

NEWS

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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



LETTER

Vol. XIV No. X

October 1, 2005

Work Shops and Conferences

October 6-7, GAP Training, Anchorage, AK. For information: Santina Gay 907/271-3413

October 6-9, National Indian Education Association 36th Annual Conference, Denver CO. 703/838-2870

October 17-20, Air Toxics Summit, *Seeking Solutions for Our Rural and Urban Communities*, Portland, Oregon. For more information: www.epa.gov/region10/airsummit.htm.

October 24-26, Western Wetland Conference: Collaboration across Boundaries, Denver, CO. For additional information: jkeigley@montana.edu

November 2-3, Tribal Science Symposium, Kah-Nee-Ta, Warm Springs, OR. See below**

November 3-5, American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES), 27th Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC. Cristy Davies 505/765-1052 ext. 108

January 18-19, 2006, QAPPs Training, EPA Seattle, WA. See below****

**Region 10 Tribal
Newsletter is published
monthly at no charge**

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Tribal Science Symposium**

November 2-3, 2005, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, Warm Springs, OR. Warm Springs GeoVisions proudly presents the Region 10 Tribal Science Symposium. Funded by the EPA, this gathering of northwest tribes will seek solutions to environmental challenges. In addition, researchers and grant writers from the Oregon State University will be onsite to discuss with Tribes

either joint or sole research and study grants.

The conference is free of charge. Attendees must submit a pre-registration form by 10/24/05. Onsite registration is available but will not include meals.

For additional info:

www.wsgeovisions.com or contact Susan Guerin 541/325-2058 or sguerin@wsgeovisions.com

QAPPs****

Training: to prepare and review QAPPs that are consistent with the new Uniform Federal Policy for **Quality Assurance Project Plans**, document the Systematic Planning Process, use the graded approach, and support the generation/ collection of defensible environmental data of known and documented quality appropriate for their intended use.

The curriculum is presented through the integrated use of technical lectures, group projects,

and computer exercises.

Cost: Tuition Free (each student is responsible for their own travel/per diem costs).

On-line Registration: <http://www.epa.gov/quality/gapps.html>

Brownfield Conference

This uniquely-designed conference sponsored by EPA, Region 8, Nov. 2-4 (Denver, CO) will feature environmental issues facing the west including tribal brownfields, mining sites, watershed issues, and rural community issues. For free online registration and information: <http://www.brownfields2005.org>

ICEHAP

Indian Country Environmental Hazard Assessment Project (ICEHAP). This free course is presented by volunteers and is available upon request. The volunteers will come to you and participants will learn methods for

identifying and assessing environmental health hazards in the home, workplace, and community. The goal of ICEHAP is to introduce participants to specific environmental problems that may cause harm to tribal communities. Participants will learn methods for identifying and assessing environmental health hazards in the home, workplace, and community.

With the information provided, participants will be able to prioritize environmental problems and identify available resources for their resolution. A model will be presented to illustrate how a community-based approach can be taken to successfully solve a community environmental health problem. For more: Contact Harvard School of Public Health, Attn: Barbara Blanchard, 677 Hunington Ave., CCPE-Dept A, Boston MA 02115-6096 or 617/384-8687, or bblancha@hsph.harvard.edu

Northwest Restoration

Pullman, Washington October 28-30, 2005: The Inland Northwest Grassroots Restoration Coalition (INGRC) was formed in November 2004 to promote native plant and habitat restoration in the Inland Northwest, and to build a network of people, organizations and companies involved in restoration. The 2005 conference will be INGRC's first major endeavor. INGRC had its beginning at a bunchgrass restoration workshop at the November 2004 Tith Sustainable Agriculture Conference in Portland, Oregon. The goals of the conference are to: 1-Provide a

forum for people to share their restoration experiences, 2-Build an ongoing, collaborative network, 3-Explore how restoration can make farms and ranches more economically viable, 4-Educate the public. Info: <http://organic.tfrec.wsu.edu/Temp/RestorationConference05.htm>

SDS

Indian Health Service Web-based Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS). The Indian Health Service selects tribal drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste construction projects for funding every year from their SDS list. This list is accessible on the internet at <https://wstars.ih.gov> through a public login. To review a list of tribal projects on the SDS list, including their relative ranking, select an IHS Area and run a report of the SDS on-line listing. If you know of a tribal infrastructure need that should be included on the SDS list, but is not, contact your local IHS Office of Environmental Health to learn how the list is updated for your tribe.

Smart Growth Assistance

The Development, Community and Environment Division in U.S. EPA's Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation is seeking applications from communities that want to develop ways to meet environmental community goals. A team of multidisciplinary experts will provide technical assistance to communities that are selected. For more: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sg_implementation.htm or call

Mary Kay (Santore) Bailey at 202/566-2859.

Smart Growth Free

Membership in the Smart Growth Network (SGN) is now free! Now, anyone interested in smart growth can join SGN, and receive the bi-monthly newsletter Getting Smart!, participate in discussions on the SGN members listserv, get tips and useful information from the SGN Information Hotline, and get access to the members section of the SGN Web site, Smart Growth Online. For more: <http://www.smartgrowth.org>

Tribes Grant Opportunity

EPA, states, territories, and tribes are working together to develop a nation wide Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is an Internet and standards based, secure information network that facilitates the electronic reporting, sharing, integration, analysis, and use of environmental data from many different sources. The Exchange Network will make it easier to obtain the timely, accurate information needed to make decisions concerning human health and natural environment.

The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states, territories, tribes, and tribal consortia to help them develop the information management and information technology (IM/IT) capabilities they need to participate in the Exchange Network.

All 50 states and a number of tribes and territories have

participated in developing the Exchange Network at some level.

Information about the Exchange Network Grant Program is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/grants/index.html>.

Wetlands and Riparian Areas

The EPA recently published National Management Measures to Protect and Restore Wetlands and Riparian Areas for the Abatement of Nonpoint Source Pollution. The guidance provides background information about NPS pollution, including where it comes from and how it enters the nation's waters; discusses the broad concept of assessing and addressing water quality problems on a watershed level; and presents recent technical information about how certain types of NPS pollution can be reduced effectively through the implementation of these management measures. For more: <http://epa.gov/owow/nps/wetmeasures>

Watershed Discussion Board

The EPA Office of Water recently launched a new online Watershed Discussion Board. This forum offers watershed protection practitioners and citizens a platform to exchange ideas, so that 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, on-line discussions to share their expertise so that others can learn from their experiences. For more: <http://epa.gov/owow/watershed/forum/forum.html>

Watershed Forum R10

The Watershed Forum is an interactive platform for watershed groups and others to pose questions and share info, lessons learned, success stories, etc. Participants can view the discussion threads, but they must register to post message. There are currently the following seven categories (although users can suggest new ones): 1-Community Involvement, 2-Invasive Species, 3-Growth/Low Impact Development, 4-Watershed Planning Tools, 5-Source Water Protection, 6-Stormwater Best Management Practices, and 7-Sustainable Financing. Site: <http://wpa.gov/watershedforum>

Conservation Handbook

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), in cooperation with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), has produced a revised and expanded version of The Conservation Easement Handbook, a resource for land conservation professionals developing a conservation easement program to meet local acquisition needs. A significant new addition to the handbook is guidance specifically for public agency program staff working with conservation easements. To order: <http://www.lta.org/publications/CEHorder.htm>

Watershed Handbook

A new EPA handbook released addresses questions about managing pollution runoff, increasing wildlife habitat and controlling invasive species in the nation's estuaries. "*Community-Based Watershed*

Management: Lessons from the National Estuary Program" focuses on estuaries, and its principles and examples are relevant to any organization involved in watershed management. The handbook describes innovative approaches developed and conducted by the 28 National Estuary Programs, which are community-based watershed-management organizations that restore and protect coastal watersheds. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries>

Grants and Loans

The Western Regional Office Web site includes lots of useful funding information. For monthly summaries of funding opportunities and other funding resources: http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/western/financial_opps.html

Funding Resources Guide

The Rural Information Center (RIC) - part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library; has information about community and economic development, water quality, and technology transfer, as well as other topics of interest to those in rural areas.

RIC's Guide to funding Resources provides an overview of the funding process. The site also includes links to searchable databases offering funding opportunities from government and private sources to local governments, community organizations, and individuals. The site also has links to more than 60 full-text on line guides,

manuals, and tips to help grant-writers prepare successful proposals. More info: www.nal.usda.gov/ric//ricpubs/funding/fundguide.html

TISNET

Turtle Island Storytellers Network, the online speaker's bureau for talented Native American historians, storytellers, song carriers and artists, is now online!

The purpose of Turtle Island Storytellers Network is to create speaking and consulting opportunities for gifted American Indian oral historians and cultural artists during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and beyond. Our website opened in April 2005, and by September, it will include 80 individual web pages of talented tribal presenters from tribes in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio and Indiana. Each web page will include a summary of the speaker's background and tribal heritage, an audio file with transcript, photographs, and the individual's contact information. Our project is funded by National Endowment for the Arts, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail at National Park Service, and Wisdom of the Elders, Inc.

Turtle Island Storytellers Network is at the following link: <http://www.turtleislandstorytellers.net> For info: tisnet@wisdomoftheelders.org or by phone at 503/777-7140. You can also check out the radio website at: www.wisdomoftheelders.org

Native Youth Magazine
Mary Kim Titla, a broadcast journalist and motivational speaker with three children, started the site after research told their that youth were interested in online general lifestyle magazine that included information on everything from music to sports to youth events. nativeyouthmagazine.com

Region 10 Obesity

Health care experts and policymakers note increasing worry about America's growing waistline. Obesity rates are rising among most groups, including elementary and high school students, as are the percentages of people with obesity-related illnesses.

Weight gain generally results from an energy imbalance over time: eating too many calories and engaging in too little physical activity.

According to the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, being overweight or obese increases the risk of developing about three dozen diseases, including diabetes and heart disease.

	% Obese	% Diabetic	Medical Cost Ea.
AK	23.7	4.2	\$301
ID	20.8	6.1	\$231
OR	21.2	6.6	\$219
WA	22.2	6.4	\$217

Alaska showed a 1.5% increase, Idaho showed a 7.4% increase, Washington showed a 1% increase in percentage of weight gains over the past three years. Oregon showed no increase.

The body mass index, or BMI is

a common measure expressing the ratio of weight to height.

BMI = weight in pounds; divided by height in inches squared; multiplied by multiplied by 703. Adults with a BMI of 25 to 29.9 are considered overweight. Those with a BMI of 30 or higher are considered obese.

An online calculator is at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/bmi/calcbmi.htm>

EPA Ethical Safeguards

(Washington, D.C.-September 7, 2005) EPA today proposed a rule that will establish stringent enforceable ethical safeguards governing the conduct of third-party intentional dosing research with human subjects. Among other new ethical protections, EPA proposes to prohibit all new third-party intentional dosing research on pesticides with children and pregnant women intended for submission to EPA, and announced a categorical ban that EPA will neither conduct nor support any intentional dosing studies that involve pregnant women or children.

"We are pursuing a rigorous set of protections for human research participants," said Susan B. Hazen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator in EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances. "EPA believes that regulatory decisions should be supported by the best scientific information. We should consider human data only if that information has been developed with the foremost goal of providing protections for research participants. We want to send a

clear signal to the public that unethical research should never be conducted and will not be accepted by EPA."

This rule is intended to ensure that people who volunteer for third-party pesticide studies involving exposure to humans are treated ethically, with full disclosure as to potential risks. These regulations from EPA are designed to strongly discourage and prevent the conduct of human studies that do not meet the highest ethical and scientific standards. In addition, the protections in the proposed rule are consistent with the recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, the nation's foremost scientific review body.

Beach Closings

EPA's most recent data on beach closing and advisories show that only four percent of beach days were lost in 2004 due to advisories or closures triggered by monitoring for bacteria. Most of the closures were relatively short in duration. More than 2,700 closings were two days or less, and only 59 closings lasted more than 30 days.

The number of beaches monitored has more than tripled - 3,574 in 2004, compared with 1,021 in 1997, the first year EPA began collecting beach monitoring program data. Of the beaches reported to EPA in 2004, 942, or 26 percent, had at least one advisory or closing during the 2004 season.

Trust e-Bulletin

The Safe Drinking Water Trust e-Bulletin is a free resource on security, regulations, and safe and efficient operation of small water and wastewater plants.

Subscribers receive a free e-mail bulletin every three weeks containing informational articles on practical subjects, written in plain English. The *e-Bulletin* contains articles on different security and regulatory issues and provides tools about financial, managerial, and technical capacity.

Readers may request free technical assistance or ask questions about a variety of topics, including vulnerability assessments, regulations, or the operation and maintenance of their facilities.

The *e-Bulletin* and Safe Drinking Water Trust are programs of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. Info: www.watertrust.org

Fuel Economy

The EPA announced in its annual findings that the estimated average fuel economy for 2005 model year vehicles was 21 miles per gallon, a fleet wide average that increased 0.2 miles per gallon from the previous year.

It was 5 percent below the peak of 22.1 mpg in 1987. Since 1997, the fleet-wide average for U.S. automakers' light-duty vehicles has remained fairly consistent, ranging between 20.6 mpg and 21 mpg.

The fuel economy for cars remained unchanged for the third-straight year at 24.7 mpg. Light trucks which include pickups,

SUVs and minivans, improved to 18.2 mpg, the highest average since the late 1980s.

Honda led the automakers with a fleet average of 25.1 mpg, followed by Toyota Motor Corp, with 23.5 mpg. Ford Motor Co. posted the lowest average at 19.5 mpg, but that represented an increase of 0.4 mpg over the previous model year.

Community Planning Summit

The Community Planning Collaborative Summit (CPC) is a first-of-a-kind venue for the sharing and exchange of knowledge about tools for community design and decision making. It will be held on October 27-30, 2005 in Orlando, FL. The purpose of CPC is to explore how computer-based and non-technical public participation visioning and planning tools can improve land use planning and everyday decision making in communities.

Attendees of this event will: Witness the application of a wide range of tools for land use planning, Gain hands-on experience using a host of decision support tools including visualization, scenario building and public participation tools, Share knowledge with experts around the country about tools and techniques for better community planning, Have an opportunity to sign up for training on the use of tools you will see applied. More at: http://www.lgean.org/html/conferences_detail.cfm?id=826.

Parkinson's & Pesticides

Parkinson's disease is the second most common age-related

neurodegenerative disorder, and its causes and mechanisms are still unknown. Epidemiological studies suggest a greater risk with pesticide exposure. Paraquat is an herbicide of particular interest because of its structural similarities with MPTP, a known neurotoxicant that produces Parkinson-like symptoms. A study used PC12 cells, a rat dopaminergic response relationship. The findings suggested that paraquat may be an environmental health concern and identified a nerve pathway that may play an important role in the mechanisms of dopaminergic, cell death in Parkinson's disease.

(From a study by Heather M. Klintoworth, MS Toxicology)

ALASKA

Alaska to Seek NPDES Primacy: EPA Region 10 has responsibility for administering the NPDES program for the State of Alaska, including issuing and enforcing wastewater discharge permits. On August 22, 2005, the State of Alaska's Governor, Frank H. Murkowski, signed Senate Bill 110 (SB 100) into law authorizing the State to pursue primacy for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater discharge permitting and compliance program established under the Clean Water Act. In accordance the new State law, the State of Alaska (Department of Environmental Conservation) must submit its primacy application to EPA by

July 1, 2006. EPA has the responsibility of making the final delegation determination in accordance with the Clean Water Act and its associated regulatory program approval requirements. Once EPA approves the proposed program, authority to administer the NPDES program will be delegated to the State. For more information see EPA's Region 10 EPA Office of Water Website:

[http://
yosemite.epa.gov/r10/WATER.NS
F/NPDES+Permits/AKPrimacy](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/WATER.NSF/NPDES+Permits/AKPrimacy)