

National Pollution Prevention Roundtable  
Tribal P2 Workgroup Conference Call  
**Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2009**  
**Time: 2 pm EDT, 1 pm CDT, Noon MDT, 11am PDT, 10am AKST**  
**Call in Number: 888-296-6500; Passcode 547845**

**Title: Ecological Management for Culturally-Significant Wildlife**

**1) Introductions**

Cynthia Naha, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone  
Marilyn Eply, Tonkawa Tribe of OK  
Garrett Smith, EPA Reg I  
David Jaber, co-chair  
Pat Donovan, Michigan DEQ  
Sharri Venno, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians  
Bill Patton, EPA Region IV  
Scott Hansen, Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa  
Beau Mitchell, College of Menominee Nation  
Myla Kelly, Peaks to Prairies  
Catherine Tunis, EPA HQ  
Megan Ulrich – Upper Sioux Community  
Art Muller – Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
Don Hankins, CSU Chico  
and 5-8 others over the course of the call

**2) Guest Speaker: Don Hankins, CSU Chico. [chankins@csuchico.edu](mailto:chankins@csuchico.edu)**

Don presented on **ecological management for culturally-significant wildlife**. Don is a Sacramento Delta region Plains Miwok, a basketweaver, and a fire ecologist. He has a degree in wildlife management. He has worked in endangered species management, northwest of Yosemite. He has extensive background in environmental protection and Endangered Species Recovery in the Southwest (e.g. California Condor).

Don commented on the lack of cultural management that exists on a landscape scale.

- What are the links between traditional ecological knowledge and modern science?
- Cultural knowledge integration is one of his areas of investigation, and his exploration of the question showed him that traditional knowledge goals are the same thing as current wildlife management goals.
- A lack of cultural management in the landscape is closely tied to single species preservation approach. CA Condor recovery is one example of a single species approach. The Condor is an extremely culturally important species, as it is the pinnacle of the Miwok creation story.
- An example of landscape management can be seen in the study of **fire ecology**. Don began noticing the relationship with fire -- the driving force in their (California) landscape, and wanted to know more about how fire helps conserve species.

The Miwok elders explain that they have a responsibility to maintain their landscape. Many of their culturally-significant species are rare. He wonders . . . is it because they haven't maintained their traditional role in their landscape?

Culturally-significant species (those species for which a culture has a unique relationship). For Plains Miwok these include: Sacramento split tail, Chinook salmon, traditional plants used in basket weaving, California Red-Legged Frog, Bald Eagle

Basket weaving:

- Traditional practice for many native communities
- For CA tribes without specific treaty rights, they were required to apply and pay for permits to harvest their traditional plants on National Forest Service land.
- Don took part in creating a management plan with the USFS for traditional basket plants that included the right to harvest without paying a permit fee.
- This has become known as the **Traditional Indian Gathering Policy** (<http://www.ciba.org/TraditionalBrochure.pdf>): adopted in 2007, it ensures free use of plants for traditional basketweavers and gatherers on lands in California managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. This rule was developed in coordination with tribes, tribal members, and members of CIBA and the California Indian Forest and Fire Management Council.

Resources:

- California Indian Basket Weavers Association [www.ciba.org](http://www.ciba.org)
- Contact Don at [dhankins@csuchico.edu](mailto:dhankins@csuchico.edu) with questions, feedback, and for additional examples.
- One resource in NW Australian is an individual who is working to incorporate traditional landscape management for 2.5 million hectares of land (Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathway) <http://www.tkrp.com.au/>
- View this video for a traditional perspective on fire and landscape planning: Fire and the Story [http://tkrp.com.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=83&Itemid=182](http://tkrp.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=83&Itemid=182)
- Another perspective on traditional fire management as a multiple species management technique: <http://www.kaanjungaachi.com.au/FireManagementProject.htm>
- The Onondaga Nation in upstate NY is also pursuing traditional ecological management by pushing for the right to manage their historic lands, without taking the land as private property. The Onondaga Nation is suing the State of New York, the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, and five corporations for illegal land takings and damage inflicted on Central New York's environment <http://www.onondaganation.org/land/complaint.html> .