



Table of Contents

Fuels.....	4
Operations.....	8
Prevention.....	11
Training.....	12
Blacksnake.....	13



Prolific regeneration at Mescalero creates density problems that must be treated.

Managing Forest Density using Prescribed Fire

~ Dave Koch, Assistant Director ~ Training, NIFC

Mescalero Apache Reservation

The Mescalero Agency Branch of Forestry in cooperation with the Mescalero Department of Resource Management and Protection conducted a 2,000 acre prescribed fire in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands in January, 2011. The burn was located approximately 10 miles southeast of Ruidoso, NM on the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

The Agency had three strategic objectives: (1) Utilize prescribed fire to reduce the density of regeneration and small diameter trees less than 2-3 inches dbh (diameter at breast height), (2) Increase the size of prescribed fires using a landscape level approach, and (3) increase local capacity of personnel qualified to plan and implement large prescribed burns.

Using Fire to Thin Stands

Pre-burn inventory work indicated a stand density of approximately 1,000 trees per acre in the Whitetail burn area. A more desirable density of trees would be approximately 100 trees per acre with a basal area of approximately 80 square feet/acre preceding a



Production Levels and Cost Containment were emphasized.

commercial thinning operation. Dense forests create many problems for natural resource managers. Growth rates of crop trees begin to decrease with increased densification. Shade tolerant, more flammable species such as Douglas-fir often regenerate well in dense, unmanaged ponderosa pine stands. Dense, un-thinned forests also attract damaging insects such as bark beetles. When a wildfire occurs in these stands during the spring and

summer fire season, firefighters have a difficult time containing them. Winds can rapidly push fire into the crowns of trees, resulting in stand replacement crown fires.

Because of the prolific regeneration which occurs in Sacramento Mountains of Southern New Mexico, the Mescalero Agency would like to use fire to thin densely wooded areas. Thinning of smaller diameter

trees using fire instead of chainsaws is generally 3 to 5 times less expensive. As funding for conventional thinning projects is becoming more limited, managers are looking to fire as a means to reduce costs, improve the health of the land, and recreate historic conditions.

With burning, you realize the added benefit of cleaning up concentrations of flammable ground fuels. Many grasses, forbs and wildflowers also benefit from burning as well. It is no secret to hunters that recent burned areas yield higher concentrations of wildlife with the increase in palatable vegetation.

Post-burn stand exams have yet to be conducted however preliminary estimates of a 30% density reduction in target size classes appear realistic. In order to reduce stocking levels to the desired level, an additional follow-up burn or mechanical thinning may be required. The cost of mechanically thinning units that have had an initial prescribed fire treatment will be significantly lower. The Agency plans to complete a cost/benefit analysis to validate cost saving assumptions.



The Whitetail Burn Crew.



Great experience for the next generation.

Increasing the Size of Prescribed Burn Units

There is an obvious economy of scale when implementing prescribed burns over larger tracts of land. The Mescalero Agency would like move away from small scale “boutique” burns to more cost effective landscape-level projects. The potential exists at Mescalero to burn 15-20 thousand acres of mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, and pinyon-juniper annually with existing resources.

Because of their size, implementation can take advantage of prominent natural and man-made barriers thereby decreasing risk of escape. Once the burn perimeter has been secured, firing patterns and intensity can be fine-tuned to meet density reduction targets and other silvicultural objectives.

Keeping it Simple

Larger doesn't always mean more complex. The evolution of prescribed fire policy over the years has created, in many cases, unnecessary complexity. Historically, burning large tracts of land was commonplace. For example, the Ft. Apache Agency

in Arizona was noted for burning 50-100 thousand acres annually in timber cover types between 1975 and 1985. This was done entirely with local resources using fire staff, timber staff, and others. Over the last 15-20 years there have been a number of escaped prescribed fires and dramatic fire seasons. The policy and training spawned from this era, combined with environmental and socio-political restrictions, have shaped a more

reluctant fire management culture. Where sound biologic and ecologic principles once drove natural resource management, we are now more comfortable reacting to unplanned ignitions than proactively treating the land with prescribed fire. Fortunately, we are beginning to see the pendulum swing ever so slightly back to the right.

Increasing Local Capacity of Qualified Personnel

Because of the scale of the Whitetail Burn there was an excellent opportunity to gain vital experience for Agency and Tribal natural resource staff. Leadership on the burn took this opportunity to really focus on results and attainment of the burn's silvicultural objectives. This required working closely with firing crews, teaching them concepts related to the importance of density management and how firing patterns can be modified to create desirable mortality levels. One of the biggest historic disconnects between burn crews and land management planners involves an understanding of the desired future condition. Generally speaking, inexperienced firefighters see only flames and blackened ground and lack



Ray Ruiz Sr. and Dave Koch



Tielson Cajé



Fuels

Cohesive Strategy - Growing into the Next Phase

~ Jim Erickson, Fire Technical Specialist, Intertribal Timber Council
 ~ Robyn Broyles, Fire Communication and Education Specialist, BIA-NIFC

Months ago, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) planted a seed we know as the Cohesive Strategy. Over time, it has been growing roots and slowly emerging. Many are asking, what plant is this, and is it palatable for Indian Country?

Managing landscapes across multiple jurisdictions and agencies has created a patchwork of processes that have grown together to create a diverse and partially weed-infested garden. It's time for spring cleaning. In essence, that is what the Cohesive Strategy is working towards. It is a National Intergovernmental process taking place between federal, state and local governments, partners at all levels of wildland firefighting organizations, tribal interests and non-governmental organizations to holistically address wildfire issues in the United States.

The success of the cohesive strategy lies in the ability and commitment of diverse groups talking and discovering efficiencies across boundaries. The result is a comprehensive strategy that provides an opportunity to restore landscapes, maintain healthy ones and create fire adapted communities – which protect people, homes and firefighters. This strategy also prepares partners to adapt to budget crisis, market opportunities, climate change, invasive species and other unforeseen events.

the big picture, long-term vision of where land managers want to take a piece of land. The Whitetail Burn was an ideal opportunity to allow participants to think beyond immediate fire effects and gain insights into forest ecology and land management concepts.

A number of individuals deserve recognition for their contribution to this burn and the vision of where the use of wildland fire is headed on the Mescalero Reservation. Among these are Erica Enjady, Bill Hornsby, Chris Little, and Leland Pellman from the Mescalero Agency; and Thora Walsh and Ray Ruiz Sr. from Mescalero Tribe.

This article and the success of the Whitetail Prescribed Burn are dedicated to the late Tielson Cajé, who served as the project's Burn Boss. Tielson spent over 20 years working in natural resource management on the Mescalero Reservation. Tielson provided vital field-level leadership at the Branch of Forestry in both fire and timber management and served nearly 15 years on the Mescalero Hotshots. His memory lives on in the forests and woodlands of the reservation he loved.

The Cohesive Strategy addresses three key areas in wildfire management: Landscape Restoration, Fire Adapted Communities and Response to Wildfires. Due to the scale of this project, WFLC chartered the Cohesive Strategy Oversight Committee to take charge of implementation. In the first stage, 14 forums and 1 Internet forum was held across the country to engage all interested stakeholders.

Department Secretaries, WFLC and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reached agreement to finalize the phase 1 documents and launch phase 2. Included in the agreement was an OMB concession to drop the emphasis from treating the "Wildland Urban Interface" (WUI) to allowing "agency priorities." This is an important achievement because every reservation is unique and must have the management oversight and flexibility to prioritize where valued landscape treatments will take place.

Phase 2 will see the development of three regional strategy committees (Northeast, Southeast and West). The

Regional Strategy Committee (RSC) representatives for Tribes and the BIA are:

**Get to know these people, they have stepped up to these key leadership positions. Communicate with them regularly to remain in the loop.*

	TRIBES	BIA
Northeast	Doreen Blaker, KBIC	Tom Remus, Midwest FMO
Southeast	Tom Lowery, Choctaw	Ed Brunson, Eastern Fire Ecologist
West	Tony Harwood, CSKT	John Philbin, Western Regional Forester

The RSC will meet for orientation of duties and time frames early in May. Immediately following, they will determine how many sub-regions, if any, each region will have. Each sub-region will have a working group to represent the diversity of that locale. These individuals will provide input to the process and serve as ambassadors to the working team, back home and to other reservations. The RSC's ability to network with regional and sub-regional working teams is imperative to the success of this effort.

Indian Country needs representatives willing to collaborate and share local traditional ecological knowledge

and wisdom of their areas. With this knowledge, the RSC will develop goals, objectives, and a portfolio of actions and activities that will bring landscape into a managed, resilient state.

Phase 3 will engage the National Science Team (NST) specialists to develop risk assessments with tribal traditions and values in mind. Those who supply this local knowledge such as landscape conditions, locations and values to be protected, will improve the accuracy of their risk assessment. Risk assessments will guide budget development and investment strategies into the future.

Never before has there been a forum that invites such a diverse group of voices to be heard by so many. This historic opportunity may never come again. Now is the time to act and find creative solutions that are good for people, economies, ecosystems, and life in general across Indian Country. If not you; then who? If not now; then when? This is your time to share the legacy.

Drop Jim Erickson, Indian Country representative for the Cohesive Strategy Oversight Committee a note. He is here to help coordinate Indian country participation, Jim Erickson@couleedam.net. And remember to contact your Regional Strategy Committee members!

To learn more about the Cohesive Strategy, several resources and documents are available at the Forests and Rangelands website (<http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov>.)

A Zuni Agency Fuels Success Story

~ Paley Coonsis, Zuni Agency Acting Fuels Specialist
~ Buff Jebesen-Ross, SWRO Fuels Planner



On June 29, 2010 at 1928 hours, a Zuni Tribal Ranger called in a smoke report on Pia Mesa, 10 miles south of the Pueblo of Zuni. This fire was designated the Route 8 North Fire. The fire covered 5.5 acres and had one spot fire NE at 0.1 acres.

The fire was a sleeper carried over from a lightning storm 4 days earlier. The smoke density was medium with white and grey colors. The mid-day temperature was in the mid-nineties with very low humidity. If this fire was located in dense untreated Ponderosa pine with a pinion/juniper understory, it would quickly have taken off into a crown fire. What kept this fire from burning more than 5.5 acres was the fact that it occurred in the Pia Mesa Lake treatment unit.



Pia Mesa HFR Treatment Units



Crews working on downed and burning Ponderosa pine.

The fire did exactly what the Agency had planned it to do; lay down and creep through the grass and litter. As one suppression fire fighter explained, “it acted like a perfect prescribed fire.”

The fire was controlled on June 30, 2010 at 1300 hours. Thanks to the treated acres, the fire laid down and crawled through the treatment unit and adjacent untreated acres providing the above results. A planned prescribed burn couldn't have done a better job!

There are two treatment units on Pia Mesa. The first in 2007 on Pia Mesa Lake, and one on Pia Mesa SW in 2008. The Lake unit consisted of hand thinning 37 acres, 2



Source of ignition; lightning struck Ponderosa pine.



Looking from the ignition source, into the treated acres.

chains along Route 8 and secondary roads. The interior 464 acres has been masticated. The fuel type now is Ponderosa pine/grassland.

The masticating project on Pia Mesa in 2008 (lower right photo) shows a fine brown material on the ground. This is the masticated material.

The Pia Mesa SW unit, treated in 2008, has an additional 464 acres of mastication and 106 acres of fuel breaks (by hand work) along all of the primary and secondary roads.

Another treatment unit west and south of the “SW” unit is planned for 2012.

The goal is to treat all of the pine stands on Pia Mesa and, eventually the rest of the reservation.



Adjacent untreated burned acres.



A 0.10 acre spot fire 2 chains northeast of main fire.



Turning this understory of Pinion/Juniper intothis: Thinned, masticated, and broadcast burned (County line.)



Chugachmiut - Yukon Fire Crew (How it Started!)

~ Robert Lacey, Crew Superintendent

for crewmembers as far as gaining fire experience and qualifications needed to move on and make room for the “up and comers.” It may take quite a few more years for a Squad boss trainee or a Crewboss trainee to complete a task book and be fully qualified compared to an organized wildland fire crew, which generally have more assignments.

Following the mission statement for Chugachmiut, the purpose of forming a crew was to employ Alaskan Natives and give them the opportunity to excel in wildland fire prevention and suppression work, and to become proficient through training, hard work and field experience. The crew also gives the State of Alaska another firefighting resource to help support fire suppression efforts.

The Yukon Fire Crew started out as a Type 2 hand crew in 2005 under



2005 Washington Creek

Chugachmiut is a seven-member Tribal consortium, non-profit Alaska Native Organization that is dedicated to promote advancement in the overall economic, social and cultural development for the people of the Chugach Region and surrounding Native communities.

There are over 200 Native villages spread out across Alaska and most have a high unemployment rate with very few job opportunities because of the isolation from the “outside world.” The main transportation to access these communities are by airplane, or snow machines in the winter, and

boats in the summer. There are no roads leading in and out of the villages.

Wildland firefighting plays a significant role for many Alaskan Natives because it is a major source of income. There are roughly 70 Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews in Alaska that are usually dispatched through a rotation list. Unless it is a very busy fire season, many of the crews will not get to go out on assignments. This leaves very little room for growth



STL for Chevac EFF



2006 Yukon Crew

the supervision of qualified Hotshot overhead. Forming the crew was a coordinated effort between Chugachmiut, the State of Alaska – Department of Forestry (DOF), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Chugachmiut takes care of the administrative duties while DOF

provides a base of operations, and BIA funds the project work which is mainly hazard fuel reduction (HFR) projects.

Without BIA’s support the crew would not exist. BIA is a key player in the crew’s existence because it provides the funding for project

work for the crew to stay viable throughout the fire season. Without their support and sponsorship, there would be no crew. (Thank you Steve Heppner!)

In 2006 the crew qualified as a Type 2 IA Crew, meeting the National Standards, and primarily



2007 Yukon Crew



Helicopter load up

performing duties within the State of Alaska.

The Yukon Crew is also available for assignments outside of the State of Alaska.

The Crew has worked on assignments in Oregon, California,



Gearing up to burn piles

and Idaho. The 20-person Crew operates independently and is equipped with all the necessary equipment, qualifications and skills to both mobilize to an emergency wildfire situation, and to perform prescribed fuels reduction projects.

The crew is available for project work.



With California Governor Schwarzenegger



Salmon Berry Lake

Blackfeet's Community Wildfire Protection Efforts

~ Bruce Running Crane, Fire Prevention Technician, Blackfeet Nation Fire Management
~ David Peters, Interface/Prevention Specialist, NIFC

The Blackfeet Nation completed several fire protection projects for towns on their reservation and a neighboring community. Two years ago Bruce Running Crane, Fire Prevention Technician, helped the East Glacier Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) establish the Glacier FireSafe Council. The council received twelve thousand dollars from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service's Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program this winter, which came from Community Assistance (CA) funds from the USDI, Bureau of Land Management. These cost-share funds allow private landowners the opportunity to



Blackfeet Management fire information kiosk built by local East Glacier VFD



Members of the Blackfeet Fire Prevention Education Team with Elder Al Potts, getting his permission to use the nation's wildland fire management logo

complete hazardous fuels projects, as well as various other education outreach efforts.

Glen Still Smoking, Fuels Specialist, said tribal crews recently completed a ten acre hazardous fuels project adjacent to student dormitories on Glacier Park Incorporated land. Slash piles from WUI projects are burned over the winter.

The council expects to receive fifteen thousand dollars in 2011 in CA from the RC&D, in order to put up street signs and addresses in the Big Springs Subdivision, East Glacier and Heart Butte communities. The VFD is also working with their new Red Zone software to make their firefighting efforts more efficient, by adding more community maps and contact numbers. A second Firewise Advisor workshop will take place on the reservation

this summer, this time in Babb, a community on the northwest end of the reservation, adjacent to Glacier National Park.

CA funds from the USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2010 helped fund the construction of kiosks in three communities. These kiosks share hazardous fuels projects, current fire information, and fire prevention and education messages. Additional BIA funds purchased ten Unicorn



Bruce Running Crane teaching children about the use of fire by Native Americans

signs, as well as a Billy Brushwacker (Spokesgoat for fire mitigation education for children 7-10 years old) costume. Unicorn signs are placed at recreation sites from May through October, to remind the public to be safe with fire. The Billy Brushwacker program includes interactive DVD's, posters and coloring books for children.

A wildland fire prevention and education team worked on the reservation last summer. They were funded through a short term severity request for one week. Numerous colorful wildfire protection posters were developed, ranging from equipment use, campfire safety, Firewise, protecting cultural history, and fireworks safety. Team members from Flathead, Wind River, and USDA

Forest Service provided communities with FireSafe, native cultural fire carrier history, and Smokey Bear information at outreach events, such as the summer Powwow.

The team met with a local elder, Al Potts to make sure their work received his blessing.



Hazardous Fuels Project in East Glacier Montana



Training

Craig Cook Completes TFM!

~ Dave Koch, BIA~NIFC

Five BIA students attended the 18-month Technical Fire Management Program (TFM-25) which culminated in the delivery of a final paper in April to a panel of fire management experts. Craig Cook, Deputy Training Director, National Interagency Fire Center, successfully prepared and defended his project titled "An Economic Analysis of *Fuels Treatment Alternatives for the Gold Creek Area*" which analyzed various treatments in forest stands on the Boise National Forest. *Congratulations to Craig on this achievement.*

The program is designed for GS 6-11 employees who intend to pursue a career in fire and currently occupy positions such as assistant fire management officer, fuels management specialist, wildland fire operations specialist, engine foreman, hotshot superintendent, and others. TFM targets applicants who lack a 4-year biological science, agriculture, or natural resources management degree. Students who successfully complete TFM are awarded 20 upper



Craig Cook, enjoying a mountain climb a few years ago.

TFM is an academic program designed to improve the technical proficiency of fire and natural resource management specialists. The curriculum is rigorous and includes subjects such as statistics, economics, fuels management, fire ecology, and fire management planning.



Craig and his co-workers enjoying a "smoke break" several years ago.



A more recent photo of Craig while doing some instructing.

program is considered a convenient “bridge to profession” for our fire management workforce.

TFM is administered by the Washington Institute, a Seattle based company that was created in 1985 to provide specific, customized training and education for natural resource managers. The academic program culminates with the preparation of a formal, science-based analysis of a natural resource issue or problem. This analysis (or project) must then be orally defended before a panel of subject matter experts.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Training Section at the National Interagency Fire Center manages the application process for Indian Country. We have averaged three to four students/year over the last five years. Interest in the program has increased with the adoption of the GS-401 Fire Management Specialist position in 2002 for many of the Bureau’s key fire management positions. However, attendance at TFM is not a requirement to obtain one of these positions. Conventional Bachelor of Science degrees in Forestry, Wildlife Biology, Range Management and other natural resource management disciplines are also acceptable, if not recommended pathways.

division college credits, which contribute toward the education requirements necessary for federal jobs in the 401 occupational series. As such, the

For information on the TFM program, contact Dave Koch at (208) 387-5577 or visit the Washington Institute website at <http://www.washingtoninstitute.net/>. The deadline for applications for TFM 27, which begins in October, is June 1.

Blacksnake’s Corner

~ Walt Lara - Yurok Forestry

I, and my lifelong friend, Joy Sundberg, from Trinidad Rancheria recently received an award on behalf of the Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (NICPA) from the California Archaeology Society during their annual conference on March 12, 2011 in Santa Rosa, California. The “California Indian Heritage Preservation Award” recognizes contributions made by California Indians to the preservation of their cultural heritage.

I would like to briefly share with you my memories and experiences of NICPA, the struggle for cultural survival and autonomy, the preservation of our ceremonial sites and burial sites, the repatriation of the bones and artifacts of our ancestors, and how NICPA blossomed into the California Native American Heritage Commission under Governor Brown in 1976. NICPA has seriously impacted archaeological



Walt “BlackSnake” Lara, Yurok Forestry

diggings, public attitudes about the desecration of native graves, and environmental and logging practices. Most notably, NICPA encouraged public officials to take action against grave robbers. This article will be a two part

series. The first will address the creation and establishment of NICPA and the second will detail the implications of NICPA to the field of fire management.

I have always been able to cope through humor, however this topic is difficult because it is no laughing matter. During the winter months, I was raised at Oosamich, located on the side hill, above Stone Lagoon in Orick, California. On a daily basis I could look across the lagoon to the old village of Cha-pek-w, where my ancestors once lived and were buried. In my late thirties, one morning, I witnessed individuals at Cha-pek-w carrying buckets and shovels all along the village site. It took me about 30 minutes to get down the hill, cross the road and drive up the beach to the village location. The county Sheriff met me at the beach and on closer investigation, we found a group of 20 or more people from Sonoma State University digging up bones and artifacts. This was not the first incident there. I had covered large holes around my Aunt Maggie Skirk's, grave with mesh screens from previous diggings. Looting of native graves was a serious problem. It was a common practice for State Parks to allow universities to dig in village sites throughout California in the name of science. I think it must be said that it was not that long ago that genocidal practices to Native people were done in the name of God. In his book *Genocide*

of Northwestern California, Jack Norton states:

These aggressive invaders of the 1850's saw the valleys and forests as obstructions to their goal of Manifest Destiny. They were instructed by scripture, they said, reinforced by success, and driven by individualistic will, to believe they were destined to be the civilizers of the earth (p.3).

Whether it's in the name of God, science, or individualist will, genocide is genocide, no matter what name it is done in!

Anyway, the Yurok Tribe had not been organized at the time and we hadn't received any help from the BIA to stop this injustice. So, the late(s), Milton Marks, Glen Moore Sr., Luwana Brantner, Dewy George and Ella Norris, as well as, Josephine Peters and I, immediately formed the NICPA in 1970. My Uncle Milton brought together representation from all the local tribes in northwest California (175 members). He became the first Chairperson for NICPA and dedicated his time to NICPA's constitution, bylaws, and to grant writing. We were able to set up office in Humboldt County and hired Jim Benson, an Archeologist, who also brought in funding for investigating and surveying roads that were being built over Indian sites. Although we received some resistance from the non-Indian community, particularly those who had made a living on the artifacts of my ancestors, we obtained full support from the Board of Supervisors in Humboldt

and Del Norte Counties. We soon joined the Inter-Tribal Council of California where we received state and national political support. NICPA met with John Echohawk, a lawyer and director of the Native American Rights Fund, to discuss issues in repatriation and protection of sacred sites. In 1978, President Reagan signed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Therefore, our mission was to protect Indian cemeteries, preserve ceremonial sites, and repatriate bones and artifacts.

Governor Brown put together the California Native American Heritage Commission, to which Milton Marks was appointed. After my uncle's death, I served out his term and another three years on the Commission, and as chairperson of NICPA. During that time, laws were developed addressing the looting and desecration of Indian graves and ceremonial sites. Through the Heritage Commission, we obtained access to the human remains stored in the warehouse of the State Park in Sacramento, California. The late Victor Cutnose and I made the trip to Sacramento to collect human remains and associated grave goods that had been taken from the local villages of our area. As we walked through the warehouse we were overtaken by the magnitude of devastation concealed in hundreds of labeled boxes. It was one of the most difficult tasks I have had to perform. Although we brought home what we could on that trip

from Sacramento, there was still another load that we were scheduled to pick up at a later date.

Within hours of our departure from Sacramento, the California Archaeology Society filed an injunction, claiming that they wanted to keep the bones for the study of venereal disease. They had already had these bones for 45 years, yet they wanted to keep them to study a disease that made its way to America on boats! We took boxes of human remains back to Sumeg, Cha-pekw, Orick, and Hoppel villages for reburial. Awok, Ella Norris, who was the eldest member of our tribe struggled with the appropriate prayer (words) for reburial since there had never been such an atrocity to human-kind known in our way of life.

During the 1980's the United States Forest Service was considering building a paved road that would cut through the Chimney Rock area of the Six River National Forest (where the Blue 2 and Siskiyou fires were located). They were also considering timber harvesting in the area. A study commissioned by the Forest Service reported that harvesting Chimney Rock area would irreparably damage grounds that had historically been used by Native Americans to conduct religious rituals. After the Forest Service decided to construct a road, the NICPA filed action against Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Lyng. The Chimney Rock, aka, Doctor

Rock area has been used for many generations by my people and the local tribes of northern California and still is used today as spiritual training grounds. The question before the Supreme Court was, "Did the First Amendment Free Exercise clause prohibit the Government from harvesting or developing the Chimney Rock area?" The Supreme Court concluded:

No, in a 5 to 3 decision, the court held that the Forest Service was free to harvest the lands. Though the Government's actions would have severe adverse effects on the Indians' practices of their religion, those effects were only incidental and did not constitute an attempt to coerce Native Americans to act in violation of their beliefs. The Court reasoned that the Government could not operate if it were required to satisfy every citizen's religious needs and desires.

The first amendment did not give one group veto power over public programs that did not actually prohibit the free exercise of religion. We met with Congressman Doug Bosco, who attached the preservation of the Chimney Rock area to the Siskiyou Wilderness Bill. However, this decision on the Gasquet-Orleans Road affected the Hawaiians on whether their ceremonial areas around the volcanoes and the parks could be protected. So, it has set precedent for other Indian tribes. We didn't want to set precedents, we wanted to deal with this based on our own Freedom of Religion.

Thanks to many participants, such as Joy Sundberg, an advocate, a manager and a member, NICPA remained active and provided political advocacy to northwest California Indians from 1970-1986. As tribal governments were established throughout the state, they developed their own tribal preservation programs. NICPA trained those first cultural observers. Now this responsibility is done by the Tribal Historical Preservation Officers (THPO). Through the years of service we developed cooperative working relationships with socially responsible archaeologists (such as Jim Benson, Rich Stradford, Janet Eidsness, etc.) and helped to develop the field of compliance archaeology. Although the California Archaeology Society, State Parks and U.S. Forest Service were once adversaries to native tribes, we have gained a great deal of respect and appreciation for their more recent contributions to the cultural survival and autonomy of Indian people. I'm sad to say that there are still individuals who challenge our human rights for their own personal gain or in the name of science.

It is all of our responsibility to bring awareness and make change in the fight for humanity.

To be continued, part 2, Implications of NICPA to the field of fire management. . .

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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