



Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

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MEDIA RELEASE

Tribes in Natural Resources to Learn How Rivers in the World are Networks through Work of Global Native Conservationist

DENVER, CO – (August 1, 2014) - The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society's (NAFWS) Southwest Region, in partnership with the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission, are hosting Jon Waterhouse, Director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), to speak on collaborating with tribes in the U.S., on August 5, 9:00 a.m. at the Isleta Resort & Casino, Isleta, NM.

The NAFWS-Southwest Region conference this year focuses on Climate Change, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Threatened and Endangered Species, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Youth Education, and importantly, collaboration. The conference theme is, Challenge of the Future: Working Smarter with Less and Embracing Our Traditional Values.

Looking forward to John Waterhouse's invitation to address the conference is Stuart Leon, Director of the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission whose first-hand knowledge of Waterhouse's Network of Indigenous Knowledge (NIK) which links the stories of native peoples from around the globe and is supported by the National Science Foundation could empower native people to take action, to marry traditional knowledge with modern science. "It would be the first, if Tribes in the Southwest and throughout the U.S. might become aware of the work being done by Waterhouse's Network of Indigenous Knowledge and see how they can fit into the puzzle."

With Waterhouse's Network of Indigenous Knowledge, countries with Indigenous groups that they are working with to connect groups include Indigenous of Peru, Sudan, Siberia, Alaska, and Canada.

Leon said that tribes in the U.S. also have many water issues. "We still have work to do in the southwest and lower 48, but it will entail people getting involved with their rivers and streams, including elders and the youth, taking data, and making their voices heard. I hope the Tribes in the southwest will link to NIK -- the native voices in this part of the world are too often dismissed and/or not given the respect they deserve."

Tribes located in the Southwest Region of the U.S., and specifically those who work in natural resources will attend the conference. The NAFWS welcomes those who are interested to attend the conference and learn about what tribes are doing to enhance, preserve, and conserve their tribal natural resources. For more information, visit: <http://www.nafws.org/events/regional-events>. Or, contact: Karen Lynch, NAFWS, 720-339-5612, email: klnafws@gmail.com.

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