

Threats to Medical Plants Discussed

Adapted from the Associated Press, Bill Bergstrom

Herbal shampoo and medicine makers could learn something from American Indians about harvesting medicinal and aromatic plants without endangering some vanishing and valuable species.

“American Indians gathering plants for herbal remedies take only those they need, and utter songs and chants lamenting the sacrifice and affirming that the plants are being harvested to relieve suffering,” said Tis Mal Crow of Speedwell, Tennessee, a Western Band Cherokee healer. “From any one area we limit the amount taken. They are taken only at certain times of year,” Crow said. That’s in contrast with some commercial harvesters who, he said, “go in there with bulldozers and clear off whole hillsides.”

Crow is one of 10 members of a Native American Elder Circle who take part in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Medicinal Plant Working Group, which discusses ways to protect threatened plants. The group also includes representatives from industry, government, academia, and environmental organizations.

“Plants that our grandfathers’ grandfathers respected and protected for future generations are no longer available to us,” said Crow, author of *Native Plants, Native Healing*. He spoke recently at a symposium the working group helped organize on Industrial Leadership for the Preservation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

North American environments from alpine tundra to prairie grasslands, coastal salt marshes and tropical rain forests have some 20,000 plant species, the working

group reported in December 2000. At least 175 species are marketed for use in over-the-counter remedies and supplements in the \$3 billion U.S. medicinal herb market.

Many plants are collected from the wild in large quantities. For example, about 65 million goldenseal plants and 34 million ginseng plants a year have been harvested from eastern U.S. forests in recent years, according to the report.

The two-day symposium included pharmaceutical, cosmetic, vitamin and herbal product makers; academics; farmers; and government representatives.

“We are interested in creating partnerships with as diverse a group as possible and bringing together as many interest groups as possible,” said Julie Lyke, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist.

Some plants are plentiful enough to harvest without concern, said Michael McGuffin, president of the American Herbal Products Association, a Silver Spring, Maryland, trade group.

“Saw palmetto is harvested in the wild but it’s estimated that there are 4 million acres of it,” McGuffin said. “Black cohosh is one we are concerned about. The root is the part used. End of plant.”

One presentation involved some successful efforts to cultivate black cohosh, an eight-foot perennial with stems and roots used to treat menstrual and digestive problems and rheumatism. But plants such as goldenseal root, often used in combination with vitamin C; American ginseng,

marketed as an energizer and immune stimulant; and echinacea, also sold as an immune stimulant, are considered at risk of extinction, Crow and McGuffin said. “Herbal product manufacturers’ demand for plants can end up preserving natural habitats, such as rain forests,” said Dominique N. Conseil, president of Aveda, a maker of plant-based shampoos, cleansers, and cosmetics.

Conseil said that can be the result if companies show local people how to harvest herbal products that are more profitable than logging or clearing the land for other uses. “Communities need to have a source of revenue. It’s about developing a source of revenue that preserves the wild,” Conseil said. “If they can make a living from the environment without destroying it, when that works, it’s ideal.”

For some plants, the effort comes too late. Of 200 species discovered by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their expedition of 1803 through 1806, it isn’t known if 30 percent still exist,” said Ara DerMarderosian, a professor of pharmacognosy, the study of drugs from natural sources, at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. “One of the working group’s goals is to catalog American plants,” DerMarderosian noted. “We hope they are still there. There’s a lot of places you’ll go and find a parking lot.”

Tribal Strategic Plan

EPA Finds Toxins in Columbia River Fish

Adapted from "EPA Finds Toxins in Columbia River Fish, Tribal Commission Requests Study," KOIN News, Portland, Oregon, and "EPA Study Finds High Toxic Levels in Fish," KTVB News, Boise, Idaho.

While supporting the requests of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, EPA tested river fish in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and results showed that higher-than-normal levels of DDT and PCBs were present in sturgeon and whitefish. Zinc concentrations were above normal levels in Coho salmon, and low levels of arsenic and mercury showed up in sturgeon, smelt, and suckers.

EPA tested for 131 different chemicals, and 281 samples were taken.

Because of the subsistence lifestyles of most Native Americans, tribal members reportedly eat 48 times more fish than non-tribal people. EPA estimated that a 70-year-old tribal member on a regular diet of fish is 50 times more likely to get cancer than the average American.

EPA Authorizes Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Lead-Based Paint Program

On October 15, 2001, EPA Region 6 authorized the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's Lead-Based Paint Activities Training and Certification program. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma will implement and enforce its lead-based paint activities training and certification program in lieu of the federal program on Cherokee Nation Tribal Trust lands in Oklahoma. With this authorization, the tribe administers and enforces its training and certification requirements, training program accreditation requirements, and work practice standards for lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities under Section 402 of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The tribe is the first Tribal Nation in Region 6 to apply for and receive such authorization for a lead-based paint activities program.

For more information, visit <http://www.cherokee.org/Services/CommDevLead.asp>

A National Conference on Biological Variability

On March 3-6, 2002, the University of Maryland College Park hosted a National Conference on Biological Variability in Children and Implications for Environmental Risk Assessment – New Perspectives on the Roles of Ethnicity, Race, and Gender. The conference was held at the University of Maryland Inn and Conference Center. Featured at the conference were nationally and internationally recognized scientists and experts brought together to present, discuss, and evaluate environmental health issues as they relate to biological diversity between children. The conference supported six workshops, including environmental risk assessment in children; survey models and methods; geographic information systems; social construction of ethnicity, race, and gender; DNA sequencing and genetic profiling; and bioethics and human variability. The conference also focused on the emerging body of evidence showing biological variability and susceptibility between children from different ethnic, racial, and gender groups and its impact on environmental risk assessment. Finally, conference attendees participated in four plenary sessions on biodiversity and susceptibility; ethnicity, race, and gender and environmental risk; implications for environmental risk assessment; and new models and methods for assessing risks.

For more information on conference proceedings, please visit www.epaumdconf.umd.edu.

National Forum for Health Care Providers

On September 9-11, 2002, the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF) and EPA will host the National Forum for Health Care Providers in Washington, DC. Over 150 participants are expected to attend, including health care providers, stakeholders, and key decision-makers from various agencies and organizations. The forum will highlight a strategic plan of action showcasing pesticides as a model for other environmental health issues. In addition, this Forum will highlight projects that NEETF and OPP have collaborated on through a cooperative agreement. For more information, please contact Sallie Fields, U.S. EPA, at 703-305-5391 or fields.sallie@epa.gov.



News & Events

Lead Health Education Conference

The 2002 National Lead Health Education Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia February 11-14, 2002. The conference was co-sponsored by EPA, CDC, HUD, and ATSDR. More than 300 lead health educators and grantees attended the event. The purpose of the conference was to provide a forum for sharing critical lead education information and developing skills to build capacity and strengthen lead education in childhood lead poisoning prevention programs nationwide. A special pre-conference meeting was held for tribal members to discuss lead issues in Indian country. The National Indian Health Board provided stipends (thru a grant from EPA) for 20 tribal members to attend the lead conference. Presentations on lead health education were provided during the conference by members from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Walker River Paiute Tribe, and the Penobscot Indian Nation.

Fourth Annual Cortina Environmental Youth Campout in May 2002

Cortina Indian Rancheria hosted the fourth Annual Youth Environmental Campout on May 17-19, 2002 at Lake Berryessa Boy Scout Camp, near Winters, California. The first campout was in 1999, as the tribe came to understand the importance of reaching its youth and encouraging them to play a part in preserving the sacred trust of our lands. The tribe's hope is to encourage an understanding of the cultural and spiritual aspects of the environment and inspire youth of area tribes to get involved in the sciences. For more information, contact the Cortina Rancheria Wintun EPA at 530-473-3318 or corwepa@hotmail.com.



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Model Lab Created by Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

The Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians in Coachella, California has developed a state-accredited environmental laboratory that has been providing a much-needed service to tribes throughout southern California and beyond. The lab, which has separate departments for microbiology, organic and inorganic chemistry and pesticides analysis, includes an aggressive quality assurance program to ensure accuracy and integrity. The tribe also has signed a resolution that designates all funds received from laboratory analysis to be redirected to the environmental program for further development and implementation of the tribe's environmental programs. The tribe's leadership in the laboratory and quality assurance arenas has made a positive contribution to protecting the environment. Under the leadership of tribal EPA Coordinator Marshall Cheung, the Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians Laboratory has become a model facility.

Last year, the model laboratory was honored with an award from EPA Region 9 as part of its 2001 Pacific Southwest Environmental Awards Ceremony in San Francisco.

Earth Day 2002 — April 22!

On April 22, 2002, EPA recognized Earth Day, a day that was started as a national movement to correct decades of environmental damage. President Bush recently announced the Clear Skies proposal that will significantly reduce air pollution across our country, improve the health of our families, especially children, and reduce haze and smog in our cities and national parks. Of course, Earth Day is only a reminder of the commitment we have as stewards of the environment all year long. For more information on Earth Day activities across the nation, please visit www.epa.gov/earthday.

“Every Day is Earth Day for American Indians”

Native American Sacred Lands Forum

Toby McLeod, Sacred Land Film Project of Earth Island Institute

There are many places across America that are holy to native people. These sacred places are critical to the revitalization and continuity of hundreds of living cultures. Individuals and organizations who have been active in the movement to protect sacred lands are as diverse as the sites and the communities who tend them. Over time – as with many movements for social change – actions have come about as a result of renewed partnerships and catalytic events, such as critical threats to a particular area, new legislation, or the infusion of new resources. It can be said that the recent release of the documentary film, “In the Light of Reverence,” has helped provide a needed spark to re-energize this important movement. The film is a catalyst for dialogue, and dialogue can lead to action. Individuals and organizations – some new to the cause and some part of the original movement to amend the American Indian Religious Freedom Act – have come together to form an ad hoc “planning committee” with the goal of focusing attention on a pressing issue in Indian country. This pressing issue remains as there exists no comprehensive, effective policy to preserve and protect sacred lands and resources.

In April 2001, Seventh Generation Fund convened the Sacred Earth Conference in Seattle, Washington. Four hundred individuals and organizations gathered to share their perspective on the movement to protect sacred lands and to tell stories of places lost, saved, and threatened.

In August 2001, “In the Light of Reverence” aired nationally on PBS and provided a wake-up call to the general public about the

destruction of sacred lands. Three million people watched the film.

In October 2001, a Native American Sacred Lands Forum was held in Boulder and Denver, Colorado to develop a new strategy for sacred lands protection. The planning committee for the Forum included federal agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. All federally-recognized tribes in the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana were invited, as the Forum was co-hosted by U.S. EPA Region 8 and the National Resources Law Center of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Participants in the Sacred Land Forum helped draft a resolution that was passed at the National Congress of American Indians annual meeting in Spokane, Washington in November 2001. Titled “Sacred Lands Protection, including Zuni Salt Lake and the Quechan Indian Pass,” resolution called for the creation of a Sacred Lands Protection Coalition, including but not limited to tribal representatives, NCAI, Native American Rights Fund, Seventh Generation Fund and the Association on American Indian Affairs.

Attention is now shifting to Washington, DC. and the east coast, and the planning committee has grown significantly. Ad hoc and grass roots in nature, the planning committee is inclusive and open. The central focus will be to launch and support the Sacred Lands Protection Coalition called for by the NCAI resolution, to develop educational tools and other strategies, to build a monument and lay the foundation for the expansion of the Coalition, to get publicity for

threatened sites, and to make protecting sacred lands a Congressional priority once again.

The planning committee planned the founding meeting of the Coalition on March 19, 2002, in Washington, DC. This was an opportunity for tribal leaders to step forward and shape the goals and strategies of the Sacred Land Protection Coalition. The planning committee will also work towards the following:

- Connecting native people who attend the founding meeting of the Coalition with land managers, agency representatives, members of Congress, and staff
- Linking Coalition members with media to help gain national recognition
- Arranging for the delegation to meet with Senators Inouye and Campbell, Representative Rahall and Hansen, and Congressional staff to discuss language of proposed legislation and to request both oversight hearings and hearings of any proposed legislation.

A second meeting took place in Washington, DC, during the week of May 13-16, 2002. At this second meeting, the planning committee continued the process with a coalition meeting, a policy summit between tribal leaders and federal officials, and possibly Congressional hearings.

For more information, please contact Toby McLeod, Sacred Land Film Project, Earth Image Films, P.O. Box C-151, La Honda, California, 94020, 650-747-0685, 650-747-0750 (fax), eif@igc.or, or www.sacredland.org.



OPP Works with CTAG and Looks for Tribal Involvement

The Certification and Training Assessment Group (CTAG) is a consortium of professionals promoting the safe and effective use of pesticides through education, testing and licensing, and enforcement. CTAG was formed in 1997 to undertake an in depth study of the pesticide applicator certification and training program. The mission of CTAG is to facilitate change in the national pesticide applicator certification and training program.

CTAG has made a number of accomplishments to improve the national pesticide applicator certification and training program. For example, to provide a road map for change, CTAG issued a January 1999 draft report entitled “Pesticide Safety for the 21st Century — The Findings and Proposals of the Certification and Training Assessment Group,” which was distributed for stakeholder review and comment. In this report, CTAG proposed major changes to the national certification and training program, including changes to FIFRA, the 40 CFR 171 regulations, EPA and USDA activities, and activities in conjunction with states, tribes, and territories. Also, CTAG, EPA, and Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency are collaborat-

ing on a pesticide applicator core exam project that will result in a professional exam of core knowledge principles for all first-time candidates testing for pesticide applicator certification.

In addition, a CTAG certification and training plan workgroup has made substantial progress on the development of a draft, certification, and training plan template to support the collection, maintenance, and review of required plan components, applicator number reporting requirements, reciprocity agreements, and access to additional program information. The CTAG workgroup on pesticide safety is now drafting proposals to integrate their worker protection standard program into the certification and training program and to establish measures that could be taken throughout the lifetime of a pesticide product that would increase security of pesticides and application equipment.

For more information on CTAG, please visit <http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/>. Any CTAG Board member also may be contacted for further information at <http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/board.html>. Simply click on a Board member’s name for the appropriate e-mail address.

CTAG membership consists of representatives from EPA Headquarters and regional offices, Pesticide State Lead Agencies, University Cooperative Extension, the Armed Forces Pest Management Board, the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials, and the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators, as well as representatives of government pesticide programs in Canada and Mexico. Tribal representatives who have been active in CTAG in the past are invited to participate in this effort.

The CTAG Board has invited the TPPC to consider naming a representative to the board; the TPPC is considering this request.

The staff of *OPPTS Tribal News* would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a comment we received regarding the article “Recent Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreaks at Home and Worldwide,” published on page 16 in the Summer/Fall 2001 issue. The title and opening paragraph of this article were misleading and supported possible misconceptions. Several potential cases of foot-and-mouth disease had been reported in the U.S. However, no confirmed foot-and-mouth disease cases have been recorded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If there are comments, suggestions, or updates to articles published in our newsletter, please contact Mary Lauterbach, EPA OPPT, with the appropriate information at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7408M), Washington, DC 20460, lauterbach.mary@epa.gov.

EPA's OPPTS and Design for the Environment Sponsor an All Nations Tribal College Workshop

By Kirk J. Laflin, PETE

EPA's OPPTS and Design for the Environment (DfE) sponsored an "All Nations Tribal College Environmental Program Capacity Building" workshop on November 1-2, 2001 at Highline Community College in Des Moines, WA. The overall objective of this workshop was to review the original DfE Tribal college initiative, "All Nations Environmental Consortium Concept Paper," developed by Tribal Colleges in cooperation with Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE). This concept paper was created to provide tribal environmental programs with timely, comprehensive, environmental capacity building and technical assistance that benefits all tribal nations by utilizing the tribal college system.

The November 2001 workshop was coordinated by PETE, Northwest PETE, and the Advanced Technology Environmental Technology Education Center. As a result of this workshop, attendees were able to identify alternative plans for environmental programs that are cost effective, easily sustained, and meet the immediate needs of the colleges and their respective communities.

The All Nations Tribal College Environmental Program continues to focus on promoting pollution prevention programs that provide environmental and human health protection to American Indian and the Alaskan/Hawaiian Native American communities. To accomplish this objective, an All Nations Tribal & Native American College Environmental & Natural

Resource Assistance Consortium (ANTNA - ENRAC) will be created to establish the framework that implements the plan outlined in the workshop summary. ANTNA - ENRAC also will address multi-media environmental education enhancements and support for tribal colleges and Native American educators, including improvements in solid waste, hazardous waste, air and water quality, pollution prevention, and toxic reduction (lead, asbestos, PBT's, etc.) programs.

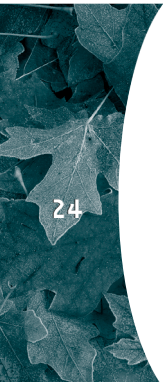
Many of the 33 recognized tribal colleges have environmental programs at the certificate, associate, and bachelor degree level, and tribal colleges have all created lasting partnerships to collaborate on common issues and concerns in the areas of science, mathematics, engineering, technology (SMET), and environmental initiatives. However, a need still exists for an adequate level of funding for development of an All Nations Tribal and Native American Environmental & Natural Resources College network that will meet the growing needs of American Indian and the Alaskan/Hawaiian Native American communities.

Finally, tribal colleges are a critical link in creating long-term



capacity building in educational and environmental programs in tribal communities, as well as comprehensive education and job skills. Tribal colleges have a variety of systems/models in place to address these initiatives that include traditional credit and non-credit courses, continuing education courses/workshops, research projects, distance learning capabilities (satellite up-link and down-link), and experience in Web Computer-Based Training course development and delivery.

For more information, contact Kirk J. Laflin, CET, Executive Director, Partnership for Environmental Technology Education, at 2 Fort Road, South Portland, Maine 04106, 207-767-2539, 207-767-7174 (fax), natlpete@smtc.net.



OMB Directs Agencies and Departments to Publish and Implement Information Quality Guidelines This Fall

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently developing Information Quality Guidelines in response to an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guideline directing all federal agencies to develop and implement their own guidelines by October 1, 2002 (67 Federal Register 8451, February 22, 2002).

OMB's authority was provided in a legislative "rider" to the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554). Section 515 of the Act, sometimes referred to as the "Data Quality Act," directed OMB to issue government-wide guidelines that provide policy and procedural guidance to federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information ...disseminated by federal agencies." More specifically, OMB directed all federal agencies and departments to do the following:

- Develop and implement agency-specific information quality guidelines by October 1, 2002
- Adopt a basic standard of quality as a performance goal and incorporate the standard into Agency operations
- Develop a process for reviewing the quality of information before it is disseminated
- Establish administrative mechanisms for affected persons to request correction of information that may not comply with Agency guidelines, and
- Report annually to OMB the number and nature of complaints received regarding EPA's compliance with the guidelines and how complaints were resolved, beginning January 1, 2004.

In accordance with the OMB guidelines, EPA embarked on developing Information Quality Guidelines in January 2002. This effort is being lead by EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI). The OMB guidelines directed all federal agencies to make draft guidelines available for public comment on or before May 1, 2002. EPA posted draft Information Quality Guidelines on the EPA Web site

www.epa.gov/oei/quality_guidelines on April 30, 2002. On May 1, 2002, EPA opened a 30-day public comment period. Information on how to submit comments is also provided on the Web site.

An OEI co-lead of this effort and other workgroup members are planning to attend the 6th Annual National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management being held in Nevada on June 4-7 to discuss the information quality guidelines and the potential impact they may have on the information disseminated by EPA that is received from tribes. In addition, EPA would like to conduct a conference call with appropriate tribal representatives to discuss the EPA Information Quality Guidelines in June. If you are interested in participating in that conference call, please send an e-mail to quality.guidelines@epa.gov or call Evangeline Cummings at 202-566-0621.

OPPT Awards a Cooperative Agreement to the National Tribal Environmental Council

On January 18, 2002, EPA's OPPT awarded the Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA) Cooperative Agreement for 2002-2007 to the joint partnership of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) of Washington, DC, and the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In carrying out the agreement, ECOS-NTEC will make a concerted effort to promote state and tribal issues, perspectives, and concerns on OPPT's environmental programs. ECOS-NTEC also will use their capabilities to boost the recruitment of additional senior state and tribal health and environmental officials; promote and expand FOSTTA's visibility, interactions, and deliberations with all states and federally recognized tribes; increase the states and tribes viability as an active partner with EPA; and elevate discussions to policy-oriented issues and innovative environmental practices.

FOSTTA Tribal Affairs Project Accomplishments

In 2001, FOSTTA Tribal Affairs Project (TAP) continued to focus on chemical and prevention issues most relevant to the tribes. TAP participated in three meetings held in October and June in Washington, D.C., and in February at EPA's Region 8 Office in Denver, Colorado. At the meetings, TAP conducted discussions with EPA to explore potential mechanisms to protect sensitive and confidential tribal data from public reporting requirements, assisted with the

development of the OPPTS Tribal Strategy by identifying and prioritizing areas where focus should be placed over the next several years, held a risk assessment forum to examine how traditional risk assessments are being modified or need to be modified to incorporate tribal-specific risks, facilitated a lead-based paint forum with EPA and HUD officials to discuss lead program perspectives, and provided suggestions on OPPT's Subsistence Lifestyle initiative.

In response to two issues that continue to be of concern for tribes, in 2001, TAP developed papers summarizing lead-based paint and asbestos issues in Indian country. TAP also prepared a letter supporting the POPs Treaty. TAP plans to send the issue papers and letter to OPPT.

TAP, OPPT, the regions, and the National Indian Work Group were successful in increasing tribal representation in FOSTTA from nine EPA regions with federally recognized tribes. Fifteen 15 representatives participated in the June 2001 meeting. By the end of 2001, seven primary representatives were recruited, bringing the membership total to ten primary and two alternate representatives. In 2001, the largest number of tribal representatives ever participated in FOSTTA.

In 2001, FOSTTA and OPPT continued its partnership with the state and tribal leaders to increase understanding and improve collaboration on toxics and pollution prevention issues among the states, tribes, and EPA. Much of the focus was on implementing a



Dr. William H. Sanders, III, OPPT, Office Director, featured in an OPPTS Tribal Strategy video clip.

redesign of FOSTTA. In doing so, OPPT created the new Chemical Information and Management Project (CIMP) composed mostly of new members to focus on EPA's ChemRTK program. CIMP is working to develop a more coordinated effort involving federal, state, and tribal agencies. The Pollution Prevention Project, the Office of Environmental Information's Toxics Release Inventory Project, and the Tribal Affairs Project will remain essentially unchanged. OPPT is using a more policy-oriented framework in FOSTTA for addressing chemical concerns and prevention opportunities. The agenda items address broader policy issues with the intention of shaping new policy and program directions, rather than merely communicating earlier determinations. OPPT is also adding senior state and tribal members to ensure that a wide range of informed, diverse, and experienced views are represented. OPPT also has designated EPA senior managers as leads for its projects. The individuals are working with other office personnel and the project members to develop agenda, facilitate meetings, and pursue activities associated with FOSTTA's deliberations.

Resources, Programs, and Conferences

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA)

Tribal Affairs Project (TAP) Position Statement – November 2001

The Tribal Affairs Project (TAP) of the Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA) would like to express support for the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) treaty signed into existence on May 23, 2001, in Stockholm, Sweden, by 98 countries and regional organizations.

The 12 initial POPs are aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, toxaphene, polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs), hexachlorobenzene, dioxins, and furans. Nine of these are pesticides. PCBs are industrial chemicals and dioxins and furans are industrial byproducts. Human activity causes POPs to enter the environment. POPs bioaccumulate in the body fat of living organisms, persist in the environment, and have long-term toxic effects. They also concentrate up the food chain and can be transported throughout the global environment on wind and water currents.

POPs are very stable compounds that take decades to decay. They circulate globally through a process known as the “grasshopper” effect. The extreme weather conditions of the Arctic Region act like a sink for POPs, accumulating there and slowing down the degradation process.

This magnifies the problems for humans and the environment.

Alaskan Natives are especially sensitive to POPs, which tend to accumulate in Arctic regions, even though none are produced there. Levels of POPs in breast milk have been found to be up to nine times higher than in women in the southern states of the U.S. Besides the location, there are other socio-economic and cultural factors, which make Alaskan Natives susceptible. Traditional foods are more apt to be contaminated, but traditional food is also a way of life. The issue becomes one not only of public health, but also one of cultural survival.

The representatives of TAP have several objectives relating to the ratification of the POPs treaty.

1. POPs threaten both people and wildlife. They cannot be managed. They must be eliminated. A health-related exemption has been granted for DDT, which is needed in countries where malaria is prevalent. Research, technology, funding, and development of appropriate infrastructure are tools necessary to choose effective alternatives to POPs. TAP supports a

rapid, orderly, and socially just program for total phase-out.

2. TAP supports ratification of the treaty before September 2002. This would put the treaty into action by 2004, although implementation should begin before the treaty is final.

3. TAP recognizes the need of financial assistance to less developed countries to enable effective implementation. Costs of the phase-out and cleanup of POPs should be shared.

4. TAP supports the expeditious destruction of POPs stockpiles using sound disposal methods. The African Stockpiles Project to clean up existing obsolete pesticides in 50 countries is very worthwhile.

5. TAP supports scientific research on alternatives to POPs and the science involving POPs and their effects on biodiversity.

6. TAP encourages the additional listing of other chemicals such as lindane and endosulfan. These endocrine disrupting chemicals can be hazardous at very low doses.

POPs Legislation Submitted to U.S. Senate

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman on April 11, 2002 announced that President George W. Bush had submitted the Stockholm Convention (treaty) on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent to ratification. Additional legislation to amend existing U.S. laws is needed to implement POPs. The treaty was endorsed by President Bush on April 19, 2001, and signed by Whitman on behalf of the United States in Stockholm, Sweden, on May 23, 2001.

The Stockholm Convention targets 12 toxic chemicals that persist in the environment for long periods of time, accumulate in the food chain, and travel great distances.

The legislative package will implement three important international environmental agreements that are essential to protecting environmental and human health in the United States and the world:

- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, (signed in Stockholm, May 23, 2001)
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (signed in Rotterdam, September 11, 1998)
- Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants

(signed in Aarhus on June 24, 1998).

The legislative package submitted to Congress also includes amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

“Concerted global action addressing these 12 toxic chemicals and pesticides will provide significant protection to the health of many Americans, particularly Alaskan residents and those who live around the Great Lakes,” said Whitman.

The Stockholm Convention is intended to eliminate or restrict the production, use, and release of the twelve chemicals. The Convention also requires that all participating countries take measures to eliminate or restrict production, use, and trade of intentionally produced POPs, develop action plans to address the release of byproduct POPs, and address safe handling and disposal of POPs stockpiles and wastes.

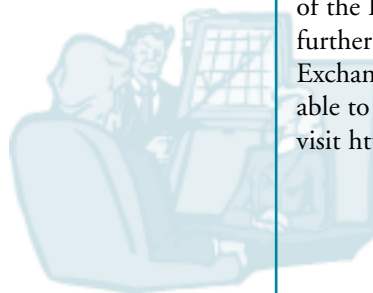
To learn more, please visit www.epa.gov/pesticides or contact Janice Jensen, EPA, at 703-305-7706.

New \$25 Million State And Tribal Grant Program Launched

EPA is providing a new \$25 million state and tribal grant program for environmental information exchange. The grant program will support data modernization and information integration efforts to further EPA's working partnership with states and tribes. The National Environmental Information Exchange Grant Program is designed to address several key e-government challenges, including the following:

- Improving the quality of environmental data
- Making the flows of data between EPA, states, tribes, and other partners more efficient
- Reducing the reporting burden
- Improving access to environmental data.

The goal of the Exchange Grant Program is to advance the National Environmental Information Exchange Network which will transform and facilitate the exchange of information. The types of awards being offered include grants to enable states and tribes to re-engineer their environmental reporting; grants to demonstrate progress in validating the Network; and challenge grants that pursue state or multi-state or tribal collaborative efforts to integrate environmental information. A copy of the Federal Register Notice and further information on the Exchange Grant Program are available to the general public. Please visit <http://www.epa.gov/neenprg>.



Resources, Programs, and Conferences

Lifestyle and Cultural Practices of Tribal Populations and Risks from Toxic Substances

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry are seeking applications for research on lifestyle and cultural practices of tribal populations and risks from toxic substances in the environment. Tribal populations may be at especially high risk for environmentally caused diseases and health-related problems as a result of their subsistence lifestyles, occupations and customs, and/or environmental releases impacting tribal lands. This solicitation invites

applicants to submit grant requests for research by July 10, 2002, in the following two areas of interest:

- Exposure and effects assessment methods that can be broadly applied across geographic regions and tribal populations
- Risk management strategies and options that will lead to reduction in risk from exposure.

Academic and not-for-profit institutions located in the U.S., and tribal, state or local governments, and tribal organizations and colleges are eligible to participate in the grant funding and proposal process. An estimated three to four

grants will be awarded, and each grant could total \$150,000 per year for a total of up to three years.

Applications and proposals must be received by EPA no later than 4:00 p.m. ET, July 10, 2002.

Standard instructions for submitting applications, including the required forms, can be found at EPA's Science to Achieve Results Program Web site at <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/forms/download.html>. Applicants may also contact Nigel Fields, 228-688-1981, fields.nigel@epa.gov or visit http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/02trib_risk.html.

Native American Laboratories

Below is a list of Native American laboratories located throughout the U.S. These laboratories offer expertise in environmental issues and engineering services.

ASW Associates, Inc.

An integrated group of environmental and engineering professionals
7301 Amanda Road, Lincoln, Nebraska
68507-3168
www.airsoilwater.com/index.html

Native American Systems, Inc. (NAS)

A young, dynamic, fast growing, Native American owned technology company based in Denver, Colorado
5400 South Syracuse Street,
Englewood, Colorado 80111
www.nasgsa.com

PORTAGE

A growing Native American-owned engineering and environmental services firm that was incorporated in Idaho in 1992
591 Park Avenue, Idaho Falls,
Idaho 83402
www.portageenv.com

Native American Technology Corporation (NATECH)

Established in 1995, Native American Technology Corporation (NATECH) specializes in environmental and safety compliance, professional and administrative support services, full service engineering, base operations support, and OSHA/EPA training
455 S. Fourth Street, Suite #1, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
www.natechcorp.com/profile.html

Navajo Dryland Environments Laboratory

An integrated department of research facilities at the Shiprock Campus
Diné College, Shiprock, Navajo Nation, New Mexico 87420-0580
<http://shiprock.ncc.cc.nm.us>

Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center

Haskell Indian Nations University
155 Indian Avenue, Box 5001,
Lawrence, Kansas 66046
www.haskell.edu

All Nations Alliance for Minority Participation

A national Native American initiative that aims to build upon the successes and "lessons learned" from the previous Phase I five-year program
P.O. Box 117-52000 Highway 93,
Pablo, Montana 59855
<http://skcweb.skcc.edu/amp/>

Resources, Programs, and Conferences

AISES K-12 Program

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and its supporters support a K-12 Program that provides scholarships and competitive activities for students in grades K through 12 within tribal communities throughout the U.S. The 15th annual National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair (NAISEF) was held March 21-23, 2002, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The generosity of all AISES sponsors and volunteers helps maintain the goals and vision of AISES to provide incentives and support to American Indian students as they

move forward in their educational dreams.

The National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair, established in 1988, provides a critical opportunity for students to do hands-on science; conduct research; and interact with professional role models in science, mathematics, and engineering. More information regarding science fair rules and guidelines can be found at www.sciserv.org/isef.

The 2002 Circle of Life Essay Contest, sponsored by Michigan Technological University (MTU), is currently underway. AISES is

calling for the participation of pre-college Native American students in the Circle of Life Essay Program. All teachers, especially those teaching English composition, are asked to encourage class participation in this essay program. Applications must be postmarked by June 12, 2002. Contact Lori Sherman, MTU Chapter Advisor, for further information.

To obtain more information on AISES K-12 programs, please contact Patricia Olson, K-12 Program Manager, 505-765-1052 ext. 113, patricia@aises.org.



AISES ACROSS AMERICA



Poison Prevention Internet Resources Available

New National Poison Control Hotline Launched

A new national toll-free hotline number to reach a poison control center from anywhere in the United States has been established at 1-800-222-1222. In commemoration of National Poison Prevention Week, March 17-23, EPA made available several resources to educate the public about ways to prevent children from being poisoned by pesticides and household products. First authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Kennedy in 1961, National Poison Prevention Week is an annual event intended to raise awareness of the dangers of unintentional poisonings and to promote prevention. EPA has supported this effort for several years and has several resources to help inform people about potential dangers found in their homes.

Chemicals at Home

- Learn About Chemicals Around Your House is an interactive Web site designed to teach children and parents about household products, including harmful pesticides. The Web site includes information about toxic substances stored in different rooms in the house, answers commonly asked questions on safe use and storage of these products, and contains educational games. Please visit www.epa.gov/opptintr/kids/hometour/index.html.

- *Read the Label First! Protect Your Kids* is a brochure that provides information on preventing children from being exposed to

pesticides and household cleaners by reading and following product label instructions and precautions, keeping products in their original containers, and storing products out of the reach of children. This document is available online at www.epa.gov/opptintr/labeling/rtlf/kids.pdf.

Ten Tips to Protect Children from Pesticide and Lead Poisonings Around the Home is a brochure that provides simple steps to protect children from pesticide and lead poisonings around the home, and is available in both English and Spanish. Please visit www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/10_tips/ for more information.

Pesticides and Child Safety is a fact sheet that provides current information household pesticide-related poisonings and exposure statistics from the American Association of Poison Control Centers, as well as recommendations for preventing poisonings and first aid guidelines. This document is available at www.epa.gov/pesticides/citizens/childsaf.html.

Help! It's A Roach is a roach prevention activity book for kids and parents. It teaches families what they can do to prevent and control roaches without using pesticides. An interactive Web site is also available at www.epa.gov/opp00001/kids/roaches/english/.

You may obtain all of these resources by calling 1-800-490-9198. More information on the annual Poison Prevention Week is also available at the Poison Prevention Week Council's Web site at www.poisonprevention.org.

Lead Training Manual for Native Americans

An EPA lead education training manual was revised for Native American audiences. The revisions include the use of culturally sensitive graphics throughout the manual. The manual, "Reducing Lead Poisoning in the Home," (EPA 747-B-00-001a, August 2000), was designed to increase awareness about simple things that can be done in and around the home to help reduce potential hazards and minimize children's chances of being exposed to lead. Copies of the EPA manual may be obtained from the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.



Pesticides and Child Safety

Although pesticides can be beneficial to society, they can be dangerous if used carelessly or if they are not stored properly and out of the reach of children.

According to data collected from the American Association of Poison Control Centers, in 2000 alone, an estimated 73,000 children were involved in common household pesticide-related poisonings or exposures in the United States. An additional 25,153 children were exposed to or poisoned by household chlorine bleach.

A survey by the EPA regarding pesticides used in and around the home revealed some significant findings:

Almost half (47%) of all households with children under the age of five had at least one pesticide stored in an unlocked cabinet, less than 4 feet off the ground (i.e., within the reach of children). Approximately 75% of households without children under the age of five also stored pesticides in an unlocked cabinet, less than 4 feet off the ground (i.e., within the reach of children). This number is especially significant because 13% of all pesticide poisoning incidents occur in homes other than the child's home.

Bathrooms and kitchens were cited as the areas in the home most likely to have improperly stored pesticides. Examples of some common household pesticides found in bathrooms and kitchens include roach sprays; chlorine bleach; kitchen and bath disinfectants; rat poison; insect and wasp sprays, repellents, and baits; and flea and tick shampoos and dips for pets. Other household pesticides

include swimming pool chemicals and weed killers.

EPA regulates pesticides in the United States under the pesticide law (the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act). Since 1981, the law has required most residential-use pesticides with a signal word of "danger" or "warning" to be in child-resistant packaging. These are the pesticides most toxic to children. Child-resistant packaging is designed to

prevent most children under the age of five from gaining access to the pesticide, or at least delay their access. However, individuals must also take precautions to protect children from accidental pesticide poisonings or exposures.

Additional pesticide product information can be obtained from the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at 1-800-858-7378.

Recommendations for Preventing an Accidental Poisoning

- Always store pesticides away from children's reach, in a locked cabinet or garden shed. Child-proof safety latches may also be installed on cabinets and can be purchased at your local hardware stores
- Read the label first and follow the directions to the letter, including all precautions and restrictions
- Before applying pesticides (indoors or outdoors), remove children and their toys as well as pets from the area and keep them away until the pesticide has dried or as long as is recommended by the label
- If your use of a pesticide is interrupted (perhaps by a phone call), properly reclose the package and be sure to leave the container out of the reach of children while you are gone
- Never transfer pesticides to other containers that children may associate with food or drink
- Never place rodent or insect baits where small children can get to them
- Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container tightly after use
- Alert others to the potential hazard of pesticides, especially caregivers and grandparents
- Teach children that "pesticides are poisons" — something they should not touch
- Keep the telephone number of your area Poison Control Center near your telephone.



General First Aid Guidelines

Swallowed poison. Induce vomiting **ONLY** if emergency personnel on the phone tell you to do so. It will depend on what the child has swallowed; some petroleum products or caustic poisons will cause more damage if the child is made to vomit. Always keep Syrup of Ipecac on hand (1 ounce for each child in the household) to use to induce vomiting if recommended by emergency personnel. Be sure the date is current.

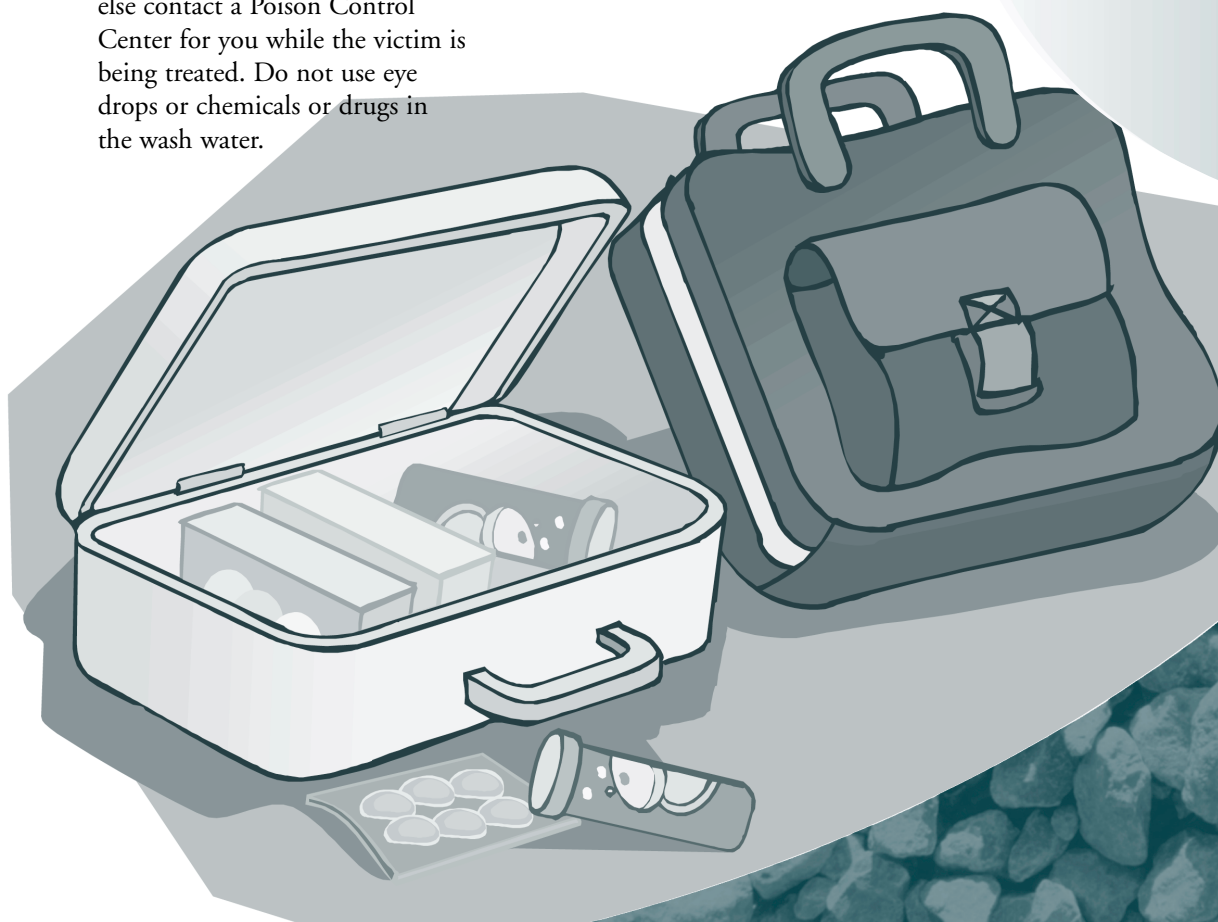
Poison in eye. Eye membranes absorb pesticides faster than any other external part of the body; eye damage can occur in a few minutes with some types of pesticides. If poison splashes into an eye, hold the eyelid open and wash quickly and gently with clean running water from the tap or a gentle stream from a hose for at least 15 minutes. If possible, have someone else contact a Poison Control Center for you while the victim is being treated. Do not use eye drops or chemicals or drugs in the wash water.

Poison on skin. If pesticide splashes on the skin, drench area with water and remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin and hair thoroughly with soap and water. Later, discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separately from other laundry.

Inhaled poison. Carry or drag victim to fresh air immediately. If you think you need protection such as a respirator and one is not available to you, call the Fire Department and wait for emergency equipment before entering the area. Loosen victim's tight clothing. If the victim's skin is blue or the victim has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration (if you know how) and call rescue service for help. Open doors and windows so that no one else will be poisoned by fumes.

Who to Call With a Question About Antimicrobial Pesticides?

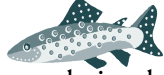



In March 2002, EPA announced that the National Antimicrobial Information Network (NAIN) terminated its services. Inquiries or comments regarding antimicrobial pesticides should be directed to Michael Hardy or David Liem of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs at 703-308-0127.



Kids' Page





Read all about the endangered species of Pyramid Lake, the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and the Cui-ui Sucker Fish. Can you substitute words for the pictures? Also, where in this newsletter can you find these hidden fish? Hint: Look for a story on endangered species!


Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

During the latter part of the 1800s and early 1900s, Lahontan cutthroat  was commercially fished in the desert lakes of Nevada, and by the 1940s its population had severely declined. Declines of Lahontan cutthroat trout resulted from overfishing,  and water diversions, habitat loss, and effects of non-native fishes, including rainbow, brook, brown, and lake trout. Habitat destruction also resulted from  construction, mining, livestock grazing, and  diversions for agricultural, mining, and municipal purposes. The Lahontan cutthroat trout remains listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In the past, Lahontan trout grew to 20 to 60 pounds in Pyramid and Walker Lakes and in Lake Tahoe. The massive Lahontan trout is distinguished by its coppery red head and red, orange, or yellow slash marks under each jaw.

Cui-ui Sucker Fish

During Spring 1998 and 1999, more than 500,000 of the green-gray sucker  made their way from Pyramid Lake north of Reno into the lower river to lay and fertilize their . The future of the Cui-ui Sucker fish, however, is threatened by the division of the Truckee River  source resulting in a diminished volume of water in Pyramid Lake, and the subsequent increase of salt concentration. Cui-ui are confined to Pyramid Lake, Washoe County, Nevada, and only ascend the affluent Truckee River during spring spawning from April to June. The fish is commonly pronounced “kwee-wee,” but the Paiute pronunciation is closer to “koo-ee-wee.” The cui-ui will not take bait or , but can be snagged during spawning season. They were once a primary source of food and livelihood for the Paiute Indians. The Cui-ui sucker fish was listed as an endangered species in 1971.

The Cui-ui sucker fish is typically 2 feet long and weighs about 6 pounds. Its head is relatively large, wide, and flat. Its upper lip is very thin, with the lower  represented by folds on either side of the head, and it has a ventroterminal, un-sucker like mouth.

Stories adapted from *Trout Magazine*, “Bringing back the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Restoring Habitat for Fish and People,” Jason Dunham, Spring 1998, and Associated Press article “Truckee Numbers Drop, Fewer Cui-ui Fish Spawn in River,” May 06, 2000.

Kids' Page

An Earth Day coloring page!



**Earth Day
2002**

Mark Your Calendars!

June

2-4

OECA The Basic Inspector Training Course
EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Jonathan Binder, 202-564-2516

4-6

EPA Office of Water Workshops for Environmental Managers
Coeur d'Alene Casino & Resort Hotel
Worley, Idaho
Lillian Wilmore, 617-232-5742
naeology@aol.com

4-7

Sixth National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management
John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel
Sparks, Nevada

17-19

28th Annual Convention – National American Indian Housing Council
San Diego, California

25-26

7th Annual ITEC Conference Sharing Tribal Environmental Visions for the Future
Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Office,
918-458-5496

July

8-12

International Conference of Pesticide Exposure and Health
Natcher Conference Center
Bethesda, Maryland

EPA Web sites and Hot Lines

EPA	www.epa.gov
OPP	www.epa.gov/pesticides/
OPPT	www.epa.gov/opptintr
Pollution Prevention	www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home
American Indian Environmental Office	www.epa.gov/indian
Asbestos Ombudsman Hotline	1-800-368-5888
EPCRA Hotline	1-800-535-0202
Lead Hotline	1-800-532-3394
National Pesticide Telecommunication (NPTN) Hotline	www.ace.orst.edu/info/nptn 1-800-858-7378
TSCA Hotline	202-554-1404

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