

**Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project
Steering Committee Conference Call: August 4, 2010**

Participants:

Sue Wotkyns, Bill Snyder, Don Motanic, Kathy Lynn, Ellen Donoghue, Rachel Mosley, Justin Spenillo, Gretchen Ellefson

Meeting Notes

University of Oregon/ Forest Service Joint Venture Agreement

The Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station has entered into a two-year agreement with the University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program and will develop a program of work focused on examining Native American tribes in the United States that are engaged in planning for the physical affects of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The first phase will lead to in-depth case study analysis of tribal adaptation and mitigation planning. The analysis will be used to increase understanding of effective tribal adaptation and mitigation planning efforts and to share lessons learned among tribes.

The second phase of the project will be aimed at identifying information that will help tribes in addressing climate change by understanding changes in quantity and distribution of off-reservation culturally important species. In this phase of the project, we will coordinate the development and delivery of forest inventory reports to tribes in partnership with staff at the PNW Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA). The funding through this agreement will allow us to recruit at least two Native American graduate students to work on these efforts.

Ellen also shared that this effort is part of a larger grant that includes the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and the North Central Research Station.

Project Profiles

Kathy and Rachel have completed preliminary drafts on the Swinomish Tribe (Adaptation) and the Nez Perce Tribe (Carbon Sequestration Project) that are currently under review by the tribes. Both the Swinomish and Nez Perce tribes have expressed interest in these profiles and have committed their staff time to reviewing the documents. Drafts of these profiles should be completed by the end of August and final edits will happen in September. Kathy and Rachel will work on a dissemination plan that includes internal distribution between the tribes, putting it on websites, and showcasing the profiles during the two fall events.

Kathy and Rachel are working with the Coquille tribe to develop a profile illustrating their efforts to form a climate change committee. The profile will also highlight the work that Katie MacKendrick did for her thesis, which looked at Climate Change Adaptation Planning for Cultural and Natural Resource Resilience for the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Through her research, Katie examined the risks the tribes face, the factors influencing adaptive capacity, and the role of traditional and local knowledge and experience in planning for climate change adaptation. Conclusions from her thesis offer insights for planning for climate impacts, local-level climate adaptation research, and climate policy development.

ITEP Tribal Climate Change Website

Sue is continuing to post new resources on their website, and is eager to gain input. Wendy has been talking with different members of the steering committee to obtain new ideas and is compiling a list of resources that she will share with Sue later this month. Sue also mentioned that she is trying to coordinate with NCAI on including policy information on the tribal climate change website.

Sue will likely be working with the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station (as part of the grant Ellen mentioned earlier in the call) to host a workshop/forum for early fall 2011. Although the agreement is still being developed, a steering committee for the forum will likely be formed in the coming months.

EPA Region 10 Tribal Climate Change Efforts

Justin and Gretchen joined us for the call to talk about the EPA climate change efforts in region 10 which includes Alaska, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The efforts they are currently engaged in include:

- Gathering information about climate change and other innovative projects tribes are engaged in around the region
- Creating resources that tribes can use to address climate change
- Exploring the possibility of a website, webinar or conference to assist tribes in accessing climate change information

Justin and Gretchen said they are eager to coordinate with this steering committee as well as others to make sure that the EPA can provide the most relevant and needed assistance/resources and not duplicate other efforts.