

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.
To receive a copy, call:
AK, Robb . 907-271-6323
ID, Jim . . 208-378-5691
OR, Don . . 503-326-5015
WA, Alison . 360-753-8185

LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues> Vol. 16, No 9 — September 2007

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

September

- 7-9 **Salmon Homecoming 15th Anniversary, Seattle, WA.** (*See below*)
- 18-20 **Institute for Tribal professionals NPDES Inspector Training, Denver, CO.**
For information: Todd Barnell at 928-523-3840 or Todd.Barnell@nau.edu
- 18-20 **National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Baltimore, MD.**
For additional information, see:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/nejac/meetings.html> (*See Page 2*)
- 25-27 **Air Pollution and Ecosystems, Las Vegas, NV.** For information: Sue Rose at 928-523-1488 or susan.rose@nau.edu.

October

- 3-5 **EPA Western Brownfields Workshop, Portland, OR.** For information: Laura Sneeringer at 303-861-1637 or to register: wbwregistration@sra.com
- 6 **Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association's 13th Annual Gathering, Lewiston, ID.** (*See Page 2*)
- 15-17 **13th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, Anchorage, AK.**
Proposals deadline is **August 31**. For information, see: <http://www.anthc.org> (*See Page 2*)
- 18 **EPA Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Training, Anchorage, AK**
For information: contact your EPA Tribal Coordinator.

November

- 5-8 **HazMat Explo, Las Vegas, NV.** For information: Angie Proboszcz at 415-972-3077 or proboszcz.angie@epa.gov

April 2008

- 21-24 **EPA Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit, Little Creek Resort and Casino, Kamilche, WA.**
(*See Page 2*)

June 2008

- National Tribal Conference for Environmental Management 2008, Billings, MT.**
For information: Karen Rudek at 202-564-0472

<> Salmon Homecoming 15th Anniversary <>

Friday through Sunday, September 7-9, Seattle's Waterfront Park and The Seattle Aquarium will come alive with the sound of Indian drums and singing. Carvers and other great tribal artisans will demonstrate the beauty of Indian arts and crafts, and the savory aroma of barbecued salmon will waft through the air. Environmental exhibits and a career fair help visitors to broaden understanding and appreciation for Salmon, the Northwest icon.

It's the 15th Anniversary of Salmon Homecoming, and you are invited to attend, participate and enjoy. Whether you have a company, a tribe or agency with an exhibit to display, a canoe paddler, traditional storyteller or just want to join the fun, you are welcome. The purpose of Salmon Homecoming has always been to help connect Indian with non-Indian individuals and communities and help broaden the knowledge, understanding and team spirit needed to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat.

To learn more about Salmon Homecoming, check out <http://www.salmonhomecoming.com/> Here you will find everything from the schedule of activities (including the Salmon Homecoming Forum, slated for September 17) to news releases and exhibitor or vendor forms. You'll also find a PDF Poster to print and display. You'll find a message from the Senior Advisor of the Salmon Homecoming Alliance, Billy Frank, Jr., and—well, in short, you'll find a lot of good reasons to be a part of the Salmon Homecoming experience!

>>>>>

2008 Tribal Leaders' Summit

M

The Squaxin Island Tribe, located on the shore of Puget Sound, invites you to the Two Thousand and Eight Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Tribal Leaders' Summit. The conference will be held from Monday, April 21 to Thursday, April 24, 2008. The theme of the 2008 summit is: *Sustaining Tribal Cultures: Tailoring Programs to Fit Places*. The desired outcome of this conference is to improve the health of watersheds used by Tribes of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial purposes. The conference will also provide a forum to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and EPA Region 10. An agenda, registration materials, and travel information will be forth coming.

E

E

2007 NEJAC Meeting

The next meeting of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) will be held September 18-20, 2007, at the Tremont Grand Conference Center in Baltimore, MD. The meeting will focus on the following public policy issue: "EPA requests that the NEJAC provide advice and recommendations about how the Agency can most effectively promote strategies, in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies to identify, mitigate, and/or prevent the disproportionate burden on communities of air pollution resulting from goods movement." Additional information can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/nejac/meetings.html>

T

I

13th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

The 13th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) will be held October 15-17, 2007 at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown. This year's conference is focused mostly on solid waste management issues within Alaska and is geared towards Tribal members working in the environmental arena. Last year over 375 participants attended the three day conference which included keynote speakers, breakout sessions, cultural performances and the annual Environmental Awards Luncheon. The ATCEM Planning Committee is currently accepting breakout session proposals. Session forms and details can be found at: <http://www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/sustops/rasc/atcem.cfm> Please note that the deadline for session proposals is **Friday, August 31, 2007**. The session form is for your use if you want to propose additional sessions during the first three days of the conference.

N

G

Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association's 13th Annual Gathering

The Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association's 13th Annual Gathering will be October 6, 2007 – 11:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Clearwater River Casino Resort, 17500 Nez Perce Road, Lewiston, Idaho. The event is being hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe. Everyone is invited to this family event. Collectors, see and buy authentic handmade baskets with open market, demonstrations, panels, tours and much more.

S

G

Tribal Wildlife Grant

On July 26, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a request for proposals for federally recognized tribes to submit proposals for projects to conserve fish and wildlife resources on tribal lands under the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Tribal Wildlife Grants program.

Although matching funds will be considered as an indicator of tribal commitment to a project, they are not required for these grants. The maximum award for any one project under this program is \$200,000.

R

A

"Through this program, the Service is building important partnerships that empower tribal governments to conserve, protect and enhance the fish and wildlife resources," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall.

Previously funded Tribal Wildlife Grant projects range from comprehensive surveys of plants, fish and wildlife, to habitat and fish restoration, to development of new resource management techniques.

N

T

The Service began offering Tribal Wildlife Grants in 2003 through a competitive process. The Service anticipates that approximately \$6 million (based on the FY 2007 funding level) will be available for grants to benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Proposals and grant applications for FY 2008 must be postmarked by **Oct. 1, 2007**. For more information and to obtain a copy of the grant application kit, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/grants/tribal.html> or contact Patrick Durham, Office of the Native American Liaison at 202-208-4133.

S

E

N

V

I

R

O

I

S

S

U

E

S

Tribal Inspectors

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Environmental Compliance and Inspection will be offering an NPDES inspection training course September 18-20, 2007 in Denver, Colorado. This course is specifically designed for tribal professionals who are developing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) programs and may be interested in applying for EPA credentials to conduct NPDES inspections on their land.

ITEP will be paying for all course-related costs and participants' hotel accommodations. They will also reimburse participants' per diem expenses after the course. Participants will be responsible for their own travel costs.

For more information contact: Todd Barnell, Todd.Barnell@nau.edu, 928-523-3840 or see <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/>

Climate Change Draft Document

EPA released the draft document: *Climate Change Effects on Stream and River Biological Indicators: A Preliminary Analysis* on August 10, 2007. This is a preliminary assessment that describes how biological indicators are likely to respond to climate change, how well current sampling schemes may detect climate-driven changes, and how likely it is that these sampling schemes will continue to detect impairment. The results and recommendations are an initial step towards helping biocriteria programs modify assessment activities to account for climate change effects and ensure that management goals continue to be met. The report is intended for managers and scientists working on biological indicators, bioassessments, and biocriteria.

Comments on this document must be received by EPA by September 10, 2007. Following the public comment period, an independent review panel will meet to review the document. After addressing the public and external review comments, EPA will release a final report. Additional research may be conducted to build on the findings of this report.

For report and federal register notice:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=180063>

Tribal Access to Water Infrastructure

The Environmental Protection Agency and four other federal agencies signed two important tribal infrastructure agreements to improve water infrastructure on tribal lands and focus efforts to increase access to safe drinking water and basic wastewater facilities to tribes. The first agreement promotes coordination between federal tribal infrastructure programs and financial services. The second agreement was created to improve access to safe drinking water and wastewater facilities on tribal lands. The agreements were signed by EPA, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Copies of the agreements can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/tribalportal/mous.htm>

Quarterly Management Report

The EPA introduced a new performance management tool called the Quarterly Management Report (QMR). The QMR is helping the agency deliver real results by applying business principles to solve the nation's environmental challenges.

The QMR is updated every three months and consists of roughly 60 national and regional priorities. During regular meetings with senior headquarters and regional managers, the agency uses performance measurement to review quarterly progress, identify successes and make adjustments that lead to more and better environmental results.

For example, EPA's enforcement office routinely sends requests to the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) for approval to take legal action against polluters. By checking performance measures, the agency found that it typically sent about 10 times as many referrals to DOJ in the fourth quarter of the year as in the first quarter. This was causing temporary backlogs at DOJ late in the year. EPA is now leveling the workload throughout the year, which should result in faster turnaround times. Changing this one work practice means EPA can take faster action to protect human health and the environment.

Read the Quarterly Management Report at: <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/qmr>

TMDLs Report

EPA recently issued a new document called “*Total Maximum Daily Loads with Stormwater Sources: A Summary of 17 TMDLs.*” A TMDL is calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant’s sources. The report summarizes TMDLs that have been developed for stormwater sources in 16 states during the past eight years. They represent a range of pollutants, models, and allocation and implementation methods. These summaries may be helpful to TMDL practitioners, wastewater permitting agencies, and permittees. The document may be viewed at:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/techsupp.html>

DVD - *Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships*

Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships tells the story of how one man, a local community organization called ReGenesis, and a handful of partners turned a downtrodden community around. It’s about the process of discovering—after being exposed to environmental contamination—a public health problem, working together to envision broad solutions, bringing people together, and creating change. It’s about a place that “couldn’t get any worse,” according to one resident, that is now being transformed.

In this film, you will see the problem solving process at work in Spartanburg, South Carolina, as told through interviews with key players and current and historic footage. It features Harold Mitchell, founder of ReGenesis; local residents; city, county, and state government representatives; EPA regional and headquarters personnel; industry representatives; and others, describing, in their own words, their role in and perspectives of the project. Covering environmental, health, transportation, housing, and other related areas of concern, this inspiring story can be used to educate other, similarly situated communities nationwide about the value of the collaborative problem-solving process, to give them a glimpse of what is possible to achieve. To obtain a free copy, visit:

<http://epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ejcps-dvd.html>

Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox

The EPA Office of Water has released the Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox, a set of web-based resources designed to help communities across the United States conduct watershed education and outreach activities.

The toolbox includes a searchable catalog of nearly 800 print, radio, and TV ads and outreach materials in lawn and garden care, motor vehicle care, pet care, septic system care, household chemicals and waste, and general storm water and storm drain awareness.

The toolbox has been designed to meet the needs of stormwater professionals planning to develop messages and products for their own communities. It also provides EPA’s publication, *Getting in Step – A Guide to Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns*, as well as a comprehensive collection of surveys and evaluations of outreach programs around the country. The toolbox is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox>

Water Quality Trading Toolkit for Permit Writers

The *Water Quality Trading Toolkit for Permit Writers* is EPA’s first “how-to” manual on designing and implementing water quality trading programs. The Toolkit helps National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting authorities incorporate trading provisions into permits. It will help improve the quality and consistency of all trading programs across the nation.

Water quality trading is a voluntary option that regulated point sources can use to meet requirements under the Clean Water Act. The Water Quality Trading Toolkit for Permit Writers provides permitting authorities with the tools they need to incorporate trading provisions into required permits. The guide is focused on trading nitrogen and phosphorus, but other pollutants may be considered for trading on a case-by-case basis. The Toolkit discusses the fundamental concepts of designing and implementing trading programs including the relevant geographic scope, effluent limitations and other factors involved in defining a credit. The document also includes a set of appendices which feature detailed case studies based on actual trading programs. For more info visit:

<http://epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading/WQTToolkit.html>

W
A
T
E
R

I
S
S
U
E
S
&

T
O
O
L
S

Help Small Systems Control Arsenic in Drinking Water

EPA has released eleven *Arsenic Rule Compliance Success Stories*, a series of case studies highlighting public water system experiences in meeting the revised drinking water standard. These community and non-residential water systems utilized innovative or lower cost approaches to meeting the revised 10 ppb maximum contaminant level for arsenic. The lessons learned from these utilities will assist the 1,700 public water systems still seeking a sustainable Arsenic Rule compliance solution.

Water systems need to be aware of the potential impacts that treatment changes can have on their ability to provide safe drinking water. EPA has also developed a new fact sheet to help owners and operators understand and respond to issues that may arise with arsenic and their distribution system when treatment is installed or modified.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring contaminant that may increase a person's risk of getting cancer if consumed regularly over a long period of time. In 2001, EPA lowered the MCL for arsenic in drinking water from 50 to 10 ppb to further protect public health.

Arsenic Rule Compliance Success Stories and the fact sheet *Arsenic and Your Distribution System* may be viewed online at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/compliance.html>

EPA Medication Disposal

EPA has given more than \$300,000 in grants to two nonprofit groups for developing pilot programs to properly dispose of unused medications. EPA has given \$150,000 to the University of Maine Center on Aging in Orono, Maine, and \$150,570 to Area Resources for Community and Human Services in St. Louis. The purpose of the grants is to develop alternative stewardship approaches to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals and personal care products that normally enter the environment through consumer disposal to sewer systems or landfills.

Fish Magnet for Health

Here is a healthy way to decorate your refrigerator. EPA is offering free fish-shaped magnets. The text reads: "Fish for Your Health" Fish are a healthy source of protein, but some fish may be high in contaminants. Use EPA's website to contact your health department about local fish advisories:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish>.

Fish are a lean, low-calorie source of protein. However, some fish may contain chemicals that could pose health risks. When contaminant levels are unsafe, consumption advisories may recommend that people limit or avoid eating certain species of fish caught in certain places.

For a free magnet, call the EPA Region 10 Public Environmental Resource Center at: 206-553-1200 or 800-424-4372.



Media Campaign Guidelines

The purpose of this guide is to assist small rural communities with the developing a media campaign strategy that will increase the awareness of drinking water source protection within their community. The methodology outlined in the guide is based on results obtained from conducting a source water awareness media campaign in a small, rural pilot community. It is hoped that other communities can use similar methods for increasing awareness about their drinking water sources and ways of protecting them.

The free guideline is available at: <http://www.lgean.org/documents/guidelines.pdf>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Tribal Program
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-085
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome. Please submit articles to: Don Creek, 811 S.W. 6th Ave. EPA, Portland, OR 97204 or e-mail creek.don@epa.gov.

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter September 2007

Check out EPA's page of links for Web-savvy kids:
<http://www.epa.gov/indian/kidlinks.htm>

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8301
Oregon	800-452-0311		