



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

Tribal Relations News

Director's Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2016 edition of the Tribal Relations News. In this edition, you will see inspiring examples of how agency and tribal partners are working together to maximize benefits now and for future generations, while honoring the past. In 2015, the Forest Service brought resolution to long-standing challenges in tribal relations and tackled newer issues just becoming visible on the horizon. Notable achievements include revising the Forest Service Tribal Relations directives, drafting a working version of a Technical Guide on Implementing the Cultural Heritage Cooperative Authority, hiring a Native-owned contractor to help develop sacred sites training, and publishing the [Tribal Connections](#) GIS Map Service. My sincere thanks go to the many people who, over many years, worked to make these efforts successful.

2015 was not only a banner year for the Agency's relations with Tribes but a watershed moment for moving those relations to new and more positive stages. Much of this success comes from the dedicated Forest Service staff throughout the country who build and maintain local tribal relationships. I especially thank two people for their long-term dedicated service and offer my best wishes in their respective retirements: Regional Tribal Relations Managers Lillian Petershoare (Alaska Region) and Dan Meza (Southwest Region). We will miss their wisdom, cultural insights, positive attitudes, and great skills. They cannot be replaced, but successors Melinda Hernandez Burke (Alaska Region) and Yolynda Begay (Southwest Region) are strong and dynamic additions to the tribal relations roster. We also offer our thanks and best wishes to Robert Goodwin who served as the Tribal Relations Program Manager in the Pacific Southwest Region before moving home to Northern California.

We are entering a new era in tribal relations. Staffs are now incorporating tribal relations into their regular workload because they recognize the value in it, not just to check a process box. The OTR's mantra "Tribal Relations is everybody's business" is being expressed through actions. This makes me proud of the people I work with across all parts of the Agency. The future will still bring challenges from the Congressional, Executive, or Judicial branches taking actions limiting our decision-making discretion, as well as from consequences of decisions we do make. We will also receive tribal requests we can't fulfill. Meeting those challenges requires continued work in policy, training, engagement, practice, consultation, and collaboration. That work will help us together find creative solutions and provide better service to the American people.

~ Fred Clark

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Chugach National Forest Provides Capitol Christmas Tree

First Tree to Ever Travel 4,000 miles over land and sea to reach DC

WASHINGTON, DC—On November 20, 2015, the U.S. Forest Service welcomed the Capitol Christmas tree on the West Front Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. This year's tree was approximately 74 feet tall and the first Lutz Spruce to be chosen and showcased as the People's Tree. Roughly 4,000 ornaments designed by Alaska schoolchildren and residents were also donated, many reflecting elements of the traditional artwork of several Alaska Native communities into the designs. On the evening of December 2, 2015, Ms. Anna DeVolld, a 10-year-old fifth-grader from Soldotna, Alaska, was on hand to help House Speaker Paul Ryan light the tree after winning a statewide essay contest explaining why a Christmas tree from Alaska is special. Her essay can be found [here](#).



The tree lighting ceremony on the West Lawn of the Capitol. Photo credit to FS employee Sherry Eng.



Christmas tree ornaments designed by Alaska school children for the Capitol Christmas Tree.

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The tree arrives via police escort. Photo credit to FS employee Dominic Cumberland.

The Chugach tree was selected by the United States Forest Service after considering many candidate trees, and only after it was determined the tree could endure the long journey. The Chugach National Forest is the most northerly and westerly forestland protected by the United States Forest Service, and it covers an area of land roughly the same size as the state of New Hampshire. Established in 1907, the Chugach Forest is the second largest U.S. forest and is home to more bald eagles than the entire species population found in the lower 48 states.

The People’s Tree began its journey on October 27 near Seward, Alaska, and slowly made its way down to Anchorage, where it traveled in the hull of a freighter ship for three days until reaching Washington State. Then it began its road trip via

semi-truck towards the East Coast. The tree made several goodwill stops on its tour of the lower 48, and was even a featured guest in the Veteran’s Day celebration in Rapid City, South Dakota! Because morning traffic is already congested in downtown DC, the tree cruised into town on November 20, 2015, a little before 4 a.m.



Chugach Children’s Forest Alumni highlight marine debris ornaments with Associate Chief Mary Wagner (Photo credit to Chugach Children’s Forest).

Youth representatives from the Chugach Children’s Forest Expeditions were also on hand for the December 2 tree lighting ceremony and met with Forest Chief Tom Tidwell to discuss unique forest challenges and avenues to channel sustainable preservation efforts. These students have been working as local forest ambassadors in their hometown communities and have been educating their peers on the importance of forest health and maintenance. Members of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe were also guests of Chief Tidwell and

participated in the ceremony to celebrate the safe journey of the tree.

USDA would like to extend special thanks to the Juneau Tlingit and Haida Community Council who shared a handmade tree skirt, through the Capitol Christmas tree campaign, that was created by Native artisans Alberta Aspen, Bev Russell, Andrea Cesar, Barbara May, and Irma Young. It was on display in the USDA Whitten building in the immediate office of Arthur “Butch” Blazer, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.



The Kenaitze Indian Tribe performs a song in the USDA Whitten building on December 2, 2015. (Photo credit to FS employee Dominic Cumberland.)

Diverse Pathways towards Common Goals: California Tribes Partnering with Pacific Southwest Region

Dr. Frank Lake, Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research Station, Fire and Fuels Program

ORLEANS, CA—The US Forest Service is currently conducting research and management partnerships involving forestry and hazardous fuels treatments, prescribed burning, and wildfire research and management activities. These projects are taking place at several different scales ranging from a singular tribe to inter-tribal initiatives that include organizations and multiple agencies regarding collaborative landscape restoration partnership projects. The Agency and tribes are using different authorities, agreements, and funding mechanisms to complete the work. These projects uniquely incorporate tribes' traditional ecological knowledge, cultural practices, and innovations to get the work done with limited funding, resources and external support. Below are a few examples that describe various approaches for notable and award winning projects.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatments and Tribal Ecological Workforce Training

The Concow Maidu Tribe of Mooretown Rancheria and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have an agreement with the Plumas National Forest to conduct hazardous fuels treatments that protect the community from wildfire and restore culturally important habitats. Some of these habitats include primarily oak-pine dominated forests with traditional foods, basketry material and medicinal plants. This agreement recognizes the historical relationship between various tribal communities, such as the Maidu and Pit River Tribes, associated with the Mooretown and Greenville Rancherias (see Tribal Relations News Fall 2013 story). USFS-Tribal consultation fostered collaborative planning, design, and implementation of different fuels treatments. Treatments were strategically implemented within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) around private residential homes, along critical egress roads, and areas considered culturally important to the tribal community. Additionally, the Concow Maidu Tribe's Fire and Forestry Program crew worked on several wildfire assignments, and their valuable work was recognized with the 2015 Regional Forester's "Partner of the Year" Award.



On October 10, 2015, Yurok and Karuk Tribal partners participated in a prescribed burn on privately-owned land near the Klamath River to decrease the build-up of wildfire fuels, such as woody material and dry vegetation. Pictured are mature Tanoak acorn trees where Yurok and Karuk tribal members harvest acorns and other plants for traditional uses. Photo credit: FS employee Frank Lake.

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Tribal member Lois Osambe (with permission) pictured with Black oak branch and acorns in the Sierra National Forest. Photo credit to FS employee Frank Lake.

Got Acorns? Research collaboration among the North Fork Mono Tribe

Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research Station, and Sierra National Forest

The North Fork Mono tribal community is concerned about access to productive California Black oak trees with healthy acorns. Along the Sierra Nevada range, black oak acorns are traditionally gathered from the forest by tribal members, and have remained a primary food source that dates back to time immemorial. Unfortunately, healthy black oaks have been in decline for several reasons including forest densification, buildup of fuels, and lack of routine seasonal (and less hazardous) fires. Implementing fuels reduction treatments and prescribed fires to increase the health of black oaks has in turn increased the success of traditional tribal acorn gathering as well as promoting forest diversity, and protecting communities from wildfires. Out of conversations about acorns, a research partnership was initiated by the North Fork Mono with Forest Service partners to share and apply the tribe's traditional ecological knowledge on how contemporary fuels treatments and prescribed fires can benefit the forest, people and wildlife. Tribal knowledge has been infused into FS research and into planning on the Sierra National Forest, including the Dinkey collaborative forest restoration project. This partnership is demonstrating how the goal of promoting

tribal access to acorns can be met while promoting other resource objectives, including maintaining habitat for sensitive wildlife species, some of which also depend on large black oaks. This research and work is featured in a USFS Pacific Southwest General Technical report by Dr. Jonathan Long, Dr. Frank Lake, and Chairman Ron Goode, that will soon be published

A Look at building Ecocultural Resilience -Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP)

The WKRP is one of two current collaborative landscape partnerships for Region 5 and PSW in California. The Nature Conservancy's Fire Learning Network facilitated the beginning of the WKRP that involves the Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests, Karuk Tribe, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, and numerous other partners. This effort focuses on landscape eco-cultural restoration efforts to increase socio-cultural resilience and biodiversity of forests, protect communities from wildfire, and restore fire as a natural and cultural process across a 1.2 million acre planning area in line with The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The Cohesive Strategy has 3 central goals: Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Safe and Effective Wildfire Response. In support of the WKRP and Cohesive Strategy, the Karuk Tribe has agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, USFS-National Forests and other organizations to implement surveys required for NEPA project analysis, implementing fuels reduction projects, conducting prescribed burns, and for wildfire assignments. Similarly, tribal TEK is incorporated with project planning, development of prescriptions and treatment strategies, aiding research and guiding project development and monitoring. The Karuk Tribe coordinates their interest in habitat restoration to support traditional food and fiber resources, cultural practices, and broader public and community wellbeing. For more information: See [Burning and Learning Together](http://facnetwork.org/tag/mid-klamath/) (<http://facnetwork.org/tag/mid-klamath/>) or contact Dr. Frank K. Lake at franklake@fs.fed.us.

USDA Attends White House Tribal Nations Conference



During the afternoon town hall session, a Tribal Youth panel spoke with President Obama about presently issues facing their communities. (Photo credit: Department of the Interior.)

Secretary for Natural Resources Arthur “Butch” Blazer (Mescalero Apache), and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn (Chickasaw) were some of the top decision-makers present to listen and discuss tribal concerns. OTR staff attended several sessions that included topics such as methods to improve consultation, self-determination, and better collaboration to increase protection of sacred sites, climate change, and providing job and educational opportunities for Native youth. In particular, several Alaska Native tribes spoke passionately and in great detail about the immediate impacts from climate change and sea level rise to their communities’ infrastructure to the potential drastic effects of tomorrow. The USDA and the USFS were mentioned by several tribes as examples of how relationships can improve between tribal nations and federal agencies through meaningful consultation, regular communication and collaborative partnerships.

Reflecting on his charge to federal agencies to prioritize American Indian and Alaska Native youth, President Obama said, “That’s really what this Tribal Nations Conference is about -- extraordinary young people representing the promise not just of their tribes or of Indian Country, but of the United States -- because ultimately, we’re one family and these kids are our kids. They deserve to be cared and loved and nurtured, and given a shot at opportunity. And if we do our part, there’s no limit to what they can achieve, because they have extraordinary talent and extraordinary resilience.”

WASHINGTON, DC—On November 5, 2015, OTR staff attended the 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC. The conference aims to provide leaders from all 567 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with high-level Federal Government officials and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. In addition, 24 youth delegates participated in the Conference to share their unique perspectives and discuss their vision for the future of Indian Country. This was the seventh White House Tribal Nations Conference for the Obama Administration, and builds upon the President’s commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with tribes. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Under



During a breakout session on tribal economies, Secretary Vilsack fields questions regarding loan subsidies and food resources. (Photo credit: Department of the Interior.)

Coordinating with Tribes in Arizona

Nanebah Nez, Archaeologist, Tonto National Forest

PHOENIX, AZ—On August 4, 2015, Tonto National Forest partnered with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to host Tribal Relations training for Line Officers. Annual Tribal Relations trainings are designed to help develop a strong cadre of line officers competent in tribal relations and committed to developing partnerships with tribal communities. The 2015 Training focused on:

- Collaboration with Tribal governments and communities.
- Utilizing line officer discretionary authority to accommodate tribal requests.
- Tribal sovereignty; laws, regulations, and policies relating to Native Americans.
- Successful approaches to cooperative Tribal relations.



Tribal members speak at the Forest Leadership Team Meeting. Photo credit to FS employee Nanebah Nez.

Superior Area Ethnohistoric and Ethnographic Study



Photos (left and right) show tribal members in the field being interviewed for the Study.

To assist the Tonto National Forest in compliance activities related to implementation of the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and projects related to the proposed Resolution Copper Mine, the Forest required an ethnographic/ethnohistoric study of the area. This intensive study was completed in October 2015. Nine Native American tribes with traditional ties to the area participated in this study, including the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni. Participation consisted of either in-office interviews of tribal members and/or field visits to the project area. Research results will assist Tonto National Forest in (1) the identification of traditional cultural properties in the study area, and the evaluation of the eligibility of those properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and (2) the identification of cultural resources pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Little Shell Chippewa-Cree Citizen Appointed to the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council



With permission, Dr. Eli Suzukovich in the field.

Dr. Eli Suzukovich III is an anthropologist who focuses on cultural resource management, ethnography, and ethno-biology. Eli is currently an adjunct professor in the Environmental Policy and Culture Program at Northwestern University, Evanston. Since 2007, he has worked at the community level with the American Indian Center of Chicago and Northwestern University on collaborative projects funded by the National Science Foundation creating community driven, land based science curriculum that focuses on Indigenous perspectives of land, ecosystems, and cultural traditions and practices. This work included teaching informal science and culture classes for youth and adults within the Native American community in Chicago at the American Indian Center. From 2011 -2014, he was a

post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern University's Cognition and Environment lab (Psychology Department). He focused on development of community based citizen science projects and land based science curriculum that focused on Indigenous perspectives of land, ecosystems, and cultural traditions and practices. This work included teaching informal science and culture classes for Native youth and adults in Chicago.

While at the American Indian Center of Chicago, Dr. Suzukovich helped initiate partnerships with the 47th Ward Alderman's Office in developing community based ecosystem management plans along the Ravenswood rail corridor, Native land restoration and citizen science activities at the Dunning Read Conservation Area, and facilitating American Indian environmental career development at Forest Service and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS). Eli's professional experience has been varied but has focused on ethnography, cultural landscapes, oral history, and ethnicity and religion. As an ethnographer, Eli was employed by Environmental Engineering and Management (E2M- a subsidiary of HDR, Inc.), an environmental management and explosives disposal company as a contract ethnographer. Through this work, he learned the National Historic Preservation Act policies, procedures, and field work related to sections 106 and 110. Within this capacity, he worked with various Wyoming and Montana tribes in assessing and gaining access to culturally significant landscapes on Department of Defense land, and conducting section 110 ethnographic surveys on DoD land that was being acquired through purchase or transfer.

Safety Corner



Joint Tribal-Federal Archaeology Program Celebrates 5 Years

Patrick “Reed” McDonald, Archaeologist, Salmon-Challis National Forest

CHALLIS, ID—The Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho continues its archaeology training program with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes that was jointly created by Salmon-Challis’ South Zone Archaeologist, John Rose, along with Shoshone-Bannock’s Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Office Director, Wes Edmo. The program is designed to educate Shoshone-Bannock members about modern archaeology with supervision of an FS Archaeologist. Tribal members receive a hands-on education in professional archaeology and also allows for the infusion of indigenous perspective into current Forest projects.



Alonzo Bighorse, first-year member, mapping a Talus Pit with a Trimble GPS unit. Photo credit to Zachary Littlejohn, crew chief for project.

Crew Roles and Expectations

The program initially focused on giving participants a brief introduction to the field of archaeology from the perspective of the Forest Service. Eight members have participated in the program in four years. However, three Tribal members have participated for three or more years. The continuing interest from these students has resulted in an interesting dilemma: while the program was designed to train individuals at an introductory level, the students have mastered and excelled at such a fast rate that it is increasingly difficult to challenge them!

In the first year, members are expected to learn the basics of fieldwork. This includes survey methods, artifact identification, GPS and paper mapping, site documentation, navigation, and basic radio use. In addition, they may elect to receive FS certifications such as Wildland Firefighter and First Aid. Seasoned crew members have now advanced to the role of a Crew Chief for projects. These duties include contact with project proponents for clarification of the project, identifying survey methods, overseeing site recordation and ensuring documentation is complete to standard, assigning crew roles to other members, and ensuring crew safety at all times. These individuals continue to meet the challenges of every project and the projects have allowed the participants to grow personally and as professionals in the field.

Working Throughout the State

The crew represents the only full Forest Service Archaeological field crew for the Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, and Caribou-Targhee National Forests. This allows for cooperation with the neighboring forests to complete projects and increase training opportunities for the crew. During the 2015 field season, the crew and I spent the majority of the field season working on the neighboring forests, including the Curlew National Grassland. The diversity in project locations has increased the program’s ability to develop a crew that can identify a broad range of cultural material with a wide temporal span. In addition, they have been able to fill broad roles on the local forest. Taylor Haskett, a first-year crew member, worked directly with FS’ Tim Canaday and the University of Pittsburgh’s Bryan Hanks using an advanced form of geophysical survey (fluxgate gradiometry) to identify intact buried cultural deposits at known archaeological sites on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Field crew members Zachary Littlejohn (Fourth-year), Timothy Haskett (Third-year), Corddaryl Dixey (First-year), and Alonzo Bighorse (First-year) worked on a variety of projects including rock art vandalization, unauthorized ground disturbance, range, prescribed fire, and permit authorization. These experiences allow Tribal members to visualize and shape the role that archaeology plays within the Agency.

OTR Washington Office Updates

USFS Research and Development Releases Final Draft Tribal Engagement Roadmap Highlights Report

The *Research and Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap* supports and implements the goals and objectives outlined in the agency-wide Tribal Relations Strategic Plan. The creation of the *Tribal Engagement Roadmap Highlight Report* helps us as Forest Service employees to institutionalize our Trust responsibilities; communicate areas and opportunities for tribal engagement; increase and advance tribal and indigenous values, knowledge, and perspectives within R&D; and network and coordinate within R&D and across deputy areas to increase R&D program and U.S. Forest Service effectiveness. The document, which highlights 27 initiatives spanning the diverse scope of R&D, also serves to communicate and connect some of the existing partnerships and endeavors with tribes, indigenous and native groups, tribal colleges, tribal communities, and intertribal organizations (all objectives of the *R&D Tribal Engagement Roadmap*). Hard copies of the Report were distributed at the White House Tribal Nations Conference in November. The final version of the document will be released in early 2016 and will also be made available online. Stay up to date with the work of R&D by visiting us online at [our website](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/>).

National Forest System Seeking to Consult with Tribes on Invasive Species Management

In spring 2016, the National Forest System will extend a formal request to tribes to consult on invasive species management. The Forest Service Invasive Species Management Handbook is being developed to include the latest scientific approaches, and it is essential to include tribal perspectives that can inform the policy reviews. To be clear, the direction in the proposed Handbook is only applicable to National Forest System (NFS) lands and waters and no applicability whatsoever outside of those areas. Nothing in the proposed changes to the Handbook, nor the earlier Forest Service Manual (FSM-2900-NFS Invasive Species Management), will override invasive species management activities on any other lands or waters on private, state, Tribal, or any other federal lands. These policies are strictly for our internal NFS invasive species management activities. However, invasive species know no bounds, and all lands and waters across the landscape are at risk. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species not only impact the environment, human health, and the economy, but these harmful exotic species can also greatly impact the cultural aspects of areas they invade and the historic and current uses of NFS lands and waters by Tribes. One clear example of such a risk is the impact of Emerald Ash Borer on the cultural uses of Black Ash by Tribes in the Great Lakes and Northeast. Another example is the threat from aquatic invasive mussels, plants, and algae on native fisheries and waterbodies across North America and the resulting negative impacts on Tribal uses of the aquatic areas which have been invaded.

Forest Service Participates in the 2015 Inspiring a New Generation: North American Summit

The US Forest Service, along with numerous key partners and environmental organizations, supported the 2015 “Inspiring a New Generation (ING): A North American Summit,” which was organized by the Brandwein Institute. Over 200 key stakeholders, mostly under the age of 35, gathered at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on November 6-8, 2015, to design strategies to build life-long relationships with nature for current and future generations.

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Participants represented primarily the United States, Canada and Mexico with several from other countries including China, Australia, Brazil, and Peru. The World Parks Congress, held in 2014 in Sydney, Australia, set the stage for the Summit by focusing a major strand on Inspiring a New Generation. The 2015 ING Summit built on the issues identified by the Congress and determined specific strategies to address them in North America, and included in the highlighted discussion points the need to include indigenous traditional ecological knowledge into western science and community planning when developing climate change mitigation plans. The unique conference agenda was structured with brief provocations followed by facilitated whole group discussion regarding what's working well now; identifying gaps, successes and aspirations; brainstorming initiatives that would help the ING movement gain momentum; overcoming significant barriers to success; and identifying and paving the way for new initiatives. The resulting North American Framework for Action includes 15 proposed initiatives that have a target maturation rate of 5 years.

Announcing Two New Members of the DC Office of Tribal Relations!

Hello, my name is **Angela Pittman** and as of late January I am the newest Policy Analyst on the Tribal Relations team. I look forward to applying my wide background in private sector work in bank management (New York and Dallas), as an Environment Law Paralegal with law firms (Dallas and Jacksonville, Florida), and as a Maritime Law Paralegal. In 2002, I began my civil service career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Services, in Washington, D.C., as a Paralegal. I provided analysis, recommendations and guidance with Indian Probate reform and was subsequently designated by the Director of Trust Services to spearhead and collaborate with field representatives for assembling a national, standardized Agriculture Leasing Realty Handbook. Additionally, I worked with various other Indian Trust Land matters and issues. In 2005, I relocated within the BIA, to the Central California Agency, in Sacramento, California, as a Tribal Operations Specialist, providing technical assistance in amending tribal organic documents. I also supervised and facilitated Secretary and Tribal elections. In 2011, I relocated back to Washington, D.C. as a Program Analyst with the BIA, Office of Justice Services. For last 4 years, have worked in Minneapolis, MN, where I was part of the Crime Data Verification Initiative Team as part of the Tribal Law and Order Act. Additionally, I provided technical assistance and analytical support as needed. I received my BA in Government and Politics from The University of Texas at Dallas, and am an enrolled member of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I am so excited and look forward to be working with the USDA, Forest Service, and Tribal Relations team.



Angela Pittman.



Rebecca E. Hill

Reporting in early February, **Rebecca E. Hill** comes to the U.S. Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations with nine years of historic preservation experience at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. Ms. Hill began her tenure with the Corps in 2006 supporting reconstruction following Hurricane Katrina and has since worked on a variety of civil works and regulatory studies and projects, consulting with Tribes, federal and state agencies, local governments, and individuals with an interest in historic and cultural resources. An archaeologist, Ms. Hill also served as the tribal liaison for the New Orleans District for the past seven years, collaborating and consulting with Tribes regarding natural and cultural resources.

Born in Natchez, Mississippi, Ms. Hill found her home among the live oaks in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she attended Tulane University. She is working to complete the degree requirements for a PhD in anthropology, and her dissertation research examines the decline and abandonment of a community in the Bolonchén District of the Puuc Region, Yucatán, México, during the final decades of the Terminal Classic period, which spanned approximately A.D. 770-950. She received her MA in anthropology from Tulane University and her BA in sociology-anthropology from Millsaps College. Ms. Hill will be relocating to the Washington, DC, area with her delightful daughter Eloise and their (not so) domesticated companions Agnes and Santiago.

**USDA Forest Service
Tribal Relations Consultation Schedule**

Updated December 28, 2015

Table 1- Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation

Topic	Type	Start Date	End Date
Change in Requirements for Public Comment	Regulation (36 CFR Part 216)	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Community Forest Program - Proposed Rule	Manual	September 29, 2015	February 3, 2016
Bighorn Sheep Management Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Invasive Species Management Directives	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Rangeland Management Directives	Manual and Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Recreation Site - FSH 2309.13	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Ski Water Rights – FSH 2709.11	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Wilderness Management Directives	Manual	Delayed	To Be Determined

Table 2 - Completed Tribal Consultation

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

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

Please contact Chris Koeppe with any comments or future story suggestions for the Spring 2016 newsletter.

Thank you.