

Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network Call

Date: June 22, 2011

PARTICIPANTS

- Ellen Donoghue, PNW Research Station
- Steve Robinson, consultant
- Patricia Tillmen, National Wildlife Federation
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Sue Wotkyns, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Jesse Kirshner, EcoAdapt
- Kathy Lynn, UO Environmental Studies Program
- Debi McNutt, Evergreen State College
- Dave Peterson, PNW Research Station

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

We began the call with introductions of two people who joined the network for the first time:

- Debi McNutt is a graduate student at Evergreen State College and works for the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute. (<http://nwindian.evergreen.edu/>).
- Dave Peterson is with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station. Dave is working with the North Cascadia Adaptation Partnership (NCAP) <http://northcascadia.org/>. (NCAP) is a Forest Service – National Park Service collaboration on climate change adaptation and is addressing adaptation at a large scale – the region that includes Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, North Cascades National Park Complex, and Mount Rainier National Park – a land area of 6 million acres.

Partner Updates:

National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy

Patricia Tillman reported that the National Wildlife Federation is submitting comments on the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy in early July. NWF has gathered some comments from tribes about the need for direct consultation and accounting for traditional resources and knowledge in vulnerability assessments as part of the strategy. Patricia mentioned that most of the tribes contacted to provide comments suggested that they would wait to provide comments when direct government-to-government consultation occurs. Patricia will share their comments with our group. For more information on the strategy, visit: <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>

Intertribal Timber Council Symposium

Don Motanic reported on the 35th annual ITC Symposium held last week in Minnesota. There were 320 participants and they did distribute the two-page overview of the Tribal Leaders Guide to U.S. Climate Change programs in the symposium packets that went to all attendees. Don also had a chance to make a 15-minute presentation on the Guide. One outcome was interest from the Western Forests Leadership Coalition and the National Association of State Foresters. Kathy will follow-up with them in regards to a clearinghouse for climate change they are working on. Don also shared some preliminary findings from the ITC research survey. There were 106 completed surveys, including tribal leaders, tribal staff, BIA representatives, and students among others. Key priorities from the survey included:

1. Water quality
2. Fish and wildlife
3. Integration of traditional knowledge
4. Mechanisms to improve knowledge sharing among researchers and practitioners; connecting Universities and tribes
5. Invasive species
6. Adaptation on climate change impacts – priority from impacts

National Climate Assessment

Bull Bennet was unable to join the call at the last minute, so Kathy will send out an update on this in the next few weeks.

Our Natural Resources: Honoring the Natural Legacy of Indian Country

(<http://www.ournaturalresources.org/intertribal-organizations/>)

Don let the group know that they would be meeting in the first week of August to prioritize their principles and next steps. Kathy will work with Don to share relevant resources during the meeting.

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Sue reported on their Annual Tribal Forum held last week in Spokane (hosted by the Kalispel Tribe). They had a full climate change track, which included case studies and presentations by federal agencies. Sue mentioned that one of the presenters with the Fish and Wildlife Service mentioned the Tribal Leader's Guide on Climate Change programs in his presentation. Sue also mentioned that the Southwest tribal climate change network is moving forward with their workshop in September. Bull Bennet was on their call and Sue will be working to share information on tribal climate change initiatives in the Southwest for the National Climate Assessment.

Project Updates and Discussion Items:

Guide for Tribal Leaders on U.S. Climate Change Programs (<http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/publications/>)

Kathy shared that there has been a lot of agency feedback and new entries submitted since the Guide was initially released last week. Kathy is continuing to update the Guide online on a weekly basis. Debi McNutt will submit an entry for the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute.

National Rural Assembly Climate Change Session - June 29, 2011

Kathy will be co-facilitating a climate change session at the National Rural Assembly next week. In St. Paul, MN. Melissa Cook with the Menominee Nation and the Sustainable Development Institute at Menominee College will be presenting on the panel. Kathy will share outcomes from the session, which will include breakout discussions on rural concerns and opportunities related to climate change policy and planning with the Network.

May 24, 2012 Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Conference – Eugene, Oregon

Daniel Wildcat will be the keynote speaker at this conference, which will be hosted by the Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon. Kathy asked if there was interest among the Network in having an in-person meeting that would coincide with this conference. Ellen also mentioned another speaker that we might want to engage in this conference or in another forum is Steve Becker with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The group expressed interest in an in person meeting. Don Motanic mentioned that the 2012 ITC Symposium will be hosted the Warm Springs May 14 – 17. Kathy will send a draft set of objectives for the in-person Network meeting, along with a Doodle poll to find out if people would want it to coincide with the May 24 Indigenous Communities and Climate Change Conference or potentially as part of a workshop at the ITC Symposium in Warm Springs.

UO Student Research

Kathy gave a brief update on student research involvement. We will be funding three tribal college students to attend the May 24 Indigenous Communities and Climate Change conference in Eugene and will work with the American Indian Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group to identify those students. We have also hired two graduate students to work on the project beginning in Fall 2011. Steve Robinson suggested that we continue to do outreach within the University and connect with undergraduate and graduate Native American students who might be interested in participating in the project.