

The Four Winds

Newsletter of the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANEA)



Spring - Niibin 2010

Respect, Harmony, and Beauty

In this Issue

President's Corner	Page 2
Conference Info	Page 4
Member Spotlight, David Elliott.....	Page 4
AIANEA Life Member Serves In Iraq	Page 6
Tribal College and University Leadership Conference	Page 8
NRCS/Native Practices Work Group	Page 10
Seven Generations Visions Becoming Real .	Page 12
Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Page 13
Indigenous Stewardship.....	Page 14
Membership Form	Page 16
2010 National Council.....	Page 17



Elder Quote

"The first time you meet someone, the impression you leave with them is everlasting."

James Billy Smith, July 2008

Please send articles on what is happening in your area. News stories, articles of interest, gatherings, pow wow's, whatever you want to share! Email to membership@aiana.com

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen—President's Corner

O-si-yo!

Happy Spring! It's one of my favorite seasons, especially this year, after one of the longest winters I can remember and near record-breaking snowfall! Spring provides the gifts of greening grass, blooming rhododendrons, magnolias, and forsythia, and the lush green life of prairies recently burned.

Another indication of spring renewal this year is the recent approval and distribution of the NRCS National Bulletin regarding the AIANEA Training Conference, to be held June 7-11 in Rapid City, South Dakota! Please plan to join us! Each annual conference is excellent and this year is no exception! For the first time, we will have a Youth Session for the children of conference participants. Thanks to Millie Titla, Mauritz Carlson and others for developing a great educational agenda for the youth! You will have more opportunity than ever to get to know the AIANEA Elders and spend time one-on-one and in small group settings to learn more about them and gain tremendous cultural awareness.

One of the keynote speakers is well-known Billy Mills, a very inspirational presenter. Other opportunities provided by the conference include: career development; tools and resources to enhance assistance to tribes; a superb conservation and cultural tour; keys to accomplishing more in Indian Country through partnerships; and outstanding cultural education through music, storytelling and food. On Monday afternoon, June 7, four topics from the *Working Effectively with American Indians* training will be offered concurrently with the Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) training, open to SEPMs and all conference registrants.

I want to say a special thank you to the NRCS employees in South Dakota and North Dakota for all your diligent work that began over a year ago, to create an excellent training opportunity! Additionally, thank you to Levi Montoya for chairing the Conference Planning Committee this year!

Please remember to donate and bid at the silent and live auctions. The AIANEA is dedicated to providing opportunity to native students as they gain an education in the natural resources field. Auction proceeds serve as one of the main sources for the scholarship fund. Your donation and winning bid (be sure to bid those items up!) provides for native students that may not have an educational opportunity without the assistance of AIANEA!

The National Council has been busy this year discussing and approving methods for AIANEA to provide further assistance through investments. Beginning April 1, the AIANEA now has the following endowment funds: Scholarship, Elders, Youth, and Special Projects. Through this investment strategy, the AIANEA will be able to expand assistance to students, Elders, youth and the entire AIANEA membership. Thank you to Harold Bryant and the Ad Hoc Investment Committee including Felix Nez and Ciro Lo Pinto for the hours of research and development.

In this newsletter issue, you will read more about the AIANEA Vision Plan and accomplishments. The conference agenda includes updates and you will see a Vision Plan report in each quarterly newsletter. It is our goal to better communicate this work to the membership. The three sub-committee leaders are currently developing the first accomplishment reports. Through actions accomplished in the Vision Plan, there is tremendous opportunity for AIANEA to play a key role in assisting NRCS develop and enhance relationships with tribes and meet its federal responsibilities.

It's an exciting time, with great opportunity for AIANEA to achieve our mission and goals. As I think about these opportunities with enthusiasm, my mind goes back to the vision of beauty and new birth that is associated with this wonderful season of spring!

Enjoy!



AIANEA 2010 Training Conference Information

Join us in the Dakotas!

The 2010 AIANEA annual training conference will be in Rapid City, South Dakota June 7-11. This year's event is being hosted by North and South Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Only two months away, the conference is coming together quite nicely. This year's conference offers exceptional cultural sharing and employee/career development. The draft agenda and registration form is available on the organization website: <http://www.aianea.com/>.

New to the conference this year is a youth component.

This youth component will allow children the opportunity to learn about NRCS and participate in a variety of hands-on cultural activities. A full description of the youth sessions can be found on the third page of the registration form.

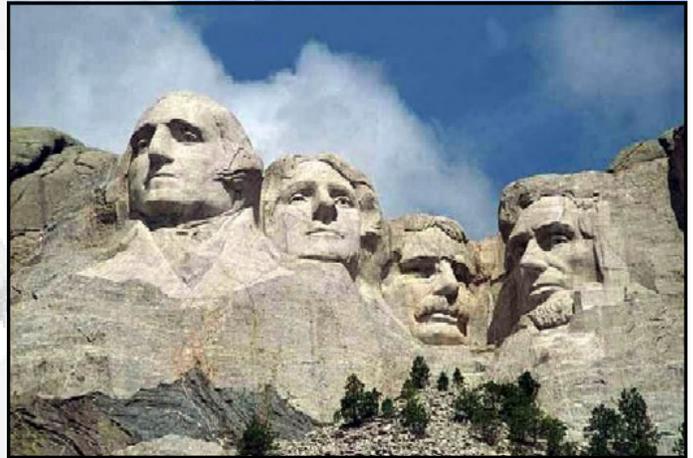
We have a one-of-a-kind tour put together this year, with stops at Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Ranch, Bear Butte State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Northern Plains experts will be speaking at each tour stop. Moderators and facilitators will be local NRCS employees with conservation to share.

We have been lucky enough to attain two sought after speakers. Billy Mills and Gerard Baker have incredible stories to share with you. Both of these speakers have the ability to captivate an audience and are guaranteed to leave you wanting to hear more. Sneak peaks of their bios are below.

Billy Mills: Born June 30, 1938, in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Billy Mills is an Oglala Sioux Indian whose given Native American name is Loves His Country. Although an outstanding long distance runner, Mills' accomplishment at the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, stands as one of the most shocking upsets in modern sports. Mills grew up on an Oglala Sioux Indian reservation and was orphaned at the age of 12. He attended the Haskell Institute, an Indian school in the city of Lawrence, Kansas. Mills remains very active in Native American causes and speaks at engagements all across the country.

Gerard Baker: Baker was born and raised on his father's cattle ranch located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in western North Dakota. The Fort Berthold Reservation is home to the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations. Baker, who is Mandan and Hidatsa was raised in a traditional manner, learning his culture from his relatives through oral history. Baker is currently the superintendant at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. Baker's past Park Service experience, including tenure at the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana and the Knife River Indian Villages in North Dakota, is well-known, and sometimes controversial for his insistence upon including presentations of Native history and culture at his various postings.

Don't miss out on this conference! There is so much to experience this year. If you haven't registered yet, please do so. The early registration deadline is May 10. The agenda, registration form, and tour flyer can be found on the organization website at <http://www.aianea.com/>.



Member Spotlight:

David Elliott, Soil Conservation Technician, Alabama

Tell everyone a little bit about yourself.

My wife, Joy, and I have 2 children: Josh 26, who is a University of Alabama Graduate with a MBA degree and Katie 19, a freshman at Jefferson Davis Community College. I also have a beautiful daughter-in-law, Carla, and our first grandchild, Madison Grace. I am of Creek Indian descent and a member of "The Santa Rosa County Creek Indian Tribe". We live on our family farm which has been in our family for over 100 years. We have a diversified farm consisting of beef cattle, hay and timberland. My family enjoys working in our church where I am a Certified Minister. I enjoy spending quality time with my family, and outdoor activities such as the new role of helping my daughter coach her first little league softball team.

My career with SCS/NRCS started in 1979. For the past 30 years, I have served as the Soil Conservation Technician in Escambia County, Alabama. I am also the Tribal Liaison for The Poarch Band of Creek Indian Tribe, where we are building a strong government-to-government relationship with the Tribe and providing technical assistance to the Tribe and Tribal members to help preserve, maintain and enhance their natural resources for future generations. I enjoy working at the field office level and having the opportunity to assist landowners in painting a picture on the landscape that will last for generations to come.

How did you come to your current position?

Since we live on a family farm, I have always been a part of the farming community. In 1979 when I heard that Mr. Olin Padgett, the SCS Technician at the time, was retiring, I turned in an application as he suggested. There were numerous applications, but I was chosen for the job. I graduated from high school on Friday night, June 1st, 1979, and went to work the following Monday morning, June 4th, 1979. In June of 2000, I was selected by our State Conservationist to serve as the Tribal Liaison to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.



What was the most challenging obstacle you overcame to achieve this position?

There have been stepping stones along the path to my current position, but I have not encountered any major obstacles. If faced with a challenging obstacle, follow your heart, seek wisdom and I believe challenging obstacles will be successfully overcome.

How can others follow in your footsteps?

I believe the first thing that any individual needs to do in life is set goals. On the job set long term, midterm and short term goals, to ensure your goals are reachable and you maintain a positive attitude. My goal has always been to serve in my position with honesty and integrity. This is a good place to start if someone would like to follow in my footsteps. Hard work and being dedicated to your job is important as well. My hope is that I have set and will leave a trail along life's pathway that others will be able to follow.

What is the most rewarding part of your current position?

In my position as Tribal Liaison, the most rewarding part of my position is gaining the trust of the Tribal Leaders and Members. I have and continue to just be myself, and I believe people respect that.

What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

Well, most people may not know that I am a minister. I would like to someday be a full time or part time pastor. I love to minister to the needs of people and lend a helping hand. I enjoy serving people now and look forward to serving others in a greater capacity in the future.

Did you have a mentor or what person has the most impact on you as an employee?

Robert Hawkins, the District Conservationist who I worked with for over 22 years, taught me a lot of things. The most important thing he taught me was to envision the outcome of conservation projects and to develop the skill to make decisions. You cannot be afraid of making the wrong decisions or mistakes. You must make decisions; and if you make a mistake – learn from it. Making mistakes is inevitable, but allowing those choices to stop you from succeeding is not.

What is your favorite saying or quote?

“Always be yourself, no matter where you are.” This quote was given to me by my Grandfather, James Henry Elliott, as a young man; and I have always tried to remember to live by this quote.

What is your favorite word?

Thanksgiving – this word reminds me of all the many blessings I have received in my life.

What is something that you are looking forward to in this coming year?

Spending more valuable time with my family including my brand new Granddaughter, Madison Grace Elliott born on February 19th, 2010.

I am honored to be highlighted by our association and I am proud of the accomplishments this association has made. As I look around at the younger members, the future for our association as well as NRCS looks bright. May you soar with wings as Eagles, have the courage of the bear, and the wisdom of our Elders.

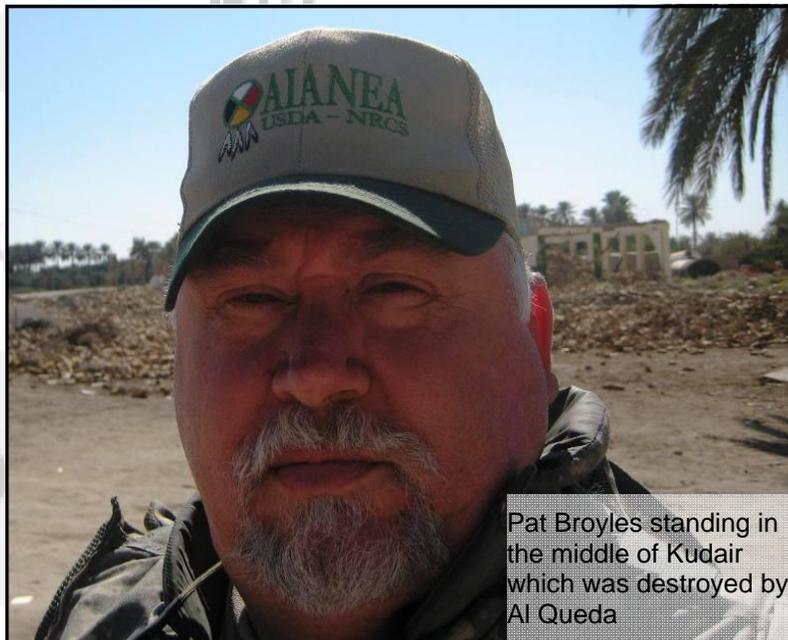
AIANEA Life Member Serves In Iraq

“The only thing that is regular about working hours are their irregularity.” According to Pat Broyles, Lifetime AIANEA and former Board member. Pat is currently the Agricultural Advisor to PRT Najaf in Iraq. He has served as a PRT Ag Advisor since July, 2008.

Iraq is home of the ‘Fertile Crescent’ where agriculture and irrigation began in the Eastern world over 5,000 years ago. “I have a feeling that after Alexander the Great conquered this part of the world he told the farmers, ‘Don’t do anything until I get back’, and they haven’t. Other than the British bringing the moldboard plow over after World War I not much has changed in the past few millennia.”, Pat continued.

“I love this job so much I extended an extra year. Why, you ask? There are two basic reasons PRTs exist.” Pat explained. “One is to raise the standard of living for purely humanitarian reasons. The other is to save military lives. By assisting Iraqis do projects they cannot afford, or do not know how to do, on their own that we are helping stabilize the country, creating jobs among the unemployed and hold down civil strife from factions who claim the USA is evil, and neighboring countries like Iran who wish for democracy in the Mideast to fail. I am serving in Iraq for the latter reason.”

“By stabilizing the Iraqi government we help hold down the attacks upon American military and thus decrease the chances of fatalities. Of course we will never know how much good we do, but if my efforts prevent one parent from receiving a call from a Commanding Officer telling them their child has been KIA then it is all worthwhile. It’s nice to think that a few mothers, wives, children and friends may owe PRTs big time since their child, husband, father or friend was not lost in combat, but that is something no one will ever know for sure. I love and honor these young men serving who cover my six, and who are voluntarily placing themselves in Harm’s Way for our country. Besides, my own son is supposed to come over here sometime this summer. You think I want a call from his Commanding Officer?”, Pat asked.



Pat Broyles standing in the middle of Kudair which was destroyed by Al Qaeda

“As can be easily guessed farming or livestock husbandry is a hard and low paying job. Most of the farmers actually only cultivate between 3 to 5 acres. Why no more? Because virtually everything is done by hand, and eighty percent of the field work is done by women and children.”

“Nothing grows in Iraq without water, and it is the most limiting factor in what does grow. A lot of southern Iraq, including Najaf, receives about 5 inches of rain a year. The last few years are droughty and less than half of that has fallen. Irrigation is a big deal.

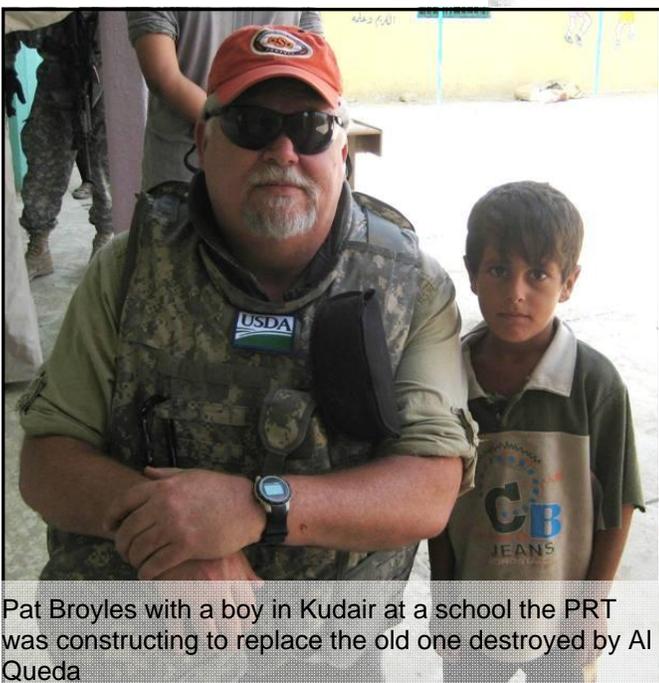
“Traditionally the Iraqi farmers grow wheat or barley by flood irrigation. By mandate they must sell their harvest to the government, which is very little money. This is bad for the land, for the farmer and the economy. Much of the land has been irrigated so long with water high in salts that it is now saline and poor in production. The family farmer works the land and gets little money for his labors. The economy suffers from buying wheat or barley which is not up to milling standards and just subsidizes part of its population keeping them in poverty.”

“Overcoming the problems listed in the previous paragraph is my chore. After a lot of listening, looking, reading and ruminating I have come up with what I have convinced the local politicians, university

teachers, Extension personnel and farmer cooperatives is the most practical solution possible. Plastic green houses with drip irrigation.”

“All right you ask, just why are green houses the answer? First, the land, green houses are about 30 feet wide, 90 feet long and 9 feet high in the middle, they take up a lot less ground than wheat or barley crops do and by using drip irrigation will use less than 10 percent of the water for irrigation that is used now. Second, green houses will allow year round growing season for vegetables, permitting the produce to be sold throughout the year to retail markets using the free economic system making much more money than selling a few bushels to the government. Third, the national economy for growth requires that Iraq become self sufficient on food. Currently they are buying a large portion of their vegetables from Syria and Iran.”

I suffered a huge personal loss around Valentine’s Day, 2008 and wondered what I should do with my life. While seeking answers reading scriptures I came across Isaiah 6:8: *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”*. Pat said, “To me, there wasn’t any doubt about what I should do. You have to have confidence in yourself when things get tough. But, even more important you have to believe in a higher deity. If you don’t you just won’t make it in this world. I strive to be a Christian and take comfort in knowing that God is a whole lot smarter



Pat Broyles with a boy in Kudair at a school the PRT was constructing to replace the old one destroyed by Al Qaeda

than me and started off all we see and know.

Likewise He has a plan for each of us that none can see nor understand, but it’s there. So, I responded to USDA’s request for volunteers for PRT duty, and I am glad that I did.”

“PRT Najaf is infamous for the Spartan conditions we live in. I live in a 12 feet by 12 feet room with no window, 2 metal closets, a bed with a lumpy mattress and a combination air conditioner/heater which we call a Containerized Housing Unit (CHU). Some CHUs here are made out of containerized produce containers you see on ships. To go to the bathroom where plumbing is available with communal showers and stools you need to walk a few hundred feet.”, Pat continued.

“Where I was stationed last year they received a rocket attack recently at night. One PRT member there had an anxiety attack and was shipped home. When you leave the FOB you are taking the exact same risks that the guys in uniform who are in charge of your well being are. An Explosive Fired Projectile (EFP), the number one method that Al Queda and their ilk are using to kill Americans are inaccurate but also extremely deadly. They have been known to penetrate the steel of an armored tank. EFPs are what is taking the majority of lives in Iraq, not sniping nor ambushes.

“There are common lapses in missing pay, improper accounting of annual leave and getting the proper ‘Danger Pay’. It used to be that if you volunteered for another year here the USDA would temporarily promote you for that year to the next higher GS grade. I volunteered in March to extend a year, was approved in April and in June was told that the temporary promotion for Ag Advisors had been cancelled by the USDA.”

“If my corpse is found after I die (I fully intend to wrestle a bear rather go to an old folk’s home) and then someone puts a tombstone on my grave I want it inscribed with ‘Pat said nothing works right in Iraq.’ Because that is the Lord’s honest truth. It takes forever to get anything done here. But, if I go home in August when my two years over here is up and literally hundreds of Najaf farmers have greenhouses then I will be content with knowing I did a decent job in Iraq. But even more than that, hoping that I did

something to help save a GI's life.”

Pat will be talking about, and showing photos of, his present work assignment about agriculture in Iraq at the annual AIANEA meeting this summer at the Friday morning session. He originally went to Iraq in July, 2008 to work in Babil Province, Iraq as part of an embedded PRT in 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division at FOB Kalsu. After a large project was completed there and the embedded PRT disbanded Pat was invited by the PRT in Najaf to join them.

Pat Broyles with a couple of Civil Affairs team members at a health clinic the PRT built in Ishkandaria



NRCS Sponsors Tribal College and University Leadership Conference

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was a major sponsor for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Leadership Conference held February 11 through February 13, 2010 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The theme for the 2010 Leadership Conference was “*The Difference is You.*” The Leadership Conference aims to help AISES college students, of 36 federally recognized Tribal Colleges and Universities, to develop leadership skills and introduces them to a network of corporate mentors and professionals. The conference also prepares the students to become active, knowledgeable leaders for the Indian community and to serve as mentors for younger American Indian students. NRCS sponsorship funds enabled AISES to bring together 150 invited college chapter student officers, chapter advisors from Tribal Colleges and Universities and selected AISES scholars and professionals to participate in this annual three-day conference. Some highlights of NRCS sponsorship benefiting Tribal College and Universities American Indian students included;

Enabled AISES staff to facilitate critical workshops and concurrent sessions for Tribal College students presented by educators and professionals on

- Career Development
- Preparing for Graduate School
- Recruitment and Retention
- AISES Chapter funding raising events
- Community Service Opportunities for AISES Chapter students
- Public Speaking
- Urgency to increased the number of American Indian students seeking STEP degrees

Workshops, concurrent sessions and educational tools are provided to the elite group of AISES chapter students invited from all seven AISES college chapter regions. Training delivered to the students at the conference is carefully planned to occur prior to the AISES College Chapters Regional Conferences. Training at the leadership conference is then shared with AISES Chapter students who attend the seven AISES College Chapter Regional conferences planned to be held in March and April, across the Nation. NRCS was honor for their support for the AISES Leadership Conference during the *Honors Banquet* and will be featured in the *Spring Winds of Change* national American Indian magazine.



National American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager and District Conservationist in Oklahoma, Dr. Carol Crouch, represented NRCS at the Leadership conference. She provided presentations on STEM degrees and preparing for Graduate School to American Indian college students in attendance.

NRCS/Native Practices Work Group

by Crystal Leonetti

The first meeting of the NRCS/Native Practices Work Group took place in Anchorage, Alaska on February 22-24, 2010. The work group is made up of 11 NRCS employees/policy-makers, 7 American Indian/Alaska Native elders, and a USDA Civil Rights employee. The three day, no agenda meeting was touted by all in attendance as both productive and meaningful.

NRCS policy-makers provide the expertise in NRCS processes, government-wide policies and NRCS' overall vision and strategy. NRCS field employees provide the insight into our day to day business with landowners and obstacles which prevent us from doing more business with tribes. The American Indian and Alaska Native elders provide experience living a subsistence way of life, hold degrees and are leaders in combining western science with traditional ecological knowledge, and have knowledge of native conservation methods.



From R to L: Work Group members in discussion; Gene Schock, Alaska SRC; John Stensgar, Colville Elder; Marie Meade, Yupik Elder

Ida Hildebrand said that it will be difficult as we go through writing this guide book together because "the government has been telling us to sit down and shut up for 200 years... Now they are willing to listen? That will be hard for us." She also says, however, that "this is a rare opportunity and we don't have time to keep secrets."

The meeting purpose was to begin this important and historic discussion by creating a positive rapport amongst the work group individuals. The group is to provide advice and wisdom into the writing of an NRCS "how-to" guide on incorporating Native American methods of conservation into NRCS' list of conservation practices. In the bigger vision, this group is hoping to provide a catalyst (the guide book) for a stronger relationship between the agency and tribal partners.

Some of the Important Considerations Agreed Upon by the Work Group:

- Include the values of the native conservation methods and honor their spirituality (do not lose the intrinsic respect in the context of the practice) at the local level
- The interface between historical conservation and modern issues (i.e.: climate change, energy conservation) is very relevant
- There is a process that NRCS follows to write new conservation practice standards

- There is a process that NRCS state-level offices use to localize national conservation practice standards
- Consultation is necessary, it is needed, and it can be initiated by anyone
- We can be a better agency for the next 75 years, the next 7 generations, and beyond
- There are differing perspectives between production agriculture and the subsistence way of life, and NRCS employees have to make a paradigm shift to realize that
- Training at the local, state and national level is inherent to the success of this budding relationship among NRCS and tribal partners/landowners
- The guide book being written needs to be cross-referenced throughout NRCS policy if it is to live on in future NRCS generations
- The guide book should include stories and illustrations
- Intellectual property rights need to be further examined so that clear instructions to employees and partners may be included in the guide book

Larry Mercurieff expressed that this was a first for him: that the government was willing to have a meeting the way Native people historically held meetings, with no agenda.

We all agreed that this project we are undertaking together could be history in the making. The ability to truly improve and build a working relationship between this government agency and tribal partners hinges on what we are doing now. This is the “perfect storm” (the atmosphere is right) for a good thing to happen. We will work together, spread the word, and make it last.

The next steps include writing several drafts of the guide book with many sources of review and editing, then incorporating it into NRCS policy, then using it! If you would like more information, contact Crystal Leonetti.

Seven Generations Visions Becoming Real

The Association has a committee hard at work implementing the visions that you, the members, so eloquently and passionately described in 2008. Accomplishments towards those visions are being made daily, thanks to some people very committed to fulfilling what we envisioned together as an employee association, with the bottom line being to “help people help the land”.

Briefly, here are a few of the recent accomplishments and plans. Any questions may be directed to Crystal Leonetti, Chair of the Visioning Committee (crystal.leonetti@ak.usda.gov).

Elder Involvement and Knowledge Sharing

- A youth-focused agenda is on schedule for the upcoming National Training Conference in Rapid City, SD in June; representatives from local Tribal Colleges will be at the conference.
- NRCS Chief Dave White confirmed attendance at the conference and will be meeting with the Elders Council
- A team is working together to build a tribal youth camp into NRCS/AIANEA for outreach and recruitment

Leadership, Growth and Mentorship

- A pilot mentoring program for AIANEA members is underway. Once it has had a chance to test through the obstacles and overcome them, it will be rolled out for all members.
- A questionnaire will soon be available for members interested in serving on NRCS details. The answers will be provided to NRCS leadership who can then choose from the individuals who would like to serve in those capacities. This will help develop our members into more experienced and well-rounded employees within NRCS.

Relationship among AIANEA, NRCS and Tribes

- An NRCS guide book on how to incorporate Indigenous Resource Management methods into NRCS conservation practice standards is being drafted. It will be available to you all for your review in May.
- Appreciative Inquiry style questions are at the ready for NRCS Tribal Liaisons to discover how we are doing as an agency at our relationship with Tribes.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge



Abstract from diverse tribes have lived in the United States. Natural resource management is not a modern invention; Indians have practiced the roots of this applied discipline for millennia. Our North American landscapes, a reflection of historical processes, both natural and cultural, bear the indelible imprint of a harvested and tended the wilds for millennia: replanting cormlets of brodiaeas to ensure future production, burning under oaks to discourage insect pests, allowing for rest periods between sedge rhizome harvests, and maintaining native grasses and wildflowers with edible seed with fire in tallgrass prairies, montane meadows, and the understories of open oak and conifer forests. Some of our rare and endangered plants and early successional landscapes depended upon deliberate well-informed American Indian action. Therefore those landscapes and plants are this essential component of those ecosystems—give a step-by-step guide of how to delve into our rich human past, to reconstruct historic land use and management examples from California. Land managers and restorationists are discovering that ancient cultural practices—burning, pruning, thinning, weeding of native have direct application to the restoration and management of our natural resources (*Anemopsis californica*), an important medicinal plant cultivated by California Indian tribes. For over 10,000 years, American Indians medley of lifeways. The native peoples at risk now, because we've forgotten about them—humans. These Technical Notes practices in different landscapes, using plants—are not passé. These techniques and biodiversity today. Yerba mansa

Definition of Ethnobiology

The collective storehouse of human knowledge about the natural world is commonly called “traditional ecological knowledge” (TEK) and it can be defined as “the knowledge base acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds of years through direct experience and contact with the environment.”

This rich knowledge of how nature works and how to *judiciously* harvest and steward nature without destroying it is hard-won—the product of keen observation, patience, experimentation, and long-term relationships with plants and animals. It is knowledge built on a history—gained *through many generations of human beings* teaching their children practical techniques that underscored this crucial human-environmental relationship upon which culture and life itself depended. Many people in indigenous cultures displayed a remarkable knowledge about the natural history of places and they were directly involved in gathering, making products from, and using plants and animals. Thus the biological world, the source of the plant or animal, and the cultural world, the human context for using that plant or animal, were tightly intertwined.

Today the study of this knowledge base and the resultant human-nature interactions is called *ethnobiology*. The field encompasses the totality of the place of nature in a culture—from the role of plants and animals as tribal characters in legends, songs, or rituals designed to regulate resource use, to innovative ways in which humans have used plants and animals and their constituent parts, and to the manners in which human activities have altered the natural environment and augmented or decreased plant and animal populations.

For the rest of the article, please go to :

http://npdc.usda.gov/pdf/0105_tek_report.pdf

This is the first in a series of technical notes about Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

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M. Kat Anderson, Author email: mkanderson@ucdavis.edu

“Indigenous Stewardship”

NRCS/Native Practices Work Group makes progress on Guide Book

The second meeting of the NRCS/Native Practices Work Group was held in Spokane, Washington on April 12th and 13th. Work group members from both NRCS and the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Indigenous representation gathered to collaborate on the first draft of the Indigenous Stewardship and NRCS Conservation Practices guide book. The guide book will walk NRCS employees and Tribes through the process of incorporating indigenous stewardship methods into NRCS conservation systems. They discussed the importance of terminology used in the guide book - that it must represent indigenous peoples in all areas of the U.S. and that we mustn't imply that the living things put here on earth for our use should ever be exploited. Instead of “American Indian and Alaska Native people”, “Indigenous Peoples” will be used. Instead of “resource management”, we will use the terminology “Indigenous Stewardship Methods”. They looked at several of NRCS' current conservation practice standards to learn about how they are developed on a national level and tailored to suit the land at the local level. The work group also examined a draft flow chart which will guide us to the correct NRCS processes to use. Tribal and Federal laws, regulations and policies will be an important piece of the guide book to emphasize the special relationship between federal government and tribes. Resources and tools were examined for their applicability and relevance to NRCS. Stories were shared illustrating examples of indigenous stewardship methods, of agreements to protect intellectual property rights, and of creating interim practice standards. These stories will be used as examples in the guide book. Work group members left with assignments to help finish the second draft of the guide book prior to its wider distribution for further review. The final draft of the guide book is intended to be ready and presented to NRCS Headquarters by the first of June. If you are interested in reviewing the second draft, please contact Crystal Leonetti at crys-tal.leonetti@ak.usda.gov.



Work Group reviewing NRCS conservation practice standards

Alaska Native Employees Assoc

NRCS/Native Practices Work Group

Top Row: Noller Herbert, Roylene Rides-at-the-Door, Toni Stanger, John Stensgar, Karin Sonnen, Gene Schock, Wayne Bogovich, Herman Moonin, Mike Hubbs; Bottom Row: Orville Huntington, Justine James, Crystal Leonetti, Marie Meade, Larry Merculieff, Ida Hildebrand, Kat Anderson, Sarah Bridges



Membership Form

American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

www.aianea.com

Please make checks payable to AIANEA and mail your membership form and dues to:

Harold Bryant
1510 29th Street
Hondo, TX 78861

Date: _____

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Office Address: _____ New Address?

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax _____

e-mail: _____

Tribal Affiliation (optional) _____

Type of membership. (Membership is for one calendar year **January 1 to December 31**)

My membership is for the year 20____.

Regular-\$25.00 Check here if this is a renewal membership

Student -\$10.00 full-time high school or college students

Lifetime - \$250.00 or payable in 4 installments of \$65/year

Enclosed is payment # 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Tribal College-\$100.00

Tribal - \$500.00

The 2010 AIANEA National Council

Tanya Meyer - Dideriksen – President

Ciro Lo Pinto - 1st Vice President

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