

Western Region Tribal Integrated Pest Management Work Group

Tribal Forest Pest Identification and Management Workshop

August 4, 2016

Susanville Rancheria

Opening Prayer

Welcome, Mission Scope - Keir Johnson

- Reviewed the background of the WRTIPM WG

Introductions (all)

Intent of the Meeting

- Technical content for the morning session with a series of talks
- Create new partnerships and deepen current partnerships
- Support from each to combat pests on respective lands
- Dore Bietz, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk not able to attend
- Working lunch - gathering demonstration and plants used

Western Regional Tribal Integrated Pest Management Work Group (WRTIPM WG) - Nina Hapner

- Overview of the Work group (also see <http://westernipm.org/index.cfm/center-projects/project-websites/tribal-work-group/>)
- The accomplishments
- Relationships built

Pit River Tribe Ecological Restoration Program Activities and Partnerships - Marissa Fierro Ancestral territory covers many ecotones and wide geographical areas, crosses many jurisdictional boundaries

- Restoration program requires strong partnerships
- Preserving seed is necessary to really restore full functionality, working with their own propagation nursery
- Worked with BIA - Gerald Jones - on funding for the restoration project.
- Created Tribal Conservation District with NRCS within the Tribal Ancestral Territory that will assist with obtaining funding and building additional partnerships.
- Project is employing people in the community.

Invasive Species Issues - Discussion

- (Potter Valley) Thistles - yellow star and Italian - a huge issue.
- (Pit river) Yellow Star Thistle along Hat Creek.
- (Pit River) Bark Beetle infestations - what population is native and what method of treatment is going to be the most effective. New research on cutting trees that are dead and movement of the beetle to other trees and snag retention. What about the value of the snags? What is the general management?

- (Ft. Bidwell) - Canadian Thistle, bull thistle, Dyer's Woad, Knapweed - doing a lot of hand grubbing, some hand treatment. Have seen treatment used at the right time that seems to be effective.
- (Sweet Water) Pine nut trees dying from beetles. Don't know the species of beetle. What are the federal agencies doing when they see this? Forest Service chopping down pine nut trees without talking to the tribes that have family gathering areas. Disrespect for the important resource that the pine nut trees have in relation to the tribes. Example given: people just don't go in and chop down apple trees in an orchard, so why do that to the pine nut trees? They provide a food source that is important. Tribal families that gather show respect, and clean up after themselves - non-Natives don't.
- (Susanville) - Protecting trees from drought stress. How can the tribe deal with invasive species as far as noxious weeds? Starting to see spotted knapweed and would like to address it before it gets out of hand.
- (Wintu) - Canadian Thistle a problem - how can USFS steer away from using herbicides?
- (Pechanga) - biggest problem is urban sprawl and the exotic species that come with it - tree tobacco, tamarisk, pampas grass, mustard, thistle. People go out and remove tree tobacco, but it comes back - it produces 1000's of seeds.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Opportunities with NRCS - Dan Martynn

- Successfully working with Susanville Rancheria - Cradle Valley Project.
- The NRCS is committed to working with Tribes.
- EQIP Program provides incentive payments - at SIR it has supported fuel reduction and forest health since a healthy forest stand is a drought resistant forest stand.
- Can do native plant restoration, fuels reduction work - number of programs.
- Conducts projects on tribal traditional lands that they don't own through lease agreements.
- Start work on perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*).
- Can help hire the forester to write a forest management plan.

Not able to cover at 100%, but can help work with partners to get required matching funds.

The Indian Forest Pest Partnership - Gerald Jones, BIA

- Working with Dore Bietz on the Tree Mortality Task Force - the Task force was set up by Jerry Brown and involve the CA Office of Emergency Services Office. (See <http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/>)
- Protection Act of 1922, says tribes can get agreements with many government agencies to address damage from insects and diseases. It includes allotments, trust lands, etc. BIA has agreements with CAL OES and CAL Fire. The interagency agreements enable the transfer of funds from agencies to tribes.
- Economy Act - applies to tribes - the three tests: Do you have money? Best interest of the government? And is it convenient?
- CAL Fire and Cal OES have agreements with BIA and can transfer money directly to the tribes. BIA provides a way to get funds into an Indian Trust Account.

USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection Funding for Tribes - Sheri Smith (see slides)

- 50-75 site visits over the past year - a lot with SoCal tribes on goldspotted oak borer and polyphagous shot hole borer.
- Technical assistance - can assist with detection, monitoring and prevention.
- Financial assistance - conduct forest insect and disease suppression projects.

- Provides detection surveys and biological evaluations of forest insect and diseases on tribal lands.
- Letter goes out to all Department of Interior agencies requesting projects.
- BIA responsibilities - notifies the field units that USFS services are available. An in-service agreement (3-pages) needs to be in place for funds to be transferred. BIA submits proposals for FS FHP financial assistance to carryout forest insect and disease suppression projects in accordance with the FS guidelines and due dates.
- Can accept requests anytime of the year.
- Trust lands only? If tribes own it, could do a restricted trust land status, per BIA.
- Aerial surveys flown every year, also have some remote sensing data too - talk with FS for survey results or other needs

Follow up meeting: Would like both BIA and Forest Health Protection to hold a training to go step- by-step through the Forest Health Cooperative Suppression program application process for tribes. Tribes with projects could meet with representatives from both organizations to go through the application process. First step is to poll tribes attending the Region 9 RTOC Meeting the second week of August and follow up with group. (Nina)

Lassen NF Field trip along Goumaz Road

Field Trip Stop 1

- Looked at dwarf mistletoe and discussed treatments. It is a native and treatments depend on the site location type, i.e. high precipitation v low precipitation; slope, how fast the trees go, etc. Mistletoe species are specific to tree species. One species of mistletoe doesn't affect numerous trees.
- The bark beetles in this area are native. They are just doing their job, but out of control because of the current drought situation. Most people see the wood boring beetles and think they are killing the trees, but they come in after the bark beetles.
- The largest bark beetle is the red turpentine beetle.

Field Trip Stop 2

- Looked at rust (*Gymnosporangium libocedri*) on incense cedar and the way it changes the growth pattern of the tree.
- Looked at the effects of Heterobasidion (Annosus) root disease.

Field Trip Stop 3

- Talked about invasive plant species and a project being implemented to remove medusahead, (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and other weeds. The NF will burn and replant with native species.
- They also talked about a new biological control, (BioWest Ag Solutions MB 906) bacteria that attack winter annuals (e.g. medusahead, cheatgrass and jointed goatgrass). We don't know if it is registered for use in California, but it is available in other states.