

The Tribal Newsletter is issued free each month.  
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## Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



United States Environmental  
Protection  
Agency

Vol. 29 No. 6  
June 2020

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## Top News

### EPA Celebrates Partnerships for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



As part of the agency's [50th anniversary commemoration](#), EPA is highlighting key state, tribal, international, non-profit, and private sector partnerships that have helped further our progress towards cleaner air, water, and land. EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs oversees programs and initiatives such as reducing transboundary pollution, the Trash Free Waters program, and assisting tribal nations with capacity building to improve human health and the environment.

As a few examples highlighting partnerships, this year EPA is providing \$65 million to over 500 tribes for building their environmental programs in Indian country. The Office of Environmental Justice coordinates with multiple partners that include federal and local government, business and industry, and academia - to help improve environmental and public health conditions of low-income and minority communities. In response to the global pandemic, EPA recently announced [\\$1 million in grant funding](#) available to help states, local governments, tribes and territories address COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income and minority communities.

Check out EPA's [50th Anniversary Celebrating Partnerships](#) website to learn more about our tribal partnerships. The American Indian Environmental Office also posted several videos from tribes describing our partnerships on its [Facebook page](#).

### New Story Map Highlights GAP Success Stories

EPA's American Indian Environmental Office published a new [story map](#) that features success stories from tribes in each region of the U.S. Each of the highlighted success stories were funded by Indian Environmental General Assistance Program grants. AIEO worked with tribal and regional staff to collect and share GAP success stories to demonstrate program value, highlight best practices, and support program resiliency.

The success story highlighted for Region 10 is an update on [Chalkyitsik Village's recycling and backhaul program](#) in northeastern Alaska. The tribe started by recycling bottles, cans, appliances, and electronic waste. Today, they are recycling thousands of pounds of hazardous lead acid batteries, electronic waste like computers and televisions, fluorescent light bulbs, large appliances like dishwashers and freezers, abandoned vehicles, and other items.

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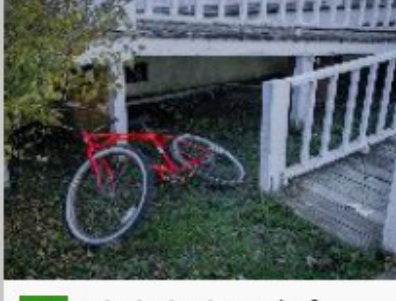


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### **New Story Map Highlights GAP Success Stories**

Other success stories cover topics such as developing an air quality program, partnering with a local university to improve water quality, empowering students to address climate change, stabilizing stream banks and preventing water pollution, developing a brownfields program, preventing leaks from underground storage tanks, a strategy to address lead, building a robust recycling program, and propagating oysters to improve water quality.

Check out all the success stories on EPA’s [Creating Tangible Environmental Results with Tribes](#) story map website, or view them individually on EPA’s [GAP \(General Assistance Program\) Success Stories](#) website.

If you have an EPA grant-funded project that you’d like us to consider featuring in this newsletter or on our Region 10 social media, please contact your EPA project officer or send an email to [R10TribalNewsletter@epa.gov](mailto:R10TribalNewsletter@epa.gov).

 <p><b>1</b> Chalkyitsik Village, Chalkyitsik, AK</p>	 <p><b>2</b> Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Atmore, AL</p>	 <p><b>3</b> Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Big Pine, CA</p>
 <p><b>4</b> Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians,...</p>	 <p><b>5</b> Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Horton, KS</p>	 <p><b>6</b> Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Mashpee, MA</p>
 <p><b>7</b> Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians,...</p>	 <p><b>8</b> Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Polso...</p>	 <p><b>9</b> Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, McCloud, OK</p>

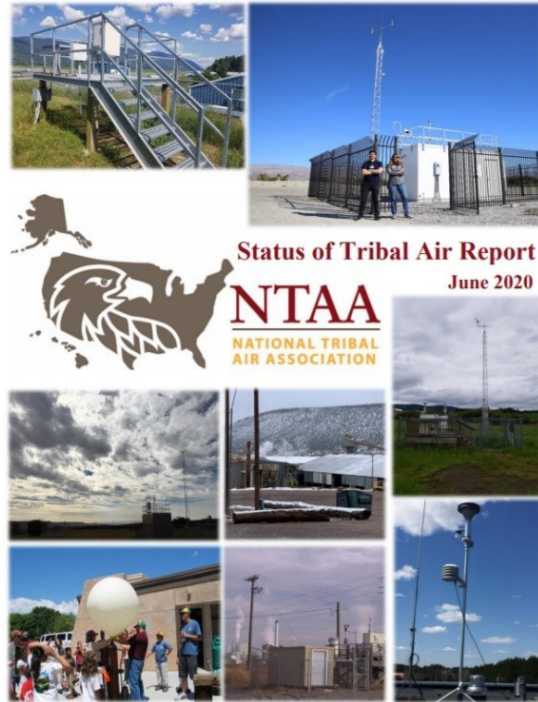
## 2020 STAR Report Features Region 10 Tribes

Each year the National Tribal Air Association publishes the **Status of Tribal Air Report** to highlight the dedicated work from tribal air quality programs. Tribal needs, priorities, and recommendations are outlined, as well as successes and challenges. Several Region 10 tribes are featured in this year's report.

In Washington, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation has several success stories that describe their woodstove replacement program, DIY box fan air filters, Smoke Ready Week and other topics. Also featured is the Tulalip Tribes of Washington's wildfire smoke preparation efforts. You can read about the Nez Perce Tribe's ambient air quality sampling projects in Idaho that includes participation in EPA's Clean Air Status and Trends Network assisting EPA and other agencies — and their ammonia monitoring station.

In southeast Alaska, the STAR highlights Klawock Cooperative Association's climate change and resiliency efforts. As part of the Volkswagen settlement diesel emissions environmental mitigation program and FY 2017 Tribal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act funds, Tanana Chiefs Conference in interior Alaska is working with the Native Village of Stevens for an upcoming project replacing an aged fleet of diesel generators in their electric utility plant. The project will reduce the emissions coming from the diesel fired power plant.

To read these stories and more, check out the full STAR on NTAA's [Status of Tribal Air Report](#) website.



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## Apply for Clean Air Excellence Awards



EPA is accepting applications for the 2020 Clean Air Excellence Awards Program. EPA recognizes and honors individuals and organizations whose efforts have helped to make progress in achieving cleaner air.

The award recipients are selected for developing innovative, replicable, and sustainable programs; serving as pioneers in their fields; and improving air quality through reduced emissions of criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, or greenhouse gases.

The five award categories are clean air technology, community action, education/outreach, state/tribal/local air quality policy innovations, and transportation efficiency innovations. Applications are due **July 31**. Details are available on EPA's [Clean Air Excellence Awards Application Information](#) website.



## Stay Sun-Safe: Check the UV Index and Protect Your Health

Overexposure to UV is harmful and can lead to cataracts and skin cancer, the most common cancer in the U.S. EPA encourages Americans to take a few simple steps to protect their skin and eye health from overexposure to the sun.

Reduce your risks by doing the following:



- Seek shade when outside during mid-day hours.
- Wear clothing that protects your skin and eyes from UV rays.
- Generously apply and reapply SPF 15+ sunscreen.
- Be aware that reflective water, snow, and sand intensify UV exposure.
- Avoid tanning beds and minimize sunbathing.
- Check the [UV Index](#) daily.

You can get the [UV Index Mobile App](#) for your smartphone. Sign up for a daily UV Index forecast by email and check [EPA's Sun Safety website](#).

## Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee 2020 Annual Priorities

The [Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee](#) is an EPA tribal partnership group comprised of subject matter experts from federally recognized tribes from various EPA regions. Each year the TWAR SC produces a priorities document for senior staff at EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management outlining priorities for Superfund, federal facilities, brownfields, Underground Storage Tank, emergency response, solid waste, and cross-media programs.

Check out the TWAR SC's [2020 Annual Priorities Document](#).



## Regional News

### Region 10 Tribal Outreach Feedback Request

EPA Region 10 staff strive to provide information, training, and technical assistance to tribes to support successful environmental programs. Efforts include in-person travel, phone and email contact, regional meetings, webinars, sessions at conferences and events, information on the [Region 10 Tribal Program](#) website, the Region 10 tribal newsletter, social media, and through email lists, and targeted workgroups.

We are continually reviewing our practices and want to hear from you to see if we are meeting your needs. If you have feedback, ideas, or suggestions, contact **Mahri Lowinger** by email at [Lowinger.mahri@epa.gov](mailto:Lowinger.mahri@epa.gov) by **August 30**.



## Alaska News

### Alaska Road Dust Webinar Series and Toolkit



Road dust is one of the top air quality concerns voiced by tribes and rural communities throughout Alaska. Vehicles driving on unpaved roads contribute to airborne dust that negatively impacts health, the environment, road safety, and quality of life. The summer months are especially dusty, and there are things you can do to reduce the dust.

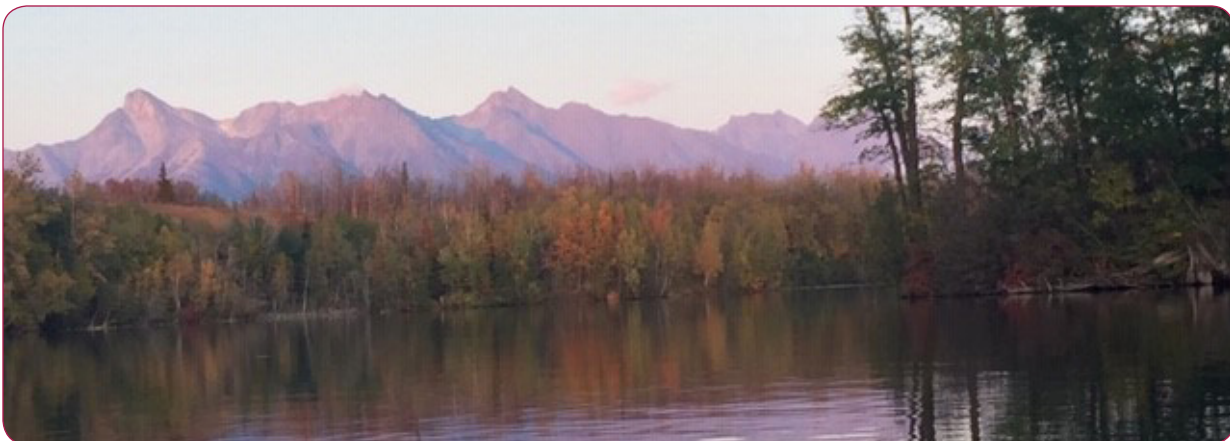
- 1. Reduce the wheels on the road.** For short trips, walk or bike instead of driving, carpool, and unhitch trailers when not in use.
- 2. Slow down when you drive.** Slowing down is an effective way to reduce dust. When you reduce your speed from 30 mph to 20 mph, you cut down the dust by about 70%.
- 3. Educate your community about road dust.** Share information about the health effects of road dust, and the importance of slowing down when you drive.

To learn more about what steps you can take to reduce road dust in the air, check out the *Alaska Road Dust Webinar Series*. The webinar series, hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals in coordination with EPA and other partners, is designed to help tribal environmental and transportation staff manage road dust, resulting in improved air quality. The webinar series includes the following topics:

- Introduction to Managing Road Dust – held May 28.
- Introduction to Road Dust Suppressants – held June 18.
- Engaging Community Leaders in Road Dust Management – date TBA.
- Case Studies on Road Dust Management – date TBA.

Individuals who view all four webinars can receive a training certificate from Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. For more information on these upcoming webinars, and to access recordings of the past two webinars, visit [EPA Region 10's Tribal Air & Climate website](#).

We also encourage you to check out the *Rural Alaska Dust Toolkit*, which can be downloaded from the [Alaska Division of Air Quality's Dust – Rural Communities](#) website. If you have questions or concerns about road dust, contact **Kayla Krauss** at [krauss.kayla@epa.gov](mailto:krauss.kayla@epa.gov).



# RTOC



The Region 10 Regional Tribal Operations Committee is a partnership between EPA and elected tribal representatives to further tribal environmental objectives at the regional level, serve as a liaison between the EPA and tribes regarding information exchange, and provide assistance to the National Tribal Operations Committee.

## Upcoming RTOC Meetings

July 16 • Conference Call

[Submit Meeting Discussion Topics](#)

## Digital Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit

September 23-25, 2020

Pre-summit events in August

The Region 10 RTOC is moving forward with hosting a virtual [Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit](#) on the same dates that were originally scheduled for the in-person event!

RTOC hired an amazing team to coordinate this year's event. **Meda DeWitt**, of Haa Jooni Productions will serve as the overall coordinator, along with her assistant **Erin Jackson**. Meda has experience as a former facilitator and digital storyteller from the 2017 TELS Summit. She is a recent graduate from Alaska Pacific University with a master's degree in Alaska Native Traditional Healing. The RTOC is honored to welcome them to the team. The RTOC will also be announcing the youth track coordinator on social media soon. Remember to follow social media **@region10rtoc**! Stay tuned for calls for presentations, registration information, and more announcements.

## RTOC is Hiring

The Region 10 RTOC is hiring for the following positions. Consider working with RTOC to protect and improve tribal health and environmental conditions affecting federally recognized tribes.

- **Environmental Law Research Intern:** For current law students, perform a range of legal research and writing related to the work of the EPA Region 10 RTOC.
- **Administrative Assistant:** For candidates experienced with efficient scheduling, record keeping, accurate minute recording, arranging group travel and meeting logistics, and digital meeting delivery.
- **IT/Communications Specialist:** Provide individualized training for RTOC members on Microsoft Teams, skilled with WordPress website development and maintenance, advise on efficient digital communication tools, and troubleshoot digital delivery to geographically remote and low-bandwidth areas.

Each position has a Native Hire preference as authorized under the Indian Self-Determination and Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA), as amended, 25 U.S.C 450-458ddd-2. Details and links to **submit applications** are available on [the Region 10 RTOC hiring website](#).

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**RTOC News****Stay Engaged with RTOC**

- [Follow us on Facebook](#) for the most up to date news and opportunities.
- If you wish to attend or add an item to a monthly meeting agenda, or if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for how RTOC can better serve your community — please contact the [RTOC representative for your area](#) or RTOC's Administrator, Randi Madison.

CONTACT: **Randi Madison**, RTOC Administrator • [randi@region10rtoc.net](mailto:randi@region10rtoc.net)**Tribal Consultation**

A full list of consultation opportunities is available in [EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#)

**Guiding Principles for Consulting with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations**END DATE: **July 13.**

In 2004, Congress directed all federal agencies to consult with corporations established by the **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act** in 1971 “on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order No. 13175.” EPA has a long history of engaging with ANCSA corporations on matters for which it consults with federally recognized tribes in Alaska and now seeks to formalize this process.

EPA is proposing to consult with ANCSA corporations on any regulatory action that has substantial direct effects on an ANCSA corporation and imposes significant compliance costs. EPA invites you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in this process. A *Guiding Principles for Consulting with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations* (Guiding Principles) document establishes principles relevant to consulting with ANCSA corporations. The Guiding Principles document, and the proposed consultation process is available on the EPA's [Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#) website.

CONTACT: **Paige Lieberman** • 202-564-9957 • [Lieberman.paige@epa.gov](mailto:Lieberman.paige@epa.gov)**Proposed Renewal of EPA's Pesticide General Permit**END DATE: **July 24.**

EPA is offering tribal consultation on the proposed renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Pesticide General Permit under the Clean Water Act. The EPA renews this permit every five years, and the current PGP is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2021.

The EPA's PGP regulates discharges of biological pesticides and chemical pesticides that leave a residue in Waters of the United States. The PGP covers pesticide discharges from the following pesticide use patterns: (1) mosquito and other flying insect pest control, (2) weed and algae control, (3) animal pest control, and (4) forest canopy pest control. Additional information about the PGP can be found on EPA's [NPDES Pesticide Permitting](#) website.

CONTACT: **Chelsea Durant** • 202-564-2290 • [durant.chelsea@epa.gov](mailto:durant.chelsea@epa.gov)*More Consultation* ⇒



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### **Tribal Consultation**

## **Draft Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country**

END DATE: **August 3.**

The *Draft EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country* (EPA Plan) is a plan for the certification of applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) in Indian country based on the certification requirements enumerated at 40 CFR Part 171. The *EPA Plan* allows the use of RUPs in those areas of Indian country not covered by any other EPA-approved certification plan. This opportunity was extended to August 3 (originally the end date was May 1).

EPA administers routine maintenance activities associated with the implementation of this *EPA Plan*, including application processing, database management and recordkeeping, and conducting inspections and enforcement actions as appropriate. During consultation, EPA will review the new standards and requirements for state, tribal, and federal agency certification programs for pesticide applicators when applying restricted use pesticides. To learn more, check out EPA's [Federal Certification to Apply Restricted Use Pesticides in Indian Country](#) website.

A tribal consultation session will be offered on **July 15 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time**. To join by phone call **1-866-299-3188**, enter conference code **202-566-0603**. Join as a guest to access the webinar on EPA's Adobe Connect [Session 3: Draft EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country](#) website.

CONTACT: **Amanda Hauff** • 202-566-0603 • [hauff.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:hauff.amanda@epa.gov)

## **Grants**

### **Tribal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grants**

APPLICATIONS DUE: **July 9.**

EPA has announced the availability of \$2 million in grant funding for tribal applicants. Priority is given to projects that achieve significant reduction in diesel emissions and exposure in areas designated as having poor air quality, and in areas receiving a disproportionate quantity of air pollution from diesel fleets.



Eligible diesel vehicles, engines and equipment may include school buses, Class 5 – Class 8 heavy-duty highway vehicles, locomotive engines, marine engines, and nonroad engines, equipment or vehicles used in construction, handling of cargo (including at ports or airports), agriculture, mining or energy production (including stationary generators and pumps).

Eligible entities include tribal governments (or intertribal consortiums) including tribes Alaska Native Villages which have jurisdiction over transportation or air quality. Under this grant competition, each applicant may request up to \$800,000 in federal funding. Application materials and eligibility information is available on EPA's [DERA Tribal Grants](#) webpage.



## Supporting Anaerobic Digestion in Communities

APPLICATIONS DUE: **July 14.**

Anaerobic Digestion is an alternative to landfills that results in environmental benefits in the form of renewable energy (biogas) and a product that can improve soil health (digestate). EPA is seeking applications for projects from states, tribes, territories and non-profit organizations to help reduce food loss and waste and divert food waste from landfills by expanding anaerobic digester capacity in the U.S.

All applications must achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- Support state, tribal or local government programs that seek to use AD to increase their organic waste diversion rates or support other sustainability goals.
- Demonstrate or implement solutions or approaches for increasing AD utilization that can be replicated by other communities or governments.
- Establish new or expand existing partnerships that result in the development of AD capacity.

EPA anticipates awarding 10 to 40 cooperative agreements and individual grant awards may potentially be in the range of \$50,000-\$300,000. Details are available on EPA's [Sustainable Materials Management 2020 Anaerobic Digestion Funding Opportunity website](#).

## WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects

APPLICATIONS DUE: **August 5.**

Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation leverages federal and non-federal funding to work cooperatively with states, tribes, and local entities as they plan and implement actions to increase water supply reliability through investments in existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts.

The WaterSMART Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought by providing financial assistance to water managers to develop and update comprehensive drought plans and implement projects that will build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions. Check out the Bureau of Reclamation's [WaterSMART Drought Response Program website](#).

## WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

APPLICATIONS DUE: **September 17.**

The Bureau of Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states, and other entities with water or power delivery authority. Projects conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the production of hydropower, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western U.S.

Funding is available in two groups. This program provides up to \$500,000 per agreement for projects that can be completed in two years and up to \$2 million per agreement for projects that can be completed in three years. Details are available on the Bureau of Reclamation's [WaterSMART website](#).

# Training & Technical Assistance

*Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with EPA. Any links to websites outside of EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.*

## Federal Facilities Online Academy

Available through September 14

This training program has been developed for EPA Remedial Project Managers, project managers from other federal agencies, state government, and tribal groups who work on federal facility Superfund cleanups. To obtain a certificate upon completion of the entire series, please participate in all 12 courses, 11 webinars, and 1 in-person training. To register for upcoming sessions or view archived sessions, check out the [Trainex](#) website.

## EPA Grants Management Online Training

This online training course is designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of the entire grant life cycle, from preparation of an application through grant closeout. The course is divided into separate modules that can be completed individually. Each module includes knowledge checks to verify your understanding of key concepts. Upon completion, you will be prompted to generate a downloadable certificate of completion. You can access the online course on EPA's [Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#) website.



## ITEP E-Learning Online Courses

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is offering courses conducted over the internet and include presentations via videos, assignments, activities, discussion boards, and exams. ITEP offers instructor-led or self-paced online courses. Topics include quality assurance project planning, introduction to rural Alaska landfill planning, HAZWOPER 8-hour refresher, partnerships and community outreach, and other topics. Browse their [full catalog of online courses](#).



# Calendar of Events

## July

- 8 Introduction to Water Quality.** 10:00 a.m. Alaska Time  
Call 1-866-299-3188, conference code 907-271-1272# (pound sign)  
<http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/r10-igap> (if necessary, click “enter as a guest.”)
- 15 Session 3: Draft EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country.** 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time.  
Call 1-866-299-3188, conference code 202-566-0603  
<https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/draftepaplan3>
- 16 Region 10 RTOC Conference Call.** 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time  
<http://region10rtoc.net/meetings>
- 21 Introduction to Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulation Webinar for Tribes.** 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epa-spcc-overview-for-tribes-registration-107115804254>
- 21 Alaska LEO Network Monthly Webinar.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time  
<http://www.leonetwork.org>

## August

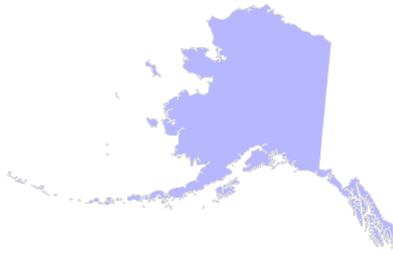
- 17-20 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum Virtual Gathering.**  
[https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_tlef](https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef)
- 18 Alaska LEO Network Monthly Webinar.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time  
<http://www.leonetwork.org>

## September

- 8 ANTHC IGAP Networking Call.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time  
<https://bit.ly/2GRKy4f>
- 14-17 Virtual National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference.**  
<https://sites.google.com/view/2020-nticc-itep/home>
- 22 Alaska LEO Network Monthly Webinar.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time  
<http://www.leonetwork.org>
- 23-25 Digital Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit.**  
<http://region10rtoc.net/home>

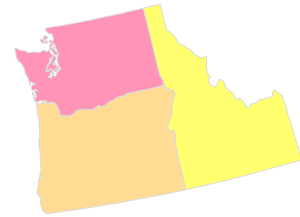
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# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

Vol. 29 No. 6 – July 2020



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

## Region 10 Tribal Program

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, Mail Stop 12-D12  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

### Got News?

Got News? Please send submission ideas to  
[R10TribalNewsletter@epa.gov](mailto:R10TribalNewsletter@epa.gov)

### For Tribal Solid and Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance

ALASKA: **Jim Penor** • 907-500-4963  
IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON:  
**Rick McMonagle** • 503-326-6363

### Helpful Links

R10 Tribal Programs:

<http://go.usa.gov/xkdMv>

EPA on Facebook:

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

Follow us @EPAnorthwest on Twitter!

<https://twitter.com/EPAnorthwest>

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Michael Ortiz, Tribal Coordinator ..... (206) 553-6234

Catherine Vila, Grants Coordinator ..... (206) 553-1544

Cathy Villa, Tribal Coordinator ..... (907) 271-1270

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Kristy Fry, Tribal Coordinator ..... (206) 553-1085

Alan Moomaw, Tribal Coordinator ..... (360) 753-8071

## Report Spills and Violations

In the event of an oil spill, release of hazardous materials, or accident that may lead to an immediate threat to human health or the environment, please call **911**. Then, report it to EPA's **National Response Center** by calling **1-800-424-8802**.

To report a possible environmental violation, submit information online to the EPA at <https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>.

