

Science and American Indians Information Distribution

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Day oon-day gawh bah sthon (It is good that you have come) Kiowa,

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. I am excited about the upcoming National Tribal Science Forum that will be held June 6–10, 2010 in Traverse City, Michigan. The Forum as you know is being hosted by our partners, the Grand Traverse

Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, who have worked hand in hand with the EPA Tribal Science Council to put together a challenging and energizing agenda and schedule for you that offers an exciting mix of technical presentations, panel discussions and special events.

This gathering of like minds and a vision for indigenous environmental science will showcase cutting edge tribal research and case studies as well as enlighten what tribes across this nation have accomplished using sound scientific knowledge and skills to promote a vibrant and healthy environment on our Nations and tribal lands. I invite you in three short weeks to join us in sharing this experience. I encourage you to take what you learn from this Forum back to your people in order to make our environment a better place, not only for us but for future generations of Native people.

I look forward to meeting you in Traverse City!
Curtis Munoz
Tribal Co-chair of the National EPA-Tribal Science Council

Inside the 2010 National Tribal Science Forum

*Sponsored by the National
EPA-Tribal Science Council
and hosted by the Grand
Traverse Band of Ottawa and
Chippewa Indians.*



Building Strong Tribal Partnerships

EPA is committed to reinvigorating its efforts toward building strong and sustaining partnerships with American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages for the protection of the environment and human health.

The Forum allows EPA and others to listen to tribes, share new knowledge, and find common ground on complex issues such as climate change, contamination of subsistence foods, water quality, waste management on native lands to name a few. More importantly, this is an opportunity to better understand problems faced by tribes in addressing environmental science issues and determine how EPA can contribute solutions to those problems.

Join the Conversation at the 2010 Tribal Science Forum!

National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Listening Session

June 8, 2010, 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. in the Director's Room.

In keeping with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's mission to protect public health, the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances

and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) is supporting a National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures. CDC is collaborating with national experts

and members of the public to develop an action agenda, which will help government agencies and other organizations strengthen their efforts to protect the public from harmful

Continued on page 2.

2010 National Tribal Science Forum

Join the Conversation, continued from page 1.

chemical exposures. NCEH/ATSDR is working with RESOLVE, a nonprofit consensus-building organization, and other organizations to implement this process.

Public health protection requires multiple approaches—including prevention, surveillance, education,

regulation, and addressing health concerns related to past practices. Consequently, the action agenda will address a range of core public health protection activities related to chemical exposures. Improving our nation's work in these areas will require contributions on the part of many stakeholder groups, including

those in Indian country. We hope you will join us for this listening session to contribute your thoughts about ways our nation can better protect all communities from harmful chemical exposure. Visit the Web site for a copy of the fact sheet and background information at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation/>.



Recent Updates to Forum Agenda

June 6–10, 2010 • Grand Traverse Resort and Spa • <http://epa.blhtech.com/2010TribalScienceForum>

Speaker Update

■ Lee Sprague, Tribal Council member of the Little River Band of Odawa Indians, will be our keynote speaker at the Lunch Plenary Session on Tuesday, June 8, on “Climate Change from an Adaptive Perspective.”

Southwest Ecosystem Services Program Panel Discussion

Nita Tallent-Halsell & Robert Hall
Thursday, June 10, 2010
10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

This session brings together researchers, resource managers and the public that are invested in environmental research and/or managing natural resources on tribal lands to share information on the science of ecosystem services. Through small groups and a panel discussion, we will explore how an ecosystem services approach might augment existing and future environmental management actions. Understanding links among traditional knowledge, locally evolved management systems and human health and well-being will enhance the evolution of ecosystem services sciences. Tribal management practices that incorporate traditional knowledge offer alternative perspectives and approaches to an ecosystem services framework.

Training Opportunities

On Wednesday, June 9, 2010, attendees will have an opportunity to receive technical training on:

- Risk Perception
- Water Quality Assessment

Special Events

Many other interesting and exciting events are planned at the 2010 National Tribal Science Forum:

- The **Poster and Exhibit** session is designed to encourage open conversations that lead to greater exchange of information and ideas and provide networking opportunities for EPA, tribal environmental staff and leaders, tribal students and others in a casual atmosphere to share experiences and knowledge about science, research, and technology throughout the Forum.
- **Sunrise Blessing Ceremony on Tuesday.** You are invited to join us on the morning of Tuesday, June 8, to share in the ceremony. Spiritual leaders and pipe carriers attending the Forum are especially encouraged to participate. See you at the Pavilion at 6:00 a.m.!

■ **Movie night on Wednesday** will feature Yukon Currents: Healing the River, sponsored by the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council.

■ **Exhibitors** will include Vicki Kujawa, “Iowa Tribe of OK Office of Environmental Services”; Orleta Slick, “What is Best for the Future of the Navajo People?”; Steve Witkin and Will Smith, “Toxics Release Inventory 101”; Meredith Garvin, “Tribal Environmental Management Services”; and Stephanie Cheaney, “Tribal Climate Change Tool Kit.”

■ **Native Craft Vendors** from the Lower Sioux Indian Reservation in Martin, Minnesota, and Otomi and Ojibwe Natives from Wisconsin will display and sell baby blankets, table runners, quilts, pillows, potholders, scarves, beaded bracelets and watches, custom-made onsite beaded bracelets with name, earrings, key chains, lanyards (custom-made with name or conference name), tissue boxes, catch-alls, feather holders, picture frames, book covers, pin cushions and ankle bracelets.