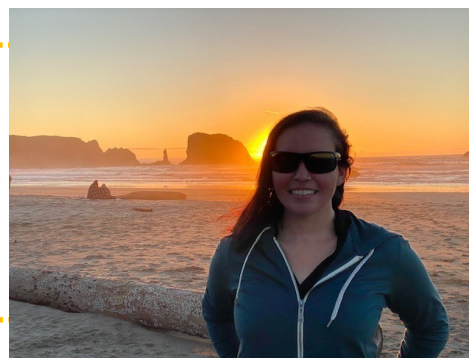




Introducing the New NTWC Region 10 Representative Heather Bartlett

Heather Bartlett (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe) is the Environmental Specialist for the Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe in Roseburg, Oregon. The Environmental Specialist position is housed within the Water and Environmental Resources Program of the Natural Resources Department. She has worked for the Tribe since 2011 and manages the Tribe's EPA Programs for General Assistance Program (GAP), Clean Water Act (CWA) §106, CWA §319 and Wetlands, as well as Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Invasive Species. In this role, she is the program lead for designing and implementing water quality monitoring projects, riparian restoration, culvert replacements and threatened/endangered plant and wildlife surveys on the Tribe's Reservation Lands. Recently, she received her Professional Wetland Scientist Certification and is working with the US Forest Service on two wetland restoration projects this coming summer. She is the tribal lead on the Formosa Mine Superfund Remediation Project and works with EPA on the biological surveys of the areas impacted by the mine.



Heather received her Bachelor of Science from Oregon State University in Fish and Wildlife and focused her studies on endangered species policy, ecology and wildlife management. While going to college, she had the opportunity to work for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife completing spring chinook surveys.



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New NTWC R10 Representative: Heather Bartlett (*continued*)



These surveys were done by a pontoon boat with a 6-foot tower on the front and her task was to do the rowing for up to 14 miles a day while her coworker looked for spawned out Chinook in the river. Some of her best field stories are from that experience that summer.

Heather has played tennis since she was 10 years old and you can find her on the tennis courts Monday through Thursday after work. When the pandemic first hit Oregon, the tennis courts were closed for months and she had to find a new hobby quick so she took up mountain biking. Now you can find her on the trails during the weekend riding areas like Mt. Bachelor Bike Park where she rides the ski lift to the top and races downhill only to do it over and over again.



Updates and Announcements

EPA Releases Tribal Assessment Modules for Water Quality Assessments and Decisions

EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds is releasing assessment modules to assist EPA and tribes to learn and present information on water quality assessments and decisions. It was designed to be easily understood and modular for individual reuse needs. Each of these modules contain discussion points and activities to reinforce concepts in an innovative way. These modules will contribute to the advancement and resilience of tribal water quality programs. The package contains four modules which focus on the four topics listed below:

- Understanding Water Quality Standards
- Overarching Considerations in Assessing Water Quality
- Assessing Data for Specific Water Quality Parameters
- Analyzing Data to Determine Use Support for Water Quality Assessment Reports

The Tribal Assessment Modules are available on EPA's Ambient Water Monitoring and Assessment website:

<https://www.epa.gov/awma/tribal-assessment-modules>

EPA Releases Region 8 Trash Free Waters Tribal Program Handbook

EPA Region 8 office's The Trash Free Waters team developed a handbook to assist tribal governments, Indigenous communities, and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement projects that reduce trash in waterways on tribal lands. The handbook provides basic information on project design, implementation, and funding to serve as a starting point for those interested in taking action to reduce escaped trash in their community.

This resource was developed specifically for Tribes in Region 8, which includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, but may be helpful to tribal and other communities outside of Region 8. The handbook may be accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/best-management-practices-tools#R8>



Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

All consultation materials may be found at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>

Proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Deadline: April 16, 2022

The EPA initiated consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes to obtain input on the agency's forthcoming proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), in accordance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and other applicable statutes. EPA is developing a proposed PFAS NPDWR to improve public health protection by reducing drinking water exposure from PFOA, PFOS, and potentially other PFAS. The deadline to submit comments is April 16, 2022. For more information, please visit: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1373:::>

Potential Revisions to the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Tribal Set-Aside Allocation Formula

Deadline: May 2, 2022

The EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes to inform potential revisions to the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA) allocation formula. The allocation formula is used to determine how DWIG-TSA funds are distributed among the EPA Regions with federally recognized Indian tribes (currently all 10 EPA Regions). These funds are then distributed by EPA Regions to eligible tribal drinking water infrastructure projects within each Region. The deadline to submit comments is May 2, 2022. For more information, please visit: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1371>

Implementation of EPA ORD Research - Safe & Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) National Research Program

Deadline: May 31, 2022

EPA's Office of Research and Development is conducting a consultation and coordination process with federally recognized tribes on its Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) National Research Program, one of ORD's six National Research Programs.

ORD provides the data, tools, and information that form the scientific foundation for EPA's work to protect the environment and safeguard public health. The Scoping Document is provided as background to give an overview of the draft planned research areas that will comprise the SSWR Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) for fiscal years 2023-2026. This provides our current view of what will be in the forthcoming SSWR StRAP and may be updated based on input through this consultation and additional input from EPA partner offices and regions. The StRAP serves as a planning guide for ORD's Research Centers as they design research products that address the needs of EPA program and regional offices, states, tribes, and external stakeholders.

EPA will be hosting a national conference on March 23, 2022 (1:00-2:30 PM ET). To register: [Join conversation \(microsoft.com\)](#) The deadline to submit comments is May 31, 2022. For more information, please visit: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1446>

EPA's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule Revision

Deadline: June 14, 2022

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes to obtain input on the agency's forthcoming proposed Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule Revision. CCRs, also known as annual drinking water quality reports, provide consumers of community water systems information about their local drinking water quality. EPA is developing a proposal to revise CCR regulations to:

- Improve readability and accuracy of CCRs;

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities (*continued*)

- Require biannual delivery of CCRs for large systems; and
- Allow electronic delivery of CCRs to consumers.

Community water systems are required by the 1996 SDWA amendment “Right to Know” rules to provide consumers with a summary of their water quality related information through a CCR. CCRs help to raise consumer awareness of where their water comes from, inform consumers of the process by which their water is delivered, and educate consumers on the importance of water safety measures (e.g., source water protection). Ideally, CCRs should start a dialogue between consumers and their community water system and increase consumer participation in decisions impacting their drinking water. CCRs allow consumers, to make more informed decisions regarding their drinking water. EPA is requesting your input on considerations to inform the development of the forthcoming proposed revisions to the CCR rule and requirements.

EPA plans to hold two identical national webinars for tribal officials to provide background information on CCRs and the proposed rule development, answer any questions concerning CCR Rule Revision, and provide a forum where comments and considerations concerning the CCR rule revisions can be heard. Individuals will be able to sign up for 5-minute speaking slots during registration to speak during the listening session section of the webinar. To register, please visit the links below:

- March 22, 2022 (3:00-5:00 PM ET): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tribal-webinar-for-the-consumer-confidence-report-rule-revision-tickets-288469559217>.
- April 7, 2022 (1:00-3:00 PM ET): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tribal-webinar-2-for-the-consumer-confidence-report-rule-revision-tickets-288489187927>.

The deadline to submit comments is June 14, 2022. For more information, please visit: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1374>.

National Tribal Water Council Membership Recruitment for Region 8 Representative **Application Deadline: Open Until Filled**

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water. The Council is currently accepting applications from tribal water professionals to fill two open membership positions.

Region 8 Representative

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally-authorized organization from Region 8, which includes the following states: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

Overview of Member Duties, but not limited to:

- Participate in monthly conference calls
- Attend bi-annual meetings
- Participate in crafting response documents to policy and/or rule making actions

We are seeking individuals that are passionate and vocal about tribal water issues. Interested candidates must submit the following: application form, letter of interest, and professional resumé. Please refer to the Council's membership application information packet for additional details. To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at elaine.wilson@nau.edu or (480) 452-6774.



Events and Webinars

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. - National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing live online training. Each course consists of sequential lessons that are provided in a series of live online classes that are 3-hours in length.

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Wastewater Collection Level 1: April 5 to April 28

To register, or to view the 2022 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

EPA Technical Assistance Webinar Series - Improving CWA-NPDES Permit Compliance

- March 31, 2022: Optimizing Nutrient Removal in Activated Sludge WWTPs. To register: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/technical-assistance-webinar-series-improving-cwa-npdes-permit-compliance>

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

- April 26, 2022: Lead Service Lines. To register: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-drinking-water-systems-webinar-series>

Native American Water Association, Inc.

The Native American Water Association is a National Non-Profit, 501(c)6 Organization founded to provide tribal water and wastewater operators, managers, utility commissions and tribal leadership with continued training and technical assistance in their goals to: Strengthen tribal sovereignty and Self-determination and protect health and environment in Indian Country.

Upcoming events include:

- March 30, 2022: Sustainable Management of Rural and Small Drinking Water Systems
- April 13, 2022: Small Water System O&M - Valve Maintenance and Hydrant Flushing

To register: https://www.eventbrite.com/o/native-american-water-association-22061331832#live_events

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

- April 20, 2022: Use of Electronic Health Records to Address Pressing Environmental Health Questions To register: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

EPA Water Research Webinar Series

- May 18, 2022: Green Infrastructure - Ecosystem Benefits and Applications. To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/water-research-webinar-series>

Call for Proposals: Tribal Lands and Environment Forum

The hybrid Tribal Lands and Environment Forum will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 8-11, 2022, and will include both in-person activities and virtual components. We are now accepting proposals for a variety of different types of sessions including live in-person, live virtual, and pre-recorded. We are interested in proposals dealing with solid waste, brownfields, Superfund, UST/LUST, emergency response, habitat restoration, climate change, and cross-media issues.

Please check out the TLEF website at <http://www.nau.edu/tlef2022> and click on the Call for Proposals tab for more information and the **online submission form**. And do note, the deadline this year is **May 16, 2022**.

Events and Webinars *(continued)*

South Central CASC Course: Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation

The South Central CASC at the University of Oklahoma (OU) will offer two short courses live from April 4 - 29 that will dive into the impacts of climate change and adaptation strategies. The courses are free and online and will offer the opportunity to learn from climate experts at OU and their partner institutions. Upon successful completion of a short course, a personalized certificate will be conferred. For more information: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrBSuWiYL1FkeL45r6tMUu7ISnBTgYbPg9LnXyJ5ledvJJiw/viewform>

3rd National PFAS Conference June 15-17, 2022

The 3rd National PFAS Conference, “Highly Fluorinated Compounds – Environmental Justice and Scientific Discovery,” will be held at the coastal town of Wilmington, NC - where GenX-contaminated drinking water was first detected. This conference series is uniquely designed to exchange information, provide support to PFAS-affected communities, and facilitate engagement with across diverse sectors involved with PFAS to accelerate the protection of health and the environment.

The registration fee is \$100 and the deadline to register is April 1, 2022. For information on travel awards and registration, please visit: <https://pfasmeeting.wordpress.ncsu.edu/>

National Association of Wetland Managers: Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting August 15-19, 2022

The National Association of Wetland Managers’ (formerly ASWM) Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting will be held at the National Conservation Training Center (Shepherdstown, WV) from August 15-19, 2022. The purpose of this annual meeting is to support state and tribal wetland program managers, and other wetland professionals as they respond to challenges in the coming year. If circumstances require it, the meeting may be changed to a fully virtual format.

The registration fee is \$396 (for members and early rate) and the deadline to register is August 5, 2022. For information on travel scholarships and registration, please visit: <https://www.aswm.org/2022-annual-state-tribal-federal-coordination-meeting>

EPA O&M and Management Providing Training for Water and Wastewater Utility Operators and Leaders Serving Tribes and Small Communities

EPA is sponsoring three online webinars to provide insight into effective strategies for asset management, utility rate setting, staff retention and to provide information on maintaining wastewater lagoons and onsite septic systems. For questions, contact [Matt Richardson](#) at 202-564-2947.

- **April 20, 2022: Asset Management – Planning for the Future**
Don’t wait until something breaks. Learn about asset management tools to support long-range planning and techniques for setting rates to fund your utility.
To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUof-ivqjkvEtWtKkJY5t_hzfAGQGh9XpO5
- **April 27, 2022: Finding and Retaining Good Leaders and Staff**
Effective leadership and staff retention are key issues for small utilities. Learn about successful practices from other organizations.
To register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsoDyoqD4pHNTVM4QE5oEoas5-jVdj9mC>
- **May 4, 2022: Wastewater Lagoons and Onsite Septic Systems**
Many communities rely on small lagoons for wastewater management or onsite septic systems serving individual properties. Learn about the operation and maintenance and how they can be optimized to protect water quality.
To register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIlfu2qrzgiE9OnNr1nKapX-8-fkum2jsXA>



Recognition of Membership and Contribution: Colin Larrick

Colin Larrick, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, submitted his resignation as the NTWC Region 8 representative last month. NTWC recognizes and appreciates his contribution and membership.

SHARE YOUR STORY

We publish our newsletter on a monthly basis and would like to share your story. All submissions must be made by second Wednesday of each month for consideration. Please note: we reserve the right to make final decisions regarding all submitted content.

You may submit your story and photos to elaine.wilson@nau.edu

▶ NTWC Members: For more information, visit [Meet the Council](#)

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