Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter!

- **Highlights of the 2012 TWRAP Tribal Lands Forum**

The 2012 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum was held in Coos Bay, Oregon from August 20-23 and hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe. The Forum brought together over 250 participants representing tribal environmental programs, tribal organizations, intertribal consortia, USEPA, and various other federal government agencies. Since the inception of the Tribal Lands Forum in 2010, attendance has been steadily growing, and this year was no exception.

The Forum has been, and will continue to be, designed to ensure that tribal environmental professionals are learning from their peers based on real world examples and experiences from Indian Country. This year’s agenda was jam packed and kept the participants engaged with pre-conference professional training sessions, 40 breakout sessions, field trips, and exhibits and crafts from local and national vendors.

The Forum began with a morning plenary session that included opportunities for local tribes to participate by providing an opening invocation as well as a Color Guard. Welcoming comments were provided by Ed Metcalf, the Chairman of the Coquille Tribal Council, Ann Marie Chischilly, ITEP’s Executive Director, Dino Chavarria, the chair of the TWRAP national Steering Committee, and Mathy Stanislaus, the Assistant Administrator of EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). Several staff from the Coquille Tribe also gave a special presentation on their environmental work, which led one participant to say "I really enjoyed hearing from the host tribe's staff. It was quite interesting to hear from their Natural Resources Department on their past and current work."

The breakout sessions included waste management, tribal response, incident command systems, underground storage tanks (with a field trip), mining impacts, cleanup and remediation activities, and community-based, culturally-relevant case studies.

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**Meet Our Staff:**

- **Todd Barnell, Program Coordinator Senior, TSWEAP and TWRAP**
  Todd joined ITEP in 2002. In 2006 he developed TSWEAP and TWRAP two years later. Prior to joining ITEP Todd worked for The Nature Conservancy and has been a field researcher on ecology and climate projects. 928-523-3840 Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

- **Jennifer Williams, Program Coordinator Senior, TWRAP Alaska**
  Jen joined ITEP in 2001 and has worked on a variety of issues affecting Alaskan Natives, including air quality, solid waste, environmental education, and hazardous substances. She oversees TWRAP’s Alaskan projects. 928-523-0673 Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu

- **John Mead, Program Coordinator Senior, TWRAP and TRI Assistance Program**
  John has been with ITEP since 2002 and he has worked in the fields of wastewater, compliance, and waste management. He currently assists with coordinating the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum as well as trainings. 928-523-2005 John.Mead@nau.edu
Training sessions included an 8-Hour HAZWOPER refresher, 8-hour tribal transfer stations and the economics of solid waste management, 8-hour conducting site assessments, 4-hour managing the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of modern hardrock mining, and 4-hour National Incident Management System training. Additionally, the Tribal Superfund Working Group and Tribal-USEPA National Underground Storage Tanks meetings took place in coordination with the Forum.

In addition to the regular educational opportunities, Forum attendees were also able to attend a special cultural presentation at the Coquille Tribe’s Community Plankhouse as well as a special salmon-bake demonstration.

The mix of activities, ranging from educational breakouts to special tours and hands-on activities, garnered several positive comments from attendees. One individual especially liked the opportunity to visit the Mill Casino and Hotel's special vermiculture (worm composting) operations. "The Mill Casino session about their composting worms was very interesting" they said. "And I also enjoyed the hands-on session where we went out to the salmon pit to do our testing and digging with equipment."

Joaquin Bustamante, from the Confederated Tribes of Colville, attended the Forum and said, "All of the sessions I attended were very informative and helpful. But even more importantly they served as a springboard for lots of great conversations in the hallways and at the dinner tables. I met some great folks and really appreciated the opportunities to network and share successes and challenges."

This year’s Forum was made possible with valuable assistance from the staff of the Coquille Tribe. Funding support for the Forum came from USEPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. You can now access the presentations delivered at the Forum, as well as the attendee contact list and biographies of presenters, at our forum web site: www4.nau.edu/itep/conferences/confr_tlf.asp

**Tribal Steering Committee Profile: Ronald Wassillie**

Ronald Wassillie, President, Newhalen Tribal Council, is one of the original members...
of our TWRAP Steering Committee, having joined in 2009 when the Steering Committee was formed. He was nominated by the Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee to represent the complicated issues facing Tribes. Ron's experiences with rural Alaska solid and hazardous waste operations as Newhalen's environmental coordinator and his time serving on the Newhalen Tribal Council, EPA National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC), and Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network has brought Alaska-specific information and a collaborative approach to the committee.

Newhalen is a small village in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska with 175 people. Fresh out of high school, Ron ran for tribal council to make a difference in his community. He has been a council member for Newhalen Tribal Council for 22 years, serving as Tribal Council President for 11 years. Additionally Ron served on the City Council for 8 years. Newhalen received their first Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant in 1999 to clean up their landfill. The State of Alaska Commissioner awarded Newhalen with "The Best Run Dump in Alaska." Sampling wells have also been installed around the dumps in the area to monitor water quality.

In addition to his work on managing Newhalen's solid waste, Ron has provided education and outreach presentations to his community, worked on water quality and air quality issues, and has provided technical assistance to other villages in the Bristol Bay region, including traveling to other villages to provide hands-on training on landfill separation activities and help them initiate and manage their IGAP grants.

The TWRAP Steering Committee and NTOC appointments have allowed Ron to become more aware of problems that are occurring in regions across the country and work towards solutions collaboratively. Ron sees the diversity of the TWRAP Steering Committee in various areas of expertise has led to important training recommendations, allowed tribal staff to meet directly with EPA Headquarters' staff, and has helped the Tribal Lands Forum grow in exciting new ways, including developing new solid topic tracks and allowing opportunities for tribal presenters to share their stories.

Ron has been married for 17 years and has four children. He has been commercial fishing since he was a young kid and spent summers with his Grandmother. Ron has taken over his Mother's set net site, which he now fishes with his own children.

- **ITEP's Hazardous Substances Website**

Hazardous substances are present in each of our communities. People can be exposed to hazardous substances through many different avenues: in their homes, drinking from a contaminated water source, entering abandoned buildings, incinerator emissions, industrial releases, and direct contact with landfills or other contaminated sites.

ITEP has released its first public version of the Hazardous Substances Website to assist tribes in identifying what hazardous substances may be affecting their communities and seeking feedback on further development. Comments, case studies, tribal-specific documents and topics of interest for further development and population of this website are being solicited from tribal professionals. Please provide comments to Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu and use the attached form at: www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/HazSubMap/docs/hsm_CaseStudyTemplate.doc for case studies and tribal-specific documents that you would like to share with other tribes on our website.

The Hazardous Substance website under development can be found at: www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/HazSubMap/index.asp
The website is intended for tribal environmental professionals to get a bird's eye view of a community that provides examples of how people may be exposed to hazardous substances. Its purpose is to:

- expand awareness of unknown possible hazardous substances that may be found throughout your community,
- locate resources to learn more about those substances,
- and provide information to assist with prioritizing action by evaluating the effects on, and posing risks to, your community, traditional practices, and subsistence resources.

The map on the home page provides an entry point into different sources of contamination where individuals can learn more about possible hazardous substances in their community by clicking on the sources (icons). Rollover descriptions help identify the icons.
Urban issues with a railroad and highway are presented on the left side of the river, whereas, rural issues and limited access areas are presented on the right side of the river. Of course many of these issues overlap, but this helps us keep both areas in mind during development.

Each web page will have the following structure: Summary of the potential source; Contaminants of Concern; Implementing Solutions (this is where we need your case studies, solutions and challenges); Resources; Websites; and Related Pages (these are other pages that have been developed specifically for ITEPs Hazardous Substances website, linking the pages to each other).

ITEP's focus now is to collect your stories to share with other Tribes. Rochelle Rollenhagen, Brownfield Coordinator for Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has provided a case study as an example of “Implementing Solutions.”

**Implementing Solutions:**
Please submit your experiences (successes/challenges) and tribal-specific documents to share on our website using the attached form.
[Download Form]

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Case Study:
[EPA Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grant](ms word)

Again, please provide comments to [Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu) and use the attached form at: [www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/HazSubMap/docs/hsm_CaseStudyTemplate.doc](http://www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/HazSubMap/docs/hsm_CaseStudyTemplate.doc) for case studies and tribal-specific documents that you would like to share with other tribes or have areas of interest that you would like to see included on our website.

- **Resources and Announcements**
The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) has posted the FY13 Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup grants Request for Proposals (RFP). Federally recognized Indian Tribes other than in Alaska may apply. In Alaska, Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla
Indian Community are also eligible to apply for these grants. For more information on eligibility, please refer to Brownfields FAQs at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/fy13_arc_grant_faqs.pdf

These grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). Opportunities for funding are as follows: Brownfields Assessment Grants (each funded up to $200,000 over three years; coalitions are funded up to $600,000 over three years), Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants (each funded up to $1,000,000 over five years) and Brownfields Cleanup Grants (each funded up to $200,000 over three years).

The proposal submission deadline is 11:59pm on November 19, 2012. The RFP can be found at:
www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm

OBLR will host two National Outreach sessions via webinar on Tuesday, September 25 from 11:00am -1:00pm (EST) and Friday, September 28 from 1:00pm -3:00pm (EST). These webinars will provide information on responding to the Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) grant Request for Proposals (RFP). Participants will have the opportunity to get insight on how to respond to the ARC RFP. For more information visit:
www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/index.html

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Learn more...

- **Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP)**
  TWRAP is a program focused on assisting tribes with all waste management, brownfields, USTs, contaminated sites, and response programs. This program is funded by the USEPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

- **Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program (TSWEAP)**
  TSWEAP’s focus is providing training and assistance to tribes working on solid and hazardous waste management. It is funded through a grant with the Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

  "Any opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Rural Utility Service."

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