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Successful Prescribed Burn Project Opens Door for Reintroduction of Natural Fire on the Southern Ute Reservation

~ Richard Gustafson, Fire Management Officer, Southern Ute Agency



Redonda 2 burn

From October 12th through 15th, 2010, five Bureau of Indian Affairs Agencies, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and local fire departments came together in cooperative spirit to complete the 1,142 acre Redonda 2 burn. The project completed a long term planning effort that will enhance future management of unplanned, natural ignitions to a portion of Southern Ute Reservation. The Southern Ute Agency (SUA) hosted the project with participants from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Agency, Zuni Agency, Jicarilla Apache Agency, Navajo Agency, Los Pinos Fire Protection District and Archuleta County Office of Emergency Management.

Rich Gustafson, Fire Management Officer for the Southern Ute Agency, was the Burn Boss and had identified this burn as a critical area to pre-treat with prescribed fire before allowing fire to play its natural role in the landscape.

Southern Ute Agency had included the use of fire for resource benefit as a management strategy in the revision of its Fire Management Plan in 2009.

The Redonda 2 burn was completed using both heli-torch and Plastic Sphere Dispenser (PSD) operations and proved to be very difficult to hold due to steep terrain



and a mid-slope control line that was created during the 2003 Bolt Fire. Holding resources from Zuni, Navajo, Ute Mountain and local agencies were kept busy between the black line and the aerial operations, often times being dispersed over large areas. John Barborinas, a NIFC Planner, oversaw the aerial ignition operation and had to coordinate closely with ground forces to prevent excessive heat from bumping the control lines. Jesse Ramirez, SUA Fuels Specialist, ran the black lining operation and ground ignitions and was tasked with lighting a very steep control line with unburned fuels above.

Ken Van Zee, SUA Forest Manager, supervised holding resources with Howard Richards Jr., SUA

Supervisory Forestry Technician, and Dave Vega, Los Pinos Fire Wildland Coordinator, carrying out the holding actions. Kenny Wehn, SUA Forestry Technician supervised the line construction and preparation. Ute Mountain Agency supplied helicopter and PSD personnel and Jicarilla Agency supplied their Helitorch module which enabled aerial operations to function smoothly throughout the entire project. Southern Ute Agency is now looking forward to managing unplanned ignitions

for multiple objectives within this landscape. For more information regarding this burn or the planning process involved in preparing the landscape for the reintroduction of natural fire, contact Rich Gustafson at (970) 563-4571.

The Superintendent, Southern Ute Agency, would like to extend his gratitude and appreciation to all of the cooperating agencies for making their resources available for this project.



Redonda 2 Burn Personnel enjoy the moment after ignitions were completed.



Administration

BIA~ NIFC Welcomes Lisa Street!

~ Lisa Street, BIA ~ NIFC

Lisa Street was born and raised in Colorado and started her federal career in 1986 with the Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands. Working as a visitor information aide/ personnel clerk on the South Platte Ranger District led to collateral duties as a FFTR (T2), personnel time keeper, expanded dispatch recorder,



and information officer (T3).

She later served as the Business Manager for the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center and enjoyed supporting all administrative aspects of the center including GACC dispatch,

cache, helitack, airtanker base, and lead planes.

From 2006-2007 Lisa was the Executive Secretary for the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) based at NIFC. Prior to starting with BIA, Lisa was an administrative specialist for the USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Forester.

Lisa earned a Business Administration degree from the University of Denver and completed coursework towards an Environmental Policy Management Masters degree.

Lisa is married to Phil Street (retired US Fish & Wildlife National Fire Director) and they have a happy family of three sons and one daughter. They currently reside in Eagle, Idaho and enjoy camping, fishing, golfing, and all winter sports.

Fuels

BIA Welcomes Richard Johnson!

~ Richard Johnson, Fire Ecologist, Pacific and Western Regions



Richard Johnson joined the BIA in September 2009 as the Fire Ecologist for Pacific and Western Regions.

Prior to that Richard spent twelve years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, primarily as a Prescribed Fire Specialist in Iowa and Texas, but also as a Fire Management Officer in Minnesota and Biological Science Technician (Wildlife) in Illinois.

Richard has also worked for the National Park Service, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and U.S. Forest Service as a technician in fire, fisheries and wildlife, and timber management.

Richard holds a B.A. in Biology from Pittsburg State University in his hometown, Pittsburg, Kansas, and has also attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, and California State University, San Bernardino.

Richard has been traveling through the regions to meet field staff and become familiar with the vegetation and fuels treatments being implemented.

Currently Richard has the fire qualifications of Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2), Field Observer (FOBS), Helicopter Manager (HMGB), Firing Boss (FIRB), Burned Area Response Specialist (BAES), and Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO). He is stationed at the Western Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona, and can be reached at (602) 379-6798 ext. 1236.

BIA Welcomes Laura Atkins!

~ Laura Atkins, Lead Monitoring Technician, NW, AK and RM Regions



The Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire and Fuel Program would like to welcome Laura Atkins, as the Lead Monitoring Technician for the Northwest, Alaska, and Rocky Mountain Regions.

Laura comes from the Student Conservation Association. She worked for the Northwest Regional office from April 2007-April 2010 as a Fire Prevention Intern for two years and a Monitoring Technician Intern for one year.

This past summer she was the Fire/Fuels Specialist for Chugachmiut, a Native Non-Profit located in Anchorage, Alaska. There she was able to help initiate a monitoring program for fuels treatments being completed on the Kenai Peninsula.

Laura is enthusiastic about her current position, and looks forward to working with Indian Country in the fire and fuels program.

Southern California Fuels Monitoring Trip

~ Josh Simmons, Regional Fuels Management Specialist, Pacific Region
~ Richard Johnson, Fire/Fuels Ecologist, Pacific and Western Regions

In September 2009, the BIA hired Richard Johnson as the Fire Ecologist for the Pacific and Western Regions. Richard is stationed at the Western Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona, however he serves both the Pacific and Western Regions by providing planning and implementation of a Fire/Fuels monitoring program.

From August 2-6, 2010, Richard, Josh Simmons, Regional Fuels Management Specialist, BIA-Pacific Regional Office, and Maja Pepion, Fire and Fuels NEPA Coordinator, BIA-Southern California Agency, toured southern California to introduce Richard to the Tribes, their key fire/fuels staff and fuels conditions that exist in Southern California. Also, the trip provided Richard with an understanding of fire conditions, fire return intervals, and vegetative re-growth that occurs in Southern California. The tour consisted of stops at the Southern California Agency Office in Riverside to meet BIA staff, and Viejas, Campo, Santa Ysabel, Mesa Grande, Rincon, Pauma, and Pechanga Reservations. Since there are numerous Tribes located within the jurisdiction of the Southern California Agency, only a few were selected to be visited.

The intent of the tour was to introduce Richard to various staff members at some of the Tribe's locations to establish points of contact. Also, the tour provided Richard with a visual introduction to the various types of fuels management projects utilized by Southern California Tribes. During his time at the various tribal locations, Richard was able to learn the unique



Discussing fuels reduction projects on Palomar Mountain (from left) are: Shea O’Keefe, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Wildlife Biologist; Jeremy Zagarella, Pauma Band; Jonathan Snapp-Cook, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife; Clifford Devers, Pauma Band Forest Technician; Pedro Torrez, Native American liaison, Pauma Band; and USDA Forest Service Wildlife Biologist Jeff Wells (behind truck).

~Photo by Richard R. Johnson

relationship the BIA has with the Tribes located in the Pacific Region, wherein most of the fuels management program is 638 Contracted or managed through Self Governance. Therefore, the BIA provides these Tribes with technical assistance and contract oversight. The BIA also has the ability to assist with planning needs.

Richard, Josh, and Maja have been working on a draft Fuels Monitoring Plan for the Southern California Agency to cover all Tribal lands within its jurisdiction, pending approval by the individual tribes. It was important to have Richard on the ground to meet the tribal staff and get an idea of fuels conditions and fuels management in



Pechanga Fuels Crew with Regional and Agency staff. Front row: Nathan Knight, Kyle Lara, Sean Mares, Fuels Crew Leader Mike Mata. Back Row: Maja Pepion, Southern California Agency Fire and Fuels NEPA Coordinator; Richard Johnson, Pacific and Western Regional Fire Ecologist; Josh Simmons, Pacific Regional Fuels Management Specialist; Matt Buczyna, Kyle Coggins, Austin Tuer, George Vargas, and Steve Mares.

~Photo by Martin Zendejas

Southern California so that an effective plan can be developed to address fuels monitoring. A brief presentation was given to each tribal location visited to introduce the concepts of fuels monitoring, its importance, and how the fuels monitoring plan will impact the Tribes. Once this plan is completed, Richard and Josh will develop fuels monitoring plans for the remainder of the Pacific Region, which of course will require additional site visits.

The group was shown ongoing fuels management projects at Campo, Santa Ysabel, and Pechanga Reservations, and at Mesa Grande Reservation, saw where an entire subdivision of homes was saved from the destructive Witch fire in 2007 through the efforts of local residents.

Another of the projects the group looked at included work with interagency partners on the Palomar Divide Truck Trail, part of an extensive firebreak through the Pauma Reservation that connects with U.S. Forest Service roads.

What’s an SOPL and Why Should the Line Officer, Land Management Staff and Fire Managers Care?

~ Mary Taber, BIA Fire Ecologist

On August 29, 2009, the Mill Flat Fire, which had been burning since July 25, rapidly burned out of the Pine Valley Wilderness on the Dixie National Forest in Southern Utah towards the town of New Harmony. When the smoke cleared the following morning, all town residents had been evacuated,



Fire managers developing long-term plan.

six homes were destroyed or severely damaged, and several buildings and corrals were significantly burned. Lack of sufficient long-term planning was cited as a contributing factor to this unfortunate outcome.

While this incident took place on National Forest land, it could easily have burned somewhere in Indian Country. Each year, fire crews put out 98 percent of all wildfires that occur in Indian Country, yet it is the two percent of fires that place the most number of people and resources at risk, burn the longest, and are the most costly to fight and to rehabilitate.

If there was a resource with the potential to reduce the duration, risk and cost of wildfires, would you use it?

What is a Strategic Operational Planner?

The Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL) is a resource fire managers and line officers need on hand at the onset of any wildfire incident expected to last three or more days. After three days, uncertainties in the weather forecast are introduced, making forecasts unreliable and complicating models. They are trained to look at fire weather, fuel conditions and fire history to assist decision makers and fire operation specialists with choosing the best course of action that meets tribal land management objectives. The outcome is a reliable risk assessment that reflects worst-case scenarios that could occur as a fire grows and moves across landscapes,

jurisdictions, and management areas. This information can assist fire managers is setting priorities for scarce resources.

SOPL's do not work alone. Long-term fire behavior analysts and resource specialists who understand modeling, fire behavior, fire ecology, fuels management and climatology work

together to develop recommendations. They can help line officers with making decisions such as if a larger incident management organization is needed, and can establish breakpoints for ordering resources. In a constantly changing, dynamic and dangerous environment, the SOPL is an

most years, but when there are fires that burn for several days or weeks, Indian Country has to make the most of the resources available to them. In addition, more and more tribes are allowing wildfires to play their natural role as a means of restoring ecosystem diversity, resiliency and health; this approach requires long-term risk assessments and analysis to weigh the costs and benefits.

Given the wildland fire management activity in Indian Country and the benefits a SOPL can bring to the table, Line Officers cannot afford to overlook developing SOPLs.

If I need a SOPL, how do it get one?

Indian Country needs to invest in their future. At this time, there is one



Example of a management action point developed by a Strategic Operational Planner

invaluable resource that should not be overlooked when assessing strategies, alternatives and available resources.

Does Indian Country really need SOPLs?

Indian Country is not exempt from needing the skills of a Strategic Operational Planner. Large fires are a rare occurrence in Indian Country

qualified SOPL, but he is a hotshot superintendent and may not be always be available for SOPL assignments. Several tribal and agency employees are working on SOPL taskbooks; ordering SOPL's for wildfire events offers training opportunities. Over time, these trainees will become qualified and find they are the mentors of tomorrow.

To qualify as a SOPL, one must be either a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 or as a Division Supervisor. They must also attend Advanced Fire Management Applications, (S-482). S-482 will be held in April at the Albuquerque Training Center.

This will be the only opportunity Indian Country has to get into the class without competing with other agencies. Nominations must be entered into IQCS by your training officer by February 11.

For more information about SOPLs, visit the Lessons Learned Center at <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Additional.aspx?Page=329>.

You may also contact Mary Taber, BIA Fire Ecologist, at 208-387-5042.



Operations

Chumash Fire Department Firefighters Receive Special Recognition

~ Veronica V. Sandoval, Assistant Director of Public Relations Chumash Casino Resort

SANTA YNEZ, CA – December 21, 2010—Two Chumash Fire Department firefighters received special recognition at the Allan Hancock College Fire Academy graduation ceremony held on Dec. 17.

“It speaks volumes to the level of firefighters we have working for our fire department,” said JP Zavalla, battalion chief for the Chumash Fire Department. “Not only did these individuals represent themselves during the course of the academy they also represented the Chumash Fire Department and we’re very proud of that.”

James Kennedy, an engineer with the Chumash Fire Department, received the Outstanding Cadet award. The Outstanding Cadet honor is awarded by fellow cadets. Only one award is presented at each academy.

“It’s not a surprise that Jay received this prestigious commendation,”



Pictured Left to Right: Chumash Fire Department Firefighter Richard Garcia, Engineer Jay Kennedy, Battalion Chief JP Zavalla, and Engineer Gilbert Romero.

explained Zavalla. “With almost nine years in firefighting, Kennedy is a solid firefighter with a solid background. He’s a natural leader with the experience to back him.”

Kennedy has been with the Chumash Fire Department for three years. Richard Garcia, a firefighter with the department and member of the Coastal Band of Chumash Indians, was honored with two awards presented by the instructors and faculty of the academy, the Merit of Achievement pin and Most Improved Cadet award. Garcia also received the Most Motivated Cadet award, an honor

given to him by his fellow cadets. “It’s an honor to be recognized by my instructors and fellow cadets,” said Garcia. “I was the oldest to go through the academy and to receive the Most Motivated award was really surprising. I didn’t set out to be an inspiration to the younger guys, but when you’re doing something you like – the reward comes with it.”

To date, the Chumash Fire Department has had four graduates of the Fire Academy and three more have been accepted to the next accredited 16-week course through Allan Hancock College.

“We’re always pleased with the cadets that enroll in our program from the Chumash Fire Department,” said Andy Densmore, fire academy coordinator. “With the capabilities of the Chumash Fire Department and the skills they obtain in the Fire Academy the graduates are a skilled and well-trained resource for the reservation.”

Established in 2005 and lead by Zavalla, the Chumash Fire Department has a full-time crew along with seasonal firefighters. The department is equipped with two engines.

The Chumash Fire Department currently has a special contract with the Los Padres National Forest Service

and boasts a Cultural Rehab Crew – these crew members are specially trained to recognize and preserve Native American sites.

The Chumash Fire Department is an operation run by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.



Prevention

What Did you Learn in 2010?

~ Soledad Holguin, Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist, Pacific Region

2010 California Interagency Fire Prevention/Mitigation and Education Conference.

Variety is the spice of life, and so it is with Wildland Fire Prevention Education. The Public is a diverse target audience, with individual value systems and emotional opinion towards fire - tool or disaster.

The 2010 California Interagency Fire Prevention/Mitigation/Education Conference was attended by fire service personnel as well as, homeowners, insurance agents, law enforcement, and Tribal Leaders. The presenters were as unique as our audience. Listed are just a few of our guest speakers: Dr. Ron Hodgson, retired BLM Fire Social Scientist; Chief Bob Roper, Ventura County Fire Department; Doug Allen, retired CAL FIRE who specialized in the analysis and profiling of serial arsonists. The group also viewed a video on an interagency statewide effort at the California State Fair; youth



Native American Fire Prevention Alliance (NAFPA) Board Members left to right: Bob Blanchard, Benae Calac, Chuck Pister, Ron Reed who were conference supporters.

(Generation Green) team teaching at Camp Smokey. The audience diversity makes a statement, “We are all linked by one element – prevention of unwanted/unplanned fire.”

The “Take Responsibility” statewide campaign, which was set in motion during a Severity Fire Prevention Team, was presented by Debra Hein, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) / Forest Service Interagency Fire Mitigation Officer (team member).

Debra gave an update on the campaigns’ success, how to acquire rack cards on other topics, defensible space; ember awareness and again redefined the concept that individuals assume responsibility for their personal safety and property.

One day prior to the conference, Jim Nanamkin, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regional Fire Prevention Officer, instructed FI-110 (Wildland

Fire Observation and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders) and handed out certificates of completion.

A special thank you to the cadre members: Debra Hein (BLM), Ed Ramirez (United States Forest Service), Jennifer Chapman (National Parks Service), Jim Nanamkin (BIA), and Margret Grayson (Fire Safe Council).

The 2011 California Fire Prevention Conference is scheduled for June 7-9, in Palm Springs, California. If you would like to provide topics of interest, or share a fire prevention education success story at the conference, please forward to Jim Nanamkin, Regional Fire Prevention Officer, jim.nanamkin@bia.gov or Soledad Holguin, Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist, soledad.holguin@bia.gov.

California Home Ignition Zone Training

~ Soledad Holguin, Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist, Pacific Region



Sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific Region, the “Home Ignition Zone” training was held at two locations in California during the month of August. Over 35+ students participated at each session.

The first session took place on August 19-20, 2010 at Blue Lake Rancheria, and the second session was held at Pala Indian Reservation on August 23 and 24, 2010. The presenters were surprised to get a diverse group of attendees with interesting viewpoints with reference to approaching wildfire at the community level.

Blue Lake Rancheria, attendees included members of the community association, USFS contractors, a fuel analyst, environmentalists, an insurance underwriter, a fire prevention educator, fire protection specialists, Fire Safe councils, BIA and Tribal employees.

In Pala, attendance representatives were community forestry coordinators,



Course Instructors back row L to R: **Elfregio Covarrubias, Pala Fire Department, Hank Blackwell, and Pat Durland. BIA Course Coordinator, (center front) Soledad Holguin.**

fire prevention educators, resource conservation district personnel, an insurance underwriter, the Director of Wildlife Protection, a grant administrator, a landscape architect, a fuels manager, a fire science student, several Fire Safe Council members and several BIA/Tribal employees.



The course was presented by Pat Durland and Hank Blackwell (Stone Creek Fire, LLC) who were informative and encouraged some noteworthy conversation.

Course topics included, Myths of Wildland/Urban Fire, Understanding Wildland/Urban Fire, Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone, and Assessing Wildfire Hazards. Important points included discussions about fuels breaks, embers, the defensible space concept (developed to protect the forest from structural fires), and how to understand the home ignition zone. The information is based on scientific studies conducted by Jack Cohen, USFS Scientist. However, the presentation by Pat and Hank was done in a manner that would benefit both homeowners and the general public.

The second day was set aside for an informal field study. Each student was given a form to make evaluations on several structures and the instructors then heard what thoughts the students had on mitigating structural and landscape issues. Certificates of course completion were issued by the instructors.

Many thanks to the Blue Lake Rancheria and hotel facility Special Events Coordinator, Lisa Corral, and to Compliance Manager, Greg Perry. The Southern California course was hosted by the Pala Indian Reservation Fire Department,

thank you to Battalion Chief, Doug Moriarty and Elfregio Covarrubias, Fire Prevention Officer. Because of their participation and generosity, no tuition was required by the attendees.

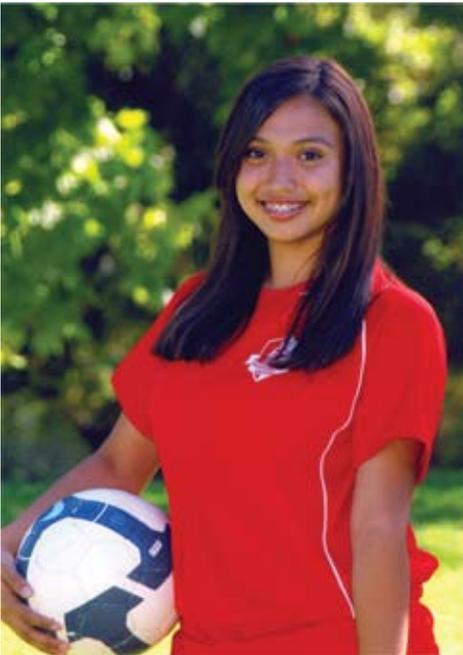




California Home Ignition Zone training activities.

California State Fair “Camp Smokey”

~ Soledad Holguin, Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist, Pacific Region



Inessa Bartholomew, Camp Smokey volunteer and Karuk Tribal member.

What makes Camp Smokey so special is that many of the attendees are repeat visitors that bring their children and grandchildren. The California State Fair is visited by people from throughout the United States and other Countries. Camp Smokey is an interagency fire education project that continues to grow with the changing

times and this year is no exception with estimated, daily visitors of 800+. Further, sponsoring of youth, “Generation Green,” gives students an opportunity to participate and provides memorable insight into the professional world including what it takes to work with the Public. This year, the BIA was tasked with giving a fire prevention message, and an education presentation in the Little Red School House.

Camp Smokey staffing is dependent on volunteers, many from Generation Green, Federal, City and County Agencies. The Pacific Region was very fortunate to get the assistance of Inessa Bartholomew, and her mother, BIA employee Julie White, who are Karuk Tribal Members. 14 year old Inessa took time from her very busy summer schedule to spend 15 days helping out at Camp Smokey. Inessa really connected with the attendees in a professional manner, using props to explain the use of fire and its benefits. She was able to answer questions about her culture and had an understanding of traditional fire use and the importance of fire use during ceremonial/spiritual tribal events.

The Little Red School House educational presentation was inspired by Judy S. Okulitch, a Youth Fire

Prevention and Intervention Program Coordinator from the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Oregon message is, “Safe Fire” and “Unsafe Fire,” which is different than the previous message “Good and Bad Fire.” The BIA took its own spin on this important message and incorporated Traditional Native American Fire Use:

A Safe Fire is Useful and has Benefits when:

- Always small and supervised by an adult
- Used as a tool
- Practical and beneficial

Historical fires set by Native Americans were important in three ways:

1. Depending on purpose of fire, the time of year was important.
2. Fires were set often at the same time of year and in the same locations.
3. Low intensity fires burned along the ground and did not damage trees or roots.

Adults used fire for: hunting food; land management; pest control; animal hide tanning; tree felling.

Other Natural Benefits: cone seed release; dormant seed germination; opening forest to sunlight; and reduction of dead trees and other vegetation.

Unsafe Fire can have bad consequences and are destructive to:

1. Human life; homes; buildings and property

Standing Rock Hires Prevention Tech

~ David Peters, Interface/Prevention Specialist, NIFC

This past summer the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe was fortunate to hire an experienced fire fighter to run the BIA fire prevention program. Sid Bailey, Jr., who is from Standing Rock, brings to the program 18 years of fire fighting experience on hand crews and engines. He studied at the United Tribes College in Bismarck, North Dakota in criminal justice. Sid is a Task Force Leader, Incident Commander Type 4, Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 3 and a Prevention Education Team Member Trainee.

Sid is tackling a lot of prevention program initiatives, predominately the top four issues which are: camp fires, equipment use, debris burning and youth. Mr. Bailey is concerned that too much rangeland grass is burning up on the reservation in an unplanned way. Prescribed burns can be very healthy for the land if done right, but negligent agricultural burning or welding on a dry windy day can burn up a lot of grass unnecessarily. He also is focusing his program on the arson issue. Sid plans on developing his prevention officer skills through a

2. Animal life; insects; plants; and the ecosystem
3. Watershed and landscape

Because of time constraints, our presenters learned quickly to size up their target audience in order to ensure that the fire prevention message was received and understood.

BIA received many compliments for the presentation. Many adults indicated that this material was new and helped them to understand fire use and prescribed fire. Many of the adults did not realize that Native Americans continue to practice their use of traditional fires.



Sid Bailey, Jr.

heavy emphasis on training courses, involvement on prevention and education teams, establishing a burn permit program, and revising the agencies Wildfire Prevention Plan over the next couple of years.

Standing Rock has applied for strong funding in Community Assistance (CA) and Prevention Supplemental for 2011. If the CA funding comes through, Sid will be putting up three 8' X 16' community fire awareness billboards and creating a traveling billboard for fire education messages. He will be putting together messages for a trailer to be used for prescribed fire and suppression efforts and he will work with local schools developing

Native American Unicorn sign designs. He will be creating a fire awareness kiosk at the Prairie Knights Casino and Hotel, developing Community Fireworks Areas at eight communities, and purchasing a PDA and Red Zone software to complete home assessments.

Sid also plans on purchasing a Billy Brushwacker (spokes-goat for youth fire mitigation education) outfit, DVD's, booklets and posters, as well as Smokey Bear and Firewise materials. Congratulations Sid, we look forward to good things coming from your program!

National Recognition for Ivy Dickinson

~ Len Diaz, Northwest Regional Office



Ivy Dickinson from the Nez Perce Tribe receives a Smokey Bear Award Certificate at the Idaho Wildfire Conference in Boise on October 6, 2010, from Len Diaz NWRO

Ivy Dickinson, Prevention Technician at the Nez Perce Tribe has been recognized by the National Forest Fire Prevention Program Committee. Ivy was presented with a Smokey Bear Award certificate at the Idaho Wildfire Conference in Boise on October 6, 2010. The committee honored her “efforts to educate people to be responsible with fire including contributions of developing partnerships, organization, and direction to fire prevention in and around the State of Idaho.” National awards of this nature are given for work sustained over a minimum 2 year period.

Listed below are highlights of Ivy’s interagency prevention efforts while she represented the Nez Perce Tribe. Her emphasis was the betterment of the Nez Perce Tribal prevention program. She had the foresight to improve the program through an interagency approach. Interagency efforts take advantage of limited dollars and limited number of positions to provide quality products.

2008

Ivy was a member of the 2008 Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG) Fire Conference planning committee. She provided leadership for the Prevention module at the conference. Ivy was part of the editing team of the video, “Are We Safe From Fires, Protecting Idaho Communities.” The video won the 2009 Firewise Leadership Award and was presented to the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group by the National Fire Protection Association.

2009

Ivy was one of 4 individuals to start the North Central Idaho Fire Prevention Coop in 2009 and is the 2010 Chairperson. She worked with USFS employees to construct a school presentation brochure focusing on K through 8th grades. The brochure provided teachers an awareness of interagency personnel willing to make presentations on topics of fire prevention, forestry, and fire ecology. Ivy was instrumental in designing the current Idaho Home Evaluation Forms. Ivy secured funding, along with other cooperators, for fire prevention messages during the 2009 & 2010 Vandal football games at

the University of Idaho. She was a member of a core group that started a monthly Nez Perce Tribal Environmental Education Movie Night.

2010

Ivy is Chairperson of Idaho Firewise. She secured funding to aide in the hiring of an Americorp Intern through the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI). The Intern served as an Idaho Firewise Educator. She is a member of 3 sub-committees (Education, Communications, & Home Evaluations) of the ISFPWG. Ivy was part of a joint inter-agency effort to secure funding and implement Fire Squirts Summer Camps in 2010. The Fire Squirts program is a fun, educational week-long camp that teaches children, ages 8 to 14, about fire ecology, fire history, fire behavior, fire prevention, fire effects on plants and animals, and Nez Perce Tribal culture.

Ivy has left the Nez Perce tribe and taken her talents to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. She is presently the North Idaho Smoke Coordinator. Prior to her departure Ivy completed the Wildfire Prevention Plan revision. Ivy will be missed, but she can still be found at ISFPWG meetings continuing prevention work in a cooperative interagency effort. Great job! Thanks for all your efforts to advance the Nez Perce Fire Prevention program and to make the Nez Perce Tribe a true interagency partner.



Pine Ridge Builds Wildfire Safety Exhibit

~ Jim Rodriguez Pine Ridge Fire Prevention Officer
 ~Patti Maguire, Pine Ridge Fire Prevention Technician
 ~ David Peters, NIFC Interface/Prevention Specialist



Wildfire Safety Exhibit

Pine Ridge Reservation has some of the highest occurrences of human-caused wildland fires in the nation, averaging 385 human ignitions per year. Most of these human related fires occur by youth, followed by fire use, such as debris burning, and then equipment use. Fire management staff has been working hard over the past several years to reduce these wildland fires, while protecting communities from existing ones. Nearly eighty-eight thousand acres have burned over the past decade. Several approaches are used by managers to protect communities.

This past summer the Pine Ridge Fire Prevention Program utilized Community Assistance funding to design and build a fire management exhibit. The exhibit will keep the community aware of local wildland fire management activities and topics including, fuel reduction projects, Wildfire Prevention, Investigation and Suppression activities.

The fire prevention program has developed numerous messages that will be posted on four large bulletin cases throughout the year. Magnetic vinyl posters, that cost about fifty dollars to make, are cost effective enough to provide a variety of fresh messages addressing wildfire management and safety issues.

The wildfire safety exhibit is located in the heart of Pine Ridge, on the main path to the Pine Ridge Agency office. Finishing touches on the exhibit include the installation of animal proof trash receptacles and an ash urn. Native artwork is installed on the ceiling. A main exhibit sign will be attached to the roof, and a solar light kit will be installed.

The vivid black and red exhibit is highly visible, situated in front of the Oglala Sioux Tribal and BIA

Agency buildings. The exhibit is easily accessible for handicapped individuals. Two picnic tables were placed under the exhibit and landscaping surrounds the structure. Many people frequent the site to have lunch, take a break from work or browse the informational exhibit. Future plans include a poster contest for local students to design a wildfire prevention message. Winners will have their poster featured in the exhibit.

The Pine Ridge Fire Prevention Program Fire Management Exhibit was designed and built for under \$20,000 which includes bulletin cases, picnic tables and a finished 13' x 20' structure. Local firefighters worked on the construction of the shelter. Prevention Officer Jim Rodriguez and Prevention Technician Patti Maguire worked together to solicit local suppliers for the picnic shelter kit, site preparation and construction consultation.

In addition to the new Fire Management Exhibit, the program has worked on new outreach activities. Two fire prevention and education teams came to the reservation for a month this year, one in the spring for two weeks, the other around Independence Day for a couple weeks.



Wildfire Safety Exhibit

These teams reached over three thousand people on the reservation during their tours. Together with fire fighters that were present at community activities throughout the reservations districts, prevention teams encouraged people to use safe zones, such as baseball fields, to light off fireworks.

One new program that the Prevention Officer is working on, is gaining

tribal support for a Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program (YFIP). Once the tribal council supports this initiative the BIA will provide a contractor who will assist the Agency to train and establish an YFIP. This program teaches potential coalition partners (health, social, juvenile and family services, police and fire departments, tribal courts, and other interested parties) how they can work together to reach youth involved in

starting wildfires. This program can reduce youth started fires significantly as seen on reservations around Indian Country for the past couple of years.

For more information on how to develop a wildfire safety exhibit, you can contact Jim Rodriguez at the Pine Ridge Agency, or David Peters at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office.



Back row, l to r: Clinton Smith, Archie Flat Lip, Darren Kimmerly, Jeremiah Faumuina, Michael Flores, Loren Bell, Richard Bowen, Patrick Kenny (Instructor)

Middle row, l to r: Mike Peterson, Leon Ben (Instructor), Steve Jackson (Lead Instructor), Bernadette Lucero, Wayne Smith, Jr., Noah De La Rosa, Karen DeBord, Stephen Fillmore, Candy Lupe

Front row, l to r: Andrea Gilham (Instructor), Melvin Hunter, Jr., Howard Richards, Jr., Travis Du Bois, Josesito Montana, John Gilham

~ Photo, Laurel Simos (Instructor) not shown

Becoming an Effective Facilitative Instructor

~ Steve Jackson, Wildland Fire Operations Specialist, Salt Lake BLM

The BIA sponsored its 8th annual NWCG M-410, Facilitative Instructor training January 10-14, 2011 in San Diego, California at the Catamaran Resort.

This course meets the requirements

referenced in the NWCG Field Manager's Course Guide to instruct 200 level or higher courses. In addition to helping one become compliant with yet another federal policy, this course also focuses on ways to improve:

- The quality of instruction at the local, geographic, and national level;
- Interaction with other teachers and course coordinators in a cadre environment;
- Skills for conducting meetings,

briefings, After Action Reviews; and

- Any communication scenario where information sharing within dynamic groups is the key.

This year's course continued the tradition of combining individuals from a variety of fire positions and locations from the wildfire community in an arena where they are encouraged to try techniques and methods that reach beyond fire topics. Furthermore, Tribal and Bureau employees not working in Fire Management are also encouraged to participate.

~ Walt Lara - Yurok Forestry

I would like to share a story of my personal experience in a natural disaster, the 1955 Flood of Klamath California, my home town. From this experience, I have learned the importance of disaster training, safety guidelines, and the flow of emergency information to agencies and communities.

Klamath, at the time was a booming town. It was also known as "Little Reno." There was a tavern on every corner, fish canneries, theaters, restaurants, shops, and stores of all sorts. There was a large population of Yurok people who were fishing guides, cannery workers, loggers, and so on. The Yurok Tribe had not been formed at the time and the Klamath area was inundated with non-Indian businesses.

I stood at the window of my home over-looking the raging Klamath river as logs and other debris swept by. Highway Patrol Officer, Danny, and a Yurok elder, (awok) Seelie Griffen, drove into the yard.



Walt "BlackSnake" Lara, Yurok Forestry



Seelie explained that the river had surrounded his house and his wife and her sister would not leave, "they're down there ring'n the bells and pray'n," he said. The two old ladies were Shakers and believed they would be saved. Merkie Oliver, who I grew up with, lived just down the road so I stopped to pick him up.

The road from Requa to Klamath was already under water. It took us 25 minutes to drive through the water to get to the highway. The village was 7 miles away. We took a row boat to reach the house. We heard the singing and the bells inside. The water was about a foot deep in the house, the

two old ladies were standing on the back of the couches. We waded into the house, picked the ladies up, bells, candles, petticoats and all and headed back to the row boat. They both came willingly.

I had to step along the fence to reach the boat. Merkie, who stepped in time with the song, missed the fence line and went over backwards. The lady he carried in his arms landed on his chest and he couldn't move. As his head bobbed up out of the water, I was able to pull them both up and get them into the boat.

Merkie and I were able to alert several others. Most people refused to believe that the water would reach their homes and would not leave. Wes Rook and I took a 16 foot Klamath River Sled boat with a 35 horse Johnson motor to let cattle and other live stock out of fenced areas and barn yards. When we got back up the river, there were huge logs and other debris coming down the river.

By nightfall it was too dark to operate the boat because of the debris. We built a large fire up on the north side of the bridge. There were about

20 men that had gathered together to assist us in rescues by truck. We worked with kerosene lamps and spotlights. Through the dark night we heard screams and cries and tried desperately to find what direction they came from.

By daylight, the officer with us declared Marshall Law which allowed us to use one of the logging tug boats that was docked. One of the guys, Donnie Melvin, was able to operate tug boats, so with Donnie as our operator we set out.

The river was rising about a foot per hour. The rain was continuous and



Town of Klamath, Flooded

the water more vicious by the minute. The debris was getting thicker and the tug boat seemed to crawl against the swift water. There was a lady standing on the top of her store, swift water circled the structure. We pulled up next to it and pulled the lady aboard. As she boarded, the turbulence from the tug boat caused the building to break away and float down the river. We took her and others that we had picked up to the north side of the bridge.

As we tried to go up under the bridge we saw that the river was rising closer to the bridge, the tug boat could barely fit through, and I knew this was going to be bad. We circled back around to the town site to get people out of that area.

We reached Nellie Hill's house. She was an elder and I wanted to check on her. Nellie's husband, who could not speak English very well, was standing on the front porch in about two feet of water. He was yelling and motioning inside. I tried to get him to move back so that we could back the tug close to the door. He didn't understand so, Donnie got as close to the structure as he could. I stepped out of the boat and missed the porch by a few feet. The water swept me under and I came up along side the house.

I grabbed the structure and was able to crawl along the side of the house until I reached the tug boat and Officer Danny pulled me back in. We used an axe to cut a hole in the wall where I found Nellie and her friend, Maggie Pilgrim, standing on the couch. The water was up to their knees. Nellie quickly attached herself to my neck as we made our way to the tug boat through the hole in the wall. Then, I went back for Maggie.

I can't stress enough how thick the water was with debris, roof tops, livestock, huge fir and redwood logs with the tree boughs still on them. The log jam was so thick that there was a bull that rode the drift 27 miles north in ocean waters to Crescent City.

It was impossible to operate any kind of boat at this point. Defeated, we were forced to dock at Simpson yard (Hopel Creek). We had burned out one motor. The tugs had two Chrysler 300 motors. Although it rained for 22 days, the water slowly receded. There were a lot of lives saved and lost in this natural disaster. For miles our beaches were filled with debris that once sheltered a community.

Although our team (Danny, Wes, Donnie, Merkie and myself) did the best that we could in rescuing

22 individuals, there were many lives lost. I will never forget the individuals that clutched logs and that lay on top roof debris as they floated out. One man raised his hand in a wave knowing that there was nothing that could be done.

I can't help but think that if there was a plan of action for disaster, training, equipment, medical teams and much more, that more lives could have been saved. This is one reason I am an advocate for training, safety guidelines and a flow of emergency rescue information available for agencies and community members.

My daughter, Dr. Pooh (aka. Dr. Lara-Cooper), talks to her students about "worldview" and "epistemology". She says that our contributions and perspectives are a reflection of our values, beliefs, and experiences. How we make sense of the world and the work that we do, evolves from our worldview.

For the past few years, it has been my privilege to share traditional stories, historical events, and my personal experiences. I have come to an understanding that my contribution to forest management, forest land and fire prevention, and environmental awareness is to share my experiences that have developed over the past seventy some years.

It is my hope that these articles and the stories that I have shared will contribute to the development of your philosophies toward forestation practices, forest land fire prevention and training, and environmental awareness to keep a healthy balance on our homelands. When we hear of natural disasters we think they are somewhere else and don't prepare. Whether it floods, earthquakes or fires, preparation and training are necessary.

Smoke Signals (Vol. 19) contained an error in Blacksnake's Corner. The article described Preston Peak as being within the Yurok boundaries, and the article should have read Sheldon Peak.

Thanks!

Thanks again to those of you who have submitted articles and photographs. Keep up the great work!

Submission Criteria

Please include the author's name, title and location, captions and high resolution photographs attached as separate jpeg files. The article submission deadline for "Smoke Signals" is as follows:

March 1
June 1
September 1
December 1

Please start submitting articles for the next issue of Smoke Signals as soon as you can! Thank you!

"If a man does his best, what else is there?" ~ General George S. Patton (1885-1945)

Distribution

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Thank you!

If you don't see your article in this issue of Smoke Signals, you should see it in the next. Thanks again for the high quality articles and excellent response!

Article Submission Checklist

- Author's name
- Author's title
- Author's agency/location

- High resolution jpeg photos
- Name of photographer
- Photo captions
- Names of people in photo and where they work

- Contact name, number, and email address