

PROGRESS REPORT

Native American Affairs Program

Office of Public Affairs · September 2006

HERE'S THE ISSUE

Throughout the Mid-Pacific Region, the Bureau of Reclamation Native American Affairs Program (Program) supports Reclamation activities with federally recognized Indian tribes (tribes). There are 83 federally recognized tribes in the Mid-Pacific Region (see map on back page for tribes and locations). The Program's purpose is to build understanding between tribes and Reclamation. It provides information useful to tribes in managing water resources on reservations, including information about how Reclamation operates and how the agency can be of service to tribal members within the requirements of the laws and regulations under which Reclamation operates.

The United States has a trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by, or granted to, federally recognized tribes and individual Indians through treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These rights are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations. The trust responsibility calls for federal agencies, including Reclamation, to take all actions reasonably necessary to protect Indian trust assets. Examples of Indian trust assets are land, minerals, hunting, fishing and water rights.

WHAT RECLAMATION IS DOING

The Program has provided funding assistance to federally recognized tribes for a variety of water resource needs including water quality assessments for drinking water, ecosystems, fisheries, and irrigation systems, as well as water contamination studies. Informational briefings have also been provided on Reclamation-involved projects including those associated with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

WHAT'S AHEAD

In addition to other program activities, the Native American Affairs Program can help provide Regional staff with information about protocol, funding, and technical guidance relating to Indian tribes in the Region. For more information, please contact Ms. Patricia Rivera, Acting Native American Affairs Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, phone 916-978-5113, or e-mail privera@mp.usbr.gov.



From left, cooperating on a project to monitor water quality in the Long Canyon Creek, a tributary to the South Humboldt River, are MP-Region's Stuart Angerer, an EPA scientist, and an environmental technician with the South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians located south of Elko in north-central Nevada.



