



Bureau of Indian Affairs hires David Smith, Rangeland Management Specialist, in the Western Regional Office

David Smith has recently been hired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona, as a Rangeland Management Specialist. One of his primary responsibilities will be to work with Tribes in the State of Nevada. Stationed at the Western Nevada Agency in Carson City, Nevada, Smith began work in early April of this year and currently has on-going projects on the Summit Lake, Pyramid Lake, Washoe, Fallon, Goshute, and McDermitt Reservations. Smith's work experience consists of 26 years of rangeland and natural resources management in Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and Montana while employed with the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA Forest Service. Below is a timeline of Smith's work experience and accomplishments:

- From 1978 to 1982, he conducted vegetation and fuel surveys and worked in fire suppression related positions while employed for the Umatilla National Forest in Oregon.
- From 1982 to 1984, he moved to the BIA and served as Range Conservationist and Reclamation Specialist on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona.
- From 1984 to 1989, he served as the Range Conservationist and Natural Resources Officer with the BIA on the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana.
- From 1989 to 2002, he was the Range Conservationist on the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon.
- From 1994 to 1999, he served as Lead Vegetation Specialist for the DOI's National Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Team.
- From 1999 to 2006, he served as the Team Leader for the Southern States National BAER Team.
- From June of 2002, he transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service where he served as the head of the biology program for the Hanford Reach National Monument while working with the Umatilla, Yakima, Nez Pierce, Coleville Tribes, and the Wanapum people on resource management issues.

Smith comes from an agricultural background and loves to spend time with his family outdoors, including hiking, boating, fishing, and hunting. Before leaving Oregon, he and his family owned a small farm and raised alfalfa hay and cattle. This allowed the kids to be raised in an agricultural setting complete with a list of daily chores. David and his wife, Jody, are parents to 3 young adults: a son who is a junior at Washington State University; and twins, a girl and boy, who are seniors at Douglas High School.

When asked what Smith likes best about his move to Nevada he said, "I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with native people in the implementation of sound management practices for the protection and enhancement of critical natural resources. I look forward to exploring more of Nevada and getting to know more about the Tribes and the resource management issues that they are facing."

Dave's phone number is (775) 887-5656.

Upcoming Events...

Native American Heritage Month

November 20, 2006
NRCS State Office
Presenters: Great Basin Native Basket Weavers Association
For more information, contact Kari Emm at (775) 857-8500 ext 115

Indian Nations Conservation Alliance Conference

December 4 - 9, 2006
Las Vegas, Nevada
More information is on the web at www.indianaglink.com

Montana /Wyoming Indian Stockgrowers

Association Symposium
November 30 - December 1, 2006
Las Vegas, NV
For more information, contact Raynell Miller at (775) 773-2337

University of Nevada, Reno Native American Alumni Chapter

3rd Annual Pow Wow
April 14 -15, 2007
Mackay Stadium on the UNR Campus
For more information, contact Sherry Rupert at srupert@govmail.state.nv.us

Helping People Help the land

Nevada

CONSERVATION NEWS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NOVEMBER 2006

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH NOVEMBER 2006

Each year, the USDA NRCS has a national poster contest. This year's artist of the 2006 Native American Poster (*right*) is Lori Sawyer of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, from Atmore, Alabama. The poster is titled "The Gifts of Mother Earth."

An excerpt located at the bottom of the poster reads:

The Creek Indians have always had close ties to the land and waterways, and they understand the importance of conserving natural resources. They help Mother Earth, and she gives many gifts in return.

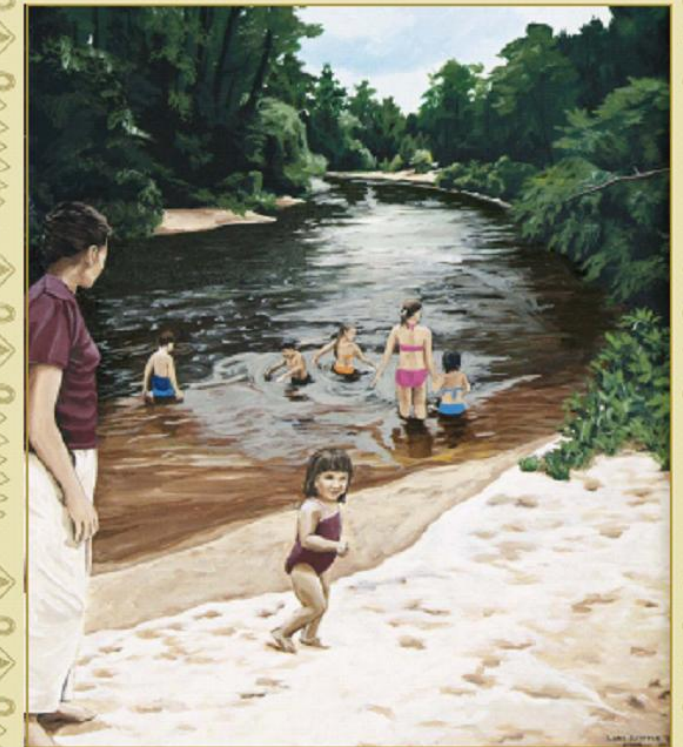
One of these gifts that is treasured by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve. This important economic enterprise for the Tribe is a shining example of good stewardship that has been passed down from generation to generation. The creek offers the simple pleasure of swimming and other water sports, and it helps relax the mind and renew the spirit.

The children of the Tribe enjoy the "Gifts of Mother Earth" as they play in the same clean water as their ancestors.

They value this gift of heritage.

The Native American poster has been distributed to all partners and Tribes. If you are interested in competing in next year's poster contest or would like to receive a poster, please contact Kari Emm at (775) 857-8500, or via email at kari.emm@nv.usda.gov.

American Indian Heritage Month November 2006



The Gifts of Mother Earth

Artist: Lori Sawyer, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Atmore, AL

The Creek Indians have always had close ties to the land and waterways, and they understand the importance of conserving natural resources. They help Mother Earth, and she gives many gifts in return. One of those gifts that is treasured by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve. This important economic enterprise for the Tribe is a shining example of good stewardship that has been passed down from generation to generation. The creek offers the simple pleasure of swimming and other water sports, and it helps relax the mind and renew the spirit. The children of the Tribe enjoy the "Gifts of Mother Earth" as they play in the same clean water as their ancestors. They value this gift of heritage.



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EQIP Project Saves Water on the Walker River Paiute Indian Reservation

Randy Emm, a rancher and farmer on the Walker River Indian Reservation, has recently installed an irrigation pipeline with the assistance of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Emm farms approximately 600 acres on the reservation.

The EQIP project replaced 3/4 of a mile of sandy earth ditch with a pipeline. With assistance provided by NRCS District Conservationist Ed Biggs and Agricultural Engineer Dave Doughty, the project was completed in April 2006. By replacing the earthen ditch, Emm was able to conserve water by reducing the amount lost during irrigation. He also increased the volume of water and reduced the time needed to irrigate. Prior to the installation of the new pipeline, it took Emm approximately 16 hours to irrigate the 16-acre field. It now takes four to five hours less to irrigate that same field.

Emm is very pleased with the project and intends to complete additional conservation projects, due to the huge success of this initial project.



Randy Emm kneeling beside his completed EQIP project

Rangeland Inventories Will Help Two Tribes Plan For The Future

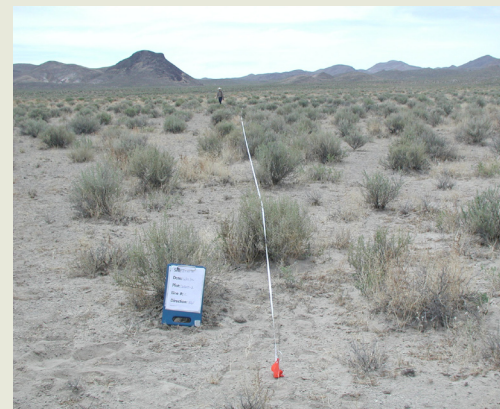
NRCS has two rangeland inventories in progress in Indian Country. Patty Novak-Echenique, Rangeland Ecologist, is coordinating this effort from the Nevada State Office this year. The two inventories are being conducted by the Minden and Yerington Field Office staff. Angela Mushrush, Rangeland Management Specialist from the Minden Field Office, has responsibility for the Pine Nut Allotment inventory, located east of Gardnerville. Mushrush reports that she is on schedule to complete 40,000 acres this year. The second inventory is on the Walker River Paiute Indian Reservation and is being completed by Tracey Jean Wolfe, Rangeland Management Specialist, from the Yerington Field Office. Wolfe is also on schedule to complete 110,000 acres this season.

These rangeland inventories are being funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Office in Phoenix. This is a five year partnership including a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to complete rangeland inventories on all reservations in Nevada. When completed, all trust lands with rangeland resources will be inventoried. This will allow for these tribal lands to enter future planning efforts for their sustained use by the communities.



Pine Nut Allotment where inventory is being conducted by Angela Mushrush, Rangeland Management Specialist (Left)

Walker River Paiute Reservation where inventory is being conducted by Tracey Jean Wolfe, Rangeland Management Specialist (Right)



Big Warm Spring Restoration Project

An agreement was signed by the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe in 2002 to collaboratively work with government agencies in developing restoration and species recovery projects while meeting the goals of tribal enterprise and agriculture. The Tribe became a full partner to the Railroad Valley Springfish Recovery Implementation Team (RRSRIT). The following items were achieved through this collaboration:

- Developed and implemented a habitat restoration plan to restore the Big Warm Spring source pool, 1.5 miles of associated outflow, 160 acres of riparian corridor, and 45 acres of wetland habitat
- Eradicated non-native fish (catfish and tilapia) at Big Warm Spring. Permanently retired aquacultural facility operation within designated critical habitat through agreement with the Tribe
- Developed and implemented a Safe Harbor Agreement to reintroduce Railroad Valley Springfish at Big Warm Spring (designated critical habitat)
- Implemented public access and information/education opportunities at Big Warm Spring
- Restored Tribal cultural/ceremonial area along the Big Warm Spring outflow
- Restricted and monitored vehicular and livestock access to restore habitat
- Educated and informed all tribal members and associated private landowners of project implementation and the associated benefits and effects

Partners and Budget for Restoration Project

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$135,000
Tribal Cost Shares - \$72,000
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife - \$25,000
United States Geological Service, Water Resources - \$20,000
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Tribal Landowner Incentive Grant - \$200,000
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Tribal Wildlife Grant - \$225,000
Nevada Department of Wildlife - staff
US Biological Research Division, staff and camp trailer - \$14,250
Catfish Farmer, equipment and cost of dismantling catfish farm - \$15,000



Native American Indian Heritage Month 2006

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

During National American Indian Heritage Month, we honor the generations of American Indians and Alaska Natives who have added to the character of our Nation. This month is an opportunity to celebrate their many accomplishments and their rich ancestry and traditions. America is blessed by the character and strength of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and our citizens are grateful for the countless ways Native Americans have enriched our country and lifted the spirit of our Nation. We are especially grateful for the Native Americans who have served and continue to serve in our Nation's military. These brave individuals have risked their lives to protect our citizens, defend our democracy, and spread the blessings of liberty to people around the world.

My Administration is working to ensure that American Indians and Alaska Natives have access to all the opportunities of this great land. My fiscal year 2007 budget proposes more than \$12.7 billion for government programs for Native Americans. Education is vital to ensuring all citizens reach their full potential, and my budget includes funding to help Native American schools succeed and meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is providing education for approximately 46,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children. To help keep Native Americans safe, I have also proposed to increase law enforcement personnel and improve law enforcement facilities in American-Indian communities. My Administration will continue to work on a government-to-government basis with tribal governments, honor the principles of tribal sovereignty and the right to self-determination, and help ensure America remains a land of promise for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and all our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2006 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH