



Smoke Signals

November 2012
Volume 25

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Fire Management Activity at Standing Rock Agency

~ Steven Ipswitch, Fire Management Officer, Standing Rock Agency, Fort Yates, North Dakota



Jesse Brown Otter directing a SEAT on a Fort Yates prescribed fire, October 22, 2011.

~ Photo by Steven Ipswitch.

Fire Suppression

In contrast to an unusually slow summer fire season, the Fall and Spring fire seasons were unusually active at Standing Rock Agency. October started out with warm, dry weather, and by the end of December, Standing Rock Agency was abnormally dry, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. A Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) was pre-positioned at Mobridge, South Dakota from October 6 to November 18, 2011 and March 13 through April 10, 2012. The SEAT was instrumental in stopping two



Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) protecting a structure on the Running Fire, November 4, 2011.

~ Photo by Steve Ipswitch

potentially large wind-driven fires in October and November. Both fires were kept to just under 170 acres each. Two fires on March 12 and 14 burned over 300 acres. In addition, the SEAT assisted on fires at Cheyenne River, Fort Totten, and the Black Hills.

Prescribed Fire & Fuels Management

Despite the fact that the Fuels Specialist position was vacant, Standing Rock Agency personnel rose to the occasion and accomplished over 500 acres of prescribed fire and mechanical fuel reduction projects. WUI projects in the North Dakota communities of Cannonball, Porcupine, and Fort Yates, and the South Dakota communities of Bear Soldier, Kenel, Wakpala, Running Antelope, and Rock Creek all had prescribed

fires, mechanical fuel reduction, or both.

The Fort Yates prescribed fire was also used as a proficiency drill for the SEAT based in Mobridge, SD. Firefighters who had not yet had the opportunity to call in air tankers

on wildfires had the opportunity to direct the SEAT via radio on practice water drops. Minutes after the prescribed fire was concluded, the SEAT and other resources were used on a 170 acre grass fire near Bullhead, South Dakota.



Burning in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) at Cannonball, North Dakota, on December 20, 2011.

~ Photo by Steve Ipswitch

Jeff Casey

~ Steven Ipswitch, Fire Management Officer,
Standing Rock Agency, Fort Yates, North
Dakota



Jeff Casey ~ Photo by Steve Ipswitch

On May 14, 2012, Jeffrey Casey started as the new prescribed fire and fuels specialist at Standing Rock Agency. Jeff brings over 14 years of experience in prescribed fire, fuels management, fire engine operations, and helicopter management with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management in Texas, New Mexico, Washington, and Idaho. He also worked four years as an EMT in Goldendale, Washington. Jeff earned a B.S. in Animal and Range Science from North Dakota State University, and put that degree to work in the agriculture industry in Larimore, ND.

Caddo Nation Fire Crew Performs Archaeological Surveys as Heritage Resources Technicians

~ Don Motanic, ITC Technical Specialist
~ Daniel Cain, MS, RPA, USFS, Kisatchie National Forest
~ Gary Parker, Firefighter Coordinator, Caddo Nation



Gary Parker directing Caddo HRT crew members in Phase II excavations at a Caddo habitation site in Webster Parish, LA, dating to approximately 1,400 AD

The Caddo Nation's Fire Crew Coordinator, Gary Parker has been receiving phone calls after his presentation at the 11th Bridge the Gap Conference held in Durant, Oklahoma during the week of April 2 – 5, 2012.

Gary said, "We have been receiving calls from the Forest Service from as far as Illinois and Missouri."

Several U. S. Forest Service

participants throughout the nation saw the presentation about the Caddo Nation's Fire Crew performing archaeological surveys as Heritage Resources Technicians (HRT). The presentation was made by Gary Parker and Dan Cain, Zone Archaeologist, U.S. Forest Service

In the fall of 2011, the Caddo Nation's Fire Crew who are also trained as the Caddo Heritage Resources Technicians (HRTs)



L to R – Daniel Cain (Kisatchie National Forest Zone Archaeologist), Gary Parker (Caddo HRT Crew Boss), William Quoetone, Michael Williams, Lance Ware, Brent Cozad, Randy Cozad

performed duties at the Kisatchie National Forest (Great Big Caney project) under a Participating Agreement between Region 8 of the U.S. Forest Service and the Caddo Nation. The Caddo Nation headquarters is in Binger, Oklahoma.

The mission of the two 12-day work details was to conduct an intensive Phase I archaeological survey, with subsurface testing, of 1,440 acres on the Caney Ranger District in Webster Parish, LA.

Mr. Daniel Cain, Zone Archaeologist responsible for the management of



Gary Parker directing Caddo HRT crew in close-interval testing of a newly identified Native American prehistoric site in Winn Parish, LA.

the Heritage Resource Programs on three of the five Ranger Districts (RDs) that comprise the Kisatchie National Forest, said, "Overall, it was my observation that the Caddo Nation HRT crew either met or exceeded all performance standards and expectations. They exhibited good field skills and a strong work ethic. Additionally, they were responsive to new ideas and direction, and acted well as a team. Their efforts and attention to mission expectations, despite arduous labor and adverse conditions were excellent. As a result of working with this well managed, very capable crew, the survey of 1,440 acres of the Caney RD was completed a full day ahead of schedule."

A total of four new heritage sites were recorded, and with the

extra work day, limited Phase II excavations were conducted at a recently identified Caddo habitation site on the Caney RD, which dates from c. 1,200 - 1,500 A.D. The results of those investigations will enhance understanding of Caddo life ways during that time period in north Louisiana, ensure the site's continued protection, and assist the Forest in its efforts to comply with Section 110 of the NHPA (National Historic Preservation Act).

"I am very pleased to have worked with the Caddo Nation. I look forward to the opportunity to work with these gentlemen in the future, and will certainly recommend Caddo Nation HRTs to any colleagues in the Forest Service who may inquire," said Mr. Cain.

The HRTs came from the Caddo Nation's Fire Crew which is led by Fire Coordinator, Gary Parker. The crew's involvement started in 2009, when the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma signed a Regional Participating Agreement (PA) with the US Forest Service Southern Region (Region 8) under authority of the Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 1975.

As highlighted in a Forest Service Tribal Relations 2009 Newsletter:

"The Caddo Nation and the three Arkansas/Oklahoma Forests enjoy a long and productive relationship, and that relationship now extends regionally. The Caddo were one of the founding tribes of the To Bridge A Gap (TBAG) conference,



Caddo HRT crew members conducting Phase II excavations at habitation site in Winn Parish, LA, dating to approximately 1,000 AD

have a multi-forest government-to-government Memorandum of Understanding, were instrumental in the Columbian Shuttle Recovery efforts, and assisted in large-scale post-fire heritage surveys of the Bugaboo Fire in northeast Florida in 2007.

The original PA authorized the Arkansas and Oklahoma

Forests to employ trained tribal members in a variety of resource management work, such as wildfire suppression, prescribed burning, trail construction and maintenance, heritage surveys, and timber stand improvement. However, its authority was limited to three forests, and as the Caddo reputation for work ethic and

professionalism spread, other Region 8 forests expressed interest in using their crews to help achieve resource goals."

For more information, please contact Gary Parker at: caddofft@yahoo.com or 405-656-2344 ext.

Rocky Boy's Agency, Box Elder, Montana - 2012 Graduates of Rookie School

~ Mamie Charette, Administrative Officer, BIA, Rocky Boy Agency



Standing left to right – Instructor – Juan Gamble, Instructor – Tad Lamere, Valerie Enemy Hunter, Delwayne Denny, Matt Lopez, Deon Eagleman, Chris Demontiney, Martin Koop, William Lamere, Jay Chiefstick, Anthony Komeotis, Emmett Windy Boy, Lawrence Brockie, Austin Ameline, Roderich R. Plenty Hawk, Tasheena Duran, Delane Small, Tim Koop, Antonio Morsette, Tyler Roberts, Chase Martin, Brandon Raining Bird. Front Roll kneeling – Kyle Russette, Cody Plainfeather, Jason Cliff, Instructor – Thomas “Smurf” Knife, Instructor – Harold Watson, Adrian Shawl, Jordan Denny and John Slack. Not in picture: Instructor – Derek Small and William Lodgepole, Jr.

The week of June 18th to the 22nd of 2012, the Rocky Boy Rookie Training was held at Stone Child College.

28 individuals obtained their Red Cards to fight forest fires. The trainings that were taken included:

S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior;
I-100 Introduction to Incident Command System;

S-110 Basic Wildland Fire Orientation;
S-130 Introduction to Firefighting;
L-180 Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Services;
RT-130 Fireline Safety Training;
P-101 Fire Prevention Education and;
 Field Exercise and Demobilization Exercise.

F&WS Spatial Fire Management Plan Inspires BIA

~ Karen Miranda Gleason, F&WS National Fire Communication Coordinator
~ Contributions by Reeve Armstrong, BIA Wildland Fire Planning Specialist



Richard Powskey, Nancy Lee Wilson and John Barborinas during the early stages of spatial FMP discussion in AZ.

Adopting a methodology used by Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) became the first partner in the interagency fire community to incorporate geospatial data into a fire management plan. The recently completed pilot project, a Spatial Fire Management Plan (SFMP) for FWS lands in New Mexico, became the first of its kind in the United States.

"This really brought an interest back into creating FMPs," said Reeve Armstrong, the BIA National Lead for Fire Management Planning. "Whenever we've shared the Fish and Wildlife Service map sets at Regional meetings, people were really excited. It cuts down the size of documents by

about half, making them much more usable."

The new FWS plan uses spatial graphics to replace nearly three-fourths of the written text typically found in a traditional FMP. The visual format uses a series of three maps to convey interrelated fields of data, while displaying non-spatial data concisely within text boxes. Information can be more readily communicated to internal staff, interagency partners, incident management teams, and the public.

"It helps us talk with cooperators and get their buy-in, because they can actually see what we're doing," said Jake Nutall, Fire Management

Officer for the FWS New Mexico Fire District, and a member of the project team.

Following the FWS model, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is in the process of developing its own SFMP prototypes for three different Agencies – Eastern Nevada, Ute Mountain Ute, and Eastern Cherokee.

Armstrong reports that the Eastern Nevada Agency SFMP, covering nine Tribes, is nearly completed. The SFMP draft for Ute Mountain Ute Agency in Colorado is in progress, with data collection and assembly of written chapters underway. The Eastern Cherokee Agency in North Carolina is in initial stages of developing its SFMP, just beginning data collection.

Interagency interest in SFMPs started in August 2011, after a presentation at the National Interagency Fire Center by a fire manager from New South Wales. After initial scoping at Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge, FWS decided to draft the first plan, to cover all six National Wildlife Refuges and the two National Fish Hatcheries in New Mexico. The work was completed and the final SFMP approved within 14 months, saving considerable time and expense over the standard process.

"This is a truly interagency effort," said Becky Brooks, the FWS National Fire Planner. "All of the guidance has been jointly developed by the federal fire management agencies." She and

Armstrong both credit Jeff Manley, National Park Service Fire Planner, for his leadership role shepherding the move to SFMPs. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Interagency Fire Planning Committee, which includes Armstrong, Brooks, and Manley, is

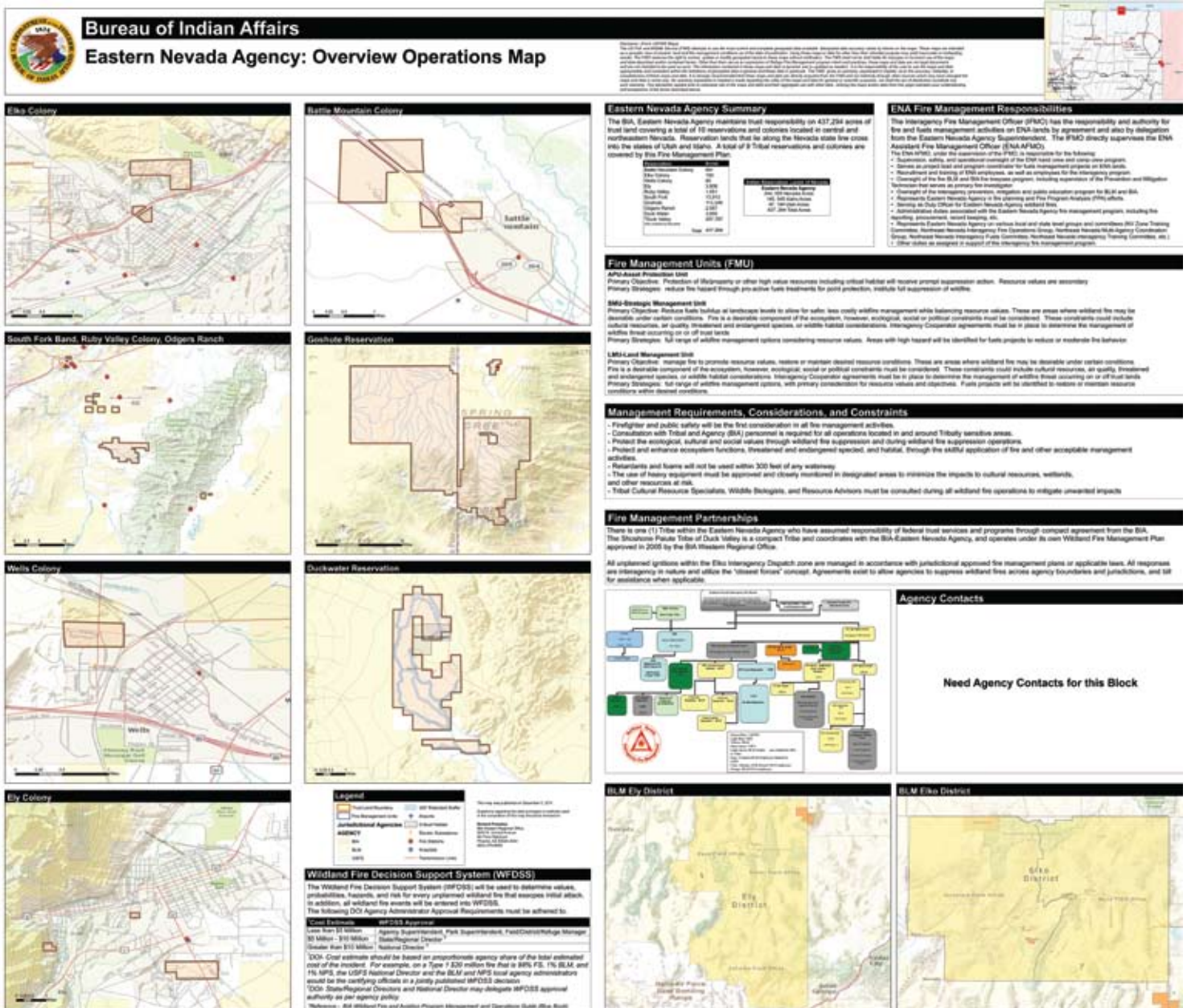
Within the spatial products, planners can access and more easily incorporate a variety of relevant information from other databases. Map data is also more conducive to frequent updates, as compared to written text, typically reviewed only on an annual schedule.

<p>The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Interagency Fire Planning Committee, which includes Armstrong, Brooks, and Manley, is also working to integrate spatial data into the interagency Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) used for incident response.</p>	<p>The Bureau of Land Management is currently studying its Boise District for a possible SFMP.</p> <p>The next step for FWS is a second pilot project in South Dakota to develop an SFMP for its numerous Wetland Management Districts</p>
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As FWS and BIA move forward, its sister agencies in the Department of the Interior are conducting parallel efforts. The National Park Service is developing a draft SFMP for Wind Caves National Park in South Dakota. challenges associated with displaying data for many small discontinuous units, noted Brooks. The FWS Northeast Region is also scoping SFMP potential for its coastal refuges.

The Bureau of Land Management is currently studying its Boise District for a possible SFMP.

The next step for FWS is a second pilot project in South Dakota to develop an SFMP for its numerous Wetland Management Districts (WMDs). This presents special challenges associated with displaying data for many small discontinuous units, noted Brooks. The FWS Northeast Region is also scoping SFMP potential for its coastal refuges.



Overview Operations Map, part of the draft Spatial Fire Management Plan, for the Eastern Nevada Agency. Credit: Reeve Armstrong, BIA Wildland Fire Planning Specialist

Welcome Kenny Jaramillo Prevention Specialist!



Kenny Jaramillo, from Isleta Pueblo New Mexico, is the new Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)/Prevention Specialist for the Southwest and Navajo Regions as of May 2012.

Prior to taking his new position, Kenny had been the Fire Management Officer at Southern Pueblos Agency (SPA) since 2008. He began his career at SPA as a Forestry Aid before transferring to the USFS working in Fire and Aviation Management for the Cibola National Forest for 6 years before returning to SPA as the AFMO in 2004. Kenny also completed Technical Fire Management Session 20.

Kenny enjoys working in Fire Management and looks forward to working in Fire Prevention and taking on new challenges.

In his off time, he enjoys spending time with his family and being outdoors. Kenny's duty station is at the Southwest Regional Office in Albuquerque, NM and can be reached at 505-563-3375 or kenneth.jaramillo@bia.gov.

Welcome Jeffrey Moyer Prevention Specialist!



Jeffrey Moyer is a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, WA. He joined the BIA-NIFC in June of 2012 as the Regional Fire Prevention/WUI Specialist for the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions.

Prior to that, Jeffrey spent nine years with the Spokane Tribe, primarily as a Fire Prevention Officer, but also served as the Assistant Fire Management Officer for the last two. Jeffrey also worked as BIA seasonal and Emergency Firefighter (EFF) for five years for the Spokane Agency. Jeffrey volunteered with the Spokane Tribal Fire & EMS for

14 years and with Steven County Fire District One for seven years.

Jeffrey completed the Biological Sciences for Federal Land Managers 401 certification at University of Las Vegas Nevada In 2006. He also completed the Washington State Fire Academy at North Bend WA, for structure fire, and received 81 credits at Spokane Community College for Fire Science.

Currently Jeffrey is qualified as a Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF), Prevention Education Team Member (PETM), Task Force Leader (TFLD), Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 2 (RXB2), Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4), Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN) and Heavy Equipment (STEQ), and Firing Boss (FIRB).

He is stationed at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Billings, Montana and can be reached at (406) 247-7906.

Arsonist ordered to pay feds for wildfire

~ K.C. Mehaffey Wenatchee World Staff writer

Saturday, October 29, 2011 reprinted with permission

OKANOGAN -A Nespelem arsonist convicted in August of purposely lighting wildfires on the Colville Indian Reservation two years ago was ordered Monday to pay the \$715,490 it cost to fight them.

Elam Sunny Rae Baker, 35, is serving 10 years in prison for igniting three fires in September 2009, including one that forced the evacuation of 50 residents from a convalescent center in Nespelem.

He was charged in Okanogan County Superior Court with 10 counts of arson, including nine that were set the same day along a 37-mile stretch of Highway 155 between Omak and Nespelem. Some of those charges were dropped in the plea agreement because they did not add to the time he would have served.

Baker used matches taped to a burning cigarette to light the fires, enabling him to leave the scene before the matches ignited and started a wildfire. The Washington State Patrol Crime Lab matched DNA left on two of the devices.

He had worked at various times as a private contract firefighters, but officials did not know if he was hoping to get a Job from the wildfires he lit.

Prosecutor Karl Sloan said Baker may be required to begin making payments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs while

incarcerated, if he is employed in prison, but that will determined by the Department of Corrections.

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2011/o-ordered-to-pay-feds-for-wildfire/>

Printed with permission -K C Mehaffey, World staff

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2011/oct/29/arsonist-ordered-to-pay-feds-for-wildfire?print=11110/2011>

Native FireSafe Councils

~ Jennifer Mayberry, Director of FireSafe Montana

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Rocky Mountain Region initiated a Native FireSafe Council program with FireSafe Montana in 2011. This initiative was created to address the need to increase the public's awareness of wildfire issues in the surrounding communities and the importance of collaboration between various departments and organization on and around the reservations. Bringing together the diverse interests of a community and identifying key areas of wildfire risk are essential to helping the public understand the importance of preparing for wildfire and the benefits of creating fire adapted and Firewise® communities.

The Flathead FireSafe Council helped to kick off their first collaborative event with FireSafe Montana on April 9th and 10th at the KwaTaqNuk in Polson, MT. The event was a Communities and Wildfire Conference that focused on the wildfire issues of Western Montana. The night of



Curtiss Matt is receiving an award from FireSafe Montana for his exceptional work in Fire Prevention and Education. He is the Fire Prevention Specialist and Information Officer for the Salish and Kootenai.

April 9th, was a free community event hosted by Flathead FireSafe Council (including members from the Salish Kootenai Tribal Housing Authority, Forestry/ Fire Prevention, Natural Resource Department, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Division of Lands, and FireSafe Montana.

The goal was to provide the communities throughout Western Montana (focusing on Lake and Flathead County), the opportunity to come together and learn about the history and traditional uses of fire on the Western Montana landscape other

topics included: how to prepare for the next wildfire, and what resources are available to individuals to help reduce their wildfire risk, and how to engage and motivate the public. The primary emphasis of this conference was to incorporate diverse stakeholders from around western Montana. Participants were both tribal members and nontribal members who reside on or near the Flathead Indian Reservation, and representatives from federal, state, county agencies, local organizations, Volunteer Fire Fighters, other FireSafe Councils, and insurance agents from across western Montana. Wildfire knows few boundaries and thus it is important for all communities, organizations, and agencies residing on or near the Flathead Indian Reservation to work together in mitigating wildfire. Curtiss Matt, Fire Prevention Officer for the Salish and Kootenai said, "I think this conference was a milestone in organizing different public segments into one place and providing productive concerns about wildfire" and bringing all the vested interests and experts in the room to address those concerns.

The Native FireSafe Council (FSC) program, since the inception, has



FireSafe Council Panel: Jason Adams from CSKT Housing Authority (representing Flathead FireSafe Council) Ed Levert from Lincoln County FireSafe Council Molly Shepard from the North Fork of the Flathead FireSafe Council. Mike Frost from the Whitefish Area FSC*.

been able to initiate collaborative programs in their communities through first identifying areas of wildfire risk and issues, bringing the right folks together, and finally creating and implementing a plan to mitigate

the identified risk. The Glacier FSC and the Flathead FSC have both had tremendous successes with their collaborative planning efforts and look forward to making significant

strides in creating a reservation that can withstand the devastating effects of wildfire.

For more information:

Contact: Jennifer Mayberry
Phone: 406-431-8718
Email: execdir@firesafemt.org



Tony Harwood: Division Manager for Forestry Inventory and Planning for the CSKT. His talk is focused on the traditional uses of fire, past and present.

Congrats Trevor Jimenez!

~ Soledad Holguin, Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist, Pacific Region

Trevor Jimenez, Forestry Technician at Fort Bidwell, CA is a member of the Gidutikad Paiute Band. In 1992 his mother worked briefly for the Bureau of Indian Affairs fuels crew. Trevor graduated in 2006 from Palo Verde High School in Blythe California, and began working for BIA in 2007.



Left to right: Grandfather, Ralph DeGarmo and Trevor Jimenez

mother, the late Dana DeGarmo. He describes his experience:

In 2012, Trevor had an opportunity to attend Technical Fire Management (qualifies the incumbent for the 401 Professional series in lieu of other specified education elements) held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the University of Las Vegas (UNLV). Trevor said the people who inspire him are his grandfather, Ralph DeGarmo and his

“The 401 series in Las Vegas, Nevada was a very good experience. At first, I was a little hesitant to attend. I was the youngest in our class, and didn’t have a big job title like everyone else. My roommates supported me and gave me the confidence to pass the courses. During our free time, we would go play basketball at the UNLV

campus, or run just to clear our heads after the long hours spent in class. During my time between attending courses at UNLV, I continued working and participating at basketball tournaments. Many of my family members and friends supported me with their words of encouragement, telling me how important it was to finish and graduate. Even my basketball teammates and other players told me that I needed to finish - even if I missed a few games - that there will be other tournaments.”

Trevor made sacrifices, being away from his family, friends, and missing basketball tournaments; however, in the future this education will help him to secure future employment opportunities. He now qualifies for the 401 professional series positions. The Pacific Region Bureau of Indian Affairs is very proud of his accomplishment and the courage it takes to face a challenge and succeed!

California State Fair Camp Smokey

~ Soledad Holguin, Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist, Pacific Region

July 12-29, 2012

Youth helping with Fire Prevention Education is a fun way to mentor, and provides an opportunity for students to learn group teaching techniques as well as practice public speaking and communication skills. It's also a great way to introduce youth to the possibility of a future in Fire and Forestry.

Inessa Bartholomew is the daughter of Julie White, (Administrative Officer for the Pacific Region BIA), and is one of the youngest and most experienced students working at Camp Smokey. Inessa has been committed to Camp Smokey since she was 14, and has honed her skills to the point that she can present at each of the six educational stations. With her background, experience, and fluency as a presenter, she is rotated throughout Camp Smokey to assist other personnel.

Inessa, has worked alongside adults who represent the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, City and County Fire Departments, CAL FIRE as well as with students who are involved with the Generation Green Organization and who are mentored at Camp Smokey. The Generation Green Organization is sponsored by the USFS, and students use this experience to fulfill their required community service in order to graduate. Camp Smokey is an event that benefits both children and adults. This unique interactive fire prevention education course can be enjoyed by all age groups. The camp location is divided into six parts. Topics are made realistic with individual small structures that replicate the following: **Yellow House** is a child's bedroom setting. Children are taught are how to use the 911 emergency numbers, practice Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH) and identify two ways out of a burning building.

Blue House is Sparky's Fire Station, where wildland and structural

firefighter personal protective equipment is shown. Using pictures, children are taught how to exit a burning house. They learn how to "crawl low for smoke," and if clothing catches on fire, to react with "stop, drop, roll and cover your face."

Brown House is the Ranger Station which features the story of Smokey Bear. Children pledge not to touch matches or lighters and to tell an adult if they should find igniters.

Red School House has old school desks and historical photos. The emphasis at the Red School House is "Safe Fire Use" and the importance of having a fire keeper. The discussion at this stop is about the role of fire in the

they can discover randomly placed animals. At the end of the trail, a looking glass has been placed so students can discover who the most dangerous animal in the forest really is.

An hourly puppet show reinforces the lessons the children have just learned. Children respond to questions asked by several puppet friends. Puppet "Lilly" recounts the program; Rocky the raccoon asks what is to be done if clothes catch on fire; Charlotte the mountain lion asks what children should do if they find matches or a lighter; Sly the fox requests the number to dial if there is a real emergency; Hoppy the frog wants to know how his friends can escape a wildfire and lastly, Smokey Bear makes an appearance as his namesake song is played.

Camp Smokey average weekly attendance was 10,000 people. Many



Picture left to right: Sarabjot Kaur, Gabriela Loera, Inessa Bartholomew (age 16), Smokey Bear (age 68) and Lilly (age unknown).

ecosystem and the survival techniques animals use to escape wildland fires.

The Forest Trail is designed to have the look of "a walk through the forest." First is the scenic view of a campground with emphasis on obtaining a burn permit; using a rock ring surrounded by mineral soil; having water and a shovel placed near the fire; and tent placement safely away from the campfire. The group is then lead to the next section where

adults who were at Camp Smokey as children are returning with their own children now.

The Pacific Region Fire Prevention staff is very proud of Inessa who volunteered 12 days of her summer vacation. As a result of her work at Camp Smokey, she has taught many children how to react and save themselves or a loved one from a fire related emergency.

Becoming an Effective Facilitative Instructor

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

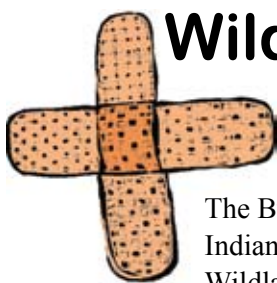
The BIA will be sponsoring its 11th annual NWCG M-410, Facilitative Instructor training January 7-11, 2013 in San Diego, California at the Catamaran Resort.

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 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.

The course will continue 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.

We neglected to mention M-410 Instructor Andrea Gilham in the Vol 24 May issue of Smoke Signals in the 2012 Facilitative Instructor class article. We extend our apologies to Andrea for that oversight. Andrea is a dedicated, talented and valued member of the M-410 Facilitative Instructor cadre who contributes greatly to the course. Andrea is pictured here with Leon Ben, Jr., cadre member and M-410 Lead Instructor.



Wilderness Medical Training Offered

~ Michelle Moore, Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Wildland Fire First

Aid Project has chosen first aid training for Wildland Firefighters that utilizes a Wilderness Medical curriculum model. This curriculum model was chosen due to its suitability and applicability for emergency situations that involve prolonged patient care in remote locations with limited equipment in challenging weather and topography.

Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA) is a 36 hour course that focuses on stabilization and transport

of patients. These three WAFA's will be facilitated to specifically address Wildland fire transport issues, terminology, policies and specific medical/environmental concerns faced by field going personnel. The target participant for a WAFA course are crew bosses, squad bosses and module leaders.

2013 WAFA's

1. Minneapolis Minnesota
February 11-14
2. Flagstaff Arizona
March 25-28
3. Missoula Montana
May 13-16

Questions about the BIA First Aid Project or to sign up for a WAFA contact Michelle Moore at mmore@blm.gov or (208) 387-5811.

Michelle Moore
Department of the Interior
Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program
3833 S. Development Av
Boise, Idaho
208-387-5811
208-871-5362 (cell)

Aiyukwee! This article is in recognition of our young people ages 21 to 35 years. A large number of them are graduates from universities throughout the nations. They've dedicated themselves to the studies that will benefit the future of the Yurok Tribe. Some of them are immersed in the traditional languages of our people; while others are finding a place in our community or Tribal government. The commonality that these young people have is a desire to protect our indigenous knowledge. They have embraced the history and issues my grandparents died for and I, as well as others, have spent a lifetime fighting for. I acknowledge those that learned to speak and teach the languages (which were close to extinction), for the time and commitment spent in learning the culture and history of our people. More than I thought possible; language is the root of our existence. But that is a whole different article.

This story begins with Red Mountain, known as O'kaa to the Yurok people, which is located in the Helkau area. It is a sacred site for the Yurok Tribe and neighboring tribes in Northern California (aka, Doctor Rock area). I have only visited the site five or six times in my life time. Others (who train with spirituals) use it more frequently. My grandparents shared with me the purposes of this area from their knowledge and own experiences.

Once, there was an elder who had gone missing for 13 days. He'd gone up there to pray for his boys to come home from World War II ...and they did. It is the core site of our spiritual beliefs and practices.

"The U.S. Forest Service, (USFS) leases the mountaintop site, which contains a complex of commercial and emergency response related communication equipment, such as tower and power generators under Special Use Permits, (SUP). CalFire holds one of the temporary permits from the U S Forest Service to operate a telecommunication system at the summit. The temporary permit was issued in 1933 and expires on December 31, 2022. When it issued the SUP, the USFS informed all users that upon expiration of the permit, they would have to dismantle and remove their equipment in accordance with the land use plans for the area. However, the State wanted to do a complete overhaul of the antiquated equipment and expand the site for benefit of the CalFire and commercial users.

The complex of sacred peaks crowns the Blue Creek watershed. These indescribably important places were threatened first during the Gasquet-Orleans Road debacle in the late 70's when the USFS attempted to construct a road for logging. The USFS executed a project in the Helkau area which directly and adversely affected the Chimney Rock peak 8, and several other religious prayer sites which include Red Mountain. Members of all the local tribes' fought the road on every available front. Following a decade of fighting to stop the project, it was eventually turned into a wilderness area by the United States Congress (Yurok Today newspaper, April 2012).

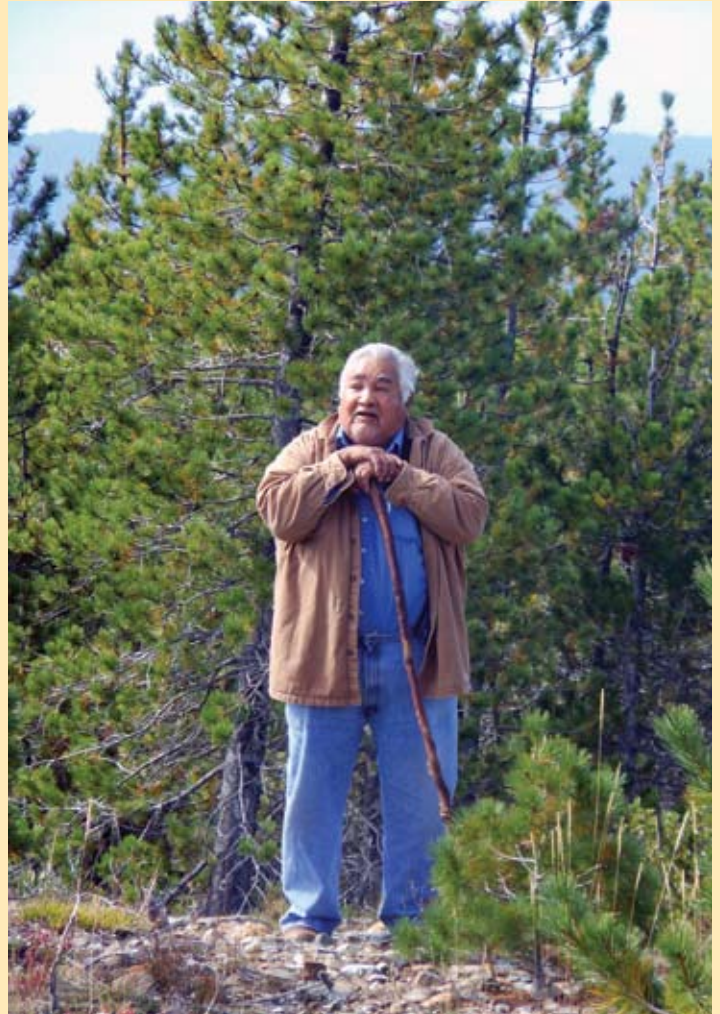
Further, "Red mountain was first disrupted as a place of prayer in the 1920's when the U.S. Forest Service erected a fire lookout to watch for fires. In the 1940's an 850-foot airstrip was constructed on the west side of Red Mountain, possibly as part of the WWII effort. It was first used for communications purposes in 1955. In 1958, CalFire, then the California Department of Forestry was issued its first Special Use Permit to operate a telecommunication system. In 1979, the federal government determined the Red Mountain was eligible for nomination to the Nation Register of Historic Places. It was listed in the Register in 1981. The Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was approved in 1995 and does not acknowledge Red Mountain as a telecommunications site, but rather a part of the Helkau Ceremonial Districts" (Yurok Today newspaper, April 2012).

For sometime we (the Yurok ceremonial committee) had been aware of the expiration of the Special Use Permit. It was our hope that the State would "right the wrong" done to this area and work with the Tribe to look at alternative sites and the clean up of O'kaa. After 25 years, I visited the site a couple years ago with my sons and couldn't believe the destruction and disturbance to the area. Old equipment and other debris from the construction of the towers lay about. It reminded me of an old movie caption from the *Planet of the Apes*, "Oh my God, what have they done?" The disrespect to the environment and to a people's sacred area was disgraceful. This might sound a little cynical, but I don't believe individuals

are allowed to trash the Vatican or Mormon Temples. And aren't residential renters held accountable for the destruction of property?

The Yurok Tribe held four district meetings to share information regarding the Special Use Permit and to get a sense of the community. I have to say I, along with most Indian people are strong supporters of "Freedom of Religion." Throughout history this might be considered our strength or perhaps the downfall of Indian people (again that's another article about Columbus, missionaries, boarding schools and so on). What is an offense to me is not another person's religion, but the dismissal of ours in the name of technology, science or the betterment of all. Among our own people there are numerous orthodox religions that often influence decisions that are made for the Yurok people. I am not in the business of religious conversion, but instead believe in coexistence, in other words, multi-logical thinking. Therefore, the first alliance should always be in the protection of our culture, traditions, language, environment and religion. The traditional beliefs of our ancestors not that of colonization! That is what defines us from the rest of the world.

Over the past two years and after a lot of discussion, I found myself disheartened with the first of four meetings I attended. The lack of understanding of our sovereignty, history, and relationship to homeland and sacred sites was sad. However by the second meeting, it was the young people that stepped up. They had historical knowledge of issues Native people throughout the Nation have faced. I was overwhelmed as I listened to compelling testimony for the protection of our environment, sacred sites, and the practice of our beliefs and also, that the State should have come up with an alternative plan. One testimony after the next from the young people, and others, that laid it out to our elected officials. I went home that night with a special satisfaction. A repeat of these testimonies occurred at the following meetings. "The Council decided that we strongly oppose the plan to continue the desecration of O'kaa'", said the Yurok Tribes's Chairman, Thomas O'Rourke Sr., "There is enough time to develop a plan that honor our religion and ensures emergency communications. We can have both. It was very clear that a large majority of the Tribal membership does not want



Walt "Blacksnake" Lara

this there," Chairman O'Rourke concluded, (Yurok People newspaper. April 2012). The Yurok Tribe is in the process of scheduling meetings with the California governor's office, the site's users and other local tribes to begin working on finding alternative sites not within the sacred site areas.

For all those who have fought the good fight: we spoke, we screamed, we cried I can say to you, they heard! I know that I can be at peace with the future of our people. I pay special tribute to the young men and women that embraced the responsibility of ensuring the future of our forests, sacred sites, culture and traditions. As our environment, both physical and spiritual, faces a future of continuous exploitation, there will be these intelligent individuals to protecting it. I know it now and feel good about it. Also thank you to our Chairman and the long time fighters of our traditional ways.



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)

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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!

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- ☐ Author's name
- ☐ Author's title
- ☐ Author's agency/location
- ☐ High resolution .jpg photos
- ☐ Name of photographer
- ☐ Photo captions
- ☐ Names of people in photo and where they work
- ☐ Contact name, number, and email address