

What's Hot!



February 2013

Annual Forestry & Fire Meeting

The Pacific Regional Office, Branch of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management will be hosting its annual meeting as follows:

April 9–11, 2013 (beginning at 9:30 a.m. on April 9)

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, California 95825

In order to finalize our agenda your participation is needed. On day two, the Pacific Regional Office is requesting that tribal organizations, tribes, and agencies provide presentations on what we can do or are doing to promote the protection and improvement of Indian Trust assets in California.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs
Division of Natural Resources
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: (916) 978-6000
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Please Help Us With The Annual Indian Forestry and Wildland Fire Management Meeting

We are looking for Agency, Tribes, Tribal Organizations, Indian people, and cooperators to provide presentations and ideas on what they would like to present and hear at the meeting that will be held at our office on April 9–11, 2013. On day 2 and 3 we will have two meeting rooms available and we will try to schedule sessions to meet the needs of the meetings participants. Once we receive your comments we will provide a more detailed agenda and “sign-up sheets” so we can schedule the appropriate meeting room for the sessions requested.

Please provide responses to the following:

Day 2

Presenter: _____

Topic: _____

Time Slot Required: _____

Or

Topic that you would like presented: _____

Please have these Responses back to us by March 5, 2013.

Mail: 2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825
Attn: Vanessa Jordan

FAX: (916) 978-6081
Attn: Vanessa Jordan

<h1>Agenda</h1>	<p>Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific Region Annual Forestry and Fire Meeting 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825</p> <p>April 9-11, 2013</p>	
Agenda Topics		
<p>9:30 a.m. Welcome 9:45 a.m. Planning New Guidance, Partnerships (Gerald Jones) 10:45 a.m. Break. 11:00 a.m. Timber Sale Contract, Permit and Timber Trespass Updates Including B Provisions, Handbooks and Carbon Agreements (John Baskette) 12:00 p.m. Lunch 1:00 p.m. Implementing the Plan (Gerald Jones) 2:00 p.m. Break 2:15 p.m. NEPA compliance (Jay Hinshaw) 2:45 p.m. Cultural Resources 3:45 p.m. Break 4:00 p.m. Fuels, Other Grant Applications, and Handbook Discussions (Gerald Jones) 5:00 p.m. Adjourn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2 (Agency, Tribal Organizations, Tribes, Requests and Regional Presentations) <u>DRAFT (Please Provide Request/Participation Form by March 5, 2013)</u></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Pacific Region Strategic Plan 9:00 a.m. Fuels Management Program/Projects (Josh Simmons) 10:00 a.m. Break 10:15 a.m. Fire Prevention Plans a General Overview (Jim Nanamkin, Soledad Holguin) 11:15 p.m. Regional Fire Update from the National Interagency Fire Center (Ron Recker, Yvonne Jones) 12:00 p.m. Lunch 1:30 p.m. TBA (Tribal Org., Tribe, Agency Requests/Presentations) 5:00 p.m. Adjourn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DAY 3 (Wildland Fire Prevention Workshop) (Jim Nanamkin, Soledad Holguin) DRAFT</p> <p>8:30 a.m. This workshop will provide information on how to develop individual Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), Community Assistance guidelines and how to obtain recognition as a Firewise Community. 5:00 p.m. Adjourn</p>		

Emergency Management News

Good news! The Pacific Region will soon have an Emergency Management Coordinator. The catch is that this position will be shared with BIA's Northwest Region and the position will be physically located in Portland, Oregon – so in reality this is effectively less than a half-time position for our Region. The Pacific Region has been requesting this position for nearly 10 years and it seems that the request will soon be met, in part, despite the current budgetary pressures in Washington. The Emergency Management Coordinator will help improve emergency communications and coordination and will help tribes to build all-hazard emergency management planning and response capacities through training, partnerships, and other means. The person hired will be expected to respond nationwide to major incidents such as fire storms, flooding, hurricanes, etc.

The newly-formed (inter) Tribal Emergency Management Association (iTEMA) is co-sponsoring its very first conference entitled ***Native American Guns and Hoses Emergency Services and Management Conference***. It will be held March 20-22 at the Hyatt French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information, visit the NativeNationEvents.org website. Attendees can expect to hear the latest information on Communication/Collaboration, Social Media in Emergency Management, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), Funding/Grants, Training Sessions, Drugs and Gang Violence, Technology/Software, National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance and Case Studies.

For information about BIA's emergency management and continuity of operations activities, contact Jay Hinshaw at (916) 978-6021.

Communication

We are constantly trying to improve our capabilities to provide information to tribal leaders and their staff. One valuable contact database that we often turn to is the Indian Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources National Directory of Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal & Tribal Organization Offices published by the Intertribal Timber Council.

(www.itcnet.org and click on [Indian Forestry & Natural Resources National Directory](#))

If you need to make changes to your listing, fill out this form and return to Vanessa Jordan by March 29, 2013:

Indian Forestry & Natural Resources National Directory

Organization Name:			Department (optional):	
Mailing address:			Street address (optional):	
City:	State:	Zip:		
Telephone:		Fax:	Website:	
Department/Section	Title	Employee Name	Email Address	Phone Number

Fax to (916) 978-6078 ATTN: Vanessa Jordan

E-mail to vanessia.jordan@bia.gov

OR

US Mail to Bureau of Indian Affairs,
 Vanessa Jordan
 2800 Cottage Way,
 Sacramento CA 95825

New Regional Guidance Regarding Planning

Currently there are two completed handbooks and one draft handbook that provides guidance on land use planning. Our efforts have focused on amending the “Forest Planning Handbook”.

Planning Guidance	Resources Focus	Policy Filing Designation	Additional Guidance
Forest Planning Handbook	Natural Resources (25 USC 3101 et seq.)	53 IAM Chapter 2	Section 2.5 (2 transmittals) Regional Addendum (new)
Integrated Resource Management Planning (read “annotated manual”)	Natural Resources Developed Resources (not current w/laws)	30 BIA Supplement 10 (Manual included w/Supp.)	<i>found on BIA Programs Disk: Indian Rules/Policies /Part 53/Chapter 2</i>
Agriculture & Range	Developed Resources	Draft (<i>found on Indian Programs Disk in folder Ag. & Range</i>)	<i>The Region has included Ag./Range guidance as Part of 53 IAM 2-H above</i>
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Animals and Fish	56 IAM (no handbook) Recommends Integrated Resource Management Planning	EO 13443 promoted hunting on Indian Land, included in 56 IAM folder on the BIA programs

The new transmittal/approval for the 53 IAM 2-H was issued on January 11, 2013 and provides included a number of illustrations.

The new guidance focuses on the process of resource management planning.

In general, Indian land use plans have these basic elements:

- Inventory of resource
- Goals and objective
- Develop methods to protect and improve resource to meet goals and objectives
- Provide for yields of Indian assets for Indian beneficiaries
- Select management alternative (environmental compliance) approve plan

Land use laws, regulation, policies, handbooks and plans are important in implementing beneficial project that protect and improve Indian Trust. Please, ensure that your management plans are approved and are kept current.

Local Geographic Wildland Fire Annual Operating Plans and the USFS

This is a great year to get involved in coordinated planning with the USFS. On May 9th of 2012 a new implementation regulation was approved (36 C.F.R. § 219.4(a)2) for:

43 U.S.C. §1712(b) which provides:

Coordination of plans for National Forest System lands with Indian land use planning and management program for purposes of development and revision. In the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary of Agriculture shall coordinate land use plans for lands in the National Forest System with the land use planning and management programs of and for Indian tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved tribal land resource management programs.

In addition, in 2004 the Tribal Assets Protection (25 USC 3115(a)) which protects Indian assets from wildland fires from USFS and BLM lands was added to 25 USC Chapter 33 the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act. Indian owners across California have resource management plans approved by our office. Many Tribes have wildland fire programs or other programs that can support wildland fire operations. The current "California Fire Master Agreement" which mandates local geographic wildland fire annual operating plans was recently extended. These annual operating plans are due to Regional/State offices by May 15th of each year, so please get involved. The annual operating plans can be found in word format on the BIA Programs Disk as follows:

Fire\Fire Agreements\Annual Operating Plans\Blank California Operating Plan

Recently our office provided a series of "dear tribal leader" letters regarding preparation for the upcoming fire season. The guidance included new medical standards, motor vehicle operations, drug testing of emergency fire fighters, and federal hiring requirements of emergency fire fighters.

Forest Product Harvesting Policies

An effort to revise the Timber Sale and Forest Product Harvesting Permit Handbooks (53 IAM Volume 3 and 53 IAM Volume 4) began last year. A number of planning meetings were held and significant progress was made on this effort. During the process of this undertaking it became apparent to the group that it would make sense to complete several older related projects including an update of the Timber Sale Part B Standard Provisions, and the 53 IAM Volume 0 Forestry Collections and Distributions Handbook. A need to completely revise forest product harvesting permit documents and to add guidance related to tribal Forest Enterprises was also identified and begun.

The effort to revise the Part B Standard Timber Sale Provisions began at least 5 years ago. Pacific Region Forestry staff and tribes provided comments on several drafts which received heavy mark up from Central Office Solicitors. This project had been at a stand-still for several years but was picked up by the working team and a draft is currently available for comment through March 6, 2013.

53 IAM Volume 0 revision is another project that has been in progress for several years. At the recommendation of the handbook revision committee the Chief Forester, Bill Downes has obtained the services of Bob Ford who retired from the BIA as a Senior Forester at BIA Central Office in D.C. Bob was the primary author of the first two versions of the Volume 0 handbook. The hope with Bob placing a concentrated effort on revision of this handbook is to have a completed draft by the end of May, 2013.

Realistically completion of these combined efforts will continue into next fall and winter. John Baskette, Pacific Regional Timber Sales Officer is a member of the handbook team and will continue to participate in this process. John will present additional information on these efforts at our Regional meeting scheduled for April 9-11, 2013. The draft B provisions, draft Collections and Distributions Handbook, and draft combined Volume 3 and 4 handbook in their state as of this writing are available on the programs DVD filed at Timber Sales, Timber Sale Policy, Documents for Review. Please feel free to direct any questions or comments to John via email john.baskette@bia.gov, or phone (916) 978-6080.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY
IDEAS,
SUGGESTIONS,
or FEEDBACK
FOR THIS NEWSLETTER
PLEASE LET US KNOW!**



The Pacific Region will continue to provide tribes with updated Natural Resources Programs CD's on an annual basis. If your tribe would like to receive an updated BIA Natural Resources CD that contains all of the information in this newsletter, including information on all our programs and more, please contact:

Krysta Zunie, Forestry Office Assistant at
(916) 978-6075 or email krysta.zunie@bia.gov

Find us on Facebook

BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management now has a Facebook page. We post relevant articles, announcements, meetings and job announcements on the page.



Search BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

Centralized Internet Website for Indian Services Provided by Federal Agencies

This website (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nativeamericans/resources>) provides a synopsis of services provided by federal agencies and a link to their sites.

In an effort to provide information to tribes and partners, our office has issued an annual publication of the "BIA Natural Resources Programs CD". The Bureau of Indian Affairs recently has established a website and our Region has a webpage available at:

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/Pacific/index.htm>

Security and access to post items on the website will require time to get the site to operate at its potential. Therefore, please utilize this CD as you would a well developed web site in the interim; The CD, like the internet, contains a large quantity of information.

*If you have trouble finding what you are looking for on the CD, review the document "**Conducting a Search of the Forestry Programs CD**" which is located in the "**About this CD**" folder.