

# **Intertribal Timber Council**

**FY 2003**

**Annual Report**



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## **OVERVIEW of the INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL**

Native people are becoming increasingly involved in the management of their timber resources. The Intertribal Timber Council was established in 1976 to provide a forum for communicating between tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on matters relevant to the pursuit and development of timber resources for the benefit of Indian people.

### **PURPOSE**

The primary purposes of the Intertribal Timber Council are:

1. Promoting sound economic management of natural resources so as to sustain Indian forests and dependent economies in accordance with tribal goals and objectives.
2. Providing information concerning legislative and federal policies affecting management of Indian forest resources.
3. Facilitating communication among members on matters relevant to the management of Indian forest resources. The Intertribal Timber Council distributes a quarterly newsletter (nationally) to tribes, BIA, and other interested people.
4. Advising and working with BIA and other interested entities to develop the full potential benefits attainable to Indian people from the management of their forest resources in a manner that achieves a harmony between the needs of people, plants, soil, water, and wildlife.
5. Assisting the establishment and development of Indian business enterprises that will utilize forest resources.
6. Encouraging the training and development of Native American professionals engaged in management of Indian natural resources. As an example, the Intertribal Timber Council accomplished, through recommendations to the BIA, the Forester Intern Program for tribal members, which is in its ninth year.

The Intertribal Timber Council has for the past twenty-five years coordinated and conducted an Annual National Indian Timber Symposium. The symposium is designed to facilitate communication from the perspective of tribes, the BIA, private industry, legislative bodies, and academia on issues and concerns of current forestry management practices.

Symposium participants produce findings and recommendations, which are submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and other federal agencies for follow-up. This procedure gives the Intertribal Timber Council and the BIA a foundation to analyze the progress occurring to resolve the issues being confronted. Published final proceedings of the symposium serve as comprehensive documentation and are mailed to each participant and Bureau official.

The Bureau, after receiving and reviewing the findings and recommendations, schedules follow-up meetings with the Intertribal Timber Council Executive Board to discuss the responses of the administration.

### **INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

General Membership in the Intertribal Timber Council is open to any Indian tribe or Native Alaskan Corporation with a demonstrable interest in the management of Indian forest resources. Presently there are sixty-one General member Tribes, located from Maine to Alaska to New Mexico. Associate Membership is open to any person or organization supporting the purposes of the Intertribal Timber Council. The Executive Board shall approve or disapprove the application. Presently there are sixteen associate members.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Intertribal Timber Council operates under the direction of the Executive Board, consisting of eleven tribes. The Board of Directors is elected by member tribes= representatives at the annual general meeting held during the annual symposium. The Executive Board then elects from its membership a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each board member serves a two-year term.

## President's Message

Nolan C. Colegrove, Sr.

During 2003 the ITC Executive Board has been working on many issues facing Indian country. I am very appreciative of the job that has been done over this past year by our ITC staff, and also want to express my personal gratitude to the Tribes who have committed time and resources to the efforts of the ITC this year as well. Without your contributions, we would not be able to be as successful as we have become.

The ITC has continued to follow the Healthy Forest Initiative, and other issues with the US Forest Service very closely. As you recall from the 2002 symposium, we began to develop legislation to amend the Farm Bill, which later did not pass. Since then we have been in contact with the Forest Service staff working on ways that we could still get the services that we sought in the Farm Bill amendments.

The ITC was successful with achieving an amendment in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) (HR 1904, Senate Report 108-121) by including a new \$2.5 million a year tribal forested watershed management program in Section 303. The watershed program is expected to be very flexible, allowing the tribes to use the funds for a wide variety of planning and management activities for on-reservation forested watersheds, including coordination activities with off reservation watersheds.

During the summer of 2003, at least 18 reservations were invaded by fire from adjacent federal public forest lands. In the southern California fires, 11 reservations were burned, two completely, and several people lost their lives. This tragic event has led Congress to further pursue an amendment to the HFRA. The ITC has been working with Congress to develop a Tribal Forest Asset Protection Amendment to the HFRA.

The 2003 ITC Symposium hosted by the Eastern Cherokee was very successful. There were over 275 attendees, and ITC raised over \$6,300 for scholarships. We were able to discuss and address many issues facing Indian Country, while at the same time provide great educational opportunities for the membership. It was good to see old friends, while at the same time meet first-time symposium participants and to make new friends.

Once again, the additional time slot for a second business meeting at the Symposium was well received. Attendees responded positively about continuing this format at next year's meeting. The discussions were documented and published in the symposium proceedings.

When I looked around the room, at the 2003 Symposium, you saw a room full of people who can make this happen, it's all of you, many of you tribal leaders like Nelson Wallulatum, Bernice Mitchell, Delvis Heath, Lola Thompson, Fred Matt, Al Ketzler, Walt Lara and others. Your words of wisdom help inspire us to try to make things better. The hard work of Gary Morishima, Bill Downes, Meri Parker, Dawn Houle, Aaron Miles, Reggie Atkins, Skip Thompson, Steve Andringa, John DeGroot, Burt Davids, Thora Padilla, Brian Rueger, Mike Kennedy, Rick Fielitz, Paul DeClay, and Joann Reynolds, your hard work provides the role model that others can look up to for encouragement.

And the future leaders like Erica Bradley, Emily Whitehat, Darin Jarnaghan, Tommy Cabe, and others, you are the hope that we have, that our work is going to carry on into the next generation. Back to the words of Past ITC President, Mike Clement, "We all need to work together", and back to the words that "Captain" Moody from Warm Springs reminded us of last night "Remember who we are".

The message of "Remembering who we are" is just as important as it was hundreds of years ago. It is our way of life that is at stake. If we are going to leave a legacy behind for our children, what do you want it to be? I want it to be that our children will have the same choices that we have today, the choices that our ancestors fought so hard to protect for us so that we may have forests, and our health, *and our way of life*.

In closing, on behalf of the ITC Executive Board, I'd like to thank the Tribes for supporting the ITC and consider this opportunity to serve as ITC President a great honor. Although, I can never fill the shoes of the great leaders who have served the ITC in the past, I can remember their vision, their messages, and try to provide the leadership that continues to make management on our lands better in the future for all generations.

## Education

The education committee continued raising funds for the scholarships, attended meetings for the Haskell Indian Nation University Natural Resource Advisory Board, and sponsored a booth at the November 2001 American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference in Albuquerque, NM.

### ITC Scholarships

The Intertribal Timber Council awarded nine Truman D. Picard college scholarships totaling \$15,000 for the 2003-2004 school year. Thus continues the Intertribal Timber Council's commitment to support Native American students who pursue professional degrees in the field of natural resources.

More than \$150,000 in scholarships have been awarded since 1988. The seven current college students were awarded \$1,800 each while the two high school students were awarded \$1,200 each. Six members of the ITC Education Committee reviewed the scholarships. The scholarship applicants were rated based upon their application letter, academic merit and financial need. Congratulations to all of the recipients.

Name	Major	Tribal Affiliation	College
Christopher Caldwell	Natural Sciences	Memominee	University of Wisconsin
Dianna Hay	Natural Resources	Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	Stone Child College
Katherine Humphrey	Indigenous Studies	Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma	University of Kansas
Jack Omelak	Wildlife Biology	Inupiaq Eskimo	University of Oklahoma
Sharon Randall	Natural Resources	San Carlos Apache	Eastern Arizona College
Dale Sebastian	Forest Resources	Spokane Tribe	University of Idaho
Emily White Hat	Forestry	Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Colorado State University
Nate Lundgren	Natural Resources	Muscogee Nation	(High School Category) Humboldt State University
Katrina Wechouski	Natural Resources	Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa	(High School Category) University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

## Awards

All the nominations submitted to the Awards Committee for the 2003 Earle R. Wilcox Memorial National and Individual Achievement Awards were selected.

The regional award recipients included Northwest Region Individual Achievement Awards to Steve Andringa, Program Manager, Forest Development, Yakama Nation, Toppenish, Washington and Andrea Gilham, Fire Management Officer, BIA Blackfeet Agency, Browning, Montana; Southwest Region Individual Achievement Award to Jim Rhodes, Forestry Technician, BIA Southwest Region Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The national award recipient, outstanding forester of the year was awarded to Robert "Bob" Ford, BIA Central Office, Washington, D.C.

The nominees selected were honored at the Awards Banquet at the Twenty-Seventh Annual National Indian Timber Symposium on June 19, 2003 in Cherokee, North Carolina. The following individuals were honored with the 2003 Earle R. Wilcox National and Individual Achievement Awards.

The Earle R. Wilcox memorial awards are presented, at each Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, to honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian Forestry or Natural Resources. Nominations can be submitted by anyone involved with Indian Forestry at Tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs level. We encourage people to assess your Indian Forestry staff or Tribal staff for an individual who is making significant achievements on behalf of Indian people and their forests at the local, regional or national level. We encourage to start the nominations procedures for each year's awards ceremonies in late fall and early winter.

## Symposium

The theme for the Intertribal Timber Council's 2003 Annual Timber Symposium was "Renewable Forest Resources-Planning Our Future." Approximately 275 participants attended the symposium hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee in Cherokee, NC, which was held June 16 – 19, 2003. Approximately 22 participants enrolled in the pre-Symposium Workshop on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The 40 exhibitor booths helped provide revenue for the scholarships, which was greatly appreciated. Also approximately \$6,000 was raised through the sale of Education Committee raffle tickets. On Wednesday, participants experience first hand the host tribe's approach to resolving problems and issues by viewing operations and sharing perspectives with other resource management professionals. The symposium had three workshops that included; 1 River Restoration Utilizing 319 Funds Under the Clean Water Act; Community and Economic Development Opportunities from Biomass; and, Integrating Wildlife Habitat Needs with Forest Management Planning and Implementation. Participants took part in discussion and developed findings and recommendations during the workshops that focus on current issues affecting the ITC member tribes and their partnerships.

Proceedings were developed in a CD and hard copy format and mailed to the participants after the symposium.

## Operations

The Operations Committee meets in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the Executive Board of Directors and first and foremost spoke of our great satisfaction with the turnout and active participation at the Special Meeting of the ITC membership held on Wednesday, June 18, 2003 of the symposium in Cherokee, NC

ITC hired Jim Erickson as a consultant to fulfill the needs for a Fire Technical Specialist. Jim monitors fire issues nationally as they impact tribes, reservations and trust resources. Jim attended meetings such as the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, National Wildfire Coordination Group and established the ITC fire subcommittee, which provides advice, recommendations and reports to Operations. Jim has also initiated several fire web pages for the ITC website.

ITC put forward amendments to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) with the persistent efforts of Mark Phillips working with Senator Murray and Senator Daschle's offices. They were successful with amending HFRA to include a tribal watershed program.

The ITC was involved with two major projects in 2003, IFMAT-II and the Northwest Forest Plan.

### IFMAT-II

The Second Assessment of Indian Forest Management and Forest Land in the United States is a requirement that directs Congress to conduct an assessment of Indian Forest Management and Forest Lands every 10 years. The Bureau of Indian Affairs contracted with the Intertribal Timber Council to complete this assessment, which was then subcontracted to the company Interforest. Interforest made the arrangements to conduct site visits on Indian forest land and complete the report.

The Second Assessment of Indian Forest Management and Forest Land in the United States completed field visits to 30 tribal sites by the Second Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT-II) in 2003. The team completed several draft reports for the Operations Committee, which reviewed, met and submitted comments back to the team. **The report was completed in December 2003, which took place over a two-year period in collaboration with the Pinchot Institute for a combined two-year cost of \$840,000. The project's original cost was estimated at \$1.5 million.**

### Northwest Forest Plan (NFP)

The ITC participated in the assessment of the NFP Economic Adjustment Initiative by continuing a contract with Forest Community Research (FCR). FCR completed a study of 34 communities in a region affected by the NFP and included seven tribes; Warm Springs, Coos and Lower Umpqua, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Skokomish, Colville and Makah. The assessment was completed in 2002 and the follow-up workshops were conducted with the tribes in Spring 2003. A tribal report will be completed in FY 2004.

**Intertribal Timber Council**

**Statement of Activities**

**Year Ended September 30, 2003**

	Grant and Contract Fund	Membership Fund	Scholarship Fund	Total All Funds
<b>Revenue, gains and other support:</b>				
Federal program	\$ 429,652	\$	\$	\$ 429,652
Registration fees		47,131		47,131
Members' dues		71,761		71,761
Interest		-		-
Donations		14,250	17,381	31,631
Miscellaneous		75	12,031	12,106
<b>Net Revenue, gains and other support:</b>	<b>429,652</b>	<b>133,217</b>	<b>38,231</b>	<b>601,100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Consulting and professional fees (IFMAT-II)	197,231	13,242		210,473
Northwest Forest Plan	26,250			26,250
Meeting facilities	994	30,571		31,565
Office expense	40,459	389	203	41,051
Payroll and payroll taxes	90,590			90,590
Reproduction costs	15,616	1,489	60	17,165
Travel and symposium expenses	42,156	3,406		45,562
Scholarships			15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous	9,791	10,293	50	20,134
Raffle prizes			10,500	10,500
Depreciation	6,565			6,565
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>511,214</b>	<b>59,390</b>	<b>25,813</b>	<b>514,855</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in unrestricted Net assets from operations</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,827</b>	<b>12,418</b>	<b>86,245</b>
Investment settlement		-		-
Unrealized loss on investments		7,543		7,543
Loss on disposal of equipment		-		-
<b>Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,370</b>	<b>12,418</b>	<b>93,788</b>
Unrestricted net assets Beginning of year	33,572	328,279	6,085	367,936
Fund transfers	-	-	-	
<b>Unrestricted net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 33,572</b>	<b>\$ 409,649</b>	<b>\$ 18,503</b>	<b>\$ 461,724</b>

## Intertribal Timber Council Board of Directors

<u>Position/Name</u>	<u>Tribal or Alaska Corporation Representative</u>	<u>Terms of Office</u>
President Nolan C. Colegrove, Sr.	Hoopa Valley Tribe	2002-04
Vice-President Frank Johnny Endfield, Jr.	White Mountain Apache	2002-04
Secretary Reggie Atkins	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	2002-04
Treasurer Alfred Ketzler, Sr.	Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.	2004-05
<u>Members</u>		
D. Fred Matt	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	2003-05
C. Larry Blythe	Eastern Band of Cherokee	2003-05
Norman W. Deschampe	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	2003-05
Nathan Tyler	Makah Tribal Council	2003-05
Aaron Miles, Sr.	Nez Perce	2002-04
David E. Martin	Quinault	2002-04
Ross K. Sockzehigh	Yakama Nation	2003-05

### Chief Administrative Personnel

Joann Reynolds

Program Manager

#### Board of Director Meetings for FY 2003 - 04

December 10 – 12, 2002	Portland, Oregon
February 19 – 20, 2003	Portland, Oregon
April 22 – 24, 2003	Miami, Florida
September 24 – 25, 2003	Ocean Shores, Washington (symposium site visit)
December 10 – 11, 2003	Portland, Oregon
February 17 – 19, 2004	Portland, Oregon
April 26, 2004	Ocean Shores, Washington (symposium)
June 15 –17, 2004	Lakeside, California
September 15 – 16, 2004	Visalia, California (symposium site visit)
December 8 – 9, 2004	Portland, Oregon