

NEWS LETTER

Pacific Northwest

Tribal Wetlands Working Group

Spring | Fall

2025





Mission and Goals

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.

Visit www.pnwtwig.com to learn more.

Tribal staff from around Region 10 gathered to participate in the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP) assessment tool training hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe. The training featured Dr. Paul Adamus on his WESP assessment tool. Dr. Adamus has assisted in several other trainings for TWIG in 2014 and 2016. The tool covers essential topics such as evaluating wetland restoration and calculating wetland mitigation credit and debit amounts. During this training Adamus also covered the calculation for debits and credits post-assessment.

The training was opened by Robin Harkins, CF, Natural Resources Director of the Coquille Indian Tribe. Harkins provided a brief history of the tribe as well as their connection with wetlands. Harkins also provided an overview of the field sites we would be visiting during the workshop.

Dr. Adamus started training by explaining the importance of WESP and the key functions that have been created to make this tool accessible. Adamus covered the functions and how they are important to separate from the values. He then went over the forms, how to fill them out correctly, and the different functions.



Spring 2025 Workshop Review

Wetland Ecosystem Services
Protocol (WESP) Assessment
Tool Training

Host: Coquille Indian Tribe
Coos Bay, OR
June 2025

Trainer: Dr. Paul Adamus



The tool includes three (3) forms. The first form is the office form, which you can do with access to GIS and other sources. Also, the wetland must already have been delineated. We went through the office form before we went to the field site. We then had a good idea of what the site looked like. Now we went into the field to complete the field site form and the stressor form, which were both explained and worked out based on potential wetland characteristics. Once the class learned about the assessment tool, it was time to go into the field and use it. We went to a wetland, the

non-tidal wetland Millicoma Marsh Trail. With the WESP tool you can assign a value to the wetland and use it for mitigation and implementation through enhancement, preservation, and restoration.



Attendees at the Spring 2024 TWIG Workshop include Victoria White (CSKT), Seth Book (Skokomish), Alena Reynolds (Skokomish), Jen Hartke (Snoqualmie), Antonio Flores (Snoqualmie), Allison Warner (Tulalip), Janice Martin (Quinalt), Stacy King (Colville), Scott O'Daniel (Umatilla), and Rue Hewett Hoover (Nez Perce) not pictured Kelsey Payne (Snoqualmie).



TWIG members exploring Hangman's Creek Project area.



Fall 2025 Workshop Review

Wapato/Water Potato
Workshop

Host: Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Plummer, ID
Oct. 22-23, 2025

Local Organizer: Tyler Opp



Tribal staff from around Region 10 gathered to participate in the TWIG Wapato Workshop at the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Natural Resources Building in Plummer, ID. Ralph Allen, Fish & Wildlife Program Manager, provided an introduction to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Reservation. Allen also discussed traditional foods like wapato (water potato) as they relate to the tribe's historical and modern land connections.

Coeur d'Alene Natural Resources staff introduced their *smtich* (salmon) recovery project within the Hangman Creek Watershed. Gerry Green, Hangman Project Manager, and Tyler Opp, Wetlands Specialist provided further details of the history, goals, and challenges.

Hangman Creek Watershed was the site for our field visit. We toured *k'wné'ulchiyark'wmntsut*, the main stem Hangman Creek where the Hangman Creek Relict Channel and Floodplain Reconnection project is in development. The group wandered the Riparian Forest Buffer Sites along the creek with Gerry Green and Tyler Opp.

The next training day began with updates on TWIG. We then all attended the Wapato Festival, which featured hands-on learning stations for attendees. Some stations offered experiences like beaver pelts, teas made with traditional medicines, and samples of traditionally roasted *smtich*. The beaver exhibit offered insight to the importance of beavers for wapato because their dams can lead to better conditions for Wapato harvesting.

After everyone was worn out and decently muddy from wapato digging, we hit one last site. Tyler Opp and Ron Torpey led us to a site on *Snyihms he mulshu'lmkhw*, or Hepton Lake. *Gul Hneh'mchinmsh*, also known as the Tribal Willow Nursery was also at this site where the TWIG Wapato Workshop officially concluded.



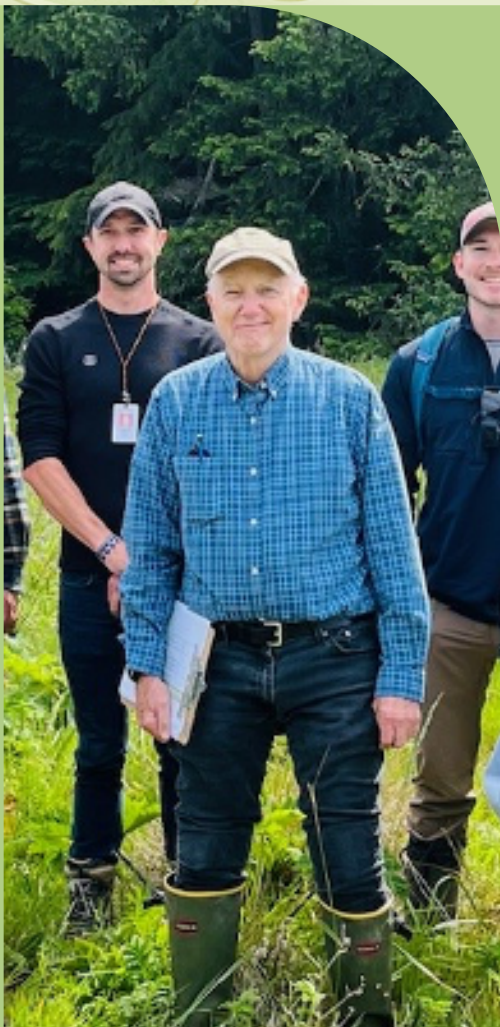
Attendees at the Fall 2025 TWIG Workshop include Jared Busen (Tulalip), Tyler Opp (Coeur D'Alene), Carly Perez (Snoqualmie), Seth Book (Skokomish), Lacey Wright (Tulalip), Meadow Wheaton (Nez Perce), Rue Hewett Hoover (Nez Perce), Bethany Lang (Snoqualmie), Andrew Darnell (Snoqualmie), Stacy King (Colville), Teesha Osias (Tulalip), Ron Torpey (Coeur D'Alene), and Alena Reynolds (Skokomish).

Future Meetings Spring & Fall 2026

In Spring 2026 the TWIG steering committee members will be traveling to engage with Alaska Tribes and host a workshop during **April 28-29** in Anchorage, Alaska. The goal of the workshop is to foster relationships and increase awareness of TWIG among more Indigenous communities in the Alaska region who are interested in developing their own wetland programs. Though not official, the Blackfeet Tribe will likely host our Fall 2026 workshop taking place in early September.



Steering committee members include: Kelsey Payne (Snoqualmie), Seth Book (Skokomish), Rue Hewett Hoover (Nez Perce), Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie), Stacy King (Colville), Michelle Bahnick (Tulalip), and Janice Martin (Quinault).



Highlighting Dr. Paul Adamus

Dr. Paul Adamus has taught wetland assessment to dozens of consultants, local planners, college students, and agency staff on three continents and in many states. He has authored or co-authored nearly 100 publications, including an encyclopedia section on wetlands.

Dr. Adamus began his career at The Smithsonian's Center for Natural Areas, 1977-1982. There he did pioneer work in wetland function assessment, authoring a method (WET) that federal agencies widely used in the following decade. He also published one of the first scientific journal articles to propose criteria for using species as a basis to identify critical natural areas. He has also been a supporter of the Tribal Wetland Working Group (TWIG) and has helped by providing training multiple times.

Dr. Adamus developed the Nez Perce Tribe's WESP-NP Method and the credit and debit calculator. He has also created the tool for the whole country of Canada and the State of Idaho.

Opportunity Digest

for PNW Tribal Wetlands Staff

NAWM's Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination (STFC) Meeting

Celebrating America's Wild and Wonderful Wetlands: April 27-30, 2026
National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

Registration: <https://nawm.org/2026-annual-state-tribal-federal-coordination-meeting>

Society of Wetland Scientists 2026 Annual Meeting:

Bogs to Bayous: Wetland Science, Policy, and People; SWS Annual Meeting
June 16-19, 2026
Hilton New Orleans Riverside

Interested in more opportunities through TWIG?

Visit our website: <https://www.pnwtwig.com>

Questions? Contact Rue Hewett Hoover (TWIG Leader)
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