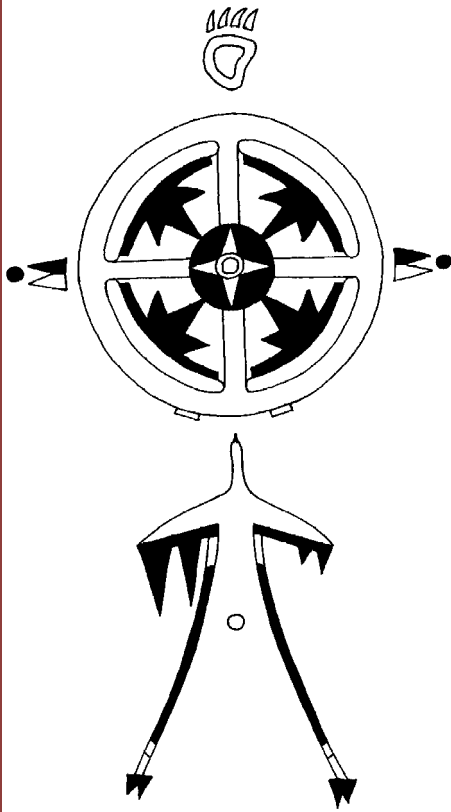


# EARTH MEDICINE



**April  
1997**

Haskell Environmental  
Research Studies Center  
and  
Great Plains-Rocky Mountain  
Hazardous Substance  
Research Center

## ITEP conducts air quality workshop at Haskell Indian Nations University

by Patricia Ellsworth, Northern Arizona University

Flagstaff, AZ - Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) hosted an "Introduction to Air Quality Management" workshop February 4-7, 1997. The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University developed and delivered the 4-day training workshop. Virgil Masayesva (Hopi) and Pat Ellsworth from ITEP, and Deb Madison, Environmental Programs Manager for the Fort Peck Tribes, facilitated the workshop. Participants represented 17 tribes and most geographical areas within the United States. Two US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tribal Air Program Coordinators also attended: Dennis Falk from Region VI and Kelly Huynh from Region X.



**ITEP Air Quality workshop participants reading test results.**

Major topics included: the concept of pH; the criteria pollutants, their sources and effects; National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Air Toxics; the use of a PM10 air sampler; major provisions of the Clean Air Act and its application to tribes; and components of a tribal air quality program.

Faculty and staff in HINU's Natural and Social Science Department greatly

contributed to the success of the workshop. Dr. George Godfrey and his staff provided space and equipment in the conference room; Dr. Dennis O'Malley opened the chemistry lab to workshop participants for several hands-on activities during the week; Carol Bowen and Tom Trombley presented an introduction to Geographic Information Systems.

This entry-level workshop is part of ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP), which began in 1993 with funding from the US EPA. AIAQTP seeks to fulfill the mandate of the 1990 Clean Air Act to offer Native American tribes full partnership in the management of air quality on tribal lands.

The core of the training program is a series of three workshops: "Introduction to Air Quality Management," "Air Pollution Technology," and "Air Quality Program Administration." Tribal staff who complete the series are prepared to enroll in specialty courses. ITEP facilitated the first specialty course, "Title V: Operating Permits," for tribal staff in May 1996. A second specialty course, dealing with environmental data analysis and management, is slated for August 1997.

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## Collaboration and mutual understanding are key ingredients in land use planning

by Patterson T. Yazzie, Haskell Indian Nations University

The February 28, 1997, seminar program, “Biology Of The Earth—Our Connection To The Land,” at the Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) television studio promoted collaboration between tribal, state and federal governments on land use planning. Aietah Stephens (Kiowa), a HINU alumna and a graduate student in mass communication at Northeastern State University at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, moderated the seminar program. Joining Stephens were Jim Grijalva, Director of the Tribal Environmental Law Project at the University of North Dakota; Kim TallBear

tion between tribal, state and federal governments before any land use planning begins. He stated that it is essential to understand the universal effects of land use and the different understanding of holistic management systems. “There certainly does not need to be a ‘token Indian’ to validate any finding or needs to desecrate Native American sacred sites,” stressed Welton.

Welton described the tendency of Federal agencies in oversimplifying Native American issues. He reminded agencies that there are several hundred Indian Nations with varying views of nature.

Grijalva talked about the status of Indian Nations as sovereign nations with legal authority to establish policies and programs for territories over which the tribe has jurisdiction. He stressed that tribal governments must demand a government-to-government relationship when working with the Federal government. He described the conflict Native Americans are facing regarding whether to consume the land for profit or live in harmony with the land. “The decision for the tribal governments is really whether or not they would use their legal status to adopt policies that will try to protect the interests and the values that the tribe holds,” said Grijalva.

TallBear pointed out the federal mandate of risk assessment on what to clean up and how clean an affected site should be. According to TallBear, “they do not know how to evaluate the risk to cultural resources and sacred sites.”

She described how the Nez Perce tribe in Idaho and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon are working on a tribal risk assessment model. They are looking at how to qualitatively, rather than quantitatively, evaluate risks to cultural resources. She stressed that it is up to individual tribes to figure out how to measure risk assessment on cultural and sacred resources because the federal standard risk assessment does not provide guidelines.

For more information on the “All Things Are Connected: The Sacred Circle Of Life,” video seminar series, contact the HERS Center at 913-749-8498 or HERS@hsrv.nass.haskell.edu. Suggestions and evaluations of the seminar series are welcome. The seminar series is being sponsored by Haskell Indian Nations University, the Native American And Other Minority Institutions Program (NAOMI) and United States Geological Survey. ■



**Aietah Stephens, Jim Grijalva, Kim TallBear and Bill Welton in the HINU Television Production Studio.**

(Cheyenne-Arapaho of Oklahoma), Environmental Policy Analyst for the Council Energy of Resource Tribes; and Bill Welton, Professor of Natural Resources at HINU.

TallBear talked about the traditional respect for the land and how it can be applied to today’s technologies in protecting tribal lands. She said that tribal environmental officers need to ask themselves what are their traditional land use practice philosophies. “They have to figure out how to apply that into a contemporary framework on how to make decisions to preserve and protect the land and the natural resources.”

TallBear stressed the importance in training Native Americans in natural resources, biology, engineering, and as policy experts. “There is a need for tribal members who are skilled in the scientific fields to build up tribal environmental programs and exercise their sovereign authority to regulate environmental activities on tribal lands,” said TallBear.

Welton believes that there needs to a collabora-

## Century-old concerns reiterated during recent water seminar

During a recent seminar program recorded at the Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) television studio in Lawrence, Kansas, three Native American panelists reaffirmed the environmental concerns that were voiced by tribal leaders even before the first treaty was signed with the United States Government. The program, "The Biology Of The Earth—Going Beneath The Surface Of An Issue," was the third program of a four-part seminar series, "All Things Are Connected: The Sacred Circle Of Life."

The program was moderated by Dan Wildcat (Yuchi), who is co-director of the HERS Center and a professor of social sciences at HINU. Joining Wildcat were Dr. George Godfrey (Potawatomi), chair of the Natural and Social Sciences Department at HINU; Juane Quick-To-See-Smith (Salish-Kootenai), contemporary Native American artist from Corrales, New Mexico; and Curly Bear Wagner (Blackfeet), cultural advisor to the Blackfeet Nation in Browning, Montana.

Wagner stressed the differences in how Native Americans view nature as a gift from Mother Earth while some Europeans perceive natural resources as commodities made available for human consumption. Wagner believes that if the Europeans shared the same reverence for nature as the Native Americans did, there may not have been environmental problems. "If they paid attention to the American Indians on how we protected the water, forests, the moun-

tains and the air, we would not be in the situation we are in today. They would not listen to us and pay attention to us because they called us savages."

Quick-To-See-Smith talked about how non-Indians do not have the same guardianship of Nature compared to Native Americans. She talked about a recent project she worked on with a wastewater treatment plant in Phoenix, Arizona. She finds fault in defining water at the treatment center as wastewater. "All water is life giving and it's all recycled. This water has been here since the beginning of time," clarified Quick-To-See-Smith. She said that the current project in Phoenix will recycle all the water at the treatment center as drinking water.

Godfrey talked about the importance of water to the Potawatomi and how they view Lake Michigan as the birthplace of the Potawatomi Nation. Godfrey compared the different phases of water to the medicine wheel that represents the sacredness and continuity of life. "If that cycle is broken, then there is death. If there is an interference with the cycle of water, then there is also death."

Godfrey added that the water recycling project in Phoenix will make more people aware of what we put into the water, if we have to drink it again. "The concept people have is of flushing the water and never seeing it again, but the water comes back again more directly through the recycling plants." Godfrey believes that people will begin to see the significance of water and make better use of it. ■

## Earth Medicine changing format in July

The staff at the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center (HERS) are working to redesign the layout of *Earth Medicine*. The July 1997 issue will unveil the new format with eight pages and a new layout design. The newsletter will be published quarterly.

The format will reflect the new focus of HERS. The center's activities will be more focused on tribal environmental activities and continuing the seminar

series. Upcoming topics will include Industrial Ecology and Environmental Management Systems.

The HERS center is also planning to hire a Technical Outreach coordinator by Fall 1997. This position will be responsible for providing university educational resources to tribal communities affected by hazardous substance contamination issues.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the HERS staff at 913-749-8498. ■

## Workshop promotes hands-on experience

### ■ continued from page 1

All ITEP training courses have a workshop format, incorporating a great deal of hands-on work and several small group activities. This approach encourages group interaction so that participants get to know one another and share concerns and ideas. Hopefully, this will lead to networking after the workshop. The instructional team for each workshop includes experienced tribal environmental

managers who can speak to the day-to-day needs and problems tribal staff will encounter.

For more information about ITEP and the American Indian Air Quality Training Program, call or send email to: Virgil Masayesva (520-523-9651, virgil.masayesva@nau.edu) or Pat Ellsworth (520-523-6721, patricia.ellsworth@nau.edu). ■

# Available videotapes

These tapes are available through interlibrary loan from Kansas State University's Farrell Library.

**Biology Of The Earth—All Things Are Connected**

**Biology Of The Earth—Our Connection To The Land**

**Geoscience Education in Native American Communities**

**Live Teleconference: An Environmental Legacy For Our Grandchildren**

**Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A Roundtable Discussion, Part II**

**The Badlands Bombing Range Project**

**Basin Creek Mine Closure Reclamation Techniques**

**Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A Roundtable Discussion**

**Topics in Pollution Prevention—Vehicle Maintenance**

**PCBs in Our Environment—The Legacy Continues**

**Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A European Viewpoint**

**Environmental Impacts of Gold Mining Operations Near the Fort Belknap Reservation**

**Comparison of Native American and European Worldviews: A Native American Viewpoint**

**The NAOMI Program and HERS: New Opportunities in Environmental Research**

Hózhó Kéyah (Environmental Harmony in Business)

Hózhó Hooghan (Environmental Harmony at Home)

Team America: A Strategic Plan for the 1990's

Bold print indicates that a seminar was sponsored by the NAOMI Seminar Program.



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