



Native Voices



NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Office of Native American Initiatives

One Tribe, One Earth

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Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
PO Box 15004
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5004
Ph: 928-523-9555
Fax: 928-523-1266
nau.edu/itep

Contact Us!

Ann Marie Chischilly
Executive Director
Ann-Marie.Chischilly@nau.edu

Mehrdad Khatibi
Director
Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu

AIAQTP

Christal Black
Program Coordinator, Sr.
Christal.Black@nau.edu

Sharlene Brown
Administrative Associate
Sharlene.Brown@nau.edu

Nashelly Meneses
Instructional Specialist, Sr.
Nashelly.Meneses@nau.edu

Natasha Fulton
Research Specialist
Natasha.Fulton@nau.edu

Lydia Scheer
Project Director
Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu

Welcome to the Native Voices newsletter!

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Establishing CTUIR's CASTNET Site Near Dayton, Washington

By Caleb Minthorn (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) and Taylor Macy (US Environmental Protection Agency)

In the early 2010s, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) drafted plans to join the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), which measures ambient air pollutant and ozone concentrations. Due to regulatory changes in the PM National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), CTUIR's Air Quality Division allocated their resources to continuous PM 2.5 monitoring. With a Tribal government reorganization aligning with greater public concern about clean air in the wake of regional mega fires, the Tribe was ready to establish a multi-pollutant monitoring CASTNET site. In late 2019, CTUIR began consultation calls with the EPA's Region 10 Tribal Grants Office and the CASTNET team at EPA Headquarters (HQ).



Taylor Macy, US EPA



CTUIR CastNet site in full operation with fresh snow on the ground.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in the background, CTUIR coordinated with the EPA CASTNET Team and the CASTNET contractor, Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. CTUIR also worked with the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) to include passive ammonia measurements as part of the Ammonia Monitoring Network (AMoN). Crucial planning calls between CTUIR, the Region 10 Project Officers, and EPA HQ took place to establish a funding mechanism. CTUIR's funds from the Regional Multi-Purpose Grant (MPG) were utilized to cover capital costs (equipment and site infrastructure) and regional STAG funds will be allocated for annual operating costs.

The site itself lies approximately eight miles south of the township of Dayton, Washington. CTUIR worked closely with the CASTNET team to select a location that met the CASTNET siting criteria. The site is within the CTUIR ceded territory boundary but is 70 miles away from the CTUIR main office building. Due to its location away from air pollution point sources and access to electricity, this site allowed for a faster approval process from CTUIR, Washington Ecology, and the EPA.

[TAMS Center](#)

Chris Lee
TAMS Co-Director
Christopher.Lee@nau.edu

Hayden Hardie
EPA Co-Director
Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov

Darlene Santos
Administrative Associate
Darlene.Santos@nau.edu

Melinda Ronca-Battista
Research Associate
Melinda.Ronca-Battista@nau.edu

Angelique Luedeker
Technology Specialist
Angelique.Luedeker@nau.edu

Mike King
Technology Specialist
Michael.King@nau.edu

Josephine Kamkoff
Community Program
Coordinator
Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu

[Environmental Education Outreach Program](#)

Mansel Nelson
Project Director
Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu

Josephine Kamkoff
Community Program
Coordinator
Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu

For more information:

[ITEP Training](#)

[Indoor Air Quality in Tribal](#)

Once the CASTNET site location was selected, work proceeded quickly. By summer 2020, a local Dayton, WA, contractor was selected through a general bidding process to prepare the site. The contractor poured the concrete pad, ran conduit, and established the required electrical connection for around \$12,000. Most of the work was funded via Regional MPG and STAG dollars, with EPA covering the procurement of equipment, installation, and training costs.

Special thanks to EPA Region 10, EPA CASTNET at EPA Headquarters, CTUIR Department of Natural Resources/Wildlife, CTUIR GIS Department, and the Washington Department of Ecology. For questions regarding the CTUIR CASTNET project, please reach out to Calebminthorn@ctuir.org or Matthewcampbell@ctuir.org. For questions regarding CASTNET, please reach out to Puchalski.melissa@epa.gov or macy.taylor@epa.gov.

For CTUIR CASTNET site information, access the [CTUIR's CASTNET site page](#) and for the AMoN site visit the [NADP website](#).

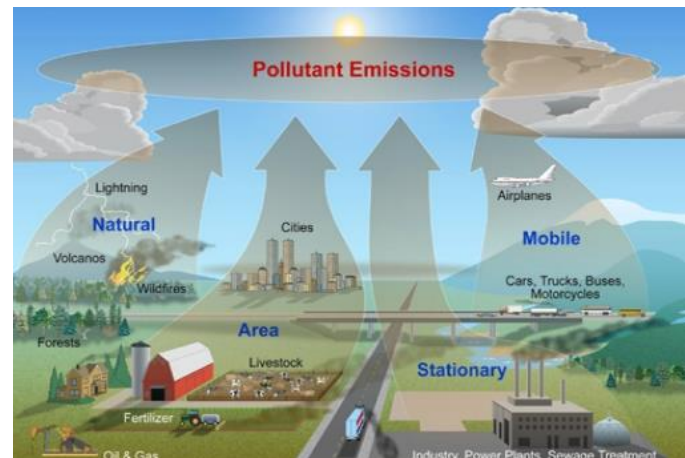


CastNet site groundbreaking day. Site is on right side of photo before construction began in early September 2020.

Give Me An N! Give Me An E! Give Me An I! What's That Spell...NEI!

The National Emissions Inventory, also known as the NEI, is the national database of air emissions information with input from State, Local, and Tribal air pollution control agencies. The US EPA compiles and maintains the NEI, as well as contributing to the data. The NEI is the main source for emissions data in the U.S. If someone wants to know how much of a certain kind of air pollutant is coming from what kind of sources, the NEI is their first stop for that information.

The NEI is a specific-year snapshot in time of emissions data received. Large point sources of air pollution (above specified emissions thresholds) are reported to the NEI annually. For other sources, the NEI is on a three-year reporting cycle. The next triennial NEI is the 2020 NEI. That means that this year, 2021, the submission window opens for the 2020 NEI. The deadline to submit emissions data for source categories other than nonpoint is January 15, 2022. For the nonpoint source category, the deadline is March 31, 2022.



Sources and categories of pollutants.

ITEP can assist with submitting emissions data from sources on Tribal Lands to the NEI. Tribes are not required to submit data to the NEI but are encouraged to do so to increase Tribal representation. The NEI data are used for air dispersion modeling, regional strategy development, risk assessment screening, and tracking emission trends. The modeling results are often used to provide information for the creation of new regulations and to provide technical support for rulemaking. By supplying data to the NEI, Tribes become represented in these important decision-making processes.

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By supplying data to the NEI, Tribes become represented in these important decision-making processes.

An emissions inventory is also a good first step for Tribes that want to know more about the sources of air pollution within and surrounding their community. Developing an inventory and updating it every three (3) years will give Tribal environmental programs a better understanding of the air pollution sources that could be a concern to the community at large.

If there are permitted facilities on your Tribal Lands, it is especially important to submit the annual emissions estimates from those facilities to the NEI to fill in the potential gaps on Tribal Lands in the NEI. Even if you are not currently reporting those emissions in a formal emissions inventory, the data from the annual fee forms for these facilities can still be submitted to the NEI. Please contact Angelique Luedeker (Angelique.Luedeker@nau.edu) as soon as possible for assistance with submitting data to the NEI. Since her schedule can get a bit hectic during a triennial submission window year, contacting her as soon as possible ensures that everyone that wants to get emissions data submitted has that opportunity.



*Angelique Luedeker,
Technology Specialist,
TAMS Center*

For more information about the NEI, visit the [EPA NEI website](#). Visit [ITEP's emissions inventory resources webpage](#) for more information.

Respond to the TAMS Technical Needs Assessment

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center developed an online Technical Needs Assessment form to identify the technical support requirements of tribal air quality programs nationwide. The goal of this Needs Assessment is to aid in the development of services that better meet tribal air program goals and objectives. The form asks for specific information related to both ambient air quality and indoor air quality concerns that affect Tribes. Input obtained through this online questionnaire will help identify focus areas and support needs so that future technical training and support can be tailored to Tribes. [Complete the form online](#) by April 30, 2021.

If you have questions, feel free to contact either of the TAMS Co-Directors, Christopher Lee (Christopher.Lee@nau.edu, 702-784-8278) or Hayden Hardie (Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov, 702-784-8232).

Upcoming Events

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ)

May 17-20, 2021, Virtual

Visit the [NTFAQ webpage](#) for more information.

Webinar: ITEP Summer Internships for Native American Students

Thursday, February 18, 2021 from 12:30pm - 1:30pm MST

Interested student applicants will learn about ITEP's Summer Internship program and talk to former interns. Positions are technical, educational, or policy-focused with at least eight (8) positions in air quality. Each student intern receives a \$4,800 stipend. Most internships are remote. Host sites are selected from tribal environmental organizations, government offices, the US EPA, and others. For more information, visit the [ITEP EEOP Internship webpage](#) or contact Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu. Deadline for applications is February 26, 2021.

Register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/909913354805958670>

In case you missed it...

[Webinars hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals:](#)

- September 23, 2020: ITEP Research Education on Air and Cardiovascular Health (REACH)
- September 29, 2020: Planning an Air Quality Project
- October 13, 2020: Emission Inventories, Your Questions Answered
- October 26th to November 20, 2020: Reviewing Air Quality Permits
- November 11, 2020: Road Dust Webinar #4: Sharing Community Experiences (Part 2)
- November 12, 2020: Introduction to Air Monitoring and Remote Professional Assistance
- December 1, 7, 15, 2020: Webinar Series - Woodstove Operation and Maintenance in Indian Country

Let us know what you think!

[Submit your comments or suggestions about the Native Voices Newsletter.](#)

Stay tuned for next month's issue!

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