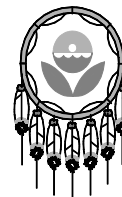


# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



## LETTER

Vol. XV No. VI  
June 1, 2006

### Work Shops and Conferences

**August 21-25, Tribal Leaders Summit, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Pendleton, OR..** See below this page.

**August 28-31, SAIGE, Anchorage, AK.** [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org)

**September, 24-28, Tribal Science Conference, Ocean Shores, WA. Pendleton, OR.** See page 2

**October 19-21, NIEA, Anchorage, AK.** [www.niea.org](http://www.niea.org)

**October 25-26, Region 10/NWIFCA, 4<sup>th</sup> EPA/Washington Tribes Environmental Symposium, TBA**

For information: Fran Wilshusen 360/438-1181 x 351, [fwilshus@nwifc.org](mailto:fwilshus@nwifc.org)

**November 2-5, 28<sup>th</sup> Annual AISES Conference, Detroit, MI.** [www.aiuses.org](http://www.aiuses.org)

**Region 10 Tribal  
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### World Environment Day

June 5<sup>th</sup> is World

Environment Day. UNEP is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEPs mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life

without compromising that of future generations.

<http://www.unep.org/wed/2006/english>.

### **R10 Tribal Leaders' Summit**

Join us in Pendleton, Oregon at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino August 21-25<sup>th</sup>.

Experience the culture of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians as you discuss critical environmental issues with leaders from the EPA and tribes from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Registration forms are ready for the 2006 EPA Region 10 Tribal Leaders' Summit. The Web page is available at:

<http://www.umatilla.nsn.us/2006EPAsummit.html>.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) are requesting proposals for presentations throughout the 2006 Summit. The Summit will offer the following seven topic strands reflecting the regional priorities identified by our Tribal Leaders' Survey. They are in draft form and could likely change based on the number and type of responses we receive. The topic Strands are:  
**1. Tribes and EPA-How We Work Together, 2.Air Quality, 3.Toxic Pollution, 4.Solid Waste 5.Protecting Traditional Foods, 6.Water Quality Assessment and Restoration, 7.Bringing Together Tribal Environmental Protection and Health Protection.**

For information about registration, scholarships, travel, and speaking proposals. To submit a proposal or request additional information: Contact Joyce Houle, Tribal Leaders' Coordinator, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, P.O. Box 638, Pendleton, Oregon 97801, 888/809-8027 x2336 or e-mail [joycehoule@ctuir.com](mailto:joycehoule@ctuir.com).

### Section 106

Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes annual appropriations of funds for federal grants to assist state and interstate agencies in administering water pollution control programs. Section 518(e) of the Clean Water Act authorizes EPA to treat a federally recognized Indian Tribe as a State for the purposes of receiving funding under Section 106. A portion of the total Section 106 appropriation is set aside to fund Tribal water pollution control programs.

The proposed Guidance provides EPA and Tribes with a consistent framework to procedures and guidelines for awarding and administering grants to federally recognized Tribes under the authority of Section 106 of the Clean Water Act. Specifically, the draft Guidance will assist Tribal water quality program managers, staff, and other Tribal environmental decision-makers in designing and implementing an effective and successful water quality program utilizing Section 106 funds. It will apply to all water quality program grants issued

by EPA Regional offices beginning fiscal year 2007.

The Guidance provides an overview of water quality programmatic and technical requirements, discusses some common considerations across programs, and links to technical resources available to develop Tribal programs. It is designed for Tribal water quality programs at all levels of sophistication and development. For new programs, it explains how to successfully initiate and develop a water quality program. For Tribes with well-established programs, it contains information on expanding a water quality program. To meet the needs of Tribes at all levels of development, the Guidance presents the basic steps a Tribe would take to collect the information it will need to make effective decisions about its program its goals, and its future direction.

To obtain a copy of the Guidance contact Lena Ferris at 202/564-8831

[ferris.lena@epa.gov](mailto:ferris.lena@epa.gov) or <http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/106tgg07.htm>

### Tribal Environmental Science

The conference is designed for tribal leaders and staff working on environmental science topics. Members of tribal organizations, tribal faculty and students, representatives of EPA, and other federal agencies are invited to participate to encourage tribal participation, the Conference has no

registration fee and offers a limited number of travel scholarships: <http://www.quinaultbeachresort.com> The EPA-Tribal Science Council in partnership with the Quinault Indian Nation is currently soliciting Presentations, Posters, and Exhibits for the Forum. Abstracts are due on or before Friday, June 16, 2006. For additional information: Mary Beth Clark at: 206/553-6358.

### High Levels of Benzene

The Food and Drug Administration released the names of five types of drinks among more than 100 tested that had benzene levels in excess of EPA's standards for the chemical in drinking water. The drinks are Safeway Select Diet Orange soda, AquaCal Strawberry Flavored Water Beverage, Crystal Light Sunrise Classic Orange, Giant Light Cranberry Juice Cocktail and Crush Pineapple.

<http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2006/0522/#13>.

### Aspirin

An aspirin a day does more than keep the doctor away. Researchers at the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have found the acetaminophen, the most widely used pain reliever in the United States, readily reacts in chlorine disinfection to form at least 11 new products, two of which are toxic, according to an NIST press release.

A study of 139 streams by the U.S. Geological Survey found

that acetaminophen was one of the most frequently detected manmade chemicals. Last year, NIST chemist investigated likely chemical reactions involving the pain reliever when the drug is subject to typical wastewater processing. The results, according to the study's lead author, Mary Bender, demonstrate that environmental scientists should be concerned about downstream reaction products, as well as the original waste materials.

"When you are looking for the effects of pharmaceuticals in the environment, you need to ask what they're going to turn into," Bedner said. [pubs.acs.org/journals/esthag/index/html](http://pubs.acs.org/journals/esthag/index/html)

### **Building Tribal Green**

"Building Green" sponsored by HUD's Office of Native American Programs, July 11-13, Little Creek Casino, Shelton, WA.. Participants will focus on designing energy- and resource efficient homes in the Northwest by understanding these eight subtopics:

- Sustainable Site Planning
- Improving the Building Envelope
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Efficient Water Use-Indoors and Outdoors
- Indoor Environmental Quality
- "Green" Building Materials and Equipment
- Construction Waste Management Practices
- Optimized Operations and Maintenance.

Attendees will learn the basic concepts about green or sustainable home design through discussion,

presentation, and hands on activities.

Register online at: [www.hud.gov/offices/pih/codetalk/onap/training](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/codetalk/onap/training).

### **Asbestos Brakes**

A significant increase in imports of automobile brakes containing asbestos over the past decade is raising renewed concerns for the health of the nation's auto mechanics.

Most U.S. automakers stopped installing brakes with asbestos in the 1990s amid worries about the health hazards. As the perceived risk of exposure declined, so did government warnings to mechanics outlining the possible dangers.

Despite an 83% rise in imported brakes with asbestos over the past decade, there has been no renewed effort by OSHA to notify mechanics that they might again be at risk of asbestos-related disease, which can be fatal. The United States is one of the few industrialized nations that haven't banned the use or importation of most asbestos products.

### **Grants and Loans**

Financial opportunities for tribes are managed by the Golden Field Office and detailed on the Tribal energy Program Web site. This program provides financial and technical assistance to tribes for feasibility studies and shares the cost of implementing sustainable renewable energy installations on tribal lands. For

more info:

<http://www.grants.gov>

### **Drinking Water Tools**

EPA has released a set of user-friendly multimedia products to help small drinking-water utilities determine federal monitoring requirements and prepare water compliance samples under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The tool kit features an interactive Rule Wizard web site that provides a complete list of all of the federal monitoring requirements for a selected type and size of public drinking water system. RuleWizard: <http://www.RuleWizard.org> Interactive Sampling Guide: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sallsys/samplingcd.html>

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trading At The River**

November 1-2, 2006. Join us for two days of trading and learning this year as we focus on innovative tribal economic development success stories and business development strategies for Native American entrepreneurs. For additional info: <http://www.onaben.org>

### **EPA's Video Library**

EPA's Public Environmental Resource Center offers Region 10 citizens a loan library of videos, CD-Roms, and DVDs. These resources cover a variety of environmental topics. Many of them are suitable for the classroom. For the list of titles, visit the website: [www.epa.gov/region10](http://www.epa.gov/region10), under the Information Resources link.

This loan program is free of charge. You can check out up to 4 titles for two weeks. Orders can be placed online or by calling 800/424-4372

### **Stream Pollution**

In a statistical *Wadeable Streams Assessment* of 1,392 streams randomly selected to represent a variety of ecological conditions in the 48 contiguous states, 42% of stream miles were in poor condition, 28% of stream miles were in good condition, and 25% were in fair condition. EPA said it did not study 5% of the tiny streams found in New England. Alaska and Hawaii were studied separately.

Specifically, the study found nitrogen, phosphorous, and streambed sediment runoff in combination with soil erosion, tree removal, and paving of land to be “most widespread” stressors across the country and in each of three major regions—the eastern highlands, the plains and the lowlands, and the West.

High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus stimulate growth of oxygen-depleting algae, degrading water quality because a lot of organisms cannot survive under low oxygen levels.

Among the findings, EPA concluded that water quality in the eastern highlands was the worst and the West’s water quality was the best; human activity, such as bulldozing trees to pave roads, was degrading water quality; and agricultural runoff containing high levels of nitrogen and

phosphorus from manure and other fertilizers was “smothering” aquatic life.

### **Atmospheric Pollution**

Winter snow falling on Mount Rainier and other high-elevation parks in Western states is contaminated with minute amounts of agricultural pesticides. Recently published scientific research shows some of the compounds detected are so dangerous that they are banned in the United States.

The lead scientist, Kim Hageman, an OSU chemist, analyzed snow samples from seven parks, including three in Alaska. She tested for 47 organic compounds. The most commonly found pesticides in current use were: Dacthal or DCPA, Chlorpyrifos, Endosulfan, Gamma-Hexachlorocyclohexane. Of the banned pesticides: Dieldrin, Alpha-Hexachlorocyclohexane, Chlordane, Hexachlorobenzene. [www2.nature.nps.gov/airStudies/air\\_toxics/wacap/cfm](http://www2.nature.nps.gov/airStudies/air_toxics/wacap/cfm)

### **Water Infrastructure Funding**

USDA Rural development has water infrastructure funding available for tribes under the Native American Grants program. This year \$16.3M is available nationwide. Eligible tribes must have a per capita income of no more than \$15,110, an unemployment rate of at least 6.25%, and a documented public health or environmental need. Go to: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/2006funding.htm>.

### **Soil Survey Information**

A new interactive web soil survey site now provides public access to soils information that contributes to every aspect of public and private land use and development. This site provides critical soils information for land developers, farmers, home buyers, and city planners. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has soils and maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation’s counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site will be updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. Site: <http://soils.usda.gov/survey> .

### **Global Warming Facts**

21% of America’s global warming pollution is produced by individual households. 42=Number of states where electricity customers have the option to buy green power through their utility or an alternative power supplier. 200,000=Number of American households that use solar energy. 25=pounds of global warming pollution emitted per gallon of gas used in cars. 10% that Americans could reduce their global warming pollution if all car buyers chose a model that gets 5 more miles/gallon than their current vehicle. 350=pounds of global warming pollution reduced by lowering the thermostat 2 degrees in winter. 38=number of watts needed to replace a standard

150 watt lightbulb with a compact florescent light bulb.

Information: Light bulb buying: [http://actionnetwork.org/ct/o7zRa\\_n1gmWp](http://actionnetwork.org/ct/o7zRa_n1gmWp)  
Drive efficiently: [http://actionnetwork.org/ct/odzRa\\_n1gmWO](http://actionnetwork.org/ct/odzRa_n1gmWO) Home energy: [http://actionnetwork.org/ct/olzRa\\_n1gmWI](http://actionnetwork.org/ct/olzRa_n1gmWI) (*Environmental Defense*)

### RadTown USA

From seeing a stadium laser light show to receiving and x-ray, radiation is part of our lives. That's why EPA is has launched RadTown USA, a new web site that uses an animated town to provide basic information on radiation in the environment. RadTown USA is a virtual community showing the wide variety of radiation sources commonly encountered in everyday life. The RadTown site features houses, a school, stadium construction site, flying plane, moving train and much more to highlight and explain the many common sources of radiation.

The information is organized in a series of easy-to-understand fact sheets, with links to additional information resources. Every fact sheet includes the types of radiation sources at the location, the important roles that federal, state and local governments play in protection and control, and normal steps that individuals can take to protect themselves, such as apply sun block or installing radon detectors in homes. RadTown USA:

<http://www.epa.gov/radtown>

### Perchlorate

Just one serving of some fruits can contain enough perchlorate to exceed the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) safe daily dose by more than 25%, and wines and beers pack a bigger perchlorate punch than waters, according to a new study that measures perchlorate concentrations in fruits, wines and beers from around the world. The findings are further evidence that risk models for what is turning out to be a widespread contaminant need to be revised.

Perchlorate is well known as a major component in rocket fuel, but the chemical also forms naturally, in sufficient amounts, perchlorate disrupts the thyroid by inhibiting the uptake of iodide, and essential component of thyroid hormones.

In the study, cantaloupe from Guatemala "topped" the perchlorate charts at 463.5 ppb. An average serving, one-quarter of a medium melon, weighs 135 grams and would supply 62.5 micrograms of perchlorate. Fruit lovers who eat half a melon would get a 125-ppb dose. For a 160 pound adult, the NAS recommended safe daily dose is 49 micrograms.

Some of the other high concentrations in the report include 145.6 ppb in Chilean apricots, 62.8 ppb in Mexican red tomatoes, 22 ppb in Chilean green grapes, and 39.9 ppb in raw Mexican asparagus.

Overall, fresh fruits and vegetables from California and Central and South America had

the highest levels, whereas produce from Canada and china had the lowest.

### Wiona LaDuke to Speak

Native American activist, writer, environmentalist, and economist Wiona LaDuke will speak at the Portland Art Museum's Kridel Grand Ballroom on Thursday evening, July 20, at 6:30 PM. Ms. LaDuke, who ran for vice-president on the Green Party ticket with Ralph Nader in 1996 and 2000, will discuss "Building a Post-Petroleum Economy through Indigenous Knowledge, Multicultural Democracy, and Renewable Energy".

Tickets are \$10 and will be available through the Portland Art Museum's Community Box Office, 503/226-0973, beginning June 1. This program is co-sponsored by the Native American Art Council, Ecotrust's Buffet Award for Indigenous Leadership, and the Lewis and Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling's Indigenous Ways of Knowing Project.

### Satellites

The UCS Satellite Database is a listing of operational satellites currently in orbit around the Earth. It is available as both a downloadable Excel file and in a tab-delimited text format, which are updated roughly quarterly. The database is to create a research tool for specialists and non-specialists alike by collecting open-source information on operational

satellites and presenting it in a format that can be easily manipulated for research and analysis. The database includes basic information about more than 800 satellites and their orbits.

[http://www.ucsusa.org/global\\_security/space\\_weapons/satellite\\_database.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_security/space_weapons/satellite_database.html)

**Food and Environment**

Many people assume that been and dairy cows spend most of their lives happily grazing in grassy meadows. The reality is that most cattle in the United States spend significant parts of their lives in crowded feedlots with hundreds or thousands of other animals, eating feed that contains large amounts of grain (primarily corn). While cattle

on pasture rarely get sick, those confined to feedlots and fed grain are prone to disease and most feedlot operators routinely feed antibiotics to prevent illness and to accelerate growth. This, in turn, increases the risk of antibiotic resistance in humans. In addition, air and water pollution stemming from dust and mountains of feedlot manure, and the many fertilizers and pesticides used in grain production, exact a heavy toll on the environment and the health of farmers, farm workers, and nearby residents.

Fortunately, there are better ways to raise food animals. Raising cattle on pasture lessens environmental damage, improves animal health, and

reduces antibiotic use. Over the past decade, numerous scientific studies have shown that the meat and milk from pasture raised animals are higher in fats that may confer health benefits on humans. To confirm how strong the findings are, UCS undertook the first comprehensive comparison of fat levels in been and dairy products from conventionally raised and pasture raised animals. The report, *greener Pastures: How grass-fed Beef and Mild Contribute to Healthy Eating*, presents the results of this analysis and examines what health benefits food producers could promote on their product labels.