

## **Tribal Climate Change Steering Committee**

### **March 10, 2010 – Conference Call Meeting Notes**

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#### **Meeting Participants:**

Ellen Donoghue, Heather Brinton, Teresa Jacobs, Preston Hardison, Wendy Gerlitz, Katie MacKendrick, Kathy Lynn, Kate Sloan, Howie Arnett, Bill Snyder, Don Motanic, Steve Robinson, Gary Harris, Larry Hedy from USFS Region 9 – NE region and Ken Kessler from USFS DC office.

#### **Forest Service Research Opportunities**

Ellen shared that there may be some opportunities for potential Forest Service Research funding for research priorities articulated by the steering committee. One opportunity would be to do more in-depth project profiles.

Ellen is going to draft a revised proposal based on one she submitted last year and would like to run it by people on the committee. Ellen is using the survey results from the steering committee to think about future opportunities, including forest inventory analysis, and clarifying issues related to management of off-reservation species. One opportunity might include partnering with the Forest Service North Central and Rocky Mountain research stations.

There will be a short turn around time for getting comments back to Ellen once she sends out the draft proposal(s). Bill, Preston, Steve, Howie and Don all expressed interest in reviewing the proposal. Ellen's hope is that she would be able to establish a joint venture agreement – hopefully with a tribal organization with a staff member or tribal student with social science skills to get involved with this work. Please give that some consideration when reviewing the proposal. \$30,000

Steve Robinson suggested that he might have access to tribal student interns. He also suggested working with the Quinault forest land base and education program.

Preston suggested that the Tulalip has been involved with national climate change initiatives and may be interested in doing an inventory project as well. A National Science Foundation program that may have funds for that. The contact is Beth Holland.

#### **UO Tribal Climate Change Legal Briefing**

Heather and Teresa gave a brief overview to the draft outline for the Tribal Climate Change Legal Briefing. They plan to have a draft by April 9<sup>th</sup> to a small group of reviewers, and then send the revised draft to the full steering committee by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. They asked that the steering committee send any comments on the outline by email between now and April 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### *General comments:*

- *Preston* – In section 2 - impacts of climate change on subsistence: expand to include biological cultural resources. There is often a focus on commercial or game species, but we should also talk about medicinal plants, etc. Include discussion of the Bolt decision. It's critical to look at off-reservation habitat servitude; critical under climate change – the extirpated resources that will disappear from the legal territories from the tribes because of climate change. Make it clear that habitat servitude is an issue and clarify adaptation requirements to keep species requirements where they are.
- *Howie* – There is a secretarial order – commerce and interior – that addresses tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. Substantive rights and procedural rights. Trust responsibilities under the ESA on reservation and off reservation where tribes have treaty rights or other rights.
- *Preston* – not just about the law, about the costs that could be imposed on tribes as they adapt to

climate change. That order is good. Principles should be least burdensome options.

### **Tribal Climate Change Clearinghouse**

Our current goal is to inventory existing websites related to tribal climate change issues in order to find out what is already out there. This will help us refine our goals and objectives for establishing a new clearinghouse or supporting an existing program.

#### ***Sites to review:***

- Please take a close look at the Tribal Climate Change website established by Northern Arizona University. <http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/>. This website seems to have many elements that we have discussed within the steering committee, including information organized by region and by subject (e.g., policy, programs, adaptation, mitigation, etc.) Please email Kathy and Wendy with your thoughts on:
  - How well you think this site encompasses what you would envision for a clearinghouse?
  - What you would want to see in addition to the information on this site?
  - What would you do differently in establishing a new clearinghouse (or refining an existing one)?
  
- *Other sites to review:*
  - Tulalip climate change clearinghouse - [Native.climatecommons.net](http://Native.climatecommons.net)
  - National Tribal Environment Council - <http://ntec.org/>
  - National Congress of American Indians - <http://ncai.org/Climate-Change.433.0.html>
  - Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network - <http://www.ser.org/iprn/founder.asp>

#### ***General Comments:***

- The group agreed the clearinghouse should be hosted by a tribal organization.
- Kate suggested the idea of having a regional scale of information represented in the clearinghouse. ITEP and other entities are moving in that.
- The group generally agreed that having regional and national information is important, and that we should clarify what is available at both scales as we do our inventory of sites. Another important element is to link existing sites together. Don suggested that the Intertribal groups are currently discussing the possibility of how to do this.
- Wendy suggested that once we identify organizations and sites that we could coordinate with, we could organize a conference call to identify needs and opportunities.
- Preston suggested that the Tulalip Tribes would likely be interested in collaborating on a clearinghouse, and perhaps hosting it. Over the last decade, we've been compiling a database that currently contains over 9,000 adaptation measures for climate change, many of those focused on tribal actions – from residential design, water resources management, energy management, architecture and the built environment to ecosystem-based measures. We've also compiled several thousand articles related to tribal climate change adaptation and track projects and organizations working on the same.

### **Other agenda items**

Don shared information on the BIA's funding strategy for climate change and the upcoming Intertribal Timber Council newsletter. He also talked about an RFP recently released by the Department of Interior to house the NW Climate Science Center. He shared a link to the first Interior climate science center in Alaska: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0310/030410kp1.htm>.