



Introducing the New Region 4 Representative, Rainee Tetreault

Rainee Tetreault has always been at home in the outdoors and has always been attracted to water. She grew up swimming in ponds, playing in creeks, and exploring the western North Carolina mountains' flora and fauna. After working a vast number of odd jobs, (and I do mean vast), getting her associate degree in Horticulture technology, and living in New York as a nanny, she decided to head back to the mountains and go back to school; subsequently earning her bachelor's degree in Geology.



Soon after graduating college for a second time, she found a job with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in the Water Quality Program. She quickly fell in love with water sciences, especially the hidden world of macroinvertebrates. She has learned a lot in her time working with the tribe in many different areas. Growing up, she never pictured herself working in a lab mixing reagents or having an office at a wastewater treatment plant as part of her future career, but life works out like that sometimes. She has found fulfillment and happiness in the unexpected and is grateful for where life has led her.

Rainee has a husband and two children, a 5-year-old girl named Violette, and 3-year-old boy named Soren. Outside of her time at work, she enjoys camping with her family and going on hikes and other adventures with them. She also enjoys Zumba classes, playing music, and is an avid reader.

Rainee is excited to serve as the Region 4 representative on the National Tribal Water Council, and to learn from everyone currently serving. She can't wait to meet the NTWC members in DC!



CONTACT INFO:
Elaine H. Wilson
NTWC Manager
Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu

NEWSLETTER
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UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPA Released its Technical Support Materials for the Final Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criterion for Selenium – Freshwater 2016

On April 8, 2024, the EPA released the [Technical Support Materials for the EPA’s Final Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criterion for Selenium – Freshwater 2016](#). These documents support state and Tribal adoption and implementation of the EPA’s [Final Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criterion for Selenium – Freshwater 2016](#) (published on July 13, 2016). Consistent with the latest scientific information, the national recommended criterion is intended to protect the aquatic life designated use in freshwater from the negative effects of selenium.

The final technical support materials documents provide implementation support related to (1) criterion adoption, (2) monitoring fish tissue, (3) assessing and listing waters under CWA section 303(d), and (4) NPDES permitting. To access the final documents and related information, please visit the EPA’s [Aquatic Life Criterion – Selenium](#) webpage.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) 2024 Summer Youth Practicum

Deadline: April 26, 2024

The Summer Youth Practicum (SYP) is designed to provide Native American students (incoming 10th – 12th grade) an opportunity to gain hands-on and in-lecture experience in the interdisciplinary components of natural resource management and Indigenous knowledge. One of the goals of the NAFWS is to educate Native American youth to understand the importance of professional natural resource management and the interconnectedness to culture, as well as encourage them to continue their education and pursue careers in the natural resource fields. The practicum is scheduled for July 21-28, 2024, in Fort Collins, Colorado. The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society covers the student’s travel, food, and lodging. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nafws.org/youth-early-professional/summer-youth-practicum/>

Climate Change Adaptation for Tribes and Tribal Partners Workshop, May 20–22, 2024

This workshop is co-sponsored by the South Central CASC and will be held on May 20-22, 2024, at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center in Sulphur, OK. Participants are encouraged to register with teams (3-5 people) for relevant collaboration. (e.g., tribal staff and partners on a project). Participants will work with their teams to conduct and integrate climate adaptation into an existing project. The registration deadline is **May 4, 2024**. To register, please visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSci5MvNNc_O3MICxXRaRiJUSKqcvJpGZHkHM4NNKNYJCYWyXg/viewform

National Association of Wetland Managers – Annual State, Tribal, Federal Coordination Meeting Accepting Applications for Travel Scholarships

Deadline: May 3, 2024

The National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) will be hosting its Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting on June 17-20, 2024, in Shepherstown, West Virginia. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist individuals in need to cover travel, lodging and/or registration costs to attend the annual coordination meeting. The deadline to apply is **May 3, 2024**. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nawm.org/2024-annual-stfc-meeting-scholarship>

National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference, September 9–12, 2024

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) is pleased to announce the 2024 Biennial National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) to be held in Anchorage, Alaska. The NTICC invites our relatives from tribal nations and Indigenous Peoples to attend, listen, learn and share the important work conducted to protect our tribal cultures, non-human relatives and environment. For additional information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/nticc2024/2024-save-the-date>

TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's Approach to Improving Performance Reporting in Agency Grant Programs

Deadline: April 12, 2024

EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) invites federally recognized Indian Tribes to provide input on the agency's ideas for improving performance reporting in its grant programs.

The agency has the opportunity to develop a performance reporting framework that articulates common post-award performance elements across grant programs, in order to clarify expectations, reduce reporting burden for grantees, and improve the quality of performance information that is collected across the EPA. The agency is developing guidance to define and explain different components of performance reporting that may be used by grant programs that do not have a performance reporting framework in place.

The deadline to request for a one-on-one tribal consultation meeting is March 29, 2024. The deadline to submit a comment is April 12, 2024. Consultation materials are available on EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

EPA's Sixth Proposed Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 6) for Public Water Systems

Deadline: June 20, 2024

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes on the development of the sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) for public drinking water systems. Under the UCMR, EPA collects data for contaminants suspected to be found in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA will be holding upcoming webinars to describe potential approaches for developing UCMR 6, which includes prospective drinking water analytical methods and contaminants, possible sampling design, and other monitoring considerations.

Webinar Schedule:

- Webinar #1: April 17, 2024 (11:00 AM-5:00 PM EDT)
To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9172484874454969434>
- Webinar #2: April 18, 2024 (11:00 AM-5:00 PM EDT)
To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4542600839076268125>
- Webinar #3: Informational webinar for Tribal Governments - May 20, 2024 (2:30-4:00 PM EDT)
Microsoft Teams, to join click [here](#).
Meeting ID: 226 544 196 275 | Passcode: UmVDuJ

The deadline to request for a one-on-one consultation meeting is June 10, 2024. The deadline to submit a comment is June 20, 2024. Consultation materials are available on EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/information-about-public-water-systems>



Have a story, idea, or update to share?

Email us at elaina.doral@nau.edu.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

First Nations Development Institute: Advancing Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grants

Deadline: May 22, 2024

Tribes and Native communities are on the front lines of climate change, experiencing extreme weather, rising sea levels, extended drought, warming temperatures, and melting permafrost. Many tribes and Native communities are located in remote and coastal locations, which increases their vulnerabilities to flooding and wildfire. Furthermore, subsistence and cultural practices rely on healthy ecosystems that are stewarded by Native peoples.

To support climate action that addresses adaptation and disaster preparation, First Nations established the second project under its newly created Climate Initiative, Advancing Tribal Nature-Based Solutions. This project is designed to provide tribes and Native nonprofits with resources to support climate action that addresses adaptation and disaster preparation (e.g., wildfires, flooding, drought) through the application of nature-based solutions based on Native knowledge. First Nations expects to award six (6) grants up to \$200,000 each to eligible tribes and organizations. For additional information and/or to apply, please visit: <https://www.firstnations.org/rfps/advancing-tribal-nature-based-solutions-grant>.

EPA FY24 Exchange Network Grant Program

Deadline: May 22, 2024

The purpose of the Exchange Network (EN) grant program is to foster better environmental management and decision-making through increased access to timely, high quality, environmental information. [An applicant's proposed project goals and outputs should align with one or more EN Funding Areas as described in Section I-B of the Solicitation Notice \(SN\) and EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.](#) Applicants are encouraged to read the full text of the Strategic Plan at the following website: <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>.

The SN for Fiscal Year 2024 Exchange Network (EN) Grant Program is published at Grants.gov and is available at the following site: [EPA-OMS-24-01 FY 2024 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program](#). Applications are due to EPA by 11:59 PM Eastern Time, Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Additional guidance tools, including optional fillable templates for the cover letter, project narrative (work plan), and budget narrative attachment form, plus a budget calculation tool, is available through the grants.gov listing and on the EN website at: <https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program#Resources>.

EVENTS & WEBINARS

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing online, in-person, and blended trainings.

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Water Distribution – Level 1: June 3-14, 2024 (Blended)
- Wastewater Collection – Level 1: June 17-28, 2024 (Blended)

To register or to view the 2023/2024 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

Events & Webinars *(continued)*

USGS Webinar Series: Incorporating Climate and Environmental Justice into Research and Resource Management

- April 11, 2024: Case Studies – Showcasing regional differences in climate and environmental justice applications
- April 25, 2024: Environmental Justice tools and evaluation

To register, please visit: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/climate-adaptation-science-centers/webinar-series-incorporating-climate-and-environmental>

EPA Tools and Resources Webinars

- April 17, 2024: Tire Crumb Research

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

EPA Water Utility Resilience Workshops and Webinars

- April 17, 2024: Top 8 Cyber Actions for Securing Water Systems

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/register-water-utility-resilience-workshops-and-webinars-now>

Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information (CLU-IN) Training

- April 16, 2024: Environmental Data Management – Best Practices for Exchanging Environmental Data
- April 18, 2024: ITRC PFAS Beyond the Basics – Sampling, Analysis, Surface Water & Air Occurrence
- April 23, 2024: Beyond the Basics - PFAS Human Health, Ecological Effects, and Regulations

To register, please visit: <https://clu-in.org/training/>

EPA Water Research Webinar Series

- April 24, 2024: Development and Implementation of DNA-Based Biomonitoring to Support Assessment of Aquatic and Human Health

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/water-research-webinar-series>

EPA Drinking Water Training Webinar

- April 25, 2024: Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

- April 30, 2024: PFAS Treatment

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-drinking-water-systems-webinar-series>

NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

Ken Norton

*Hoopa Valley Tribe
Region 9 (NTWC Chair)*
kenpnorton@gmail.com

Brian Patterson

*Oneida Nation
Region 2*
bpatterson@oneida-nation.org

Nancy Schuldt

*Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa, Region 5*
nancyschuldt@fdlrez.com

Denise Jensen

*Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Region 7*
denise.jensen@winnebagotribe.com

Scott Hauser

*Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
Region 10 - At-Large*
scott.hauser@usrtf.org

Chauncey Means

*Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Region 8 (NTWC Vice Chair)*
chauncey.means@cstkt.org

Rainee Tetreault

*Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Region 4*
raintetr@ebci-nsn.gov

Celeste Hockings

*Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians, Region 5 - At-Large*
chockings@ldftribe.com

Eric Morrison

*Salamatof Tribe
Region 10 - Alaska*
emorrison@salamatoftribe.org

Mary Verner

*Snoqualmie Tribe
Region 10*
mary.verner@snoqualmietribe.us

Daniel Kusnierz

*Penobscot Indian Nation
Region 1*
dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org

Shaun Livermore

*Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Region 4 - At-Large*
slivermore@pci-nsn.gov

Jaelyn McCasland

*Delaware Nation
Region 6*
jmccasland@delawarenation-nsn.gov

Ann Wyatt

*Klawock Cooperative Association/Tribe
Region 10 – Alaska*
annwyatt@klawocktribe.org

Yolanda Barney

*Navajo Nation
Region 9*
ybarney@navajo-nsn.gov

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email: itep@nau.edu