

TWIG – SPRING & FALL 2024

NEWSLETTER

TWIG MISSION AND GOALS

The Tribal Wetland Working Group (TWIG) exists to share knowledge in support of the restoration and protection of wetlands and other aquatic resources from a tribal perspective by:

1. Promoting wetland and aquatic resources training opportunities for Tribes.
2. Providing a venue for information sharing and transfer of technical expertise regarding restoration, protection, and management strategies for wetlands and aquatic resources, between staff of Pacific NW Tribes.
3. Supporting development and implementation of wetland and aquatic resource monitoring strategies.
4. Increasing awareness of cultural importance of wetlands and aquatic resources.

Review of Spring Workshop:

Wetlands and Camas

Tribal staff from around Region 10 gathered to participate in the Wetlands and Camas Workshop hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe. At the time of the workshop, we had not received a Wetland developmental Grant for the TWIG for over a year, so this workshop was funded by the Nez Perce. The workshop on June 11th and 12th was about the connection the Nez Perce have with camas, a discussion on the different species of camas, and excellent presentations by Nez Perce Tribes Fisheries, Wetlands Programs, and the National Park Service (NPS) on the Musselshell Meadows area, where the tribe has gathered since time immemorial. The workshop opened with Nez Perce Cultural Director Nakia Williams, who provided a great background of the tribe and the importance of camas and the Musselshell Meadows area to the Nez Perce people. Linda Storm shared her expertise with camas and gave presentations about the different species and regions where camas are found. Katy Matthews (NPS) discussed camas monitoring on the Weippe Prairie, which has been going on for over 20 years, and findings from their monitoring. Justin Peterson,



Attendees at the Spring 2024 TWIG Workshop include, from the left, in the red long-sleeved t-shirt, Victoria White (CSKT) three kiddos also joined, back left side red t-shirt Seth Book (Skokomish), Alena Reynolds (Skokomish), Jen Hartke (Snoqualmie), Antonio Flores (Snoqualmie), Allison Warner (Tulalip), Janice Martin (Quinault), Stacy King (Colville), Scott O'Daniel (Umatilla), and Rue Hewett Hoover (Nez Perce) not pictured Kelsey Payne (Snoqualmie).

Field trip to Musselshell Meadows, TWIG folks monitoring and having fun in the Camas meadows.



Review of the Fall Workshop: Stewardship and Adaptive Management at Restoration Sites

Tribal staff from around Region 10 gathered to participate in the Stewardship and Adaptive Management at Restoration Sites, hosted by Quil Ceda Village (QVC or Tulalip Tribes). We had a great introduction to the Tulalip Tribe by Ryan Miller from the Treaty Rights/Rediscovery Program. Then Michelle Bahnick, the wetland specialist for the Tulalip Tribes, did an overview of the wetland program. The Tulalip Tribe has a great monitoring and assessment program, which Jared Busen, from the wetland program, discussed.



Teesha Osias followed up with an excellent presentation on how she has been working on adding tribal culture/knowledge/community into the wetland program and wetland management; she shared some products she had made by hand and made from different mixtures of wetland plants and some great jams we all got to try. She had excellent projects with a substantial cultural connection and community involvement. For field site visits, Allison Warner gave an overview of QCV's history. She also discussed the Coho Creek Restoration Site Stewardship and Adaptive Management and her work with beavers at restoration sites.

The following day, we had another great lineup of presentations from the Tulalip Tribe. Michelle Bahnick went over her reed canary wetland pallet project, which was terrific. She also had a great video that accompanied the work. We had a great talk by Phil North about the Tribal Programs for Climate Change and what they are doing. Rue gave a presentation about TWIG, gave some quick updates on what's next for TWIG, and gave a survey on what the group would like to see for future workshops. We also had an update from Yvonne Vallette, EPA Region 10 Tribal contact. She reviewed a few changes and gave excellent advice about applying for wetland grants and what they are looking for in a proposal. After lunch, the group went to the Visit Quil Ceda Estuary/Qwuloolt, where Michelle and Allison discussed the project, and the lessons learned.



Attendees at the Fall 2024 TWIG Workshop include, from the top left, Michelle Bahnick (Tulalip), Jen Harike (Snoqualmie), Logan Baker (Snoqualmie), Allison Warner (Tulalip), Emma Gest (Snoqualmie), Antonio Flores (Snoqualmie), Ron Torpey (Coeur D' Alene), Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie), Ronald Torpey IV (Coeur D' Alene), TC Peterson (Kalispel), Jared Busen (Tulalip), Tyler Opp (Coeur D' Alene), Seth Book (Skokomish), Rue Hewett Hoover (Nez Perce), bottom right to left Alena Reynolds (Skokomish), Maggie Taylor (Nooksack), Stacy King (Colville), Molly Sherwood (Kalispel), Kelsey Payne (Snoqualmie), Carly Perez (Snoqualmie), Teesha Osias (Tulalip), Steve Todd (Suquamish), and Sierra Hemming (Quilente).

The Future

In the fall of 2024, we just received funding from an EPA Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grant to support the TWIG for another two years. The spring workshop will be in June in Oregon, close to Corvallis; I am still looking for a host tribe. The fall workshop will likely be hosted by the Coeur d'Alenewith the Wapato harvest in October. I'll send out an announcement once we finalize the dates. This time, we are planning on visiting Alaska to get more members and interest there.

-The TWIG steering committee - Scott O'Daniel (Umatilla), Kelsey Payne (Snoqualmie), Seth Book (Skokomish), Rue Hewett Hoover (Nez Perce), Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie), and Janice Martin (Quinault)

Highlights

Allison Warner's Retirement from Tulalip Tribe

Allison has served as the Wetland Program Coordinator at Quil Ceda Village in Tulalip, WA, since 2008. A wetland and wildland ecologist, she mapped, rated, and delineated wetlands; planned restoration and mitigation projects; and implemented and maintained those projects.

Allison assisted Quil Ceda Village with strategic planning and federal and tribal permitting. She also developed the first tribal In-Lieu Fee program in the U.S. for the Tulalip Tribes, signed by the Army Corps, EPA, and Tulalip Tribes in 2013. Allison graduated from the University of California Berkeley in 1993 with a Master's in Wildland Ecology from the UCB Forestry Department. She

began her career in flood restoration and logging road decommissioning, conducting watershed analysis and ecological assessments for the US Forest Service in Washington State. When employed there as a wetland biologist, Allison served on the diversity committee for the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and Snohomish County, WA. Allison is longtime participant in TWIG. Congratulations, Allison!



PNW Tribal Wetlands Staff Opportunity Digest

NAWM's Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination (STFC) Meeting
to be held at the [Skamania Lodge](#) in Stevenson, WA from April 8-10, 2025
with optional field trips on Friday, April 11. Information and registration at:
<https://nawm.org/2025-annual-state-tribal-federal-coordination-meeting>



Travel Scholarships for the NAWM Conference:

Travel funds are available to Pacific Northwest Tribes interested in participating in the National Association of Wetland Managers Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting: Protecting Waters in a Time of Rapid Change. The training will be held at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) from April 15-19, 2025. Registration is ending soon, so contact Marla Stelk at marla@nawm.org for more information.

Society of Wetland Scientists 2025 Annual Meeting:

Navigating the Waters: Wetland Science, Evolving Policy, and the Future of Our Landscape,
Providence, Rhode Island; July 15-18, 2025

NAWM In-Person Training Opportunities:

Pacific Northwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training:

Tulalip Resort Casino, Tulalip, WA; November 17-20, 2025

Interested in more opportunities through TWIG? Visit our website: <https://pnwtwig.wordpress.com/>

Questions? Contact: Rueh@nezperce.org