

Cultural Event...

CULTURAL EVENT

WHERE: SIR RESOURCE CENTER

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday
November 12 & 13, 2016

TIME: 10:00am-3:30pm

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED on Saturday

POTLUCK ON SUNDAY

**THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE IN THE AFTERNOON
YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN
ADULT**

**FRANCIS SHAW, TRADITIONAL BASKET
WEAVER WILL SHARE HER KNOWLEDGE OF
PREPARING & MAKING A SMALL BASKET**

**QUESTIONS/Rsvp MELANY L. JOHNSON
530-251-5633 OR nagpra1@citlink.net**

*...I HOPE THE GREAT HEAVENLY FATHER, WHO WILL
LOOK DOWN UPON US, WILL GIVE ALL TRIBES HIS
BLESSING THAT WE MAY GO FORTH IN PEACE ...*

Red Cloud

**Sponsored and Hosted by the SIR NRD & National Park Service
Tribal Historic Preservation Office Grant**

Drug and Alcohol Free Event



The Dirt

SIR Newsletter Insert
November 2016

*Cultural and Environmental News
brought to you by the Susanville Indian Rancheria
Natural Resources Department (NRD)*

Inside this issue:

Meet NRD	2
Welcome Roselyn	3
Invasive Plants in the Moonlight Fire Area	4
Forest Health Threat	5
Cultural Event	6



View looking South from the top of the Upper Rancheria



Example of Macro-invertebrates found in Clark's Creek on the Cradle Valley Property. These particular species are a sign of high water quality.

Meet the NeRDs...



Natural Resources Department Mission Statement:
To assess, protect and enhance the tribal and environmental resources (culture, language, land, air, water) on the ancestral homelands of the tribes and bands of SIR in order to maintain a healthy community and to manage for multiple land uses.

If you have any questions or comments about the stories or programs in this newsletter please contact the writers:

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Environmental Protection...

Bark Beetle: A Threat to Forest Health

Background:

Over the last several years a bark beetle epidemic has been reeking havoc on California's pine forests. This small, native beetle lays its eggs in stressed, injured or diseased trees. Once established in a tree, the beetle releases a pheromone, which attracts more beetles to the tree. The eggs hatch and the larva tunnel further into the tree where they finish development and lay more eggs. This cycle continues until the tree is dead, at which point the beetles leave the tree in search of another stressed tree.



Image of the small bark beetle responsible for the death of millions of trees in California

SIR's involvement:

In August NRD hosted a Tribal Forest Pest ID workshop. Some of the attendees included representatives from the Potter Valley Tribe, Fort Bidwell Reservation, Pit River Tribe, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, Stewarts Point Rancheria, Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and University of California Cooperative Extension. The workshop covered how to identify pests and potential funding opportunities to help treat and prevent pest infestation.

Additionally, the Natural Resource Department is an active member in the Lassen County Tree Mortality Task Force. This is a local interagency group of experts who's goals are to create a plan of how to handle the potential catastrophic loss of pine forest due to the bark beetle infestation and educated the public on the potential threats. These threats include: increased risk of large severe wildfire, increased risk of falling trees damaging infrastructure, homes, and other personal property, and hazardous trees along roadways, campgrounds, and parks.

For more information visit www.readyforwildfire.org/Bark-Beetles-Dead-Trees/, or contact Sarah Hubert, Environmental Coordinator, at 251-5646.

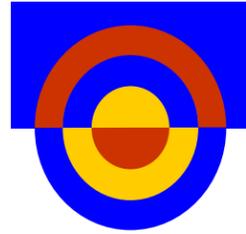


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Left: A stand of trees killed by the bark beetle. Right: Aerial image of the impacts of bark beetle.

Cultural Resource Protection...

Moonlight Fire: Invasive Plant Education Workshop



On October 12, 2016, Melany L. Johnson, THPO/ NAGPRA Coordinator, went on a field tour of certain areas affected by the 2007 Moonlight Fire. The Plumas National Forest Mount Hough Ranger District has proposed an invasive plant species management project within the Moonlight Fire area. UC Cooperative Extension was invited to host the educational workshop and field tour focusing on invasive weed control options.



There were speakers from the UC Davis Plant Sciences, UC Cooperative Extension, USDA Forest Service, and the Savory Institute. Discussion included the fire, impacts of invasive plants, use of herbicides, and grazing as a management tools.



In the presentations, I leaned heavily toward alternative holistic weed management vs. pesticide use. Being a child of the 50's and 60's I have invested myself in natural, alternative lifeways. Also, being a child of Indigenous peoples, I learned how to treat Mother, including water, trees, plants, wildlife, the winged, the four legged and all our relatives. Herbicides that are "safe" today, may be "unsafe" tomorrow. It is my belief, that unless there is no other natural option and the noxious weeds are out of control and cannot be destroyed, herbicides be used very sparingly and not near any homes of wildlife, food sources or WATER. Even then, I cringe at the thought and feel guilty for even accepting that alternative. The Savory Institute spoke about viable alternatives that spoke volumes to me. Whereas, the proponents of herbicides, were not very receptive to alternatives.

Spotted Knap Weed
Centaurea maculosa



Cananda Thistle
Cirsium Arvense



Star Thistle
Centaurea solstitialis



The workshop began with indoor presentations, followed by a tour (above) of invasive plant (right) locations within the Moonlight fire burn area (upper right).

Welcome Note...

NRD Welcomes New Director



Hello all! My name is Roselynn Lwenya. I am the incoming Natural Resources Director for Susanville Indian Rancheria. I am very excited to be joining such a team of highly motivated staff, at the NRD in particular, and the entire working fraternity of SIR in general. I have an earned a Doctorate degree in Environmental Studies from the School of Environmental Studies, Moi University, Eldoret, in Kenya.

I have over fifteen years of experience in environmental planning, strategic planning, sustainable development, cultural resource/natural resource protection, human ecology, range management, poverty eradication strategies, grant writing, budget development, policy analysis, community outreach, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, solid waste management, project reviews and project proposal and gender mainstreaming in environmental issues.

Prior to working with SIR, I was the Environmental Resource Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for Buena Vista Rancheria, where I was instrumental in establishing the environmental resources department and implementing multiple grants programs. I also worked for North Fork Rancheria as Environmental Resources Director and for Tule River Indian Reservation as Natural Resources Director.

My passion is working in partnership with like minded people to contribute towards a desirable environment that is environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just. I believe that there is strength in numbers and together we can achieve the goal of making the environment healthy and the world a better place to live in. A healthy environment translates to a healthy population.

In working with communities, one of the questions I receive frequently is: "so what is the meaning of environment?" I always answer them by simply saying; "environment is all circumstances or conditions that surround man." However, there is another angle to this; "people are not only surrounded by their environment but they contribute to it with every behavior including breathing." I love talking to people about nature and how to conserve resources. The satisfaction I get doing it is just heavenly. I live each day knowing I have impacted someone else's life in a positive way, be it by teaching them the importance of planting trees, recycling, conserving energy etc. My motto in life is "not always what you do matters but it's about how you do it."

I would like to welcome you all to NRD with questions regarding natural resources. We will do all that we can to answer all your questions. Let's work together as a team to make this world a better place than we found it. Thank you.