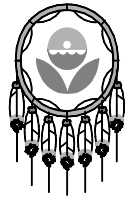


# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



## LETTER

Vol. XIV No. XII  
December 1, 2005

### Work Shops and Conferences

**December 5-9, Alaska Regional BIA Service Provider Conference, Egan Conference Center, Anchorage, AK.** For information 800/645-8465

**December 13-14, Data Quality Assessment Practical Methods for Data Analysis, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA.** Info: Roy Araki at 206/553-6395. See article page 2\*\*

**January 18-19, 2006, QAPPs Training, EPA Seattle, WA.** For Info: <http://www.epa.gov/quality/gapps.html>

**January 25, 2006, Salmon Project, Portland, OR.** See article below\*

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### **Salmon 2100 Project\***

The Salmon 2100 Project was founded on the premise that wild salmon in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia are struggling to hang on as remnants of once flourishing species in small portions of their original range. Given current policy drivers and foreseeable trends, the long-term trajectory for wild salmon is downward. The Project has assembled 33 salmon scientists,

policy analysts, and salmon advocates to answer the question:

*What is it really going to take policy-wise to have wild salmon populations in significant, sustainable numbers through 2100 in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia?*

The main purpose of the Salmon 2100 Project is to raise the overall rigor and reality of the dialogue, not to argue for or against saving wild salmon, nor for or against any particular policy prescription. The Salmon 2100 project leaders asked authors to develop realistic, effective, and straightforward policy prescriptions that allow policy makers and society to assess available and viable options. Some of them are radical, many of them are uncomfortable, all of them are still options that would only become

policies if people explicitly choose to pursue them.

The conference will be a venue for presenting publicly a cross section of the policy prescriptions (the morning session) and an opportunity for government and non-governmental salmon recovery leaders to respond to those policy prescriptions (the afternoon session).

William Ruckelshaus, chairman of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for the State of Washington, will be the conference keynote speaker.

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### Data Quality Assessment\*\*

Part 1 – Introduction to Data Quality Assessment (Tues. Dec. 13) This course demonstrates how to perform a Data Quality Assessment. The emphasis is on the statistical concepts used to evaluate data but does not go into depth on actual working of statistical tests. The emphasis of the course is on the methodical way in which an assessment is conducted using the five-step DQA Process. This course is intended for managers or analysts that prepare or review reports – and the intent of the course is to illustrate what is important in preparing or reviewing a statistical analysis <http://www.trainex.org/offeringslist.cfm?courseid=443>

Part 2 – Statistical Tools (Wed. Dec. 14) This course demonstrates the statistical tools used in Data Quality Assessment. The emphasis of the course is on the practical use of statistical concepts and methods to evaluate data. The general concepts of the 5 step DQA Process will be assumed. The course is intended for managers or analysts that have an interest in how statistical tests are performed and what to be aware of when drawing conclusions.

<http://www.trainex.org/offeringslist.cfm?courseid=444>

You may register for either part or both. The training is free but there is a \$1.25/day parking fee. Instructors: John Warren (EPA) and Kelly Black (Neptune & Co.)

### GAP Information

It is EPA policy to work with Tribes on a government-to-government basis to enhance environmental protection in Indian

Country and tribal communities. In 1992, Congress passed the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act which authorizes EPA to provide General Assistance Program (GAP) grants to federally-recognized Tribes and tribal consortia for planning, developing, and establishing environmental protection programs in Indian Country, as well as developing and implementing solid and hazardous waste programs on tribal lands. The goal of this program is to assist Tribes in developing the capacity to manage their own environmental protection programs, and to develop and implement solid and hazardous waste programs in accordance with individual tribal needs and applicable federal laws and regulations.

Multi-year work plans will be accepted from current recipients with demonstrated administrative, financial and programmatic capability.

Tribal consortia must submit supporting resolutions from all eligible member Tribes by the final application deadline. Also generally EPA Region 10 intends to award consortia funding based on the number of Tribes that are members of the consortia.

**Important Dates:** GAP Proposal (Work plan and Budget) postmark deadline-**December 30, 2005**. EPA internal review- December 30, 2005 – **February 16, 2006** Project Officer will contact applicant with next steps- no later than **February 17, 2006** Grant awards issued- no later than **September 30, 2006**

### Story Teller Search

A group of Oregon and Washington storytellers and cultural advisors are forming the Northwest Indian Storytellers Association (NISA). Its purpose is to encourage, preserve and strengthen traditional storytelling among tribes in Oregon and Washington. They are especially reaching out to younger generations who want to apprentice in storytelling.

Can you suggest tribal storytellers, oral historians, musicians and other oral cultural artists you think might be interested in attending our upcoming storytellers conference and apprenticeship workshop?

NISA is sponsoring the First Annual Northwest Indian Storytellers Conference and Apprenticeship Workshop on January 5-7, 2006 in Portland, Oregon. Events will include a one-day apprenticeship workshop, one-day storytellers conference, and two public storytelling events hosted by Portland-area tribal and educational organizations. Events will be held at the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University and other venues. A special \$59.00 rate for lodging is being provided by the Mark Spencer Hotel for the weekend of January 5-8.

This project is sponsored by Wisdom of the Elders, Inc., the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University, the Mark Spencer Hotel with funding from National Endowment for the Arts, Multnomah County Cultural Coalition, and Umpqua Bank.

If you are interested please e-mail Elaine Lanegan at [liaison@wisdomoftheelders.org](mailto:liaison@wisdomoftheelders.org) or 503/ 777-7140 for further information.

### **Airline Water**

The EPA has reached settlements with 11 major domestic airlines and 13 smaller airlines to ensure the safety of the drinking water used by their passengers and crew. The settling airlines have agreed to routinely monitor the quality of water on their airplanes. The action came after an EPA investigation of 327 U.S. and foreign flag airlines at 19 airports in 2004 found total coliform contamination in the drinking water in 15 percent of aircraft.

Total coliform is an indicator that other disease-causing organisms could be in the water and could potentially affect people's health. The settlements require the airlines to regularly monitor contamination; and regularly disinfect aircraft water systems and water transfer equipment. The orders also require each airline to study possible sources of contamination from outside of the aircraft.

### **Bottled Water**

It's no secret that many Americans are suspicious of what comes out of their taps. According to surveys, public concern about tap water is part of why sales of bottled water have tripled in the last decade. But are people getting their money's worth?

Not exactly. While many large cities are required to regularly disinfect their water supplies and

test for parasites, bottled-water manufacturers are not.

Those regulations apparently make a difference. In 2000, for example, a study in The Archives of Family Medicine compared 57 samples of bottled water to the tap water in Cleveland and found that while 39 samples of the bottled water were cleaner than tap, more than a dozen had at least 10 times the bacterial levels found in the city's water.

Another study, the Natural Resources Defense Council in 1999, tested more than 1,000 bottles of water sold under 103 brand names. Two-thirds were deemed "good quality," while the other third were contaminated – including many bottles from popular brands, some of which had samples containing "bacterial overgrowth." The Bottom Line: Bottled water is not always purer than tap water.

### **ZENON's UF200 Water**

Through independent testing, ZENON's whole home Homespring UF200 series ultrafiltration systems are now certified to meet EPA's 'Guide Standard and Protocol for Testing Microbial Water Purifiers.' It is the first series of whole home water filtration systems to be certified as a Microbiological Water Purifier. The purifier can be used to treat municipal water and untreated well or lake water. It is the ideal solution for cottages or country homes.

### **Watershed Discussion**

As part of its second Webcast, the EPA Office of Water launched a new online watershed discussion

board. This forum offers watershed protection practitioners and citizens a platform to exchange ideas, so the innovative solutions and ideas can be easily shared in (near) real-time cyberspace. EPA hopes to engage watershed leaders from around the country in these interactive, online discussions. Share your expertise so that others can learn from your experiences. The forum currently includes the following six categories: Discussion Item Titles: 1-Community involvement, 2-Smart Growth/Low Impact Development, 3-Source Water Protection, 4-Stormwater Best Management Practices, 5-Sustainable Financing, 6-Watershed Planning Tools.

Please visit:

[www.epa.gov/owow/waterwshed/forum/forum.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/waterwshed/forum/forum.html) and join in.

Anyone can view the discussion, but one must register to post messages and receive customized updates.

### **Fishy Diesel**

Anchorage, Alaska - Oil cooked out of piscine heads, entrails and skeletons is generating heat and electricity for fish processors on the Aleutian Island of Unalaska. Alaska companies are among the first in the world to use fish oil on a large scale as a cheaper, cleaner burning substitute for diesel fuel.

At Unisea Inc. in Dutch Harbor, thousands of gallons of pollock fish oil are mixed each day with diesel and used to power the seaside plant's electrical generators and boilers. Replacing diesel with fish oil cuts costs as well as harmful emissions such as sulfur and particulates, Unisea

officials said.

“You have to figure the fish oil is equivalent in value to the diesel fuel, so there’s some benefits savings wise and environmentally to doing this” Graves said.

Depending on the fishing season, Unisea generates 4,000 to 15,000 gallons of fish oil a day and uses all of it in house.

The seafood company, one of the largest in the world, also saves on the expensive shipping rates it would otherwise pay to send the fish waste to buyers outside Alaska, such as aquaculture companies who use the oil as fish feed. As the state and other processors research fish oil’s possibilities, Unisea plans to continue burning all of its stock.

### **Environmental Education Grants**

EPA requests proposals for the Environmental Education Grants Program (EEGP). EEGP supports environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop aware and responsible students, teachers, and citizen. \$3 million is expected to be available and 150 awards are anticipated. For info: Diane Berger at 202/564-0451 or [http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants\\_sol2006.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants_sol2006.html)

### **Tribal Agricultural Research**

The Department of Agriculture requests application for the Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program (TCRGP). TCRGP funds investigative and analytical studies and experimentation in the food and agricultural sciences in areas including but not limited to sustainable agriculture, sustainable

forestry, biotechnology, and aquaculture. Tribes must apply through one of the thirty three 1994 Land Grant Institutions. \$998K expected to be available and 20 awards are anticipated. Responses due December 12, 2005. For info: [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fundng/rfas/tribal\\_research.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fundng/rfas/tribal_research.html)

### **NCEH**

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are soliciting interested persons to serve as members on the Community Tribal Subcommittee (CTS) of the NCEH/ATSDR Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC). The BSC is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app.). The Community and Tribal Subcommittee is composed of members of NCEH/ATSDR Board of environmental health issues. For info: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh> or Leslie Campbell at 800/422-8737.

### **Lead Hazards**

The Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Tribe of Maine has a tribal-based environmental protection Web site: <http://www.tbep.net> on products that were developed to educate children and their parents on lead hazards. Feel free to browse and download any of these products. Also look at the Lead Tracker Teachers Manual at: <http://www.tbep.net/LEADTRACKER/index.htm>

### **Composting Programs**

EPA’s latest Tribal Waste Journal focusing on tribal composting programs is now in print and available on EPA’s Web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/pdftxt/twj-4.pdf> The journal highlights tribes that are making great strides in solid waste management through composting. You can read about how these tribes started their composting programs to divert waste, save on waste disposal costs, and nourish land and tradition.

### **NOWRA**

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Inc. (NOWRA) was founded in 1991 by public health and industry specialists to promote the onsite wastewater industry through leadership, education, training, and communication. NOWRA is non-profit and serves all aspects of the industry, including governmental regulatory personnel, installers, field practitioners, suppliers, distributors, engineers, research professionals, designers, consultants, educators, soil scientists, and manufacturers. This site [www.nowra.org](http://www.nowra.org) includes an onsite journal, calendar of industry events, news updates, information about recent conference proceedings, a homeowner’s system guide, and a listing of NOWRA education and training programs.

### **Paper or Plastic**

For an eco-conscious public, the question “paper or plastic” can cause a nervous hesitation. The answer is more complicated than

figuring out the price per ounce of 10 brands of flour and then remembering how much flour is needed for the perfect cake recipe.

Paper bags come from a renewable resource while plastic bags can be made from an infinitesimal amount of material – but if that material is a fossil fuel, does it matter that it is a tiny amount?

Two life cycle studies – from production to disposal – of paper versus plastic bags showed opposite results.

The first study by Franklin Associates: Plastic uses 23 percent less energy than paper, plastic produces 76 percent less solid waste, Plastic contributes 57 percent less air emissions, and Plastic has 96 percent fewer water emissions.

The second study by Ekologik, Chambers Industriteknik: Paper uses 80 percent less energy than plastic, paper contributes 96 percent less to global warming, Paper contributes 52 percent less air emissions, and Paper contributes 29 percent less water emissions.

An analysis of the two studies showed that location and scope of the assessments can result in drastically different conclusions.

Link; American Plastics: [www.americanplasticscouncil.org](http://www.americanplasticscouncil.org)  
American Forest and Paper Association: [www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org)  
Environmental Defense Fund on shopping consciously: [www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?)

### **EPA Paper Recycling**

Increased paper shredding due to identity theft concerns and

privacy laws mandating document shredding is raising concerns among industry and EPA, who say it reduces the quality of recycled paper and could threaten a key agency goal to increase the rate of paper recycling under its Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC).

Paper industry sources say shredding reduces the quality of recycled paper because it cuts paper into pieces so small that it damages the fiber. In addition, shredded paper often contains fragments of plastic, carbon paper and even photographs, which are difficult to remove and detect. Also, shredding paper creates “dust” which has no fiber value and creates housekeeping issues for mills.

One industry source says that while shredded paper is not currently refused by recyclers, paper mills are considering segregating shredded paper and offering less money for shredded paper. “They will continue to buy, but buy at a lower cost,” the source says. “Mills realize this is a growing trend and they are working on ways to deal with it. Right now it’s kind of a nuisance.”

### **Save a Light**

By every U.S. household replacing one incandescent light bulb at home with one that has earned the Energy Star label, the country would save \$600 million in energy bills, save enough energy to light 7 million homes, and prevent greenhouse gas emission equivalent to 1 million cars. Why not change a light bulb?

### **Decision Tool**

In partnership with the EPA and Purdue University, the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN) recently launched an online tool to help local government planners measure the water quality impacts of land-use changes. Specifically, local governments provide information about their location, the proposed land-use change, and the area’s soil, type. Based on community-specific climate data, the Long-Term Hydrologic Impact Assessment (L-THIA) model estimates changes in recharge, runoff, and nonpoint source pollution resulting from proposed development.

As a quick and easy-to-use approach, L-THIA’s results can be used to generate community awareness of potential long-term problems and to support planning aimed at minimizing disturbance of critical areas. L-THIA is also an ideal tool to identify the best location of a particular land use so as to have minimum impact on a community’s natural environment.

L-THIA is available for free on the LGEAN Web site, and users only need an internet browser to use the tool. A downloadable GIS extension is also available for local government officials with ArcView software.

To use L-THIA, visit LGEAN’s *Tools and Resources* at: [www.lgean.org/html/exchange.cfm](http://www.lgean.org/html/exchange.cfm) and select the “Land Use Impacts on Water Quality Model.”

### **Allergens**

More than fifty percent of the U.S. population tested positive to one or more allergens, according

to a large national study. The new findings based on data from the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), shows that 54.3% of individuals aged 6-59 years old had a positive skin test response to at least one of the 10 allergens tested. The highest prevalence rates were for dust mite, rye, ragweed, and cockroach, with 25% of the population testing positive to each allergen. Peanut allergy was the least common, with 9% of the population reacting positively to the food allergen.