Welcome to the Native Voices newsletter!

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Tribal Program Highlights

Region 5 Tribal Air Resources Journal 2018 – 10th Edition
By Brandy Toft, Environmental Deputy Director, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

The Tribes of EPA Region 5 (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan), would like to share with you the 2018 Edition of the Tribal Air Resources Journal, Volume 10. The Tribes in Region 5 have compiled this Journal since 2008 to promote our air achievements and successes, and share obstacles and setbacks encountered in their Tribal communities and air resources.

In this Journal, each Region 5 Tribe laid out a one-page entry on those issues. Each Tribal entry reflects the unique nature of Tribes in R5 and the different issues, size of departments, and funding concerns faced by each.

Included in the Journal is a summary of facts for R5 Tribal funding and involvement on local/regional/national venues. Located in the back of the Journal you will find an updated R5 Tribal map and contacts list to contact Tribal Air Professionals for further clarification, discussion and potential partnerships. On the back cover you will find a map of the Ceded Territories for Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The overall goal of the Journal is to communicate and promote potential partnerships and leverage resources for R5 Tribes now and into the future.

Please share this Journal with all whom you think would be interested. Each year this Journal improves and changes to better communicate to assist and educate the reader. In 2015, the Journal expanded to include ALL 35 Tribes in R5; which, even in 2018, only 14 Tribes have some type of
formal Clean Air Act funded Air Programs. Air concerns do not cease with a decrease or lack of funding.

Please send any correspondence on how the Journal enlightened/assisted you or ideas on how it can be improved for next year at the contact below:
Brandy Toft, Environmental Deputy Director, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; air@lldrm.org; Phone: 218-335-7429

Okanogan River Airshed Partnership a Success
By Kris Ray, Air Quality Program Manager, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

In the Omak region of eastern Washington, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are partnering with state, local and federal agencies to improve air quality and public health.

The Okanogan River Airshed Partnership includes participants from every level of government (Federal, State, Local and Tribal), and local programs and organizations that are concerned with air quality in our communities. We have gathered information, proposed and implemented projects, conducted education and outreach, and won awards for our work. All of these help to decrease our exposure to fine particulate matter.

The partnership formed to address the levels of smoke (PM2.5) impacting an area on and adjacent to the Reservation, which we could help reduce. The area has the highest population density, with more industry, county government centers, and emission sources than the rest of the county or Reservation.

The Partnership’s emphasis area experiences smoke (PM2.5) from multiple sources including wildfires, prescribed fires, yard debris burning, wood heating, and industry and agriculture fires. An air monitor in Omak has operated since 2009, and measured PM2.5 concentrations on an annual basis high enough to be of concern. The sources, combined with the timing of potential smoke events, can expose our community to elevated levels of PM2.5 for the majority of the year. Exposure to elevated particulate matter can cause health problem for sensitive groups and even healthy people can experience problems due to prolonged events. The community became highly aware of problems during the 2014 and 2015 fire seasons and noticed higher than desirable smoke levels during the fall and winter from other sources.

The Partnership’s successes are reflected by the scope of projects that have been completed, and those that are underway. These include efforts by many partners:

> Okanogan County community air quality survey;
> Community-wide clean up events and fall free leaf collections;
> Woodstove change-out and buy-back programs;
> Education and outreach material development and distribution;
> Social media and website development;
> Vermiculture Vanguard, Okanogan school’s 1st Grade effort to “make compost not smoke,” received the 2018 EPA Presidential Environmental Youth Award (see photo below);
> Feasibility of chipping vegetative yard debris as an alternative to burning;
> Installation of a community sensor network to help understand the smoke in our neighborhoods.

For additional information, contact:
Kris Ray, Air Quality Program Manager, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; kris.ray@colvilletribes.com; Phone: 509-634-2418
Virginia Granger Vermiculture Vanguard; Motto – “Make Compost not Smoke”

2018 City of Omak Cleanup Day and Okanogan Conservation District chipping demonstration.

Vegetation debris/burning smoke can affect your neighbor’s health.
Photos: Okanogan River Airshed Partnership
In-person Training Opportunity

>> Air Quality Training for Wildland Smoke <<

April 2-3, 2019 – Boise, Idaho

Tribal staff have an opportunity to participate in a two-day, hands-on workshop in which participants will learn and practice skills that will be useful in preparation for wildland smoke events. Prior to the workshop, participants will watch five (5) recorded webinars and one (1) live webinar. Participants will also need to complete a brief Listening Guide for each webinar and return it to the course coordinator.

The webinar series will provide attendees with an understanding of the impacts of wildland smoke on the health of tribal communities and strategies to minimize exposure. The 90-minute webinars can be viewed by anyone; no registration is needed. The webinars are required for those who want to attend the hands-on workshop in Boise, Idaho. Alongside EPA, State, and ITEP instructors, tribal staff from the Colville Reservation (see article above) will be sharing their experiences and efforts with training attendees on managing smoke impacts in their communities.

The workshop announcement and application is now available on the ITEP website: http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air.

The announcement provides more details about the webinars and the workshop. If you have additional questions, please contact Pat Ellsworth, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, at 928-523-6721 or patricia.ellsworth@nau.edu.

### Additional in-person trainings for January - April 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality Computations</td>
<td>January 29-February 1</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAQ Diagnostic Tools</td>
<td>POSTPONED-TBD</td>
<td>TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Pollution Technology</td>
<td>March 12-15</td>
<td>Flagstaff, AZ</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Quality in Alaska Native Communities (tentative)</td>
<td>March 19-21</td>
<td>AK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke (hybrid course)</td>
<td>April 2-3</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Quality Project Planning, QAPPs, and Grants for Alaska</td>
<td>April 9-12</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Air Monitoring</td>
<td>April 16-18</td>
<td>TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV</td>
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* Stay tuned at [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air) for more updates *
Online Training Opportunities
The following self-paced, online courses are currently available through ITEP:
>> Residential Building Science Review
>> Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates
>> Quality Assurance Fundamentals / QAPP Series
>> Radon Fundamentals
>> Emissions Inventory Fundamentals / Advanced
>> Tribal Data Toolbox Version 3.1
>> Partnerships and Community Outreach
>> Tribal Strategic Planning: Ensuring Successful Development of Your ETEP

These online courses contain assignments, quizzes, videos, examples, downloadable spreadsheets, and other resources. While they are self-paced, each course provides the opportunity for individual interaction with subject matter experts.

See www.nau.edu/itep/elearning for details or email professional@nau.edu with questions.

2019 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality to Highlight 20 Years of Protecting Tribal Air Resources
The 2019 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) is currently being planned for May 6-9, 2019 at the Pechanga Resort Casino in Temecula, California. This year will be the 20th year of the NTFAQ and we invite you all to come help us celebrate!

This year’s Forum co-hosts, the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, has long been considered a leader in protecting tribal sovereignty and regulatory authority through the actions of their air quality program and other environmental protection efforts. Members of the Band’s environmental program have been recipients of the Virgil Masayesva Tribal Air Programs Excellence Award, bestowed annually on a deserving tribal program or staff leader.

By working with the staff at the Pechanga Environmental Department, NTFAQ planners will ensure that there are ample opportunities for attendees to experience first-hand the Band’s environmental protection efforts. Kelcey Stricker, Environmental Director for the Band, shares “we are so excited to host the NTFAQ at Pechanga in 2019! In addition to the natural beauty of the Pechanga Reservation, there will be field trips to some of the most innovative and interesting facilities in the region—including an anaerobic digestion facility using food waste to produce carbon-negative natural gas, and a solar farm designed to minimize soil disturbance and facilitate habitat restoration.”

The NTFAQ will again provide many of the familiar sessions and interactive opportunities familiar to past conference-goers, such as: the EcoCafe Exhibit & Information Session, annual NTAA member tribes meeting, annual awards banquet, interactions with tribal, state/local, and EPA and other federal agency representatives, and more!

The venue for the 2019 NTFAQ was selected through a nationwide, open competition process; we targeted only 100% non-smoking venues in an effort to be responsive to attendee concerns and feedback from past events. Indoor air quality from tobacco smoke, particularly the impacts on attendee health, was considered the biggest draw-back to holding the Forum in a casino-hotel environment with poor indoor air quality. The Pechanga Resort offers smoke-free meeting and lodging rooms, restaurants, and common areas, most of which are accessible without having to navigate the casino floor. By selecting the Pechanga Resort, ITEP and NTAA aim to provide a healthy and productive atmosphere, while also supporting tribes by holding the event at a tribally owned facility in close proximity to tribal communities and programs. While there the many, frequently
competing, factors that we must consider when determining the best option for meeting all of the event’s needs, regardless of the pros and cons of a particular setting, we promise to bring you the best tribal conference of the year!

If you have questions about the NTFAQ, please contact Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu or Andy.Bessler@nau.edu. A draft agenda, conference registration and scholarship requests will be available soon at www.nau.edu/ntfaq.

Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS)

>> Federal Government Shutdown Affects TAMS Center Services
Because the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center is a collaborative program between the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Northern Arizona University’s (NAU) Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), a portion of the TAMS Center services are currently affected by the partial federal government shutdown. The facility where the TAMS Center is located, the USEPA National Center for Radiation Field Operations, is currently closed. As a result, the upcoming course, *Indoor Air Quality Diagnostic Tools*, will be postponed to a date yet to be determined; a revised announcement will be sent out when new dates are set. Notification regarding this, and other courses planned for the TAMS Center, will be sent out pending the latest updates on the federal government shutdown. Other TAMS Center services that are affected are the equipment loan service and the filter weighing service which are both unavailable during the shutdown. TAMS staff that are currently on furlough are Farshid Farsi, EPA-TAMS Co-Director, and Kent Bartholomew, TAMS Equipment Manager. The other TAMS staff who are non-federal employees (Christopher Lee, Darlene Santos, Angelique Luedeker, Melinda Ronca-Battista, and Michael King are still working, and therefore, able to respond to inquiries and requests for assistance. All NAU ITEP-TAMS staff can be reached at their NAU email addresses (see sidebar).

>> TAMS Technology Specialist III
From 2005-2006 and from 2007-2018, Glenn Gehring provided technical assistance to tribes across the country as the TAMS Technology Specialist III. As with all of the TAMS staff, Glenn’s technical support to the tribes was invaluable in supporting tribal air programs. Tribal staff who were able to work with Glenn expressed their appreciation for his instruction, support and assistance. When Glenn retired in June of 2018, the TAMS Center began a search to find someone to fill Glenn’s formidable shoes. Our search ended in December and we’re pleased to announce the selection of Michael King as the new TAMS Technology Specialist III. Mike is currently based in Shiprock, NM where he'll work remotely and travel to tribal facilities to support tribal air programs. Mike can be contacted at Michael.King@nau.edu. More Information on Mike is available below.

>> TAMS Training Courses
In January 2019, ITEP offered a new course titled, “R and Environmental Data Analysis,” instructed by Melinda Ronca-Battista, TAMS Research Associate, along with staff from the State of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Dorian Kvale and Kristie Elickson). This course is a 3-day series of tutorials that teaches the basics of importing data, using new packages, cleaning and summarizing data with tidy tools, and using the R open source programing language to make charts, maps, and other graphics. Examples include tribal data, with focus on reporting and analyzing data for trend analyses and evaluating data for outliers and potential exceptional events. This course was specially developed to respond to requests from tribes in Region 5; another course is being considered for the Western U.S. and further information will be announced as the planning becomes more definite. For more information, contact Chris Lee at Christopher.Lee@nau.edu.

>> Virgil Masayesva Environmental Excellence Award
The TAMS Center is announcing a call for nominations for the 2019 Virgil Masayesva Tribal Air Programs Excellence Award. Please consider nominating tribal environmental program
professionals whom you feel are doing great work for tribes. Nominations are being accepted online (http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tams/Home/) and will be accepted until February 22, 2019. The TAMS Steering Committee makes the selection of the recipient of the award at the Spring TAMS Steering Committee meeting occurring this year on March 8-10, 2019. The award is presented at the annual National Tribal Forum on Air Quality.

Further information can be obtained at nau.edu/tams.

Contact Chris Lee at Christopher.Lee@nau.edu for more information on the TAMS Center services.

Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP)

>> Internships

The Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP) is currently recruiting both internship host sites and college students for 2019 summer internships. If your organization is interested in hosting a college student for a summer internship, please contact Mansel Nelson, mansel.nelson@nau.edu. The deadline for host site applications is January 18, 2019.

If you know a college student that might be interested in a summer internship, please contact our Internship Coordinator, Shonri Begay at eeop-intern@nau.edu. The deadline for student internship applications is February 25, 2019.

More information about the ITEP-EEOP Summer Internship program can be found at nau.edu/itepinterns.

Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities (IAQTC)

The Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities (IAQTC) staff conducted training courses and technical assistance projects both in the Lower 48 and Alaska over the past three months. The training courses focus on preparing tribal staff to help their community have healthier indoor environments. The IAQTC staff is also partnering with the StopPests staff from Cornell University to include Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the training courses. IPM is a program that helps reduce exposure to pesticides while implementing effective processes for management of pests.

For more information on Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training courses or technical assistance contact Mansel Nelson, mansel.nelson@nau.edu.

Healthy Homes and Communities - Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)

By Mansel Nelson, Project Director, Environmental Education Outreach Program, ITEP

During November and December, I traveled throughout Alaska participating in conferences and facilitating trainings. Traveling Alaska is always an adventure (weather permitting, earthquakes permitting, as well as volcanos, etc.). However, there was something else different this trip: I was breathing easier! On July 17th, 2018 the Alaska Governor signed into law the Smokefree Alaska bill. This new law prohibits smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces. The new law will lower the risk for several serious illnesses, including stroke, heart disease, sudden infant death syndrome and lung cancer. The reduction in secondhand smoke also reduced my exposure, which is a significant issue since ETS is also a significant asthma trigger. I find it difficult to teach, eat or even breathe when exposed to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS).

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds us that, ‘There is no safe amount of secondhand smoke.’ The CDC staff estimates that secondhand smoke contributes to 41,000 deaths among non-smoking adults and 400 deaths in infants each year. The Surgeon General report states, ‘There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.’ Breathing secondhand smoke can have immediate adverse effects on your blood and blood vessels, increasing the risk of having a
heart attack. I am particularly concerned about the serious health problems that secondhand smoke can have on children. The CDC website reminds us that ‘No-smoking Sections’ in restaurants or other public places do not protect children (or adults) from secondhand smoke. The only way to fully protect non-smokers is to eliminate all smoking in a building.

There is still too much exposure to Environmental Tobaccos Smoke (ETS) in tribal communities, which contributes to poor health outcomes for children and adults. Many tribes operate facilities, such as casinos, that allow smoking indoors. The justification for allowing smoking in the these facilities is often tied to economic impacts, yet every community that has implemented Smokefree laws has seen positive economic impacts. Over 20 years ago, the City of Flagstaff, (Home of ITEP) implemented Smokefree laws that applied to restaurants, bars, and all public places. There were predictions that this action would have significant negative economic impacts. Since a major part of the economics of Flagstaff is the tourism, these were significant concerns. However, the trend over the past 20 years has been an increase in tourism, an increase in restaurant revenues, and even an increase in revenues in bars. In most communities, smokers are far less than half of the population. Apparently, there were many others like me that had been avoiding restaurants because of health issues. With the new Smokefree laws, non-smokers were now able to enjoy restaurants and other public places without worrying about health impacts from secondhand smoke.

There are many issues that impact the health of tribal communities and tribal members. Environmental Tobacco Smoke is one issue we can control through education and policies restricting smoking. If you need assistance with either educational materials or with templates for tribal policies contact ITEP.

For more information on ETS and health impacts contact Mansel Nelson, mansel.nelson@nau.edu.

New to the ITEP team

Mark Daniels – Program Coordinator, Sr. | Volkswagen Settlement Technical Assistance Program

Mark joined the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals in January, 2019, and serves as Program Coordinator Senior, for the Volkswagen Settlement Technical Assistance Program.

Prior to coming to ITEP, Mark worked for two decades in the fields of botany, ecology, environmental science, and environmental engineering. He has extensive experience with research and land management projects around the Southwest, including forest restoration, native plant seeding, and rangeland inventories, and co-authored the 650-page Field Guide to Forest and Mountain Plants of Northern Arizona. Since 2011 Mark has worked on various aspects of air quality management and regulation, including permitting and compliance assistance, preparation of emissions inventories, pollutant dispersion modeling, NEPA analysis, air monitoring, and diesel emissions mitigation. His work with Tribes includes ecological research after a major wildfire on the White Mountain Apache reservation, environmental engineering assistance for projects in the Hopi villages of Moenkopi and Sipaulovi, rangeland inventories for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Navajo Nation, and multiple regulatory compliance projects on the Navajo and Hopi reservations.

Mark is an avid hiker, camper, biker, and kayaker, and enjoys exploring the natural world on his own or with his wife, Rachel, and their two dogs. He has called Flagstaff home since 1997. Mark can be reached by email at Mark.Daniels@nau.edu.
**From the Executive Director...**

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a great holiday season. I had a wonderful time with my family and friends. We have been getting snow here in the Flagstaff area which is much needed moisture for our forests, farmers and ranchers.

As we begin a new year here at ITEP, we are looking forward to continuing to find new and effective ways of serving tribes. And the new year brings new talent to our ITEP team.

In addition to Mike King and Mark Daniels (profiled above), ITEP will be adding to its Air Quality and Waste & Response program teams. In the next couple of months a new Program Coordinator will be hired to work with Dr. Pat Ellsworth as she transitions into full retirement. We will also have a new Events Coordinator to assist with all of ITEP’s conferences and big events. Lastly, the Waste and Response team will be hiring a new Program Coordinator to replace Riley Smith who is now working for the Makah tribe in Washington state. With this new talent comes an influx of new energy and experience that will help us move forward in meeting our charge to serve and support tribal environmental programs.

Late in December of 2018, we saw the modifications to the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Settlement for Indian Tribe beneficiaries become finalized by the courts. That means funding for tribal mitigation projects can now move forward for tribal beneficiaries in the First Round of funding and subsequent rounds of funding. As a reminder, this Trust Settlement was established with the goal of upgrading or replacing qualified older inefficient diesel vehicles and equipment in order to reduce future emissions of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and other harmful air pollutants associated with diesel emissions. ITEP as the Technical Assistance Provider in the Trust Agreement is available to assist tribes at no cost. Please visit our website for more information and how to contact our project staff: [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/volkswagensettlement/](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/volkswagensettlement/).

Lastly, I closely follow the global climate change issues happening at the United Nations. I’ve participated in UN climate forums in the past and was delighted to see in December 2018, at the [United Nations Climate Change COP24 Conference](https://unclimate.org/), Greta Thunberg, a young girl (15 years old),
gave one of the most powerful speeches I’ve ever heard. I sat in my office listening to her and am sure of one thing: the 7th Generation is here. She brought me to tears. As many of you know, I believe in the 7th Generation prophecy from the Lakota Holy Man, Black Elk. I often speak about his prophecy that says that the 7th Generation will bring a great Hope to world. So as you begin your new year, I want you to know that Hope is here and “change is coming.”

Watch Greta Thunberg’s speech at the United Nations Climate Change COP24 Conference:
>> https://youtu.be/VFkQSGyeCWg

And as always, please take the time to contact us and share your stories so that we can learn from each other.

**Upcoming Events**

>> Tribal EN Conference, POSTPONED, new dates TBD: http://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/


>> National Tribal Forum on Air Quality, Temecula, CA, May 6-9: www.nau.edu/ntfaq


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