



Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Southwest Regional Conference

August 12 - 15, 2024

Tachi Palace Casino & Resort – Lemoore, CA

Host Tribe: Tachi Yokut Tribe

2024 Southwest Regional Conference Agenda

Theme: Restoration, a Step Beyond Conservation

Monday, August 12, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. <i>Location: Hotel Lobby</i>	Registration & Information <i>Coordinators: NAFWS Staff & FMP</i>
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Location: Sequoia Room</i>	Workshop: Climate Change and Resiliency <i>Coordinator: TBD</i>
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Location: Sycamore Room</i>	Workshop: NAFWS Invasive Species Planning <i>Coordinator: Annette Bravo, Invasive Species Technician – NAFWS</i>
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Location: Salt Grass Conference Center</i>	Workshop: NAFWS Mapping Animal Movements, Migrations and Interpreting Movement Data <i>Coordinator: Emily Hagler, Tribal Mapping Analyst – NAFWS</i>
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Location: Willow Room</i>	Workshop: Endangered Species Act- Project Clearance <i>Coordinators:</i> Eldon Brown, Native American Liaison John Nystedt, Wildlife Biologist/Tribal Coordinator- USFWS
Lunch (Provided): 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Room and Wet Bar</i>	
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Location: Sycamore Room</i>	Workshop: Native Plant Identification <i>Coordinators:</i> Cristina Gonzales, Tachi Yokut Registrar and Cultural Resources and Baskets Curator Gwen Wion, USFWS Tribal Native Plant Material Development Coordinator
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Location: Willow Room</i>	Workshop: Endangered Species Act (ESA) continued <i>Coordinators:</i> Eldon Brown, Native American Liaison John Nystedt, Wildlife Biologist/Tribal Coordinator- USFWS

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Location: Hotel Lobby</i>	Registration & Information <i>Coordinators: NAFWS Staff & FMP</i>
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitors & Vendors <i>Coordinator: Norman Jojola</i>

<p>1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Location:</i> Lemoore Sportsman Club</p>	<p>CLEO Southwest Region Shoot Competition <i>Coordinator:</i> TBD</p>
<p>GENERAL SESSION <i>Moderator:</i> Kai-t Blue-Sky, SW Region Board of Director- NAFWS</p>	
<p>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. <i>Location:</i> Blue Oak Conference Center</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPENING CEREMONY</p> <p>Parade of Colors: Tule River Veterans Group & SW Region CLEOs Drum Group: Seventh Generation Drum Group Invocation: Kenny Barrios, Tachi Yokut Cultural Liaison</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks: Leo Sisco, Chairman, Tachi Yokut Tribe Valerie Termini, Chief Deputy Director – California Division of Fish and Wildlife Paul Souza, Regional Director Pacific Southwest Region- USFWS Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D., Executive Director- NAFWS Darren Talayumptewa, SW Region Board of Director- NAFWS</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. <i>Location:</i> Blue Oak Conference Center</p>	<p>Conference Overview <i>Speaker:</i> John Nystedt, Fish and Wildlife Biologist/AESO Tribal Coordinator Arizona Ecological Services Office – Flagstaff Sub-Office - U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p>
<p>9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. <i>Location:</i> Blue Oak Conference Center</p>	<p>Keynote Address <i>Speaker:</i> Councilman Franklin Carabay Jr., Secretary, Tule River Tribal Council</p>
<p>BREAK: 10:00 a.m.- 10:15 a.m. Sponsored by: NAFWS Southwest Region</p>	
<p>10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. <i>Location:</i> Blue Oak Conference Center</p>	<p>Tachi Yokut Tribal Showcase: “People of the Lake, Restoring Lifeways” <i>Presenter:</i> Hank Brenard, EPA Director Tachi Yokut Tribe <i>Moderator:</i> Darren Talayumptewa, SW Region Board of Director- NAFWS</p>
<p>11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. <i>Location:</i> Blue Oak Conference Center</p>	<p>NAFWS Southwest Regional Business Meeting (Lunch provided) <i>Coordinators:</i> Darren Talayumptewa, SW Region Board of Director- NAFWS Kai-t Blue-Sky, SW Region Board of Director- NAFWS</p>
<p>1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. <i>Location:</i> Blue Oak Conference Center</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Federal, State, Tribal Legislative Issues <i>Panelists:</i> Gloria Tom, Director- Navajo Nation Department of Fish & Wildlife Dr. Julie Thorstenson, Executive Director- NAFWS Geneva Thompson, Deputy Secretary of Tribal Affairs- CA Department of Natural Resources <i>Moderator:</i> Cynthia Dale, Sensitive Species Coordinator-WMAT</p>
<p>2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. <i>Location:</i> Blue Oak Conference Center</p>	<p>Presentation: Ecological Restoration: Empowering Tribes Through the National Seed strategy for Rehabilitation & Restoration <i>Presenter:</i> Gwen Wion-USFWS <i>Moderator:</i> Cynthia Dale, Sensitive Species Coordinator-WMAT</p>

BREAK: 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Sponsored by: NAFWS Southwest Region

<p>3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Conference Center</i></p>	<p>Panel Discussion: First Nations Development Institute <i>Moderator:</i> Kai-t Blue-Sky, SW Region Board of Director- NAFWS</p>
<p>3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Conference Center</i></p>	<p>Presentation: USFWS Region 2 and Region 8 Updates <i>Presenters:</i> Eldon Brown, Native American Liaison, R8, USFWS Adriano Tsiniginie, Acting Native American Liaison, R2, USFWS <i>Moderator:</i> Kai-t Blue-Sky, SW Region Board of Director- NAFWS</p>
<p>ADJOURN: 5:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Conference Center</i></p>	<p>TACHI YOKUT TRADITIONAL FEAST <i>Elder Blessing:</i> Robert Jeff <i>Drum and Dance Group:</i> HOOPS Program</p>

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

<p>7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. <i>Location: Hotel Lobby</i></p>	<p>Registration & Information <i>Coordinators:</i> NAFWS Staff & FMP</p>
<p>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Exhibitors & Vendors <i>Coordinator:</i> Norman Jojola</p>
<p>8:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Location:</i></p>	<p>CLEO: Defensive Tactics Refresher <i>Coordinator:</i> Ben Shelby, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe</p>

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

Topic	Tribal America the Beautiful Challenge (AtBC) Projects	Threatened and Endangered Species Management	Fisheries Management
Location	Willow	Sequoia	Sycamore
Moderator	Andy Edwards	Adriano Tsinigine	Kai-t Blue-Sky
8:00 a.m.	Eco-Cultural Regeneration for the Fort Apache National Historic Landmark <i>John Welch</i> <i>WMAT - Heritage Program</i>	2025 Review & Revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan for New Mexico <i>Virginia Seamster</i> <i>New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish</i>	Cutthroat Trout Recovery at Pyramid Lake <i>Mervin Wright</i> <i>Pyramid Lake Fisheries Dept.</i>
8:30 a.m.	Planning Around Forest Fire, Cultural Burning, and Giant Sequoias on the Tule River Indian Reservation <i>Ian Cummins</i>	The Road to Dlo’ii bikee’ łizhini Pre-Reintroduction on Navajo Nation <i>Gloria Tom</i> <i>Navajo Nation Dept. of Fish & Wildlife</i>	Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission-Update <i>Adam Ringia</i> <i>SWTFC</i>

	<i>Tule River Indian Tribe of California</i>		
9:00 a.m.	Building a Healthier Riparian Corridor and Trout Reintroduction Grant <i>Marlene Begay Walker River Paiute</i>	Translocating Burrowing Owls to Reduce Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard <i>Laura Stevens U.S. Navy</i>	National Fish Habitat Partnership <i>Adam Ringia SWTFC</i>
9:30 a.m.	Landscape Scale Restoration for Large Mammal Species on the Pueblo of Santa Ana – Mending a Broken Link in a Wildlife Corridor <i>Glenn Harper Department of Natural Resources Pueblo of Santa Ana</i>	Coordination and Relationship Building between Field Offices and Tribes: An Example in Southern California <i>Stephanie Prevost USFWS</i>	Using M-YY Brook Trout to Eliminate a Wild Brook Trout Population in Eastern Arizona <i>Matt Rustin USFWS – AZ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office</i>
BREAK: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Sponsored by: <i>First Nations Development Institute</i>			
Topic	Pollinators & Insects	Threatened and Endangered Species Management	Youth Programs
Location	Willow	Sequoia	Sycamore
Moderator	<i>Vicki Olmstedt</i>	<i>John Nystedt</i>	<i>Ashley Mueller</i>
10:30 a.m.	Mainstreaming Indigenous Co-Stewardship of Pollinators <i>Melissa Burns USFWS</i>	"What's Up with the Wolf?"- Interns, Updates, and Tech Training <i>Theo Guy White Mountain Apache Tribe Game and Fish Department</i>	Navajo Nation Annual Youth Hunt-19 Years of Success! <i>Gloria Tom Navajo Nation Department of Fish & Wildlife</i>
11:00 a.m.	Monarch Butterflies: Conservation Opportunities and ESA Listing Update <i>Melissa Burns USFWS</i>	Watching the Horizon – One Tribe's Perspectives on the Colorado Wolf Reintroduction <i>Aran Johnson Southern Ute Indian Tribe</i>	Insights for Youth Program Development & Education Update/Opportunities <i>Ashley Mueller NAFWS</i>
11:30 p.m.	Opportunities for Tribal Coordination on National Wildlife Refuges in California's Central Valley, and beyond <i>Chris Harper Project Leader San Luis NWR Complex</i>	Overview of Santa Ana Sucker Experimental Population 10(j) Rule <i>Amanda Swalle Biologist USFWS</i>	Enhancing Natural Resource and Wildlife Management through Data Analysis <i>Will OwWing Walker River Paiute Tribe</i>

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN: 12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

**1:30 p.m.
– 5:00
p.m.**

CLEO: Case presentations and Southwest Region CLEO Meeting
Location: Salt Grass Conference Center

CONCURRENT SESSIONS II

Topic	Habitat Management	Invasive Species	Wildlife Management
Location	Willow	Sequoia	Sycamore
Moderator	<i>Shailyn Wiechman</i>	<i>Paula Shattuck</i>	<i>Aran Johnson</i>
1:30 p.m.	Enhanced Safety Protocols in Vegetation Management <i>MK Youngblood ACRT Pacific</i>	Issues Hindering Responses to Invasive Species <i>Sean Parker WMAT-Water Resources Program</i>	Navajo Big Game Research Projects (Desert Bighorn Sheep, Black Bears, Solar Energy Siting) <i>Jess Fort Navajo Nation Department of Fish & Wildlife *1 hour session*</i>
2:00 p.m.	White-nose Syndrome and the North American Bat Monitoring Program <i>Bronwyn Hogan Biologist USFWS</i>	Wild Horse & Burro Concerns- Updates <i>Tolani Francisco MVD MPH USDA-FS</i>	
2:30 p.m.	Working Across Borders to Conserve Birds, Habitat & People <i>Jennie Duberstein USFWS</i>	Salt Cedar Mapping, Removal, and Riparian Restoration <i>Vicki Olmstead Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community</i>	Working Together for Wildlife- Lessons Learned from Intertribal Workshop <i>Anne Justice-Allen AGFD-Terr. WL Branch</i>

BREAK: 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: First Nations Development Institute

Topic	Traditional Indigenous Knowledge	Disease Management	Wildlife Management
Location	Willow	Sequoia	Sycamore
Moderator	<i>Jamie Arrive</i>	<i>Annette Bravo</i>	<i>Verna Thompson</i>
3:30 p.m.	Propagation of California Native Plants for Small Scale Projects <i>Catherine Capone</i>	Update on HP Avian Influenza & Health Concerns in Wildlife <i>Tolani Francisco MVD MPH NAFWS-One Health</i>	Collaborative remote tracking of birds, bats, and insects: The Western Motus Network <i>Adam Hannuksela Sonoran Joint Venture</i>

4:00 p.m.	<i>Tule River Parkway Association</i> *1 hour session*	Impacts of Chronic Wasting Disease in Tribal Communities <i>Katie Easter – USGS Tolani Francisco MVD MPH NAFWS One Health</i> *1 hour session*	Raven Working Group Western Focused: Central Flyway and Pacific Flyway <i>Thomas Leeman Deputy Chief USFWS Migratory Birds Program</i>
4:30 p.m.			Cougars, Otters and Mud Turtles, Oh My! Using Trail Cameras to Detect Wildlife at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community <i>Jason Myrand Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community</i>
ADJOURN			
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. <i>Location: Coyote Entertainment Center</i>	Natural Resources Professional Networking Mixer Session *All conference attendees are welcome – Hors d'oeuvres and Bowling provided		

Thursday, August 15, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Natural Resource Tour: Critter Creek Rehabilitation Center		
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.			
1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Conference Center</i>	Presentation: Western Regional Partnership-Tribal Partnerships <i>Presenter: Adam Ringia- SW Tribal Fisheries Commission</i>		
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Conference Center</i>	Panel Discussion: America the Beautiful Challenge: Tribal Projects and Perspectives <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Marlene Begay, Walker River Paiute Tribe</i> <i>Glenn Harper, Pueblo of Santa Ana</i> <i>Ian Cummins, Tule River</i> <i>John Welch, on behalf of White Mountain Apache</i> <i>Moderator: Andy Edwards, AtBC Field Liaison - NAFWS</i>		
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Conference Center</i>	Presentation: Restoring Ancestral Ecosystems: Reintroducing Beavers to Historical Habitats with Tribal Lands <i>Presenter: Arnold Trippel-Tule River Indian Tribe of California</i> <i>Moderator: Kai-t Blue-Sky, SW Region Board of Director – NAFWS</i>		

<p>4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. <i>Location: Blue Oak Conference Center</i></p>	<p>Presentation: How Can a Zoo Help Ecological Restoration In and Around a Tribal Context? <i>Presenter:</i> Dr. James Danoff-Burg, Vice President of Conservation, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens <i>Moderator:</i> Kai-t Blue-Sky, SW Region Board of Director – NAFWS</p>
<p>ADJOURN</p>	
<p>6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BANQUET</p> <p>Master of Ceremonies: Darren Talayumptewa, SW Region Board of Director – NAFWS <i>Retire the Colors</i> Award Announcements: <i>NAFWS Biologist of the Year</i> <i>NAFWS Technician of the Year</i> <i>NAFWS Administrative Staff of the Year</i> <i>NAFWS Emerging Professional of the Year</i> <i>NAFWS Conservation Law Enforcement Officer of the Year</i> <i>NAFWS Southwest Leadership Award</i> <i>Conservation Officer of the Year Shoot Competition</i> <i>Silent Auction and Raffle</i></p>

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