

The Tribal Newsletter is issued
free each month.

<https://go.usa.gov/xXNnW>

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Vol. 26 No. 4
April 2017

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Top News



Think globally, act locally

Earth Day is April 22

On the first Earth Day in 1970, 22 million Americans demonstrated in support of clean air, land, and water. Several months later, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was created. Today, many celebrate Earth Day by making choices that are more sustainable, and participate in community clean-ups and educational events. For ideas on organizing events in your community, for educational resources or to learn more about the history of Earth Day, go to

<https://www.epa.gov/earthday>.

You Can Prevent Nutrient Pollution

Nutrient pollution is one of America's most widespread, costly and challenging environmental problems. Nutrient pollution occurs when too much nitrogen or phosphorus enters a waterway. These contaminants can harm the waterway and aquatic life, and cause unsightly and sometimes harmful algal blooms.

Warming water, droughts and sea level rise can make harmful algal blooms worse.

Simple actions at home and in the yard can help prevent nutrient pollution. You can protect waterways from nutrient pollution by:

- Choosing phosphate-free soaps and detergents.
- Picking up after your pet.
- Using water efficiently.
- Washing your car on your lawn or in commercial car washes .
- Applying fertilizers to a lawn only when necessary and in the recommended amount.
- If you have a septic system, pump it out regularly.

To learn more about nutrient pollution, go to <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution>.

To watch a video on how you can prevent nutrient pollution, go to <http://bit.ly/2nwmAni>.



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Wood Smoke Activity Books

The EPA's *Wood Smoke Activity Book* may be a helpful air quality educational resource for children in your community. EPA Region 10 along with Burn Wise Alaska and the Quinault



Indian Nation collaborated in publishing this children's activity book. Children can read the story about best burning practices, color the pictures and do the activities included in the book.

Find the *Wood Smoke Activity Book* online at <https://www.epa.gov/burnwise/wood-smoke-activity-book>.

For an Alaska-specific wood smoke coloring book, go to <http://burnwise.alaska.gov/docs/burnwise-activity-book.pdf>.

National Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee

DUE DATE: **May 26**

The National Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee is seeking up to five individuals who work for federally-recognized tribes in the fields of solid waste, brownfields, Superfund, Underground Storage Tank, and/or emergency response to join the Steering Committee for the term beginning on November 1, 2017 and ending October 31, 2019.

This committee plays several roles such as developing an annual priority document for the EPA and the National Tribal Caucus, providing two-way communication between tribes and federal agencies, and collaborating with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals on the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum. To learn more about the Steering Committee, please visit http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste_ntsc.

Links to websites outside of the EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. We cannot attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites, nor does EPA endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office**

Alaska News

Rural Alaska Landfill Operator - RALO

April 11 – 13, Anchorage, AK

RALO training is for the designated landfill operator and administrator. It focuses on their duties, their personal safety, and the safety of the village. Participants will learn about landfill regulations and requirements, household hazardous waste, waste separation and screening, waste reduction and segregation, recycling, personal protection equipment and much more. Participants are expected to attend full training to receive a training certificate. Registration is available online at

<http://www.cvent.com/d/5vqk3v> or <http://www.akforum.org>.

CONTACT: **Jennifer Kuhlmann** • 907-331-0282 • jkuhlmann@akforum.org

7 Generations Environmental Planning

April 18 – 20, Anchorage, AK

During this interactive workshop, participants will learn a community-based approach for developing local environmental plans. The training focuses on team building, community involvement, identifying environmental concerns that can impact health, and learning about ways to address local issues. The workshop is for new tribal environmental program staff, tribal environmental committee members, tribal council members and tribal administrators.

7G Plan Development Workshop

June 6 – 7, Anchorage, AK

Participants will begin developing their tribal environmental plans during this workshop with technical assistance from Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium staff. To take this course, participants must have already attended a 7 Generations Environmental Planning Workshop in the last two years. This workshop is for tribal environmental program staff and other tribal staff who are responsible for the tribe's environmental plan.

For more information on both ANTHC workshops, go to <http://bit.ly/2iBcTSK>.

CONTACT: **Oxcenia O'Domin** • 907-729-3492 • orodomin@anthc.org

Holly Reimer • 907-729-4043 • holly.reimer@anthc.org

Qualifier Sampler Training (Water Quality and Soil Sampling)

May 3 – 5, Dillingham, AK

This training will cover taking water and soil samples to send for laboratory contaminant testing, how to test on-site for surface water fecal coliform, and how to sample and monitor for the basic water quality parameters using a YSI probe and turbidity meter. Passing this course satisfies the State of Alaska training requirements to become a qualified sampler.

Waste Utility Training

June 13-14, Nome, AK

Having trouble convincing your community to pay fees? Finding that your solid waste program starts and stops or doesn't seem to improve? This training will examine your solid waste management program as a utility operation, exploring the 10 management areas that contribute to effective and sustainable utility management. The training also includes developing a full solid waste management plan and budget and a community outreach strategy.

For information on both trainings, go to <http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html>.

CONTACT: **Simone Sebalo** • 907-277-2111 • ssebal@zendergroup.org

Introduction to Rural Alaska Landfill Administration

Online Training: The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is offering a free online training course to provide tribal environmental professionals in rural Alaska with an introduction to landfills, administration, and operations, solid waste administration, planning and budget basics, and resources for minimizing waste in landfills. To access the online Introduction to Rural Alaska Landfill Administration training, go to <http://bit.ly/2liZRHA>. To access all of ITEP's online training courses, go to <http://itep.scholarlms.com/catalog>.

CONTACT: **Jennifer Williams** • 928-523-0673 Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu

Regional News

Tribal Wetlands Working Group Spring Workshop

April 12-13, Canyonville, OR

The theme for the spring 2017 Tribal Wetlands Interagency workshop is *Multi-Agency Collaboration for Wetland Restoration*. It will be hosted by the Cow Creek Tribes in Roseburg, OR and will address opportunities, challenges and collaborative approaches in restoring lost and impaired habitats that support the tribes' cultural practices. The tribes will highlight projects they are working on to restore and enhance aquatic resources across the tribes usual and accustomed areas including visits to either Cow Hollow Mitigation Bank or Tribal Wetland Monitoring site.

Workshop objectives are to gather a diverse group of Pacific Northwest tribal wetland staff to focus on sharing information regarding the techniques of wetland and aquatic ecosystems restoration in coastal northwest landscapes through talks and field trips, discussions regarding tribes' experience with Wetland Program Plan development, and further discussion about ways to include tribal community values in EPA's Core Elements Framework.

CONTACT: **Scott O'Daniel** • 541-429-7452 • scottodaniel@ctuir.org or
Heather Bartlett • heather.bartlett@cowcreek.com

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RTOC News



STAY IN THE LOOP!

- RTOC posts meeting minutes online at <http://region10rtoc.net/index.php/meetings>.
- Follow RTOC on Facebook for the latest news, training and funding opportunities from the EPA at <https://www.facebook.com/Region10RTOC>.
- Submit meeting discussion topics at <http://region10rtoc.net>.

NOTE: The old RTOC website at www.rtocregion10.org will expire in April. Please bookmark the new website at <http://region10rtoc.net>.

Contact **Randi Madison**, RTOC R10 Communications Specialist • 509-703-4219 or communications@region10rtoc.net if you wish to join our monthly teleconference and/or have environmental topics to raise.



EPA Tribal Consultation Opportunities

The following tribal consultation opportunity may be of interest to tribes in Region 10.

A full list of consultation opportunities is available at <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

Alaska's Revised Recreational Water Quality Criteria

END DATE: **May 5.**

On January 24, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation submitted to EPA, revisions to state water quality standards for bacteria criteria upon primary human contact during recreation in marine and freshwater. These criteria are designed to protect people from exposure to fecal contamination when exposed to water during recreation. The criteria rely on the latest research and science, including studies that show a link between illness and fecal contamination in recreational waters. ADEC's revisions to protect primary contact recreation in marine and freshwater are consistent with EPA's 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria recommendations and also address the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act requirements for coastal waters in Alaska.

EPA Region 10 sent a tribal consultation letter to all federally recognized tribes in Alaska regarding EPA's upcoming action on ADEC's submittal. Region 10 will hold an informational conference call for tribal governments in AK on **April 4** from **10:00 - 11:00 a.m.** Alaska Time. To join, please call 1-866-299-3188, and enter conference code 206-553-1906#.

CONTACT: **Matthew Szelag** • 907-271-1208 • szelag.matthew@epa.gov

Memorandum of Understanding for Contaminated Sediment Sites

END DATE: **May 12.**

Contaminated sediment is a significant environmental problem that impairs the uses of many waterbodies. It is often a contributing factor to fish consumption advisories issued nationwide. The EPA's Superfund program uses its **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act** authority, or CERCLA, in collaboration with other Agency programs and authorities, to clean up sediment sites that present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally-recognized tribes on draft sample language that could be used in **Memoranda of Understanding** between EPA's Regions, tribes and/or states at contaminated sediment Superfund sites. The draft MOU would serve as a starting point to improve collaboration, communication and coordination with tribes and states across the cleanup and water programs at contaminated sediment Superfund sites.

Two conference calls for tribes are scheduled to discuss the draft sample MOU:

- **April 4 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.** To join, call 1-866-299-3188, conference code 202-564-6943.
- **April 20 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.** To join, call 866-299-3188, conference code 202-564-6943.

To view the draft sample MOU and the letter to tribal leaders initiating consultation and coordination, go to the EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities web page at <https://tcots.epa.gov> and look under "Memorandum of Understanding for Contaminated Sediment Sites."

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Tribal Consultation: Memorandum of Understanding for Contaminated Sediment Sites

⇒ *Continued*

To learn more about contaminated sediment sites and the EPA’s use of Superfund to remediate these sites, please visit

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-contaminated-sediments>.

CONTACT: **Anthony Austin** • 303-312-6152 • austin.anthony@epa.gov

FY 2018-2019 National Program Manager Guidance

END DATE: **June 30**.

The **National Program Manager** Guidances provide direction to EPA regions on where the agency will focus its work with tribal and state governments -- to ensure implementation and compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The NPM Guidances are not budget decision-making documents though they do provide a roadmap for the activities that support the priorities identified in the President’s Budget.

The NPM Guidances are developed in three stages:

1. NPMs receive input from tribes and states during the early engagement stage, which is now underway.
2. NPMs prepare draft guidances for review and comment.
3. NPMs issue final NPM Guidances.

CONTACT: **Emily Heller** • 202-564-0000 • heller.emily@epa.gov

Joseph Greenblott • 202-564-4250 • greenblott.joseph@epa.gov

Notice of Extension - CERCLA 108(b) Proposed Rule for Hardrock Mining and Mineral Processing

END DATE: **July 11**.

The EPA is proposing requirements under section 108(b) of the CERCLA to establish financial responsibility for the hardrock mining industry. The Agency received correspondence from stakeholders requesting an extension to the public comment period for the proposed rule. The EPA is committed to continuing its dialogue with federally recognized tribes and has also extended the consultation period from March 13 to July 11.

CONTACT: **Barbara Foster** • 703-308-7057 • Foster.Barbara@epa.gov

Jessica Snyder • 202-564-1478 • Snyder.Jessica@epa.gov



Grants

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Credit Assistance

DUE DATE: April 10.

The **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act** of 2014 established the WIFIA program, a federal credit program administered by EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Eligible borrowers are:

- Local, state, tribal, and federal government entities
- Partnerships and joint ventures
- Corporations and trusts
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs

For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>.

Training & Scholarships

Fundamentals of Air Monitoring

(For tribes in the lower 48)

April 4-6, Las Vegas, NV

This course will provide tribal environmental professionals with a basic understanding of how to develop and conduct an air monitoring project. It is designed as an overview and will not include exhaustive detail of each topic. The course will focus on criteria air pollutants, as well as monitoring requirements for those seeking National Ambient Air Quality Standard designations from their monitoring projects. It will also include information about meteorological monitoring and air toxics. Air monitoring equipment will be available for hands-on activities.

For more information, visit https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_aq_fam.

Region 8 Nonpoint Source Workshop

April 18-20, East Poulson, MT

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are now accepting registrations for this workshop. The workshop is a forum for tribes to share information and improve communication on controlling and tracking **Nonpoint Source** pollution at its source.

The focus of the workshop is holistic and includes approaches to assessing and solving problems for tribal governments at the programmatic and technical levels of implementing an NPS program. This event will bring together tribes to share lessons learned from completed NPS projects, new technologies, monitoring approaches, and partnerships.

To register or for more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2n2kZCv>.



ITEP Tribal Underground Storage Tank 'Boot Camp'

April 25 – 27, Pala, CA

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is offering a special training for tribal staff working on **Underground Storage Tank** issues that will be conducted by the Oneida Nation and other entities. Appropriate, effective responses to releases from UST systems are essential to protect the valuable natural resources of a tribal nation. The course will provide an overview of federal regulatory requirements for operating and maintaining an UST system, leak detection methodologies, reporting requirements, selecting contractors and implementing appropriate response actions. A field exercise will be used to demonstrate the functional components of an UST system, various release scenarios and identifying appropriate release responses. For more information, go to www.nau.edu/itep.

CONTACT: **Todd Barnell** • 928-523-3840 • Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

May 1-4, Tucson, AZ

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality provides environmental professionals from tribes, EPA, and other organizations an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss current policies, regulatory initiatives, technical and outreach topics on air quality. The conference is coordinated by ITEP and the National Tribal Air Association through funding from EPA.

For more information, go to http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf.

EPA Tribal Solid Waste Peer Matching Program

The EPA has developed a tribal solid waste management peer matching program. The program aims to strengthen tribal capacity building and develop sustainable waste management programs. The program identifies peer matches for tribes through the use of peer mentors who are working on similar issues to exchange experiences and share practical knowledge with each other.

Peer mentors are tribal environmental personnel who can provide expertise and experience. Mentors volunteer to participate in the program. Please note that the peer matching program does not have funding available to cover any associated costs (i.e., travel to meet with a mentor). However, funding for travel for peer matches may be available through the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program or other programs. For details, click on the fact sheet link at <http://go.usa.gov/xDwz4>.

CONTACT: **Tonya Hawkins** • 703-308-8278 • Hawkins.tonya@epa.gov



Climate Change

Tribal Science Webinar – Harmful Algal Blooms



April 11, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time

The EPA's National Center for Environmental Research's Tribal Science Webinar Series provides a forum for discussion of the complex environmental issues facing many tribal and indigenous communities, and features a wide variety of expert guest speakers from government, academic institutions and other organizations.

This month's webinar will focus on **Harmful Algal Blooms** and the adverse effects on tribal communities. Presenters will discuss their roles and involvement in ongoing HABs activities, research, and collaborations. Speakers will also present HABs research supported under the Science to Achieve Results grants program.

Learn more about this and other NCER Tribal Science webinars at <https://go.usa.gov/xX8FK>.
CONTACT: **Cynthia McOliver** • 202-564-7657 • McOliver.Cynthia@epa.gov

What You Can Do About Climate Change

EPA's *What You Can Do About Climate Change* website provides more than 25 easy steps you can take at home, school, at the office and on the road to protect the climate, reduce greenhouse gas pollution and save money. The website also features a household carbon footprint calculator that provides a quick, rough estimate of your carbon footprint by using U.S. average values.

Small steps add up, if we all do our part. To learn more, go to <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change>.

Climate Change Webinars, Conferences and Trainings

For a calendar of climate change and water-related trainings, conferences and webinars, go to <http://go.usa.gov/xg84F>.

Calendar of Events

April

- 4 **Alaska's Revised Recreational Water Quality Criteria. Teleconference** 10 – 11 a.m. Alaska Time. To join, call 1-866-299-3188, enter conference code 206-553-1906#.
- 4 **Draft Sample MOU for Contaminated Sediment Sites.** Teleconference at 11 a.m. Pacific Time. To join, call 1-866-299-3188, enter conference code 202-564-6943.
- 4 – 6 **Fundamentals of Air Monitoring.** Las Vegas, NV • https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_aq_fam
- 5 **Alaska Solid Waste Teleconference.** 1:30 p.m. Alaska Time. • <http://bit.ly/2oeqZs4>
- 11 **Tribal Science Webinar – Harmful Algal Blooms.** Webinar 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time. <https://go.usa.gov/xX8FK>
- 11 – 13 **Rural Alaska Landfill Operator.** Anchorage, AK. • <http://bit.ly/2ic8Xox>
- 12 – 13 **Tribal Wetlands Working Group Spring Workshop.** Canyonville, OR. Scott O'Daniel • 541-429-7452 • scottodaniel@ctuir.org or Heather Bartlett • heather.bartlett@cowcreek.com
- 18 – 20 **7 Generations Environmental Planning.** Anchorage, AK. • <http://bit.ly/2iBcTSK>
- 18 – 20 **Region 8 Nonpoint Source Workshop.** East Poulson, MT • <http://bit.ly/2n2kZCv>
- 20 **Draft Sample MOU for Contaminated Sediment Sites.** Teleconference at 11 a.m. Pacific Time. To join, call 1-866-299-3188, enter conference code 202-564-6943.
- 25 – 27 **Tribal Underground Storage Tank “Boot Camp.”** Pala, CA. http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste

May

- 1 – 4 **National Tribal Forum on Air Quality.** Tucson, AZ. http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf
- 1 – 5 **EPA Air Quality Awareness Week – Be Air Aware.** • <https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/airaware>
- 3 **Alaska Solid Waste Teleconference.** 1:30 p.m. Alaska Time. • <http://bit.ly/2oeqZs4>
- 3 – 5 **Qualified Sampler Training (Water Quality and Soil Sampling Training).** Dillingham, AK <http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html>

June

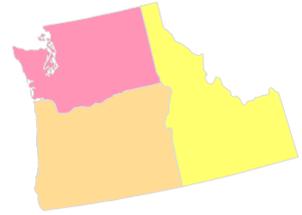
- 6 – 7 **7G Plan Development Workshop.** Anchorage, AK. • <http://bit.ly/2iBcTSK>
- 7 **Alaska Solid Waste Teleconference.** 1:30 p.m. Alaska Time. • <http://bit.ly/2oeqZs4>
- 13 – 14 **Waste Utility Training.** Nome, AK. • <http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html>
- 20 – 22 **RTOC In-Person Meeting.** Juneau, AK. • <http://region10rtoc.net/meetings>

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.



Region 10 Tribal Staff

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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:

Don Creek

EPA, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97205
503-326-5015

email.creek.don@epa.gov

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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Alan Moomaw, Tribal Coordinator 360-753-8071

REPORT SPILLS AND ACCIDENTS

NOTE THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS TO CALL IN THE EVENT
OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS OR ACCIDENTS:

ALASKA 800-478-9300
IDAHO..... 800-632-8000
OREGON 800-452-0311
WASHINGTON..... 800-258-5990
NATIONAL (EPA) 800-424-8802



To report environmental violation
tips and Complaints to the EPA:

www.epa.gov/tips