

FY 2025 BIA Timber Team Accomplishment Report

In fiscal year 2025, the BIA Timber Team provided critical forestry support to ten tribes across seven states and five BIA Regions, engaging in tasks such as forest inventory, timber sale preparation, and endangered species monitoring. Additionally, the Timber Team provided virtual assistance for seven tribes across six states and four BIA Regions, helping with backlog assignments such as GIS forest cover type mapping, continuous forest inventory and woodlands data entry, and forest management plan writing and editing. The team's efforts were complemented by their participation in the 48th Annual Intertribal Timber Council Symposium hosted in June by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation.



Photo 1: The Timber Team discussing silviculture prescriptions on the Jefferson Park Timber Sale on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation of Utah

The Timber Team's support to the Tribes included:

- Remeasured 84 Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plots
- Completed 278 stand exam plots
- Conducted 109 timber cruise plots

- Prepared 1,399 acres for commercial harvests and hazardous fuels reduction totaling to approximately 13.1 million board feet (mmbf)
- Provided forestry training for 9 Tribal Technicians and 2 Tribal Foresters
- Engaged with 10 tribes across 7 states and spent 23 weeks in the field
- Assisted three tribes with forest cover type mapping totaling 195,070 acres, conducted data entry assignments for three more tribes, and aided in forest management plan development and editing for one tribe in Alaska



Photo 2: The Timber Team conducting stand exams for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Washington

Over ten trips, six were dedicated to preparing for timber sales, tailored to each tribe's specific needs. During these trips, the Timber Team assisted in laying out sale boundaries and marking timber according to silvicultural prescriptions. This crucial step helps bring timber to market and supports the tribe in meeting their Allowable Annual Cut (AAC).

Of the remaining trips, two focused on collecting stand exam data, and one involved training tribal technicians in conducting Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plot measurements. Additionally, one trip to Wyoming aimed to collect inventory data for whitebark pine, a critically

threatened species on the endangered species list. Whitebark pines are a vital keystone species, providing food sources for Clark's nutcracker, grizzly bears, and various squirrel species across the Wind River Range.



Photo 3: Foresters from the Wind River Reservation, Southern Plains Region, and the Timber Team conducting inventory for whitebark pine in the Wind River Reservation of Wyoming.

In October, the BIA Timber Team traveled to Peach Springs, Arizona, to assist the Hualapai Tribal Forestry Department with remeasuring Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plots. They also visited the Colville Reservation in Washington to conduct stand exams, and Shawnee, Oklahoma, to help the Thlopthlocco Tribal Community with stand exams in the Flat Rock and Lower 40 project areas. Additionally, they assisted the Nisqually Indian Tribe in Washington with timber sale preparation and the Crow Tribe of Montana with timber sale preparation in the Sioux Pass Creek area. In Alaska, they prepared 1.5 million board feet for commercial harvest in the Hood Bay Veteran's Allotment timber sale.

The team also supported the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation in Montana with tree marking for a timber sale and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation with the Jefferson Park Timber Sale. They conducted reconnaissance on fuel loading, recommended pre-commercial thinning, and estimated the sale's total volume, supporting the tribe's goals of reducing insect and disease spread.



Photo 4: The Timber Team doing timber sale preparation on the Hood Bay Veteran's Allotment in Angoon, Alaska

After completing the requested pre-timber sale operations for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, the Timber Team attended the 48th Annual Intertribal Timber Council Symposium. This event provided an opportunity for the team to meet with tribal foresters and explore ways to assist with their ongoing or upcoming operations. Additionally, the symposium offered insights into internship programs, the use of fire as a forest management tool, and federal partnership programs.



Photo 5: A Timber Team forester marking timber for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation in Montana

The Timber Team rounded out the fiscal year with assisting the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation with preparing timber sale harvest units on the Old Reservation Boundary III Timber Sale. The team worked with local resources in prepping approximately 5.7 mmbf across 654 acres. The primary goals of this project are to restore forest stand vigor, reduce the spread and severity of damaging insects and diseases, and enhance stand-level resilience to biotic disturbances. Treatments will be strategically implemented across multiple Management Emphasis Areas, including General Forest, Wildlife Winter Habitat, Safety Corridors, and Riparian Zones. Key objectives include salvaging damaged merchantable timber, reducing hazardous fuel loads and ladder fuels to mitigate wildfire risk, and improving the growth and vigor of commercial tree species across all size classes. The project also aims to protect understory regeneration, promote structural diversity, and establish healthy, vigorous stands to replace decadent or declining ones. In addition to these ecological and silvicultural goals, the project supports economic objectives by generating timber sale revenue, creating employment opportunities, and ensuring a sustainable and consistent timber supply through successive harvest entries.



Photo 6: Timber Team forester marking a ponderosa pine for leave per the silvicultural prescription on the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

Looking ahead to Fiscal Year 2026, the Timber Team has several planned projects, including:

- Stand exams on the Quinault Reservation (Washington)
- Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) for the Karuk Tribe of California
- Silviculture prescription development and sale layout for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina

Agencies or Tribes interested in hosting the Timber Team are encouraged to submit project proposals to the Regional Forester or Regional Director for consideration.

Please visit the [Timber Team's webpage](#) to access the project request form, contact information and additional information about the Timber Team. You may also visit the [BIA Forestry Facebook](#) page to catch up on current events and view photos from recent Timber Team Trips.