

**Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project  
Meeting Notes – Wednesday, September 25, 2013**

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**Call Participants**

- Gustavo Bisbal, Northwest Climate Science Center
- Chase Davis, Upper Columbia United Tribes
- Michelle Davis, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
- Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
- Chris Farley, USDA Forest Service Washington Office
- Josh Foster, Oregon Climate Research Institute
- Eliza Ghitis, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Larry Gilbertson, Quinault Indian Nation
- Oliver Grah, Nooksack Tribe
- Samantha Chisholm Hatfield, Northwest Climate Science Center
- Elizabeth Henry, Fraser Basin Council
- Jennie Hoffman, consultant
- James Holt, Nez Perce Tribe
- Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe
- Linda Kruger, USDA Forest Service – Juneau Forestry Lab
- Frank Lake, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
- Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
- Gary Morishima, Technical Advisor to the Quinault Indian Nation and Intertribal Timber Council
- Sascha Peterson, Adaptation International
- Rachel Regan, USGS Western Fisheries Center
- Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe
- Kirsten Vinyeta, University of Oregon
- Steve Waste, Great Northern LCC

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**Upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates**

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

## **USDA Forest Service Research and Development - Tribal Engagement Roadmap** *(Chris Farley)*

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The U.S. Forest Service Tribal Engagement Roadmap (Roadmap) outlines an agenda for USDA's Forest Service Research and Development deputy area (USFS R&D) regarding services to and engagement with American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous peoples. The Roadmap provides assistance to more than 500 researchers and R&D personnel in accomplishing the Research and Development mission and will be adapted and updated as needed. The Roadmap highlights five specific objectives to enhance tribal engagement. These are:

1. Build new and enhance existing partnerships with Tribes, Indigenous and Native Groups, Tribal colleges, Tribal communities and Intertribal Organizations.
2. Institutionalization of Tribal Trust responsibilities and engagement within USFS Research and Development.
3. Increase and advance Tribal and indigenous values, knowledge and perspectives within USFS Research and Development, including both operational and research activities.
4. Network and coordinate within R&D and across Deputy Areas to increase Agency and R&D program efficacy.
5. Through a collaborative and participatory approach with tribes and tribal organizations, advance research on topics of joint interest.

The Roadmap also lists the various actions that are associated with meeting each of the above objectives, as well as examples of actions already taken.

R&D has already received some feedback, and a sixth objective has been suggested: Provide decision-making support to tribes by ensuring tribal access to appropriate data and resources that can inform decisions in a timely manner.

Chris Farley encourages the Network to provide feedback about the draft. He is particularly interested in receiving the following feedback:

- Is the Roadmap clear about its purpose?
- Are the outlined objectives appropriate categorizations of what R&D is doing and of what R&D's priorities are moving forward?
- Are the examples included the best examples? Are there other examples that should be included?

### Document Timeline:

October 6: The Roadmap will be included in a package submitted for consultation.

November: National listening session (conference call webinar)

Early 2014: Final document release

Because this is not a policy document, there is flexibility in terms of who can provide feedback. Chris Farley encourages organizations, tribes and individuals, to provide feedback in whatever way they find easiest and most effective.

### **For more information, or to provide feedback, please contact:**

Christopher Farley, National Climate Change Specialist  
Research and Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington DC 20250-0003  
Phone: (703) 605-5120  
E-mail: [cfarley@fs.fed.us](mailto:cfarley@fs.fed.us)

## **Northwest Climate Science Center - Tribal Engagement Strategy** (*Gustavo Bisbal*)

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The Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC) announces the adoption of the NW CSC Tribal Engagement Strategy for 2012-2015. The purpose of the Strategy is to describe the opportunities for collaboration between the NW CSC and the 52 Native American tribes within its geographic area. Engagement between the NW CSC and Northwest tribes is intended to assist tribes in being better prepared to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change.

As stewards of natural and cultural resources, Northwest tribes need scientific information, tools, and techniques to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change. It is an important part of the mission of the NW CSC to help provide this information. To be effective in carrying out this aspect of its mission, the Center relies on input from tribal representatives on the Executive Stakeholder Advisory Committee (ESAC; <http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/ESAC.cfm>) to help it prioritize research needs, and it also relies on close collaboration with tribes to facilitate transfer of research results back to tribal resource managers. The ESAC assembles executive representatives of federal, tribal, and state agencies and organizations to identify the annual and long-term science priorities of the NW CSC.

Full engagement between the Center and Northwest tribes offers unique opportunities linked to the intimate familiarity that tribes have with the landscapes and resources affected by climate change. These insights into ecosystem processes and responses to environmental change are referred to as Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), which tribes have acquired and passed down through generations adapting continuously to gradually changing environments. The dynamic interplay between TEK and Western science may provide a strong foundation for the understanding of climate effects on tribal resources. There are some real challenges, however, that may hinder the anticipated level of engagement. For example, maintaining effective communication with a large number of tribes distributed over a multi-state area, the limited availability of tribal staff with many demands on its time, and the fact that individual tribes cannot speak for other tribes because each is a sovereign nation, will require patience, commitment, and a shared willingness to discover and learn.

The NW CSC Strategic Plan for 2012-2015 is the foundational document describing all aspects of the Center's direction, operation, and allocation of resources. The Strategic Plan provides opportunities for tribal engagement in each of its five core elements, including executive services, science services, data services, communication services, and education and training services.

Gustavo also introduced Samantha Chisholm Hatfield, a post-doc with the Northwest Climate Science Center. She will be conducting research on the impacts of climate change on northwest tribal culture. To view the NW CSC's Strategic Plan or Tribal Engagement Strategy, visit:

<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/news/northwest-csc-adopts-tribal-engagement-strategy-for-2012-2015.cfm>

For more information or to discuss the NW CSC Tribal Engagement Strategy, contact:

Gustavo A. Bisbal, Ph.D., Director, Northwest Climate Science Center  
326 Strand Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331  
(541) 737-2525; [gbisbal@usgs.gov](mailto:gbisbal@usgs.gov)

## **Update on the Great Northern LCC Columbia Basin Partner Forum** (*Steve Waste*)

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The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GLNCC) is sponsoring a Columbia Basin Partner Forum to help facilitate collaboration among conservation practitioners and partnerships that share landscape conservation challenges in an eco-geographic context. Through a loosely structured

process, field-level managers, scientists, and conservation constituents will identify priority conservation information and scientific needs that fall under the scope of the Great Northern LCC Strategic Conservation Framework. Partner Forums also provide a means to engage the partnership network (a more diverse and directly knowledgeable constituency) on specific conservation needs that will inform and support an adaptive management approach to the “on the ground” application of landscape conservation.

During the most recent forum, Steve Waste, Tom Iverson and others initiated a conversation to discuss what common goals are shared and what initiatives might be of common interest. A 1-day workshop is anticipated in late October or December in which the objective will be to settle on mutually shared objectives that can drive initiatives and decision moving forward.

Chase Davis with the Upper Columbia United Tribes suggested that similar work is taking place in the Upper and Middle Columbia basin, and wanted to know the GNLCC Columbia Basin Partner Forum's purpose and intent, as well as what distinguishes it from other, similar collaborations. Steve described the difference between GNLCC Columbia Basin Partner Forum and other existing initiatives as one of scale. Steve also clarified that the establishment of the Columbia Basin Partner Forum is part of the GNLCC organizational structure. Steve emphasized that he is eager to talk with partners in the region to discuss existing efforts and strategies for moving forward. For more information please visit: <http://greatnorthernlcc.org>.

To be added to the GNLCC distribution list, or to ask additional questions or make comments, please contact:

Steve Waste  
United States Geological Survey  
[swaste@usgs.gov](mailto:swaste@usgs.gov)

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### **ITEP/UO/PNWRS Collaboration - Fall 2014** (*Linda Kruger*)

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The USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station is entering into a new agreement with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals for a two-year program that will provide webinars and an in person training in the Pacific Northwest for tribes focused on climate change adaptation strategies. This agreement will provide an exciting opportunity for ITEP to collaborate with the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network to identify key needs for the webinars and training. In developing this program, ITEP is interested in finding out what information tribes are most in need of when addressing climate change impacts and developing adaptation strategies. We will discuss this program in more detail during the next Network call. If you have questions or comments, please contact:

Linda Kruger  
USDA Forest Service - Juneau Forestry Lab  
[lkruger@fs.fed.us](mailto:lkruger@fs.fed.us)

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### **General Updates**

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#### **Update: BIA Climate Change Grants**

The FY13 tribal climate adaptation grant announcement is ALMOST ready. The official announcement via a Dear Tribal Leader letter is awaiting signature. After that is signed, Sean Hart will send a copy out via email ASAP. Sean noted that the BIA will have to push out the due date (TBD) to allow the tribes a reasonable time to draft grant applications. A Tribal resolution required. Elements that will increase ranking for award:

- High-level tribal adaption plans covering multiple tribes or all programs within a single tribe

- Highlight vulnerably assessments or data down-scaling that covers multiple tribes
- Leveraged funding (any source).

Details will go out with the official announcement. Electronic submissions will be encouraged to save time: ([climate-adaptation-grant-submission@bia.gov](mailto:climate-adaptation-grant-submission@bia.gov)). *After the announcement* Sean will track questions sent via [climate-adaptation-grant-info@bia.gov](mailto:climate-adaptation-grant-info@bia.gov). Sean noted that they are working to ensure that tribes will have 60 days to submit grant applications from the date the grant is announced.

### **Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act (SAFE) Act**

The National Congress of American Indians, Native American Rights Fund, National Wildlife Federation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and others, have developed a list of recommendations to more fully include and engage Indian tribes in the Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act (SAFE Act). These recommendations will serve to help fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes. These recommendations will be submitted to Senators Whitehouse and Baucus, as well as the rest of the Senators on the Environment and Public Works committee.

If you would like to review these recommendations and the accompanying letter, please email [voguesser@nwf.org](mailto:voguesser@nwf.org) for the materials available for review. We are requesting that tribes and tribal organizations that support these recommendations and want to sign-on to the cover letter that will accompany the bill recommendations email Garrit Voguesser at [voguesser@nwf.org](mailto:voguesser@nwf.org) by Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> to formally sign on to the letter.

### **Department of Interior Climate Change Advisory Committee (ACCCNRS)**

Gary Morishima gave a brief update of the first meeting held for the Department of Interior Climate Change Advisory Committee. Gary and Ann Marie Chischilly gave a presentation on tribal climate change issues at the meeting. The committee is working on establishing terms of reference for four workgroups (comprised of ACCCNRS members):

1. Describe the Climate Science Landscape and how the CSCs/LCCs/NCCWSC/RISAs/ClimateHubs etc. should coordinate their efforts with local, state, tribal, and regional efforts.
2. Actionable Science - what is it, who are the decision makers to be served?
3. Communications/Networking among the participants in the Climate Science Landscape (including advisory bodies of the CSCs and LCCs)
4. Tribal engagement

A fifth workgroup may be established to address core products of the ACCCNRS - an evaluation framework for climate science delivery. It is anticipated that some subcommittees may be established (may include members other than the ACCCNRS members). A proposal to establish a science subcommittee was tabled last week as being premature. At the meeting, Ann Marie and Gary suggested that the committee find resources to convene a national meeting to bring together all of the tribes participating on LCC and CSC committees across the country.

### **Special Issue of the Climatic Change Journal on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the USA**

The Climatic Change Journal has just released the full issue on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the USA. This issue came out of the process to develop the tribal chapter for the National Climate

Assessment, and it is the first time that native scholars, tribal leaders, non-profit organizations and other tribal allies have come together to collaborate and assemble information focused on tribes and climate change. To see the issue, please visit <http://link.springer.com/journal/10584/120/3/page/1>  
If you have trouble accessing any of the articles, please contact Kathy Lynn ([kathy@uoregon.edu](mailto:kathy@uoregon.edu)).

## **Upcoming Events and News Items**

### **2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference - Call for Proposals (due September 30, 2013):**

Proposals should identify 2-4 co-organizers and include an informative session title and a short description of the session. One of the session co-chairs should be identified as the session's lead contact for the conference organizers. Proposals will be reviewed and **proposers will be notified of the decision by 1 November 2013**. For more details, visit: <http://www.wvu.edu/salishseaconference/call-for-proposals.shtml>

### **October 1, 2013: Statewide Youth Summit on Climate in Bellevue, WA and webcast throughout the state.**

The summit will provide a voice for community college and high school students in climate action planning giving students an opportunity to discuss how climate change is affecting them and their future. To register for the summit, visit: <http://washington-apa.org/>  
Live webcast at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/washington-youth-summit>

### **October 7-11, 2013, Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit, Spokane, WA**

Tribal Leaders and their environmental staff, along with EPA representatives are invited to share and seek resolution to tribal environmental concerns throughout EPA Region 10. Don't miss your opportunity to attend the 2013 Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit (formerly Tribal Leaders Summit), hosted by the Kalispel Tribe in partnership with EPA.  
For more information, or to register, visit: <http://tels.kalispeltribe.com/>

### **October 9-10, 2013, Sixth Annual Northwest Tribal Water Rights Conference**

You are invited to the Sixth Annual Northwest Tribal Water Rights Conference taking place on October 9-10, 2013 at the Anchorage Lofts Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The theme of this year's conference will focus on how Native Alaskan Water Rights and sovereignty can be applied to protect in-stream flows, water quality, subsistence uses and food security in the Northwestern United States. Presentations will focus on case studies or strategies addressing how tribal treaty and water rights, human rights, food security, environmental justice policies, establishment of watershed councils, climate change and traditional knowledge have been applied to address the focus of the Conference.  
<http://www.centerforwateradvocacy.org>

### **October 9, 2013 - 3:30pm EST - Webinar - Sustaining forests in the face of uncertainty**

<https://necsc.umass.edu/webinars/sustaining-forests-face-uncertainty>

There is rapidly-growing interest in adapting forest ecosystems to changing and uncertain future conditions, but there are relatively few real-world examples of forest adaptation. This presentation will describe a set of forest adaptation resources that can be used by resource managers to incorporate regional information about climate change vulnerability and potential adaptation strategies into on-the-ground management, while meeting a variety of management goals. Examples from public, private, and tribal lands will be highlighted in order to discuss challenges and opportunities for incorporating climate change considerations into forest management.

**November 4-5, 2013 - Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Working Group, Dartmouth College Campus, Hanover, New Hampshire**

The organizers request that meeting attendees RSVP by email so they can obtain a count for meal planning. Please send a quick email to [abigail.j.jones.14@dartmouth.edu](mailto:abigail.j.jones.14@dartmouth.edu).

Contact: Abigail Jones ([abigail.j.jones.14@dartmouth.edu](mailto:abigail.j.jones.14@dartmouth.edu)) and Shereena Baker ([shereena\\_rose@hotmail.com](mailto:shereena_rose@hotmail.com))

Location: Dickey Center for International Understanding, Room 041 Haldeman on the Dartmouth College campus, Phone: (405) 325-3095

**October 31, 2013 "Recipe for Tomorrow--Climate Change and the Future of Food" Symposium**

Symposium agenda and a link to registration: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/r4t>

When: Oct. 31, 2013; 8am-5pm

Where: St. Luke's Community Center, Bellingham, WA

The climate in the Pacific Northwest is changing. With those changes come challenges and opportunities for the marine and land-based food systems we rely on for our health, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being. This symposium will examine how climate change may impact our regional food system, and explore how we are - or could be - preparing for these changes.

The symposium will bring local and regional experts and stakeholders including keynote speakers Craig Welch and Dr. Chad Kruger. Craig Welch is the author of "Sea Change"--the recent three-part special series in the Seattle Times on the impacts of ocean acidification on the seafood industry. Dr. Kruger is the Director of the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources (CSANR). Representatives from businesses including fisheries, shellfish, dairy, small fruit, grocery stores, food distributors, and processors will provide their perspective on the challenges we face.

Symposium sponsors and coordinators include Washington State University, Washington Sea Grant, Western Washington University, City of Bellingham, Taylor Shellfish, Whatcom Conservation District, Whatcom County Marine Resource Committee, Northwest Straits, Whatcom Watershed Information Network, and RESources.

**November 20, 2013 - 3:30pm EST - Webinar - science and extreme events**

<https://necsc.umass.edu/webinars/conservation-face-climate-change-how-can-decision-makers-use-best-available-science-prepara>

Michael Runge is a Research Ecologist at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. His primary research interests include problems in quantitative ecology related to adaptive management of wildlife resources. Duties include development and evaluation of principles and theories of adaptive resource management, development and implementation of large-scale management experiments, development of novel applications of adaptive management, technical support for ongoing applications of adaptive management, and development and implementation of other quantitative methods for wildlife management. Dr. Runge has made many important contributions to adaptive management and decision support science, and has been recognized with the Regional Director's Conservation Award (2007) for contributions to the science and recovery efforts of the Florida manatee, and the Superior Service Award (2005) for "an exceptional job of making science available to natural resource managers for use in their management decisions."

**Climate Impacts Research Consortium - PNW Climate Impacts and Outlook - Summer 2013**

<http://pnwclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/CIRCsummer2013.pdf>

## **Call for Proposals: Alternative Sovereignties: Decolonization Through Indigenous Vision and Struggle - May 8-10, 2014, University of Oregon**

Call for Proposals: The concept of “sovereignty” as both an international political norm and expression of cultural distinctiveness and political autonomy is central to American Indian and First Nations discourse in the United States and Canada. Yet this language is often an imperfect reflection of the goals that tribal nations seek to pursue, suggesting rigid political and social boundaries around and within indigenous nations. This stands in stark contrast to political relationships based in tribal epistemologies that acknowledge social flexibility, interdependence, reciprocity and non-coercive, respectful relationships between and within national communities.

This conference will explore both “alternative sovereignties” and “alternatives to sovereignty” that might better meet the political, cultural and social aspirations of American Indian and First Nations communities. We are especially interested in the relationship between vision and struggle. “Vision” theorizes alternative forms of sovereignty that might better reflect the social and political goals of American Indian and First Nations. “Struggle” interrogates the rhetorical, representational and discursive strategies necessary to pursue these visions within adversarial cultural and political environments still defined by colonial power.

Potential questions for investigation might include but are not limited to the following: What might visions of “alternative sovereignties” or “alternative to sovereignty” look like? What values, hopes and aspirations would they express? In what ways do such visions align or exist in tension with contemporary expressions of the nation, sovereignty, self-determination and human rights both in Indian Country and beyond? What forms of contemporary political and social struggle advance tribal visions that might substantively revise or intervene in non-tribal fields of power and knowledge? Finally, what are the theoretical and practical relationships between “vision” and “struggle,” and what role does Indigenous cultural and intellectual production serve in advancing these efforts? Reflecting the interdisciplinarity of Native Studies, the conference is committed to conversation across historical periods and academic and institutional boundaries, including literature, law, philosophy, cultural studies, political science, education, anthropology, history and the arts.

Please send brief proposals of no more than 300 word to [alternative.sovereignties@gmail.com](mailto:alternative.sovereignties@gmail.com) by December 1, 2013. Also include brief biographical information, including for example academic affiliation, primary area of research, and relevant experience. Applications from the broader Northwest or dealing with issues relevant to Northwest indigenous nations are especially welcomed.

### **Ocean Acidification Three Part Series**

The Seattle Times has released one of the most comprehensive series of reports to date by a newspaper on the topic of ocean acidification. Sea Change is a multi-media piece that reports on the science and impacts of ocean acidification both globally and in the Pacific Northwest. The series of stories is running in print form from Sunday, Sept 15 through Tuesday, Sept 17, 2013 (online versions were posted earlier). You can find the stories, videos, maps, photos, animations, and other features for each of the stories at:

- [“Sea Change: The Ocean’s Perilous Turn”, Sunday, Sept 15, 2013](#)
- [“Alarm Over Crab”, Monday, Sept 16, 2013](#)
- [“Oysters Hit Hard”, Tuesday, Sept 17, 2013](#)

For more on Washington State’s efforts to address ocean acidification, see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water/marine/oceanacidification.html>.

For more on the University of Washington’s role in leading the new Center on Ocean Acidification Impacts and Adaptation, see: <http://tinyurl.com/uw-center-on-oa>.