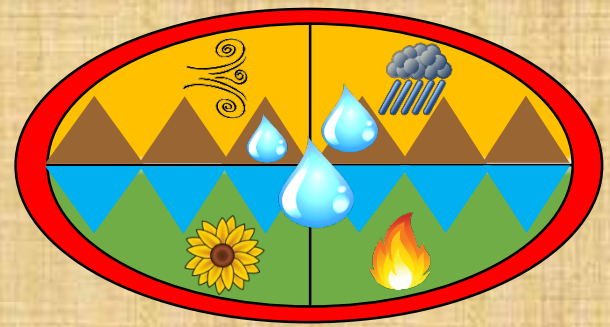


United States Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Nations Technical Center Of Expertise (TNTCX)



TNTCX NEWSLETTER

March 2019 Issue No. 6



TNTCX Director's Message

Welcome back everyone to the March Tribal Nations Technical Center Newsletter. For many of you around the country, March came in like a lion and went out like a lion. We hope you're all well, warm, safe, and looking forward to a great April.

In this month's newsletter, we have contributions from around the country. The US Forest Service tells us a little bit about their activities with tribes in the West. Our own Mobile District cooperated in the repatriation of human remains and supported the gathering of ancestral plants at SAM operating projects.

TNTCX staff kept busy during the month of March continuing our support of USACE around the country. Early in March, we provided information in support of district engagements with Native American organizations and congressional delegations. Throughout the month, the TNTCX has been working with local staff developing a business plan for South Pacific Division/Navajo Nation partnering and we continued our support of IWR as interviews wrap up with USACE District personnel around the country.

Of special importance, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army hosted a series of discussion forums for tribes in Kansas City, Kansas; Atlanta, Georgia; and Albuquerque, New Mexico on the proposed redefinition of "Waters of the United States." In addition, the agencies have announced additional half-day tribal forum in Seattle, Washington, on April 3. The public comment period extends through 15 April.

Check our list of upcoming training and other events including NCAI in June, for opportunities near you.

As always, we're looking forward to receiving news of your activities amplifying your successes across the enterprise.

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



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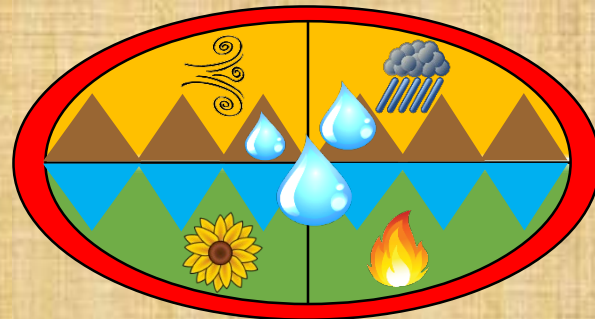
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Tribal Engagement Spotlight

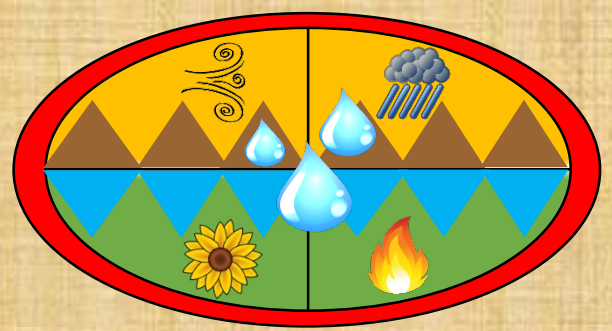
Mobile District Outreach Program

Submitted by

Ms. Alexandria Smith, Tribal Liaison

During the week of 11-15 March 2019, I assisted the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in gathering ancestral plants, clays, and other resources for traditional use. With help from the rangers at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Project Office, we were able to locate and harvest clay, river cane, palmetto, and various other plants. The resources gathered will be used in food preparation, dwelling reconstruction, and teaching exercises. This work was done under a Memorandum of Agreement and Real Estate license between USACE and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma relies heavily on this partnership to ensure that cultural traditions are preserved and maintained through use of ancestral plants and materials. In addition to plant gathering, we were also able to re-inter remains during this trip. The week prior to this expedition, remains had eroded from the Shell Bluff site. We were able to get these remains and remains from a previous erosion event, reburied properly and under the supervision of the tribes. Later in the week, we participated in another reburial. The remains included partial skeletal remains from 30 different individuals. The remains had been curated at the Smithsonian, mostly originating from the Moundville site, some dating back thousands of years old. Representatives from the Muskogee Creek Nation joined us at the Alabama River Lakes project Office and with the help of rangers at the office, we were able to rebury these remains that had been curated by the Smithsonian since the early 1900s. Both tribes emphasized the importance of the partnership with USACE that gives them immediate access to a secure location for reburial. Overall, this trip further cemented the extremely productive relationship between USACE, Mobile District and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. It also helped to grow the relationship between Muskogee Creek Nation and Mobile District. It is my hope that this positive relationship continues and thrives in coming years.



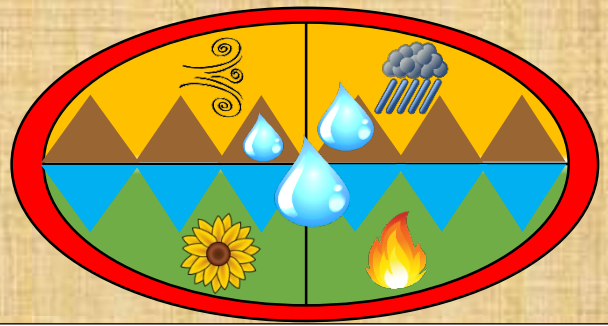


Mr. Les Williston gathers Palmetto from the Tennessee-Tombigbee project in Mobile District.

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March 2019 Issue No. 6

TNTCX Update



March TNTCX Update

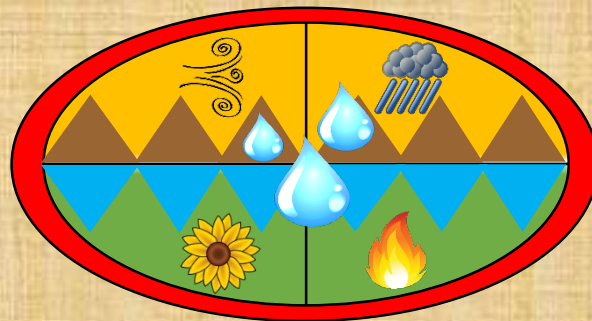
On 27 March 2019, TNTCX Director Ron Kneebone attended a discussion forum hosted by Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program and Albuquerque, NM. The meeting was one of a series of half-day discussion forums for tribes in Kansas City, Kansas; Atlanta, Georgia; and Albuquerque, New Mexico on the proposed redefinition of “Waters of the United State.” Turnout for the event was strong with participation by a number of tribes from around the region.



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TNTCX Update



TNTCX Update continued



Who: USACE TNTCX, USACE Mobile District, US Federal Highway, Alabama Department of Transportation, University of Alabama, University of South Alabama, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Poarch Band of Creek, Muscogee Creek Nation, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee, Jena Band of Choctaw, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and Chickasaw Nation

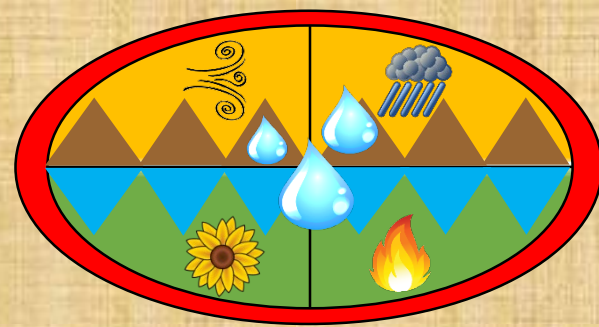
What: 20 March thru 21 March 2019, TNTCX Deputy Director, Mr. Michael Fedoroff was invited by the Federal Highway agency to speak at the annual Alabama Tribal Consultation meeting. The meeting was attended by tribes both local and from Oklahoma to discuss impacts to ancestral homelands.

Where: Alabama

The TNTCX engaged with multiple agencies and Federally-recognized tribes on issues related to ancestral homelands in Alabama. This was an interagency engagement hosted by US Federal Highway through which the TNTCX staff engaged with tribal elders on the importance and utility of native plant species and cultural resource protection. A tour of ancestral sites was also taken.

What is Next: The TNTCX has been invited back to speak next year.





Partnering Tips

- Become familiar with cultural keystone species (such as river cane) of import to tribes and seek tribal assistance in their preservation and management. This issue offers a great example by Mobile District of such work.
- Be creative in how you develop outreach opportunities with tribal partners.
- Take some time to understand how the Tribes are organized politically and what their administrations priorities are. The US Forest Service article is a great example of becoming aware and involved in this arena on a larger scale.
- When visiting sacred sites of import to Tribal people, take cues on how to act from those around you. When in doubt, respectfully ask a tribal member or your Tribal Liaison for help. Do NOT assume that certain behaviors are acceptable.

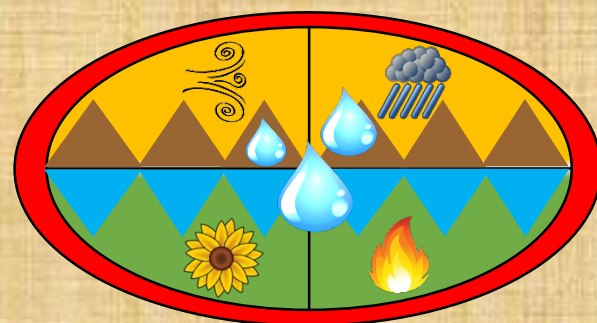


Tribal stickball exhibition game at Moundville Festival (photo courtesy of University of Alabama, Moundville)

TNTCX NEWSLETTER

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News and Notes



Tribal Engagement Focus

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

Society of American Archaeology
April 10 - 14, 2019
Albuquerque, NM
Tribes from all over the Americas will be in attendance.
<http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/AnnualMeeting/tabid/138/Default.aspx>

Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI) Midyear Conference
May 20-23 2019
Spokane, WA
Tribes from all Northwestern United States will be in attendance.
<http://atnitribes.org/>

National Congress of American Indians Midyear Conference
June 23-26 2019
Reno NV
Tribes from all over the United States will be in attendance.
<http://www.ncai.org/>

Training Opportunities:

FEMA 2019 EMI Tribal Curriculum Course Deliveries

January 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019

as of March 5, 2019

DATES	COURSE CODE/NAME	DATES	COURSE CODE/NAME
APR 8-11	L0581 Emergency Operations for Tribal Governments	Durant, OK	Carmina Magby 580-924-8280 Ext. 4115 cmagby@choctawnation.com
MAY 28-31	L0581, Emergency Operations for Tribal Governments	Pala, CA	Monica Rosas 760-742-1632 MRosas@PalaTribe.com
JUN 4-7	L0581, Emergency Operations for Tribal Governments	Albuquerque, NM	Tanya Allen 505-798-7481 tallen@sandiapueblo.nsn.us
JUN 10-13	L0582, Mitigation for Tribal Governments	Blue Lake, CA	Anita Huff 707-668-5101, ext 1032 ahuff@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov
JUL 8-11	E0582, Mitigation for Tribal Governments	Emmitsburg, MD	Katie Hirt, FEMA 301-447-1164 katie.hirt@ema.dhs.gov
AUG 19-22	E0580, Emergency Management Framework	Emmitsburg, MD	Katie Hirt, FEMA 301-447-1164 katie.hirt@ema.dhs.gov
AUG 26-29	L0580, Emergency Management Framework	Harbor Springs, MI	Susan Gasco 231-242-1558 sgasco@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov
SEP 3-6	L0580, Emergency Management Framework	Shelbyville, MI	Brant Mitchell 269.397.1610 ext 1321 brant.mitchell@glt-nsn.gov
Sep 9-12	E0581 Emergency Operations for Tribal Governments	Emmitsburg, MD	Katie Hirt, FEMA 301-447-1164 katie.hirt@ema.dhs.gov
SEP 19-20	L0552 COOP for Tribal Governments	Onamia, MN	Monte Fronk 320-532-4181 Monte.Fronk@millelacsband.com

"E" course = EMI delivery in Emmitsburg, MD

"L" course = Local delivery in the field

Gray lettering – course or registration has been completed

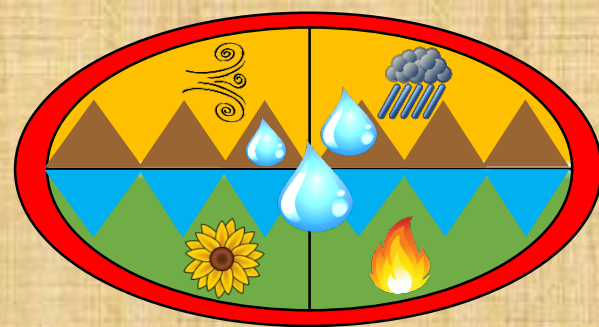
Go to www.training.fema.gov/tribal to view information about the EMI Tribal Curriculum and the course descriptions.

All costs to attend L courses are the responsibility of the student's organization.

The 580 course is a mandatory prerequisite for 581 or 582.

You must obtain and insert a FEMA Student ID (SID) number on your application to receive a certificate of completion for any course.

Agency Spotlight US Forest Service

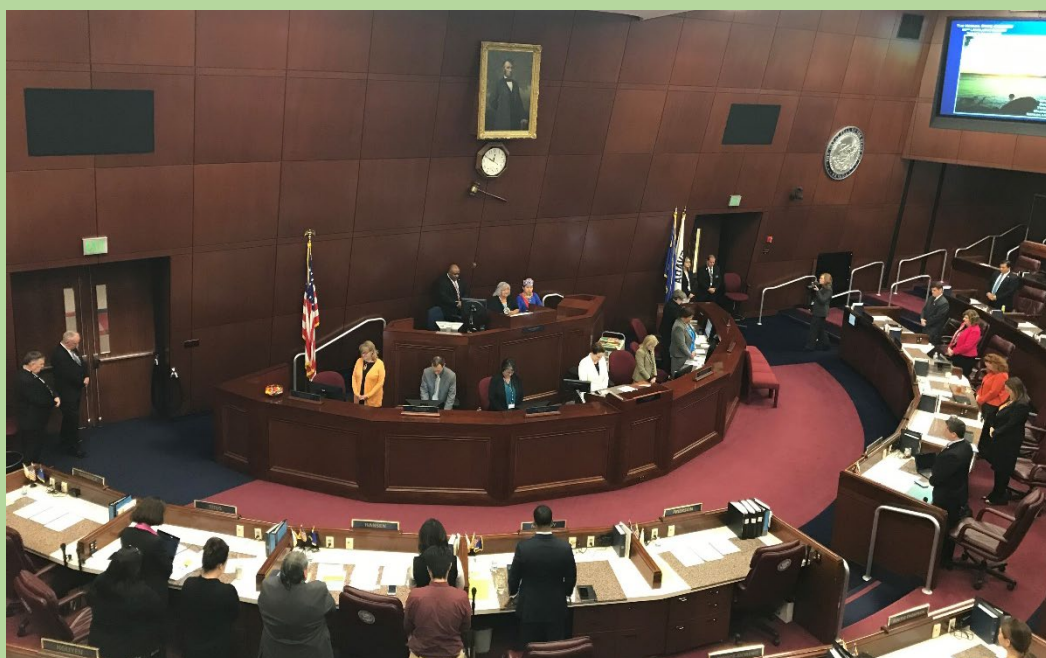


Submitted by
Ms. Melyssa Navis
Tribal Relations Specialist
US Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Nevada Tribes Legislative Day

Carson City, NV- On February 12, 2019 tribes from across Nevada convened at the Legislative Building to discuss upcoming tribal legislation as well as issues facing Indian Country. The event was hosted by the Nevada Indian Commission, a state agency charged with identifying the needs and solutions for the challenges tribes in Nevada experience.

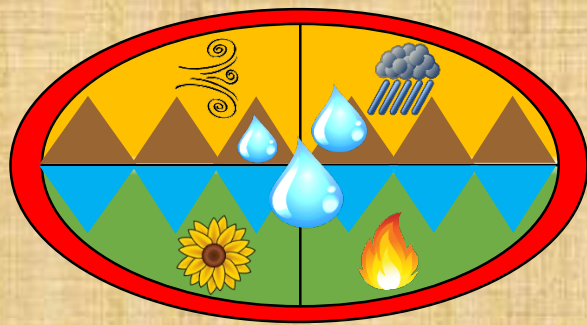
The invocation was given by Dinah Pete, Tribal Elder with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California. The Chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Serrell Smokey, shared the following welcome remarks, “I wanted to talk to everybody from the heart. It’s great to see so many people here that want to be involved, listen and hear what is going on. My hope is that one day we’re downstairs in the great big auditorium and it’s full of Indian people talking about what’s going on, what are we going to do and how are we going to do this. One thing I want to talk about is, unity. All of our tribes have become separated. We were together at one point in time. And there’s proof of that. Just look at Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. There is a reason why in their constitution you must be Washoe, Paiute or Shoshone. It’s because we were all together at one point in time. There’s a reason why there is ITCN, the Intertribal Council of Nevada, it’s because we all came together at one point in time. We’re all in this together. A lot of things that happen affects all of us in the same exact way. We’re different tribes, we’re different people, we have different languages but we’re all the same. We’re going through the same things and if we work collectively, then we can get things done”.



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Agency Spotlight US Forest Service

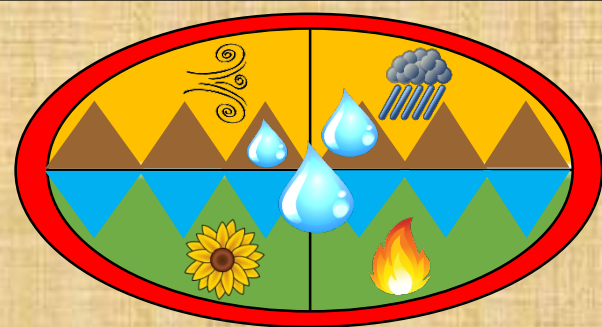


Following a full morning of song, prayer and discussion a luncheon reception provided an opportunity for key leaders to meet with community members, share updates and nurture relationships with fellow colleagues who share the same mission; empowering tribes. The audience included tribal leaders, staff members, state legislative representatives, federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations, as well as family members and local students. The Yerington Paiute Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Bridgeport Indian Colony were amongst the tribes in attendance. Following the noon reception Laurie Thom, Chairwoman of the Yerrington Paiute Tribe shared her experience working with Assemblywoman Sarah Peters on a draft bill, the Nevada Tribal Consultation Act, to require state agencies to consult with Tribes as well as mandate cultural sensitivity training. At the conclusion of the event everyone was invited to a guided tour of the Stewart Indian School located at 5500 Synder Avenue in Cason City, Nevada. This afforded everyone the opportunity to learn more about the history of the institution as well as the new Cultural Center and Museum slated to open later this year. For those participants unable to attend the tour a Stewart Indian School Exhibit was showcased in the second floor Atrium of the building.

At the conclusion of the event Sherry Rupert, Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission elaborated on Chairwoman Laurie Thom's work on proposing a bill to include tribal flags at the state capital, "Laurie was talking about working on a bill to make sure that these flags of all of our tribal nations are here in the legislative building. Thank you for those tribes that were able to bring your flags today. We appreciate that. So, I'm hoping by next session we'll have all of them up here to be able to fly for this very important day in the legislature".

Sponsors for the event included Nevada's Indian Territory, Southwest Gas, Nevada Ready, Barrick, and the Sierra Nevada Media Group.





HOW TO REACH US

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