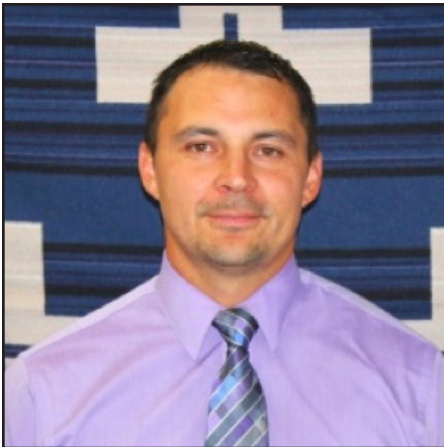




INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL TIMBER NOTES

Summer ~ 2024



Cody Desautel

I would like to start by thanking the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for hosting the 47th annual National Indian Timber Symposium. The facilities and country were an amazing venue for this year's symposium. I know how much work and dedication it takes to host a meeting for 400 people, and the ITC and Eastern Cherokee staff did a great job coordinating all the activities for the week. I want to express a special thanks to Laura, Monica, Howard, Tommy, Principal Chief Hicks, Tom Belt, and our good friend Larry Blythe.

We continue to make progress toward expanding staffing capacity within ITC. Proposals have been shared with BIA and the US Forest Service, and we hope to have updates soon on timing of those additional funding resources. As soon as those contracts and agreements are in place we will be advertising for an Executive Director. Stay tuned if you, or someone you know is interested in the position. We



Photo of Vice-President Phil Rigdon and Treasurer Tim Miller attending the Native Farm Bill Coalition Fly-in.

hope to have it advertised within the next month or two. Once that position is filled we plan to continue buildout of the team with additional admin support staff, IFMAT implementation, workforce, climate change, and communications positions.

Farm Bill language was released by both the House and Senate just before the symposium. We continue to lobby for new tribal authorities, with another trip to DC planned prior to the August recess. There were a number of sections within the Senate version of the Forestry title (Title VIII) directed at tribes, including Sec. 8216 Tribal Consultation in Land Use Plans, Sec. 8236 Tribal Forest Management, Sec. 8237 Incorporation of Tribal Management Plans, and Sec. 8240 Expansion of Good Neighbor Authority. In addition to these provisions the ITC intends to lobby for an extension of the Tribal Biomass

Demonstration Project, expansion of P.L. 93-638 contracting authority for co-stewardship or co-management agreements, and pilot authority for the BLM and USFS to convey small, isolated parcels to adjacent tribes.

ITC continues to engage on both the Mature and Old Growth, and Northwest Forest Plan amendments. The draft EIS for the Mature and Old Growth Amendment

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Operations Committee

by Jason Robison



Jason Robison

Summer has swiftly approached, marking the passing of yet another productive period for the Intertribal Timber Council Operations Committee. The Committee has been diligently active over the past several months, and I am pleased to provide updates on the work undertaken by the committee on behalf of ITC and its member Tribes. I want to extend my gratitude once again to the Eastern Band of Cherokee for graciously hosting this year's event marking the 47th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium.

IFMAT-IV: The committee has been extensively involved in implementing the recommendations of the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT-IV). Today, we have various deliverables, including briefing papers aimed at assisting ITC members in garnering support from Congress and federal agencies to execute IFMAT-IV recommendations. We have developed a content library comprising branding materials, social media posts, email templates, IFMAT infographics, PowerPoint summaries, a StoryMap, and links to the IFMAT Report and accompanying video. Additionally, the committee is planning congressio-

nal hearings, establishing smaller subgroups for specific activities, and crafting case studies on self-governance and self-determination, among other initiatives. An implementation plan and reporting framework have been devised to steer the committee's efforts and associated workgroups. ITC has engaged four contractors—National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution, Ecotrust, Evergreen, and Wood & Company to aid in this endeavor.

A panel was held at the ITC Symposium specifically to address the many ways that ITC has been implementing and rolling out the recommendations of IFMAT-IV. Since the symposium, resolutions have been passed at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the National Congress of American Indians, requesting Congress to move forward with the funding recommendations included in IFMAT-IV.

New Staffing Structure: Recognizing the necessity of establishing a robust foundation for ITC's numerous strategic activities, the committee has formulated a new organizational hierarchy to guide our future endeavors. This framework encompasses key positions such as an Executive Director, Grants and Contract Administrator, and other administrative roles including finance and grant support. It also acknowledges the requirement for additional technical support and potential future positions. These positions will be funded using BIA and other federal agency funds such as Navigator Funds/Keystone Agreement with the USDA Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations.

CFR Revisions: The committee continues to seek volunteers to participate in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) review subcommit-

tee to aid the BIA in reviewing and updating the CFRs. The BIA has identified some potential changes and welcomes support from ITC and its member Tribes. Committee members have emphasized the importance of infusing tribal-specific perspectives into the revision process.

Adjacent Lands: The committee has been actively engaged in reviewing and assessing several adjacent lands federal policy issues, including the management of old growth forests, the review of the Northwest Forest Plan, and the Bureau of Land Management's adjacent lands rule, among others. We have submitted comments and letters expressing ITC's stance on these matters. We invite member Tribes to provide input on where we can offer additional support for adjacent lands work at the federal policy level.

Tribal Co-management/Stewardship: ITC continues its active engagement with the USDA and the Department of Interior to clarify the definition of Co-Management / Stewardship and to foster a comprehensive understanding of how tribes can apply different approaches within their respective Tribal interest areas on federal lands.

Tribal Wood Marketing: ITC remains committed to supporting Sustainable Northwest's objective of cultivating tribal wood markets in the Pacific Northwest and bolstering wood supply and has provided letters supporting this initiative.^Z

Workforce Development: The strategic plan has been revised, consolidating the initial five strategic pillars into three core themes:

(Continued on page 8)

DIVE INTO THE DIVERSITY OF TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT WITH THE NEW INDIAN FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT TEAM REPORT IV STORYMAP, ‘BREAKING POINT: THE STATE OF TRIBAL FORESTRY TODAY’

Despite facing numerous obstacles, tribes remain steadfast in their commitment to preserving our shared environment. Join us in supporting tribal efforts and nurturing a sustainable future for all. Visit the StoryMap and video now!

Explore the StoryMap: <https://arcg.is/0fn985>

Watch the Video: <https://vimeo.com/930388326>

Tribes have been doing more with *far less* for too long.

“ The continuing failure of the United States to meet its fiduciary trust responsibilities for stewardship of these renewable resources is placing tribal forests in jeopardy with the risk of catastrophic loss from insects, disease, and wildfire. ”

CODY DESAUTEL
President of the Intertribal Timber Council

FUNDING COMPARISON:
For every \$1 of funding National Forest Service land receives, tribal lands only get 40¢

Entity	Funding
National Forest & Bureau of Land Management	\$1.00
Tribal lands	40¢

Tribal needs and contributions:

- ↑ **\$96 MILLION** Annual increase needed to reach per-acre parity with National Forest & BLM funding
- ♥ Tribal forestry provides sustainable and innovative practices across forestry, despite a drop of 36% in funding in the last decade

President's Message

by Cody Desautel

(Continued from Page 1)

was posted on the Federal Register on June 21, 2024, which Laura emailed to our distribution list on June 20, 2024. We recognize the potential impacts that these amendments could have on tribal management and co-management of adjacent federal land. We continue to meet with our Forest Service partners to ensure they are aware of these impacts. We also stay in regular communication with our member tribes to serve as a mechanism to share information and provide feedback. Both sides recognize this does not replace consultation, so if your tribe would like information or a point of contact within the Forest Service to request consultation, ITC can help. We will continue to provide updates as the Forest Service releases new information.

On May 8, 2024, I was given the opportunity to testify in the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on the fiscal year 2025 federal budget. My testimony focused on the IFMAT findings and encouraged Congress to fund Tribal forestry and fire at the levels recommended in the IFMAT IV report. The testimony noted the large discrepancy between funding the BIA receives for tribal forest management compared to other federal agencies, and how those discrepancies have resulted in 2019 being the lowest timber harvest from Tribal land since the great depression. ITC's recommendations for the committee included increases in base BIA forestry funding by \$96 million, an increase in preparedness funding by \$42 million, and a return of the Department of Interior fuels budget to 2023 levels. We also requested that the Committee work with the Administration to identify and fund a mechanism that

ensures tribal firefighters receive the same additional pay benefits that federal firefighters are receiving. However, the Committee advised this would be another difficult budget year, and they would do their best not to go backwards. I would encourage tribes to reach out to their federal representatives to express the importance of consistent increases in base funding for the BIA and Tribes. We will continue to express the funding need for Tribal forestry and fire, but also recognize the variety of competing needs tribal governments try to balance with limited financial support from Congress.

There are some important pieces of legislation moving through Congress now, in addition to the fiscal year 2025 and 2026 budget development. This will be another busy year as we work toward improving funding and staffing levels for Tribes and expand the influence of Tribal co-management on federal land. Discussions also continue in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) around cultural

burning. There were a number of recommendations in the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission report that referenced cultural burning, and those recommendations have made their way onto the WFLC agenda to work toward achieving those recommendations. There has been strong support from both USDA and DOI leadership in this administration, and we hope to take advantage of that support with new authorities that provide tribes with more flexibility both on and off reservation.

I have a few pictures of Colville's fire crew burning this spring, which was productive including almost 8,500 acres since last fall. While I spend most of my time in the office or around the country at different meetings, it is a helpful reminder to see our staff on the ground doing the work that is critical to protecting our resources. Stay tuned for more updates from what I expect to be a busy year for ITC.

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Photo of Colville's fire crew burning during spring 2024.

President's Message

by Cody Desautel

(Continued from Page 4)

Vice-President Phil Rigdon and Treasurer Tim Miller attended the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) Fly-in May 21-22, 2024 in Washington, DC. The trip included meetings with Senators & Congressional staff for provisions to the Farm Bill to expand 638 Authority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). ITC and a small group of Tribal leaders and organizations met with members of Congress and their staff to underscore the need to make Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) pilot programs authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill permanent, to fix the ability for tribes to retain receipts implementing TFPA good neighbor authority, and to expand 638 contracting to Forest Service programs outside of TFPA (e.g. recreational, visitor centers, trails, boat launches, etc.). In addition to these services the group advocated for the ability to use 638 Contracting for National Resources Conservation Service programs (NRCS), Food Distribution Program on Indi-

an Reservations (FDPIR), for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) meat inspection. The NFBC met with Senator Smith before she provid-



Photo of Colville's fire crew burning during spring 2024.

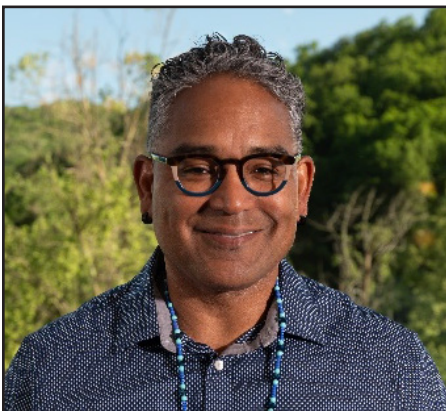
ed a moving speech on the Senate floor. She is a strong supporter for expanding 638. Sen. Tina Smith's (D-MN) speech on the Senate floor on 638: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyTqGiSZy2c&t=3s>

During the trip, ITC Vice-President Phil Rigdon and Treasurer Tim Miller were able to have a briefing with USDA Under Secretary DR. Homer Wilkes and Deputy Under Secretary Meryl Harrell. President Cody Desautel and ITC Information Specialist Matt Hill joined the meeting virtually. There was great discussion on ITC priorities including shared stewardship, TFPA, shared concern across the landscape, consultation requirements, reserved rights & traditional uses of resources, forest health, wild-fire risk, forest infrastructure, and workforce development.



Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.



Howard Teasley, Jr.

2024 ITC SYMPOSIUM CONCLUDES

We celebrated the 47th year of the National Indian Timber Symposium hosted by the Intertribal Timber Council and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort and Convention Center in Cherokee, NC, held May 13-16, 2024. The theme for this year's symposium was *"Restoring Tribal Relations and Values to the Land."*

Monday, May 13: There were four Pre-Symposium workshops offered. The first workshop "Forest Technology" was well attended with 61 individuals. Mark Corrao and his crew from Northwest Management hosted another successful workshop with live demonstrations and hands-on training. The second workshop "Fire Ecology and Traditional Knowledge – Sharing Experiences and Knowledge to Restore Relationships with People and Places" had 30 participants it was very popular and filled up quickly. Jim Durglo and Reese Kerbow pro-

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

(Continued from Page 5)

vided participants with understanding of cultural burning and a field tour with three prescribed fire projects. The third workshop “Mask Carving” had 16 attendees. Butch and Louise Goings guided the participants in carving detailed wooden animals. The last workshop “Basket Making” had 24 in attendance. Basket Weavers Mary W. Thompson and Betty Maney gave a history of Cherokee basketry and instructed participants to make a small round Reed basket. I also participated in the Private Event: Native Women & Allies in Forestry Luncheon a collaboration with the Women’s Forest Congress. The luncheon had a very good turnout, but in the future to be respectful to everyone the event needs to become a pre-symposium workshop that would be more accommodating to all attendees.

I want to extend a special thank you to the crews from Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe! Our complete operation happens behind the scenes happens on this day. Thank you to Laura and Monica for their continued commitment to our Intertribal Timber Council family. I always want to stress the importance of the income created from the Pre-symposium workshops are solely dedicated to the Truman D. Picard Scholarships. Thank you for your attendance. If individuals do have ideas for future pre-symposium workshops, please contact us. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Icebreaker was held after the events of the day and took place at Unto These Hills Outdoor Theater.

Tuesday, May 14: Started with Opening Ceremonies, Invocation, Posting of the Colors, and Wel-

comes by our hosts, ITC President and the Keynote was given by Tom Belt, an EBCI elder and Earth-keeper who delivered an inspiring message, setting the tone for a day full of insightful discussions.. Past ITC President Larry Blythe moderated the day and followed giving us a trip down memory lane with a discussion on ITC Connections and what they mean to him. After the morning break, we had a panel on Building a Resilient Workforce

– Breaking Point: Tribal Forestry Today. A big shout out to Ecotrust for their work on the project. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians ended things with a Host Presentation on traditional ecological knowledge and silviculture methods for arts and crafts, led by Tommy Cabe, Mike LaVoie, and Josh Parris. We finished the day with the Host Tribe Welcome at the Paint-town Community Center including a welcome dinner and live music.



Photo of the 2024-2025 ITC Board of Directors from L to R: Howard Teasley, Jr., Jeff Lindsey, Bing Matt, Robin Harkins, Cody Desautel, Phil Rigdon, Clinton Northway, John Bryson, Jr., Jason Robison (not pictured – Tommy Cabe and Timothy P. Miller)

in Tribal Forestry & Wildland Fire some of the topics included recruitment, sharing the story of forestry, bringing on the job training to Tribal members, and educating future staff on internship and career path opportunities. After the ITC Luncheon we were honored to have featured guest speaker Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Following was the second panel Turning Recommendations into Action – IFMAT-IV Implementation & Outreach Strategies which included an exciting debut of ITC’s ArcGIS IFMAT-IV StoryMap and IFMAT-IV Video

Wednesday, May 15: Our day started in the field. It was a rainy day that impacted parts of the tour. Stop 1 began at Waterrock Knob to discuss the origin and significance to Kituwah, songs, and medicine. Tom Belt lead the discussion regarding air quality and relative work including climate trends and prescribed burns. Stop 2 included lunch at Cowee Mound and a tour of this diplomatic site and it’s history to the Cherokee and the Trail of Tears. The tour ended with participants being shuttled up to the Eagle Mountain Community Forest to discuss prescribed burned and oak management. Our day conclud-

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Symposium Committee

by Howard Teasley, Jr.

(Continued from Page 6)

ed with the General Membership Meeting at the Cherokee Convention Center. During the meeting we discussed the Proposed Expansion of ITC, Adjacent Lands Questionnaire, Southeast Challenges, Fire Pay Update, and the IFMAT-IV Media Package that was rolled out for members to utilize.

Thursday, May 16: The day's activities started with the ITC President's Report, then updates from the DOI - Office of Wildland Fire, BIA Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, Legislative, and USFS Office of Tribal Relations. Immediately following the updates our three workshops started concurrently. Workshop 1: Engaging Federal and Non-Federal Partners to Meet Tribal Management Objectives was led by Jim Durglo and Joshua Rosenau. The presentations discussed how tribes continue to face ongoing challenges of workforce development and the need to identify non-traditional partnerships. Workshop 2: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) was moderated by Mike Dockry. The workshop was well attended and included a TEK Talking Circle an opportunity for mutual teaching and learning to foster natural resource management based on indigenous values. Workshop 3: Carbon Compliance & Voluntary Market Opportunities was moderated by ITC President Cody Desautel. The presentations included opportunities in carbon space, BIA inclusion / exclusion in process, and tribal examples to demonstrate the potential.

2024 ITC Board Elections: After the workshops concluded, the Annual Business Meeting of the Member Tribes was held. All six Tribes that were up for election were reelected to the Executive



Photo of Pre-Symposium Workshop 4: Basket Making with instructor Mary W. Thompson and students with their round reed baskets.

board for two more years including – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Nez Perce Tribe, Yakama Nation, and Hoopa Valley Tribe. The officers all retained their positions. Congratulations to all members!

Membership: General Membership is offered to tribes for \$250 annually and Associate Membership is offered to individuals for \$25 annually. Membership applications can be found on our website http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/. ITC currently has 53 General Members and 23 Associate Members.

Total Attendees: There was an overwhelming response to register for the symposium this year with 353 attendees, which included 131 pre-symposium participants, 47 participating Tribes, ANSCA Corporations, and tribal organizations, 53 federal agencies and other organizations, 71 speakers, 28 students, and 15 exhibitors – BIA Division of Forestry, BIA Office of Trust Services - Pathways Program, National Forest Foundation, National Indian Carbon Coalition, North-

ern Arizona University School of Forestry, Northwest Management, Inc., Oak Woodlands & Forest Fire Consortium, RDPC - Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, SKC TREES, Southeastern Grasslands Institute, The AKANA Group Inc., The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment, University of Georgia, Landale Center for Forest Business, USDA APHIS, and U.S. Forest Service. Thank you to everyone that participated! The 2024 Final Proceedings will be mailed to the Symposium participants in the fall. Our sincere apologies to anyone who was unable to register. We do our best to accommodate everyone but are limited by facilities and materials.

2025 Symposium: The 48th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium will be hosted by Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, June 2-5, 2025, in Missoula, MT. Take Care and God Bless. Qe'ci-yew



Operations Committee

by Jason Robison

(Continued from page 2)

Recruitment, Outreach and Education, and Training and Education. Each theme incorporates six action steps designed with a five-year funding perspective. The team has developed the Tribalforests.org website clearinghouse, which offers information on youth funding opportunities, training and education, and jobs / careers. There has been ongoing collaboration with the Society of American Foresters to raise awareness within tribal communities regarding tribal forestry opportunities. The Yale and SKC Tribal Forestry Webinar series has been successful, with participation from several ITC member Tribes.

Fire Subcommittee: The subcommittee has been highly active, focusing on tribal wildfire pay issues, promoting cultural burning in wildfire discussions, and advocating for the incorporation of recommendations from the National

Wildfire Commission into ongoing ITC operations and IFMAT-IV recommendations. Additionally, the subcommittee has responded to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Air Quality Rule Change for PM2.5 and exceptional events determination, maintaining active involvement with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Research Subcommittee: The subcommittee continues to review new research and publications, with notable accomplishments including a publication in the Journal of Forestry and an associated whitepaper. Discussions have centered on the importance of research funding, inclusion of tribal colleges in funding considerations, support for graduate student tuition and research, gender and diversity equity and inclusion in forestry, advancements in wildfire science and technology, and the expansion of

research communication and scientific translation. Evaluation and promotion criteria for federal scientists have also been addressed, emphasizing the recognition of tribal government sovereignty as international work for federal science promotion.

Upcoming Opportunities: The Operations Committee will be hosting meetings with the self-governance workgroup and the CFR review subgroup over the next several months. If you're interested in participating in these groups, please reach out to Laura Alvidrez at laura@itcnet.org so we can add you to our email list. I hope everyone has a safe and productive summer. Our next Operations Committee meeting will be held virtually in September.



Legislative Update

by Matt Hill



Matt Hill

FY25 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

In May, ITC President Cody Desautel testified before the House Interior Appropriations Committee in support of increased funding for BIA forest management. Desautel told the Committee that the “funding inequity between BIA and other federal agencies can no longer be ignored. The ITC requests that Congress prioritize funding for Indian forests in its FY2025 appropriations bill. This is an urgent matter, and tribes continue to pay the price of each additional year of funding inequity.”

On June 28, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee held a mark-up to approve its version of the Interior appropriations bill

– which funds the Department of the Interior including the BIA, the Indian Health Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

The House version of the bill will eventually be reconciled with the Senate version, which is likely to happen after the November elections. For reference, the Biden Administration's FY25 budget proposal recommends a \$344.8 million increase in BIA operations – including a proposed \$26.2 million increase over the 2024 Continuing Resolution amount (which was basically flat from FY23). This includes a proposed \$3.1 million increase in BIA Forestry (which

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Legislative Update

by Matt Hill

(Continued from page 8)

would reverse the reduction in the FY24 enacted bill).

Farm Bill Update: In May, the Republican-controlled House Agriculture Committee passed its version of a new Farm Bill, with a handful of Democratic votes in support. Tribal provisions in the bill include:

- A new Forest Conservation Easement Program: That would be eligible to tribal trust, fee and restricted lands (as well as land held by Section 17 corporations and Alaska Native Corporations).
- Good Neighbor Authority: The bill fixes a problem in the 2018 Farm Bill that excludes tribes (and counties) from the revenue retention authority originally given to states who carry out GNA projects on federal land.
- Tribal Forest Protection Act 638: The bill turns the “demonstration” project into a permanent “program.”
- Tribal prescribed burn demonstration project: Authorizes USDA to work with tribes on prescribed burns on federal land through delegated authority from USDA to the tribe.

In the Senate, Republicans and Democrats have unveiled competing versions of a Farm Bill. The majority/Democratic bill has a number of unique provisions for Indian forest management, including:

- Tribal Consultation in Land Use Plans: Requires the Secretary (of Ag) to consult with Tribes and affected ANC’s when developing land use plans.
- Cost-Share Waiver for Rehabili-

tation from Wildland Fires: Permits the Secretary to waive any requirement for States, Tribes, localities, or individuals to provide matching funds for a project in response to a wildland fire resulting from management activities conducted by the Secretary on National Forest System land.

- Tribal Forest Management: Changes the name of the Tribal Forest Management Demonstration Project to the Tribal Forest Management Program to reflect that this is a permanent program within Forest Service and requires the agency to make available on its website a list of all forest management activities for which contracting is available under Section 8703 of the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Incorporation of Tribal Management Plans: Requires Forest Service to incorporate Tribal land management plans, Tribal laws, and integrated resource management plans into contracts or agreements with Tribes.
- Expansion/Correction of Good Neighbor Authority: Expands the program to allow counties and Tribes to retain funds received from the sale of timber harvested from authorized restoration projects on federal land. Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.
- Tribal Advisory Committee; Tribal Self-Determination Pilots: Requires that USDA mission areas that have programs with self-determination contracts designate an office or senior official within that mission area that shall be responsible for self-determination contracts and

requires the Secretary to designate a senior official on self-determination within the Office of the Secretary to coordinate with the applicable mission area senior officials or offices on Tribal self-determination contracts.

National Old Growth Amendment Update: In June 2024, the Forest Service published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the conservation of “old growth” forests. The DEIS is open for public comment for 90 days.

The purpose of this amendment is to provide consistent guidance for the stewardship, conservation, and recruitment of old growth across national forests. The proposed amendment highlights the importance of proactive stewardship actions in managing threats to old growth forests, and to reduce wild-fire risk, considering current and emerging climate-driven threats. It also calls for adaptive management strategies to be developed using local, geographically relevant information and the best available science, including Indigenous Knowledge. A final EIS is expected to be published in early December 2024.

Legislation to Watch: Fix our Forests Act: House Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman introduced this bill, which is intended to increase the speed and scope of federal fuels reductions projects in high priority areas. ITC testified for a draft version of the bill, which is expected to be favorably reported out of the Committee in late June.

Murkowski TFPA legislation: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) has introduced a bill intended to expand the scope of the Tribal Forest Pro-

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Legislative Update

by Matt Hill

(Continued from page 9)

tection Act. The TFPA is limited to protecting tribal or forest lands “bordering or adjacent to” lands under tribal jurisdiction. Thus for “Indian land” to qualify it must border on or be adjacent to FS or BLM lands; be in trust or restricted status; and be forested or have grass, brush, or other vegetative cover, or, if burned, be capable of regenerating vegetative cover.

Murkowski’s bill, the “Tribal Forest Protection Act Amendments,” would amend existing law to:

- Expand the definition of “Indian forest land or rangeland” land to include lands held by Alaska Native Corporations. Under the Alaska Native Claims Set-

tlement Act (ANCSA), Congress did not place Native land in Alaska into trust or restricted status. Instead, land was conveyed to Alaska Native Corporations to manage for their shareholders. TFPA’s current lands definition prevents nearly 44 million acres of ANCSA land and resources from being protected from threats from federal lands.

- Strike the requirement that Indian lands “border on or be adjacent to FS or BLM lands.” The bill instead requires the FS or BLM land to have a special geographic, historical, or cultural significance to an Indian Tribe. Tribes have sacred sites, cultural landscapes and other resources

on federal lands that they want to protect or restore, but the lands on which those resources exist are not always bordering on or adjacent to Indian lands.

- Expand program eligibility to allow for work on Indian forest land or rangelands. The current program only applies to work conducted on federal lands, which further limits its effectiveness.
- Add a five-year authorization of appropriations of \$15 million per year.



Awards Committee

by Robin Harkins



Robin Harkins

2024 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING FORESTER OF THE YEAR AWARDED TO VINCENT CORRAO

The 47th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium Annual Banquet provided an opportunity to recognize outstanding achievements by Indian Forestry professionals with the 2024 Earle R. Wilcox Awards. These awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian forestry and natural resources. Awards have been given since 1984 in honor of Mr. Earle R. Wilcox, who will always be remembered for his significant achievements on behalf of Indian people and their forests.

A National Outstanding Forester of the Year Award was given to Vincent Corrao. He has a career spanning over 40 years and has worked with tribes across the United States and abroad sharing his passion for management of natural resources rooted in the ethical care of the land and peo-

ple to improve and support those resources so vital to society. After beginning his professional career at the Nez Perce Tribe he founded Northwest Management, Inc. in 1984. Serving as President and CEO of NMI whose vision includes providing a balanced approach to natural resource management for our communities and for the environment.” The growth and accomplishments of NMI are a testament to his work ethic, dedication to Natural Resource Management and his ability to work and communicate with people.

The immeasurable impacts on Indian forestry by this year’s winner are a result of projects and accomplishments too numerous to list, but include forest, fuels and wildland fire management plans, inventory of forest resources, lidar mapping along with GIS analysis,

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Awards Committee

by Robin Harkins

(Continued from page 10)

tools and dashboard, implementation of fuels projects, timber sale planning, layout and valuation, log marketing, forest certification assessments, program reorganization, staff training, mentoring, and leadership.

Involved with ITC for over 35 years in many different capacities including IFMAT III and IV, the Anchor Forest Report, the 2018 Fire Report, and the Operations and Research Committees, his technical writing skills, attention to detail and pride in his work are commendable.

Always willing to volunteer his time and expertise, this year's winner is a Certified Forester through the Society of American Foresters, member of the Association of Consulting Foresters, a certified lead environmental auditor for both SFI and FSC, Past President of the Western Forestry Conservation Association and involved



Photo of Vincent Corrao receiving his 2024 Wilcox Axe Award.

with the Inland Growth and Yield Cooperative. He freely shares his wealth of forestry and natural resource knowledge and his visions for the future of Indian forestry with emerging professionals and others who he believes will benefit from his sharing.

Like Mr. Earl Wilcox, the leadership, devotion, and accomplish-

ments of this year's National Achievement Award winner will leave a lasting impact on Indian forestry and natural resources across the nation. Congratulations Vinnie!



Education Committee

by Shawn de France



Shawn de France

2024 TRUMAN D. PICARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Greetings ITC family, I hope you are enjoying your summer. This year we had 27 complete applications come in for the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. It was a difficult task to rank the applications as they were all outstanding. I would like to thank the Education Committee for their time and in selecting the scholarship recipients. This

year, ITC has awarded 27 scholarships totaling \$83,500 to students representing 21 different tribes. Since 1988, ITC has awarded 585 scholarships totaling \$1,228,000! During the past ten years there have been 92 forestry majors awarded scholarships. On behalf of the ITC Board and Education Committee we offer our sincere congratulations to each of this year's recipients! We look forward to seeing you all finish your education and hope your career paths will bring you back to the ITC family.

(Continued on page 12)

Education Committee

by Shawn de France

(Continued from page 11)

GRADUATE -

\$2,500 AWARD

- Cody Goklish
- Chaylum Hogue
- Jeniffer LaCounte
- Cameron Macias
 - Kristi Olney
 - Trenton Pimms
 - Joni Tobacco

UNDERGRADUATE -

\$2,500 AWARD

- Corrine Alton*
- Lance Baptiste*
- Riston Bullock*
- James Douthwaite*
- Dion Fairbanks*
- Richard Green*
- Isiah Havier*
- Kee Hernandez*
- Emma James*
- Agapito "AJ" Perez*
 - Gordon Reo
 - Jesus Resendiz
 - Sierra Stalter*
- Ethan Standridge*
- Shannon Taylor
- Thomas Trahan*
 - Tiara Walks*
 - Jacob Wayne*
 - Kendra White
 - Frankie Wright*



Photo of the 2024 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Award Winners from L to R: Kendra White, Tiara Walks, Frankie Wright, James Douthwaite, Emma James, Shannon Taylor, Corinne Alton, and Richard Green.

The committee has opted to increase the award to students majoring in Forestry & Fire by an additional \$1,000, bringing the total to \$3,500 for those students indicated by an asterisk*. Each student that received a scholarship this year will also receive a complementary membership to The Society of American Foresters. Thank you to SAF for supporting our scholars. We would also like to thank Ke-weenaw Bay Indian Community and Terry Baker for their donations.

Funding for the scholarship each year is generated in part through the raffle held at the Annual Timber Symposium. This year, hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee had some incredible raffle items donated. We are so amazed by the artistry and bigheartedness of our donors as well as those who support the scholarship by purchasing tickets. Thank you so much for your support of the Truman D. Picard Scholarship. I am excited to report that the combined total for the raffle generated \$10,000 to support the scholarship.

2024 ITC TRIBAL FORESTRY & WILDLAND FIRE STUDENT SUMMIT

We are excited to announce the Intertribal Timber Council's 3rd Bi-Annual Tribal Forestry & Wildland Fire Student Summit will be hosted by the University of Montana & Salish Kootenai College on October 8-10, 2024, in Missoula, MT. Tribal students are invited to apply now!!

Limited funding is available to cover the cost of travel and attendance for tribal students. Priority given to eligible undergraduate students. Eligible graduate students will be considered based on availability. We encourage you to apply!

Online application: <https://skc-trees.org/apply-now-to-attend-the-2024-tribal-forestry-student-summit-in-montana/>



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo



Jim Durglo

In this article I provide a couple of topics of interest from participation in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

WFLC Data, Science, and Technology Workshop was held on

June 4-6, 2024, at the John Wesley Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis in Fort Collins, CO: WFLC in collaboration with the National Science and Technology Council Science for Disaster Reduction Interagency Working Group (SDR), has been working to address wildland fire science, data, and technology needs. This effort is guided by the problem statement from the recently updated National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: science, data, and technology have not kept pace with the extent of wildland fire and post-fire impacts or been fully integrated into decision-making for fire, land, and community managers.

Approximately 60 national fire science, technology, and management leaders from over 20 agencies and organizations convened to engage

in and recommend action on wildland fire SDT topics. Activities at the workshop included discussion and drafting of recommendations on topics including interagency fire science coordination and collaboration, integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science, enhancing community resilience from wildland fire, developing a technology roadmap for research to operations, and more.

Pre-workshop activities included enlisting the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) to

review recent publicly available reports for information on wildland fire SDT needs. STPI

analyzed eight reports including IF-MAT-IV from over the past decade, resulting in 264 compiled recommendations that spanned several crosscutting themes. Through pre-work, workshop attendees identified high-leverage recommendations, within the sectors of land, fire, and community management.

Workshop participants worked diligently over two days to sort and prioritize the recommendations and drafted a framework strategy for science, data & technology coordination.

Interestingly, near the top of all the recommendations is to incorporate multiple stakeholders, worldviews, and priorities—including Indigenous values and knowledge—in the science, culture, and values around wildfire resilience; and restore Tribal cultural burning practices through partnerships, changes in regulation, and Tribal leadership.

Source of Recommendation: NASA Science Mission Directorate Wildfire Stakeholder Engagement Workshop: Summary and

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Photo of WFLC Data, Science, and Technology workshop participants.



Caleb Cain

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Communication: If there is anything that you would like to discuss with the acting Chief Forester, please feel free to call at 406-679-1691, or send an email or video call invite to Caleb.Cain@bia.gov.

Temporary Duty Changes: Pete Wakeland was assigned to a detail in Washington, DC as the Acting Chief of Staff. Caleb Cain has assumed the duties of the Acting Chief Forester and Ken Borchert from the Northwest Regional Office is detailed into Caleb's position of Projects Forester.

Budget: The full-year FY2024 Forestry Budget distributions to the Regions and Office of Self Governance are complete.

Ecosystem Restoration: Projects have been selected for the FY2024-FY2026 funding cycle. Five projects submitted by BIA Forestry will begin to receive funding in FY2024. Three projects are funded through Activity 7: Resilient Recreation Sites on Federal lands. Two tribal greenhouse expansion projects are funded through Activity 9: National Revegetation Effort. Tribes receiving funding for their Ecosystem Restoration Proj-



Photo of the Timber Team Supervisory Forester Ryan Frandino marking a tree at Yakama Indian Reservation.

ects this fiscal year will be notified through their Regional Offices.

Office of Trust Services Quarterly Newsletter: The following link will direct you to the BIA Trust Quarterly newsletter archive: www.bia.gov/service/trust-newsletter. Here you can find stories regarding portable milling projects and other great projects in Indian Country.

We know that a lot of decent work is accomplished on tribal lands, and we want to help highlight what you do. So please send us your success stories! The Quarterly Newsletter is read by many people, including BIA and Department Leadership. Your work deserves recognition. For more information, contact Orvie Danzuka at Orvie.Danzuka@bia.gov.

Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC): The next TIBC meeting is scheduled for July 30 – August 1st, 2024, in Pala, California. These meetings provide a venue to discuss issues critical to Indian

Forestry and Natural Resources. The Chief Forester will attend the meeting to discuss budget items with the Land, Water, and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

TAAMS: Formal TAAMS training has been completed for this Fiscal Year. Should you have employees in need of a formal TAAMS training session, please make your Regional Forester or TAAMS Forestry Point of Contact aware of your needs.

Informal TAAMS training or workshops are being planned for Western Region and Pacific Region with the goal of increasing use of TAAMS, which is our System of Record. Our goal is to meet our policy which is to account for all forest products harvested in TAAMS which is our policy and trust responsibility to beneficial owners and is the only way we can provide accurate reporting to beneficiaries.

Timber Team: The Timber Team has been remarkably busy in 2024.

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The Timber Team recently traveled to the Yakama Reservation in Washington for a three-week assignment. Team worked with local forestry staff on timber sale prep to layout over 600 acres that will be available for harvest. While the team was working at Yakama, one team member traveled to Puget Sound Agency in Washington and worked with the agency Forester and two Regional Office Foresters. Staff completed an allotment cruise that will be available for harvest this fall.



Photo of a cored Ponderosa pine to determine stand age.

After the ITC Symposium in North Carolina, the Timber Team worked another week at Eastern Band of Cherokee. Staff was able to perform site assessment, layout, silviculture prescription development, developed a timber cruising plan, identified new road construction, road reconstruction, landing locations, harvest systems, and develop harvest unit maps

The supervisory forester completed his fourth and final module of the National Advanced Silviculture

Program this spring and is working on his position task book to achieve BIA Silviculture Certification. The Timber Team has added silvicultural prescriptions writing to the list of timber sale activities they are able to perform for Tribes. The Timber Team is developing well and has the skill set for much of the presale and silviculture work that needs to be completed prior to development. The Timber Team also has skills in stand-based inventory, CFI and presale cruising for grade and value.

Timber Team's tentative schedule for 2024:

- July 15 - 26, 2024: Warm Springs Reservation, Northwest Region (Sale Prep)
- August 11 -23, 2024: Pueblo of Jemez, Southwest Region (Sale Prep)
- September 8 -21, 2024: Pueblos of Acoma, Southwest Region (Woodlands Survey)
- September 29 – October 11, 2024: Hualapai Reservation, Western Region (CFI)
- December 2 - 14, 2024: Eastern Oklahoma Region (Sale Prep)

Photo of the Timber Team Supervisory Forester Ryan Frandino marking a tree at Yakama Indian Reservation.

We are seeking proposals starting in January 2025 and any federal/tribal staff that would like to work with the Timber Team on any upcoming assignment.

To find the project request form and more information about the Timber Team please go to <https://www.bia.gov/service/timber-team>.

BRANCH OF FOREST INVENTORY AND PLANNING (FIP)

Inventory Projects Update: The team is actively working on nine forest inventory projects. Currently, 20% of the inventory projects are at FIP, and 80% are with the region, agency, or tribe. This quarter, the Penobscot, Kalispel, Makah, Santee, and U&O signed FIA were received and logged into the National Indian Forestry Library to close the projects. The Fort Hall project is in processing, and San Carlos, Yurok, and Nez Perce are in the cleaning phase. Hualapai, Colville PD, and Mi'kmaq CFI materials are in the development phase, and some are near completion. The foresters continue to provide excellent support to the field units when requested.

Projects at FIP:

- Initiation - 2024 = 3
- Initiation - 2025-2026 = 2
- Cleaning/Processing = 4
- Analysis = 0
- Total = 9 (20%)

Projects at Region, Agency, Tribe:

- Pre-Planning = 4
- Data Collection =13
- Cleaning = 1
- FIA = 18
- Total = 36 (80%)

National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP): The NASP

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is valuable training for any journey-level forester tasked with preparing silvicultural prescriptions at the Bureau, Agency, or Tribal level. The four NASP Modules are designed to be rigorous, graduate-level instruction led by University Professors. They cover ecological systems, inventory and decision support, landscape ecology, and advanced topics in silviculture.

The BIA, recognizing the value of the NASP, generously sponsors up to five candidates for each NASP Class based on the number of spaces allotted by the US Forest Service. This sponsorship, which covers tuition, Travel, Salary, and Per Diem for BIA employees, is a testament to the BIA's commitment to the professional development of its staff. In addition, the BIA extends this opportunity to selected tribal candidates, covering their tuition (which usually covers most of the housing and meals). The candidate's home unit covers travel, salary, and additional per diem, further demonstrating the BIA's investment in their growth.

NASP 17: Three BIA and two Tribal foresters recently completed module 4, the last module of the series for NASP 17. Module 4 training covered Advanced Silviculture Topics at Virginia Tech University for two weeks from April to May 2024. FIP received the students' grades and distributed them to the students and their supervisors. All students finished with grades of B and higher.

NASP 18: Five candidates, three Tribal and two BIA employees, have been selected to attend the comprehensive NASP 18. The first module, which will take place from July 22 – August 2, 2024, at the University of Minnesota located

in Cloquet, MN, will cover a wide range of topics, including Forest ecology, geology, landforms, soils, hydrology and watersheds, tree physiology, silvics of forest trees, genetics, and fire ecology and behavior. This detailed curriculum ensures that the participants are well-prepared and informed, ready to tackle the challenges of their roles.

Policy Revision 53 IAM Chapter 8 Handbook Revision: FIP sent out the draft Inventory Ch. 8 Handbook chapters on Realty, Trespass, Timber Products, Research, and Stand Exam on April 30 and requested comments from the tribes to be returned by June 1. So far, we have only received one response. Our next in-person meeting is in Lakewood, CO, starting on June 24 and ending on June 28.

53 IAM Chapter 9 Handbook Revision: The handbook revision team is meeting biweekly, when group members are available, to work on updates to the handbook guidance in a manner that is consistent with the recently published 53 IAM Chapter 9 manual to BIA.GOV on March 7, 2024.

Silvicultural Certification Position Task Book (PTB): The PTB has been completed and made available to all Regional Foresters for issuance via a private Teams channel managed by the branch. FIP distributed a courtesy copy of the BIA-specific PTB for a courtesy review to the USFS National and Regional Silviculturists. To date, no feedback has been received from the USFS staff.

The PTB is now 508 compliant. FIP staff is currently working with a web content writer and editor contractor who will include the 508 version of the PTB on the BIA Forestry Documents webpage. Once

placed on the Forestry Documents webpage, BIA Regional Foresters will be notified and provided with the link to the PTB.

As a reminder, 53 IAM Chapter 9 states that the BIA does not require certification as a silviculturist. However, BIA Regional Directors have the discretion to require silvicultural certification within their Region to prepare and certify silvicultural prescriptions. When this is the case, Regions may require journey-level foresters to complete a Silvicultural Certification Position Task Book (PTB) and all four NASP modules.

The individual is responsible for maintaining their PTB, which is held at the local unit and supported by the Regions. FIP will request that the Regions update the Silviculture certification spreadsheet to track PTB status on the Team's channel.

Spring Brings Success To The Crow Agency Forest Inventory By Casey Sigg: The pandemic continues to have lasting effects on forest management planning for many tribes. Trees grow and Forest Management Plans age no matter what is going on in broader society. Though with dedicated staff and teamwork, delays from the events of four years ago can be overcome. A remeasurement of the Crow Reservation's continuous forest inventory was slated for completion in 2019, but 158 plots of the 386 total plots remained to be measured before work halted. By May of this year, Crow Agency Foresters, and a contract crew with a solid reputation for cruising were able to come together and move this inventory project forward with a little assistance from the Branch of Forest Inventory and Planning.

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BIA Division of Forestry

by Caleb Cain

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My objective in coming to Crow Agency was to aid with the smooth transition of electronic plot measurement records for uploading into the Crow CFI master database, however I was pleased to end up spending most of my time doing fieldwork with Crow Agency Forest Manager and Forester. Since several years had passed when the last plots were measured, we focused on check cruising and all the details which go into a 1/5th acre CFI plot. This size of plot is quite large with a radius 52.7 feet and is a legacy from forest management practices of the early 20th century. The idea of such a large plot is to capture the variability on the landscape for accurate forest planning purposes. In much of the West, slope affects measurements. We spent much of our time brushing out small corridors on the plot to ensure our tapes could pull accurate measurements to correct for the adjusted plot radius in steep areas. The most important measurement in any fixed or variable-radius sampling technique is tree count. It only takes a few incorrectly tallied trees to affect the sampling error, so determining the correct plot ra-

dius adjustment is critical.

Another key and fun measurement is increment boring of site trees. We cored a few older Ponderosa pines to determine stand age. As foresters, we all learn to count tree rings from a core taken using an increment borer, but really what is the biometric importance of such a measurement? This insight into the past can show how productive a site is by correlating the tree height with age. Younger trees with tall heights indicate the soil and other factors are creating a favorable environment for rapid tree growth. For mature trees with a dominant crown position, cores can also give an indication of the culmination of mean annual increment (CMAI) by following the ring width trends. Once annual rings begin to slim down as the tree ages, we can see at what time CMAI occurs, and this is often used to set the rotation age for stands managed for timber production. Your increment borer can also be your best friend for silvicultural decisions and help avoid a common measurement pitfall – confusing tree size as a definitive indicator of age. That 50-year-old red alder in your stand with a DBH of 12.5 inches could have a 2-inch

DBH western hemlock next to it of the same age!

On the last day we ran into the lead forester of the contract crew and his Labrador retriever. He had decades of experience cruising in the Pacific Northwest and was clearly precise in his work leading to a confident start for getting this CFI completed. All of us took time to remark on the natural beauty of the Crow Reservation forests. On the way back to the truck, I reflected on the importance of CFI and its context in 21st century forest management. CFI does not provide the site-specific data needed for all decisions, but it has a key role to play in forests facing an uncertain climate and workforce challenges. Having CFI already installed allows it to be easily picked up and implemented when the time comes. Next, the growth data and monitoring trends of forest health from a CFI are superior to all other methods. This will be Crow Agency's fourth measurement and the trends discovered with this inventory will ensure sustainable management continues.



BIA Division of Wildland Fire Management

by Aaron Baldwin



Aaron Baldwin

BIA ACQUIRES UNCREWED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AND HOSTS TRAINING FOR FEDERAL AND TRIBAL STAFF

In October 2023, the BIA Division of Wildland Fire Management finalized the acquisition of several DOI approved uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS): (6) Parrot Anafi USA Edition, (8) Skydio X10, and (4) Alta X with the amplified enhanced package for aerial ignition. Delivery of the Anafi aircraft to BIA took place mid-December after the Office of Aviation Services entered them in the national fleet system. Following was Skydio and

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BIA Division of Wildland Fire Management

by Aaron Baldwin

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Photo of a trainee conducting a UAS pre-flight checklist, and systems checks per agency standard operating procedure.

Alta X UAS. The aircraft were immediately entered into service in various regions for training, projects, and pilot currency.

There were 12 interagency and Tribal students graduated from the BIA hosted A450 DOI Remote Pilot training course held at the Southwest Indian Polytechnic School in Albuquerque, NM in November 2023. Two additional BIA students attended another A450 Remote Pilot and S373 Uncrewed Remote Pilot Incident Operations course in Mesa, AZ in December 2023. According to the interagency agreement on UAS training, for every one to two agency sponsored students, one to two agency provided instructors or coaches are required to guide the students. This requirement is to ensure trainers and coaches are developed along with UAS pilots. The Division's UAS acquisitions and pilot training courses were provided through \$1.3 million in FY2023 preparedness funding.

The A450 Remote Pilot course is the fundamental small uncrewed

aerial systems (sUAS) course for individuals wanting to become qualified to operate sUAS for the DOI and USDA Forest Service. The A450 course utilizes small UAS aircraft less than 55 lbs. to provide the basic academic and flight training necessary to conduct missions as a remote pilot-in-command.

The S373 Incident Operations course is designed to meet the training needs of the uncrewed aerial systems pilot, uncrewed aerial systems manager, uncrewed aerial systems module leader, and the uncrewed aerial systems data specialist to manage the aerial information needs of incidents managed within the wildland fire incident command system. The course is a combination of lectures, facilitated discussions, individual and group exercises, and simulations. These UAS positions are used to collect, process, and distribute tactical and strategic information to meet the needs of wildland fire incident operations and planning personnel.

Since the program started, there

have been several courses held including: A450 Basic Remote Pilot course and a combined A450 Basic Remote Pilot and S373 UAS Incident Operations training session for a total of 17 student participants. In preparation for an increase in interest and need, the BIA has committed multiple seats to future interagency courses into FY 2024.

BIA Wildland Fire Provides Mental Health Resources to Firefighters: In January 2024, the BIA Division of Wildland Fire Management welcomed LCDR Catherine Kaminski and CDR Narisa Tappitake as the Division's new national mental health and wellbeing program manager and tribal mental health and wellbeing program manager. Catherine and Narisa are licensed occupational therapists in the U.S. Public

Both professionals approach healthcare with a holistic view, recognizing the relationship between the many facets of life that influence the total health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Catherine comes from a clinical background specializing in mental health and program development within law enforcement settings while Narisa hails from previous experience working at the 'Tse-hootsooi' Medical Center in Fort Defiance, AZ.

Since onboarding, Catherine and Narisa have spent time on the road getting to know BIA and tribal staff at spring regional meetings and at some of the many BIA agency offices. They hope to be able to connect with as many firefighters as possible as part of the process of supporting and building on existing mental health efforts. Catherine and Narisa offer educational presentations and training on various mental health topics if requested

BIA Division of Wildland Fire Management

by Aaron Baldwin

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and can assist wildland fire personnel with finding local mental healthcare options and support, if needed. Current mental health and wellbeing program initiatives include establishing BIA-centric guidance on preparing for and navigating critical events impacting mental health. Catherine and Narisa will also be representing the BIA in the development of a larger joint

health program effort between the DOI and the Forest Service.

Catherine Kaminski is overseeing the BIA federal employee mental health programming and is based out of Raleigh, NC. Her contact information is 605-218-0030 or catherine.kaminski@bia.gov.

Narisa Tappitake is overseeing the BIA tribal employee mental health programming and is based out of

Colorado Springs, CO. Her contact information is 208-830-1209 or narisa.tappitake@bia.gov.

Please click [here](#) to join the BIA mental health Microsoft Teams group to view important announcements and access mental health resource files.



Wildland Fire Technical Specialist

by Jim Durglo

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Key Findings, 2022; and Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Management in the United States, 2023.

A subgroup of participants was also tasked with taking a ‘deep dive’ into addressing top tier recommendations for WFLC consideration:

- Describe the Issue/Need
- Describe the Current Status
- Limitations to Success / Actions to Resolve Limitations
- Required to Address the Topic [e.g., People, organizations]
- Describe Significance of Resolution, and
- Actionable items in next 6 months (e.g., compile existing science)

During Summer and Fall 2024, the Workshop Planning Committee will use workshop results to

interact with WFLC and SDR Prin-

cipals to identify high-leverage opportunities and complete 1) a tiered and annotated list of fire SDT priority recommendations, 2) a set of deeper dives on

strategy for action from selected priority recommendations, 3) a publicly available workshop

proceedings report summarizing the workshop process and results, 4) several specific issue papers to capture gaps and potential engagement points for WFLC and SDR leadership consideration (e.g. ITEK, Interagency Coordination and Leadership, and Community Resiliency).

NWCG Executive Board held an off-site meeting at the NASA facility in Palo Alto, CA in mid-May and was treated to two days of tours and multiple presentations including:

- FireSense (NASA’s earth science division is developing technology and tools to monitor our Earth from both aircraft

and satellites and conducts the research required to solve real world problems).

- USGS National Innovation Center UAS Lab
- Airborne Science Facility
- Muon Space
- NASA Earth eXchange Office
- Human Factors (performance)
- Commercial Pilot Training Presentation
- Fatigue Studies Presentation, and
- National Full Scale Aerodynamic Complex (wind tunnel).

The visit to the NASA facility provided a great opportunity for the NWCG Executive Board and staff to see and hear about how NASA can support wildfire information, research, and technology needs going forward.





INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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First Class
