



Tribal Relations News

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Director's Welcome

The summer edition of Tribal Relations News continues our focus on partnerships with a small sample of the many, many great Tribal Relations partnerships, some of which are established and some that are being developed.

Funding is often an essential part of building and maintaining partnerships, and this year has been key in providing funds to partners for important projects. For instance, three significant efforts with the Intertribal Timber Council are underway, with the Forest Service (FS) contributing over \$1.2 million. This issue highlights one of the three efforts, the Anchor Forest project. Future editions will highlight the other two efforts: the Tribal Forest Protection Act Review and the development of the third decadal Indian Forest Management and Analysis Team Study III.

In addition to funding there are many elements to ensuring that partnerships and relationships are successful. Much like guiding a large canoe through the water in order to get anywhere you need a crew of paddling partners. All paddlers have to row with some synchronicity to get where they need to go. We recognize that the FS paddle (the or-

ganization and its mechanisms for getting things done) is only one of the multitudes of paddles needed for forest-related conservation. We are only one element moving our mutual canoe in the same direction.

Partnerships are a central principle of the work being done by the FS Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) and in order to continue this work we recognize the importance of updating the FS Tribal Relations Strategic Plan. This undertaking is an agency wide collaborative effort that will hopefully help FS employees be oriented toward the apex of tribal rights and interests.

We hope you also appreciate and enjoy the other short articles with partnership elements, including the na-

tional Forest Service Tribal Relations Program workshop, the American Indian/Alaska Native representative to the FS Planning Rule FA-CA Committee, leasing, land sales, suicide prevention, collaborative conferences, recruitment, and AI/AN interns.

With this edition, we give our thanks to Ericka Luna, OTR Policy Analyst, for her great work in setting up and editing the recent editions of Tribal Relations Newsletter. We also welcome Mariel Murray, Program Analyst, as the new editor.

If you would like to see your or others' projects and partnerships highlighted in the Tribal Relations News, please send Mariel articles and ideas at marieljmurray@fs.fed.us.



Larry Blyth and Fred Clark at the Intertribal Timber Council National Symposium

Getting to Know William Barquin



William Barquin, the Attorney General for the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho was recently appointed as the American Indian/Alaska Native representative to the Forest Service's Planning Rule FACA Committee. Mr. Barquin is excited about this new role. Although he is proud to be Oglala Lakota and Eastern Shoshone, and plans to represent their interests he wants to caution the Forest Service (FS) to remember each Tribe has its own unique relationship with the United States government and to consider various tribal interests in implementing the new FS Planning Rule.

Growing up with his dad on a cattle ranch on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, Mr. Barquin loves the great outdoors, and has been providing legal advice to Tribes on enhancing their natural resource management and protection for over 10 years. As a legal advocate for Tribes he worked with the FS on many projects and recognized the FS for understanding the importance of forest issues to Tribes like the Kootenai, who have treaty hunting and gathering rights on National Forest System lands. He believes that the new FS Planning Rule provides a valuable opportunity to obtain tribal input, as both President Obama and Secretary Vilsack have focused on collaboration and outreach in the Planning Rule implementation. Securing tribal buy-in is crucial to the rule's success, and to this end Mr. Barquin suggested putting Tribes on teams in implementing the Planning Rule at the local level. He also noted that the FS cannot have a one-size-fits all approach in working with Tribes; it needs to find the most effective way of communicating with different Tribes on a case-by-case basis.

Due to the diverse interests at stake in managing our forests and grasslands, inevitable challenges will arise, however the Planning Rule is an improvement over previous versions because it recognizes tribal rights and interests. With so much capacity in Indian country, including both traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and scientific expertise, the federal and tribal governments need to combine their efforts in managing resources according to the Planning Rule. For example, the Kootenai have both members with TEK and biologists working to maintain their wildlife and fisheries. Mr. Barquin noted that TEK is especially essential in revitalizing forests, noting that "through misguided management, most forests are now unhealthy," and need to be put back into equilibrium.

The Planning Rule attempts to meet the FS multiple use mandate, and the Planning Rule FACA Committee will have to consider how best to interpret that mandate. Mr. Barquin acknowledged that "multiple-use" has unfortunately become a buzz word, pitting environmentalists against timber interests, whereby "Tribes and forests end up losing." Instead, multiple use should be a holistic concept; for example, the Kootenai see the forest as "multiple use" by recognizing that some areas need to be actively managed for restoration, others should be used for controlled burning and timber, other areas are used for harvesting forest products, and still other areas are not managed at all.

One important use of FS land, which the Planning Rule recognizes, is for sacred ceremonies. The Planning Rule requires that "responsible officials request information from Tribes about sacred sites, and provides for protection of cultural and historic resources and management of areas of Tribal importance." Mr. Barquin believes that this, combined with the upcoming USDA/Forest Service Sacred Sites report, will help in protecting sacred sites. He noted the difficulty of both protecting sites and ensuring tribal access on the one hand, while maintaining confidentiality of the sites on the other hand. Overall, he said that the FS needs "a common way to protect confidentiality, sacred areas, and unique needs of each Tribe."

The FS is lucky to have the participation and advice of Mr. Barquin on the Planning Rule FACA Committee. With his rich experience working both with Tribes and the FS, he is sure to provide invaluable insight. The Office of Tribal Relations welcomes him and wishes him the best of luck!

"I see myself as a reminder to USDA and the FS that they need to involve Tribes in the planning process."

-William Barquin

Anchor Forests

Forests across the nation face threats from climate change, wild land fire, and insect and disease infestations all of which have no regard for land ownership or boundary lines. Because of these unpredictable threats infrastructure for management, harvesting, transportation, and processing of forest products is rapidly deteriorating, increasing the difficulty of maintaining working forests and vital ecological functions on the landscape. An integrated approach is more important now than ever.

The Forest Service Pacific Northwestern Region has provided a \$694,138 multi-year grant to the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) to explore the potential use of *Anchor Forests* to balance economic and ecological needs to keep our forests healthy through collaborative efforts involving Indian Tribes, FS, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and other Federal, State, local agencies, NGO's, and Universities .

Anchor Forests are large contiguous areas of land with four major characteristics:

1. A reasonable expectation for sustainable wood commodity production as a major management objective; and
2. Production levels sufficient to support economically viable manufacturing, processing, and work force

infrastructure within accessible transportation; and

3. Long-term management plans, supported by inventory systems, professional staff, and geographic information systems; and
4. Institutional and operational capacity for implementation.

The ITC grant award involves a pilot study led by the Yakama Indian Nation which will include six major components including deliverables for a study centered in eastern Washington. The *Anchor Forests* project will complement efforts the FS Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project and the Tapash Collaborative. While it is still in its infancy, by 2014 the project will evaluate the potential for *Anchor Forests* to serve as a means to retain working forests in the South Central, North Central, and North East areas of Eastern Washington State. The lessons learned from the pilot project will help inform decisions regarding the potential value of *Anchor Forests* to help restore and maintain healthy landscapes in other regions of the country.

The *Anchor Forest* concept is a common sense, multifaceted approach for retaining healthy working forests through partnership, collaboration and coordination. *Anchor Forests* will help focus financial resources for investments in infrastructure and improving ecological processes to address regional

needs and priorities , and informing stakeholders of opportunities for collaboration.

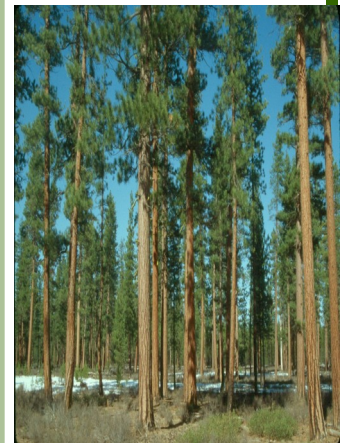
Indian forests are prime candidates for *Anchor Forests* based on tribal commitments to long-term stewardship that has proven to be successful in maintaining healthy forests. In some parts of the United States, Tribes own the last operating sawmills.

Commenting on a recent presentation on *Anchor Forests* at a BIA conference on Forestry and Wildland Fire in San Diego, Dr. Gary Morishima said, "Healthy working forests are essential to enable society to maintain clean air and water, and to protect our soils, fish, and wildlife. Economically viable infrastructure must be in place to reduce costs of forest management and minimize potential risks of loss to life and property from growing threats of wildfire, insect and disease. The integrated approach envisioned under the *Anchor forests* concept holds great promise as a means to focus scarce investments in infrastructure and environmental services, and as important, for helping diverse interests find common path to the future."

For additional information on *Anchor Forests* please contact Gary S. Morishima at MORIKOG@aol.com. For additional information on the Pilot Project please contact Steve Andringa, Program Manager Yakama Nation Tribal Forestry at steve@Yakama.com.

The integrated approach envisioned under the Anchor forests concept holds great promise as a means to focus scarce investments in infrastructure and environmental services, and as important, for helping diverse interests find common path to the future."

Dr. Gary Morishima



“The enthusiasm and willingness of the FS staffs to start a truly collaborative review process was worth all the work the OTR did to pull off the national workshop. We are truly inspired by the many perspectives that will help propose to our directives.”

-Estelle Bowman

FS Tribal Relations Program Staff Meet Face to Face

The Forest Service (FS) Office of Tribal Relations hosted a National Tribal Relations Program Workshop in Warm Springs, Oregon, May 14-15, 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together the Tribal Relations Program managers and other key staff to develop a plan for revising the FS Manual and Handbook sections to provide up to date and effective direction and guidance for the Forest Service regarding Tribal relations. There were fifteen staff in attendance from a variety of staff areas and regions including Research and Development; Heritage; and Tribal Relations. The workshop was held just prior to the

Thirty-Sixth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, May 14-17, 2012. This type of National Workshop has not been hosted since 2008 and many of the staff are new to Tribal Relations work. It also served as a meet and greet for the Washington Office of Tribal Relations and the Regional Tribal Relations Program Managers.

The full OTR staff stayed in OR to attend the 36th Annual Symposium held on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Nation. The staff participated in the scheduled workshops and field trips. The OTR Director and Assistant Director

provided a report to the ITC members including reporting on financial and technical assistance support through FY 2011 funding of 3 major projects that serve Indian Country:

- ◆ Indian Forest Management and Analysis Team Study III grant \$300,000;
- ◆ Tribal Forest Protection Act analysis cooperative agreement \$302,000; and
- ◆ The Anchor Forest – Region 6 pilot project \$694,000 for a total of \$1,296,000.



[Standing: Pam Williams-OTR; Willie Begay-R6; Frank Lake-Research; Dirk Charley-R5; Ericka Luna-OTR; Fred Clark-OTR; Will Reed-R4; Dan Meza-R3; Alicia Bell-Sheetter-OTR; Clinton Scott-R10; and Mike Turek-R5; Sitting: Cindy West-Research; Penni Borghi-R6; Lillian Petershoare-R10; and Estelle Bowman-OTR]

2012 Inter-Tribal Youth Natural Resource Camp

The 2012 Inter-Tribal Youth Natural Resource Camp provided nearly 40 Junior and Senior High students from area reservations with a glowing example of cooperation and collaboration across boundaries. For 27 years five National Forests spanning three Forest Service Regions join forces with as many as five Indian Tribes to sponsor this week-long event. Each year the camp rotates among the Colville, Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce – Clearwater, and Payette National Forests, and a neighboring Tribe, most commonly the Nez Perce, Coeur d’Alene or Kalispel Tribes co-host. The Spokane and Kootenai Tribes have also participated.

This year’s camp was co-hosted by the Nez Perce – Clearwater NFs and Nez Perce Tribe. As part of a training exercise, the Nez Perce Tribe’s Camp Crew, under the guidance of skilled FS trainers, erected a mock fire camp for the more than 60 campers and chaperones,

including a mess tent that doubled as a “meeting room.” The five day home-away-from-home was set up at the beautiful Kooskia National Fish Hatchery, co-managed by the Nez Perce Tribe and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

While the rolling lawns and mild low-elevation climate made the hatchery facility a great spot to camp, it was specifically selected for its centralized proximity to several projects that are within the Forests’ CFLRP, or Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project area. The Nez Perce Tribe is a significant partner in the success of CFLRP and dozens of other projects on National Forest System lands in their ceded territories. Additionally, the hatchery now occupies a site on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, managed by the Forest Service, and sits adjacent to a Nez Perce National Historical Park site.

This central location, coupled with unique land man-

agement partnerships, gave campers exciting opportunities to learn not only from FS professionals, but also those from NPS, USFWS, and Nez Perce Tribe. Nez Perce elders and members, and Coeur d’Alene tribal members also assisted, making crucial cultural connections between the youth and the resources.

As an added bonus, using a recently-secured grant, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe provided teachers to assist with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum in an “outdoor classroom” setting.

The week was capped off by group presentations in which campers were charged with creatively sharing what they’d learned. Groups performed skits, gave reports, and one group even engaged the audience with a game of charades. Organizers and counselors were most moved, however, by the excitement campers expressed about participating in next year’s camp!



RAWS Coordinator Linnea Keating helps students gather data from a Remote Area Weather Sensing unit.



NP-C Forest Hydrologist Anne Connor and students survey a stream crossing.

NP-C Forest Range Specialist Lynn Burton describes how to “get to the root” of the invasive weed problem at Musselshell Meadows.



The Whole Group! Pictures by Christine Bradbury



John Martin, Jr. dances in the Hoonah canoe Auke Village Recreation Area.

“The ATLC is addressing ways to strengthen opportunities for economic growth in rural communities, increase Alaska Native community involvement in forest restoration projects, and improve outreach to tribal entities relative to Forest Service job opportunities.”
Regional Forester Beth Pendleton



One People Canoe Society President Doug Chilton and Admiralty National Monument Ranger Chad Photo by Lillian Petershoare.

Innovative Partnering in Alaska

The Forest Service (FS) Alaska Region is looking at new way to partner with the local villages and are pleased to be working with the One People Canoe Society and the “One is 2 Many” suicide prevention task force (Task Force). Task Force delegates, Richard Peterson and Rob Sanderson, Jr. have been meeting with the Regional Forester and the Alaska Tribal Leader’s Committee (ATLC) on a monthly teleconference to discuss issues of interest to Tribes and the FS. The staggering rate of suicides within the Alaska Native population is an issue that Richard and Rob have raised with regional leadership during the monthly ATLC calls. Regional Forester Beth Pendleton said that “In addition to discussing suicide prevention, the ATLC is addressing ways to strengthen opportunities for economic growth in rural communities, increase Alaska Native community involvement in forest restoration projects, and improve outreach to tribal enti-

ties relative to Forest Service job opportunities.”

In early July, ninety Tribal members (ranging in age from 10 to 70) paddled 150 nautical miles in seven canoes, one being a traditional cedar dug-out canoe, to raise awareness of suicide prevention. The villages of Angoon, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Sitka, and Wrangell 1 participated in the “Coming Ashore” ceremony organized by the One People Canoe Society and the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium. In Juneau, the canoes were welcomed by 1500 people, many wearing their traditional regalia, at Auke Village Recreation Area. The canoe welcoming was the unofficial kick-off to Celebration, a four day cultural event, sponsored by the Sealaska Heritage Institute.

The public response to this cause was tremendous. The adjacent FS road and parking areas were filled to capacity. One People Canoe Society President Doug

Chilton and Wilbur Brown are coordinating with Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian communities and Tribes throughout Southeast to rejuvenate traditional canoeing in Southeast Alaska as a powerful way to raise awareness about suicide prevention. SAMHSA and IHS provide Federal leadership to reduce the impact of subsistence and mental health issues on rural America. Doug has plans for launching the construction of traditional dugout cedar canoes for Tribes who are interested in joining the society. Anticipating a potentially larger 2014 Canoe Welcoming Ceremony, the Juneau Ranger District, the regional office, and event organizers are already engaging in pre-planning so that everyone who wants to participate in the 2014 canoe welcoming ceremony will be able to do so safely and enjoyably. The FS is also examining authorities to see how they can better partner with Tribes for this and other culturally significant events.



Traditional Haida cedar dugout canoe. Photo by Clint Scott.



Pullers carry the cedar dugout canoe on Auke Bay beach. Photo by Lillian Petershoare.

Caribou-Targhee National Forest Hosts Educational Seminar for Tribal Members

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest in the Intermountain Region has been working hard to encourage neighboring members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to apply for jobs within the agency. Their goal is to create a workforce that is more representative of the local community's diversity.

"Ever since I've been here on the forest since 2008, it appeared to me to be an untapped resource. With the Tribe just being down the road, it just seems to be a missed opportunity for the Forest Service to not go out and meet with tribal members about careers with the Forest Service," said Jeff Hammes, district ranger on the Westside Ranger District based in Pocatello, Idaho.

The forest began recruiting a couple years ago and increased their efforts this year. One way they did this was by hosting an educational seminar in February to teach members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes how to apply for Forest Service jobs. The reservation is located adjacent to the Westside Ranger District. The purpose of the seminar was to increase tribal members' awareness of local Forest Service job opportunities and to pique their interest in a career with the Forest Service.

Hammes and about six other forest employees spent time

meeting with tribal members. They set up a temporary office for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, complete with laptops to walk tribal members through the application process in AVUE. The group spoke with 18 tribal members over the course of the day, giving them an orientation on Forest Service operations and a list of current job vacancies and responsibilities.

The event was beneficial for the participants and the agency. Hammes anticipates even greater success next year since the groundwork will already be laid.

"We feel there are a lot of opportunities in the federal government for tribal members, and we're under representative in Native Americans in the Forest Service, especially on this forest," Hammes said. "As tribal members become more familiar with the Forest Service and get to know us better, I think we'll see more in the way of applicants and hiring of Native Americans."

Diversity is important to the Forest Service. The Caribou-Targhee National Forest wants a workforce that is representative of the community. Since beginning their recent recruitment efforts, employees have met with 32 organizations and groups, nine universities and 17 high schools, as well as

published several articles in the local newspapers and staffed a booth at the state fair, all in an effort to increase their candidate pool. The Forest Service will also continue to participate in recruitment efforts dedicated to attracting members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in the future.

"These are long-term residents to this area. They know and love the land. They are an asset to us in managing our public lands," Hammes said. "I'd really like to have more Native American representation here, not only on our district but across the forest."

"I'd really like to have more Native American representation here, not only on our district but across the forest."

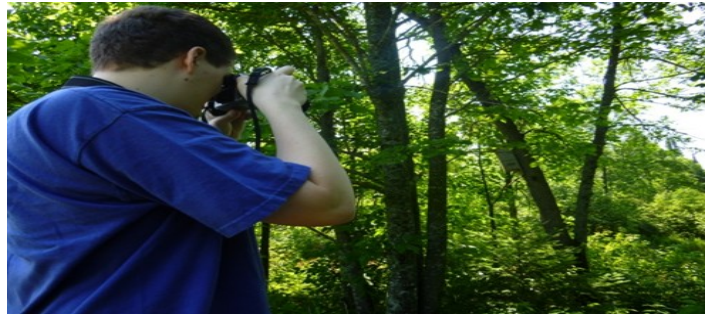
*Jeff Hammes,
district ranger on
the Westside
Ranger District
based in Pocatello,
Idaho*



Jeff Hammes teaching members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes how to apply for Forest Service jobs.

Cody Westlund, working on regional agroforestry projects using CanVis, an innovative software designed to display projects that could potentially improve a healthy sustainable ecosystem.

The Forest Service Supports a Tribal Student Intern



In a first-of-its kind collaborative effort the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), National Agroforestry Center (NAC), and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest joined forces to hire a Tribal student for the 2012 summer. It's a win-win situation for all parties involved. The NAC and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest both had projects they needed help with while the OTR wanted to support a Tribal intern but was not able to entice a Tribal student to come work in Washington, DC.

The OTR offered to help place Tribal students in the field with the hopes that their FS experience would keep them interested in future work with the FS. The three units agreed that The NAC and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest would each pay for half of a student's salary and the

OTR would contribute the remaining costs. Together these three units are able to better support diversity within the Forest Service.

The OTR, the NAC, and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest would like to welcome Cody Westlund to the Forest Service family. Cody is from the Red Cliff Tribe and was born and raised in Ashland WI. An early interest in video games influenced Cody to major in Game Design and Development with an art focus at the University of Wisconsin-

Stout.

This summer Cody is creating a catalogue of visual simulations of conservation options using *CanVis*, a user-friendly image-editing software program. Cody is responsible for creating a series of visual simulations of conservation alternatives that are regionally specific to the Northern Wisconsin area. Some examples of conservation practices that may be visually simulated include riparian buffers strips, wetland restoration or creation projects, and agroforestry practices.

We all look forward to working with Cody this summer and seeing the fruits of his labor this fall.

Welcome Cody!



Cody Westlund Hard at work

OTR Takes its Work on the Road

The OTR has been busy in this last quarter meeting our partners and colleagues out in the field:

In April the OTR staff held its retreat at Grey Towers—home of Gifford Pinchot. We came together to learn about ourselves and how each of us can contribute to the team. Our two and half day retreat reacquainted us with Forest Service values of conservation which clearly are shared by Tribes.

It is obvious to us that our FS Directives need to be updated with regional input so that started our discussions in Warm Springs, Oregon. The OTR sponsored the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) conference and training. SAIGE presented a cylinder of sacred herbs and plants to the OTR at an evening event.

The OTR coordinated FS support of First Steward’s Symposium. Thanks to Research and Development, the Climate Change Office and NFS for joining OTR to ensure this inaugural event will have a FS presence. For additional information please see the associated article: www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120716/news/307169998/peninsula-tribes-host-national-climate-change-conference.



SAIGE President Danny Garceau, Estelle Bowman, and Shana Barehand, SAIGE Treasurer

*I am so impressed
by the Federal
Indian Law
Training and
would really like to
do it again. I
highly recommend
that all FS
employees take the
course and want to
thank Susan
Johnson for making
it happen!
- Ericka Luna*

Forest Service Seeks to Engage Tribes in Improving Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment

The U.S. Forest Service gathers and analyzes much information about social, economic, and ecological aspects of public land management. This is the work of inventorying, monitoring, and assessment (IM&A). Some information is especially important because it also is useful to others who care about land management.

Over the past year the Forest Service developed a draft

strategy for improving the IM&A system. We are convinced that the best, most needed improvements are those identified in a collaborative manner that respect and strengthen formal and informal relationships. We would like to know if the goals of the strategy resonate with our partners, and specifically our Tribal partners. In addition, we would like your help in designing and planning high-priority implementation actions. We

invite involvement of any and all interested Tribal groups in this effort to improve our IM&A system.

For additional information, please contact: Tracy Hancock, tchancock@fs.fed.us, 202-205-1724; Peter Williams, peterwilliams@fs.fed.us, 970-295-5708; or Jane Harrison at janelharrison@fs.fed.us, 202-205-0846.



*Chief Tidwell
examining the Eagle
Staff that
accompanied the
students on their
journey*



Haskell University Students tour the FS building

Students Bring Sacred Eagle Feather Staff to the Yates Building

Students from several universities embarked on a primarily on-foot trek from Lawrence Kansas to Washington DC in attempt to address the difficulty of preserving sacred places within Indian Country by raising awareness of the Wakarusa Wetlands. Prompted by the 30-year controversy regarding a proposed highway construction through wetlands behind Haskell Indian Nations University campus, the students traveled 21 days (approximately 1,113 miles) including walking, on the, 1838 Potawatomi Trail of Death route on their way to the Capital. They call the journey the “Trail of Broken Promises.”

Once in DC the students met with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and various congressional members to discuss draft legislation that would amend the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, “to provide a right of action for protection of Native American Sacred Places,” such as the Wakarusa Wetlands. It is under consideration for endorsement by the National Congress of American Indians.

The students also came to the Forest Service headquarters to meet Chief Tidwell and learn about the work being done by USDA and the Forest Service around Sacred Sites. The students provided an explanation of their journey and significance of their Eagle Staff. The Students also told Chief Tidwell about using wetlands that adjoin Haskell Indian Nations University for ceremony, prayer, and education since Haskell’s founding as a boarding school in 1884. “Fighting to save the Wakarusa Wetlands extends beyond our campus,” Mike O., a student on the walk said. “Our journey recognizes all Native Americans and all sacred places left vulnerable to developers’ agendas.”

Chief Tidwell was so impressed with the students that he delegated staff members from the Sacred Sites Team, The Office of Tribal Relations, and Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air & Rare Plants to also brief the students.



Haskell University Students meet with FS Chief Thomas Tidwell and Estelle Bowman to discuss Sacred Sites and preserving wetlands.

Regional Round Robin

**Southwestern Region:
Land sale finalized on Santa Fe National Forest**

A ceremony finalized the sale of approximately 750 acres of national forest lands northeast of Los Alamos, N.M., to the Santa Clara Pueblo Tribe.

The sale was the culmination of 12 years of work between the Forest Service and the tribe. The sale is part of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Claims Settlement Act of 2005, which provided the Pueblo of Santa Clara an option to purchase the land.

**Pacific Northwest:
FS Lease with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla**

Congratulations to Region 6 on their new Umatilla National Forest headquarters office. The new facility, located in the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) Coyote Business Park, is the first Forest Service lease agreement with a Tribal Nation.

The blessing, performed by Armand Minthorn and several other tribal members, is a CTUIR tradition for all new businesses located within their light industrial and commercial business park

on May 17, 2012. The first day of Forest Service operations at the new site, 72510 Coyote Road, was May 21, 2012. Apparently the staff was anxious to move to their new headquarters!

The Forest Service's previous 44 year old lease ended

“Today is symbolic. This building is a symbol of the future; it’s an investment in the future of public lands and natural resource management. We’re starting a new journey with our employees, partners, community and customers.”

*-Kevin Martin,
Forest Supervisor*



CTUIR Chairman Les Minthorn and Forest Supervisor Kevin Martin cutting the ribbon Photo by Debra Crowell,

**Southern Region:
Members of the National Trail of Tears Association tour and presentation of the Fort Armistead site on the Cherokee National Forest**

Members of the National Trail of Tears Association (NTOTA) were given a tour and presentation of the Fort Armistead site on the Cherokee National Forest.

is also a member of the Tribal Council for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and the Executive Director, Jera Quintin (also a member of Cherokee Nation) attended. Melissa Twaroski and Mary Hughes Frye (Landscape Architect) from

the FS Southern Region attended the event in an unofficial capacity. The acting Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, LE&I Patrol Captain, and Forest Archaeologist along with Dr. Brett Riggs from UNC gave presentations.

Both the President of the NTOTA, Jack Baker – who

White House Rural Round Table Great Lakes Forest and Forest Products Shifting Seasons Summit

June 6, 2012, USDA Deputy Under-Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Arthur “Butch” Blazer visited the College of Menominee Nation for the White House Rural Round Table Great Lakes Forest and Forest Products Shifting Seasons Summit. The focus of the round table was Tribal Community, Government, and Natural Resource Issues.

The key points shared by DUS Blazer included an overview of Forest planning, Tribal Youth, and climate change. DUS Blazer explained that the USFS Planning Rule is an opportunity for early, upfront involvement in the process. Partnerships are an absolute necessity and it is important for USDA/USFS to work with local communities and people.

Overall this was an excellent session with active engagement from everyone in attendance.

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Editor's Note

Dear readers:

As always, thank you for your interest and support of the Forest Service Tribal Relations newsletter. We hope that the newsletter helps to inform our internal and external partners of the good work being done by the Forest Service in Indian Country.

While I have greatly enjoyed working on this publication I have accepted the Policy Analyst position in the FS OTR and will be handing the reins over to Mariel Murray. Mariel is a recent law school graduate who successfully converted from a STEP position into the Program Analyst position. Please

join me in welcoming Mariel to the office by sending her lots of story ideas and picture for the Fall edition!

Mariel can be reached at marieljmurray@fs.fed.us or 202-205-1586.