



The Dirt

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SIR Newsletter Insert
August 2017

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

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Photo from the Cultural Monitor Training held at SIR.

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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.

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From left to right: Melany, Sarah , Aaron, and Roselynn



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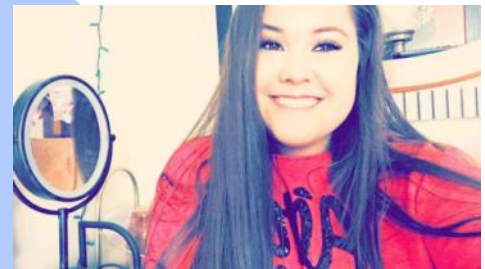
Summer Youth...

Meet The 2017 NRD Summer Youth Employees



Hello, my name is Adriana Flores-Miller. I've been on this crew for three years and each year is always different but fun. My favorite part of this summer was getting to know my crew members and sharing laughs with each other everyday. I think anyone who wants to work on the summer crew should definitely do it because it's a good experience working with other people. I will definitely miss this group of amazing people while I go back to FRC for my second year of college. Thanks Cool Cats for making this summer a one to remember.

My name is Angel Mullen. When being on the Tribal Youth Crew the activities I enjoyed participating in include rolling the fire hoses. I also enjoyed going on the trips with the education center and lastly being a member of the Cool Cats Club. I would like to give a big thanks to Aaron for making this year one to remember.



Hello, my name is Mariana Flores-Miller. While on this crew I learned many different things that I never knew before. Some days were fun others were not but at the end of the day, the Cool Cats always laughed and got through it. I will miss this crew so much after work. Thanks for a fun first year.



My name is Rodney Cunningham. This year I worked on the Tribal Youth Crew. It was a fun experience working this summer, and being a part of the Cool Cats.



Hello, my name is Fawn Robinson. I've been working in the Natural Resource Department for three years. I've been working with amazing people and have been learning many new things. One of my favorite activities has been working alongside Melany with Education to teach them the process of making acorn flour. While working here I've been in the office and out in the field. This experience has helped me to see the importance of this department and how it helps the Rancheria and outside of SIR as well.

Outdoor Education...

A Fun and Educational Campout Event at Eagle Lake

By Roselynn Lwenya, NRD Director

As you might be aware, this summer, the Education department and the NRD developed a science curriculum for the youth summer program. The curriculum used a combination of classroom presentations and field work events. The NRD participated in the environmental specific activities to educate the students on practical ways to understand what it takes to protect the environmental resources. Examples of those resources are; air, water, soil, animals and energy among others. The students were taught that natural resources come from the environment and are not man-made.

In this article I will give a brief summary of the environmental presentations and activities that took place during the campout at Eagle Lake on July 26th and 27th. In attendance were the Education department staff, NRD staff and guest speakers. One of the invited guest speakers was Mansel Nelson who is a Senior Program Coordinator in the Tribal Environmental Education Department, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern Arizona University.

On the first day of the campout, Mansel talked to the students about energy in general and solar energy in particular. He started off by asking basic questions to gauge the students understanding of the meaning of renewable energy and non-renewable energy. They were so excited and gave all kinds of answers. All answers given were correct! Mansel elaborated on the answers offered by saying that "we get most of our energy from nonrenewable energy sources, which include the fossil fuels - oil, natural gas, and coal. They're called fossil fuels because they were formed over millions and millions of years by the action of heat from the Earth's core and pressure from rock and soil on the remains (or "fossils") of dead plants and animals.



Outdoor Education...

Today, hydro, wind and solar are the three main pillars for renewable energy. In particular Mansel talked about solar energy. He informed the kids that solar energy comes from the sun and can be turned into electricity and heat. He went on to demonstrate how solar energy can be used directly for cooking, drying, hot water heating and lighting homes and other buildings. By using a simple solar box cooker that consisted of an insulated container with a transparent lid, simple snacks of Chocolate Chip Cookies and Cheese crisps was cooked. The snacks were so delicious and were enjoyed by both the adults and the kids. Also, solar was used to charge the NoKero lamps that were used by all for lighting at night. In conclusion for energy, the kids learnt that renewable energy is far cleaner than fossil fuels.

On the second day, Mansel made brief presentations on solid waste management and activities that included; recycling, vermiculture, composting, Wind Energy challenge and air quality activities. For the Wind Energy challenge students got the chance to experiment with making their own wind turbines. Students adjusted their creations until they made a working turbine. Additionally, students got the chance to study vermiculture which is the use of specially bred worms to convert organic matter into compost. Students got to see first-hand how worms are able to make compost. Compost is a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land.

Thank you Mansel for participating with us to pass along environmental messages to the kids in a simple way to understand!



Tribal Forestry Crew

What has our Forestry Crew been up to?

You will be proud to know our Forestry Crew has been working diligently. They have been training to provide medical aid to those in need of emergency rescue. In this picture you can see our crew in the middle of an exercise demonstrating how to safely secure and transport a patient who may be suffering from a concussion. They attended classes offered through Sierra Rescue where they became certified in CPR and Wilderness First Aid.

(Picture 1 from left to right: Anthony Garcia, Sonseri Vieira, Chaz Cunningham)



Our Forestry Crew worked along side the Greenville Fire Crew to complete the hands on testing needed to complete their basic fire training.

(Picture 2 from left to right: Chaz Cunningham, Ka'ikeloa Freitas-Forestry Crew Supervisor, Sonseri Vieira, Juan Reyes Sanchez, Sarah Hubert- Environmental Coordinator, and The Greenville Fire Crew)





“We are so lucky, to work outside every day and get in shape while we do it. We also have the added privilege of protecting those we love. Those who can not protect themselves. The weight we carry in our packs isn’t our own, it’s the weight of the people we serve.”

**- Ka’ikeloa Freitas
Forestry Crew Supervisor**

The Crew has also been very busy with many fuel reduction projects.

They have made a large fire break on the tribal land that shares a border with the Pineview Mobile Home Park off Paiute Ln.

They have put in many hours reducing fire ignition fuels on the 875 property of the Upper Reservation. Reduction of these fuels are an important part of property maintenance as well as a great fire prevention for the neighboring homes and community.

Together, the Weed Warriors and the Forestry Crew helped weed-eat an area around the upper reservation to shorten dead grasses in preparation for the 4th of July.

The Forestry Crew would like to give special thanks to the tribe for it’s continual support.



(Picture 4: Anthony Garcia Picture 5: Chaz Cunningham and Ka’ikeloa Freitas)



