




OPPTS Tribal News

Environmental *VOICES*

Office of Pesticides, Prevention,
and Toxic Substances and
Tribal Environmental
News Exchange

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Featuring Pesticides Programs

Susan Wayland is the Acting Assistant Administrator of the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, which includes 1,400 people in EPA Headquarters and Regions.

Our office and other EPA programs are trying to learn more about subsistence issues in Indian country, an issue that we know is of great importance to tribes. Insight on subsistence lifestyles and traditional native practices will greatly assist our program efforts toward reducing risk from possible dietary exposure to chemicals. The inter-connection of all things is not only a tenet of the Native American belief system, but a fundamental concept of ecology.

Endangered animals and plants are an important part of our planet's ecological system, and we continue to work with other federal, state and tribal partners to safeguard species in danger. Last year, we were thrilled by the recovery of two magnificent birds, the Peregrine Falcon and the American Bald Eagle. This recovery is the result of work of numerous agencies and individuals over the years. You'll find information about our endangered species program in this issue of OPPTS Tribal News – including some fun materials created for children. Contact names and numbers are also included, and we invite you to get in touch with us to learn more.

OPPTS is proud to have the opportunity to team up with tribal partners to work on pesticide and toxic issues in Indian country. I urge you to get involved – your participation and feedback are key to helping us respond to the needs of tribes. Working together on these issues – as teachers, parents, citizens and governments – we set an example of respect for each other and for all parts of our Earth family.



Editorial Note:

This is the first summer at the dawn of a new millennium and environmental issues are at the forefront of the national conscience. In Indian Country, environmental issues are an extremely important part of everyday life, ranging in matters from balancing tribal economic growth with environmental impacts to the use of traditional knowledge to defend the earth from degradation. Everyday, Indian people struggle with the reality of an out-of-balance-earth, and it is our sincere hope that the information contained within will provide a basis to help tribal communities and individuals to further the restoration of an equilibrium.

The pow-wow circuit is in full swing and as such the message of opening lines of communication is in full effect. Feel free to contact anyone mentioned in this newsletter. In fact, your participation in providing feedback is a major way for OPPTS to provide Indian Country with the most relevant and beneficial services to the Tribes.

Megwetch (Thank You)
Patrick LaBlance, ECO Intern for OPPTS and Sault Ste.
Marie Chippewa Tribe Member

OPPTS Mission Statement

- ▶ *Protect and improve human health and the environment*
- ▶ *Achieve risk reduction, sustainability, and environmental justice*
- ▶ *Promote safer designs and use of materials, products, and disposal methods through pollution prevention*
- ▶ *Inform and educate the public on the risks associated with pesticides and toxic substances.*

OPPTS Tribal News requests interesting success stories about pesticide programs and projects in Indian country from our readers. If you have information or experience to share via our newsletter, please write or send an e-mail to Regina Langton, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7506C), Washington, DC 20460, langton.regina@epa.gov.

From the Editors...

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) and the Office of Pesticides (OPP) are very pleased to present the Summer 2000 issue of *OPPTS Tribal News*. As part of EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, these two offices have gathered news and data to provide information on a variety of timely environmental issues and pollution prevention programs.

We thank Patrick LaBlance and Sasha Sicks who were key in developing this issue of *OPPTS Tribal News*. Patrick is a recent graduate of Dartmouth College with a B.A. in Native American Studies and is currently pursuing a master's degree of Law from Vermont School of Law. Sasha Sicks graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2000. She has been working as an Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) intern in EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs since June of this year.

We hope this issue emphasizes important items of interest and addresses environmental concerns. As always, we encourage you to relay comments, ideas, and concerns about our programs - and don't forget to point your browser to our new Tribal Web Site at www.epa.gov/opptintr/tribal.

—Mary Lauterbach,
OPPT Tribal Coordinator
—Regina Langton,
OPP Tribal Coordinator

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OPPTS has used reasonable measures to ensure that material contained in this newsletter was correct at the time of production. However, OPPTS gives no warranty and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of the material. The content of this publication does not necessarily represent the views of the Agency. No official endorsement should be inferred.



OPPTS Participates in Tribal Environmental Conferences

The Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxics (OPPTS) was excited to be able to be so well represented at the variety of Tribal Environmental Conferences held this past Spring. These meetings are an excellent way for EPA and Tribal Environmental Staff and other environmental professionals to get together and exchange information regarding their programs. The opportunity to network with one another and put faces to the names is one of the highlights of these conferences.

EPA NATIONAL INDIAN WORKGROUP MEETING

EPA's semi-annual National Indian Workgroup meeting was held in Mashantucket, Connecticut at the Mashantucket Pequot Nation April 16-17, 2000. The meeting was held concurrently with a Tribal Caucus meeting and included a half-day joint session of the two. Several of the big issues on which the Tribal Caucus focused were the identification of Tribal priorities for FY 99-FY 00, a review of the Tribal Operations Committee Charter, and the development of Tribal Caucus 2002 budget recommendations.

At the joint NIWG/Tribal Caucus meeting, the newly elected Tribal Caucus Leaders started off the discussion by sharing their future vision and goals for EPA's Indian Program. Each EPA Region and some Headquarters offices provided

updates on significant actions and OPPTS informed the Tribal Caucus about the newly formed Tribal Pesticides

Program Council (TPPC) which held its first meeting in January 2000 in Arlington, VA. The TPPC is composed of representatives from Federally recognized Tribes and is governed by an elected 16-member Executive Committee. In addition, OPPTS provided copies of its Tribal Newsletter and provided progress reports on both its Toxics and Pesticides programs. The Tribal Caucus was also briefed on the Little Moccasins Lead Safety Program which was developed as a partnership between all Tribes in Maine and EPA Region 1. Little Moccasins is available on video or CD-ROM and is geared towards day care providers.

Contact Caren Rothstein-Robinson at (202) 260-0065 for more information.

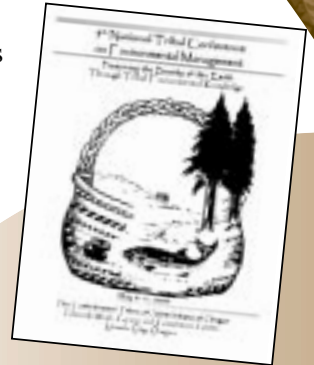
NATIONAL TRIBAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT- "Preserving the Bounty of the Earth Through Tribal Environmental Knowledge"

On May 5th, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon hosted the National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management.

The conference was held along the awe-inspiring coast of Oregon, in Lincoln city and was co-sponsored by the EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. Thanks go to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz for their first-class job of organizing and for their warm hospitality which made the conference such a great success.

Key note speakers included Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber; Mike Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response; Kathy Gorospe, Director of the EPA's Indian Environment Office; Romula Diaz, Jr., Assistant Administrator Office of Administration and Resource Management; Scott Sufficool, Director of Region 10's Tribal Program Office; Dan Opalski, Oregon Operations Director, Region 10 EPA; and Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator, Region 10.

In addition to the numerous speakers, the conference



boasted a vast array of environmental and cultural presentations, field trips, exhibitors and vendors. The unification and mutual respect of our missions to protect Tribal homelands and safeguard the health of Indigenous Peoples emerged as the theme of the conference.

OPPTS Managers and Staff made presentations on numerous topics at the various sessions throughout the day, including:

Subsistence Foods Issues:

This session presented different perspectives on the contamination of subsistence based foods and examined the economic and social impacts on Tribal cultures survival.

Communications and Outreach: This session was highly interactive with the audience for purposes of obtaining feedback on ways EPA can improve our methods and means of communicating with Tribes and Tribal members on environmental issues and concerns.

Special Session on the Global Treaty on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs):

This was an information session that included discussion on what POPS are, why they pose a special problem, and how the global treaty on POPS will address the risks posed by these chemicals. Some of the speakers included Mr. Bruce de Grazia, Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Environmental Quality, Mr. Killam, EPA Office of Air Quality Program and Standards, Dr. John Smith of EPA Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

Managing Toxic Substances in your Buildings:

This session was co-sponsored by BIA and consisted of several important presentations on the what, how, where, and why of preventing toxic exposures from lead, asbestos, PCB's, and pesticides. Each of the OPPT and OPP presenters were well equipped and important hand-outs and guidance materials abounded!

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Meeting - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUBCOMMITTEE

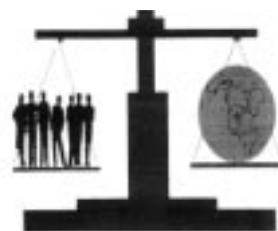
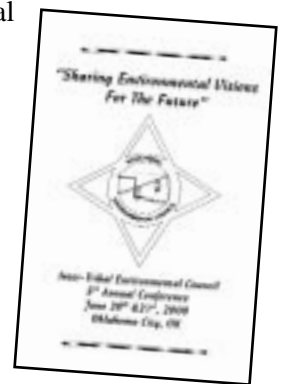
The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting was held in Atlanta, Georgia in May and the overarching theme of this particular meeting was the public health and research issues that face many EJ communities today.

NEJAC has several subcommittees including the **Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee**. This Subcommittee has been quite concerned with the different health and environmental issues that are affecting many Tribes. The meeting focused on issues that affect contaminants in subsistence foods and those that affect tribal cultures. Contaminants include both Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic Chemicals (PCBs), and Toxic Chemicals and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS).

"Sharing Environmental Visions For the Future"

The 5th Annual "Visions" Conference Hosted by the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council in June was held this year in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The keynote speakers came from across the spectrum of Federal and Tribal organizations and included Kathy Gorospe, EPA American Indian Environmental Office, Calvin Murphy, Co-Chair of the EPA National Tribal Operations Committee, and Jerry Pardilla, Executive Director of the National Tribal Environmental Council and Executive Director and Board of Directors Chairperson of TASWER. Topics ranged from Brownfields to Tribal Networking and Consultation. There was an excellent workshop on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a display room devoted to Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) poster projects. A session on pesticides presented by a member of the Tribal Pesticides Program Council and a brief discussion on OPPT's outreach materials and the OPPTS Subsistence Foods Project was presented by Mary Lauterbach, OPPT Tribal Coordinator.

Also featured in the Vendor/Exhibitor display room was a variety of environmental products and information and "Renie" the Recycle Robot.



Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) Provide Greater Tribal Flexibility and Lessen Tribal Financial Burden

The Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) program is a grant consolidation program in the EPA that allows Indian Tribes greater flexibility in managing their environmental programs. The leeway given for the distribution of grant money lets Indian Tribes in the program prioritize their needs and fund their goals. The new rule, which is not yet finalized, will allow the Tribes to operate their environmental programs in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency at a minimum of tribal monetary expense. The rule will allow EPA grants to be pulled under the auspices of the PPG program and thus the matching grant amount will drop to a relatively small amount of money, ranging anywhere from 0-10 % depending on the Tribes perceived financial situation.

The new PPG rule (not yet finalized):

EPA will require Tribes to provide an initial cost share of five percent. After the first two years, the Regional Administrator will determine, through an objective assessment, whether the Tribe or the members of an Intertribal Consortium meet socio-economic indicators that demonstrate the ability of the Tribe or the Intertribal Consortium to provide a cost share greater than five percent. If the Regional Administrator determines that the Tribe or members of the Intertribal Consortium meet such indicators, then the Regional Administrator shall increase the required cost share up to a maximum of 10 percent. If the Regional Administrator determines that the Tribe or the members of the Intertribal Consortium do not meet such indicators, then the cost share will remain at five percent.

(The required cost share for the Tribal Water Pollution Control Grant Program (Clean Water Act, section 106) is five percent. Thus, this program is not included in the grant programs whose cost share could be raised to 10 percent through the Regional Administrator assessment and determination process.) Further, the Regional Administrator may waive the required PPG cost share at the request of the Tribe or Intertribal Consortium if the Regional Administrator determines, based on an objective assessment of socio-economic indicators, that fulfilling the cost share requirement would impose undue hardship on the Tribe or members of the Intertribal Consortium.

Dioxins in Our Community

Pollution prevention may seem to be an issue that is mostly dealt with by organizations, whether federal, state, local or corporate, especially when it comes to harmful toxics entering the environment. Dioxins are increasingly harmful toxins that are the primary focus in many scientific studies. However, pollution prevention also can be accomplished with much success on the household level when observing the release of dioxins and furans into the air. The simple act of backyard barrel trash burning releases a significant amount of dioxin and furans. Pollution prevention can be as simple as disposing of trash through local municipal waste avenues, rather than the less costly backyard barrel.

On June 14th, 2000 EPA officially released two chapters of the new dioxin reassessment, available at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/pdfs/dioxin/dioxreass.htm>. The main conclusion of the report is that dioxins are much more hazardous to human health than previously reported. This comes as no surprise to many Indian communities whom have dealt with illnesses from dioxins. The Penobscot people have been battling against paper mills which dump dioxins into the river for many years.

Dioxins are a worldwide problem, however the worst areas of contamination are in countries that incinerate large amounts of chlorine-based chemical compounds with hydrocarbons. In laymen's terms this essentially means burning plastics in trash incinerators.

On August 10 - 13, the People's Dioxin Action Summit was held at the University of California-Berkeley. Visit the Website at <http://www.chej.org> or call CHEJ at (703) 237-2249.

Tribal Pesticide Program Council

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TPPC STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

TO SERVE AS A TECHNICAL RESOURCE GROUP TO AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES, ALASKA AND HAWAII NATIVE VILLAGES, AND SOVEREIGN LANDS

TO ADDRESS:

THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF PESTICIDES, THE MANAGEMENT OF PESTICIDES, ENFORCEMENT OF PESTICIDE LAWS AND REGULATIONS (BOTH FEDERAL AND TRIBAL), AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

WORKING WITH THE U.S. EPA OFFICE OF PESTICIDE PROGRAMS, OUR GOAL IS TO:

- HELP TRIBES DETERMINE THE NEED FOR A PESTICIDE PROGRAM ;
- DEVELOP A NEW PESTICIDE PROGRAM; OR
- STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP EXISTING TRIBAL PESTICIDE PROGRAMS; AND
- ADDRESS PESTICIDE ISSUES AND CONCERNS.

ALL TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH PESTICIDE ISSUES OR CONCERNS ABOUT PESTICIDES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE TPPC. A TRIBE OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION MUST PROVIDE A LETTER OR RESOLUTION, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL PROCEDURE, AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE. THE TPPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY THE TPPC.

THE TPPC IS FUNDED BY U.S. EPA, OFFICE OF PESTICIDE PROGRAMS, AND COORDINATED BY NATIVE ECOLOGY INITIATIVE, INC., A 501 (C)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION.

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MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA
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AT-LARGE

MERV GEORGE,
HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE
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KESNER FLORES,
CORTINA RANCHERIA
(530) 473-3318

TPPC Partnerships

The Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) plans to sponsor a program of training that links experienced tribal natural resources personnel with less experienced staff in a “coaching” relationship. If you would like to offer your expertise as a “Tribal Training Coach”, or if you are interested in partnering with an experienced tribal inspector, please contact Lillian Wilmore, the TPPC Coordinator.

September TPPC Meeting

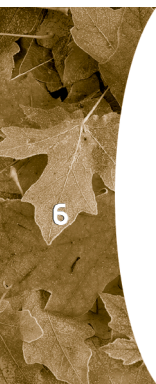
The next meeting of the full Tribal Pesticide Program Council will be at the Winterlodge, Yakama Nation in Washington State, September 27-28. The agenda includes sessions on tribal authority and jurisdictional issues, integrated pest management, federal credentials and tribal pesticide program development.

For more information, contact Lillian Wilmore, the TPPC Coordinator.



Baseline Assessment in Indian Country: Tribal Subsistence

EPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) baseline assessment project team has agreed to prepare a report on the levels of contamination found in plants and animals consumed by Native Americans as part of a subsistence lifestyle. The report will be a compilation of data from existing sources; including published papers, extractions from national and regional databases and special project reports. It is intended to provide a convenient data source for EPA, other agency researchers and tribes who are interested in understanding risks associated with the consumption of the plants and animals that make up a subsistence diet. This task will necessarily be a collaborative effort. We are interested in locating documents that identify organisms that are consumed in a subsistence lifestyle diet, and also documents that report pollutant burdens in tissue. Any help you can offer would be most appreciated. Please contact Ed Liu, AIEO, at 202.260.9872 or liu.ed@epa.gov.



Hoopa Valley Tribal Members Meet With Smithsonian Museum

A delegation from the Hoopa Valley Tribe of Northern California attended a one-week extensive inventory tour of the Smithsonian's National Museum for the American Indian. Among the five-member delegation was Merv George Jr., an Executive Committee member for the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC). His parents Merv & Laura Lee George Sr., his wife Wendy George, and David Risling joined George, who also represents the California Indian Basketweavers Association.



The July 9-14 trip was sponsored by the Smithsonian to help museum curators design a Hoopa gallery in the National Museum for the American Indian. The museum, currently in the process of moving its Native American artifacts from a New York location to Washington D.C., has decided to feature the Hoopa Valley Tribe as one of the gallery tribes in the new museum – slated to open in 2003.

Merv George Sr., Ceremonial Dance Leader for the Hoopa Tribe, led the delegation in an extensive inventory process that will later lead to the gallery's design. The first part of the trip was devoted to identifying all of the items labeled as Hoopa and showing museum staff what each item is used for. This was a large task, since there are over 800 pieces in the museum's collection. Emil Her Many Horses, a Lakota from Pine Ridge, was the curator who personally led the team through this process.

Merv George Jr., who is the former Tribal Chairman for the Hoopa Valley Tribe, is involved with the Tribe's effort to repatriate ceremonial items under the Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). One of the concerns is the pesticide contamination of ceremonial prayer items. George had the opportunity to meet with Susan Heald, a conservator for the Smithsonian, who demonstrated techniques used in the chemical identification process.

These techniques could be very useful for anyone involved with artifact repatriation and identifying chemical contamination. "There seems to be a lack of knowledge surrounding the chemical contamination of Indian regalia in museums. If what I learned from the Smithsonian can help anyone who is trying to repatriate prayer items, then I will be happy to share that with them" George said. For more information, contact Merv George at mervgeorge@hotmail.com.

Radio PSAs Publicize NPTN "Read Labels First" Campaign

Radio public service announcements (PSAs) will soon be sent by EPA to radio stations in Indian country, as part of a campaign to target urban, minority and ethnically diverse communities.

The PSAs announce the free services of the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) and emphasize a message to read the labels on pesticide products before use.

EPA is making this effort to emphasize its "Read the Label First" campaign, and ensure that all consumers are aware of NPTN as an expert source of free pesticide information.

The PSAs will be followed by transit ads, displayed on trucks traveling in many large cities and along highways across the nation.

Remember: Always read the product label first and, for pesticide information, call NPTN 1-800-858-7378.



Mercury and its Behavior in the Environment

The dangers of mercury in the air, land and water have been known for over thirty years. The contamination from this heavy metal throughout our environment is still a significant problem especially among people who traditionally eat fish. The behavior of mercury and its presence in the environment must be understood on several levels: from the source of the pollution to its transition to the more harmful methylmercury, and from its uptake into various animals to its accumulation in our bodies. Mercury enters the environment from many sources, both natural and man-made. The Mercury is then taken in by a variety of living creatures, most notably, aquatic organisms, and passed up the food chain where it is finally consumed by humans and accumulates in our bodies.

Mercury enters the environment through natural processes such as forest fires, volcanoes, and the evaporation of seawater. These natural releases of Mercury are relatively small and, before industrialization, the environment easily processed the Mercury in a balanced cycle of absorption and release. In our modern age, this cycle has been disturbed by an excess release of Mercury from man-made sources, more so than the envi-

ronment is able to reabsorb. These sources of mercury pollution are numerous but the most significant releases come from medical, household and industrial waste incineration coal-burning power plants and automobile exhaust. The gaseous Mercury enters the air where it is widely dispersed and eventually settles onto the land and water.

On December 15th of this year, the EPA will make a determination of whether to regulate the release of mercury into the environment by electric utilities. A decision to regulate these facilities would result in requirements that would, within the next decade, subject coal plants greater than 25 megawatts to standards for the amount of mercury they release into the air.

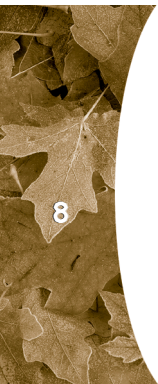
The metallic mercury released into the air can travel long distances. Once it settles it is converted into methylmercury, a more toxic form of the chemical that bioaccumulates through the food chain and is responsible for damage to human health and the environment.

Bioaccumulation is a technical term for a fairly simple process. Mercury is taken in by small organisms that are eaten by small fish. Bigger fish eat the smaller fish and as each creature moves through its environment,

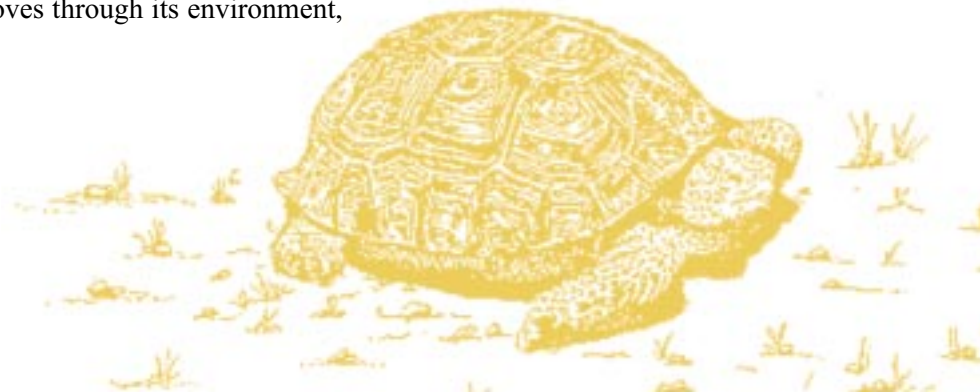
it takes in mercury laden water. Organisms act as a water filter removing certain harmful chemicals including methylmercury. The larger fish not only take in mercury by filtering the water through its gills, but they also eat the small fish that have been accumulating the chemical.

The end result of this process is — increased loading of chemicals such as methylmercury in organisms higher up the food chain, including humans. When we eat the fish out of the lakes and rivers we consume all the mercury that has accumulated in those organisms.

Methylmercury is a neurotoxin posing the most serious threat to children and pregnant women. The most severe damage is caused by inhibition of childhood developmental processes. The consumption of fish, especially by children and pregnant women, should closely follow state established guidelines, most of which can easily be found online in annual reports. Another tip to avoid larger doses of methylmercury is to eat fish lower on the food chain and avoid predator fish. For other Mercury information see past issues of the OPPTS Tribal News at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tribal>.



Desert Tortoise



Protecting Our Environment

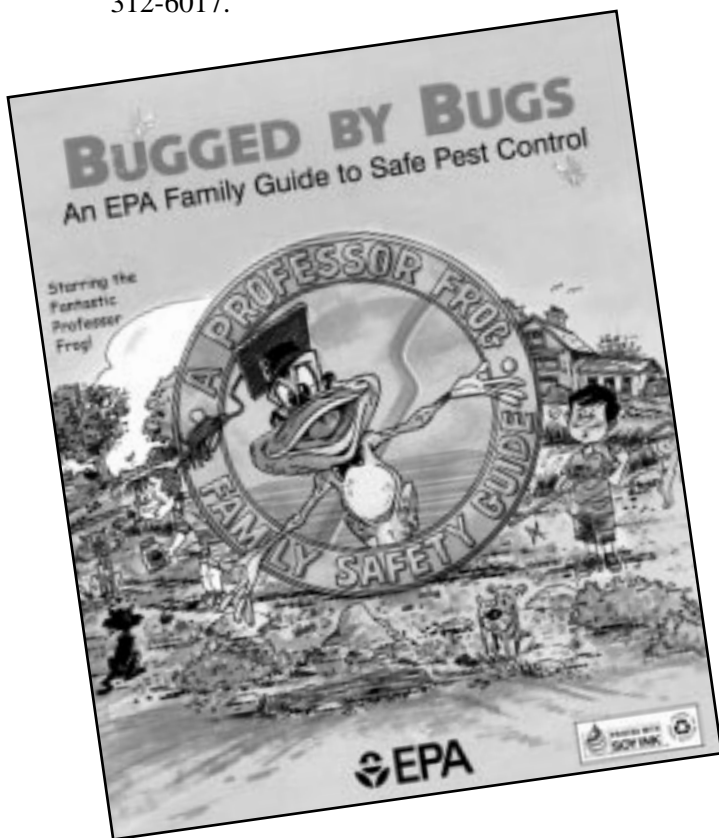
Pesticides

Bugged by Bugs? Get This New Informative Comic Book With Tips on Safe Pest Control for the Whole Family

EPA's Region 8 has recently come out with an informative publication for children, older kids, and adults, entitled "Bugged by Bugs: An EPA Family Guide to Safe Pest Control."

Starring Fantastic Professor Frog, this comic book tells a story of why bugs are so important to our ecosystem, encourages integrated pest management, and includes information on safe pesticide practices in the home. This delightful publication, geared toward homes in suburban settings, incorporates tips on how to safely store and dispose of pesticides, how to prevent unwanted pests from invading your home, and how to rid your home of pests that might already be there.

EPA has already sent out 10,000 copies of "Bugged by Bugs" to various groups and regional EPA offices. By December 2000, more copies of this publication will be available for larger orders. If you have any questions about this publication, or you would like to place an order of less than one hundred copies, please contact Ron Schiller in Denver at (303) 312-6017.



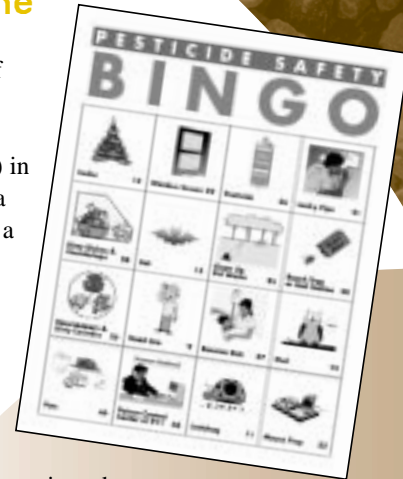
B-I-N-G-O!!!! New Children's Pesticide Safety Game

EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) in Region 6 released a CD-Rom featuring a Pesticide Safety BINGO game.

Intended for use in schools, the BINGO cards come in English and Spanish and

are a wonderful way to introduce both novices and experts to the subject of pesticide safety. This game provides information about pests, alternatives to chemical pesticides, ways to prevent pests from entering your home or garden, and the prevention of pesticide poisoning. It is appropriate for all levels of K-6 students and includes text and pictures for children to identify and mark the appropriate bingo square. A teacher's manual and lesson plans are included, along with four age-appropriate games from which teachers can choose according to the level of their students.

To print the cards for the Pesticide Safety Games, you'll need a computer and Adobe Acrobat Reader – software that lets you view and print Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files. With questions or to order your own free copy of the CD-Rom, you can contact Linda Falk (214) 655-8535 or download the game at www.epa.gov/region6/bingo. Adobe Acrobat Reader may be downloaded at www.adobe.com.



EPA Eliminates Certain Uses of the Pesticide Chlorpyrifos – Seeking Protection for Children

In June 2000, EPA announced a voluntary agreement with Dow AgroSciences to phase out/eliminate certain uses of the organophosphate pesticide, chlorpyrifos. Chlorpyrifos is one of the most widely used organophosphate insecticides in the United States. The main uses of chlorpyrifos are agriculture settings, non-agricultural settings such as homes, office buildings, schools, and warehouses, and termiticide treatments. The agreement coincides with the release of EPA's revised human health and ecological risk assessment on chlorpyrifos. EPA's comprehensive review of this widely-used pesticide revealed risks of concern for both human health and the environment. Consequently, the Agency negotiated an agreement with the registrant that adds a greater measure of protection for children by reducing or eliminating the most important sources of exposure.

EPA conducted an extensive review of chlorpyrifos as part of its effort to ensure that all older pesticides meet the tough safety standards established by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) in 1996. Chlorpyrifos, along with similar organophosphate (OP) pesticides, is in the first priority group for this reassessment process. The Agency made it a priority to review OPs first because they are potent chemicals and potentially very toxic to humans and

wildlife. Through this review, EPA determined that chlorpyrifos, as currently used, does not provide an adequate margin of protection for children. In restricting use of chlorpyrifos, EPA is providing a greater measure of protection for children by reducing or eliminating the most important sources of exposure.

Besides protecting children against possible exposure to chlorpyrifos, the agreement will also ensure greater protection of the environment and our natural resources. According to the United States Geological Survey's 1999 report, "The Quality of Our Nation's Waters," chlorpyrifos is the third most frequently detected insecticide in streams in urban areas. EPA's action to severely curtail the urban use of this pesticide should significantly improve urban stream quality and reduce risk to fish and other aquatic life. In addition, since a major source of drinking water contamination is residential applications, these regulatory actions for residential uses will also help to ensure that drinking water exposure will not be a concern in most cases. However, in highly localized situations, where chlorpyrifos termiticide treatments have been made within 100 feet of a drinking water well, contamination of drinking water can occur. In these cases, it is advisable to contact the state or local water authorities who

can assist in locating a local commercial laboratory to test the well.

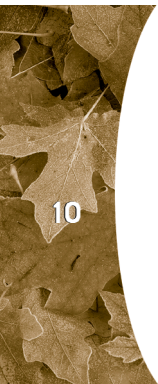
Food treated prior to these use restrictions still provides a considerable margin of safety to consumers. EPA's action to ban some uses of chlorpyrifos only represents more stringent safety



factors. The health benefits of a varied diet high in fresh fruits and vegetables outweigh the risk of pesticide residues anticipated on treated fruit, and parents should continue to feed children a balanced and nutritious diet.

The agreement to ban some uses of chlorpyrifos represents an important step in EPA's effort to ensure that chlorpyrifos, and all other organophosphate pesticides, meet the stricter safety standards established by FQPA.

These standards are helping EPA provide increased protection for the environment, wildlife, humans, – and especially for our children.



Office of Water Launches National Fish Contamination Study

A new national fish contamination study is underway in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Water (OW). In 1998, OW began coordinating with other EPA Offices, EPA Regions, States, Tribes, and other Federal Agencies to plan and organize The National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue (or the National Fish Tissue Study). The study was initiated in response to two major environmental initiatives:

The President's Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) and EPA's PBT Initiative for persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals. Key Action #1 in the CWAP charges EPA with conducting a national survey of mercury and other contaminant levels in fish throughout the country and coordinating this effort with States and Tribes. The study will provide national information for over 100 persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals in fish tissue.

The objective of the National Fish Tissue Study is to determine the national distribution of the mean levels of selected PBT chemical residues from lakes and reservoirs of the continental United States. Agency scientists and statisticians developed a statistical sampling design to meet this objective. Fish will be sampled from about 500 randomly selected lakes and reservoirs over a period of four years. The

samples are composites of five fish for both a predator and a bottom-dwelling species from each lake or reservoir. Fish tissue composites will be analyzed for 274 chemicals (including breakdown products and PCB congeners). These chemicals fall into the following major chemical groups: dioxins/furans, pesticides, PCBs, mercury, and arsenic.

Planning efforts during the first year culminated in key project milestones, including a workshop to obtain broad technical input on the draft study design, the final study design, and completion of the random lake selection process. Efforts in the second year of the study (mid-1999 to mid-2000) have focused on networking to build study partnerships and preparation for full implementation of the study. During this coordination phase, OW conducted 10 National Fish Tissue Study orientation/training meetings for States, Tribes, EPA Regions, and other interested agencies. These meetings resulted in commitments from 42 States, 4 Tribes, and 7 EPA Regions to collect fish for the study. In August 2000, the National Fish Tissue Study moved from the planning and coordination phase into full implementation. Fish are scheduled to be collected from August through November each year through 2002. A limited sampling effort involving 30 lakes

began in 1999. About 170 lakes will be sampled in 2000 and the remaining 300 lakes will be sampled during 2001 and 2002.

About a dozen lakes selected for the study are on Tribal lands in EPA Regions 5, 8, and 9 belonging to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Cheyenne River Sioux, the Crow Agency, the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux, the Wind River Tribe, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. EPA will provide training and field sampling assistance to collect fish from the other Tribal lakes. The opportunities for training and field sampling assistance apply particularly to the Cheyenne River Sioux, the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux, and the Wind River Tribe.

Leanne Stahl in OW's Office of Science and Technology is managing the National Fish Tissue Study. For more information about the study, contact Ms. Stahl at (202) 260-7055 or stahl.leanne@epa.gov.

Organizational History and Contact List for the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics – Report for the FOSTTA TAW

A Brief History of OPPT's Functions

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), formerly the Office of Toxic Substances, was formed in 1976 with the primary responsibility for administering the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). OPPT was structured to carry out TSCA's provisions which covers the production and distribution of commercial and industrial chemicals in the United States. OPPT has the responsibility for ensuring that chemicals made available for sale and use in the United States do not pose any adverse risks to human health or the environment. The TSCA legislation placed PCB's under OPPT's control from "cradle to grave." A few years later asbestos legislation was enacted making it the second major chemical in OPPT's regulatory history. In 1986, provisions to the Fair Housing Act placed some of the responsibilities of the lead program under OPPT's auspices, including the lead programs targeted towards tribes. OPPT's responsibility was expanded still further with the passing of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, which established pollution prevention as the national policy for controlling pollution at its source. In addition OPPT manages the Chemical Right-To-Know Initiative, the Design for the

Environment, and the Green Chemistry programs.

Divisions:

CHEMICAL CONTROL DIVISION

Carries out the basic chemical provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), including the Chemical Right-to-Know Initiative (ChemRTK). Operates the High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge Program, providing baseline testing data on the chemicals which are untested and produced at very high volumes.

NATIONAL PROGRAM CHEMICALS DIVISION

Oversees the EPA's Lead program, including both the national lead-based paint reduction efforts and the Lead outreach grants. The division is also responsible for PCB, Mercury and Asbestos programs.

POLLUTION PREVENTION DIVISION

Facilitates the pollution prevention programs, including the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) and the Voluntary Initiative for Source Reduction (VISR). The VISR involves cooperation between companies and the EPA to reduce source pollution. Also, oversees part of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program

ECONOMICS, EXPOSURE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Conducts economic and exposure assessments and operates the Design for the Environment program (DfE). DfE integrates environmental concerns into the traditional parameters of businesses cost and performance. The Division is also responsible for the Green Engineering program.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

Coordinates programs with all stakeholder groups, deals with congressional and public matters. Contains the office administration and budget functions for the entire OPPT office.

INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Provides technical and internal support for Local Area Network and E-mail. IMD is responsible for the technical aspects of the office, including all computer related management. Also responsible for OPPT dockets and records.

RISK ASSESSMENT DIVISION

Conducts health assessments on chemicals. Determines the health risks based on the chemical, the amount of exposure and circumstances of the exposure. Includes the assessment of High Production Volume chemicals, new chemicals and existing chemicals.

A Tribal Perspective... EPA, Indian Tribes, Legislation, and Traditional Ways

Patrick LaBlance, Environmental Careers Organization Intern for OPPT and Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe Member

In much of the regulatory legislation Congress passed that dealt with environmental regulation, Indian Tribes are not specifically mentioned. EPA extends the meaning of states within the legislation to include Indian Tribes as part of the Federal Governments Trust Responsibility. This provides a rare case of where violations of our sovereign status are not only beneficial but welcomed by many Indian tribes. The Toxic Substances Control Act provides OPPT with legislation that specifically mentions states and state programs designed to preempt and report to EPA. Tribes are lacking the explicit reference in past legislation that states received, mainly because they have been overlooked in the halls of Congress. The tide is changing, as a few Indians become slightly more affluent, the recognition of Tribes in Congress has also increased.

While the new recognition may seem useful, there are some drawbacks to the prominence. Congress has plenary power over tribes; they determine what sovereign rights tribes do and do not have, regardless of treaties. Many Indian communities do not see acceptable dose or acceptable risk as a viable way to determine environmental quality. Therefore, many tribal commu-

nities strive for the complete elimination of harmful chemicals from entering the environment. This is not unrealistic; there are feasible ways of eliminating toxic substances from entering the environment. However, the only drawback is that these methods are generally believed to cost more. Pollution occurring on and near the reservation, combined with subsistence food activities of tribal members, has resulted in the toxic poisoning of our people. The systematic dumping of known toxic substances into waters and lands adjacent to Indian Country have polluted indigenous communities and put into jeopardy traditional ways of life.

EPA is trying to expand its knowledge of subsistence foods in order to make sure some traditional practices can be sustained for future generations. The Environmental Protection

Agency currently works in conjunction with Indian nations to improve environmental quality, and is now generally regarded as the most Indian-friendly piece of the federal government. We must continue to support the cooperation between EPA and Indian tribes as a respectful, honest, government-to-government relationship. The inclusion of Indian Tribes in Congressional environmental legislation as equal partners would be a major step in not only the recognition of Tribal sovereignty but would also significantly benefit the environment and health of people nationwide.

National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the Indian Health Services Native American Research Centers

Applications are sought for the development of Native American Research Centers for Health which will conduct studies on well-defined diseases and health conditions of importance to native populations, provide research opportunities for Native American faculty and produce a cadre of Native American scientists. Approximately \$1.5 million is available for approximately 3 to 5 awards. For details see:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/rfa-GM-00-007.htm>

Resources

The Mercury Lifecycle

Mercury in the environment is constantly cycled and recycled through a biogeochemical process. The cycle has six major steps.

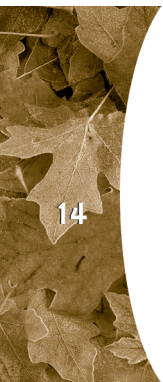
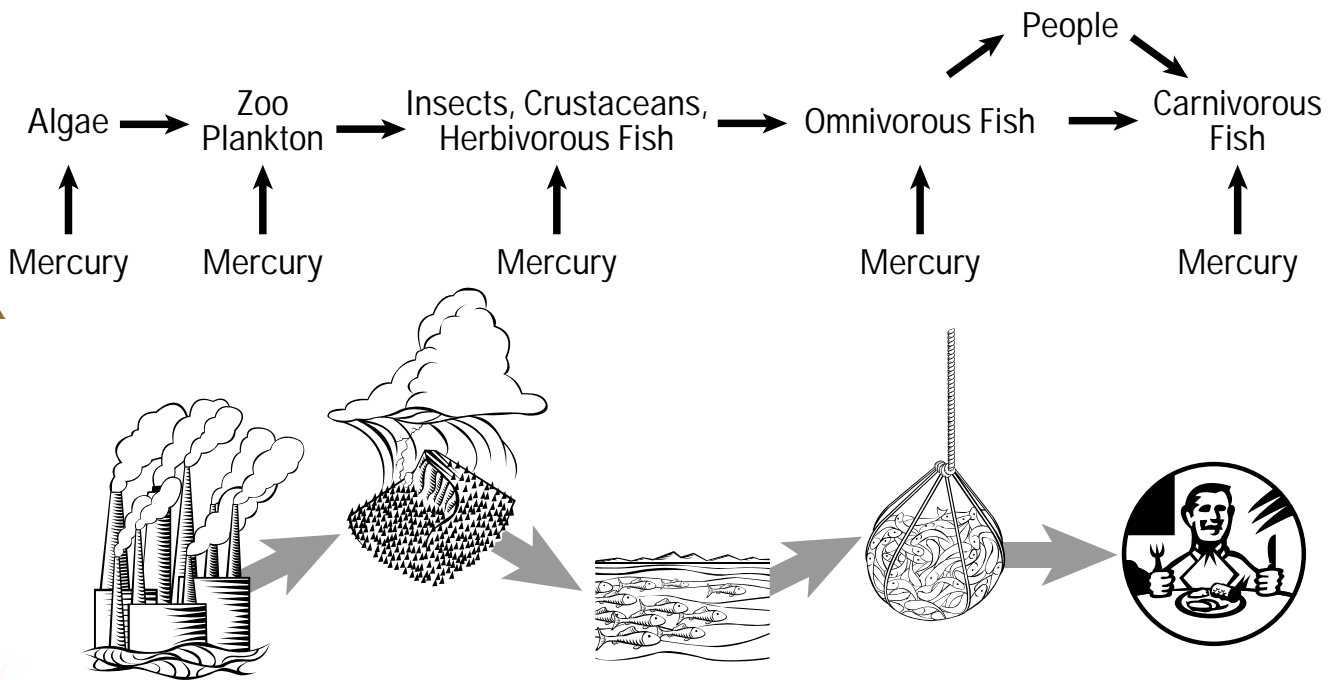
- Degassing of mercury from rock, soils, and surface waters, or emissions from volcanoes and from human activities
- Movement in gaseous form through the atmosphere
- Deposition of mercury on land and surface waters
- Conversion of the element into insoluble mercury sulfide

- Precipitation or bioconversion into more volatile or soluble forms such as methylmercury
- Either:
 - Reentry into the atmosphere or
 - Bioaccumulation in foodchains

The movement of mercury through the environment is strongly dependent on its form. Elemental metallic mercury (“mercury zero”) in vapor form can be transported very long distances before returning to the ground. Generally, deposition

occurs through precipitation (rain, snow, etc.). Mercury can also be removed from the atmosphere through the process of sorption where the soil draws moisture (and the accompanying mercury) out of the air.

Ninety seven percent of all the gaseous mercury dissolved in water is in the elemental form (mercury zero). However, once in the water it can be easily converted into methylmercury, a much more toxic substance that can bioaccumulate in the food chain.



California Least Tern

Resources

RENIE the Recycle Robot

*Barbara Kyser-Collier, Environmental Director,
Wyandotte Environmental Department*

With education and innovative technology, the Wyandotte Tribe's Environmental Recycling Program addresses community issues regarding many environmental concerns, including recycling. Staff members of our Environmental Department have targeted pre-schoolers and children in the Ottawa County school system grades K-6 as the primary audience for an innovative technological, educational robotic system, better known as RENIE the Robot. RENIE the Robot was invented for use as a tool to create an atmosphere of magic and curiosity for both children and adults. RENIE is a robotic refuse truck operated by remote control that appears to move, see, and talk to both young and old members of the Wyandotte community. This interaction creates conversational information, involving a variety of environmental activities, while creating a memory-enhancing, educational setting.

Within the Wyandotte area, the reduction of the solid waste stream is one of the highest priorities. Other major environmental concerns include water quality and toxic waste. As a solution and possibility of reducing the solid waste stream, our Environmental Department has focused on educating the Wyandotte area population about environmental problems. This goal can be accomplished by a tremendous increase in the

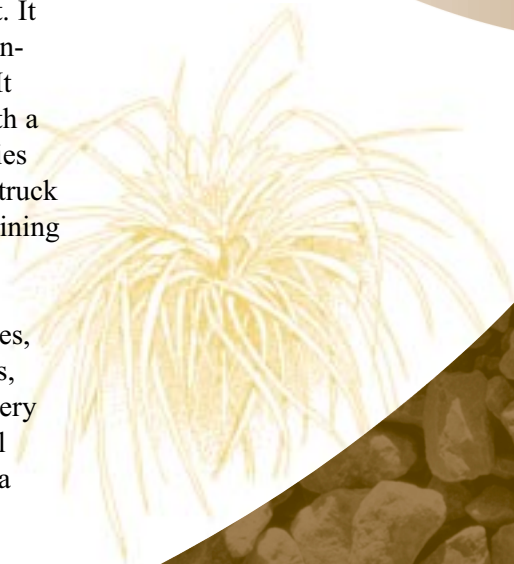


development and implementation of environmental education programs that reach out to the surrounding local school systems and communities and utilize our technological, educational robotic system.

The use of a robotic system as a tool to inform the public concerning environmental issues is new for the Wyandotte community. The audience targeted has had little opportunity for the technological experiences that this robot creates in the past. It establishes a definite environmentally enhanced setting. It provides young children with a series of educational activities that utilize the robot refuse truck to convey information pertaining to environmental issues and highlight other information regarding holidays, languages, special community activities, etc. Conceptually, this delivery allows the children a natural sense of interest and yields a very positive result.

The Wyandotte Tribe Environmental Department is pleased to present this magical, innovative recycling project to our community, County, and State, as we are able to meet and communicate with the children as they talk and form camaraderie with RENIE the Robot.

Navajo Sedge

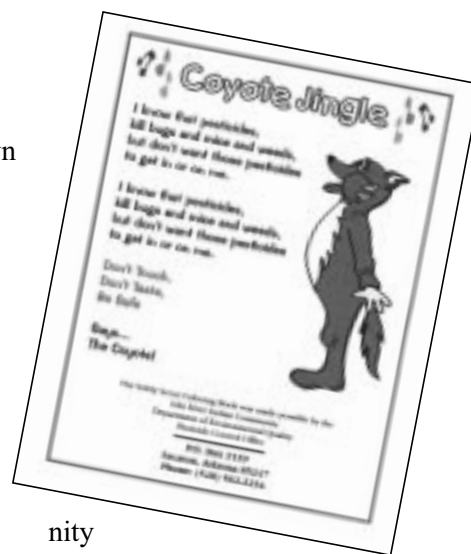


Gila River's Caution Coyote - Teaching Kids Pesticide Safety

The Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ), Pesticide Control Office has produced an award winning children's educational and awareness video entitled "Safety Scouts." This twenty-minute video uses a game show format to teach children about pesticide safety around the home, yard, school, and Tribal lands.

The video's target audience is primarily five to eight-year-old children. Nationwide, small children are at the greatest risk of accidental pesticide poisoning in the home. Their curious nature - leading them to play with the pesticide bottles and spray cans - increases their likelihood of exposure, and their growing bodies are particularly susceptible to the toxic effects of these chemicals. The video features three children from Gila River along with emcee, Herb A. Cide, and mascot Caution Coyote singing a catchy pesticide safety jingle. As part of the GRIC DEQ Pesticide Office

safety program, staff have shown the video to school children throughout the Community. Once the video presentation is completed, DEQ staff ask the children questions about what they have learned from the video. The highlight of the presentation is a special "live" visit by Caution Coyote (a staff person in costume). The Pesticide Control Office staff busily hands out "Safety Scouts" coloring books, crayons, and Caution Coyote "Don't Touch, Don't Taste, Be Safe" stickers. The books and stickers were specifically designed to coordinate with the video presentations and to reinforce the safety message. The "Safety Scouts" children's video has won two national awards. The awards, presented at the "21st Annual Telly Awards" this year, were won in the category of Education and Safety. The Gila River Pesticide Office designed the "Safety Scouts" video to make an impression on the young children of their commu-



nity with the hope that they will take this information home to share with their family. The video may also help other pesticide and environmental programs to educate the children in their communities about pesticide safety. In addition, the video and "Safety Scouts" program has been an excellent mechanism to build relationships with the schools. These relationships are part of the overall effort to work with the schools on reducing the need for and use of pesticides through integrated pest management (IPM) approaches.

Help the EPA Save Endangered Species



Grey Wolf

“Endangered Species Picture Book” lauded by Family Circle Magazine and Available Free from OPP ESPP

Family Circle magazine recently highlighted the “Endangered Species Picture Book” as number one on a list of “Great Freebies from Uncle Sam.” This book is published by the Office of Pesticide Programs’ (OPP) Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP) and is one of the most-requested publications in EPA’s history.

The Picture Book introduces 21 endangered and threatened plants and animals found in the United States. It features oceans, swamps, deserts, and islands and brings to life a variety of plants, animals, and wildlife. The plants and animals depicted are not necessarily threatened by pesticides; however, they do represent the many different species ESPP is working to protect.

In addition to the Picture Book, ESPP provides other information regarding endangered species. Children may also be interested in the “Save Our Species” poster, which provides general information as well as pictures and species descriptions. For many pesticide users, ways to use pesticides with minimum risks to endangered species is available in the form of county-specific bulletins. For general information, a series of fact sheets is available on domestic endangered and threatened species.



For more information, visit the ESPP web site at <http://www.epa.gov/espp>, call the Endangered Species Information Line at 1-800-447-3813, or write:

Endangered Species Protection Program
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (7506C)
Washington, DC 20460



Amber Darter

EPA Can Help You Protect Endangered Species on Tribal Lands

Feedback from Indian Country tells us that some Tribes have an interest in endangered species issues. OPP has a place where you can go for more information and help. OPP is home to the Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP). This interim, voluntary program works with Tribes, States, other federal agencies and many others to reach two goals:

To protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats from the use of pesticides, and to minimize the impact of the program on pesticide users. The ESPP functions in a variety of ways, including:

- placing generic statements on pesticide labels;
- developing and distributing county-level bulletins that contain maps of species locations and pesticide use limitations to protect those species;
- maintaining data bases of information on endangered species; and
- maintaining a toll-free telephone number that the public can call to obtain bulletins, fact sheets and other information on endangered species.

You have many options for protecting endangered species on Tribal lands, as long as the approach meets the two ESPP goals. You may use the federal approach, based on county bulletins, or develop your own protection plans based on whatever approach you are most comfortable with, such as land-management plans.

If your Tribe chooses to use county bulletins, you would be part of the bulletin-review process, along with other State and federal agencies. You would be encouraged to include your Tribal agencies oriented toward agriculture, fish and wildlife, pesticide users, and other interested Tribal groups in the review process.

Integrated Pest Management in Schools Helps Keep Children Safe from Pesticide Risks

One of EPA's highest priorities is protecting children's health from unnecessary exposure to pesticides that are used in schools to control pests. EPA is encouraging school officials to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to reduce children's exposure to pesticides.

IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Understanding pest needs is essential to implementing IPM effectively. Pests seek habitats that provide basic needs such as air, moisture, food, and shelter. Pest populations can be prevented or controlled by creating inhospitable environments, by removing some of the basic elements pests need to survive, or by simply blocking their access into buildings. Pests may also be managed by other methods such as traps, vacuums, or pesticides. An efficient IPM program can be integrated with the school's existing pest management plan and other school management activities, such as preventive maintenance, janitorial practices,

landscaping, occupant education, and staff training. The following steps are required to develop an IPM decision network:

- **Step 1:** Develop an official IPM policy statement. This useful first step in making the transition from a conventional pesticide program to an IPM program goes beyond simply stating a commitment to support and implement an IPM approach.
- **Step 2:** Designate pest management roles for occupants, pest management personnel, and key-decision-makers; assure good communication among them; and educate or train the people involved in their respective roles.
- **Step 3:** Set pest management objectives for the site(s). For every site, pest management objectives will differ.
- **Step 4:** Inspect site(s) and identify and monitor pest populations for potential problems.
- **Step 5:** Set action thresholds. These are the levels of pest populations or site environmental conditions that require remedial action.
- **Step 6:** Apply IPM strategies to control pests. These include redesigning and repairing structures, improving sanitation, employing pest-resistant plant varieties, establishing watering and mowing practices, and applying pesticides judiciously.



Ganado Navajo Reservation elementary School in AZ.

- **Step 7:** Evaluate results to determine if pest management objectives are reached, and keep written records of all aspects of the program.

EPA is helping schools understand and implement IPM through the distribution of printed publications, grants to start IPM programs, workshops and courses and guidance and assistance through partnerships with universities and national associations.

For more information, you can visit EPA's National Directory of IPM in Schools at <http://www.epa.gov/reg5foia/pest/matilla/ipm.htm>, which provides information about state IPM programs, including state IPM contacts. The University of Florida's IPM Web site at <http://gnv2.ifas.ufl.edu/~schoolipm/> is designed to assist schools and other organizations to develop pesticide stewardship programs. You may also contact Kathy Seikel of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs at (703)-308-5891 or seikel.kathy@epa.gov.

Fun for Kids from Todd the Wyoming Toad

Hello, Kids! My name is Todd the Wyoming Toad and I'm here to introduce you to my many threatened and endangered friends. My species has been on the Earth since the great glaciers of the Ice Age disappeared more than 12,000 years ago. In my time, I've seen many species come and go, and even today there are hundreds of endangered or threatened species in the United States. Endangered species are plants and animals that are so rare they are in danger of becoming extinct. Threatened species are plants and animals whose numbers are very low or decreasing rapidly. If we don't try to help these species survive, we might never see them again in the wild!

How sad would it be if we never saw some of our winged friends, such as the Mission Blue **butterfly**, ever again? Where would we be without the beautiful Mississippi Sandhill **crane**, who can dance in great circles? It's true that all of us would have to peck our own holes without the Red-Cockaded **woodpecker**. Although Attwater's Greater Prairie **chicken** might get on your nerves with their booming loud songs, it would be a shame to live without their wonderful spring parties where they sing and dance up a storm. And what would we do if we never got to ride on the back of our national bird and my personal toad taxi, the Bald **eagle**, who can fly through the air at 100 miles per hour and see more than a mile away?

Down deep in the ocean, there are animals and plants that are endangered as well. There is the tornado-shaped Shortnose **sturgeon**, who swims 100 miles upstream to lay eggs, and the Leopard **darter**, who eats up insects as they dart through rivers in the wink of an eye. Even though the Dwarf Wedge **mussel** is small and hard to find, we might never find them again if they become extinct! And how would we wake from our dreams if the Nashville **crayfish** couldn't pinch anymore? Have you ever seen a sea animal as big as a car? Well, I have... the Florida **manatee** is 10 feet long and also on the endangered species list.

There are bigger land mammals that are very rare, such as the Florida **panther** and the humongous Grizzly **bear**. Even reptiles, such as Monito **geckos** who walk upside-down and the hibernating Desert **tor-toise**, can be endangered. When was the last time you saw an Eastern Indigo **snake**? And what would I do without some of my bug friends, like

the Valley Elderberry Longhorn **beetle**? I bet you forgot that even plants can be threatened and endangered! The Mauna Kea **silversword** from Hawaii, the Black Lace **cactus** from Texas, and the insect-eating Green Pitcher **plant** are all examples of plants that are endangered.

Now that I've introduced you to some of my friends I haven't seen in awhile, I hope you can help me find them in the word search below. Search for the bold-faced names of my friends and circle them in the word search. When you're finished, the unused letters will spell out a secret message found on another page of this newsletter!

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES



Mark Your Calendars!

September 2000

27-28

Meeting of Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC)

Winter Lodge, Yakama Nation
Toppenish, Washington
Lillian Wilmore, TPPC
Coordinator
(617) 232-5743 or
NAEcology@aol.com

October 2000

22-24

OPPT FOSTTA Meeting Tribal Affairs Workgroup

Alexandria, VA
Holiday Inn - Old Town
Darlene Harrod
202-260-6904

November 2000

9-11

AISES 22nd Annual AISES National Conference

Portland, OR
Portland (Convention Center)
505-765-1052 or info@aises.org
or www.aises.org

12-17

National Congress of American Indians NCAI 57th Session

St. Paul, MN
NCAI Offices
Washington, DC
202-466-7767

EPA Web Sites and Hot Lines

EPA	www.epa.gov
OPP	www.epa.gov/pesticides/
OPPT	www.epa.gov/opptintr
Pollution Prevention	www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home
American Indian Environmental Office	www.epa.gov/indian
Asbestos Ombudsman Hotline	1-800-368-5888
EPCRA Hotline	1-800-535-0202
Lead Hotline	1-800-532-3394
National Pesticide Telecommunication (NPTN) Hotline	www.ace.orst.edu/info/nptn 1-800-858-7378
TSCA Hotline	202-554-1404

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(748)

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