



Tribal Pesticide Program Council

Spring 2024

TPPC Member Spotlight: Cricket Herrera, Yakama Nation Pesticide Program

A Bit About Cricket



Cricket grew up in Flagstaff, Arizona and studied Wildlife at Arizona State University. His adventures in rodeo brought him all across the country and over to Europe to compete. He now lives in his homeland of Yakama Nation where his maternal family is from. He is passionate about spending time with his family and relatives. They love to fish, hunt, harvest roots, and observe animals, especially pollinators. Cricket likes to photograph ground-dwelling bees and natural landscapes. He serves Yakama Nation in a variety of ways through pesticide inspections, environmental health services, integrated pest management education (IPM), and more. He was a dedicated front line responder during the Covid 19 pandemic where he delivered essential supplies to community members. Before his work with Yakama Nation he worked for the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Water Quality Department. When he started with Yakama Nation he began in their water quality department and pursued a new challenge when the pesticide specialist role opened.

Yakama Nation Pesticide Program

The Yakama Nation Pesticide Program began in approximately 2004. They do not have a pesticide code but have a cooperative agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They actively collaborate with EPA, Washington state government, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Indian Health Services, and their Indian Health Environmental Officer. The Yakama Nation is a very large area and implementing more rules and regulations would require more staff and additional funding. They currently utilize General Assistance Program (GAP) funding for their pesticide program activities and research. Cricket is the sole Pesticide Specialist and has positive working relationships with his region and state. He provides notices of intent to inspect and performs inspections on growers. Many growers are not tribal community members, and working with



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TPPC Member Spotlight: Cricket Herrera (continued)



Pahto, sacred mountain of the Yakama Nation

them sometimes requires additional communication to help them understand his role and authority. Over the years Cricket continues to build relationships with growers, he has been successful with inspecting growers who had previously not agreed to pesticide inspections in the past. This has come with challenges but Cricket noted that his perseverance and patience have paid off. He shared that many growers and community members now know they can look to him for pesticide-related issues and resources. Besides inspections, he maintains a presence in the grower community by attending grower safety meetings and respirator fit test events. Yakama Nation is largely agricultural and produces a variety of crops such as hops, apples, pears, nectarines, cherries,

asparagus, potatoes, crops for silage, and more. Growers utilize pesticides for management of pests like mites, making miticide use common. Cricket also performs pesticide inspections at businesses such as gas station hot food bars and collaborates with many other environmental programs at Yakama Nation including the forestry, wildlife, and range programs.

More About Cricket's Work

Cricket is a Pesticide Specialist and is involved in a variety of projects related to pesticides, environmental health, and wildlife conservation. He does IPM work with these agencies, as well as tribal schools, and collaborates with data collection and research. A current project is underway to collect water samples to assess chemical contamination from agriculture in the Yakima River. The river is home to many animals but receives a lot of runoff from agricultural areas. Cricket can recall seeing salmon in this area as a child and he notes that he has seen salmon spawning near his relatives' home nearby. Salmon are still present in the area, Cricket shared about a moment where a large salmon surfaced right behind a Washington State Department of Agriculture employee as they were sampling. The goal is to assess water quality and utilize data to promote restoration projects. These programs work to promote the health of the community and of salmon, waterfowl, elk, deer, bear, antelope, and other animals that call the Yakama Nation home.

Cricket provides education and resources for bed bug eradication in commercial and residential settings. He has provided many trainings including chemical storage safety training to prevent exposure issues to children. He recently presented to pesticide applicators at the Oregon Department of Agriculture about indigenous perspectives on pesticide alternatives with TPPC Chairperson Jasmine Courville. He is also on the Yakama Nation Hazmat Spill Response Team and continues to expand his knowledge by participating in additional Hazmat training. Cricket has been involved with the TPPC since he started working as a pesticide specialist in 2015. His predecessor was also involved in the TPPC and he followed in their footsteps. He is an active member of the TPPC, always offering his experience and knowledge to support other members. He attends monthly TPPC meetings and work groups as well as biannual meetings. Cricket is excited about working with the translation project for the Bertie the Busy Bee coloring book that teaches youth about pollinators.

Yakama Nation website <https://www.yakama.com/>.

Updates and Announcements

Conferences and Meetings

Workshop on Indigenous Co-Stewardship of Pollinators in the Western United States

The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is hosting a workshop of pollinator co-stewardship **May 28-31** in Santa Fe, NM. For more information see <https://tppcwebsite.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/image-1.png>

Full SFIREG Meeting

The State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) will be holding their semi-annual meeting **June 3-4** (location to be determined). For more information see <https://aapco.org/2015/07/30/sfireg-3/>

Trainings & Courses

Training for Private Applicators Under the EPA Plan

EPA will be holding their quarterly training for private applicators under the EPA plan for restricted use pesticides (RUPs) **May 8-9** online. To learn more visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-applicator-certification-indian-country/training-private-applicators-under-epa-plan>

Compliance and Enforcement Management PREP

The PREP network will provide a compliance and enforcement management course on **June 24-27** in Davis, CA. For more information see <https://agsci.colostate.edu/agbio/prep/>

HAZWOPER Training

The White Earth Nation will be hosting a Hazardous Waste Site Worker (HAZWOPER) Training **June 24-28** in Mahanomen, MN. For more information visit <https://tppcwebsite.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/White-Earth-Haz-Waste-Flyer-Jun24.pdf>

Pollinator Issues PIRT

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and EPA will be hosting a Pollinator Issues Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT) from **July 14-18** in Raleigh, NC. For more information see <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/pesticide-inspector-residential-training-pirt>

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities:

Draft FY2025-26 National Program Guidances (ends June 4)

EPA has opened an opportunity for consultation on the draft Fiscal Year 2025-2026 National Program Guidances. For more information contact Jessica Snyder at snyder.jessica@epa.gov.

Proposed Establishment of the NTC Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (ends June 10)

EPA is proposing to reform the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and has opened the proposal for consultation. For information contact Daniel Vaught at vaught.daniel@epa.gov.

Formaldehyde and Paraformaldehyde Draft Risk Assessment (ends June 18)

EPA has produced a draft Risk Assessment for pesticide uses of formaldehyde and paraformaldehyde and is seeking public feedback. Comments can be submitted to docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0739 on www.regulations.gov.

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The TPPC is a member-based organization with more than 100 members from 62 Tribes and tribal organizations as of January 2024, whose activities are funded by a cooperative agreement with the EPA. The Council serves as a tribal technical resource, and provides a forum for dialogue between Tribes and the EPA on program and policy development relating to pesticides issues and concerns. Assistance provided to Tribes includes support in building tribal pesticide programs and conducting pesticide education and training, and the preparation of resources for Tribes interested in specialized issues such as Integrated Pest Management and pollinators. Through its interaction with the EPA, the TPPC keeps Tribes informed of developments in the regulation of pesticides and pesticide use, and provides feedback to the EPA on such matters from a tribal perspective (though it is important to note that communication between the EPA and the TPPC does not substitute for direct government-to-government consultation).

For information about how to join the TPPC, contact Mark Daniels at mark.daniels@nau.edu or (928) 523-8897.

