



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

29 JAN 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Field Operating Activities, and Staff Principals,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SUBJECT: Native American Environmental and Cultural Resources Course

1. We must continue our efforts to look for ways to collaborate on water management challenges and protect precious natural and cultural resources under our jurisdiction. The Native American Environmental and Cultural Resources course is an excellent opportunity to learn cultural sensitivity, communication, flexibility, and team-building skills.
2. The course uses our Environmental Operating Principles as its foundation and is consistent with our American Indian and Alaska Native policy, Tribal Policy Principles, and our Strategic Plan. I have been briefed on the benefits of the training and encourage you, your senior leaders, program and project managers, and those who may deploy overseas to take advantage of this opportunity. Employees at all levels – HQUSACE and OASA(CW), Divisions and Districts – are benefiting from this unique experience. Sessions are held on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, the Rose Bud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, and the Seminole Indian Reservation in Florida. The next sessions will be offered in May 2008.
3. Principles acquired during the training help fulfill USACE missions and our Trust responsibility to Federally recognized Tribes. Skills and perspectives gained can be used when deployed overseas or with non-Federal partners on water resources development projects nationwide. Enclosed is an endorsement for the training by the Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), along with a sample syllabus, examples of participant evaluations, and a schedule of upcoming classes.
4. To ensure the continued success of this training, we have established a team led by James Waddell of South Atlantic Division. Questions should be addressed to Mr. Waddell at (404) 562-5270 or his alternate, Georgeie Reynolds (HQUSACE), (202) 761-5855.



R. L. VAN ANTWERP
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

OCT 24 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SUBJECT: Native American Environmental and Cultural Resource Course

Congratulations on the very successful development and implementation of the **Native American Environmental and Cultural Resource Course** in partnership with The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Rose Bud Sioux. The Army has had a long complex history of interaction with Native Americans and their governments over the past 200 years. Over the past decade or so, Army Civil Works and other Federal agencies have worked hard to improve relationships, establish partnerships, and collaborate on programs, projects, and activities. This course is an outstanding, and unique, example of how the Army Corps of Engineers is working hard to help its employees understand and meet the federal trust responsibility and respect tribal cultures and ways of life.

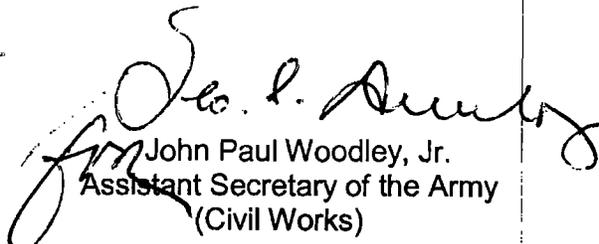
The Corps has jurisdiction over 12 million acres of water and associated land resources, over 70,000 historic properties and sacred places, many of which are associated with Native American cultures. The protection of these resources within the context of the overall Army Civil Works mission is part of the Federal trust responsibility, and responds affirmatively to Administration policy to protect Indian rights from adverse impacts caused or potentially caused by our actions. This office and the Corps must continue to interact with Federally-recognized tribes as sovereign nations, conduct government-to-government pre-decisional consultation, and establish relationships built upon trust and openness.

The **Native American Environmental and Cultural Resource Course** was designed to help achieve these goals (encl. 1). I have been informed that this course has been taught successfully eight times and over 160 staff received the week-long experiential training, taught mostly by tribal members and tribal consultants. The course allows tribes and tribal members to share their knowledge and experience of sustainable living, and teach students how to develop a better understanding of Native American cultural and environmental beliefs, thereby enabling Corps staff to more effectively work with Indian Nations and accomplish Congressionally-directed activities affecting tribal lands and resources. Learning by experiencing and doing is a very creative way to teach an understanding of tribal values, concerns, and perspectives.

The course is especially relevant for the Corps because it incorporates the still-operative **Environmental Operating Principles** regarding sustainability and it is consistent with the Department of Defense's American Indian and Alaska Native policy, the Army Civil Works Tribal Policy Principles, and a series of Executive Orders. The attached course agenda illustrates the breadth and depth of the subject matter and

former participants have commented positively on the experience (encl. 2). We must continue to look for ways to collaborate to meet water management challenges and protect the precious natural and cultural resources under our jurisdiction. Understanding those challenges from a Tribal perspective is a key to the success of the overall Corps mission.

I encourage your staff, especially senior staff, to continue to attend this course. Please distribute this memorandum to all MSCs for further distribution to Corps district offices and laboratories. Thank you for your continued support.



John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Enclosure 1
Training on the Umatilla Tribe's Perspectives on Cultural and Natural Resources
Management
October 1 – 4, 2007
An Outline

Day 1, Monday, October 1 – Arrival Day

- 1:00 p.m.** **Arrival To Lake Hiyúumtipin' (Indian Lake)**
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m.** **Introductions & Orientation**
Introductions of trainers and participants and orientation of the purpose of the training, accomplishments the Umatilla Tribe and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to achieve from this training, and other dialog
Presented by Eric Quaempts, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation & Colonel O'Donovan, US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District
- 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.** **Setting Up Tipis & Settle In**
Learn how to set up a tipi and learn the history of this aboriginal lifestyle of housing.
Presented by Department of Natural Resources staff
- 2:30 p.m.** **Snack**
- 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.** **Discussion About Importance Of Sweathouses & Sweat**
– all groups
Open discussions about the importance of the sweathouse such as cleansing, how to sweat, and what to expect.
Presented by Toby Patrick, Cultural Resources Technician II/Assistant Crew Supervisor, Cultural Resources Protection Program OR Thomas Morning Owl is Toby is not back from performance
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** **Dinner**
- 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.** **Discussion: Tribal Longhouse Religion & Traditional**
Foods Association
Presented by Armand Minthorn, Tribal Religious Leader/CTUIR Board of Trustees Member/Chairman, Cultural Resources Committee OR Thomas Morning Owl if Armand is not available

Day 2, Tuesday, October 2 – Technical/Aboriginal Day

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.** **Breakfast**

- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. First Foods Concept & Ecological Applications of First Foods**
Learn about the Umatilla Tribe using the first foods to organize the Department of Natural Resources.
Presented by Eric Quaempts, Director, Department of Natural Resources
- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Water Resources**
Learn more about the tribal perspective of the importance of water and what the Tribe is doing to manage their water resources on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and within their ceded lands.
Presented by Aaron Skirvin, Program Manager, Water Resources Program & CTUIR Tribal Member
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break**
- 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Fish & Other Aquatic Resources**
Learn more about the tribal perspective of the importance of fish and aquatic resources and what the Tribe is doing to manage their fisheries resources on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and within their ceded lands.
Presented by Gary James, Program Manager, Fisheries Program & CTUIR Tribal Member
- 11:45 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch**
- 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Stone Tool Technology (Group A)**
Participants will have an opportunity to learn hands-on the techniques of flintknapping.
Presented by Lloyd Barkley, Water Quality Technician, Water Resources Program & Joseph Alexander, Cultural Resources Technician II/Assistant Crew Supervisor, Cultural Resources Protection Program
- Tule Mat Making (Group B)**
Participants will have an opportunity to learn hands-on the basic techniques of making a small tule mat.
Presented by Thomas Morning Owl, CTUIR Tribal Member/Cultural Specialist
- 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Stone Tool Technology (Group B)
Tule Mat Making (Group A)**
- 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Sweat – All groups (mens/womens)**
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner**

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Story Telling**
- **First Kill & Gathering Ceremonies**
Presented by Thomas Morning Owl

Day 3, Wednesday, October 3 – Technical/Aboriginal Day

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Wildlife Resources**
Learn more about the tribal perspective of the importance of wildlife resources and what the Tribe is doing to manage their wildlife resources on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and within their ceded lands.
Presented by Carl Scheeler, Program Manager, Wildlife Program & CTUIR Tribal Member

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Native Plant Resources**
Learn more about the tribal perspective of the importance of native plant resources and what the Tribe is doing to manage their native plant resources on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and within their ceded lands.
Presented by Cheryl Shippentower, Botanist, Environmental Rights Protection Program & Linda Sampson, Walla Walla Language Apprentice/CTUIR Tribal Member

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. **Environmental Rights Protection**
Learn about the planning environmental projects to protect and restore treaty right resources and how the Tribe defines and practices consultation.
Presented by Rick George, Program Manager, Environmental Planning & Rights Protection Program & CTUIR Tribal Member

11:45 – 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. **Fishing Nets Demonstration (Group A)**
Participants will get to watch a fish net being made and learn hands-on techniques of two different styles of knot-tying used when making traditional fishing nets.
Presented by Lloyd Barkley & Thomas Morning Owl

Awareness of Aboriginal Plants & Medicines of the Surrounding Area

Learn more about native plants and medicines from the surrounding areas, what they look like, how to gather them, what they are used for, etc.

Presented by Cheryl Shippentower & Linda Sampson

**2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Fishing Nets Demonstration (Group B)
Aboriginal Plants & Medicines (Group A)**

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Sweat – all groups

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Traditional Dinner

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Cultural Presentations & Performances

Presentations and performances will focus on traditional values, extended families, importance of understanding traditional value of food preparation and gathering, dancing, and the importance of passing on traditions to the youth.

Presented by Toby Patrick, Dance Troop Generations & Thomas Morning Owl

Day 4, Thursday, October 4 – Conclusions & Next Steps

7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast & Morning Sweat – all groups

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Cultural Resources

Learn what the Tribe is doing to manage their cultural resources on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and within their ceded lands and perpetuate cultural knowledge.

Presented by Teara Farrow, Program Manager, Cultural Resources Protection Program & Cultural Resources Protection Program staff

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Current & Potential Research Projects

Learn more about tribal research projects, why the Tribe views them as important, and how they will help in managing the first foods.

Presented by Eric Quaempts

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Discussion: What did you understand and how will you apply it to the work you do with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers?

12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Tear-Down & Departure

Enclosure 2

Excerpts from Participant Evaluations

The time investment by Tribal leadership was impressive and added a very important aspect. I would recommend that DEs, DPMs and other senior Corps leaders always be invited for at least one evening of the training so they can take advantage of the opportunity. Similarly for tribal liaisons. Commander, Portland District

This training provided a unique opportunity for Army employees and Tribal members to live and learn together in an environment that helped us appreciate the importance of the land, the water, and its' resources and sacred places. Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Assistant for Environment, Tribal and Regulatory Affairs

They are digesting the depth and breath of the discussion we have had here. The words we've heard are not only important for how we do our jobs better serving Native Americans, the broader question is how we as human beings can better serve the planet. What we've learned here is fundamental to the well being of all human beings and the well being of the planet itself. Military Integration Division, South Atlantic Division

This holistic approach is not only evident in the daily lives of the Native Americans; it explains some things I did not understand in their approach to environmental stewardship. Balance and integration are important. Their recognition that the earth has to remain in balance as it has for millenniums is a concept I understand better. Their concept that a person is accountable to the next seven generations for actions and decisions is a scale a visionary accountability that directly influences tribal opinions and process. Planner, Walla Walla District

... it was bad to interrupt someone while they were talking and that is was especially bad if that person was an elder. The elder would not say that he was offended, but later he would not talk with the person who interrupted him. Thus the communication was only one way. This type of information would be useful to someone working/ negotiating with the tribe and its members. Business Management Office, Northwestern Division

"Being in this place, in this way, helps us awaken our own innate environmental intelligence to better apply the Environmental Operating Principles in our work with the Corps and the Tribes. As a Park Ranger for the Corps, one of the most effective management tools I use to help visitors learn about salmon & hydropower is called "interpretation". At its best, interpretation forges intellectual and emotional connections between people and resources, leading them to learn more and eventually become better stewards of those resources. The Umatilla Tribe makes some of the best use I've ever seen of these techniques to empower Corps stewardship of this very special landscape. The sharing of tangibles, like the fishnet we tried to make, leads to discussion of universal concepts and intangibles, like how do you feed your family with dwindling resources, and what happens to our sense of history when the landscape is changed. We are then able to engage on new levels with their Biologists, Resource managers, and cultural leaders when they share information about their watershed restoration and hatchery programs with us." Park Ranger, Portland District

**NATIVE-AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CULTURAL RESOURCES COURSE**
(a cross-cultural immersion course)

Upcoming Sessions:

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Hollywood, FL - 25-28 Feb 2008

Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Rosebud, SD - 28 April -1 May 2008

Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Pendleton, OR -
13-16 May 2008

For further information, contact

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