



Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office Newsletter

Welcome



Greetings all tribal members and staff. Welcome to the first issue of the Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office newsletter. Over the past year there has been a

lot going on with our program and our hope with this newsletter is to inform the tribes of our involvement with different programs and activities through out the state.

We hope to get feed back from you on what issues need to be addressed and

what you would like to read about in each article.

On the last page of this issue, we provided a brief background of our program and we hope this helps you to understand more about what our office does on a daily basis.

Please feel free at any time to contact our office with any comments and concerns you might have. So on behalf of our office, thank you for reading this quarterly newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading and hope to hear from you soon.

Natives Impacted by Mining Conference Update



EP Minerals Tour Group, 2009

On September 22-24, 2009 the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office sponsored a conference to gain knowledge of concerns on mining impacts within the state of Nevada. There were 42 individuals in attendance during the three day conference. Participants included a verity of different tribes, state agencies and federal entities.

The proceedings and presentations from the conference can be found on the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Agencies' website at:

<http://ndep.nv.gov/tribe/tlp.htm>

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Inter-Tribal Emergency Response Commission



Over the past month few months the Tribal State Environmental Liaison office has been working with the 27 tribes in Nevada in development of the Inter-Tribal Emergency Response Commission, (ITERC).

The ITERC works directly under the Indian Health Board of Nevada and has spent most of this past year developing the commission.

“Emergency Managers Meeting, 8/12/2009, Fallon

The Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office has contributed to the ITERC in the following ways: facilitation of meetings, attendance and support. We are very excited by the progress they have all made over this past year and can't wait to see the success that is in the future.

Children’s Environmental Science Day, 2009

This year the Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office volunteered during the 10th annual Children's Environmental Science Day. The event was located at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center in Incline Village, NV. During the course of the day 30 different activities were offered to more than 200 people who were in attendance.

The Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office was able to run a microscope station during the event. During this activity our program assisted children with looking at different types of materials and even some living things. The favorite thing for most of the children to look at were blood worms. They were in the larva state of the non-biting midge. The reason they are called blood worms is because their blood plasma contains hemoglobin which is also found in human blood. The hemoglobin increases their ability to take in oxygen.

Judging by the excitement in the children's and parent’s voices as well as the smiles on their faces, they had a wonderful time and it was great for our office to be able to take part in this event. The goal over the next years of our program is to assist with environmental events. Our office strives to be involved in the communities so that our office services will be utilized.



Children’s Environmental Science Day Photos

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Convention, 2009

On November 16-19, 2009 the Inter Tribal Council of Nevada held their 44th Annual Convention. The theme for this years convention was “Sustaining Our Future”. The general sessions were held on November 17th and 18th for everyone to attend. There were a variety of speakers from a wide range of organizations who work with the tribes. Some of the speakers included Honorable Judge William Thorne, Jr. who is president of the National Indian Justice Center. The topic of his speech was “Why ICWA is not enough”. Other speakers were Sherry Rupert from the Nevada Indian Commission and Tansey Smith from ITCN, Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office.

Each day also included a variety of workshops to choose from which included talks from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Statewide Native American Coalition. The final day ended with a luncheon banquet prepared by the Circus-Circus staff.

To attend this years ITCN convention was a great experience for everyone who participated. It is really exciting to see where ITCN is headed over these next few years and to be able to hear about all the great activities they currently administer.



Climate Change on Tribal Lands, 2009

On November 2-5, 2009 the Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office attended the Climate Change on Tribal Lands training in Flagstaff Arizona. As a cooperative effort between Northern Arizona University and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the America Indian Air Quality Training program (AIAQTP) seeks to fulfill the mandate of the 1990 Clean Air Act to offer Native American tribes full partnership in the management of air quality on tribal lands. The purpose

of this training is that these two groups recognize that any training program provided to Native Americans must be sensitive to their cultural heritage.

The courses they offered at this training was grouped into three levels based on their complexity. The AIAQTP endeavors to meet that criterion as well as provide the requisite knowledge and skills for air quality program managers and technical personnel.



ITEP

institute for tribal environmental professionals



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Mission Statement and Background

In 2003 discussions about creating the Nevada Tribal Liaison Program was initiated by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 Tribal program, and the Nevada Division of Environmental protection. These discussions took place after conclusion of the first "Native Impacted by Mining" meeting. The outcome of the meeting made it clear there was a need for expanded coordination and understanding between state and environmental regulators and the tribes.

The Nevada Tribal Environmental Managers met and developed a work plan along with a proposed job description for a Tribal Liaison position to be housed at NDEP. In January of 2003, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) submitted a grant to US EPA to support the new program. The grant was funded in November of 2003.

A Memorandum of Understanding was subsequently signed on February

6, 2004 between ITCN and NDEP. The Memorandum states that the tribes through ITCN will work with NDEP on environmental issues that have impacts to tribes.

Tansey K. Smith was selected for the position. Tansey is a member of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and she is a descendent from the Pyramid Lake Region, Western Shoshone and Navajo. The Tribal State Environmental Liaison Office has made strides throughout many different areas. The relationship has grown over the past five years. Tansey and her staff has shown their dedication to this effort and is one of the main reasons the program has been so successful.

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