

Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project Meeting Notes – Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Call Participants

- Mary Basballe, Puyallup Tribe
- Margaret Corvi, Confederated Tribes of Lower Coos, Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Jamie Donatuto, Swinomish Tribe
- Marla Emery, USDA Forest Service
- Chris Farley, USDA Forest Service
- Dave Fuller, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
- Laura Gephart, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
- Eliza Ghitis, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Larry Gilbertson, Quinault Indian Nation
- Oliver Grah, Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Keith Hatch, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Mary Kennedy, Ketchikan Indian Community
- Marissa Knodel, Vermont Law School and Yale School of Forestry
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
- Gary Morishima, Technical Advisor to the Quinault Indian Nation and Intertribal Timber Council
- Patricia Tillman, National Wildlife Federation
- Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe
- Kirsten Vinyeta, University of Oregon
- Sue Wotkins, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

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Upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates

- July 24, 2013
 - August 28, 2013
 - September 25, 2013
 - October 23, 2013
 - November 20, 2013
- Call-in Information:*
Call Time: 10:00 am Pacific
Call-in #: 1-888-858-2144
Pass code: 5064716

National Tribal Climate Change Policy Issues - Working Teams

Across the United States, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and other indigenous communities are making significant strides to understand and address the impacts of climate change on tribal culture, sovereignty and traditional ways of life. Over the past few years, a number of initiatives have brought together tribal leaders, tribal staff, and tribal organizations, as well as non-tribal agencies, researchers, and non-governmental entities to document needs, identify resources and work together on common issues. The initiatives and events have pointed towards a need for increased coordination on policy, funding and programs related to climate change. At present, three different working teams have been established to address national-level policy. These teams focus on:

- climate adaptation and adaptation funding
- mitigation
- traditional ecological knowledge.

Each team will be holding a call in early July to discuss the action items that were first identified at the National Adaptation Forum, to identify current information gaps, and to discuss the possibility of developing key briefing papers for congressional and administrative audiences. If you would like to sign up for one or more of these working teams, please visit:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/cc?key=0Ah2p3YBI1GbYdHVQdVFHYWN2QU5mU110RVV6aUR3V3c-gid=0>.

Chris Farley with the USDA Forest Service encourages working teams to get in touch with the Forest Service if there is any data or information that the Forest Service can provide to make the working teams more effective. Additionally, Dave Fuller will notify the Network once the National Tribal Water Council make a series of white papers focusing on water resources and climate change available on their website. Gary Morishima suggested the possibility of forming a fourth group with a focus on consultation. Kathy suggested that she could add discussion about consultation to the agendas for the upcoming policy working team calls, and will update the Network about how those groups, or potentially a new working team if formed, move forward.

Call for Abstracts: PNW Climate Science Conference

This year will mark the 4th annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference. The conference will take place on September 5-6 at the Governor Hotel, Portland, Oregon. The conference provides a forum for researchers and practitioners to convene and exchange scientific results, challenges, and solutions related to the impacts of climate on people, natural resources, and infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. The conference attracts a wide range of participants including policy- and decision-makers, resource managers, and scientists, from public agencies, sovereign tribal nations, non-governmental organizations, and more. As such, the conference emphasizes oral presentations that are comprehensible to a wide audience and on topics of broad interest. This conference is an opportunity to stimulate and showcase decision-relevant climate science in the Pacific Northwest. This year's conference will feature a keynote by US Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, and invited plenary talks by several other distinguished speakers.

The call for abstracts is available at: <http://pnwclimateconference.org/abstracts.html>. **The deadline for online submission of abstracts is July 12.** Kathy Lynn asked if anyone planned to submit proposals, or if there would be interested in coordinating tribal sessions.. Jamie Donatuto

suggested a panel featuring the projects related to the NPLCC Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge efforts. [Patricia Tillmann](#) (National Wildlife Federation) will submit an abstract to present on the results of an [assessment](#) of climate change-related challenges, needs, and opportunities for conservation and climate change adaptation in the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative Region. Nearly 200 project participants (~15% from indigenous communities) suggested a range of needs and activity areas (many focused on indigenous cultural and natural resources) to better address climate change in their work. Oliver Grah mentioned that the Nooksack Indian Tribe may be collaborating with another researcher to present results from glacier research that took place on Mt. Baker. If anyone is interested in discussing ideas for tribal sessions, feel free to contact [Kathy Lynn](#).

North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative: Fiscal Year 2013 Project Portfolio

The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) announced its project portfolio for fiscal year 2013. These projects help further the mission of the NPLCC, which is to promote development, coordination, and dissemination of science to inform landscape level conservation and sustainable resource management in the face of a changing climate and related stressors. A brief overview of the projects is provided [at this link](#). These projects are grouped under headings that correspond to the five focused activity areas portrayed in the implementation plan. Several of these projects were selected as a result of two requests for proposals; others were initiated directly with project sponsors in accordance with the implementation plan. Four of the projects were jointly funded and selected in close partnership with the Northwest and Alaska Climate Science Centers (NW and AK CSCs).

The projects in this year's portfolio are closely aligned with the NPLCC's 4-year Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Strategy and Implementation Plan, are well-distributed throughout the geographic range of the NPLCC, and represent a rich diversity of highly-qualified sponsors and organizations.

Program Updates and Events

Tribal Climate Change Funding and Program Guide

Carson Viles is updating the Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide as new funding opportunities arise. Please visit the Guide to find out about new funding opportunities. Please don't hesitate to contact Kathy Lynn (kathy@uoregon.edu) or Carson Viles (cviles@uoregon.edu) with questions, or to suggest funding opportunities that should be added to the guide.

Wisdom of the Elders: 2013 Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Address

The [Second Annual Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples](#) lecture took place on April 10, 2013, at the University of Oregon, as part of the Climate Change Research Symposium. The event included a keynote lecture featuring Dr. Frank Kanawha Lake (USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station), and Kyle Powys Whyte (Michigan State University). The event also included a climate justice panel in which three student researchers (Kirsten Vinyeta, Carson Viles, and Kirsten Rudestam) presented their research on issues affecting indigenous peoples in a climate change context. Wisdom of the Elders video-recorded the keynote lecture and panel session, both of which are now available for viewing on the organization's website. To view these presentations, click on the links below:

- Keynote - <http://vimeopro.com/wisdomoftheelders/ccip-2013/video/66937519>
- Panel - <http://vimeopro.com/wisdomoftheelders/ccip-2013/video/66866787>

Rising Voices of Indigenous People in Weather and Climate Science Workshop

July 1-2, Boulder, CO. The National Center for Atmospheric Research is hosting a workshop on the growing engagement of Native American, Alaska Native, and Pacific Island communities in climate and weather science, research, policy, and community response conversations. The workshop will address the question: What are the elements of successful co-production of science and policy in the fields of extreme weather and climate change? The workshop will be conducted in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Working Group (formerly the American Indian/Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group).

General Updates

President Obama's Executive Order Establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs

President Obama signed an [Executive Order creating the White House Council on Native American Affairs](#) on June 26, 2013. The Executive Order establishes “a national policy to ensure that the federal government engages in a true and lasting government-to-government relationship” with tribal nations. For more information:

- Executive Order: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/06/26/executive-order-establishing-white-house-council-native-american-affairs>
- NCAI Statement on the Executive Order: <http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2013/06/26/ncai-statement-on-president-obama-s-executive-order-establishing-the-white-house-council-on-native-american-affairs>

Northwest Coal Exports

During the Network call, concerns were brought up about the inconsistency between the Obama Administration's climate change plan, which seeks to target coal in an effort to curb CO₂ emissions, and Northwest coal exports. Coal companies are targeting the Pacific Northwest as the gateway for export terminals that would send staggering quantities of U.S. coal to China. Faced with stagnant demand for coal in the U.S., some of the world's largest coal companies want to ship millions of tons of dirty coal per year through the Pacific Northwest to China and other Asian nations looking to feed their rapidly growing energy appetite.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is among those addressing Northwest Coal Exports. The following links provide further information about Northwest coal exports:

- <http://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Energy-and-Climate/Drilling-and-Mining/Getting-Off-Coal/Coal-Export.aspx>
- <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/Reports/Archive/2012/07-31-12-True-Cost-of-Coal.aspx>

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Habitat Conference

Paul Williams and Oliver Grah both presented on climate change related topics at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission's Habitat Conference. Paul Williams' presentation focused on

ocean acidification. Oliver Grah's presentation focused on integrating climate change into a temperature TMDL and restoration planning for the South Fork Nooksack River. For more information or copies of the PowerPoint presentations email Paul at pwilliams@suquamish.nsn.us or Oliver at ograh@nooksack-nsn.gov.

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health - Upcoming Meeting

Gary Morishima will be attending the upcoming West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health meeting in Santa Cruz, CA, on July 9. He will report back to the Network with any relevant updates.

Updates to Federal Agencies' Consultation Manuals and Guidelines

NOAA announces the availability of and request for comments on the Draft NOAA Procedures for Government-to-Government Consultation With Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. This Draft Handbook is intended to assist NOAA staff in conducting effective government-to-government consultations and fulfilling NOAA's obligations under Executive Order 13175 and Department Administrative Order (DAO) 218-8 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, and the Department of Commerce Tribal Consultation Policy adopted on May 21, 2013 and published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2013. The Federal Register Notice is available at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-24/pdf/2013-15011.pdf>

The USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Consultation Schedule was *updated June 21, 2013 and is available at:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/documents/consultation/USFSTribalRelationsConsultationSchedules.pdf>

Climate Impacts Research Consortium: PNW Climate Impacts and Outlook

The Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) provides information and tools for making decisions about landscape and watershed management in a changing climate. CIRC is providing a seasonal outlook, available on their website at: <http://pnwclimate.org/>.

President Obama's Climate Change Plan

On June 26, President Obama put forward a broad-based plan to cut the carbon pollution that causes climate change and affects public health. Cutting carbon pollution will help spark business innovation to modernize our power plants, resulting in cleaner forms of American-made energy that will create good jobs and cut our dependence on foreign oil. Combined with the Administration's other actions to increase the efficiency of our cars and household appliances, the President's plan will reduce the amount of energy consumed by American families, cutting down on their gas and utility bills. Among the strategies to prepare the United States for climate change, one noteworthy action item that the Obama administration has included in reference to tribes is: *"Establishing a State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness: To help agencies meet the above directive and to enhance local efforts to protect communities, the President will establish a short-term task force of state, local, and tribal officials to advise on key actions the federal government can take to better support local preparedness and resilience-building efforts. The task force will provide recommendations on removing barriers to resilient investments, modernizing grant and loan programs to better support local efforts, and developing information and tools to better serve communities."*

- President Obama's Plan Highlights:
<http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/national/highlights-of-obamas-plan-to-cut-carbon/263/>
- President Obama's full climate action plan:
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/149809454/President-Obama-s-Climate-Action-Plan>

USDA Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change

The USDA is in the process of establishing seven Regional Hubs for risk adaptation and mitigation to climate change. These Hubs will deliver science-based knowledge and practical information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners within each region of the United States to support decision-making related to climate change. These Hubs are needed to maintain and strengthen agricultural production, natural resource management, and rural economic development under increasing climate variability. The Hubs will build capacity within USDA to deliver information and guidance on technologies and risk management practices at regional and local scales. While the development of these Hubs is still in its preliminary phases, Chris Farley offered to provide updates to the Network with more details as they emerge.

- USDA Climate Hubs: http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/regional_hubs.htm
- June 5, 2013 Press release:
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2013/06/0114.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>

Joint Fire Science Program Funding Opportunity Notice

The interagency Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) intends to request proposals through one or more formal Funding Opportunity Notice (FON) announcements beginning approximately October 1, 2013 and remaining open through November 22, 2013. The intent of this notice is to provide an early alert to investigators interested in the topics listed below so that investigators can begin considering responsive ideas with potential partners and collaborators. Investigators should recognize that final decisions regarding topic selection will not be made until September, 2013, and that final topic selection is likely to differ from that posted here. One or more topics could be dropped or added, and the specific focus of individual topics may be altered.

Investigators should recognize this uncertainty and not invest substantial time or resources working on proposals until the FONs are formally posted. Potential topics respond to the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (“Cohesive Strategy”):

- Restore and maintain resilient landscapes
- Create fire-adapted communities.
- Safe and effective wildfire response

If you are interested in seeing the full list of "Cohesive Strategies," please e-mail [Kathy Lynn](mailto:Kathy.Lynn).

National Tribal Climate Change Policy Issues - Working Teams

Opportunity to Participate:

Across the United States, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and other indigenous communities are making significant strides to understand and address the impacts of climate change and tribal culture, sovereignty and traditional ways of life. Over the past few years, a number of initiatives have brought together tribal leaders, tribal staff, and tribal organizations, as well as non-tribal agencies, researchers, and non-governmental entities to document needs, identify resources and work together on common issues. These initiatives include the Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Working Group, the National Climate Assessment Tribal Chapter, as well as regional and national events that have focused on tribal climate change issues, including the National Adaptation Forum, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Association, and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. The initiatives and events have pointed towards a need for increased coordination on policy, funding and programs related to climate change.

As a first step in coming together on several key policy issues, we are coordinating a call to identify individuals that have an interest in working together on three different working teams to address national-level policy related to adaptation, mitigation and traditional ecological knowledge. If you would like to participate in an upcoming call to discuss the background and direction of these working teams, please visit:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ah2p3YBI1GbYdHVQdVFHYWN2QU5mU110RVV6aUR3V3c#gid=0>. We anticipate a broad-based call will take place in June 2013, with subsequent working team calls later in the summer.

Context:

The inaugural National Adaptation Forum took place April 2 – 4, 2013 in Denver, Colorado. A series of tribal sessions highlighted case studies of tribal climate change adaptation initiatives around the country, discussed planning tools, capacity building and partnerships, and brought together participants to define the path forward in two working group sessions. PowerPoint Presentations from the forum are posted at: <http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/naf-2013/>. On the last day of the forum, participants had the opportunity to meet in two different tribal workgroup sessions to discuss issues, concerns and opportunities to address climate change. Three key areas of discussion focused on federal-tribal engagement, traditional ecological knowledge, and partnerships, resources and funding. Several action items were identified from the proceedings of the [working group sessions at the National Adaptation Forum](#), and have been refocused within three working teams.

National Tribal Climate Change Policy Issues – July Meetings

Adaptation Team – Tuesday July 9th, 10 Pacific

Mitigation Team – Thursday July 11th, 9 Pacific

TEK Team – Thursday July 11th, 11 Pacific

Action Items

Working Team #1: Build support for Tribal Engagement in National Adaptation Initiatives

- Strengthen legislative and administrative mechanisms for meaningful government to government relationships and consultation. Build congressional support for FY 2014 budget line items that foster opportunities for tribal climate change adaptation.
- Develop a series of white papers and/or briefing documents highlighting key tribal issues for Congress. Potential administrative priorities to support tribal climate efforts:
 - Describe tribal engagement strategies in federal adaptation programs
 - Share knowledge with federal agencies on climate change issues facing tribes, including on- and off-reservation cultural resources and the federal trust responsibility
 - Illustrate that Federal trust responsibility extends to funding channels, environmental protection, adaptation, and mitigation
 - Develop strategies that agencies can use to address issues.
 - Tribal climate science priorities
 - Tribal engagement in Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
 - National LCC Council – Tribal Seat and DOI Advisory Committee
 - The role of/protection for TEK (coordinate this with the TEK subgroup)
- Advocate for Funding for Tribal Adaptation
 - Support BIA in accessing and distributing funding for tribal climate change initiatives
 - Pursue Cooperative Landscape Conservation Funding for Tribes (and BIA)
 - Develop briefing paper/talking points in regards to funding.

Working Team #2: Mitigation Policy and Programs

- Review recent white papers; develop a new paper to assist tribes in having a voice in legislative discussions
- Establish model green building code for tribes; document need for sustainable tribal housing
- Coordinate messaging with Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Working Team #3: Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- The Traditional Ecological Knowledge working team would be tasked with developing a scope of work to:
 - Describe the role of TEK in climate change research, assessments and adaptation planning/implementation
 - TEK can identify goals, priorities; is holistic and ecosystem based (not single-species mgmt)
 - Document changes for culturally important species such traditional foods, medicines
 - Identify ways to incorporate local knowledge and culture into planning documents

- Collaborate with cultural resources staff with environmental/science program
- Can reconnect with tribal people to past or traditional ways of life
- Identify protections for and mechanisms to ensure tribally-led sharing of TEK
 - Focus portions of TK and share only knowledge that's pertinent
 - TEK is decisional—not shared (e.g., sacred sites and cultural resources).
 - Share aggregate data, not specifics
 - Ensure information and process is vetted with tribal leaders on what is shared
 - Intellectual property rights and legal protection of information
- Developing guidance (or a set of principles) on how TEK is used in climate change initiatives for tribes, public agencies, non-governmental organizations and private entities.