

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.

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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 17, No. 7 — July 2008

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

July

21-24 **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Tribal Community and Project Development**, Albuquerque, NM. Info: www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm

August

4-7 **Air Toxics Summit 2008**, Boise, ID. Info: Ashley Zanolli 206-553-4452

25-28 **Native Health Research**, Portland, OR. Info: 503-283-4466 or www.redlion.com/jantzbeach

September

15-19 **Wetlands and Global Climate Change Symposium**, Portland, OR. *(See first article)*
Info: www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/index.htm

October

27-29 **AK Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM)**, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, AK

30-31 **EPA IGAP training**, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, AK

Wetlands and Global Climate Change - Portland, OR

Wetlands 2008: Wetlands and Global Climate Change will be held September 15-19, 2008, in Portland, OR. The purpose of this symposium is to identify opportunities and cooperative strategies for managing wetlands and water resources in response to climate change while meeting the ongoing challenges of conserving and protecting wetlands.

Wetland professionals in the public and private sectors need to understand the regional alterations in weather likely to result from climate change and identify discrete activities and actions to pursue to mitigate these changes. Climate change needs to be addressed in the context of existing wetland management and conservation challenges. Discussion of current issues in wetland science, policy and management in combination with the more speculative dialogue on how to respond to climate change will help participants develop strategies to anticipate and adapt to regional changes in climate.

At Wetlands 2008 there will be sessions on climate changes as well as the science, program and policy topics that continue to engage wetland managers and scientists. These include Clean Water Act jurisdiction, state and tribal wetland programs, Carabell/Rapanos guidance, mitigation, invasive species, wetland assessment, wetland restoration and other important topics.

Information: www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/index.htm

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RTOC Survey

The Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee hopes this tool will inform the region of its environmental budgetary needs. By completing this survey, you will contribute greatly to the RTOC's efforts in informing EPA on the environmental needs and concerns of Region 10 Tribes.

We look forward to your participation and hope you have no problems completing it.

To complete the survey:
www.r10tribalcaucus.org
Thanks for your help. Deadline **8/15/08**

Tribal Access to Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

In June 2007, EPA, IHS, USDA, HUD, and DOI signed two MOUs designed in part to assist tribes in improving quality of life through the delivery of quality infrastructure services in support of tribal housing and tribal communities, and to encourage parties to coordinate execution of existing drinking water and sanitation improvement programs in Indian country with a full understanding of each party's programs.

The interagency Task Force established the Access Subgroup to develop an implementation plan that strives to reduce by 50 percent the number of homes lacking access to safe drinking water and safe waste water disposal by 2015. The implementation plan is under development, and subgroup representatives would be pleased to discuss with tribes, the scope and status of the recommended actions. Info: Elin Betanzo 202-564-1807, betanzo.elin@epa.gov or Jose Aguto 202-564-0289, aguto.jose@epa.gov

NPDES Inspections Course

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) will be offering a Media Specific: NPDES Inspections course in Denver, Colorado, **July 29-31, 2008**. This course is designed specifically for employees of federally-recognized tribes or tribal consortia with a functioning environmental compliance program, or who are planning on developing one as part of their regulatory program.

ITEP will be paying for up to 20 participants' lodging costs, as well as reimbursing them for their per diem. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses.

Please contact Todd Barnell, Program Coordinator Senior, phone: 928-523-3840

The Need for Sun Protection

Many people know about the damage the sun can cause skin - from sun burns immediately after exposure to skin cancer, melanoma, and premature aging which develop long after. But UV radiation also plays a role in many eye problems like cataracts, age-related macular degeneration, snow blindness (Photokeratitis), and Pterygium (small growths on the white of the eye that can obstruct vision). Pay attention to changes in vision and moles on your body, since these problems can be treated best if caught early. Protect yourself by staying out of the sun, especially during midday. When outdoors, cover up with clothing and use a palmful of sunscreen that blocks UV-A and UV-B rays with an SPF of at least 15 on all exposed skin.

Wear sunglasses that block 99-100% of both kinds of UV radiation and wrap around, as well as a wide brimmed hat. The UV forecast indicates how much ultraviolet radiation will reach Earth's surface at solar noon, when the sun is highest in the sky. The higher the number of UV radiation, the greater the need for protection. Find the forecast for your zip code at www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html

Methamphetamine and Propane Tanks

Methamphetamine cooks are buying propane tanks from the exchanges at Wal-Mart, Kroger, and emptying them of the propane gas. Then they fill the propane tanks with anhydrous ammonia, which they now have a recipe to cook Methamphetamine. After they are finished with the propane tanks, they return them to the store. The stores refill the tanks with propane gas, unknowing to them the improper substance that was inserted in the tanks and sell them to their consumers. Anhydrous ammonia is very corrosive and weakens the structure of the tank. It can be very dangerous when mixed with propane gas and hooked up to a grill, recreation vehicle, etc.

You should inspect the propane tank for any blue or greenish residue around the valve areas. If there are evidences of these substances, do not purchase the propane tank and advise the vendor of your findings.

The information was researched, and you should check out the following website for more: www.npga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=529

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EPA Proposing Stormwater Construction General Permit

The EPA is proposing to reissue its stormwater Construction General Permit for a two-year time period. The permit would apply where EPA is the permitting authority which is in five states, most territories, and most Indian country lands. The draft permit utilizes the same terms and conditions as EPA's 2003 permit which expires in July 2008. EPA is proposing the permit to coordinate it with a second effort that is underway to establish national clean water standards, known as an effluent limitation guideline, for the construction and development industry. Upon finalization of the guideline, EPA plans to include its provisions into a new and improved Construction General Permit to be reissued no later than July 2010.

EPA is also requesting comment on the criteria the agency will use to recognize local erosion and sediment control program requirements in this and future permits. EPA is inviting comments on the proposed permit for a period of 30 days. Information on the proposed permit, including instructions on submitting comments:
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp

Water Transfer Rule

"EPA's Water Transfer Rule gives communities greater certainty and makes clear they have the flexibility to protect water quality and promote the public good without going through a new federal permitting process," said Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "Clean water permits should focus on water pollution, not water movement. EPA is committed to working with our state, tribal, and local partners to reduce environmental impacts associated with transfers and will continue to use all appropriate tools such as standards, best management practices, and watershed plans."

Over the last several years, EPA has been advancing water quality improvements related to water transfers and other hydrologic modifications through watershed planning and management measures. For example, last summer EPA issued the National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Hydromodification guidance that provides recommended best management

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practices for addressing the effects of changes in flow. The recently released Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters can assist communities as they analyze water quality priorities in their watersheds and identify management measures to reduce causes of impairments. More information on the rule:
www.epa.gov/npdes/agriculture

Exchange Network

The Exchange Network is an Internet-based system used by state, tribal, and territorial partners to securely share environmental and health information with one another and EPA. The Exchange Network improves the timeliness and accuracy of environmental data, reduces the burden and costs associated with reporting data, enhances data access for environmental professionals, and supports better decisions on environmental and health issues. Information:
www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork

Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads Web Site

EPA recently released a new "Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads" (TMDLs) homepage at www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl. The new Web page features an overview of the Clean Water Act section 303(d) program activities, highlights new resources, and provides easier access to program resources, such as EPA's new Water Quality Assessment and TMDL Information (ATTAINS) Web site. The Web site revamping was prompted by the desire to improve navigation for a variety of audiences and to distinguish two key activities, e.g., 303(d) listing of impaired waters and development of TMDLs. The site also features a new "TMDL Stormwater Resources" page that hosts several stormwater-source TMDLs and case studies highlighting the innovative approaches states are using to address stormwater (see www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/stormwater/). Additional pages that are coming soon include a new "TMDLs at Work?" page, which will highlight successful restoration efforts where TMDL/303(d) activities were an important part of the process, and a "TMDL Mercury Air Deposition" page that will host a variety of resources and examples for developing TMDLs for waters impaired by mercury.

EPA and Army Corps Propose New Wetlands Rule

The EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) are proposing a new rule to ensure more effective wetlands restoration and preservation nationwide. The agencies' rule proposes improved science and results-oriented standards to increase the quality and effectiveness of wetlands conservation practices under the Clean Water Act (CWA). For more information, click <http://www.epa.gov/wetlandsmitigation>

Comprehensive Action Plan Aims for No-Net-Loss of Wetlands

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (along with the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, and Transportation) have released a comprehensive action plan and improved guidelines aimed at attaining the goal of no net loss of the nation's wetlands. The multi-agency action plan will focus on advancing technical capabilities for wetlands restoration and protection. It will also clarify policies for regulating wetlands, and establish better tools for monitoring and measuring the success of restoration and protection projects. For more information, click www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands

Wetlands Helpline

The EPA's Wetlands Helpline is a contactor-operated, toll-free telephone service and e-mail correspondent, which answers requests for information about wetlands regulation, legislation and policy pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, wetlands values and functions, and wetlands agricultural issues. The hotline acts as a first point of contact for EPA's Wetlands Division, which is part of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW). For more information, call 1-800-832-7828, e-mail wetlands.helpline@epa.gov or visit www.epa.gov/OWOW/wetlands/wetline.html to visit EPA's Wetlands Helpline web site.

New Water Quality Website Released

EPA has released a new database/website for water quality assessment and total maximum daily loads information. The site, known as ATTAINS, combines two formerly separate databases: the National Assessment Database (for water quality assessment information reported by the states under Section 305(b)), and the National Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Tracking System (for impaired waters information reported by the states under Section 303(d)). The site includes state-reported information on support of designated uses; identified causes and sources of impairment; identified impaired waters; and status of actions (TMDLs) to restore impaired waters.

The website allows the user to view dynamic, continuously-updated tables and charts that summarize state-reported information for the nation as a whole, for individual states and waters, and for the 10 EPA regions. The new website is now online at www.epa.gov/waters/ir

Invasive Species Non-Native Plants

Each state has its own list of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are non-native plants that can spread quickly and are hard to control. They can invade ecosystems, pushing out native species, causing ecological and economical damage. Below is information to help you find the weed list in each of the Region 10 states. Note that each county may also have its own list that may be slightly different.

Alaska: plants.usda.gov/java/noxious?rptType=State&statefips=02

Idaho: www.idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/watchlist.php

Oregon: www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/lists.shtml

Washington: www.hear.org/weedlists/usa/WA.htm

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BPA and Polycarbonate

When it comes to Bisphenol A (BPA) exposure from polycarbonate plastic bottles, it's not whether the container is new or old but the liquid's temperature that has the most impact on how much BPA is released, according to University of Cincinnati (UC) Bisphenol scientists.

Scott Belcher, PhD, and his team found when the same new and used polycarbonate drinking bottles were exposed to boiling hot water, BPA, an environmental estrogen, was released 55 times more rapidly than before exposure to hot water.

BPA is one of many man-made chemicals classified as endocrine disruptors, which alter the function of the endocrine system by mimicking the role of the body's natural hormones. Hormones are secreted through endocrine glands and serve different functions throughout the body.

"There is a large body of scientific evidence demonstrating the harmful effects of very small amounts of BPA in laboratory and animal studies, but little clinical evidence related to humans," explains Belcher. "There is a very strong suspicion in the scientific community, however, that this chemical has harmful effects on humans."

Belcher's team analyzed used polycarbonate water bottles from a local climbing gym and purchased new bottles of the same brand from an outdoor retail supplier. All bottles were subjected to seven days of testing designed to simulate normal usage during backpacking, mountaineering and other outdoor adventure activities.

Watershed Protection Releases Two Field Assessment User Manuals

What's New keeps local government officials abreast of current environmental funding opportunities, federal policy updates, important legislative activities, new reports and publications, and other available tools and resources.

In an effort to ensure that every community has the methods to make comprehensive assessments of their local watershed, the Center for Watershed Protection has made Manuals 10 and 11 of the Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series available permanently for free download.

Manual 10 outlines the "Unified Stream Assessment," a rapid technique to locate and evaluate problems and restoration opportunities within the urban stream corridor. Manual 11, a "User's Guide for Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance," provides rapid surveys to help identify upland restoration projects and source control to consider when devising subwatershed restoration plans. Both manuals include field sheets as Word files and Manual 10 offers an Access database.

These Manuals, released in 2005, now join Manuals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 in the Manual Series that are now available for free download:

<http://www.cwp.org/Store/usrm.htm>



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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, EPA, 811 S.W. 6th Ave., Portland, OR 97204 or e-mail creek.don@epa.gov.

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter July 2008

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		