



# Tribal Relations News

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## Director's Welcome

“This world is but a canvas to our imagination.”  
-Henry David Thoreau

There really is no end to the possibilities of creative connections between the Forest Service and Tribes. I have been impressed by the constant innovation. After you read these stories, you will be too.

First, an update of a few of the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)’s partnership activities. In May we commemorated the return to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of the Hall Mountain property in North Carolina. Forest Service staff included Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard, the OTR’s Alicia Bell-Sheetter, and the Southern Region (Region 8). The Tribe bought the property, which adjoins tribal sacred lands, with a Forest Service [Community Forest Program](#) grant.

In June, I met with Forest Service Regional and Forest leadership from the Northern, Intermountain, and Pacific Northwest Regions (Regions 1, 4, and 6), and leaders of the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho for their “Eleven Forests Meeting.” After that, Mariel Murray and I went to [the Society of American Indian Employees’](#) Training Conference in Washington. USDA and I were [honored with an award](#) recognizing our support of this incredible organization. USDA Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources and the Environment, Butch Blazer, was also an active speaker and participant.

The Forest Service was well represented at the [Intertribal Timber Council](#) meeting, including the OTR’s Estelle Bowman. She updated the Council on our activities and discussed the [Tribal Forest Protection Act Reports](#) and the third [Indian Forest Management and Assessment Report](#), both of which the Forest Service partially sponsored.

I went to the [National Congress of American Indians’](#) Midyear Conference in Nevada, where I met with tribal leaders, key supporters of tribal initiatives, policy and business entrepreneurs, and other federal employees.

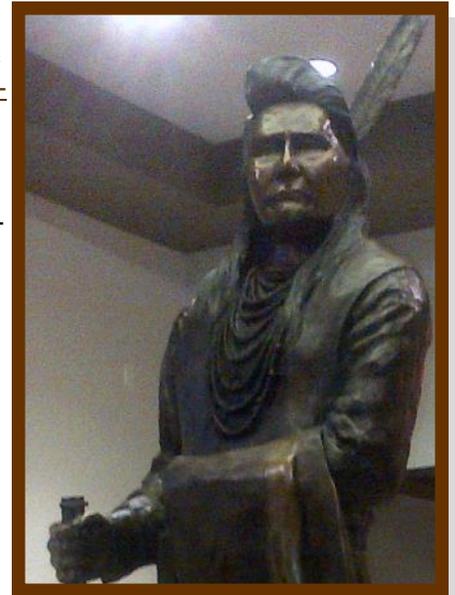
From our Washington Office, we launched a major

[Tribal Consultation](#) bundling effort. The Forest Service Chief invited all 566 federally recognized Tribes and 29 Alaska Native Corporations to participate in consultation between June 6, 2013, and October 6, 2013, including:

- Tribal Relations Directives;
- Fire and Aviation Management Directives; and
- Special Forest Products and Forest Botanical Products Draft Revised Final Rule

We look forward to more creative connections.

-Fred Clark



New Chief Joseph statue at Nez Perce Tribe facility in Lapwai, Idaho

Photo credit: Fred Clark

## Getting to Know Leslie Wheelock

It didn't seem likely when she was singing at the Salzburg Festival during her first job at IBM, but Leslie Wheelock's path in life would ultimately bring her to perhaps exactly where she was always meant to be – championing efforts to restore and support American Indian food systems and reservation economies. But the path to her new job as Director of the USDA Office of Tribal Relations (USDA OTR) has been a winding one. First, a chance encounter led her out of music studies and into law school at Cornell, which was a springboard into the corporate world of telecommunications finance and intellectual property, and stints at IBM and MCI Telecommunications.

Next, the path got a little straighter, with the opening of the [National Museum of the American Indian \(NMAI\)](#) – an event, Leslie said, that “changed the course of my life” and brought her closer to issues affecting Indian Country and her Tribe- the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. At NMAI she applied her intellectual property experience to cultural heritage issues – a background particularly relevant to the Forest Service and other USDA agencies working to protect sacred sites and traditional knowledge. At about the time she was advising NMAI, Leslie made another choice that straightened the path a bit more when she founded the Georgetown Farmer's Market in Rose Park ten years ago- one of the first in Washington, D.C.

While she was “lawyering” by day, by night she was hobnobbing with farmers as co-manager of the evening market, a post she held for 9 years, until 2012. Though she left the museum for NANA Development (an Alaska Native Corporation), she remains on the NMAI Board of Directors for its New York City museum. Moving ever-closer to the heart of Indian Country, Leslie next accepted a position with the [National Congress of American Indians](#) as Director of Economic Policy, a position that allowed her to be an advocate for tribal agriculture and economic issues, and that brought her even closer to USDA.



Photo credit: Liz Warner, Public Affairs Specialist, NRCS Nevada State Office

Her path finally delivered her in April of 2013 into a role that blends her life experiences and interests into an engine for change. Since her arrival in the USDA Office of Tribal Relations (USDA OTR), Leslie's been learning the depth and breadth of what USDA has to offer Indian Country, and she's keen to have Indian people “take advantage of everything that's available.” But first they need to *know* what's available, and so Leslie sees communications as key – and not just one-way communications. “I am really pleased to see so many dedicated people committed to getting help to Indian Country,” she said, but there is more to be done to “increase the comfort level of USDA staff in working with Indians” and to make inclusion of tribal interests in program decisions the norm.

But what's her vision for the USDA OTR? “Really, it's all about tribes controlling their food systems, increasing economic development via USDA programs and strengthening the Native/rural landscape.”

“Really, it's all about tribes controlling their food systems, increasing economic development via USDA programs and strengthening the Native/rural landscape.”

## Native American Hydrologist Graduate to Become Forest Service Employee

Raised by a White father and a Chippewa mother, partially on the Sault Ste. Marie reservation in Michigan, Simeon Caskey grew to love the great outdoors. “Northern Michigan feels like home with its beautiful natural landscapes where my ancestors have lived for thousands of years,” he explained. It is no surprise, then, that after collaborating with the Forest Service throughout his studies, this Native American hydrologist is now becoming a full time Forest Service employee.

After moving from Alaska to Michigan at age 7, Simeon became immersed in Chippewa culture. It was a time of cultural resurgence, and he feels privileged to have been part of it. After graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in aquatic ecology, Simeon went on to a job in river conservation with Americorps. That inspired him to pursue a graduate degree in ecology and river science - focusing on fluvial geomorphology- at Colorado State University.

During his graduate studies, Simeon met Dave Merritt, Riparian Plant Ecologist at the [Forest Service Applied Freshwater Science Center](#) in Colorado. Dave was so impressed by Simeon’s master

thesis proposal to do a study on the effects of streamflow diversions on riparian ecosystems that he agreed to be on Simeon’s graduate review committee, and even arranged for the Center to support Simeon’s work.

During his studies, Simeon also became a STEP student on Colorado’s [Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest](#). With the help of Kate Dwire, Research Riparian Ecologist with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, Simeon tried out a new Forest Service monitoring method called the National Riparian Monitoring Protocol. The partnership between the Forest Service and Simeon was not only successful in developing and recruiting a new hydrologist for the agency, but also in conducting a scientific study quantifying (for the first time) the effects of diverted streamflow on riparian vegetation.

Not only did Simeon impress Dave; he also impressed his Forest Service employers. Liz Schnackenberg, Simeon’s supervisor on the Routt National Forest, supported Simeon in becoming a Chief’s Scholar- a prestigious Forest Service honor. He is now converting from his student hydrologist on the Medicine Bow

-Routt National Forest. Simeon is especially happy about this arrangement because he will be just one hour away from Fort Collins, where he has friends and colleagues.

Staying relatively close to his tribal community is also important to Simeon; he credits his time on the reservation for his love of nature. He looks forward to bringing some traditional knowledge to his Forest Service tasks as well, including looking at natural landscapes from a holistic perspective. Overall, he is excited to work for the Forest Service because he sees the Agency’s mandate of conservation and sustainable land management as being similar to Native ethics and beliefs: “both the Forest Service and my Tribe appreciate the land’s resources.”

Simeon, welcome to the Forest Service!



*Simeon out on the Routt National Forest*

*Photo credit: Dr. Ellen Wohl*

*“After nine days of paddling in shifting weather in Southeast Alaska, ranging from rain, wind, freezing temperatures at night to sunnier skies, we made it.”*

## **Forest Service & Alaska Natives Paddle Together in One People Canoe Journey** **By John Autrey, Forest Service Region 10 Tribal Relations Specialist** **& Alicia Chilton, One People Canoe Society**

When we lost our canoes, paddles, and other gear on those mountainous seas while aiming for the protection of Mole Harbor in Seymour Canal, Alaska, we weren't sure what was going to happen. Luckily, we made it to shore, and that night spirits lifted as weary Forest Service and tribal paddlers and support boat crew members rested.

This was the third day of the recent Paddle to Shakes Island Canoe Journey hosted by the non-profit One People Canoe Society from April 24-May 2, 2013. The Society provides the opportunity to travel in a 30-foot or longer canoe, advocating for sobriety and healthy lifestyles, as the journey encourages team building, self-awareness, confidence and character development. The trip fosters connecting to the past, including the environment and challenges our ancestors faced.

Like last year, the Forest Service partnered with the Society for the Journey for several reasons. First, it wanted to ensure the safety of the journey; with two canoes departing Juneau with paddlers representing Juneau and Yakutat, the Agency provided a 62-foot Forest Service, Chugach Ranger Boat, and a 40-foot private boat- the Jenny S,- for support. Second, it supported one of the Journey's goals: traveling to Wrangell to rededicate the Chief Shakes Tribal

Clan House. The House was originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and local native carvers as part of the 1940 Forest Service Totem Pole Restoration project.

After nine days of paddling in shifting weather in Southeast Alaska, ranging from rain, wind, freezing temperatures at night to sunnier skies, we made it to Wrangell. We were joyfully welcomed by the official greeting committee and the public. We then celebrated during a weekend of celebrations that drew canoes, paddlers, dancers, elders, visitors and dignitaries. I was honored to reunite with tribal members and FS colleagues.

Our ancestors would have been proud of the way we (Forest Service and Alaska Natives) united as one people- learning about one another, experiencing community support, and sharing unforgettable moments. The outpouring of concern, love, support, and hospitality from Southeast communities was also touching.

As we ended the journey, our minds were full of energy, and we knew that this journey would have ripple effects for Forest Service-tribal relations for years to come.

-Follow the One People Canoe Society [on Facebook](#)

-Call Alicia Chilton at 907-209-561 or send inquires to [onepeopleca-](#)



*John Autrey wearing a Native Haida canoe hat with Forest Service paddle*

*Photo credit: Carol Lagodich, Forest Service TNF Public Affairs*

**Salmon-Challis Forest Trains Tribal Youth in Archaeology for Heritage Crews**

“Walking is our business, and business is good”

Lamar Broncho, a Shoshone-Bannock Tribal member and archaeological trainee on the [Salmon-Challis National Forest](#) in Idaho, jokingly summed up his work that way. He laughed, then credited the phrase to his Forest Service boss and mentor, John Rose.

For two seasons, Lamar and two other high school graduates have trained with the Forest’s Heritage Team. The program is a partnership between the Forest and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Serving on the forest archaeological crew, the training program teaches Shoshone-Bannock trainees the skills necessary to conduct archaeological surveys, including field navigation, data collection, site recording, field mapping, artifact illustration, field photography, survey techniques, and

fieldwork safety. The trainees help the Heritage program meet its survey targets in support of the forest’s range, timber and fuels projects. The trainees learn skills commonly used in natural resource work. Lamar also attended a leadership course before doing a two-week stint as a crew chief.

The trainees are recruited through Wes Edmo of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Employment Rights Office, and are hired as employees of the Tribe. Wes recalled his parents telling him and his siblings that to move out of poverty you need a college education; he is one of 10 of 11 siblings to go to college. Wes believes this program with the Forest Service creates a great “pathway to a career” for the tribal youth.

Lamar has become passionate about archaeology, and is ex-

cited about all the skills he has learned. “My other jobs got the bills paid, but this job I love,” he said. “Now when I wake up, I can’t wait to go to work!”

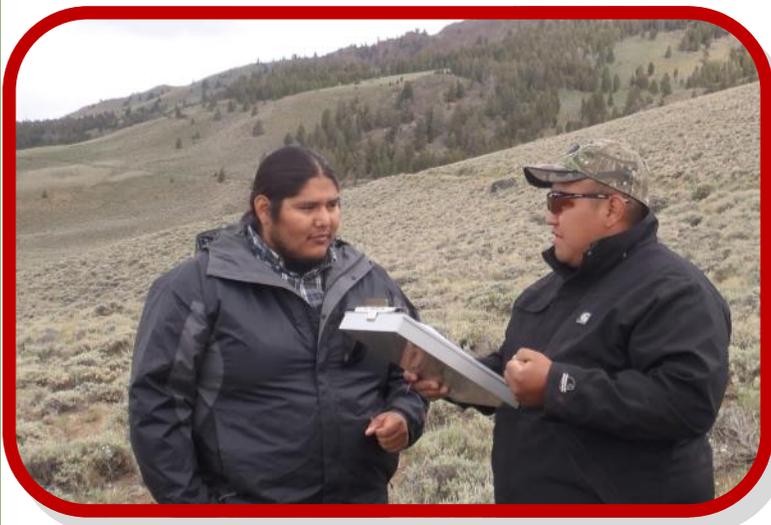
With the Tribe’s support and John’s recommendation, Lamar is enrolled at Idaho State University majoring in archaeology. He joined the Indian Club (Native American United) at school and encourages others to pursue archaeology, too. He hopes to work full time for the Forest Service after college, and to become a tribal archaeologist.

John claimed that “the archaeological training reinforces ties between generations.” As Lamar echoed, his Tribe has few local, Native archaeologists, although his father served as a cultural resources person for the Tribe, and inspired Lamar to “see our people’s history.”

John emphasized that the collaboration provides a valuable perspective to Forest Service heritage work. Because the Forest is tribal ancestral land, trainees contribute traditional knowledge, including unique stories of the land and artifacts. The Forest Service also benefits by increasing awareness of Forest Service career opportunities within the Shoshone-Bannock community, helping maintain our good working relationship with the Tribes, and developing a local source of skilled field technicians.

*“Now when I wake up, I can’t wait to go to work!”*

*-Lamar Broncho, Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Youth Trainee*



Lamar Broncho (left) and Zachary Littlejohn, another tribal trainee (right) collecting data on the Forest.

Photo credit: Reed Macdonald, Forest Pathways Archaeologist

## The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest: Looking Forward to a Bright Future

When she put her pen down, she could hardly believe her eyes- was this really happening? Was she making history? Hopefully.

Chippewa National Forest Supervisor Darla Lenz signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in June 2013 with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, pledging to work together in many areas, including hiring tribal members, contracting with the Tribe, technology transfer, training, and more. Neil Peterson, the Chippewa National Forest (CNF) Tribal liaison who facilitated the MOU, said it took over a century to establish the necessary trust to work together.

The MOU is meaningful because while past tensions between the federal government and Tribes have eased, the history between the government and the Leech Lake Band was hard to overcome.

In 1908, the Federation of Women's Clubs lobbied to create the Minnesota National Forest on the Leech Lake Reservation. Carving out the 225,000-acre parcel greatly reduced the reservation, creating a traumatic cultural event. Today known as the Chippewa National Forest, it is the only National Forest which encompasses nearly an entire Indian Reservation within its congressional boundaries.

For Neil, the memorandum symbolizes reconciliation: "We're working towards the same goals and outcomes."

Many practical partnerships developed by Forest Service and Tribal employees led to the MOU, including road maintenance, nonnative species control, fuels

treatments, tree planting, prescribed fire support, and more. A hazardous fuels program led to a friendship between Carl Crawford, a Forest Service Fuels Specialist, and Keith Karnes, Leech Lake Reservation Forester; Karnes called Crawford his champion. To date, the list of fuels projects that have been collaboratively designed include: three Hazardous Fuels Treatment, WFHF funds projects; a Recovery Act project; a Prescribed Fire Agreement; two stewardship projects; and agreements to improve forest conditions on CNF lands. These projects improved over 1,000 acres.

In 2005, a Forest Service prescribed fire escaped onto reservation lands. To prevent similar events, in 2009, Crawford offered Karnes \$300,000 in WFHF funds for the Tribe to do fuels treatment/prescribed burns on their reservation. The Tribe then treated 500 acres on their land. Following that success, in 2010 the Tribe treated an area close to a Tribal school that

was an elevated fire risk. A third project is ongoing, and a fourth is being planned.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service also identified projects eligible for Recovery Act funds. In 2010, with these funds, the Forest Service provided basic fire training and funding to expand the Leech Lake Wildland Fire Crew. Four of those trained are now on this Crew. The Fire Management Officer of this program, Duane Bebeau, says, "the new crew members have been a great addition to our program...we are better suited to contract larger projects."

Karnes said the work means more than funding-it fosters a sense of ownership on CNF lands. This collaborative spirit is unexpected and inspiring. As Carl noted, "we've built a bridge of communication and mutual understanding between us." Larry Heady, Region 9 Tribal Liaison, put it best when he said "The Tribe and Forest are looking forward now instead of looking back."

*"The Tribe and Forest are looking forward now instead of looking back."*

*-Larry Heady, Region 9 Tribal Liaison*



Leech Lake Wildland Fire Crew members: George Jacobs, Tim Bebeau, Charlie Blackwell, and Daniel Wind

Photo courtesy: Leech Lake Wildland Fire Crew

## Peoples of the Big River: Native Students Become EnvironMentors

In May 2013, the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) and Conservation Education partnered with [EnvironMentors \(EM\)](#) to judge the National Science Fair. EM is an environment-based mentoring program that fosters young adult leaders from all cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds to become active stewards of their communities and the environment. During the Science Fair, the OTR staffer Ericka Luna met tribal students from the EM Chapter of [Heritage University](#)-located on the Yakama Nation.

All of the students did an excellent job, but it was White Swan High School student Sabrina Sam's research on the "Effect of Wild Horses on the Native Shrub Vegetation on the Yakama Indian Reservation" that truly resonated through the marbled halls of USDA. She impressed both USDA Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources and the Environment, Butch Blazer and USDA Director of the Office Tribal Relations, Leslie Wheelock, who came to meet Ms. Sam and the rest of the Heritage EM Chapter. Wild horses are a major concern on Indian lands, with over 12,000 on the Yakama reservation, and Ms. Swan's research explores the impacts both scientifically and from a cultural perspective.

Heritage University, in partnership with the Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources, was also awarded an [America's Great Outdoors](#) grant for a 14-day, 1,500-mile field trip with the class. The class will visit the ancestral lands of the Tribes that once lived on the Columbia River and its tributaries in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. They will travel to seven different reservations (Yakama, Warm Springs, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Spokane, and Colville), two national forests ([Deschutes](#) and [Okanogan-Wenatchee](#)), and several other natural sites. The

students will meet with tribal elders to learn about indigenous perspectives on land management and recreation and environmental career paths, get hands-on training in environmental monitoring techniques, meet natural resource managers from public and tribal lands, and visit lands outside of the Yakama Valley. The class aims to bridge the gap between nature and culture by providing a historical and social context to the lands they visit. Both Forests look forward to the visit.

The EM Program Heritage Chapter is jointly housed in the [Center for Native Health and Culture](#), run by Michelle Jacob, and the Science Department. Science Department faculty Dr. Jessica Black and Dr. Michael Parra are co-directors of the EM chapter; they keep everything running and secure funding

for the multi-year field class. Dr. Black hopes that the class will serve as a springboard for at-risk Native American and Hispanic youth to be involved in EnvironMentors, and then go to college and major in STEM fields.

Read more about Sabrina Sam's and her class' research with Heritage University at <http://www.heritage.edu/Community/CenterforNativeHealthandCulture.aspx>.

Read more about the People of the Big River field class and follow the students' blogs at <http://www.heritage.edu/AcademicPrograms/UndergraduateDegrees/Sciences/>



Students conduct surveys at the Warm Springs Dept. of Natural Resources

Photo credit: Dr. Jessica Black

## A Sense of Being: Coming Together on the Arizona Strip

By Connie Reid, Archaeologist, Kaibab National Forest

Spending a week in the remote and stunningly beautiful Arizona Strip country that covers millions of acres would inspire anyone. For Native Americans, the feeling in the area is more powerful- their ancestors have been there for thousands of years. “There is no...lapse of time for us, said Octavius Seowtewa, who added that for the Zuni people, the past and present come together. “We are here, and they [the ancestors] are here.”

Earlier this year, Hopi Tribe and Pueblo of Zuni elders gathered at the historic Kane Ranch north of the Grand Canyon to visit ancestral cultural sites on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land. The ranch- the largest working operation on the North Kaibab- is owned by the Grand Canyon Trust. The Kaibab National Forest Heritage program is committed to working closely with local Indian Tribes, and this gathering provided a great opportunity for collaboration. The forest’s North Kaibab Ranger District and Grand Canyon Trust hosted the tribal elders. Coconino County partnered with the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance (KVCHA) to sponsor the event. The KVCHA is a working group established in 2006 consisting of federal land managers, local government, academics, professional archaeologists, and Grand Canyon Trust that aims to further the preservation, interpretation, and research of cultural resources on the eastern Arizona Strip.

Throughout the week, the tribal elders and cultural preservation staff viewed ancient farming landscapes on the National Forest and neighboring BLM lands. They walked through pueblo ruins, rock art sites, prehistoric farming sites, and natural springs, and collected traditional plants. Evenings were spent sharing stories and traditional songs.

Like many Southwestern tribes, the Hopi and Zuni practice a farming lifestyle, and their ancestors are collectively known as the ancient pueblo people. Tribal elders said that their time spent at Kane Ranch was unique for a government sponsored gathering; typically, such trips do not involve camping together or meeting outside, where participants can connect with the land. Gerald Hooee, Sr., a Zuni tribal member, noted that “sometimes you get homesick [when traveling], but here you don’t.” He added, “it feels normal and like you were back to where you were before. You have a sense of being. Everything is there and you can feel it. You don’t have any feelings of being out of place.”

Participants discussed ways the Hopi and Zuni could partner with the Forest Service. For example, the Cultural Resource Advisory Team, a group of “elders” that the Zuni Pueblo and Hopi Tribe Cultural Preservation Offices officially designate to provide advice concerning traditional uses and cultural resources, expressed the importance of protecting natural springs. Gilbert Naseyowma, a Hopi, envisioned a reciprocal effort between the Hopi Tribe, Kaibab National Forest, and Grand Canyon Trust

“You have a sense of being. Everything is there and you can feel it.”

-Zuni Elder talking about ancestral sites on the Arizona Strip



Gilbert Naseyowma (Hopi), Elmer Joe “E.J.” Satala, Sr. (Hopi), and George Yawakie (Zuni) select macaw feathers- donated by a Kaibab employee- to be used for traditional purposes.

Photo credit: Connie Reid

## A Sense of Being: Coming Together on the Arizona Strip (ctd)

to restore springs on both Forest Service and tribal lands. Creative talks like these are often the seeds that sow future projects.

The tribal elders and cultural advisors are also interested in hosting tribal youth camps at Kane Ranch, as that would be a great way to reconnect the youth to places referenced in their tribal history. The North Kaibab Ranger District and KVCHA have co-sponsored tribal youth camps with the Kaibab Paiute Tribe, and plan to work with Hopi and Zuni tribes to provide similar experiences for their youth. Gerald Hooee also wants to encourage education and job opportunities for tribal youth, noting that the Zuni Youth Enrichment Program had identified several young high school and college kids interested in working for the government..

The Kaibab National Forest continues to promote Forest Service-tribal partnerships. This event was a great example of how FS employees can make our tribal partners feel welcome and appreciated. As Riley Balenquah (Hopi) noted, "I have a really secure feeling here and wish that more people could experience this." Tribes have unique perspectives on land management, and much can be learned by working together. Less formal gatherings not only promote information exchange, they also help foster an atmosphere of acceptance between people with different cultural backgrounds and perspectives, becoming the foundation for future collaboration. As Randall Walker, North Kaibab District Ranger, concluded, "spending time with tribal elders has helped me better understand and appreciate the significance of the deep personal connections many tribal people have with our lands, and the need to support future outreach efforts."

## Safety Corner

### Save a Life get Certified

CPR is as easy as

**C - A - B**



**C**ompressions  
Push hard and fast  
on the center of  
the victim's chest



**A**irway  
Tilt the victim's head  
back and lift the chin  
to open the airway



**B**reathing  
Give mouth-to-mouth  
rescue breaths

**Early chest compression can immediately circulate oxygen that is still in the bloodstream. By changing the sequence, chest compressions are initiated sooner and the delay in ventilation should be minimal.**

## Research & Development Review

### Joint Fire Sciences Program Supports Research on Traditional Fire Knowledge

Tribes have been managing their landscape through fire for thousands of years. Tribes also manage their trust lands with growing concerns about fire management. Assembling knowledge with our tribal public has important implications for developing federal fire and fuels management adaptive strategies. The interagency [Joint Fire Science Program \(JFSP\)](#) is therefore focusing on learning from Tribes, as well as meeting the needs of fire managers in Indian Country. The JSFP is now emphasizing both efficiently communicating scientific innovations to fire managers through [consortia](#) as well as producing new knowledge relevant to tribal practices and values. The Forest Service hopes these types of efforts help preserve relationships Tribes have with their tribal lands and federal land managers.



*Forest Service photo of Smokey Bear and Chief Charlo of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, from a time when suppression was the unquestioned objective of fire management, regardless of local knowledge about fire effects.*

Formed in 1998, the JFSP provides scientific information and support for wildland fuel and fire management programs. The Program is run through a partnership between the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey.

One example of JFSP's commitment to culturally relevant knowledge is a recently funded JFSP study involving Tribes. The study is led by an international team of scientists from Leeds University in the UK, Evergreen College in Washington, the University of Montana, and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute (Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station- hosted interagency research unit). This team aims to develop case studies on *Traditional Phenological Knowledge*-local, indigenous knowledge passed on through generations showcasing past human adaptation to changing cycles in nature. This traditional knowledge can be helpful when integrated with Western scientific fire and fuels knowledge to guide adaptation in Forest Service fuel and fire management practices in the future.

Another purpose of the case studies is to build capacity in the American Indian academic community so that it can better decide what place-based knowledge to capture and predict how this information can be used to guide future adaptation to environmental change. The team will also produce a comprehensive literature synthesis of documented tribal adaptation efforts in the Intermountain West, with the goal of cross-cultural information sharing.

Thus far, the team is partnering with several tribal colleges and organizations to develop these case studies. For example, members of the team will offer a two credit course with Salish-Kootenai College students beginning in January 2014 entitled "Senior Seminar: Culture and Landscape." Also, a Blackfeet student at the University of Montana will work with the team and Blackfeet Community College on one case study from the Blackfeet Reservation, and an American Indian faculty member at Evergreen State College will develop a case study working with two Pueblos in New Mexico.

The FS and JFSP hopes to support more Tribal projects, especially those involving traditional knowledge of fire.

The FS and JFSP hopes to support more Tribal projects, especially those involving traditional knowledge of fire.

#### Contacts:

- Alan Watson, Leopold Institute-Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula, Montana <[awatson@fs.fed.us](mailto:awatson@fs.fed.us)>, (406) 542-4197
- John Cissel, Joint Fire Science Program Director, Boise, Idaho, <[jcissel@blm.gov](mailto:jcissel@blm.gov)>, (208) 387-5349

## Regional Round Robin

### Northwestern Region: Klamath Agreements

In 2011, Forest Service Region 6 (the Northwest), The Fremont-Winema National Forest, the Klamath Tribes, and the Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and the Nature Conservancy, developed a Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) to establish a collaborative partnership to achieve mutual land stewardship goals and objectives while providing training and job opportunities for tribal members.

The Fremont-Winema National Forest and Klamath Tribe then developed a Master Participating Agreement to implement the MSA, coordinating activities on the Forest, mobilizing funds for resource restoration and workforce development from other public and private sources, sharing staff and

expertise, providing resource management skills training, on the job forest restoration experiences, and expansion of workforce capacity and skill sets that may ultimately lead to small tribal business contracts.

The newest Forest development under the MSA is the Black Hills Restoration Project. The Klamath Tribes forest restoration crew is busy measuring roads and boundaries, and are developing timber harvest prescriptions. These tasks all provide important opportunities for the Tribes to take a direct and proactive role in hands on forest management

For more background, read [OTR's Spring 2012 Newsletter](#)

### Sacred Sites Update

The Secretary of Agriculture accepted all of the recommendations in the Sacred Sites Report. Now the Forest Service is in the process of implementing those recommendations (see page 24-29 of the Report [add link]).

To ensure implementation, two new teams have been established: The Executive Team provides oversight and direction and the Core Team develops strategies, processes, and products. Headway has already been made on key recommenda-

tions, including revising tribal relations directives, working toward a comprehensive training program that tiers to core competencies, maintaining a tribal consultation calendar, and ensuring that more AI/AN people are on FS committees.

The Sacred Sites teams have a great deal of work to accomplish and they are excited to help the agency better protect sacred places! For additional information please contact Ericka Luna at [elluna@fs.fed.us](mailto:elluna@fs.fed.us).

### Research: Tribal Engagement Update

The Forest Service Research & Development staff, including Chris Farley, have been working hard on improving its engagement with Tribes. A Tribal Engagement

“Roadmap” was just released for informal review by inter-tribal organizations. Check

out the new [Tribal Engagement website](#) and designated [Research Tribal Liaisons](#) at each Forest Service Research Station in the country.

Contact Chris Farley for more information: [cfarley@fs.fed.us](mailto:cfarley@fs.fed.us)



A. Bell-Sheeter 2012

### National: Bundled Tribal Consultation

For a few months, three Forest Service staffs—Tribal Relations, Forest Management, and Fire and Aviation—revised their Forest Service directives, which tell Forest Service staff what to do and how to do it. They mailed these draft directives out together in a bundled tribal consultation. The directives are open for tribal consultation from June 6, 2013, to

October 6, 2013.

Call in to the Office of Tribal Relations on July 17, August 14, or September 18, 2013, to learn more. [See the announcement \(PDF, 76 KB\)...](#)

## Consultation Corner

USDA Forest Service  
Tribal Relations Consultation Schedules  
Updated June 21, 2013

**Table 1 - Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation**

Topic	Type	Start Date	End Date
Tribal Relations Directives	Manual and Handbook	June 6, 2013	October 6, 2013
Fire and Aviation Management Directives	Manual and Handbook	June 6, 2013	October 6, 2013
Special Forest Products	Final Rule	June 6, 2013	October 6, 2013
Planning Rule Directives	Handbook	February 27, 2013	June 28, 2013
Paleontological Resources Preservation	Proposed Regulations	May 23, 2013	July 22, 2013
Bighorn Sheep Management Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Recreation Site - FSH 2309.13	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Groundwater Resource Management - FSM 2560	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Invasive Species Management Directives	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Rangeland Management Directives	Manual and Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Wilderness Management Directives	Manual	Delayed	To Be Determined

**Table 2 - Completed Tribal Consultation**

Topic	Start Date	End Date
Farm Bill Section 8105 (Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural)	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-	March 7, 2011	July 13, 2011
National Aerial Application of Fire Retardant Environmental Impact	April 25, 2011	August 25, 2011
National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusions Supporting	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	April 2, 2012	September 7, 2012

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**Editor's Note**



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

We are always excited to learn about FS-Tribal Partnerships and projects— contact me with any other examples.

Our next newsletter will be published in October, and we welcome themes or other ideas.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or story suggestions at 202 306 5121 or [marieljmurray@fs.fed.us](mailto:marieljmurray@fs.fed.us).