



## Tribal Climate Change Newsletter July 2015

Welcome to ITEP's Tribal Climate Change Newsletter. This monthly newsletter provides news items, resources, announcements about funding opportunities, conferences, and training, and other information relevant to tribal climate change issues.

### ITEP's Climate Change Program News



Heart Mountain in Wyoming is sacred to the Crow Tribe. Photo credit: Sue Wotkyns.

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) will be hiring for **two new Program Coordinator Sr. positions** – one position will be with ITEP's Climate Change Program and the other position will be with ITEP's Climate Change Program and American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP). The positions are located on the campus of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. The application deadline for both job openings is July 22, 2015. The job descriptions (position # 602142 and #602143) and information about applying are available on the Northern Arizona University Human Resources website: <http://nau.edu/human-resources/careers/staff-welcome-page/>

I hope to see you at the upcoming **Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF)** , scheduled for August 17-20 in Minneapolis, MN, [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_tlef](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef). I am planning a ½-day **Climate Change Adaptation Planning training** for Monday, August 17, 1-5 pm. Registration for the conference is available on the conference website To register for the climate change training, please email Todd Barnell ([Todd.Barnell@nau.edu](mailto:Todd.Barnell@nau.edu)).

**Please contact me if your tribe is interested in hosting an ITEP climate change training.** I would ask you to be on the instructional team and to plan and lead a ½-day field trip that highlights your tribe's climate change-related projects. We are scheduling Climate Change Adaptation Planning trainings for 2016 and will be going to different regions of the U.S.

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#### Newsletter

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Send an email to [susan.wotkyns@nau.edu](mailto:susan.wotkyns@nau.edu) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter. Archived issues can be found at: [www4.nau.edu/itep/climate\\_change/tcc\\_news\\_letters.asp](http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climate_change/tcc_news_letters.asp)

#### Tribes & Climate Change website

For more on tribes and climate change issues, visit ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change website at [www4.nau.edu/tribal\\_climate\\_change](http://www4.nau.edu/tribal_climate_change)

— Sue Wotkyns, Program Manager

## *In The News*

### **NCAI Demands Environmental Review of Enbridge Pipeline Through Wild Rice Lands**

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has passed a resolution calling for a full environmental impact statement on a proposed oil pipeline that would cut through indigenous wild rice lands. © 2015 Indian Country Today Media Network, LLC, 7/14/15.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/07/14/ncai-demands-environmental-review-enbridge-pipeline-through-wild-rice-lands-161063>

### **White House Youth Gathering: Native Youth Have First Lady and President Behind Them**

When First Lady Michelle Obama walked out to address a room full of Native Youth at the first ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington, D.C., she was the unmistakable star of the show. As part of the Obama Administration's Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Initiative, Michelle Obama's appearance at the gathering demonstrated an intention to keep her and President Obama's promise to honor the contributions of Native Youth. © 2015 Indian Country Today Media Network, LLC, 7/13/15.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/07/13/white-house-youth-gathering-native-youth-have-first-lady-and-president-behind-them-161045>

### **Coastal Alaska natives face 'some of the highest shoreline erosion in the world'**

Alaska's remote northern coast where several native communities live "has some of the highest shoreline erosion rates in the world," a USGS study released Wednesday said. Results varied along the shore, but more than a yard is being washed off most of the coast each year. In extreme cases, the study said, nearly 30 yards of coast disappeared from some beaches. © 1996-2015 The Washington Post, 7/2/15.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/07/02/coastal-alaska-natives-face-some-of-the-highest-shoreline-erosion-in-the-world/>

### **Alaska village ponders next steps as walrus harvests decline drastically**

As recently as a few years ago, the village of Gambell on St. Lawrence Island could expect to harvest 600 or more walrus during the spring hunt. This year, the community hauled in just 30, the third year in a row that the harvest fell well short of expectations. With a vital source of food and a key to the local economy in continued decline, residents increasingly point to climate change as the underlying cause of a problem with no easy remedies and are wondering what their next steps might be. © 2015 Alaska Dispatch Publishing, 7/9/15.

<http://www.adn.com/article/20150708/alaska-village-ponders-next-steps-walrus-harvests-decline-dramatically>

### **Alaska's Seal Hunt Lasted Only A Few Days Because It's So Hot**

The hunt for bearded seal was abnormally short because of melted ice. Native Alaskans worry about losing their traditional foods and culture. © 1996-2015 National Geographic Society, 7/1/15.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/07/150701-alaska-seals-hunt-climate-warming-kotzebue/>

## *Resources*

### **Climate Change in the United States: Benefits of Global Action (US EPA)**

This report estimates the physical and monetary benefits to the U.S. of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. It summarizes results from the Climate Change Impacts and Risks Analysis (CIRA) project, a peer-reviewed study comparing impacts in a future with significant global action on climate change to a future in which current greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. The report shows that global action on climate change will significantly benefit Americans by saving lives and avoiding costly damages across the U.S. economy. EPA 430-R-15-001, 2015.

<http://www2.epa.gov/cira/downloads-cira-report>

### **National Adaptation Forum Presentations Are Now Available**

Session presentations and posters from the 2015 National Adaptation Forum held in May 2015 are now available on the conference website under the Program tab. Now you can find out more about those talks that you missed or fun facts you don't entirely remember from a poster you saw.

<http://www.nationaladaptationforum.org/>

### **State of the Climate Reports (NOAA)**

The State of the Climate is a collection of monthly summaries recapping climate-related occurrences on both a global and national scale.

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/>

### **Video: Climate Change From Inter-Tribal Youth Congress 2015**

This video was made by Native American students from all over the US to help educate people about problems in their area caused by climate change. 7.5 min. July 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHH85HcsHI4>

## *Other Items of Interest*

### **BIA FY2015 Climate Change Funding Awards**

A list of awardees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) grant opportunity FY 2015 Tribal Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program *Adaptation and Coastal Management Funding* is now available. These awards will support adaptation and coastal planning projects and provide travel support for federally-recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

<http://www.indianaffairs.gov/cs/groups/webteam/documents/document/idc1-030646.pdf>

### **Cultivating Native Leaders in Conservation**

Recently, ninety Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian high school students came together at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia for a week of intensive education and peer-to-peer training about the impact of climate change on tribal communities.

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/07/14/cultivating-native-leaders-in-conservation/>

### **White House Releases Progress Report Highlighting Federal Actions Addressing Recommendations of State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience**

As part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, a State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience (Task Force) was established in 2013 to help the federal government respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change. The Task Force recommendations emphasized the importance of supporting communities that are likely to be disproportionately affected, including those that already face economic- or health-related challenges. The White House has released a progress report highlighting some of the key actions taken by the Administration that support the Task Force's recommendations, which were compiled and delivered to the President in November 2014. Building on this progress, the White House is also announcing a series of new actions focused on enhancing resilience in the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change that includes over \$25 million in private and public investments.

Press release: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press\\_Releases/July\\_09\\_2015](https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/July_09_2015)

Progress report: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/climate\\_preparedness\\_report\\_updated\\_070915.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/climate_preparedness_report_updated_070915.pdf)

## *Funding Opportunities*

**NOTE:** More Funding Opportunities can be found at the **Tribes & Climate Change website:**

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Resources/funding> . Also, see the **Tribal Climate Change Guide to Funding, Science, Programs, and Adaptation Plans** maintained by the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project at the Univ. of Oregon: <http://envs.uoregon.edu/tribal-climate/>

### **Climate Program Office FY 2016 (NOAA)**

NOAA's Climate Program Office (CPO) manages competitive research programs through which NOAA funds high-priority climate science, assessments, decision support research, outreach, education, and capacity-building activities designed to advance our understanding of Earth's climate system and to foster the application of this knowledge to enable effective decisions. GO to website for information about the 10 competitions covered by this Announcement. Eligibility includes

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments) and Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized). Funding opportunity # NOAA-OAR-CPO-2016-2004413. Deadlines: Letters of Intent 7/30/15, Full Applications 9/23/15.

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277620>

**FY15 Pre-Disaster Mitigation** (Dept. of Homeland Security – FEMA)

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program makes available federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding from future disasters. Eligibility includes Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized). Funding opportunity # DHS-15-MT-047-000-99. Deadline: 8/28/15.

[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

**FY15 Flood Mitigation Assistance** (Dept. of Homeland Security – FEMA)

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program makes available federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures that minimize or negate the risk of flood damage to residential or non-residential properties insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. Eligibility includes Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized). Funding opportunity #DHS-15-MT-029-000-99. Deadline: 8/28/15.

[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

**FY 2016 Tribal Wildlife Grants** (USFWS)

Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to Tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat. Eligibility: Federally recognized tribal government. Deadline: 10/30/15.

<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html>

## *Upcoming Events*

NOTE: More Upcoming Events can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website:

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Home/Events>

### **August 2015**

**Webinar: The Seldovia Native Village Climate Change Projects**

August 11, 10:00 - 11:30 am AKT. 2015 Climate Change for Alaska's Rural Communities webinar series. Presentation by Michael Opheim, Environmental Program Manager. For more information about the webinar series including details for each webinar, go to the website.

<http://www.tcfwa.org/?q=node/131>

**Conference: ATNI Energy Summit 2015**

August 11-13, Portland, OR. Hosted by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. ETE 2015 is a two-day Summit and training for tribal, utility and technology executives; the Summit will feature premier policy, utility, and technology innovators, as well as a showcase of the latest innovations, projects, and emerging opportunities.

<http://energy.atnitribes.org>

**Conference: 2015 NAFWS Southwest Region Conference**

August 11-13, Reno, NV. Native American Fish and Wildlife Society regional conference, hosted by the Walker River Paiute Tribe and co-sponsored by the NAFWS Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission.

<http://www.nafws.org/events/regional-events>

**Training: 2015 Climate Boot Camp**

August 16-21, Eatonville, WA. Offered by the Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC). One objective of the NW CSC is to support and train graduate students and early career professionals to work at the interface of scientific research on climate and resource management decision-making. Our annual Climate Boot Camp (CBC), now in its fifth year, is our primary educational offering to meet this objective.

<https://www.nwclimatescience.org/bootcamp>

**Conference: Tribal Lands and Environment Forum**

August 17-20, Minneapolis, MN. Hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, National TWRAP Steering Committee, and USEPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). The forum will feature special trainings, field trips, and breakout sessions focused on solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites, and emergency response, as well as sessions focused on water quality, drinking water, and habitat

restoration (including wetlands, streams and fisheries) and on climate change.

[http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_tlef](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef)

**Webinar: Midwest and Great Plains Drought Webinar**

August 20, 1-2 pm Central. Each month, a state climatologist and a NOAA regional climatologist conduct public webinars to brief interested members of the public about ongoing and near-future changing climate conditions in the Great Plains and Midwestern United States.

<http://drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars>

**Conference: California Climate Change Symposium 2015**

August 24-25, Sacramento, CA. Convened by the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Forum for the sharing of cutting-edge research addressing the impacts of climate change on the state. This research informs the state's strategies and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to develop programs to safeguard California from a changing climate.

<http://californiascience.org/>

**Workshop: Greening Facilities Workshop**

August 26-27, Solvang, CA. Hosted by the Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office. Learn about source reduction and pollution prevention strategies that tribes have implemented to reduce the use of energy, water, and toxic cleaning chemicals; improve purchasing practices; and decrease GHG emissions and waste products in their facilities. Our goal is to help tribes share ideas on how to reduce their impact on the environment. For more information, please contact Erik Martinez at [emartinez@santaynezchumash.org](mailto:emartinez@santaynezchumash.org)

**September 2015**

**Workshop: Colorado Commercial-Scale Tribal Renewable Energy Workshop**

September 1-3, Golden, CO. The U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy, with support from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is presenting an interactive workshop that will walk participants through the process for developing commercial-scale renewable energy projects on tribal lands. The third in a series of tribal renewable energy development and financing workshops DOE is offering this summer, this workshop offers Tribes interested in developing commercial-scale projects a unique opportunity to learn from renewable energy project experts, get hands-on experience using technology resource assessment tools, explore project case studies, and hear about lessons learned from other Tribes. Workshop participants will learn about the five steps necessary to develop and finance commercial-scale renewable energy projects on tribal lands.

<http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/events/colorado-commercial-scale-tribal-renewable-energy-workshop>

**Conference: Addressing Climate Change- Emerging Policies, Strategies, and Technological Solutions**

September 9-11, Oak Brook, IL. The Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) will present an international conference on emerging policies and strategies for addressing climate change issues related to greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other short-lived climate forcing species. The conference will focus on emerging policies, regulations, and strategies for addressing climate change impacts, including mitigation and adaptation strategies.

<http://climatechange.awma.org/>

**National Tribal Energy Summit**

September 24-25, Washington, D.C. The National Summit supports the Obama Administration's ongoing commitment to assist tribal efforts to enhance energy security, increase community resiliency, and cultivate a sustainable energy future. The event will highlight challenges and showcase opportunities in the areas of: Science and technology, policy, and the regulatory environment; Community- and commercial-scale energy project development; Tribal education and workforce development; Federal procurement; and Energy sector supply chain participation. Representatives from federal agencies, state and tribal governments, tribal corporations, private industry, utilities, and academia will come together with scientists, educators, analysts, and experts in energy policy, regulation, financing, and technology-to-market to exchange ideas and explore solutions.

<http://energy.gov/indianenergy/events/save-date-tribal-energy-summit>

**October 2015**

**Conference: 13th Biennial Conference of Science and Management on the Colorado Plateau**

October 5-8, 2015, Flagstaff, AZ. The conference will continue to be a forum that brings together resource managers and research scientists to discuss findings and management needs associated with the lands and resources of the Colorado Plateau.

<http://nau.edu/Merriam-Powell/Biennial-Conference/>

**Conference: 2015 NAFWS Pacific Region Conference**

October 13-14, Polson, Montana. Native American Fish and Wildlife Society regional conference.

<http://www.nafws.org/events/regional-events>

**Convention: National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 72nd Annual Convention and Marketplace**

October 18-23, San Diego, CA.

<http://www.ncai.org/events/2015/10/18/72nd-annual-convention-and-marketplace>

**Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment**

October 26-29, Santa Fe, NM. Offered by the USFWS National Conservation Training Center and sponsored in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. This course is designed to guide conservation and resource management practitioners in two essential elements in the design of climate adaptation plans: (1) identifying which species or habitats are likely to be most strongly affected by projected changes; and (2) understanding why these resources are likely to be vulnerable. For more information, contact [April.Taylor@chickasaw.net](mailto:April.Taylor@chickasaw.net)

**Conference: Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management**

October 26-30, Anchorage, AK. ATCEM, organized by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, is an annual gathering that brings together Tribes, Non-profits, and State and Federal organizations, for a week of environmental conversations. The discussions focus on finding and implementing solutions to address the unique environmental concerns facing Alaskan communities

<http://www.atcemak.com/>

**Conference: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tribal/EPA Region 9 Conference**

October 27-29, Reno, NV. For the past 23 years, the annual conference has been an important opportunity for partnership and ongoing collaboration between Tribes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal, state, and local agencies. The annual conference provides the Tribes with valuable training, networking opportunities, and resource-sharing. Will include a climate change plenary session.

<http://region9tribal-epaconference.com/>

**November 2015****Conference: Sixth Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference**

November 4-5, Coeur d'Alene, ID. The PNW Climate Science Conference annually brings together more than 250 researchers and practitioners from around the region to discuss scientific results, challenges, and solutions related to the impacts of climate on people, natural resources, and infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. It is the region's premier opportunity for a cross-disciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas about regional climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science and practice.

<https://www.nwclimatescience.org/node/496>

**Online training: Climate Change Policy and Public Health**

November 9 - December 3. Offered by University of Wisconsin-Madison through Coursera. 4-8 hours/week. Explore current evidence linking climate change and public health while learning the fundamental co-benefits of climate change mitigation. Evaluate policies and interventions while gaining hands on experience communicating climate science and health to policy makers and the general public.

<https://www.coursera.org/course/ccandph>

**Conference: 2015 Rising Seas Summit**

November 12-14, Cambridge, MA. The Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) has announced the 2015 Rising Seas Summit, which will be held in collaboration with the City of Boston and the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. It brings together professionals from national and local government, industry, academic institutions and environmental NGOs to highlight the interrelationships between sea level rise, climate change and extreme events.

<http://www.risingseassummit.org/index.html>

