) and International Programs hosted a delegation from the Confederation of Amazonian Nationalities of Peru (CONAP), which included the President of the Confederation, CONAP staff, and the President of the Universidad Nacional Intercultural de la Amazonía. This delegation attended one of the CMN seminar sessions on Global Indigeneity and Sustainability hosted by the Sustainable Development Institute and Center for First Americans Forestlands. A presentation by Mike Dockry on research being conducted in Peru by the Forest

The G-WOW web-based curriculum will be expanded in 2017 to include a new unit on water and climate change.

The Institute was funded by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the National Park Service-Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.



Participants of the 2016 G-WOW “Hear the Water Speak” Institute. Photo credit to Cathy Techtmann, Environmental Outreach Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Environmental Resources Center.

Service Northern Research Station was also part of the visit. The group was able to travel north to Ashland, Wisconsin, spending the day with Jason Maloney, Director of the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center and Forest Lodge, touring both sites and learning about the educational programs and partnerships. The delegation was able to connect with Tribal leaders and resource professionals at the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians to learn about forest and natural resource management from various perspectives.

Alaska Region

In October, the Region 10 tribal relations team participated in the fall meetings of both the Southeast Alaska and Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, held in Petersburg (October 4-6) and Anchorage (October 17-18), respectively.

More than 30 tribal youth, including four full-time interns from the Kenaitze Tribe and the Salish Tribe, took part in the 2016 field season at the Crescent Creek site on the Chugach National Forest. The investigation and preservation of this ancient village site is a multi-year project designed in 2013 by David Guilfoyle of Applied Archaeology International, in partnership with the Kenaitze Tribe and the Forest Service. Tribal youth not only carried out archaeological field work and learned about traditional use, but they also contributed to the cultural heritage management plan for the site, involving elders in the development of the research methodology. The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area and the Cook Inlet Tribal Council provided funding for the 2016 season, and Alaska Horsemen Adventures provided additional support.

During the summer of 2016, four youth from Angoon in the Tongass National Forest were employed through the Departments of Agriculture and Interior's Youth Conservation Corps program. The youth learned wilderness skills, including how to kayak, and completed numerous projects on Admiralty Island, including the establishment of a garden and the construction of a green house and the foundation for a smoke house in their hometown of Angoon. The youth kayaked from Angoon to Hood Bay, where they collected debris, and travelled to Young Lake by seaplane, where they completed repair and maintenance work on the facilities. Other projects included campsite rehabilitation and trail monitoring, and the youth also documented invasive weeds and cultural resources. The Hecla Charitable Foundation and the National Forest Foundation provided funding for the 2016 Youth Conservation Corps.

Safety Corner

Fight the flu



- Protect yourself, protect others—
get a flu vaccine every year.
- Prevent the spread of germs—
cover coughs and sneezes.

California Drought Brings Tribes and Forest Service Together

Angela Aleiss, U.S. Forest Service Volunteer

SOLVANG, CA — As California battles its fifth year of a severe drought along with massive wildfires across the state, tribal members and the Forest Service are working together to revive traditional land management practices and restore the forest's natural habitat.

Since 2010, the Forest Service has identified at least 66 million dead trees across California, many succumbing to climate change, drought, and insect mortality. Pete Crowheart, Tribal Liaison for the Los Padres National Forest in the Pacific Southwest Region, has noticed the drought's harsh impact on native plants.



After five years of drought, Lake Cachuma, an artificial lake in central Santa Barbara County near the Los Padres National Forest, was only at 11.5 percent capacity in July. Photo credit to Forest Service volunteer Angela Aleiss.

Crowheart is working with the Santa Inez Band of Chumash Indians to help protect forest resources that are essential to tribal traditional practices. Chumash round houses and above-ground sweat lodges require willow or pinyon pine tree poles to build their dome-shaped framework.

But the pines suffer from bark beetle infestation because the trees are too dry. Usually, these trees can protect themselves against the burrowing bugs by forming a resinous "pitch" or sap that drowns the beetles. During a drought the trees lack enough moisture to produce the sap, so the tiny bugs attack and kill them.

"The Forest Service cuts these trees and lets them sit for a month before offering them to the tribe. That way, the beetles crawl out and won't infect other trees outside Forest Service land," Crowheart said.



Pete Crowheart, Tribal Relations Liaison for the Los Padres National Forest, surveys the effects of the drought on Lake Cachuma. Photo credit to Forest Service volunteer Angela Aleiss.



A Chumash sweat lodge with framework made from willow trees. Located on the Chumash reservation in the Santa Inez Valley, Santa Barbara County, California. Photo credit to Forest Service volunteer Angela Aleiss.

Further north, the state-recognized North Fork Mono Tribe has partnered with the Forest Service to help reduce the chance of devastating fires at the meadows. Dirk Charley, Tribal Relations Specialist for the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests, is helping the Tribe restore meadows that will preserve water and create a buffer for fire spread.



The Bradbury Dam, built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1953, is located in central Santa Barbara County in California and forms Lake Cachuma. The dam is now dry due to five years of severe drought. Photo credit to Forest Service volunteer Angela Aleiss.

Meadows are natural fire breaks, so fewer dead trees and dried leaves on the ground mean less fuel for wildfires. This "thinning" of the forest canopy has another benefit: More water stays in the ground, which helps replenish tribal resources for basket weaving, medicinal plants, and even musical instruments. So far, six restored meadows are flourishing. "Water is the chain of life. Meadows provide food sources. Animals go to the water, and plants like wild onions, strawberries, and bear grass grow there," Charley said.

Ron Goode, Chairman of the North Fork Mono Tribe, agrees. "Restoring the meadow is restoring the forest. What is out there on the meadow is all of our cultural resources. When we restore it, we have a harvest," Goode said.

Retirement of Larry Heady

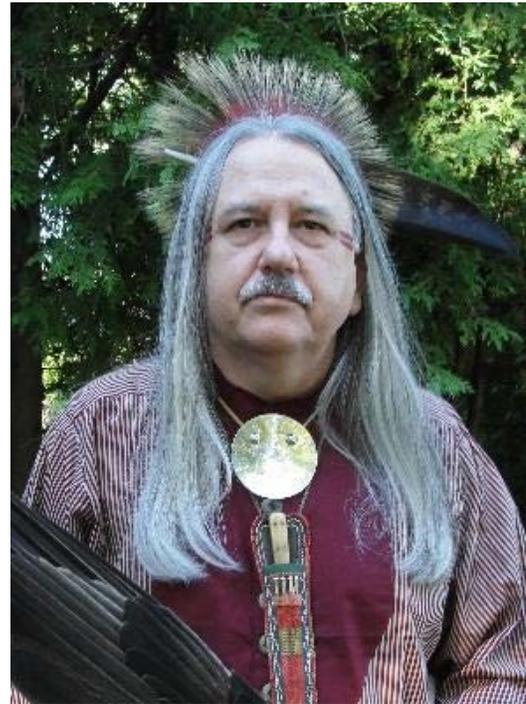
Laurence “Larry” Heady serves as the Tribal Relations Specialist for the Eastern Region and as Special Assistant to the Regional Forester for Indian Affairs. He has done a great job in that role, and he will be sorely missed after he retires on November 30, 2016, after more than 35 years with the Forest Service. Larry is *Pùkuwàнку* Lenape or Turtle Clan Delaware, an enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. He is a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and “cultural lifeguard.” Larry’s Indian name, *Kòchëmin’k-lenu*, is an honor name, given in the traditional way of his people, and can be translated as the Outdoorsman, the Woodsman, the Forester. It is a fitting name.

For many years, Larry has informed and advised the Regional Forester and principal line and staff officers on matters of federal Indian law and policy, tribal interest and concern and potential political and cultural conflict with tribes. He has also served as the Regional Forester’s ambassador to the 83 Tribes affiliated with the Eastern Region, providing leadership and accountability for the consistent application of Indian policy throughout the Region and facilitating opportunities to fulfill the government’s trust and treaty obligations.

Throughout his career, Larry has devoted himself to the conservation of the country’s natural resources and to fostering within the agency a clear understanding of the federal government’s trust responsibilities and treaty obligations. He has successfully worked to make the national forests in the east relevant and meaningful to the removed Tribes of Oklahoma and to facilitate treaty-reserved rights wherever they exist on National Forest System lands in the Eastern Region.

Larry has also been influential in national policies. Among other accomplishments, he served as a key member of the Sacred Sites Core Team, helping to write the significant USDA and Forest Service Sacred Sites Report published in 2012, and helping to implement that report’s recommendations. He won a prestigious Chief’s Award for that effort in 2013.

Larry plans to remain active in tribal and intertribal affairs, in American Indian cultural activities, as well as natural resource conservation. He hopes that his extensive experience, training, and expertise will continue to actively serve Indian Country and the Nation. We do too.



Larry Heady, Tribal Relations Specialist for the Eastern Region and Special Assistant to the Regional Forester for Indian Affairs. Photo courtesy of Forest Service employee Larry Heady.

Larry has spent more than 40 years working in the woods and 35 years working proudly for the U.S. Forest Service. His forestry career has transitioned from forester and militia firefighter to conservation law enforcement officer; from Patrol Captain to his current position as a senior policy adviser at the regional level.

Getting to Know Yolynda Begay

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Yolynda Begay has served as the Regional Tribal Relations Program Manager for the Southwestern Region since her selection in November 2015. Yolynda is an enrolled member of the Diné (Navajo) Nation, and she is from Cahone Mesa, Utah on the Navajo Nation. Yolynda is from the Zuni-Water Edge People (*Nasht'ezhi To'bahi*) and born for the Bitter Water People (*To'dichii'nii*).

Ms. Begay holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology (2000) and a Masters of Community and Regional Planning (2006) from the University of New Mexico.



Yolynda Begay, Region 3 Tribal Relations Program Manager. Photo courtesy of Forest Service employee Yolynda Begay.

Prior to joining the Regional Leadership Team Ms. Begay served as the Forest Planner on the Coronado National Forest. As the Forest Planner she contributed to the development of the Land and Resource Management Plan. “It was a challenge to incorporate the many perspectives from people who have interest in how Forest Service lands are managed. One of the many accomplishments that I’m proud of is integrating traditional ecological knowledge into plan components that will guide the forest into the

future.” She also served as the Tribal Liaison during her tenure on the Coronado National Forest. Ms. Begay began her career with the Forest Service in 2010 as the Assistant Regional Social Scientist for the Southwestern Regional Office.

Yolynda’s interest in natural resources began with her graduate degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico. Her degree in planning and her career with the Forest Service have set the stage for an opportunity to provide advice and guidance on places that are important for Indian Country. “Four of our sacred mountains are managed by the U.S. Forest Service.” Yolynda chose to work for the Forest Service considering these sacred mountains.

Ms. Begay completed a detail assignment as a Public Affairs Specialist on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (2013) and another with the Office of Tribal Relations, Washington Office as a Sacred Sites Program Manager (2015).

Ms. Begay is a trained facilitator and negotiator. She facilitated the Eagle Summit II and Eagle Summit III discussions in Denver, Colorado for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She has also facilitated discussions on water planning for the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly.

Ms. Begay continues to work with her local Native communities on various projects. In 2014, Ms. Begay published a chapter entitled “*Historic & Current Demographic Changes that Impact the Future of the Diné & Developing Community-Based Policy*” in the book *Diné Perspectives: Revitalizing and Reclaiming Navajo Thought*. She presented at the Navajo Studies Conference in 2013 and 2015 on the political and Diné worldview on identity. She has also been an invited lecturer at the University of New Mexico’s School of Architecture and Planning and the Native American Studies department.

Forest Service Publishes New Rule: Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes

WASHINGTON, DC – On September 26, 2016, in support of the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC, the Secretary of Agriculture announced the Forest Service’s publication of a new final rule in the Federal Register. The new rule, [Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber: Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes](#), implements section 8105 of the 2008 Farm Bill, which provides discretionary authority to the Forest Service to provide, free of charge, any trees, portions of trees, or forest products from National Forest System lands to federally recognized Indian tribes for traditional and cultural purposes, and not for commercial purposes. The Rule applies to Indian tribes, so individual tribal members must conduct their gathering under the authority of their Tribal government.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have been connected to what are now National Forest System lands for thousands of years. Tribal people continue to use many forest products in their cultures and traditions, and in expression of their religious beliefs. For example, ginseng harvested on national forests is used by some Indian tribes for medicinal purposes. Grasses and parts of trees are gathered for weaving beautiful and functional baskets. Trees are needed for ceremonial structures and traditional canoes. Many species of plants are gathered as wholesome traditional foods.

Research has consistently demonstrated that traditional gathering, when done with traditional methods and in traditionally established quantities, can help to conserve plant communities. Thus, cooperation with Indian tribes in the management of plant resources is consistent with the preservation of national forest lands for all American people.

“Our responsibilities to federally recognized Indian tribes run deep, and the Forest Service is committed to our nation-to-nation relationships with tribes,” said Fred Clark, Director of the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations. “The clarifications to our process for tribes to access and use forest products for traditional and cultural purposes will strengthen our relationships with tribes while helping to sustain and restore the resources we are entrusted to manage.”



Evergreen huckleberries (*Vaccinium ovatum*) on a basket tray of California hazel (*Corylus cornuta*). Photo credit to Forest Service employee Frank Lake.



Lion's mane (*Hericium erinaceus*) harvested from tanoak tree (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) limb-bark wound, picked evergreen huckleberries (*Vaccinium ovatum*), and tanoak acorns. A fall harvest from the forest collected by Frank K. Lake (Karuk descendant). Photo credit to Forest Service employee Frank Lake.

The arrangements for gathering under the new rule have to be made by the Indian tribe through a request to the appropriate line officer and could be done through an agreement and tribally-issued permits, or through other means, but Forest Service policies do not require an agreement in all cases.

There are no limitations regarding the number of requests made by each Indian tribe. Additionally, there are no limitations to the amounts of trees, portions of trees, or forest products that each Indian tribe may request. However, there are limitations regarding who within the Forest Service may grant the request(s). Indian tribes are encouraged to work with the local Forest Service District Ranger's office to request products, even though a Forest Service official at a higher level may ultimately approve the request. The term "commercial purpose" is not defined in the final rule. The need to define this term, and a definition appropriate for application and administration, may vary by location and the accepted traditional and cultural practices of the Indian tribe(s) involved. The decision to define this term will be left to the discretion of each Forest Service region.

Tribal officials are encouraged, if necessary, to explain their requests to the Regional Forester or designated Forest Officer, and if necessary, how the request fits a traditional and cultural purpose. When an Indian tribe requests forest products located on two or more national forests, authorized Tribal officials should notify each of the affected Forest Service District Ranger's offices of the requests made on other forests.

Nothing in section 8105 of the 2008 Farm Bill and, by extension, the Final Rule affects tribal treaty and other reserved rights, the Forest Service's trust responsibility or continued government-to-government relations with federally recognized Indian tribes.

Earlier Forest Service regulations governing gathering by all U.S. citizens, not only Indian tribes, of non-timber special forest products on National Forest System lands are still in place and do not include the authorities expressed in the new tribal-specific Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes policy. The Forest Service is currently revising those generally applicable regulations.

Tribal members can choose to gather special forest products on National Forest System lands using the (general) special forest products policy, the (specific) new Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes rule, or (in certain cases) under the authority of tribal treaties with the U.S.

Forest Service Develops and Pilots Sacred Sites Facilitated Learning Engagements

Based on recommendations supported by Secretary Vilsack in the 2012 Sacred Sites Report, the Sacred Sites Core Team (a national team of Regional Tribal Relations Program Managers, Line Officers, and program leaders from a variety of staff areas) began developing an approach to training about sacred sites that would be co-hosted by a partnering tribe in each location, and would feature contributions from Tribal elders/spiritual leaders and a visit to a sacred site.

Early in the feasibility phase of this effort, the team recommended that a holistic, meaningful understanding of sacred sites is not something that could be imparted through a PowerPoint presentation, brief webinar, or book. The idea is to affect learning of the mind and heart, not just the intellect. The team suggested that experiential learning events should be developed to facilitate exercises in self-reflection on personal values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors, which would open each participant to a personal journey to see cultural diversity and sacred sites as gifts to be cherished and nurtured. This perspective grew into the idea of Sacred Sites Facilitated Learning Engagements (FLEs).

The Forest Service partnered with Keres Consulting, Inc. (Keres) to develop a curriculum for the Sacred Sites FLEs. Keres began by interviewing hundreds of tribal representatives and Forest Service employees, asking them how the agency was doing in taking care of sacred sites and working with Tribal nations. The results of those interviews informed the design of a three-day learning engagement intended to strengthen knowledge and skills, and to create positive attitudes that would result in participants taking actions to better protect and provide appropriate access to sacred sites; build, maintain, and enhance respectful relationships with tribes; and engage tribes in partnerships supporting shared stewardship of lands and resources.

Keres facilitated two pilot FLEs in 2016. The first, June 21-23, was hosted by the Stillaguamish Tribe, and included participants from the Swinomish Tribe and the Tulalip Tribes in Washington State. The second, held September 19-21 in California, was hosted by the Jackson Rancheria, and included participants from the Auburn Rancheria.

Participant comments from the first pilot led to several substantive changes to logistics planning, curriculum, and delivery for the second pilot, contributing to the second pilot's overwhelmingly positive participant comments. Both tribal and Forest Service comments support the use of a third party facilitator (to provide an element of credibility, as well as an environment more favorable to open communication and active listening/sharing) and the three-day training length (to accommodate tribal listening sessions, exercises in values and cultural humility, and visits to actual sacred sites with Tribal elders). Several Sacred Sites Core Team members also participated in the pilots, and provided invaluable feedback that helped refine and improve the curriculum. Keres will deliver the final product (training curriculum, learning materials, and guides) before the end of calendar year 2016.

The curriculum for the Sacred Sites FLEs is intended to improve the agency's understanding of what a sacred site is and the historical, cultural, and spiritual value of a sacred site; improve understanding of professional responsibilities as they relate to protecting and providing access to sacred sites; strengthen knowledge of the concept of cultural humility and its importance in work with tribes; and enhance relationships among Forest Service staff and tribes. Fred Clark, the Director of the Office of Tribal

Relations, says that the ultimate objective of the Sacred Sites FLEs is to help people “be present on the same landscape with a good mind and a good heart, see that landscape through different lenses, and share with each other how their vision is different from and the same as others.”

MOU Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Tribal Treaty Rights

Several federal agencies are trying to better honor tribal treaty rights. Under the U.S. Constitution, treaties are part of the supreme law of the land, with the same legal force and effect as federal statutes. Treaties bind both the federal government and the signing Indian tribe or tribes, and generally constitute recognition of rights to lands and resources, which may include rights to fish, hunt, and gather. These are rights the Indian tribes held before the treaties and which are retained by the Indian tribes after the treaties were signed. That is, through treaty-making, Indian tribes granted land and other natural resources to the United States, while retaining all rights not expressly granted. As such, the federal government has an obligation to honor and respect tribal rights and resources that are protected by treaties. This means that federal agencies are bound to give effect to treaty language, and accordingly, must ensure that federal agency actions do not conflict with tribal treaty rights, consistent with the federal government’s trust responsibility to federally recognized tribes.

This year, several agencies participating in the White House Council on Native American Affairs Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources Subgroup collaborated on a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Tribal Treaty Rights Related to Natural Resources (MOU). The purpose of the MOU is to advance protection of tribal treaty and similar rights related to natural resources affected by federal decisions, affirming the U.S. government's commitment to protect tribal treaty rights and similar rights relating to natural resources. The MOU stems in part from a recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policy on “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights,” an effort to encourage consideration of treaty rights in that agency’s consultation policy.

The MOU has already been signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Council on Environmental Quality, EPA, and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Interior, and Justice. It is available for signature by additional federal agencies on a rolling basis. The signing and execution of the MOU was announced at the 8th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington, DC.

The Forest Service has also implemented several programs in support of treaty rights, including the 2016 Tribal Relations Directives and the [Tribal Connections](#) map viewer, an online 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. The reference tool was initially created to help Forest Service employees better understand historical treaties and identify tribal treaty rights on National Forests and Grasslands. The Office of Tribal Relations is working with the EPA and the University of Georgia to enhance the viewer so that treaty texts are more accessible.

USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Consultation Schedule

Table 1. Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation. Updated November 15, 2016.

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

Table 2. Completed Tribal Consultation. Updated November 15, 2016.

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

Contact the Office of Tribal Relations

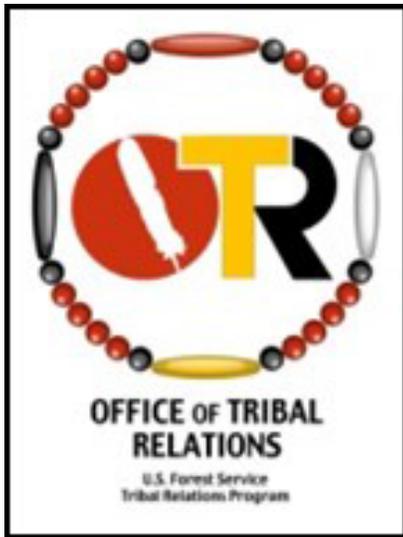
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The Office of Tribal Relations would like to express gratitude for the valuable contributions to this newsletter.

Please contact Rebecca Hill with any comments or future story suggestions for the winter 2017 newsletter.

Thank you.