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**“Hozho”:
Beauty and Balance**



Tribal Relations News

Director’s Welcome

As a Navajo, I was taught to try and achieve *hozho*, beauty and balance, in all things. This has been my guiding principle, and during my time both in the [Office of Tribal Relations](#) and on my recent temporary assignment to the [Mark Twain National Forest](#) in Missouri, I found it applicable to Forest Service Tribal Relations work. This newsletter highlights how we balance our Forest Service mission with tribal interests and concerns; I am delighted to share some wonderful stories about our continued learning and development in Tribal Relations nationwide.

We try to learn from our partners, balancing interests to achieve mutual objectives. For example, by hosting a Forest Service screening of a painful film illustrating Indian boarding schools, our staff grows and can better relate to our tribal partners. Another example is that scientists consulted [Coeur d’Alene](#) tribal elders to name a new fish species. District Rangers on the [Kaibab National Forest](#) go “the extra mile” to consult with Tribes and learn tribal interests by hiking 16 miles to the [Havasupai](#) tribal Supai village at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. [Forest Service International Programs](#) goes even further afield by supporting Community Forest Management in Peru, which includes working with indigenous peoples whom many of our Tribes consider relatives.

We highlight our resourcefulness as well. In the Southwest, we work across landscapes using the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) to prevent the spread of wildfire and disease. We are working to establish another TFPA project with the [Jemez Pueblo](#). Also, the [Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station](#) connected with the [University of Oregon](#) to create the [Tribal Climate Change Project](#), which is now coordinating with diverse partners to host tribal webinars and conduct research. Similarly, the [Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station](#) and [Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute](#) leveraged resources to sponsor a GIS training for the [Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes](#).

We welcome two exceptional Native Forest Service staff who capture the *hozho* theme: first,

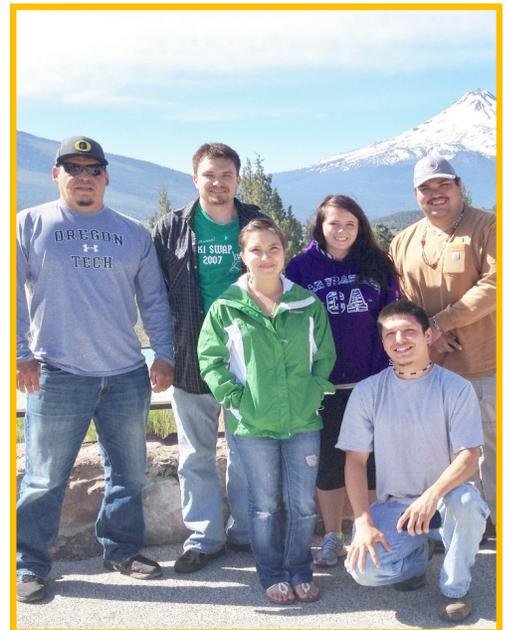
we talk to Aurelia DeNasha, an [Ojibwe](#) woman now working as a Wildlife Biologist on the [Superior National Forest](#), and Bryan Rice, the new Forest Management Director, a [Cherokee](#) who comes to us with Bureau of Indian Affairs experience.

Of course, we must recognize our youth’s role in achieving *hozho* in our work too. Thus, the multi-stakeholder [Wings & Seeds/Zaagkii Project](#) builds environmental consciousness with Tribes, including tribal youth, to protect native plants and pollinators. Native youth also learn how their culture can be integrated with scientific research in the award-winning [Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program](#).

I look forward to further realizing *hozho* in the agency and beyond.

-Estelle Bowman
Acting Director

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Native Students from the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program included Rae Benson, Kagat McQuillen, Darcey Evans, Eldon Kinney, Oshun O'Rourke, and Darrel Aubrey.

Getting to Know Aurelia DeNasha

My name is Onizhiwangiizhig Ikwe (Glorious Day Woman). I am Ojibwe from Lac Courte Oreilles near Hayward, Wisconsin, though I was raised in Duluth, Minnesota. I now live in Cook, Minnesota where I work as a Wildlife Biologist on the Superior National Forest's LaCroix Ranger District.

"Finding even small ways to incorporate my culture into my work is important...I focus on maintaining that connection to my tribal roots."

Even though I dabbled in many other possible careers, I always knew I wanted to work with wildlife. My family always encouraged me- my Mom often enrolled me in weekend wildlife education programs at local zoos, raptor rehabilitation centers, and took me on nature hikes constantly. The first real job opportunity arose during high school when I participated in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Scholarship Program. In this amazing program, I was paired with a phenomenal mentor, Ken Gebhardt, now a District Ranger on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Ken encouraged me to follow my passion for wildlife, and suggested the University of Montana, his alma mater. Going to college so far from home had never occurred to me, but I took the plunge as it has one of the top Wildlife Biology programs in the country, offering many opportunities to work with many of the large charismatic animals I had grown up learning about- mountain lions, grizzlies, wolves, elk, buffalo. I couldn't wait to get to the mountains!

With the help of many Forest Service mentors and the agency's SCEP program, I found support in college to further my knowledge and experience, continuing on as a Wildlife Biologist on the Superior National Forest when I graduated. I now enjoy applying that knowledge from my hard-earned degree to real life situations, maintaining and conserving the wildlife and habitat here on my District. Currently, I have been working on a project to enhance the natural regeneration of oak-blueberry habitats in the north woods by returning fire to these historically fire-dependent systems. Prescribed

burns can help generate higher blueberry production, benefiting wildlife species such as moose, deer, bears and many species of birds and insects.

Modern science and management techniques tend to focus heavily on only one aspect of an ecosystem at a time, managing the land by manipulating something here and there. Growing up, traditional teachings always taught us that nature is an interconnected web that we are not in control of, but are actually a part of. My native upbringing has definitely influenced how I approach my job, as I try to consider habitats holistically to protect and maintain them.

Finding even small ways to incorporate my culture into my work is important. From adding the Ojibwe names to the English-only labels of display mounts to putting out tobacco before any trapping or wildlife handling, I focus on maintaining that connection to my tribal roots.

Aurelia marten trapping on the Superior National Forest in the winter of 2013.

Photo credit: Barry Sampson



Getting to Know Bryan Rice

Bryan Rice, enrolled member of the [Cherokee Nation](#), is the new Forest Service Director of [Forest Management](#). Bryan has a deep commitment to public service which he credits to his family, “My grandparents, parents and siblings have all served in different branches of the military, and I chose to make my contribution as a Peace Corps volunteer serving in Nepal. A dedication to public service is a part of the values I grew up with and something that has shaped me throughout my career.”

Bryan grew up on a family farm in southern Wisconsin, where he cultivated his passion for natural resource management. That, combined with international affairs and global cultural resources, continue to drive his career today. His Native mother and father, high school geography/history teachers, raised Bryan and his brother, now on active Navy duty, always instilling high expectations for work ethic and developing a keen interest in being continual learners.

Bryan started his career on an interagency hotshot crew with the Forest Service in Helena, Montana, and then served as a community forester with the Peace Corps in Sunsari District, Nepal. After returning stateside, Bryan went on to work as a timber sale officer in White Swan, Washington for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); a forester and assistant fire management officer for the Forest Service in Petersburg, Alaska; and back to the BIA as a Forest Management Planning Inventory Forester in Juneau, where he oversaw managing and protecting timber resources on Alaska Native allotments.

In 2008, Bryan began as a program analyst with the Office of Human Capital Management in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., where he developed a training program. In 2009, he was promoted to Assistant Director for Resource Protection in D.C., where he advised the Chief of the Forestry Division and the Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Services on topics including climate change, technology transfer, and geospatial services. In 2011, Bryan was formally named to his first Senior Executive Service position as the Deputy Bureau Director, Trust Services for the BIA/Department of the Interior. He was responsible for all headquarters activities associated with managing and protecting Indian trust and restricted lands, real estate services, probate, oil and gas, fisheries, agriculture, range, irrigation, dam safety, water rights, forestry, and wildland fire management.

Bryan said “My career has spanned several levels of two organizations, now reaching the Forest Service Washington Office Director level, as a result of broad support and assistance. I am here because of amazing, rich, and diverse experiences, great mentors who always took the time to explain and teach, as well as working with so many wonderful people across organizations. The benefit of connecting people and cultures are integral to natural resource management, and I look forward to continue developing this perspective with the Forest Service.”

Bryan is grateful for the opportunity to serve in what he considers two of the best Senior Executive Service positions in natural resources management, and is excited to be working in one of the premier forester positions in the country.



“Connecting people and cultures are integral to natural resource management, and I look forward to continue developing this perspective with the Forest Service.”

Forest Service Employees View Native Film: *The Thick Dark Fog* By Cheryl Vanderburg, FS Tribal Relations Manager for Regions 1 & 4

“Kill the Indian and save the man.” Unfortunately, in the 19th and 20th centuries, this motto of Indian boarding schools guided their mission—to systematically strip away Indian culture through Western education. At the same time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was also suppressing Indian culture by banning certain spiritual practices on reservations. It was only in 1978, with the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, that the government formally established a policy to protect Native American Sacred Sites and traditional forms of worship.

In these boarding schools, children were not allowed to be Indians – to express their culture or identity in any way was to risk being severely humiliated or abused. Many Native Americans lived with this trauma into adulthood, acting out through alcoholism and violence. More than 100,000 Native American students attended these schools from 1879 to the present, although few still exist, attendance is no longer mandatory, and they no longer abide by that terrible motto.

To give Forest Service employees an idea about this dark time in U.S. history, the agency’s Tribal Relations and Civil Rights Programs hosted screenings on February 12, 13, and 19, 2014 of the film “[The Thick Dark Fog](#)” in Missoula, Montana. The film depicts how a Lakota man, Walter Littlemoon, confronted “the thick dark fog” of his South Dakota government boarding school past to renew himself and his community. The film is based on Littlemoon’s memoirs, which

he wrote at age 58 to explain his past abusive behaviors to his estranged children.

I invited Randy Vasquez, the film’s director and an actor in his own right, and film producer Jonathan Skurnik to the screening. Afterward they led a discussion.

The film had a profound impact.

“This film was a real eye opener for me,” said Blakey Lockman, a Forest Service Plant Pathologist based in Missoula, Montana. “Although I am a local resident and grew up near two reservations, I was unfamiliar with this terrible history.” She also said that if more non-Natives saw this film, it would go far in helping break down the barriers of discrimination. To this end, she is now hoping to get local schools to show the film.

Students, faculty, and staff at the tribal Salish Kootenai College were also treated to a special screening at the school’s Arlee-Charlo Theatre, and the film opened the Indigenous Cinema Series in Missoula. A grant from the Lower Flathead Valley Community Foundation and Salish Kootenai College provided



Jonathan Skurnik, Cheryl Vanderburg, and Randy Vasquez

Photo credit: Chris Sand, Roxy Theatre Program Director

“This film was a real eye opener for me. Although I am a local resident and grew up near two reservations, I was unfamiliar with this terrible history.”

-Blakey Lockman, Forest Service scientist

funding for the events. The film premiered on PBS in June of 2012, and won Best Documentary at the 2011 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco as well as the Artistic Vision Award last year at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula.

I will join Vasquez on his current project, “Badger Creek,” which features a Montana Blackfeet family and their successful ranching business. Michael Momberg, the principal character in the film, was discovered by University of Montana Professor Rhea Ashmore as an outstanding native student. Ashmore felt compelled to find a filmmaker to share his story. I am happy to be serving as the executive producer.

Kaibab District Rangers Go the Extra Mile to Consult with Havasupai Tribe

By Mike Lyndon, Tribal Liaison- Kaibab National Forest

“What an experience to visit with the Havasupai—the relationship-building amongst the Tribe and the agency; the oasis that is Supai Village, and the gracious hospitality we received.”

- Danelle “D.D.” Harrison, District Ranger

Harrison and Simino on their hike.

Photo credit: Mike Lyndon

Imagine living in a place so remote that mail, food, and supplies are delivered by pack mule. And where a hike to the village includes a two-mile stretch of switchbacks snaking down the cliffs of the Grand Canyon. Supai village is just such a place. The most remote community in the lower 48 states, it is also the capital of the Havasupai Indian Reservation. Havasupai is world-renowned for the spectacular waterfalls in Havasu Creek, and is an extremely popular tourist destination. [The Havasupai](#), which means people of the blue-green water, have lived in the Grand Canyon and north-central Arizona for more than 1,000 years.

In early January, two new district rangers reported for duty on the [Kaibab National Forest](#): Danelle “D.D.” Harrison on the Williams Ranger District and James Simino on the Tusayan Ranger District. They bring with them significant experience working with tribal partners.

Since reporting for duty, both rangers have traveled to tribal communities to consult on a number of ongoing issues, projects, and partnerships. Recently, Harrison and Simino completed the Forest’s annual line officer consultation trip to Supai, Arizona. This trip is notable because it involves a 16-mile round-trip hike to Supai at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Much of what is now the Tusayan and Williams Ranger Districts on the Kaibab lie within the Havasupai Tribe’s traditional territory. In the 1970s, the agency supported the transfer of 185,000 acres of land administered by the Forest to the Havasupai Tribe. That transfer was enacted by Congress in 1975 through the Grand Canyon Enlargement Act.

Since that time, the Tusayan Ranger District has shared a boundary with the Havasupai Indian Reservation, and the Forest and Tribe have developed a strong working relationship to tackle management issues. In 2001, the Forest and Tribe developed a Memorandum of Understanding to highlight that relationship and establish standard consultation protocols including regularly scheduled consultation meetings in Supai.



This working relationship has been challenged recently by proposals for uranium exploration and mining on the Forest, an issue of critical concern to the Tribe. However, the forest and Tribe remain committed to collaborative management goals, and the last consultation trip resulted in renewed progress on a variety of issues. “It was an amazing experience to be invited to Supai to meet with the Tribal Council- what a wonderful backdrop to a productive meeting” Simino said.

Harrison agreed, “What an experience to visit with the Havasupai—the relationship-building amongst the Tribe and the agency; the oasis that is Supai Village, and the gracious hospitality we received.”

“And hiking in the awe-inspiring beauty that is the southwestern landscape, all in the name of duty. How fortunate am I?”

Wings & Seeds/The Zaagkii Project: Building Environmental Consciousness with Tribes **By Jan Schultz; FS Botany, Non-Native Species, and Special Forest Products Program Leader**

Collecting seeds in the waning light of dusk. Planting crops at dawn. In many ways, people have shown appreciation for their natural resources, but few languages have succinctly expressed this deep spiritual connection. The Anishinaabe word “zaagkii,” however, seems to do just that. Translated as “the loving gifts which come from the Earth,” the term was suggested by Ojibwa [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community](#) elders as a helpful way to frame collaborative efforts of [Wings and Seeds/The Zaagkii Project](#), a native plants and pollinator protection initiative that is a partnership with the [Cedar Tree Institute](#) and the Forest Service’s Eastern Region.

Over six years, this partnership has become increasingly cross-cultural, although our primary goal is ecological restoration. The program’s scientific objective centers on the roles that native plants and pollinators play in sustaining ecosystems. The program also engages local tribal populations and at-risk youth. Forest Service staff serve as students too; we learn about ethnobotany in tribal workshops, vocational mentoring, and botany technology transfer.

Various efforts include the following:

Restoration of native plants and pollinator protection: The project focuses on restoring locally native plants and their pollinators. The building of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Native Plants Greenhouse is a central achievement: using a geodesic dome design, the structure is self-sustaining and used to propagate native plants for regional tribal plant restoration projects and technology transfer.

Workshops, trainings and technology transfer: Kinomaagi workshops are scheduled annually, and participation is open to tribal members and non-tribal members who work for or with tribal agencies. The next Kinomaagi workshop is scheduled for May in Michigan, as will our next Botany Technology Transfer on Invasive Plants workshop.

Ethnobotany: The recovery and protection of traditional knowledge of local native plants is a core component of the project. To this end, we have conducted more than 100 hours of ethnobotanical interviews with [Northern Michigan University's Center for Native American Studies](#) students and 24 Ojibwa elders from five tribal communities.

Youth involvement: Over the years, at-risk youth from Marquette County's Juvenile Court have contributed more than 3,100 hours of community service toward the project. They've collected and disposed of invasive plants, prepared research projects, constructed bee and butterfly shelters, hosted community educational forums, and helped construct the Keweenaw Greenhouse. Correlations between ecosystem restoration and healing of the human spirit have been consistently underscored as part of this program design model.

Resolutions from regional Native American tribes: The [Hannahville Indian Community](#); [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community](#); [Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#); and [Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians](#) have passed tribal resolutions pledging support for the project. Two additional tribes are working to design programs.

Ongoing collaboration: Northern Michigan University's Center serves as a key partner in the cross-cultural mentoring program. [The Cedar Tree Institute](#) and [Upper Peninsula Children's Museum](#) also coordinate with the Forest Service’s Eastern Region. Other Forest Service units participating include the [Hiawatha National Forest](#); [Ottawa National Forest](#); [Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources Team/Intertribal Nursery Council](#); [Rocky Mountain Research Station](#); and State and Private Forestry.

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Photo Credit: [Wings and Seeds/The Zaagkii Project](#)

“Zaagkii means ‘the loving gifts which come from the Earth.’”

FS International Programs Supports Community Forest Management in Peru

By Ashley Warriner, Forest Service International Programs



Awajun regional leader speaks at Regional MFC Forum.

Photo credit: Andrea Harman, Forest Service International Program's Peru Forest Sector Initiative

private institutions. The meeting was convened by the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture's Forest and Wildlife Authority (DGFFS-MINAGRI), the Ministry of Environment's National Forest Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation Program (PNCB-MINAM), and the Interregional Council of the Amazon (CIAM).

The second event, the Peruvian Amazon Macro-Regional Meeting on Community Forest Management, was also convened by MINAGRI, MINAM, and CIAM, along with the Inter-ethnic Association for Development of the Peruvian Jungle- (AIDSESP), and the Peruvian Confederation of Amazonian Nations (CONAP). More than 120 participants representing national and regional public institutions, indigenous organizations, non governmental organizations, and international technical cooperation agencies discussed updates and goals for Peruvian Community Forest Management policy.

Participants set the national agenda for 2014-2016, prioritizing 1) the promotion of land titling for communities whose territories are currently in dispute; 2) simplification of administrative processes for community use of natural resources; 3) public participation and consultation with native communities during the development of new national forest and wildlife regulations; and 4) capacity development for Community Forest Management in local communities and the state agencies that work with them.

These events and the decisions made therein mark significant progress in promoting dialogue and collaboration between the Peruvian government and native communities on natural resource management and policy.

The Forest Service's Office of International Programs has supported improved forest sector governance in Peru since 2009 through a variety of programs, including capacity-building among native Amazonian communities in improved forest management, and active participation in forest sector reforms.

From March 24-28 2014, International Programs' Peru Forest Sector Initiative (PFSI) provided logistical and technical support for two important Community Forest Management (CFM) meetings in Cieneguilla, Lima.

The first event, the Latin American Regional Forum on Community Forest Management, had over 70 participants, including speakers from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, and Peru. The Regional Forum was a space for regional participants to share their knowledge and experience in promoting and institutionalizing Community Forest Management. They had worked mostly at the policy level, strengthening forest governance in indigenous communities, developing strategies for the economic sustainability of these initiatives, and generating dialogue and agreements between States and indigenous organizations.

The event also created a forum for direct dialogue between public officials, indigenous leaders, representatives from international cooperation agencies and professionals from



Native Students Integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge with Western Science

By Rae Benson, Former Tribal Intern

Waq lis ?i This is how we say “how are you?” in my language (Klamath). My name is Rae Benson and I live in southern Oregon on the former Klamath Indian Reservation. I am an enrolled member of the [Confederated Tribes of Colville Indians](#) (Okanogan band), and a descendant of the [Klamath Tribes](#). I want to share my experience as an intern in the [Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program \(KBTYP\)](#). First, in 2012, I had been working under a federal grant called Students in Support of Native American Relations (SISNAR) with the US Geological Survey (USGS), when I learned of the Program. The following summer of 2013, I became an intern, and had a tremendous experience in conservation and restoration.

Last summer, six Native American students met at NASA’s [Ames Research Center](#) near Mountain View, California, to embark on a journey. The six students were chosen by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) to participate in a 10-week pilot summer internship called the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program. The students hailed from the Klamath, [Karuk](#), [Yurok](#), and [Quartz Valley](#) tribes from Oregon, California, and Florida. The students were Darrel Aubrey (University of California-Davis),

The Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program was awarded the Department of Interior’s Partners in Conservation Award in 2013 by Secretary Jewell.

Darcey Evans (New College of Florida), Kagat McQuillen (Sacramento State), Eldon Kinney and Oshun O’Rourke from Humboldt State, and me (Oregon Tech).

Students spent the first few weeks touring the Klamath River system, from the estuary to the headwaters, guided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and tribal leaders from the Klamath, Karuk, Quartz Valley, and Yurok tribes. We learned about environmental conditions and restoration efforts, including complications facing federal agencies and tribes like poor water quality and aquatic habitat degradation.

We used traditional knowledge gained from discussions with tribal elders and leaders, coupled with scientific methods, to identify and assess the conditions for ideal

fish habitat in two fresh-water rivers. We worked with our mentors to identify physical, biological and cultural parameters that influence the success of spawning life-cycles of salmon, and fresh-water fish species within the Klamath River, focusing on linking river conditions, native salmon populations, and traditional ecological knowledge.

I am grateful for this opportunity- I learned that federal agencies and indigenous groups can learn from each other in the face of climate change. As a result of the internship, I have a much stronger respect for my heritage, and our ancestors who kept it alive for many generations. With my education and heritage, I am passionate about carrying on restoration work to preserve our culture and the natural resources that make up our world.



Office of Tribal Relations Gets a Midwest Perspective

By Estelle Bowman, Acting Director

"I am honored to have participated in what I hope is the first of many re-engagements between the Eastern Region's forests and the Tribes."

To develop Forest Service leadership skills, I completed a temporary assignment, or in agency lingo a "detail," as the acting deputy forest supervisor on the [Mark Twain National Forest](#) in Missouri. The detail was a perfect experience for someone like me whose only assignment has been in the Forest Service's Washington, D.C. office, the "WO."

Of course, survival is based on learning new acronyms right off the bat, like SO, FSup, and DR, which really means supervisor's office, forest supervisor, and district ranger. Learning a new level of the agency gave me a closer look into how the policy decisions and recommendations made in Washington are actually implemented out in the field.

Of particular interest to Tribal Relations is that the Mark Twain National Forest recently hired a Tribal Specialist.

The Forest made an excellent selection by hiring Marla Striped-Face Collins, a Lakota Sioux woman, to help develop more robust tribal outreach.

Part of my work focused on working with the Planning and Operations staff, including Marla, to develop a one page introduction to Mark Twain Tribal Relations, along with a map. We used the Office of Tribal Relations' treaty database to first identify 27 Indian Tribes who may have an interest in the forest, and then to identify whether the forest lands were ancestral, treaty, or reserved tribal lands.

Many Tribes were forcibly moved through Missouri on the various Trail of Tears routes as part of the forced Indian removal from their ancestral homelands in the 1830s. Today, they have a particular interest in the Trail of Tears routes, and suggested layering the trails onto the map of Mark Twain lands.

Another Tribal Relations outreach initiative the Forest participated in was a two-day field tour on March 18 and 19 on the [Hoosier National Forest](#) in Indiana. As part of several Eastern Regional forests' commitment to the removed Tribes now residing in Oklahoma, tours have been planned as a way of welcoming Tribes to their ancestral lands. This field tour was a significant acknowledgement that Tribes lived in many of our nation's forest lands before being forcibly removed. The tours also help the Tribes reconnect with the land. Finally, agency employees and Tribal members fostered respect for each other in the relationship-building process.

I am honored to have participated in what I hope is the first of many re-engagements between the Eastern Region's forests and the Tribes.

Of course, the work on the Forest is varied, and I was able to see my colleagues' daily public service first-hand. From marking trees for timber sales to scheduling prescribed burns to educating the public on agency initiatives to engaging with the community on our work. All were excellent windows into the many ways we work for the American people.

I truly appreciate the time Forest Supervisor Bill Nightingale and his staff provided me, and to the Mark Twain National Forest's beautiful welcome



On the Hoosier National Forest field tour, standing in the Rockhouse Cliff Rockshelter

Photo credit:

Ken Sandri,
Grey Towers

Research and Development Review

Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States: Impacts, Experiences and Actions.

By Kathy Lynn, Tribal Climate Change Project & Sue Wotkins, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

For indigenous peoples, climate change's environmental impacts and some of the proposed solutions threaten cultural survival and ways of life, including subsistence and financial resources. [The Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project](#), a collaboration between the [Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station](#) and the [University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program](#), is engaged in a unique partnership with the [Northern Arizona University's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals](#) (ITEP). This partnership is part of the Forest Service Coordinated Approach to Tribal Climate Change research.

Over the past few years, the Tribal Climate Change Project has collaborated on numerous projects to identify and communicate the unique challenges climate change poses for tribes, including the development of [tribal profiles](#) and [fact sheets](#). This spring, we are embarking on an exciting initiative to share knowledge and experiences about climate change in the Northwest through an innovative webinar series. The series, sponsored by the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, also ties in the local [North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative](#). Webinar topics include marine issues, fisheries, forests, and invasive species and pests. All webinars will be recorded and archived [here](#).

1) Webinar: Climate Change Impacts on Fisheries

April 24, 2014, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. PDT

Highlights current science about climate change impacts on fisheries, and a discussion of the implications for tribes. Register [here](#).

2) Webinar: Climate Change and Marine Issues

May 21, 2014, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. PDT

Highlights current science about climate change and sea level rise, ocean acidification, effects of rising water temperature on disease processes, and a discussion of the implications of these impacts for tribes. Register [here](#).

3) Webinar: Climate Change and Invasive Species and Pests

May 27, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. PDT

Highlights current science about climate change, invasive species, and pests in forest and freshwater ecosystems. Register [here](#).

4) Webinar: Climate Change Impacts on Forests

June 4, 2014, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. PDT

Highlights current science about climate change impacts on forests, and a discussion of the tribal implications. Register [here](#).

Impacts of climate change on tribal natural and cultural resources are also highlighted in [a special issue of the journal](#)

[Climate Change \(Vol. 20, Issue 3\)](#), compiled by over 50 authors representing tribal communities, academia, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (see cover picture inset). This is the first time a peer-reviewed scientific journal has devoted an entire edition to climate change and its impacts on indigenous communities.

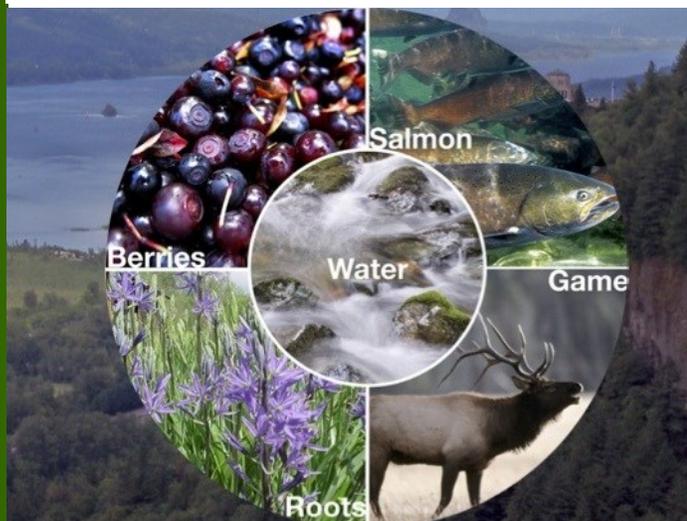
The articles explore what Native Americans are facing due to climate change, including loss of traditional knowledge, forests and ecosystems, food security and traditional foods, and water, Arctic sea ice loss, permafrost thaw, and relocation. The issue also explores how tribal communities are adapting to their changing environments.

The research presented in this special issue supplements the "Impacts of Climate Change on Tribal, Indigenous, and Native Lands and Resources" chapter in the [Third National Climate Assessment](#), to be released in 2014. The National Climate Assessment is developed as part of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 under the [US Global Change Research Program](#), and will inform national decision-makers on the climate change status and trends throughout the United States.

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“This project would provide tremendous benefit to the overall ecosystem of this part of the Jemez Mountains.”

Maria Garcia, Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe National Forest

Jemez Pueblo & Santa Fe National Forest Consult on Potential Tribal Forest Protection Act Project

By Reuben Montes, Tribal Relations Liaison on Santa Fe National Forest



The already treated Jemez Tribal lands on the right and the untreated Jemez Ranger District lands on the other side of the fence.

A potential Tribal Forest Protection Act project between the [Santa Fe National Forest](#) and the [Jemez Pueblo](#) would help reduce the threat of wild-fire through hazardous fuels removal, promote forest health through reducing insect infestation and disease, and call for the harvest of small diameter timber to support the tribe’s nearby Walatowa Timber Industries mill.

The project would be on the Forest’s Jemez Ranger District, land bordering Jemez Pueblo tribal land. Forest Supervisor Maria Garcia and Deputy Supervisor Joseph Norrell participated in a site visit with the Jemez Pueblo, Governor Joshua Madalena, and Tribal Forester John Galvan.

They inspected adjacent tribal lands already treated, and toured the Forest Service lands that would be included in the proposal. The Southwest Region recognizes the authority as a valuable tool for restoring landscapes and has used it with other Tribes. These conversations between the Santa Fe and the Pueblo demonstrate the good collaboration and relationship between the Pueblo and the Forest.

The project would support the district’s scheduled Palliza prescribed fire, as well as complement the ongoing Southwest Jemez Mountains Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program project awarded in 2010. This year, the 210,000-acre project comprises the 86,000-acre Valles Caldera National Preserve, 110,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest, and 14,000 acres of nearby state, private and Jemez Pueblo lands.

Forest Supervisor Maria Garcia described a potential Tribal Forest Protection Act project as “not only an outstanding opportunity for meaningful collaboration with Jemez Pueblo, but also a tremendous benefit to the overall ecosystem of this part of the Jemez Mountains.”

Safety Corner

Be mindful of allergy season and know that allergy medications affect individuals differently.

We need to be considerate of our colleagues who suffer from allergies.



Regional Round Robin

Rocky Mountain Region: Forest Service sponsors tribal Mapping/GIS training

[The Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station](#) and [Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute](#) sponsored a Public Participation GIS (PPGIS) Training at the tribal Salish Kootenai College in Montana for tribal students and staff.

Funded by the Joint Fire Science Program through the Rocky Mountain Research Station, this seminar was part of an ongoing project to facilitate Tribal research and outreach about cultural adaptation to changing fire regimes in the Intermountain West.

Salish Kootenai College students, [Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes \(CSKT\)](#)'s Natural Resources Department, the CSKT Forestry Department, and Ethnotech LLC, a cultural resource

consulting and heritage education firm, attended the one-day seminar. PPGIS involves local communities in the creation of data to be channeled into GIS analysis for spatial decision-making. PPGIS is based on the principle that those affected by a decision have the capacity to influence the final outcome, and thus should participate in the decision-making process.

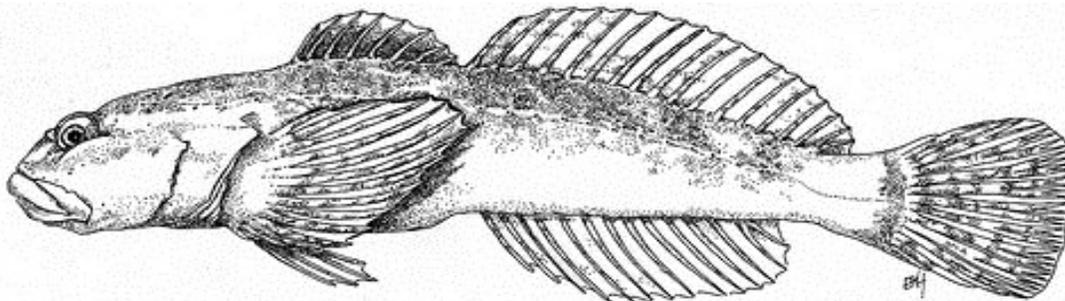
The training centered on Map-Me (Mapping Meanings), an online PPGIS tool for the collection of fuzzy perceptions of meanings attached to landscapes developed cooperatively by the University of Leeds in the UK, CSKT and RMRS. This seminar represented one in a series of special courses, projects, and workshops that students may complete to earn a GIS Certificate

Northwestern Region: Tribal Elders help Forest Service name new fish species

After a comprehensive survey of sculpins, a family of small fish common in the Upper Columbia and Missouri river basins, Forest Service scientist Michael Young and his colleagues discovered a new species. Dr. Young asked the [Coeur d'Alene Tribe](#) to help him name this fish, which is found across their traditional lands. Although new to scientists, tribal members recalled having seen this fish before. The fish is distributed throughout small, swift streams in the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe River basins in Idaho.

Tribal elders decided to name the fish schitsu'umsh, the general name of the Coeur d'Alene People. Dr. Young took this suggestion and added the customary latin name to it, resulting in the following proposed name for the fish: *Cottus schitsuumsh*.

[Here](#) is the published paper.



Washington Office: FS Recreation Consulted on New Ski Policy

The Forest Service finalized policy guidelines that provide opportunities for ski areas to promote year-round recreation activities that are natural resource-based and that will create additional jobs for communities with ski areas on National Forests.

The new directives will help usher in a wider spectrum of developed recreation opportunities that will encourage more people to enjoy the national forests. This change will allow ski areas to offer expanded recreation choices that will benefit local communities and recreationists. The guidelines also address management of other recreational uses within the operational boundary of ski areas by the non-paying public, such as snowshoeing and hiking. The guidelines require that new activities are natural resource-based, encourage outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature, and are consistent with the intent of the act. The guidelines also will address the types of facilities that will be permitted

The Forest Service initiated formal consultation with tribes starting October 18, 2013, lasting 120 days, published a blog on the Office of Tribal Relations website on June 28, 2013, and reached out to the general public for comment to help formulate the final guidelines.

Consultation Corner

USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Consultation Schedules Updated April 21, 2014

Table 1- Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation

Topic	Type	Start Date	End Date
Research and Development's Tribal Engagement Roadmap	Communication Document	January 10, 2014	May 11, 2014
Tribal Relations Directives	Manual and Handbook	June 6, 2013	Open until further notice
Bighorn Sheep Management Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Recreation Site - FSH 2309.13	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Groundwater Resource Management - FSM 2560	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Invasive Species Management Directives	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Rangeland Management Directives	Manual and Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Wilderness Management Directives	Manual	Delayed	To Be Determined

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

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Editor's Note



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

I wanted to correct a mistake in the last newsletter—Terry Cole is not the Deputy THPO for the Muscogee Creek Nation.

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