Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project
Meeting Notes – Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Call Participants
• Monica Bilka, Arizona State University
• Mary Fauci, Nez Perce Tribe
• Josh Foster, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute
• Eliza Ghitis, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
• Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe
• Randy Johnson, USDA Climate Hubs
• Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
• Mary Fauci, Nez Perce
• Carolyn, Kelly, Quinault Indian Nation
• Tiffany Strohbin, Bear River
• Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
• Melissa Poe, Washington Sea Grant and NOAA
• John Mankowski, North Pacific LCC
• David Redhorse, Bureau of Indian Affairs
• Colby Duren, National Congress of American Indians
• Mike Cox, Environmental Protection Agency
• Carrie Sykes, Organized Village
• Preston Hardison
• James Holt, Nez Perce Tribe
• Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe
• Paul Williams, Suquamish Tribe
• Patricia Tillmann
• Jen Vanator, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Council
• Carson Viles, University of Oregon

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Upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates

• May 21, 2014
• June 18, 2014
• July 16, 2014
• August 20, 2014
• September 17, 2014
• October 15, 2014
• November 19, 2014
• December 17, 2014
USDA Climate Hubs—Introduction

Randy Johnson

USDA has established the USDA Northwest Regional Climate Hub (NRCH), located in Corvallis, Ore, and is a multi-agency effort including the Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Hub will deliver science-based knowledge and practical information to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners that will help them to adapt to climate change and weather variability by coordinating with local and regional partners in Federal and state agencies, universities, NGO’s, private companies, and Tribes. For more information, visit: http://www.usda.gov/oe/climate_change/regional_hubs.htm

State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience - Request for Input

The President’s Climate Preparedness and Resilience Task Force (Task Force) was convened to develop recommendations on how the Federal government can better support local, state and tribal governments in achieving resilience through Disaster Preparedness, Built Systems, Natural Systems and Agriculture, and Community Development and Health. The Task Force is charged with providing actionable strategies that can be implemented through existing agency authorities which: 1) remove barriers and create incentives and otherwise encourage investments in resilience; 2) provide useful tools and information, including through intergovernmental coordination; and 3) otherwise support state, local and tribal preparedness for resilience to climate change. Chairwoman Karen Diver of Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Mayor Reggie Joule have been tasked with gaining input from on the impacts tribes are facing from climate change, opportunities for the federal government to support tribes, and actions that should be taken at a federal level. To submit input, use the questionnaire form (attached to the email with notes from this call and send responses to IndianCountry@who.eop.gov or to climate@fdlrez.com. The form is due by May 2nd, 2014. You can also download the request for input at: http://energy.gov/indianenergy/downloads/climate-resilience-and-preparedness-task-force-request-input-form.

Paul Williams asked whether or not tribes would have any access to the report before it is finalized. Others wondered whether or not feedback would be acknowledged/responded to individually. Jen Vanator with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission checked in with Chairwoman Diver. Chairwoman Diver suggested that she will try to redistribute the draft recommendations, but it may not be possible due to the tight timeline for providing those recommendations to the Task Force. The entire effort is on track to be completed by June. Jen said that if comments are emailed directly to her at: jvanator@glifwc.org that she will confirm that she has received those comments.

Participants discussion included the following comments:

- Concern about whether or not BIA Climate Adaptation Grants and other similar federal grants are requiring adaptation plans from tribes in order for tribes to secure funding. Even when not an explicit requirement, will adaptation plans become a prerequisite for participating in government programs or for securing funding? Conversely, adaptation plans have positive potential as a first step in identifying gaps in information, and as an iterative process, or living document, for tribes as they adapt.
- Little support for tribes to access and share information about climate impacts. There is a lot of climate impact data that is not available to tribes in useful forms. Tribes need systems to send and receive information about existing adaptation measures and climate impacts.
• The importance of coordinating landscape-scale adaptation efforts. Current grant funding creates a lot of intra-regional competition for limited funding. Where are the opportunities for tribes to collaborate regionally, so that they can perform larger-scale analysis, and collaborate for effectively?

• Participants on the call also discussed the importance of long-term planning. Existing adaptation projects are funded on short-term grants. When these grants end, there is no additional funding (i.e. project ends, as well). Tribes have a need for ongoing adaptation measures, which will require more stable funding. This ties into disaster planning and other long-term adaptation measures. Participants noted that current grants offer support mostly for short-term projects.

• Discussion of upcoming BIA grants. Preston noted that the BIA grants do not support infomatics. Tribes need funding for coordination and communication mechanisms. David with the BIA responded that the categories for the upcoming grants are not exhaustive. Last year’s grants were reviewed by regional points of contact, who noted that several tribes submitted creative proposals. David encouraged tribes to pursue funding for what they need, even if it does not fall exactly into guidelines.

• Potential for LCCs to support regional communication and coordination. John expressed openness to sitting down with tribal staff to do an information exchange.

• Don noted that some First Nations have expressed openness to sharing climate assessment data with neighboring tribes.

Geos Institute Sign-on Letter
Tonya Graham with the Geos Institute also shared that they have developed a sign-on letter with five recommendations to the Task Force from climate change adaptation and resilience practitioners and local leaders. The deadline to sign on to this letter is Tuesday, April 22. The link to read and sign on to the two page letter is here: https://ng122.infusionsoft.com/app/page/read-and-sign-climate-task-force-letter. Signers are encouraged to forward this link to anyone else they know who is working on climate preparedness and resiliency projects. Questions about this letter can be directed to Tonya Graham, Executive Director, Geos Institute, 541.482.4459 x301, tonya@geosinstitute.org.

Webinar Series
The DOE Office of Indian Energy is also sponsoring a webinar series called Climate Change Impacts and Indian Country: http://energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training/climate-change-task-force-webinar-series. The remaining webinars are:

• April 24, 2014—Natural Resources and Agriculture: Current climate change impacts are felt first in our natural world, and the challenges to protecting those natural resources are shared across all of Indian Country. Hearing from federal agencies that support tribal natural resource development and protection with their assessment of climate change impacts will give Tribes a broad understanding of those challenges and federal efforts to mitigate impacts and promote more resilient natural systems.

• May 1, 2014—Communities: Human Health and Community Development: The multi-agency Sustainable Communities program is one of many designed to support state, local, and tribal governments in planning activities to develop their communities “in more environmentally and economically sustainable ways.” Developing more sustainable communities is important to our national goals of strengthening our economy, creating good jobs now while providing a foundation for lasting prosperity, using energy more efficiently to secure energy independence, and protecting our natural environment and human health. Attendees will learn about other
programs federal agencies have in place to help local communities with climate change impact assessments, mitigation, and adaption.

**PNW Tribal Climate Change Spring 2014 Webinar Series**
This series of four webinars will discuss impacts of climate change in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States and implications of these impacts for tribes. The topic areas include marine issues, fisheries, forests, and invasive species and pests. The webinars are being offered by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University with support from the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNWRS), and in collaboration with the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project at the University of Oregon, the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and PNWRS. All webinars will be recorded and archived at: [http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_webinars.asp](http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_webinars.asp)

**April 24, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. PDT Webinar: Climate Change Impacts on Fisheries**
This webinar will provide highlights of current science about climate change impacts on fisheries in the Pacific Northwest, and a discussion of the implications of these impacts for tribes. Presenters include:
- Tim Beechie, Supervisory Research Fish Biologist, NOAA Fisheries
- Kyle Dittmer, Hydrologist-Meteorologist, Portland Main Office, Fisheries Management, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Please register here: [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8799004886182461442](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8799004886182461442)

**May 21, 2014, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. PDT, Webinar: Climate Change and Marine Issues**
This webinar will provide highlights of current science about climate change and sea level rise, ocean acidification, and effects of rising water temperature on disease processes, and a discussion of the implications of these impacts for tribes. Presenters include:
- Ian Miller, Coastal Hazards Specialist, Olympic Peninsula, Washington Sea Grant
- Jan Newton, Senior Principal Oceanographer and Affiliate Assistant Professor, Oceanography, Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington
- Paul Hershberger, Field Station Leader and Research Fisheries Biologist, Marrowstone, Marine Field Station, U.S. Geological Survey
- Paul Williams, Fisheries Biologist, Suquamish Tribe
Please register here: [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2912992587854635521](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2912992587854635521)

**May 27, 2014, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. PDT, Webinar: Climate Change and Invasive Species and Pests**
This webinar will provide highlights of current science about climate change and invasive species and pests in forest ecosystems and in freshwater ecosystems in the Pacific.
- Jeffrey Hicke, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Idaho
- Julian Olden, Associate Professor, Department of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Please register here: [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8612229747059724034](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8612229747059724034)

**June 4, 2014, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. PDT, Webinar: Climate Change Impacts on Forests**
This webinar will provide highlights of current science about climate change impacts on forests in the Pacific Northwest, and a discussion of the implications of these impacts for tribes. Presenters:
- David Peterson, Team Leader for the Fire and Environmental Research Applications Team, Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Lab, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station
- Frank Lake, Research Ecologist, USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
Please register here: [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4194950578144548353](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4194950578144548353)
**General Updates**


http://www.aswm.org/pdf_lib/resource_guide_to_federal_climate_adaptation_programs.pdf

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) climate change committee has cited the need for an understanding of federal resources to which state fish and wildlife agency managers can refer when they need climate adaptation information. The goal of the Resource Guide to Federal Programs for State Fish and Wildlife Agencies is to provide that understanding and to prevent duplication of federal climate adaptation work on the state level. Utilizing resources already provided at the federal level will free up time for state level managers to incorporate climate adaptation knowledge in to plans, rather than producing their own adaptation science.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) FY 2014 Funding Opportunity to Support Tribes Addressing Challenges of Climate Change:**

The BIA has announced a request for proposals to support Tribes in adapting to the challenges of climate change in tribal communities, especially with respect to ocean and coastal management planning. The competitive grants are for tribal adaptation, training, and travel support (to participate in technical workshops, forums, and cooperative efforts). Awards are available only to federally recognized tribes and P.L. 93-638 eligible intertribal organizations. As in FY 2013, smaller grants are available for tribal staff travel to technical climate adaptation management planning sessions, technical sessions, and workshops, and to serve as representatives at Department of Interior Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, regional (ocean) planning bodies, and other cooperative climate adaptation organizations or technical groups. FY 2013 proposals that were submitted in November 2013, but not selected, will be retained in the applicant pool for consideration in this solicitation. **The application deadline is April 30, 2014.**

In addition to the FY 2014 grants, each BIA Region will have a small amount of funding to organize or support tribal sponsored workshops and for tribal participation in training sessions and climate change organizations. For information on your BIA regional office climate change contact and for information on the grant application process, visit: http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/text/idc1-025664.pdf. The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative has also posted information on this funding opportunity here: http://nplcc.s3.amazonaws.com/BIA+Grants+Announcement.pdf.

**April 23, 9 am Pacific/12 pm EST EPA Carbon Rules: An Opportunity for Tribes to Influence Federal Policy to Confront Climate Change**

The webinar will focus on the proposed EPA rules for carbon emissions from new and existing power plants and how tribes can be a part of this process. The webinar will highlight how the proposed rules would protect public health, communities, and critical lands and habitat across the United States. The carbon rules are critical to protecting wildlife species and habitat from the effects of climate change. Climate change is fundamentally changing our native lands and historic wildlife species and these carbon rules are a key step towards better mitigating the effects of climate change. Participants use this link to register: https://web.telspan.com/register/ITsupport/tribescarbonrule. And call in on this line for audio: 1-800-791-2345 #45668

The Program Committee for the Fifth Annual Pacific Northwest (PNW) Climate Science Conference invites abstracts for oral and poster presentations at contributed paper sessions, as well as proposals for special sessions, for a range of topics related to regional climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science and practice. All submissions are due by 11:00 pm PST on Friday, April 25, 2014. Presentations and special sessions that connect science to management decisions and implementation of adaptation actions are strongly encouraged. The conference provides a forum for presenting emerging policy and management goals, objectives, and information needs related to regional climate impacts and adaptation. Conference participants include policy- and decision-makers, resource managers, and scientists from academia, public agencies, sovereign tribal nations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Emphasis is on talks that are comprehensible to a wide audience on topics of broad interest. For more information on the conference and the call for abstracts, visit: http://pnwclimateconference.org/abstracts.html.

Eliza gave some additional information on the conference. She stated that organizers are hoping for significant tribal contributions to panels and posters that cut across conference themes. She also noted that this year’s format will bring together discussions on climate assessment and adaptation/response rather than breaking those topics apart.

Traditional Knowledges Guidelines and Principles
An informal tribal work group, including various Network participants, has come together to develop a draft of guidelines for considering traditional knowledges in climate change initiatives for the DOI Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science. This document seeks to provide a set of guidelines and principles for both agencies and tribes who are considering the incorporation of traditional knowledges in climate change initiatives. Its purpose is to serve as a resource that informs tribes and agencies of the potential benefits, as well as the potential risks involved in bringing traditional knowledges into these initiatives. This document is a work-in-progress. Questions about this document can be directed to Kathy Lynn (kathy@uoregon.edu).

Northwest Forest Plan - 20-Year Monitoring Report on the Effectiveness of Federal-Tribal Relations
Under the Northwest Forest Plan, there is a requirement to monitor the state of Federal-Tribal relationships as exercised during the implementation of Plan actions and initiatives. Monitoring takes place every five years and culminates in a report, the last of which took place at the 15-year mark (1994-2008) and was published in 2011. The 20-year monitoring effort is scheduled to occur in 2014, and is relevant to federally recognized tribes with lands, tribal headquarters, and/or treaty rights falling within Northwest Forest Plan boundaries in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. Kathy Lynn and Kirsten Vinyeta will be carrying out the 20-year monitoring effort, and Kathy will be providing regular updates on this effort during Network calls. If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming monitoring, please contact Kathy (kathy@uoregon.edu). To find out more about the Northwest Forest Plan's tribal effectiveness monitoring, or to download the 15-year monitoring report, please visit the following link: http://www.reo.gov/monitoring/reports/15yr-report/tribal/index.shtml

Congressional House Natural Resources Committee -- Oversight Hearing on “Tribal Forest Management: A Model for Promoting Healthy Forests and Rural Jobs”
Don Motanic noted that the House Natural Resources Committee has recently received input from tribal leaders on climate impacts. A recording of the proceedings is available at: http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=374814
**Conservation Planning Atlas Webinar & E-Forum**

The North Pacific LCC is ready to launch our Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA), a data discovery, visualization, and analytical platform for stakeholders throughout the NPLCC area. We would like to invite you to participate in an upcoming webinar and e-forum to learn more about the CPA and provide immediate feedback on how we can improve this tool. The webinar, led by NPLCC Data Coordinator, Tom Miewald, will take place on Wednesday May 15th from 10am-11am Pacific Time. Please join us in the launch of this new tool. [Register for the webinar here.](http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/)

**Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group II contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released a newly approved contribution to their Fifth Assessment Report, a report which will be comprised of results from three working group sessions. The second working group convened last month to develop this contribution focused on climate impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability. You can learn more about the full report & new contribution at [http://www.ipcc.ch/](http://www.ipcc.ch/).

**Additional Webinars and Events**

**April 17 New Climate/Hydrologic/Vegetation modeling results for the Pacific Northwest:** The "integrated scenarios of the future environment" project, funded by the NW Climate Science Center and the NOAA-funded Climate Impacts Research Consortium will be released in April. The project has evaluated and downscaled the most recent generation of global climate models for the northwest, examined their projections, and improved and applied hydrologic and vegetation models. A 1-day workshop will be help in Portland on April 17 to give an overview of project results including our best estimates of what the future will look like in the region; provide more detailed; provide detailed instructions on how to access the digital data; and solicit input on next steps for making these scenarios more useable. More details (including webcasting) at [OCCRI](http://www.occri.org/).

**July 21-23, Washington, DC. First Stewards** will hold their 2nd annual symposium at the National Museum of the American Indian. This year’s theme is "United Indigenous Voices Address Sustainability: Climate Change and Traditional Places" [www.firststewards.org/](http://www.firststewards.org/)

**Skagit County Flood Risk in a Changing Climate**


On Thursday, April 24 the Skagit Climate Science Consortium (SC2) is hosting a community open house entitled Skagit County Flood Risk in a Changing Climate to explore changes SC2 scientists are already seeing, modeled future projections, and flood risk in Skagit County. The Skagit Climate Science Consortium is a group of research scientists from universities and federal, municipal, and tribal governments and agencies working in the Skagit Basin. SC2 seeks to understand how the landscape, plants, animals and people may be affected by changes in the patterns of rain, snow, temperature, storms and tides. Our vision is to reduce the vulnerability of human communities and ecosystems in the Skagit River basin to the impacts of a changing climate.

- Thursday, April 24, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., 30 minute presentation at 6:00 p.m.; Best Western Plus Skagit Valley Inn, Cascade Ballroom, formerly The Cotton Tree, 2300 Market Street, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273. Please RSVP to cmacilroy@gmail.com.