

**Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project
DRAFT Meeting Notes – Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

Call Participants:

- Alicia Bell-Sheeteer, USDA Forest Service
- Arwen Bird, NW Climate Science Center
- Mike Cox, Environmental Protection Agency R10
- David Diaz, EcoTrust
- Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
- Nora Ferm, Cascadia Consulting
- Megan Flier, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Rodney Frey, University of Idaho
- Eliza Ghitis, NW Indians Fisheries Commission
- Jennifer Hanlon, Central Council of Tlingit & Haida
- Jill Hardiman, USGS
- Sean Hart, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Samantha Chisolm Hatfield, Oregon State Univ.
- Ida Hildebrand, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
- Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe
- Linda Kruger, USDA Forest Service
- Aranzazu Lascurain, SE Climate Science Center
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
- Guillaume Mauger, UW Climate Impacts Group
- Andrew Miller, Organized Village of Kasaan
- Harriet Morgan, NW Climate Science Center
- Gary Morishima, Quinault Indian Nation
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Kathryn Norton-Smith, University of Oregon
- Frederick Olsen, Organized Village of Kasaan
- Candace Penn, Squaxin Island Tribe
- David Redhorse, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bob Rose, Yakama Indian Nation
- Michelle Selmon, CA Dept. of Water Resources
- Jonalee Squeochs, Yakama Indian Nation
- Bea Van Horne, USDA Climate Hub
- Carson Viles, University of Oregon
- Sue Wotkyns, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

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Upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates

- April 15, 2015
 - May 20, 2015
 - June 17, 2015
 - July 15, 2015
 - August 19, 2015
 - September 16, 2015
 - October 21, 2015
 - November 18, 2015
 - December 16, 2015
- Call-in Information:**
- Call Time: 10:00 am Pacific
 - Call-in #: 1-888-858-2144
 - Pass code: 5064716

Discussion Topics

2015 Tribal Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program - Request for Proposals due April 24, 2015

The Tribal Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program will provide funding to support tribal projects to address climate change adaptation and ocean and coastal management planning. In FY 2015, \$8 million will be available for tribes to implement projects that address climate change impacts through vulnerability analysis, adaptation planning, and increased monitoring cycles for climate change management, as well as to projects that ensure ocean and coastal resource health, resiliency, community safety and economic security for present and future generations. For more information:

- <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OTS/NaturalResources/climatechange/index.htm>.
- Tribal Leaders Letter: <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/idc1-029462.pdf>
- Application: <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/idc1-029463.pdf>

Sean clarified that the funding categories are focused on planning projects (as opposed to implementation of adaptation strategies). There are two categories: climate adaptation and a separate program for ocean and coastal planning (ocean and coastal planning can include climate change). Sean answered a question about tribal council resolutions. He said that if a tribal council isn't meeting before the application is submitted, tribes can include a note there will be a council resolution within 30 days. Sean also asked that if tribes submit two grant proposals, they should be submitted as separate projects so that reviewers consider as individual proposals. Sue Wotkyns asked a question about length of funding. Sean suggested submitted projects that are no more than two years, breaking funding into separate years and including language to make clear that a single year of funding would still be beneficial. David Redhorse suggested that applicants go through the tips and criteria in the application materials, as they provide good guidance.

2015 NW CSC Climate Boot Camp

This year's camp is hosted by the University of Washington and will run from August 16th – 21st at Pack Forest Conference Center in Eatonville, WA. The curriculum for this year's camp will delve into Adaptation on the Wildland-Urban Interface. There are currently five spots set aside for tribal members and staff. The application deadline is April 6th and applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis for a limited number of slots. Registration is \$650 and includes lodging. For more information and to obtain a copy of the brochure and application, contact Arwen Bird, CBC Coordinator (e: birda@uw.edu, p: [503.318.5104](tel:503.318.5104)). If you are interested in attending, but the cost is prohibitive, please contact Arwen.

ATNI Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians convened Tribal Leaders, Tribal Staff, and federal agency representatives at the ATNI Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change last week in Portland. The goals of the Summit included:

- Sharing Tribal Strategies, Plans, Policy on Climate Change, Energy, and Carbon Emissions
- Discussing Regional, National, and International Policy on Climate Change
- Discussing Tribal Needs and Funding Opportunities
- Identifying Strategies to Promote and Protect Tribal Sovereignty and Tribal Resources
- Discussing the opportunity to develop a NW Tribal Action Plan on Climate Change

ATNI will be developing a summary of the meeting focused on policy actions that will be presented at the mid-year ATNI convention, which will be held in May and hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Letter to the White House regarding the US Patent and Trademark Office and Traditional Knowledges

At the ATNI meeting, Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, shared concerns related to the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) attempts to claim jurisdiction over Traditional Knowledges. The Tulalip Tribes are petitioning the White House, and asking others to do the same. Attached with these notes is a letter to tribal leaders from the Tulalip Tribes, as well as a template that tribes can use to craft their own letters. An excerpt from the Terry's letter to tribal leaders states:

“The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is claiming that they have jurisdiction and authority over traditional knowledge and expressions of tribal culture. For the past 14 years, the USPTO has led United States treaty making negotiations at the World Intellectual Property organization (WIPO) on traditional knowledge, without ever consulting tribes on issues that directly affect them. The Tulalip Tribes has submitted three requests for consultation to White House. None have been answered. Positions the USPTO holds in the United Nations are the same positions they hold here at home. Current intellectual property laws offer few protections for this knowledge, considering most of it to be in the public domain. Without Federal Recognition of tribal sovereign rights to knowledge and a direct US obligation to tribes outside of reservation boundaries, any knowledge shared outside the tribes will not be legally protected.”

Tribes wishing to submit a letter can review the attached template and send it to the White House directly, and send a copy to Jodi Gillette, Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement & Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (jodi_a_gillette@who.eop.gov). Gary Morishima noted that Preston and Terry expressed urgency in getting these letters out. There is imminent action within Whitehouse. Kathy noted that Preston and Terry expressed interest in keeping track of how many letters have been sent. Joe said that he has brought this issue to the Yurok Tribal leadership and encouraged other tribes to consider submitting letters. Gary noted that the Quinault Indian Nation has sent a letter. Frederick stated that it is vital that tribes join in this protection of our knowledge, and expressed gratitude to the authors of the letter.

If you have questions please contact Preston Hardison and Terry Williams by email: phardison@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov and terrysuew@aol.com. Please email them to let them know if your tribe does submit a letter.

Assessing Climate Change Effects on Natural and Cultural Resources of Significance to Northwest Tribes (*Samantha Chisholm Hatfield, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute*)

Elders and members of three Native American tribes in the Northwest (Quinault Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) were interviewed to discern what cultural changes they had noted in response to environmental changes, utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Visible expressions of culture are usually connected to certain species and habitats which might be expected to change as climate changes. In addition to such visible expressions, which indeed show evidence of adapting to climate change, interviewees identified several common themes that extend to fundamental, largely invisible aspects of culture and even identity. In particular, the most important cultural consequence of climate change is how it affects the definition of time, in both seasonality, and the manner in which time is determined. This project has been the first in the west to document findings of some seasonal changes and additionally documentation of "time" being a cultural attribute, contributing to natural resources and use of those resources. There is an article in review based on this research, and the Network will send more information as it becomes available.

Federal Climate Change Adaptation Plan Review and [NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy \(public comments due 3/31/2015\)](#) (Carson Viles, PNW Tribal Climate Change Project)

Carson provided brief summaries of two ongoing policy review projects that he has been working on. In October 2014, the White House released the final versions of Climate Change Adaptation Plans for federal departments and agencies. Links to the federal climate plans are available are here:

www.performance.gov/node/3406/view?view=public#supporting-info. Kathy and Carson have worked to develop a framework for reviewing the plans. Goals of reviewing these plans include illustrating the ways in which federal climate change adaptation plans are addressing tribal issues as well as gaps that may exist. Each plan was reviewed using eleven categories, and a short report was drafted from this research. The report describes existing tribal involvement, identifies gaps in tribal involvement, and highlights opportunities for further consideration of tribal issues.

- TCCP Federal Climate Change Adaptation Plan Review: [Draft Google Doc](#)

The NOAA Fisheries [draft Climate Science Strategy \(NCSS\)](#) is designed to increase the production, delivery, and use of climate-related information to marine and coastal resource managers, resource users and others at regional to national scales. The Strategy is open for public comment until March 31st, 2015. Currently, the report has minimal information about tribes, and no information specific to Alaska Native peoples. This comment period is an opportunity to increase consideration of tribal issues in the report. With that in mind, Carson has drafted a review document to aid people in providing comments to NOAA Fisheries.

- TCCP NOAA Comment Review: [Draft Google Doc](#)

General Updates

ITEP video [Adapting to Change](#)

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) produced the video [Adapting to Change](#) with assistance from Jeremy Scott, a graduate student in Northern Arizona University's School of Communication. The filming occurred at ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation training in September 2014 in Portland, OR. The film highlights climate change impacts on tribes and their resources in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, adaptation, and the training. The video and the training were made possible with funding support from the USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station. <http://vimeo.com/118150835>

[National Adaptation Forum Registration](#)

Registration is now open for the National Adaptation Forum, which will take place in St. Louis, MO from May 12-14, 2015. The National Adaptation Forum gathers the adaptation community to foster knowledge exchange, innovation and mutual support for a better tomorrow. Join the convening of adaptation practitioners from around the country focused on moving beyond adaptation awareness and planning to adaptation action.

New ITEP Tribal Climate Change Fact Sheets

The Institute for Tribal Environmental produces 2-page fact sheets that focus on climate change impacts, adaptation strategies, and other relevant topics. They may be used in outreach with tribal government staff, leadership and communities. Two recent fact sheets focus on climate change mitigation and solid waste and climate change and human health and are attached below. Other fact sheets are available at: http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/resources/res_factsheets.asp.

Regional and National Tribal Climate Change Resources, Newsletters, and Event Calendars

- [ITEP Tribes and Climate Change Newsletter](#)
- [NW CSC](#) and [NPLCC Northwest Climate Digest](#); [NW CSC Calendar](#)
- [USDA Climate Hubs](#)
- [EPA's Stormwater Calculator](#)
- [EPA's Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool](#)
- Climate Resilience Toolkit here: <http://toolkit.climate.gov/tools>
- Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission [Climate Change Resources](#)

Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide

We frequently update the tribal funding guide. The Funding Guide is intended to provide up-to-date information on grants and programs that may assist tribes in addressing climate change through a broad range of sectors. Recently, the guide has been expanded to include existing tribal climate change adaptation plans in the US. Email kathy@uoregon.edu if you have any information to add to the guide. To access the funding guide, please visit <http://envs.uoregon.edu/tribal-climate/>

Upcoming Events

March 19, 2015. 10 am Pacific. Webinar: [Navigating the Data Basin Platform: A Guided Tour](#). Data Basin is an online mapping and analysis platform that supports learning, research, and sustainable environmental stewardship.

March 20, 2015. 11:30 am. Meeting and Webinar: [Forest Forum](#) with Patrick Holmes, Portland, OR Ecotrust and the OSU College of Forestry are delighted to invite you to participate in a Forest Forum with Patrick Holmes, Advisor to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Patrick will share perspectives on how our response to risks from a changing climate creates opportunities for innovation. He will also highlight examples from the Pacific Northwest and around the country where people are working together to restore forests and create more resilient communities. Please join us for lunch on Friday, March 20th at the Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center in the Natural Capital Center for a discussion with Patrick Holmes. Lunch will be served at 11:30, and the presentation will begin at 12:00 and followed by a discussion with participants. To join the webinar at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/787824357> Call-in for audio at 1-877-273-4202, Conference Room 3017126 Meeting ID: 787-824-357.

March 25, 2015. 10 am Pacific. Webinar: [Managing Forest Health for Water Resources](#) [Western Governors' Drought Forum Webinar](#).

A recent study found that runoff in a thinned forest was 20 percent higher than the volume of water in over-grown forests. In addition to enhanced water yield, forest thinning reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfires that can be detrimental to water resource security in the west. Many cities are beginning to realize the importance of proactive watershed management to safeguard water resources. In this webinar, WGA will explore the latest science on forest management for water resource needs, and will also hear how states and communities are using best practices in forests in order to add security to their water.

March 25, 2015. 11 am Pacific. Using Existing Socioeconomic Data to Understand Vulnerability

Quantitative indicators of social and economic conditions are often used to assess social vulnerability. While this approach can integrate a broad range of indicators into an index of relative vulnerability, previous studies have relied mostly on general socioeconomic variables, and not always included the specific risk or threat of interest (e.g. climate change). In this webinar, we present a social vulnerability index that specifically addresses the heat effect of climate change by using a set of socioeconomic and climate-related indicators that represent exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity at the county level. For more information visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/webinar-series/social-vulnerability/>. To register, follow this link, choose 'enter as guest,' and type your name.
<http://rmrs.adobeconnect.com/socialvulnerability/>

March 25, 2015. 2 pm Pacific. Webinar: [Ocean Acidification - A Collaborative Response at Seattle Aquarium](#).

Presented by Nicole Killebrew, Aquarium Interpretation Coordinator and Scientific Diver. Nicole will share the integrated approach the Seattle Aquarium uses to convene educational outreach and scientific expertise around ocean acidification. This webinar will address best practices for Ocean Acidification interpretation including a pilot presentation called Visualizing Change.

April 14, 2015. [NPLCC-funded workshop: Using Beaver to Restore Streams](#). Juneau, AK

April 17, 2015. [7th Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference](#), Portland, OR

April 20-22, 2015, 3rd Annual Spatial Statistical Stream Network Models training workshop, Boise, Idaho

A new class of spatial statistical network model (SSNM) for data on stream networks has recently been developed & free software is available for implementing the models. Information and registration is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-spatial-modeling-workshop-registration-14636384821>.

April 29-30, 2015. 5th Prince of Wales Mining Symposium. Klawock, AK.

More information at: http://kasaan.org/miningsymposium_home.html

May 1, 2015. 2nd Annual Transboundary Conference. Klawock. AK.

More information at: http://kasaan.org/miningsymposium_home.html

May 12-15, 2015. 2nd National Adaptation Forum. St. Louis, MO. <http://nationaladaptationforum.org/>.

May 19-21, 2015. National Tribal Forum on Air Quality. Battle Creek, MI.

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA), and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi invite you to attend the 16th Annual National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTF). All tribal environmental professionals, US EPA representatives, and members of national or local organizations with interests in air quality and climate change issues in Indian Country are encouraged to attend. http://www4.nau.edu/itep/conferences/conf_r_ntf.asp

May 20-22, 2015. 2015 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society National Conference. Juneau, AK

<http://www.nafws.org/events/national-conference>

June 8-11, 2015. Thirty-Ninth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium. North Bend, OR.
Hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe. http://www.itcnet.org/get_involved/annual_symposium.html

June 9-10, 2015. Indigenous Perspectives on Sustainable Water Practices. Chandler, AZ. Hosted by the Water Resources Resource Center. More information: <http://wrrc.arizona.edu/conf-2015>

June 16-18, 2015. ITEP Climate Change Adaptation Planning. Bishop, CA.
For more information, please see: http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_trainings.asp

June 29-July 1, 2015. Rising Voices 3 Workshop. Boulder, CO.
Rising Voices 3 workshop will have the theme of Learning and Doing: Education and Adaptation through Diverse Ways of Knowing and be held at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). The workshop will occur in collaboration with the Engineering for Climate Extremes Partnership, which aims to improve methods of incorporating resilience and cultural values explicitly in future planning programs. <http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/projects/RisingVoices/>

November 4-5, 2015. Sixth Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference, Coeur d'Alene, ID
The PNW Climate Science Conference annually brings together more than 250 researchers and practitioners from around the region to discuss scientific results, challenges, and solutions related to the impacts of climate on people, natural resources, and infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. It is the region's premier opportunity for a cross-disciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas about regional climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science and practice.