

Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project Meeting Notes

August 9, 2011

Participants:

- Ellen Donoghue, USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station
- Janet Clark, Quinault Indian Nation
- Marla Emery, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station
- Laura Gephardt, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
- Gary Harris, USDA Forest Service Region 6 - Tribal Relations Officer
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Steve Robinson, Consultant
- Garrit Voggesser, National Wildlife Federation
- Myra Wilensky, National Wildlife Federation
- Sue Wotkyns, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Upcoming Events:

- **Great Lakes Tribal Climate Change Summit.** August 22-26th, 2011 in Keshena, WI. Hosted by the Menominee Nation in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station. <http://www.sustainabledevelopmentinstitute.org/wordpress/archives/420>
- **National Tribal Environmental Council Annual Meeting.** August 28 - 31, 2011 in Blue Lake, CA. Hosted by the Yurok Tribe and the Blue Lake Rancheria. <http://ntec.org/annualmeeting.html>
- **Southwest Tribal Climate Change Workshop.** September 13-14, 2011 in Flagstaff, AZ. Hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_SWWrkshop.asp
- **Exploring Traditional Ecological Knowledge's Role in Responding and Adapting to Climate Change and Variability.** September 15-16, 2011 in Seattle, WA. Hosted by the *Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI)* with sponsorship and support from the *Pacific Northwest Climate Change Collaboration (C³)*, the *Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)*, the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*, the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)* and the *U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)*. <http://www.atniribes.org/tek/>.
- **8th Annual American Indian Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group Meeting.** November 7-8, 2011 in Keshena, WI. Hosted by the College of Menominee Nation.
- **Tribal Climate Change Symposium.** July 16-19, 2012 in Washington, D.C at the National Museum of the American Indian. Hosted by the The four Coastal Treaty Tribes (Hoh, Makah, Quileute, and Quinault) in conjunction with the U.S. Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, and the Nature Conservancy. Contact Robert Jones (rjones@nwifc.org) and Eric Wilkins (ewilkins@nwifc.org) with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission suggestions for the west coast panel.
- **Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Conference.** May 23 - 24, 2011 in Eugene, Oregon. Hosted by the Clark Honors College. Daniel Wildcat and Larry Mercurieff confirmed as keynote speakers. We will likely organize a corresponding Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network meeting.

National Climate Assessment – Forestry Sector Stakeholder Workshop

Don Motanic shared an update from the USDA Forest Service sponsored Forestry Sector Stakeholder Workshop in Atlanta, GA on July 12–14, 2011. Participants included representatives from federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and professional organizations.

Kathy Jacobs, Assistant Director for Climate Assessment and Adaptation at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, presented an overview of the National Climate Assessment (NCA) expectations and National Climate Change Development and Advisory Committee (NCADAC) vice-chair Gary Yohe presented on risk and uncertainty frameworks. Much of the workshop focused on small group sessions, during which participants discussed ideas and provided inputs on:

- 1) Risk and Uncertainty Frameworks
- 2) Effects of Climate Change on Forest Disturbance
- 3) Interactions with Land Use Change & Population
- 4) Adaptation & Mitigation to Climate Change
- 5) Carbon Dynamics & Management (include monitoring and feedback)

Within each session, participants focused their input on Identifying the critical scientific issues; critical management and policy implications; identifying models, data and syntheses that have emerged in the last 5 years; and identifying issues that are likely to become increasingly important by 2020 and beyond.

Dave Peterson and Jim Vose, USDA Forest Service leads on the forestry technical input, and Toral Patel-Weyand, Forest Service representative on the Interagency National Climate Change taskforce member, circulated and solicited comments on the technical input outline and a timeline for the workshop report and technical input. The report will be completed within the next few months; the technical input is targeted to be ready for external peer review by December 1, 2011 and subsequent submission to NCADAC by March 1, 2012. Technical input co-authors have been identified, and a meeting among all lead and co-authors on October 5–6, 2011 will facilitate progress on the chapter.

Richard Zabel, Western Forestry Conservation Association in Portland, Oregon, is compiling the input from the workshop. Presentations about Forest Service work with tribes was presented by Marla Emery, Northeastern Research Station on the Menominee College activities and Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council on the Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network's – A Guide for Tribal Leaders on U.S. Climate Change Programs.

Discussion on Consultation Policy

Kathy facilitated a discussion on needs related to consultation policy that will help frame the research objectives for the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change project in the coming year. Initial ideas for the research include reviewing agency consultation policy related to natural and cultural resource management, as well as the implications of climate change on treaty rights and access to tribal resources and sacred sites. Specific objectives may include:

- Review current consultation policy within federal agencies
- Review recent literature on tribal sovereignty and climate change
- Examine federal and international policy on climate change for discussions of treaty rights and management of off-reservation resources in the context of climate change impacts on the quantity and distribution of culturally important species.

Garrit suggested that coordinating with the Our Natural Resources: Honoring the Natural Resources Legacy of Indian Country (<http://www.ournaturalresources.org/>) would be a good strategy. Garrit

mentioned that Sherry Black at NCAI has notes from a recent ONR meeting where discussion of consultation took place.

One of ONR's goals is to make consultation policy more effective and to develop a model consultation policy. There is recognition, however, that not all tribes have the same needs and examples of consultation policies (as opposed to a sweeping policy) may be more effective. Agencies should meet with tribes based on the tribes understanding of consultation. Garrit mentioned that ONR is finalizing their vision, mission and goals and action items and plan to make a presentation at the November NCAI annual meeting,

Other discussion points made about consultation policy during the call included the following:

- There is a need to review what the various agencies have in place and how well consultation policy is (or is not) followed and not followed.
- Steve Robinson agreed that consultation policy must be from the tribal perspective. There should be commonalities and a consideration of traditional knowledge and science, treaty rights, and an emphasis of today's political realities in consultation policies.
- Gary Harris suggested that an overarching policy can sometimes become too cumbersome. He suggested that the recently published report on monitoring government-to-government relationships within the Northwest Forest Plan highlights the need for decision-makers to bring issues to the tribes.
- There was agreement that there is no cookie cutter approach and there need to be some models of how consultation can work; each tribe has a policy that they can work with.
- Even when policies are in place, how many federal employees know what consultation policies are? How can federal agency employees be more aware of what consultation policy is and how to follow it? There needs to be a better mechanism for agencies to reach tribes.
- There is a need to establish core competencies for agencies that go beyond skills in natural resources management, public involvement, etc.; there are no core competencies to demonstrate skills for dealing with tribes. Competencies should include understanding of working with sovereign nations and different cultures as well as knowledge of federal history and legislation.
- Janet Clark mentioned a resource that might be useful: a 2010 Natural Resource Conservation Service guidebook on indigenous stewardship methods. (See attachment posted at:

The other area of focus for the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network will be examining literature and examples of how tribes are using traditional knowledge in climate change assessments and planning. Steve Robinson suggested looking at recent work by Preston Hardison and Terry Williams. Kathy will also coordinate with Bull Bennett as the National Climate Assessment Development and Advisory Committee is interested in including information related to traditional knowledge and climate change in the NCA report.

Next Steps:

- Kathy will contact Sherry Black with NCAI to discuss our research agenda and ONR's objectives and set up a conference call with interested stakeholders (including Butch Blazer, Gary Morishima and others).
- Kathy will send out a draft research agenda describing more detailed objectives for the work related to consultation policy and traditional knowledge and climate change to the Network for review and comment

Tribal Project Profiles

The University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program will begin working on more profiles this fall. Current profiles under consideration include the following list. Please send Kathy other ideas and relevant links.

- Yakama Nation - Advancing Renewable Energy for the Yakama Nation
 - <http://www.igert.org/spotlights/1598>
 - <http://www.igert.org/highlights/380>
- Quileute, Hoh, Quinault, Makah: hosting climate change symposium at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian
 - <http://nwifc.org/2011/06/tribes-are-reacting-to-climate-change/>
 - Climate Change Implications for Quileute and Hoh Tribes
<http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/papiez.html>
 - <http://www.camelclimatechange.org/resources/view/168098/?topic=71692>
 - http://www.hohtribe.com/?page_id=193
- Nisqually Tribe – Impacts from Climate Change to the Nisqually River
 - <http://turtletalk.wordpress.com/2011/08/02/nisqually-tribe-addresses-climate-change-impacts-on-nisqually-river/>
 - <http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/tribes/northwest.asp>
 - http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2015822689_guest05frank.html
 - Seeing Trends, Coalition Works to Help a River Adapt.
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/21/science/earth/21river.html?_r=2
- Colville Tribe
 - Impact and Adaptation Responses of Okanagan River Sockeye Salmon
(http://nrd.colvilletribes.com/obmep/pdfs/CWRAJournal_OkanSox.pdf)
 - <http://64.38.12.138/News/2011/002288.asp>

Other Items:

- Ellen announced to the group that she will be on a 6-month extended leave from my Forest Service PNW Research Station starting in October. She will be residing in Alaska, learning more about Alaska culture and resource management and climate change issues, and exploring her extracurricular passion of training and racing sled dogs. She plans to stay involved as a co-PI on the tribal climate change research projects and will attend Network conference calls when possible.