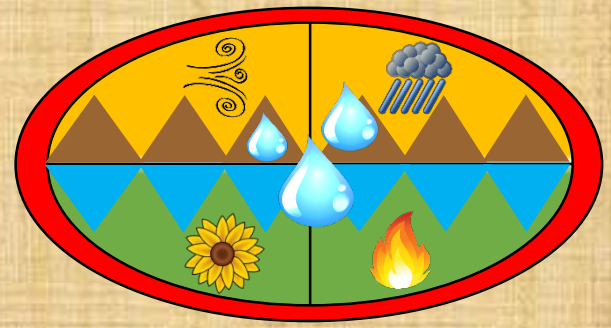


# United States Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Nations Technical Center Of Expertise (TNTCX)



## TNTCX NEWSLETTER October 2018 Issue No. 1



### TNTCX Director's Message

Welcome everyone, to the inaugural edition of the Tribal Nations Technical Center's Newsletter. The center's mission is to improve the delivery of water resources projects to our Native American partners. We at the TNTCX believe the best way to do that is to foster open communication amongst those of us in the Corps of Engineers and elsewhere that serve Native American communities.

Our newsletter will keep you up-to-date on the activities of the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise, keep you informed of upcoming events like meetings and training you might find relevant and useful, and provide you with tips for cultivating successful consultations with Tribal communities.

In addition, because we recognize that Districts are where USACE programs succeed, each issue will highlight individual District successes. We will also have a segment containing information on tribal news, programs benefiting tribes, or tribal organizations— so let us know if you have news impacting tribes in your District or Division or know of programs or

organizations that would be helpful for our tribal partnership.

USACE success in Indian Country is dependent upon teamwork. We hope that each of you will take this as an opportunity to contribute to the Newsletter by letting us know about your initiatives, your successes, your comments and suggestions. Please contact us with news of your projects so that our team can learn about and share them across the enterprise.

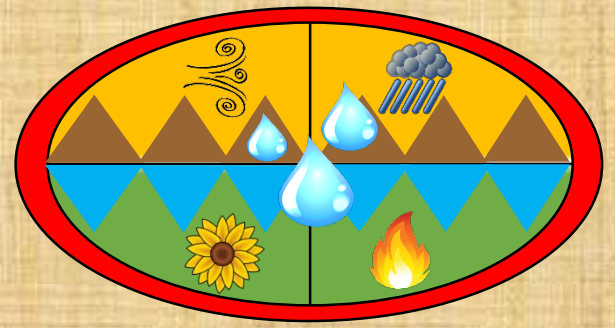
**Ron Kneebone, Ph.D.**  
**Director**  
**Tribal Nations Technical Center**



### Inside this Issue

- Director's Message
- District Spotlight
- TNTCX/IWR Partnership
- Upcoming Training
- Consultation Tips
- Tribal Engagement Focus

For hard copies of this  
Newsletter please contact  
Albuquerque District Public  
Affairs Office.



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Ohkay Governor, PM Patty Phillips and BG Jackson discuss the watershed



SPA-DDEPM D'Antonio, Governor Chavarria, BG Jackson tour the project area



SPA-DDEPM D'Antonio, Governor Chavarria, BG Jackson discuss the project details

## District Success Spotlight

### Dr. Ron Kneebone

Our first District good news story comes from Albuquerque District (SPA):

USACE's first multi-Tribe sponsored Feasibility Study, the Espanola Valley Project, is moving toward finalization as a Chief's Report for presentation to Congress. The project's sponsors, the Pueblo of Santa Clara and Ohkay Owingeh, were instrumental in moving this environmental restoration project forward. The project involves a number of restoration measures along approximately 17 miles of the Rio Grande in the Espanola Valley.

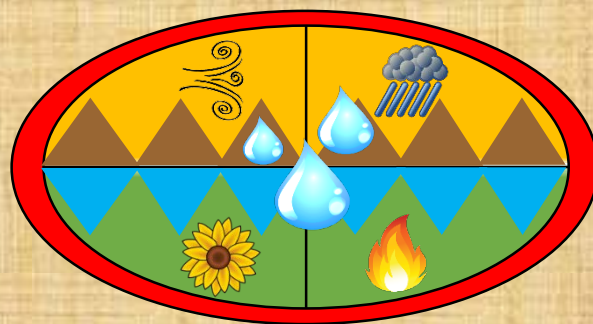
Almost simultaneously, the first Tribal Partnership Project initiated under the Section 203 Tribal Partnership Program, became the first tribal partnership watershed study in the nation to be completed this past 29 September. The project, sponsored by the Pueblo of Santa Clara, had as its goal the reintroduction of species along Santa Clara Canyon in the aftermath of a wildfire that occurred in 2000. While the project was gearing up in 2011, another wildfire decimated the canyon and its associated mountain forests. Demonstrating USACE's recognized operational flexibility, the project switched to an evaluation and assessment of the Post-fire Canyon and its wildlife.

The project teams led by Project Managers Patricia Phillips and Amanda Velasquez were supported by their multidisciplinary team at SPA, planners at Sacramento District, the leadership of SPD and HQ, and most importantly through the teamwork, support, and contributions of the people of the Pueblo Santa Clara and Ohkay Owingeh over these many years.

A ceremony will be held on November 30, 2018 in Espanola, NM to recognize this significant partnership achievement. Congratulations to the entire Team!



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### TNTCX/IWR Partnership

**Dr. Seth Cohen, Institute for Water Resources, and Mr. Michael Fedoroff, TNTCX**

USACE's Collaboration & Public Participation Center of Expertise (CPCX) and TNTCX have been coordinating with HQUSACE, and working with contractor Erika Wettergreen of MS-DAY, to explore ways to strengthen and enhance Civil Works water resources project development opportunities with Tribal Nations. Overarching goals of this effort include: (a) identifying how to help USACE and tribes enhance water resources planning capabilities and (b) suggesting collaborative processes and new (or improved) tools to promote efficient partnering between USACE, tribes, and other federal/state agencies under existing laws and authorities. Understanding how potential projects navigate through Section 203, FPMS, PAS, CAP, and IIS application/selection process will help us gain greater insights into the nuances associated with Tribal Nations pursuing these types of activities with the Corps. Our intent is to develop a report that identifies the range of Civil Works authorities/ project opportunities available to Tribal Nations, showcasing good examples of success. We will also provide a description of challenges that may impede or delay those project opportunities as well as suggest recommendations on how to remove barriers, clearly describe project approval pathways, and design outreach materials that support productive dialogue.

We anticipate conducting discussions with individuals and small groups to: (1) to better understand the past and present projects/activities pursued with Tribal Nations and (2) to learn about the procedures/ steps that are followed when evaluating projects/applications. Group discussions and individual interviews will be comprised of target staff from MSC leads, HQ Program Leads, and District personnel. The outcome of these interviews, the survey summary, and findings from our background research will be incorporated into the final report on Strengthening Collaboration Opportunities for Water Resources Projects with Tribal Nations.

Raising awareness of best management practices already in place and sharing success stories will be helpful to strengthening project development efforts with Tribal Nations. In addition, the implementation of suggested recommendations can support furthering those efforts and will build stronger, meaningful relationships and partnerships with Tribal Nations while also supporting Corps efforts that work to improve water resources planning and management.

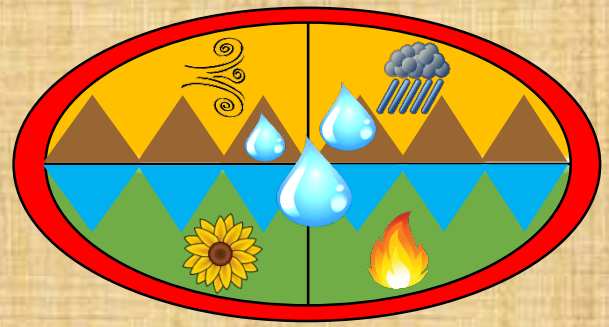
There are always challenges to carrying out a study like this, but the joint effort of IWR's CPCX and TNTCX in shaping the work, and providing oversight to the contractor, has been a great team effort and a positive example of two CX's collaborating on a project. CPCX Director Hal Cardwell states, "It has been wonderful to have the TNTCX acting in a technical capacity for this project, reviewing all the material and contributing to its refinement. It is great to have them be able to review, contribute to, and fully support the current technical approach developed with MS-Day."

If you have questions about this work please contact us for more info:

Dr. Seth Cohen  
USACE Collaboration & Public Participation Center of Expertise (CPCX)  
Institute for Water Resources  
[Seth.B.Cohen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Seth.B.Cohen@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 303-963-4564

OR

Michael P. Fedoroff RPA  
Deputy Director/Tribal Liaison  
USACE Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX)  
[Michael.P.Fedoroff@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.P.Fedoroff@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 251-263-3190



## Upcoming Training

U.S. EPA Region 10, the Association of State Wetland Managers and an Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from the Tribal Wetlands Working Group (TWIG)

### **Cultural Values Based Planning for Integrated Wetland Management on a Watershed or Reservation Scale – November 6th Webinar**

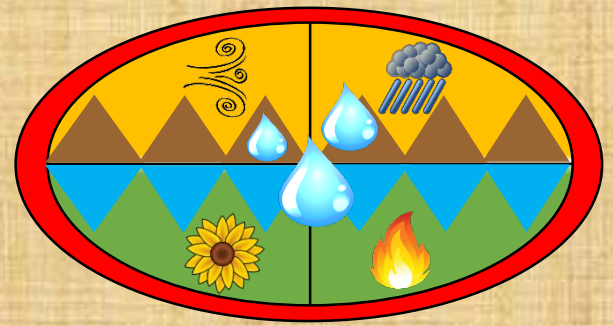
Dear friends and colleagues,

We invite you to participate in the first of four webinars hosted by U.S. EPA Region 10, the Association of State Wetland Managers and an Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from the Tribal Wetlands Working Group (TWIG). This first webinar, entitled Cultural Values Based Planning for Integrated Wetland Management on a Watershed or Reservation Scale will be held on Tuesday, November 6th from 12:00pm- 2:00pm PST (1:00pm MST, 2:00pm CST, and 3:00 pm EST). Presenters include: Jon Hall, Wetland Biologist, Tulalip Tribes of Washington; Tom Elliott, Manager/Ecologist, Yakama Indian Nation Wildlife Program; and Andy Robertson, Director, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Geospatial Services. Abstracts for their presentations can be found below. For more information and to register, go to [Blockedhttps://www.aswm.org/webinars-trainings/aswm-s-online-trainings/4840-epa-region-10-tribal-wetland-traing-webinars](https://www.aswm.org/webinars-trainings/aswm-s-online-trainings/4840-epa-region-10-tribal-wetland-traing-webinars).

## Consultation Tips

- **Co-Develop agenda items in consultation with Tribes PRIOR to the meeting**
- **Listen and learn**
- **Be Humble**
- **Do your Homework prior to the first meeting (culture, customs, how to properly pronounce the Tribe's name, identify formal titles, etc.)**
- **Understand that you are creating long-term relationships rather than short-term project based relationships**

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**Tribal Engagement Focus**

With contributions from our Tribal Partners, USACE Tribal Liaisons, and TNTCX Staff

**Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS)**

Website: <http://nafws.org/>

1-866-890-7258

**Mission:** As a non-profit organization, the Society's mission is to assist Native American and Alaska Native Tribes with the conservation, protection, and enhancement of their fish and wildlife resources.

**Water Resource Connections:**

As fish and wildlife management are the crux of this organizations mission, watershed connections and water resource projects, including ecosystem health, are at the forefront of their interest. This group has been particularly interested in the impacts of invasive species.

**Native American Water Association**

Website: <http://www.nawainc.org/wordpress/>

775-782-6636

**Mission:** The Native American Water Association is a National Non-Profit, Organization founded to provide Tribal water and wastewater operators, managers, utility commissions and Tribal leadership with continued training and technical assistance in their goals to:

- 1) Strengthen tribal sovereignty and Self-determination and protect health and environment in Indian Country.
- 2) Provide a link directly to Tribes and tribal water and wastewater utilities.
- 3) Create strong internal resources for Tribes to participate with and draw from.

**Water Resource Connections:**

Water quality and wastewater certification and training opportunities are prioritized within this organization.

**Upcoming Events**

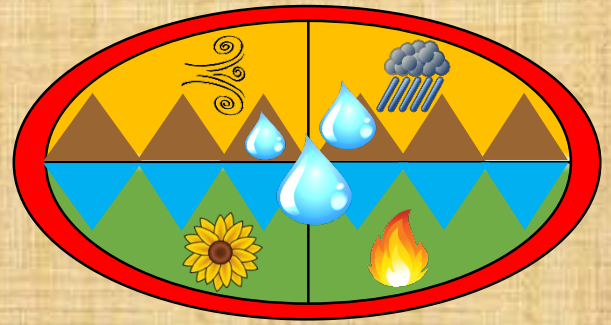
**2018 National Tribal GIS Conference**  
Organized by the National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center (NTGISC)  
November 5-9 in Albuquerque, NM  
*Tribes from all across the nation will be in attendance*  
[www.tribalgis.com](http://www.tribalgis.com)

**Southeastern Archaeological Conference**  
Nov. 14-17  
Augusta, Georgia  
*Various SE Tribes will be in attendance*  
<https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/>

**The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Winter Convention**  
Jan 28-31, 2019  
Portland, Oregon  
*Tribes from the Pacific Northwest will be in attendance*  
<https://www.atntribes.org/>

**Please Remember that November is National Native American Heritage Month, honoring American Indians and Alaska Natives. This year's theme is Sovereignty, Trust, Resilience. Native Americans have profoundly shaped the character and cultural heritage of the nation. Please try to attend and support your local District activities recognizing the important contribution of Native Americans!! Send us pictures from your program!!!**

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**HOW TO REACH US**

Ron Kneebone, Ph.D.  
Director  
USACE Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX)  
C: 505-238-4676  
[Ronald.R.Kneebone@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ronald.R.Kneebone@usace.army.mil)

Michael P. Fedoroff, RPA  
Deputy Director/Tribal Liaison  
USACE Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX)  
Office: 251-263-3190  
[Michael.P.Fedoroff@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.P.Fedoroff@usace.army.mil)

