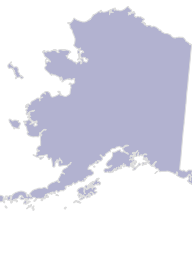


## NEWS

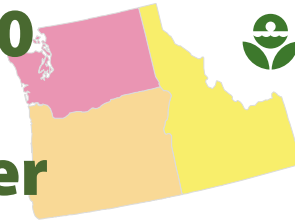
The Tribal Newsletter  
is published free monthly  
To receive a copy, call:

AK: Santina ..... 907-271-3413  
ID: Jim ..... 208-378-5691  
OR: Don ..... 503-326-5015  
WA: Alison ..... 360-753-8185

## LETTER



# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



**EPA**  
United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Vol. 24 No. 12  
December 2014

<http://www2.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-newsletter>

## Conferences and Workshops

### December

- 7 – 11**     **Water Quality Standards Academy**, Washington DC  
Contact **Erin Cabral** at 508-833-6600
- 8 – 10**     **Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting**, Seattle, WA  
Contact **JR Herbst** at 206-553-2116 or [herbst.john@epa.gov](mailto:herbst.john@epa.gov)

### February

- 8 – 12**     **Alaska Forum on the Environment**, Anchorage, AK <http://www.akforum.org>
- 11 – 13**     **15th Annual New Partners for Small Growth Conference**, Portland, OR. Early-bird rates are available through December 4. <https://newpartners.org>

### April

- 19 – 21**     **ITEP Climate Change Adaptation Training**, Anchorage, AK  
<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/docs/training/cc/Ancmt-CCAdaptAK-1604.pdf>

### May

- 17 – 19**     **National Tribal Forum on Air Quality**, Niagara Falls, NY. Hosted by the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.  
[http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_ntf](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf)

### June

- 6 – 10**     **2016 International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology**, Houston, TX. Sponsored by the American Academy of Sciences.  
<http://www.AASci.org/conference/env/2016/index.html>

## More Information

For more information on EPA Tribal trainings, webinars, grants and opportunities for Tribal consultation, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal>

## Climate Change Webinars, Conferences and Trainings

For a calendar of climate change and water-related trainings, conferences, and webinars, visit <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/climatechange/Calendar-of-Events.cfm>

## Tribal Energy Calendar of Events

This calendar lists upcoming events in Indian Country sponsored by DOE and a variety of government agencies, associations, and organizations. <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/events.cfm>

## Top News

### President Obama Awards Presidential Medal of Freedom to Billy Frank, Jr. and William Ruckelshaus



*Billy Frank, Jr.*

President Barack Obama has named seventeen recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, including Billy Frank, Jr. (posthumous award). The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. The awards were presented at the White House on November 24.

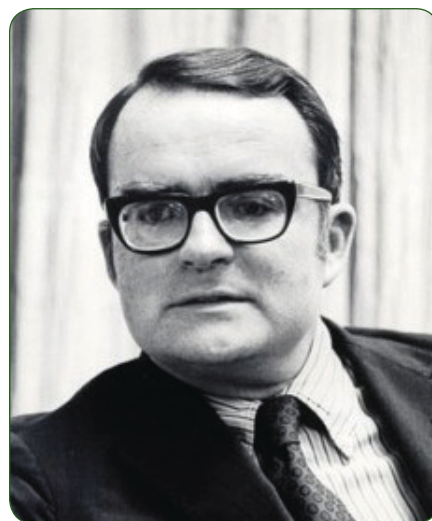
**Billy Frank, Jr.** was a tireless advocate for Indian treaty rights and environmental stewardship, whose activism paved the way

for the "Boldt decision," which reaffirmed tribal co-management of salmon resources in the state of Washington. Frank led effective "fish-ins" that were modeled after sit-ins of the civil rights movement, during the tribal "fish wars" of the 1960s and 1970s.

His magnetic personality and tireless advocacy over more than five decades made him a revered figure both domestically and abroad. Frank was the recipient of many awards, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award for Humanitarian Achievement. Frank left in his wake an Indian Country strengthened by greater sovereignty and a nation fortified by his example of service to one's community, his humility, and his dedication to the principles of human rights and environmental sustainability.

Also receiving a Presidential Medal of Freedom is **William Ruckelshaus**, a dedicated public servant who has worked tirelessly to protect public health and combat global challenges like climate change.

As the first and fifth Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, under Presidents Nixon and Reagan, he not only shaped the guiding principles of the agency, but also worked diligently to bring the public into the decision making process.



*William Ruckelshaus*

## Climate Change News

### EPA Highlights State Water Agencies' Innovative Practices to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts

The EPA is highlighting innovative practices of state water agencies to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts. These state practices can be a resource for other state agencies, as well as local and tribal governments, seeking to engage in climate adaptation efforts within their own water programs. EPA intends to identify additional best practices over time to help sustain collaboration and sharing of information across state water agencies. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/cTMyA>

### Monthly Climate Conditions

This interactive map displays data for each of the 344 climate divisions in the U.S. Climate Divisional Database. View maps of monthly or yearly values, ranks, or anomalies for temperature, precipitation, heating and cooling degree days, and drought. <https://www.climate.gov/maps-data/dataset/monthly-climate-conditions-interactive-map>

### Climate Change State Resource Locator

Use this tool to locate state climate change resources. You will find links to state climate change main pages, state action plans, climate policies and more. <http://www.envcap.org/statetools/index.cfm>

### Online Tribal Climate Change Guide

A revised Tribal Climate Change Guide, which is part of the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project, is now online at <http://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu>

The guide includes a searchable funding guide, as well as new searchable features for tribal climate adaptation plans, planning resources, climate programs, climate scientists and publications focused on indigenous peoples and climate change.

### Sqigwts.org: Maintaining Traditional Knowledge when Adapting to Environmental Change

Sqigwts.org is a "proof-in-concept," interactive 3-D Landscape project, developed through a collaboration between members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, including elders, and cultural and language experts, and members of the University of Idaho, including faculty in ethnography, natural resources, data management, and virtual world design.

Funding was provided by the Department of the Interior Northwest Climate Science Center and the USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center. The project seeks to share best practices in bridging traditional knowledge and western science in climate change research. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and University of Idaho developed intellectual property agreements to ensure protections for traditional knowledge that was designated as confidential during the project. Go to <https://www.sqigwts.org/invitation>.

A summary of Sqigwts.org is posted at: <http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/network>  
For more info, visit <https://www.sqigwts.org>

## Nominations for Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science

Nominations MUST be received by **January 15, 2016**

ACCCNRS advises the Secretary of the Interior on the operations of the USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center and the DOI Climate Science Centers. ACCCNRS is composed of 25 members that represent:

1. State and local governments, including state membership entities
2. Nongovernmental organizations
3. American Indian tribes and other Native American entities
4. Academia
5. Landowners, businesses, and organizations representing landowners or businesses

Send nominations to: **Robin O'Malley**, National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mail Stop 516, Reston, VA, 20192. Go to [nccwsc@usgs.gov](mailto:nccwsc@usgs.gov). Please review the Federal Register Notice for complete information about the nomination process. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/cTMuk>

## Climate Boot Camp to Address Tribal Needs and Concerns Related to Climate Change

Climate change has a direct and evident impact on Native American tribal communities by disrupting local economies and traditional cultures. Members of tribes from across the US will convene at the University of Idaho's McCall Field Campus in June 2016 for the first-ever National Tribal Climate Boot Camp. Go to <http://bit.ly/1Nz8NkF>

## Alaska Policy and Climate Adaptation Webinar Series

Water Policy Consulting, LLC, ACCAP, and tribal environmental and climate change professionals throughout the country are offering the Winter 2015-16 Policy & Climate Adaptation Mitigation and Planning for Alaska Natives webinars series. The series will demonstrate how Native Villages and other communities in Alaska can apply state, federal and tribal policies to address climate change impacts on water and subsistence resources through water resource management and protection, land and water rights, sovereignty and other resiliency and mitigation strategies.

Upcoming webinars include:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>January 5</b>   | Strategies for Strengthening Alaska Native Village Roles in Natural Resource Management |
| <b>January 19</b>  | Tribal Sovereignty & Climate Change for Alaska Natives                                  |
| <b>February 17</b> | Water Policy & Climate Change for Alaska Natives  |
| <b>March 8</b>     | Human Rights & Climate Change   |
| <b>April 13</b>    | Environmental Code Development for Alaska Natives                                       |

To register, go to <http://bit.ly/1S9MAuR>

*This newsletter contains information from multiple sources including tribes, newspapers, and other sources. Any information or opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the United States or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

## Climate News Briefs

### Climate Science and Observations

**Study Finds Global Temperature Increase of 3 degrees C Would Cause Antarctic Ice Shelves to Disappear:** <http://bit.ly/1ldT551>

**Scientists Confirm that Alaskan Wildfires Could Make Global Warming Worse**  
<http://wapo.st/1SeVW8K>

**Permafrost Warming in Parts of Alaska 'is Accelerating'**  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34540414>

**Greenland Is Melting Away**  
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/10/27/world/greenland-is-melting-away.html>

**El Niño Could Push CO2 Permanently Above Milestone**  
<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/el-nino-could-push-co2-above-milestone-19605>

**New report finds human-caused climate change increased the severity of many extreme events in 2014**  
<http://go.usa.gov/cbSNh>

### Impacts - Agriculture/Food Supply

**Climate Change Affecting Way Southeast Alaska's Native Communities Harvest and Gather Traditional Foods**  
<http://bit.ly/1S9MAuR>

**Drought-driven Salmon Deaths Could have Far-reaching Impact**  
<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Drought-driven-salmon-deaths-could-have-6596901.php>

### Impacts - Ecosystems

**Mapping the Tip of Yellow Cedar's Expanding Range**  
<http://www.hcn.org/articles/is-this-climate-change-battered-conifer-migrating-northward-1>

**Mammals will Huddle Together with Warming Climate**  
[http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060026635/climate\\_digest](http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060026635/climate_digest)

**Climate Change, Wildfire Seen Transforming Northwest Forests**  
<http://www.opb.org/news/article/climate-change-and-wildfire-seen-transforming-northwest-forests>

**9 Critters impacted by Climate Change**  
<https://www.doi.gov/blog/9-animals-are-feeling-impacts-climate-change>

### Adaptation/Mitigation

**Climate Resistant Agriculture: SP1 Gene De-stresses Plants, Making Them More Resilient to Harsh Conditions**  
<http://bit.ly/21cr4vr>

**How to Manage Fire to Cut Pollution and Slow Climate Change**  
[slow-climate-change/?\\_r=0](http://slow-climate-change/?_r=0)

**Global Warming Linked to Health of Children**  
<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1002233>

**Creating Corals that can Survive Climate Change**  
<http://wapo.st/1LvCFKt>



## Training

### EPA Climate Adaptation Online Training

This self-paced training developed by the EPA is an online module to help local government officials take actions to increase their communities resiliency to a changing climate.

<http://www2.epa.gov/communityhealth/local-government-climate-adaptation-training>

### ITEP Air Program Training

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program provides training and educational outreach for tribal environmental staff all over the United States, including Alaska.

Upcoming air trainings include:

#### 2016 AIAQTP Course Schedule (December 2015 - June 2016)

Course Title	Dates	Location	Course Level
Air Quality and IAQ in Alaska	Dec 8-11	Dillingham, AK	1
Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities	Dec 15-17	Catawba, SC	1
Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Diagnostic Tools (for lower 48)	Jan 12-15	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	2
Introduction to Tribal Air Quality	Jan 26-29	Flagstaff, AZ	1
Air Quality Computations	Feb 9-12	Phoenix, AZ	1
Air Pollution Technology	Mar 14-18	Flagstaff, AZ	2
Fundamentals of Air Monitoring (new)	April 5-7	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	2
GIS for Air Quality	April 26-28	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Diagnostic Tools for Alaska	April 26-29	Palmer, AK	2
Project Planning, QAPPs, and Grants for Alaska	TBD	AK	2
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality	May 17-19	Niagara Falls, NY	n/a
Air Pollution and Ecosystems	Jun 7-10	Flagstaff, AZ	2

**NOTE:** This schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date information, course descriptions, and applications please visit [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training\\_air/](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air/). For more information please contact **Lydia Scheer**, Program Coordinator, Sr, at 928-523-6887 or [Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu](mailto:Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu)

### EPA Office of Water, Clean Water Act Tribal Training

For a consolidated, centralized listing of training courses offered by EPA that will help Indian tribes develop and implement water quality programs consistent with the Clean Water Act, go to <http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining>

### EPA National Enforcement Training Institute or NETI

Go to EPA's online training resource site for access to NETI course registration, training products, online classrooms, and e-mail updates. Several recorded webinars are available. <http://go.usa.gov/39HwW>

## Funding

## FUNDING

### EPA General Assistance Program Grants

DUE DATE: **January 15**

EPA Region 10's Tribal Trust and Assistance Program is announcing the availability of General Assistance Program funds to support environmental capacity-building work in FY2017. Tribes and tribal consortia are eligible to apply.

Go to <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>

### Alaska DECS Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Program

DUE DATE: **5 p.m. Alaska time January 29, 2016**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) request period is now open for project work beginning in July 2016.

DEC continues to assist Alaskan communities across the state by conducting environmental site assessments and cleanups at qualifying brownfield sites. In 2015, our work included site assessments and assistance with a monofill landfill permit. DBAC services are intended to help reduce the environmental uncertainties or conditions that hinder the reuse or redevelopment of a brownfield.

DBAC objectives are:

- ▶ Help clarify whether an environmental problem is limiting a site's use or intended reuse or redevelopment;
- ▶ Help identify the nature and extent of contamination;
- ▶ Provide recommendations and estimate costs for additional assessment, if needed;
- ▶ Propose typical cleanup options and provide a general estimate of cleanup costs, if indicated; and
- ▶ When funding permits, conduct cleanup activities designed to enable reuse of a site.

In selecting projects, DEC looks for solid reuse or redevelopment plans and strong community support and commitment. For a fact sheet and application kit, go to

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/bf-dbac.htm>

CONTACT **Amy Rodman** at 907-465-5368 for assistance or additional information.

### EPA 2016 Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grants

DUE DATE: **December 18**

EPA is announcing the availability of funding for 2016 Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grants. These brownfields grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). Opportunities for funding are as follows: Brownfields Assessment Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years; Assessment Coalitions are funded up to \$600,000 over three years) and Brownfields Cleanup Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years). Please visit EPA's Brownfields website at

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

## FUNDING

## EPA Announces New Funding Opportunity: EJ Collaborative Problem Solving Grants

**DUE DATE: February 12, 2016**

The EPA is seeking applicants for a total of \$1.2 million in Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving cooperative agreements to be awarded in 2016.

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to local community-based organizations (including federally recognized tribal governments) seeking to address environmental and/or public health concerns in their communities through collaboration with other stakeholders, such as state and local governments, industry, academia and non-governmental organizations.

Organizations are encouraged to have a connection between the proposed project activities and applicable neighborhood, local, city, or regional land use planning efforts.

One award will be made per EPA region in amounts of up to \$120,000 per award for a two-year project period. Pre-Assistance calls have been scheduled to assist applicants.

Projects must use the Collaborative Problem Solving model, comprised of seven elements of a successful collaborative partnership, to address local environmental and/or public health issues.

**Environmental justice** is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race or income, in the environmental decision-making process. These awards represent EPA's commitment to promoting localized, community-based actions to address environmental justice issues. **For more information** about EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, go to <http://www3.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-cps-grants.html>

Read more about how to apply at

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=EPA-OECA-OEJ-16-01>

## BIA Funding Opportunities

BIA Project Funding (Grant) Proposals are due January 15, 2016 to **Anna Schmidt** or **David Redhorse** for the following:

- ▶ Endangered Species
- ▶ Invasive Species (non-agricultural)
- ▶ Fish Hatchery
- ▶ Tribal Youth

For a copy of the announcements, please contact

**Anna Schmidt** • 503-231-6808 • [anna.schmidt@bia.gov](mailto:anna.schmidt@bia.gov) or

**David Redhorse** • 503-231-6883 • [david.redhorse@bia.gov](mailto:david.redhorse@bia.gov)

## Helpful Links

### R10 Tribal Programs:

<http://www2.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>



**EPA on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/EPARegion10>



**Follow us @EPAnorthwest on Twitter!**

<https://twitter.com/EPAnorthwest>



## USDA Solid Waste Management Grants Funding Opportunity for Rural Areas

DEADLINE: **December 31**

Funds are available to help reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources through funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. Federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply.

Funds may be used to:

- ▶ Evaluate current landfill conditions to identify threats to water resources
- ▶ Provide technical assistance or training to enhance the operation and maintenance of active landfills
- ▶ Provide technical assistance or training to help communities reduce the amount of solid waste coming into a landfill
- ▶ Provide technical assistance or training to prepare for closure and future use of a landfill site

Grants **may not** be used to:

- Pay for capital assets, real estate, or vehicles
- Pay for construction, operation or maintenance

Matching funds are not required for this grant, however, applicant and in-kind contributions are recommended.

For more info, contact the Solid Waste Grant Manager in the National Office at 202-720-9589. Application materials are available at

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/solid-waste-management-grants>

## EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities

The following tribal consultation opportunities may be of interest to Region 10 Tribes. A full list of consultation opportunities is available at

<http://tcots.epa.gov/oita/tconsultation.nsf/TC?OpenView>

### Pre-CERCLA Screening Guidance

END DATE: **December 29**

LINK: <http://go.usa.gov/cjxKe>

CONTACT: **Randy Hippen** • [hippen.randy@epa.gov](mailto:hippen.randy@epa.gov) • 703-603-8829

or **Jessica Snyder** • [snyder.jessica@epa.gov](mailto:snyder.jessica@epa.gov) • 202-564-1478

### Proposed Renewal of the EPA's Pesticide General Permit

END DATE: **December 10**

LINK: <http://go.usa.gov/cjx9F>

CONTACT: **Prasad Chumble** • [chumble.prasad@epa.gov](mailto:chumble.prasad@epa.gov) • 202-564-0021

or **Felicia Wright** • [wright.felicia@epa.gov](mailto:wright.felicia@epa.gov) • 202-566-1886

## News

### EPA Engages Tribal Leaders on Environmental Challenges

The EPA continues its commitment to working collaboratively with our tribal partners to solve the unique environmental challenges facing tribal communities. On November 6, Acting Deputy Administrator Meiburg hosted the third annual Tribal Leaders Listening Session.

The many resulting action items include continuing the Agency's groundbreaking work on consultation and tribal treaty rights, and continuing to support the development of clean water standards.

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/epatribal/?fref=nf>



EPA leaders with tribal leaders at the 3rd Annual Tribal Leaders Listening Session in Washington DC

AEIO Photo

### EPA Extends Public Comment Period on Revision of Certain Federal Water Quality Criteria Applicable to Washington

EPA is extending the public comment period by 45 days for the proposed rule "Revision of Certain Federal Water Quality Criteria Applicable to Washington" (80 FR 55063, September 14, 2015) in response to requests from stakeholders. Additionally, EPA is announcing that it will offer virtual public hearings on the proposed rule via the Internet in December 2015. Comments must now be received on or before **December 28**. The comment period was originally scheduled to end on November 13.

EPA has proposed to revise the current federal Clean Water Act human health criteria applicable to waters under the state of Washington's jurisdiction to ensure that the criteria are set at levels that will adequately protect Washington residents, including tribes with treaty-protected rights, from exposure to toxic pollutants. For more information, contact Suzanne Skadowski, [skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov), 206-553-2160 or go to <http://www2.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-regulations-washington>

### EPA Launches New Tribal Website for Region 10

The EPA is making changes to our website to help you find information faster and easier by taking advantage of best web practices and new technologies. Our website is now organized around environmental topics instead of our organizational structure. With the changes, you can view web pages on mobile devices more easily. Historic information can be found in our archives. Some web links have been changed.

The EPA's new Tribal web page can be found at <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal>. Region 10's new tribal "homepage" is located at <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>. The site includes information on GAP, the RTOC, tribal consultation, and also includes a link to the tribal newsletter, now posted at <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-newsletter>

## Host Sites Needed for Summer Internship Program

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **January 22**

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals – Environmental Education Outreach Program at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, is seeking air quality focused offices and programs to host a college student for an 8-week summer internship. Tribal environmental offices, EPA offices, and other tribal environmental organizations are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/eeop/Internships/ssi\\_host](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/eeop/Internships/ssi_host)

## Presidential Memorandum on Natural Resources Mitigation Policy: Avoid, Minimize and Compensate

President Obama recently issued a Memorandum ordering five federal agencies (Departments of Interior, Defense, and Agriculture, EPA and NOAA) to issue strengthened policies for mitigation of impacts on natural resources.

- ▶ The Memorandum emphasizes avoidance and minimization of impacts, and encourages a landscape or watershed scale approach to mitigation.
- ▶ The Memorandum directs a “no-net loss” goal for land, water, wildlife and other natural resources managed by the agencies. It also directs agencies to identify “irreplaceable natural resources,” where development should be avoided.
- ▶ Private and public investment in advance compensation for adverse impacts, such as mitigation banks, is encouraged.

For more information, go to <http://go.usa.gov/cjabC>

## EPA and Partners Announce National Plan to Prevent Lung Cancer Deaths Due to Radon Exposure

The EPA, the American Lung Association and other partners announced a strategy for preventing 3,200 lung cancer deaths annually by 2020 through radon exposure reduction strategies. Exposure to radioactive radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in America. The goal to save these lives will be achieved by reducing high radon levels in five million homes, apartments, schools and childcare centers. The partnership includes three federal departments and agencies, and nine national organizations.

The *National Radon Action Plan: A Strategy for Saving Lives* sets out strategies to drive the changes needed to reduce exposure to radon. Strategies include requiring radon testing and reduction systems as a standard practice in housing finance and insurance programs, and institutionalizing radon risk reduction through building code requirements.

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the decay of uranium in the ground. Nearly all soils contain some naturally occurring uranium. Radon seeps up from the soil into buildings where it can accumulate to high levels. Since radon is invisible and odorless, dangerous levels can exist indoors without occupants knowing. Testing is the only way to know the radon level in your home or school. Exposure to radon causes an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually. After smoking, radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer. However, affordable measures effective in reducing radon indoors are available, and when employed can prevent radon-induced lung cancer and save lives. The new National Plan can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/cjav4>. For information, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/radon>

## You Can Use HHS Low Income Home Energy Assistance Funds to Change Out Woodstoves and Reduce Wood Smoke



The EPA partnered in November with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Oglala Sioux Tribe to host a webinar on using LIHEAP funds to help community members improve environmental safety, cost effectiveness, and efficiency of their home energy options, focusing on wood stoves.

LIHEAP – the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – can help by paying for woodstove change-outs, low-moisture fuel, woodsheds, and more! LIHEAP funds are typically administered in tribal communities by a LIHEAP Coordinator. The list of LIHEAP Tribal Contacts can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/cjr8m>

The webinar highlighted tribes' ability to use LIHEAP funds for activities such as upgrading wood stoves, constructing individual household woodsheds, performing stove repair and maintenance, operating a chimney cleaning program, providing low-moisture fuel such as briquettes, and conducting education and outreach to promote clean burning practices.

The two tribal partners for the webinar educated attendees about how to leverage community resources to maximize LIHEAP benefits for tribal members. LIHEAP Coordinators can partner with community businesses and other tribal departments to expand the reach of their services.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe's LIHEAP Coordinator, with support from the Tribe's government, partners with a nearby briquette company to bring low moisture fuel to tribal members. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation's LIHEAP Coordinator partners with local stove distributors to provide woodstove change-outs and maintenance, and hires tribal members to cut and deliver dry cord wood.

Because the reservation is so large, the Colville LIHEAP Coordinator works with tribal departments such as social services, aging services, and housing, to reach as many eligible tribal members as possible.

Read more about LIHEAP at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/liheap>. Learn about EPA's support for clean residential wood heating at <http://www2.epa.gov/burnwise>

If you have questions, contact **Erin McTigue** with EPA Region 10's Tribal Air Program at [mctigue.erin@epa.gov](mailto:mctigue.erin@epa.gov) or 206-553-1254.

### **More on Burn Wise**

Get off to a good start this season. When lighting your fire, be sure to use only clean newspaper or dry kindling. Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch. These produce harmful chemicals and may damage your stove. <http://www2.epa.gov/burnwise/burn-wise-best-burn-practices> or visit <https://www.facebook.com/EPABurnWise>

For more tips for proper burning practices in Alaska, go to <http://burnwise.alaska.gov>



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency****IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON NEWS****Quinault Indian Nation Plans for Village Relocation**

As the threats of tsunami and sea level rise are joined by real and potential climate impacts, the Quinault community looks to move the lower village of Taholah to higher ground. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/cjrwV>

*Seawater damage from storm surge in the lower village of Taholah, March 2014*

**State of Knowledge: Climate Change in Puget Sound**

Scientists recognize that climate change will affect almost every corner of the Puget Sound ecosystem, but specific information about local impacts has rarely been brought together in one place. A new report commissioned by the Puget Sound Institute looks at the most current state of knowledge of climate impacts in the region.

The report was produced by the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, and is meant as an easy-to-read summary that covers topics ranging from increasing landslides and flooding to rising stream temperatures for salmon.

Partners in the report include NOAA, The Nature Conservancy, the Puget Sound Partnership, the WWU Huxley Spatial Institute and others including dozens of contributing scientists. Major funding for the report was provided by the EPA.

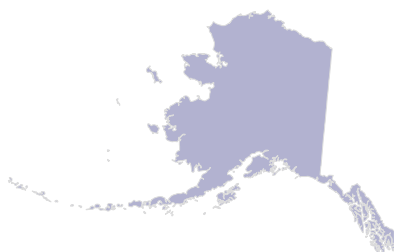
The report is available for download on the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound. It was commissioned by the Puget Sound Institute as part of its mission to bring together key scientific knowledge related to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery. Go to <http://www.eopugetsound.org/articles/state-knowledge-climate-change-puget-sound>

**Refugia Plan for the Columbia and Lower Willamette Rivers**

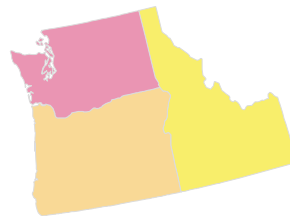
The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA will work with NOAA Fisheries over the next three years to locate, protect and restore zones of cold water habitat for fish in the Columbia and lower Willamette Rivers. This work comes as a result of a NOAA Fisheries biological opinion reviewing Oregon's water temperature standard.

The biological opinion examined whether the standards adopted by the state under the Clean Water Act sufficiently protect salmon, steelhead, eulachon, green sturgeon and southern resident killer whales. NOAA Fisheries concluded in the biological opinion that the temperature standards must assure enough cold water refugia exist in the rivers for salmon and steelhead to migrate upstream safely. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/cjrZF>





## Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



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### Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome as separate files in jpeg or other graphic format. Please submit articles and pictures to:

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### REPORT SPILLS AND ACCIDENTS

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800-478-9300  
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