



Tribal Relations News

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Director’s Welcome

Spring is a time of rebirth, renewal, and regeneration. At the Office of Tribal Relations, we are celebrating many new beginnings, and are eager to share them with you.

First, we welcome Angelita “Angie” Bulletts, the new Forest Supervisor on the [Dixie National Forest](#). Angie, a member of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians in northern Arizona, brings a fresh perspective to the forest’s management, as it is Kaibab ancestral land. We also welcome Ian Ritchie and Brian Townsend, who are detailing in the Region 8 Tribal Relations Program Manager position until it is filled. Finally, we celebrate Serra Hoagland, another Native Forest Service employee, who discusses her experiences working for the [FS Southern Research Station](#).

Collaboration and cooperation often result in new ways to work with Tribes. We give an example by outlining the new [Interagency MOU](#) between the US Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Interior, Defense, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to protect Indian sacred sites. OTR Assistant Director Estelle Bowman reveals how her Spring mini-detail to Alaska illustrated how the FS is working closely with Tribes, and how her trip will help WO OTR coordinate better with the field.

We were also pleased to col-

laborate with Forest Service (FS) field staff and tribal partners at the recent “To Bridge A Gap” conference, generating new solutions and partnerships. Co-hosted in rotation annually by an Oklahoma Tribe and the FS, it draws on Regional leaders. The OTR’s own Mariel Murray and Ericka Luna were pleased to attend. In addition, the OTR will participate in the June [Society of American Indian Government Employee](#) conference with Deputy Undersecretary Butch Blazer.

The OTR applauds the combined efforts of the [FS Forest Health Protection \(FHP\) Program](#), the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Mescalero Apache Tribe in developing a new way to battle the invasive dwarf mistletoe plant. Without them, thousands of forest acres would have been

lost from their tribal homeland. This work continues in a FHP-funded 2013 project.

The Forest Service as a whole is celebrating a new beginning with the [2012 Planning Rule](#), which determines protocol for developing Forest Plans. It incorporated tribal input, and the [Directives](#) are currently open for tribal consultation until June 28, 2013. Also, the [Chugach National Forest](#) in Alaska is currently consulting on a Forest Plan, as one of eight early adopter forests of the Planning Rule.

Our Safety Corner outlines Washington Metro safety tips given to FS employees at a recent presentation.

We look forward to these new beginnings with you.

-Fred Clark



Mariel Murray (left) in a tribal dance at To Bridge A Gap 2013

Photo credit: Ericka Luna

Getting to Know Angie Bulletts By Mariel Murray

Angelita “Angie” Bulletts, the new Forest Supervisor on the Dixie National Forest, was familiar with the area long before accepting the position. As a [Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians](#) member in northern Arizona, she grew up on the [Kaibab](#) and [Dixie NFs](#), as they are Kaibab ancestral lands. She is now eager to bring her special perspective to her new job by integrating tribal heritage and traditional ecological knowledge into land management decisions.

“My heritage helps me tell a broader story than what has traditionally been told,” she explained. When she first started as the Forest Supervisor in September 2012, she gave a presentation for her colleagues for Native American Heritage month, and also as a way to introduce herself. Angie has been promoting diversity in the Forest Service for many years. For example, she participated in Associate Chief Mary Wagner’s National Diversity Inclusion Group. She was also in the Civil Rights Action group when she was the Technical Services branch leader for the Kaibab National Forest. Currently, she hopes to create a multiagency annual job fair.

Raised on the forests, Angie also wants to ensure that appreciation of forested land and their histories is multi-generational and appeals to diverse audiences. She thus ensures that the forest includes tribal perspectives in children’s activity books and interpretative displays. Most exciting, perhaps, is a new summer traditional youth camp she has helped develop to teach traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to tribal middle schoolers. This year, the camp will be held in Bryce Canyon national Park and the Dixie National Forest. The children will come from five Southern Paiute Tribes, including the Paiute in Tribe of Utah, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. In addition to the Tribes being instrumental in the program’s development, other government agencies, including the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service, as well a learning institution, Southern Utah University, will be involved. Tribal elders will teach about traditional fire use, vegetation practices, hydrology, geology and traditional uses of water, botany, astronomy, and wildlife. The goal is to show young Native youth that they don’t have to abandon their traditions, but can instead combine tribal teachings with modern science. The camp will address questions such as “How are we as native people using resources?” and “How are scientists using resources today?”

Overall, Angie noted, “I want to make the Forest Service relevant to the communities we serve.” This involves becoming part of the community, listening to community needs, and providing economic opportunities for small businesses. It also entails working more with local Tribes. She attends tribal council meetings to share information about the forest, and is using established MOUs with Tribes to formally establish Forest Service-tribal relationships.

We welcome Angie, and wish her the best in her new role as Forest Supervisor of the Dixie NF in Cedar City, Utah .



Angie weaving a traditional Paiute cradleboard
Photo Credit: US Forest Service

“My tribal heritage helps me tell a broader story than what has traditionally been told,”

Interagency MOU & Action Plan Guide Protection of Indian Sacred Sites

December 2012 was historic for federal government-tribal relations in protecting sacred sites, as showcased in the White House Tribal Nations Conference held that month. At that conference, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its [Sacred Sites Report](#), which reviewed existing laws, policies and procedures on the protection of sacred sites, and included recommendations on how USDA can improve its protection of sacred sites (See [OTR's Winter 2013 Newsletter](#)). "The Obama administration has taken a number of steps to ensure that American Indians and Alaska Natives have full access to the programs and services offered across the federal government," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We understand the importance of these sites and will continue to make sure Tribes have full access to the resources they need in their communities."

Additionally, it was revealed that the U.S. Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Energy, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation signed an interagency [MOU](#) to work together to improve the protection of, and tribal access to, Indian sacred sites.

Among other things, the MOU commits the participating agencies to working together to develop guidance on the management and treatment of sacred sites, identify and recommend ways to overcome impediments to the protection of such sites while preserving the sites' confidentiality, create a training program for federal staff, and form outreach plans targeting both the public and non-Federal partners.

The MOU is inherently practical, requiring an [Action Plan](#) to implement its goals. The participating agencies- through the executive and core working groups- will review the plan periodically, update it when necessary, and ensure that Tribes are kept informed of such updates.

The Action Plan includes:

1) A Mission Statement committing the agencies to working together to improve the protection of and tribal access to Indian sacred sites, through enhanced and improved interdepartmental coordination, collaboration and consultation with tribes;

2) A list of actions the agencies will undertake together;
 3) A commitment to consultation with Indian tribes in developing and implementing these actions
 4) The establishment of a standing working committee made up of designated senior staff from the participating agencies, as well as other subject matter experts from the participating agencies as needed, to carry out the stipulations of the MOU; and
 5) The commitment of the Agencies to designate senior level executives to serve as members of a Executive Working Group, and designate staff representatives to serve on the Core Working Group, which the Department of the Interior will Chair.

Check out [the OTR's Sacred Sites website](#) and the [Interagency MOU website](#) for more information.

"The Obama administration has taken a number of steps to ensure that American Indians and Alaska Natives have full access to the programs and services offered across the federal government,"

-Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack



Collaborative Partnership Uses New Strategy to Control Pests & Create Jobs

By William Hornsby (BIA), David Conklin (retired FS), & Mariel Murray

Dwarf mistletoe (a Christmas mistletoe cousin) is the most damaging tree disease in Southwest forests. This parasitic plant stunts and prematurely kills host trees. Historically, the ponderosa pine forests on the Mescalero Apache Reservation have suffered some of the most widespread and severe dwarf mistletoe anywhere, with some of the earliest research and control efforts conducted there in the 1950s-60s.

Typical forest management practices in the Southwest, including on the Reservation, involved selective cutting, which, over time, often worsened mistletoe infestation. Although clear-cutting and replanting could potentially provide effective long-term control of mistletoe, this strategy was both costly and often considered too drastic--aesthetically if not ecologically. Also, high reforestation costs and poor survival largely precluded this option.

Renewed concerns about mistletoe on the Reservation in the early 1990s led to a new management paradigm. It was observed that even in stands with severe, extensive mistletoe, the youngest trees appeared to have very low rates of infection. Intensive monitoring over ten years by [Forest Health](#)

[Protection](#), in cooperation with the [Bureau of Indian Affairs Mescalero Agency](#) and Mescalero Apache Tribe, found that less than five percent of the smallest trees were infected, with infection rates increasing in saplings greater than two feet tall.

Having young, healthy trees in many diseased stands provided a unique management opportunity to grow these young trees as new healthy stands by harvesting the saw logs and slashing down all ponderosa pine trees over two feet tall. However, implementation of this new strategy posed several challenges: post treatment stands were stark, slashing treatment was expensive, and funding was limited. Through a series of field trips to previous small-scale treatment sites, the BIA and Forest Service began the process of gaining support from the Tribal leadership for large-scale treatment.

In the mid 1990s, BIA firefighters began to work on treatment during the winter –allowing for year-round work. Outreach with the crew and Tribal leadership continued. Gradually, the community developed a sense of pride in the mistletoe management work being done. Treatment on larger scale areas became acceptable, with several more projects completed in subsequent years.

In 1999, a new work force of individual tribal-member subcontractors emerged due to the demand for workers to implement treatments on a larger scale. This new opportunity provided a large economic boost to the local community, and dovetailed with the Tribe's desire to work in the forest.

These projects continue, resulting in what may be the largest, most successful effort ever to control dwarf mistletoe and improve long-term forest health on Tribal and/or public lands in the western U.S.: over 20 years, more than 30,000 acres of dwarf-mistletoe-infested forest have been treated on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in partnership with FHP and the BIA. These efforts, funded annually, have substantially increased forest productivity and provided employment for dozens of Tribal members.



A Tribal member working on a ponderosa pine thinning project on the reservation

Forest Service, Tribes “Bridge a Gap” during Oklahoma Conference

By Terence Peck, FS Public Affairs & Mariel Murray

It’s not every day that you are welcomed to a professional conference by traditional tribal stomp dances. Yet that is exactly how the 2013 ‘To Bridge A Gap’ Conference started. In an ongoing effort to foster better communication between Indian tribes and Federal agencies, the Delaware Nation Indian Tribe, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (FS), hosted the 2013 ‘To Bridge A Gap’ Conference in Norman, Okla. on March 11-14.

The annual conference began in 2001 to strengthen government-to-government relationships between the FS and federally recognized tribal governments with interests in National Forests. Terry Cole, a Deputy Tribal Preservation Officer for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and one of the founders of the annual conference, said that in the beginning, Caddo Nation, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Absentee-Shawnee Nation, and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and a few other Tribes, with the Forest Service, attended the conference each year. With outreach, however, it grew to 200 people yearly.

This year, many tribal representatives attended the conference, including the Caddo Nation, Acoma Pueblo Tribe, and the Alabama -Coushatta

Tribe of Texas. Federal and State agencies present represented included the Tennessee Valley Authority, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Arkansas Highway Department. The FS had staff from Ouachita National Forest, Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, National Forests in Alabama, Kisatchie National Forest, Cherokee National Forest, National Forests in Florida, Southern Region 8 and 9 Headquarters, and the Washington Office.

Ericka Luna and Mariel Murray, from the FS Office of Tribal Relations in Washington, D.C., presented on their office’s annual work, including updated infor-

mation and tools.

On the conference’s last night, a banquet and award ceremony was held honoring members of the Oklahoma Caddo-Nation Firefighters, who received ‘Partners in Community’ awards. Walter Echo-Hawk, a Pawnee Indian and Native American lawyer/activist, provided the keynote speech.

Overall, the conference was successful. Cole said, “As we continue to build relationships and partnerships, things are getting a lot easier- not only [with] the Forest Service, but all Federal agencies. I’m looking for more success every year, and for it to expand every year.”

I’m looking for more success every year, and for it to expand every year.”

-Terry Cole, Deputy Tribal Preservation Officer for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation



A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Workshop was held to help archaeologists find subsurface artifacts. It was taught by Dr. Kent Schneider (USFS Retired) and Velicia Bergstrom, Heritage Program Manager (Kisatchie NF).

Photo Credit: Velicia Bergstrom



Region 10 Mini-Detail

By Estelle Bowman

Recognizing the benefits of learning from regional local experience, the OTR has used its limited travel budget to support three staff site visits to the field. In January, Estelle Bowman visited the [Tongass](#) and [Chugach National Forests](#). She was graciously hosted by Lillian Petershoare, Region 10 Tribal Relations Program Manager. Although Alaska winters are harsh, the OTR wanted to respect the Alaska Natives' calendar and their subsistence-based priorities. Anyway, she arrived to a winter weather snow advisory!

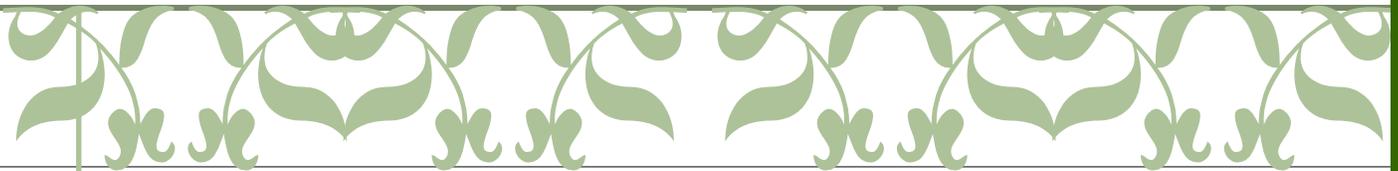
The trip included meeting regional FS staff and other federal staff who work with Tribes. A major highlight included meeting Alaska Natives in their communities for meals and conversation. Estelle participated in the [Alaska Forum on the Environment](#), which was quite inclusive of Alaska Native and tribal perspectives. She reflected, "When you really listen, you hear the wisdom of the people who respect the land, and managed it long before the FS made that its mission." Estelle also supported the Region 10 Tribal Leaders Council meeting held at the Chugach NF offices. This bi-annual, in-person meeting focused on models of shared stewardship on National Forest lands, and fostered open discussion. The Regional Forester Beth Pendleton, Deputy Regional Forester Ruth Monahan, Lillian Petershoare, Tongass and Chugach NF Foresters and Tribal Liaisons all participated and learned a lot.

The site visit led to a better understanding of how the OTR can support our regional colleagues, and Estelle has followed up on several issues upon her return. This dialogue between the WO and the field has helped keep the FS message consistent as we continue to work with American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Alaska Native Corporations.



Estelle and Lillian at the new PNW Research Station

Photo credit: Amy Leshner, PNW Engineer



Research & Development Corner



SRS Scientist and Tribal Member Bridges USFS Research and Tribes



Serra conducting fieldwork in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Photo Credit: Jordan Arana, HACU intern/Lincoln NF employee

Serra Hoagland, [Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center \(EFETAC\)](#) biological scientist and doctoral student at Northern Arizona University, serves as a [Southern Research Station \(SRS\)](#) Point of Contact for Tribal Relations, along with SRS forester Wayne Zipperer. She and Wayne are working to increase reciprocal communication, expand science delivery, and share technical and scientific information and tools with Tribes to enhance natural resource management.

Hoagland, who is Laguna Pueblo, recently represented the SRS at the [United Southern and Eastern Tribes \(USET\)](#) Impact Week in Arlington, VA. She is also assisting in a [Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options \(TACCIMO\)](#) training for the upcoming annual USET conference in May 2013.

Serra's dissertation spans USFS and tribal lands, and is entitled: *An assessment of landscape pattern and forest treatment effects on Mexican spotted owl occupancy and reproduction*. The research attempts to bring holistic Indian forest management to the broader landscape by utilizing traditional ecological knowledge from indigenous communities that have built an intimate relationship with the land and ecological processes.

While working on her dissertation, Serra participated as a graduate student observer with the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team, which produces a report to Congress every 10 years about the status of Indian forests. She serves in numerous local, regional, and national American Indian organizations, including the [Intertribal Timber Council](#), the [American Indian Science and Engineering Society](#), and the [Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group](#).

We are happy to work with Serra and Wayne in the FS Southern Research Station.

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Safety Corner

DC Metro Safety

By Laurie Kurth, FS Fire & Aviation Management

Greg Kupka, Occupational Safety Specialist from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (METRO) presented interesting facts and safety information to USFS employees on March 28, 2013.

Greg offered the following information to improve your safety on METRO:

- Walking to and from metro bus stops and train stations is the most common cause for rider accidents. Use designated crosswalks and avoid walking in front of vehicles, especially buses, that block the view of the driving lane.
- Bus drivers can silently alert Operations Control Central of any incident.
- If you fall on the metrorail tracks, roll to the safety area beneath the platform edge away from tracks; Call out for help; Do not touch any part of the train/track; Stay until help arrives
- Use the intercoms in the stations and on the trains to notify personnel of problems. Push the button to talk, but release the button to receive response.
- Do not evacuate a train unless directed by personnel or a serious incident and you cannot contact the train operator. Self-evacuation can cause delays in the system because tracks must be shut down and cleared before reenergizing.
- Evacuate the train on the side with the lights if underground and away from the third rail outside. Use the center door only to evacuate as the end doors are close to paddles in touch with the rails.
- Most frequent crime is snatch/pickpocketing.
- Car thefts are declining, but still an issue, while bike thefts are on the rise.

Top Ten Metro Stations: Crime-related events include: Anacostia, College Park, L'Enfant Plaza, Gallery Place, West Hyattsville, New Carrollton, Rhode Island Ave, Largo Town Center, Minnesota Ave, and Metro Center.

For more information on the numerous safety features and fun facts about METRO, check out the METRO Safety website at http://www.wmata.com/getting_around/safety_security/bus_rail.cfm.

Safety Platform: If you fall on the tracks, roll to the safety area beneath the platform edge away from tracks.

Photo Credit: Metro



Regional Round Robin

By Mariel Murray

Northwestern Region: SAIGE Program June 2013

The [Society of American Indian Government Employees \(SAIGE\)](#) is hosting its 10th Annual National Training Program in Spokane, Washington, from June 3-7, 2013. This year's theme is "Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Tradition," and features an Indian Law Clinic taught by prominent attorneys Walter Echo-hawk and John Trope. The OTR's Fred Clark will accompany Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture, Butch Blazer, to

the conference and for a regional visit. The OTR's Mariel Murray will also attend. Region 2 Tribal Relations Program Manager (TRPM) Susan Johnson is the SAIGE Chair, and is being assisted by the planning committee, including Cheryl Vanderburg, Region 1 & 4 TRPM., and Christine Bradbury, Forest Service Liaison to the Nez Perce Tribe, among many others. The FS is committed to supporting Native employees.



Walter Echo-hawk, Native lawyer & activist
Photo credit: Caitlin Windle

Washington Office: Planning Rule Directive Consultation

The Forest Service must periodically create Planning Rules which outline land management plans designed to protect and restore National Forests and Grasslands for the benefit of communities, natural resources and the environment. In drafting its [2012 Planning Rule](#), the Forest Service conducted an unprecedented level of outreach, including to Tribes, re-

sulting in over 300,000 comments. A diverse Federal Advisory Committee (FACA Committee) was formed, including tribal member William Barquin, which also guided the Rule's design. To implement the Rule, the Forest Service created [directives](#), which are open for tribal consultation February 27 -June 28, 2013.

Alaska Region: Chugach NF Planning Rule Consultation

The [Chugach National Forest](#) was selected as one of eight national forests to revise its forest plan under the new Planning Rule. Since February, Ed DeCleva, Chugach Forest Archaeologist & Tribal Relations Specialist, reached out to 11 tribes, 12 Alaska Native village corporations (ANCs), and 2 regional ANCs. He and FS line officers, including Terri Marceron, CNF Forest Supervisor, and Don Rees, CNF For-

est Plan Revision Team Leader, consulted with Eyak Corp, Native Village of Eyak (NVE), Cook Inlet Region Inc (CIRI), Eklutna Inc, and Tyonek Native Corp. He is awaiting meetings with others. Also, Chugach AK Corp, Tatitlek Corp, Eyak Corp, and NVE participated in initial public meetings.

Southeastern Region: R8 Interim Tribal Managers

In February 2013, Region 8 Tribal Relations Program Manager Alan Dorian, retired from the FS after 35 years. He made a powerful impact during his tenure, and will be sorely missed. Until the Region finds a replacement, however, the area is in good hands: First, Ian Ritchie of the

[Pike-San Isabel NF](#) will fill in for 60 days (until early May). At that point, Brian Townsend, a member of the Muskogee Creek Nation and the [NF and Grasslands in Texas](#), will fill in for another 60 days. Hopefully the position will be filled soon after Brian's detail ends.

Consultation Corner

USDA Forest Service
Tribal Relations Consultation Schedules
Updated April 17, 2013

Table 1 - Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation

Consultation Topic	Start Date	End Date
Planning Rule Directives	February 27, 2013	June 28, 2013
Bighorn Sheep Management Directive	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
FSM 2309.13 Recreation Site Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Groundwater Resource Management (Draft of new manual – FSM 2560)	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Invasive Species Management - Handbook Revision	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Objection Process Consultation, Revision of Regulations at 36 CFR 218	Postponed	Postponed
Paleontological Resources Preservation	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Rangeland Management – FSM / FSH Revision	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Tribal Relations Directives Revision	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Wilderness Management – Manual Revision	Delayed	To Be Determined
Rangeland Management – FSM / FSH Revision	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

Table 2 - Completed Tribal Consultation

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 – Proposed Policy Directive	February 1, 2012	May 31, 2012

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Editor's Note



Having made a new beginning myself recently at the Forest Service, it has been truly inspiring to learn about the new perspectives and research happening, and new partnerships between the FS and Tribes. These new ideas build collaborative capacity, and ultimate-

ly helps the FS achieve its mission.

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