

TRIBAL AIR TODAY

8:30 - 9:15 Invocation & Welcoming Remarks

9:15 - 9:30 Keynote Address: Janet McCabe, US EPA

9:30 - 9:35 (Cue Title Slide and music - HOKA)

(Stage hands set the studio in wishbone arrangement)

9:35 - 9:40 (Host and the panelists take their seats)

9:40 - 9:50 MC Manny Gomez starts: Live from the Grand Ballroom of the Seneca Niagara Resort we present "Tribal Air TODAY". (MC Introduces himself) I'm your emcee... (MC introduces the **Host** and passes the show to her)

(Fade Music)

9:50 - 9:55 Host Twa-le (Welcoming comments and intro)

Thanks Manny. I'm Twa-le Swan, I'll be your host this morning. Let's start by giving another round of applause to our host Tribes: the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Seneca Nation of Indians!

What a beautiful place to gather this year for the NTF. We have a few days together to share our experiences-our successes and challenges; our new ideas, new tools, technology and policy recommendations. Thank you to everyone who has been working all year on this agenda.

Right now, we have an exciting show planned for you! We will flashback to some air quality headlines this past year and hear from our guests on topics important to Indian Country. We'll leave some time for questions at the end, but most of our guests will be here for the remainder of the Forum and we encourage you to keep the discussions going!

(Cue Guest Intro Slide)

*With us today are (Introduces **Janet McCabe**, US EPA seated first to her left) (Introduces **Mehrdad Khatibi**, from ITEP seated to Janet's left) (Introduces **Craig Kreman**, from the TAMS steering committee) (Opposite Craig and continuing clockwise, introduces **Vickie Simmons**, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians as our "At-Large guest.") (Introduces **Julie Simpson** as former Virgil Masayeva Award Winner and current member of the EPA Clean Air Act Advisory Committee) (Introduces **Ralph***

McCullers as Executive Committee member on the National Tribal Air Association)

9:55 - 10:10 Host Twa-le (Cue Moss headline slide)

Let's get started! Air quality has been in the headlines after US Forest Service researchers discovered several heavy metal hotspots in Portland, Oregon while studying the concentrations of metals in tree moss. After mapping their results, they found nearby sources that used the elevated metals in their production.

The tree moss in Portland revealed high levels of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and lead in the air surrounding a pair of glass making companies. Residents near the sources were told not to eat vegetables grown in their gardens and data released by the health department showed a small, but significant increase in bladder cancers in the area between 1999 and 2003. Nearby residents have been complaining about one of the companies since the 1980s.

As a result, both companies have stopped using cadmium in their production and have installed new filters on their furnaces. At least one class action lawsuit has been filed, new regulations have been proposed, and funds have been requested for air quality monitoring and more studies to identify other sources.

Lichens retain what they absorb from air and water, and that is why they are useful and cost effective monitors of pollution.

Results of the USFS study indicate that "moss is a low-cost way of mapping air pollution and has the potential to revolutionize the enforcement of environmental regulations." **How has mapping air pollution helped your Tribe? And Craig, what other cost effective monitoring technologies have you seen that may be available to Tribes now or in the future?**

Craig responds

Twa-le: Julie, you are active in a few cross-agency networks where topics like this have come up. Can you discuss the benefit of Tribal input and collaboration in networks like the Western Regional Air Partnership? How do Tribes get involved?

Julie responds

Host Twa-le: The USFS has used lichens as bioindicators for decades, their website is full of information including lichen identification materials and study protocols if you are interested in learning more. We almost had the opportunity to participate in some training and monitoring near our Reservation last summer. It was right before

fire season, and of course for many Tribes affected by the fires...forests burned and plans changed.

10:10 - 10:25 Host Twa-le *this leads us to our second topic of discussion: Climate Change and we'll start with wildfires.*

(Cue Wildfire Slide)

2015 was the worst wildfire season on record in the United States and fires burning near the Tar sands in Alberta are already dominating headlines this year. According to the National Interagency Fire Center's numbers, last year US wildfires scorched over 10 million acres. Wildfires are increasing and the season is getting longer in the US. Forests are drier, longer. Temperatures are rising and snow is melting sooner.

Many Tribes were impacted last year, including those far away from the flames. Smoke was not only visible by satellite but also deteriorated air quality across the country late last summer and into the fall.

Julie, can you talk about the impacts to your Tribe and region and ways in which the Tribes responded?

Julie Responds

Twa-le: Craig, what is available to Tribes now in terms of monitoring support and what's to come?

Craig Responds and talks about TAMS equipment loan program and needs assessment

10:25 - 10:40 Host Twa-le (Cue Climate Change Slide): *That brings us to a wider discussion on climate change impacts to Tribal communities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, composed of thousands of scientists from around the world, has found that Indigenous Peoples are among the peoples most vulnerable to climate change and are disproportionately affected by it. Indigenous People depend upon the health of their ecosystems and natural resources for social, economic, and cultural vitality; and climate change threatens to destroy indigenous ways of life that have been sustainable for thousands of years.*

Government leaders and Indigenous people traveled and participated in the event leading to the Paris Climate Agreement, which is the first legally binding global climate deal. On Earth Day, governments signed the deal and 34 countries have formally ratified the Agreement which shows a strong international commitment to deliver.

Janet, you were in Paris, so what role do you see Tribes playing both here in the US and internationally as these climate agreements are discussed and implemented?

Janet Responds

Twa-le: Politics is dominating the news right now. Sometimes it's hard to distinguish the real news from the parodies. Half the presidential candidates believe climate change is one of the greatest threats to people today, the other half seem not to believe it exists at all. Janet, how do we move forward, expand and continue the work that the Tribes and EPA have been doing on climate change?

Janet Responds

Twa-le: Vickie, could you discuss your Tribes efforts with renewable energy?

Vickie Responds

Twa-le: Mehrdad, what training and technical resources are out there for Tribes to address climate change?

Mehrdad Responds

10:40 – 10:55 MC (**Twa-le** starts to ask next question but **Manny** interrupts)

Manny: We have an important announcement from our man in the fields.

Host Twa-le: *Our man in the field? I didn't know we had a man in the field?*

MC Manny: Of course we have a man in the field, every good show has a man in the field

Host Twa-le: *Oh good, you think it's a good show. (Silence for a second) Manny, who is our man in the field?*

MC Manny: Oh yeah, this just in from our man in the field **Andy Bessler**

(Cue News Flash Music and then fade out)

Andy Thanks Jim, this is Andy Bessler standing in these hallowed halls of the Grand Ballroom of the Seneca Niagara Resort near the rushing waters of the Niagara River. Just like those falls, Reports are FLOODING in to NTAA world headquarters with reactions to NTAA's Status of Tribal Air Report and NTAA's Final Report on the National Indoor air quality needs assessment. Based on my completely random selection of airheads, let's hear from this wall flower over here... (Reporter approaches a bashful **Randy Ashley**)

Excuse me sir, I would like to ask you, what did you think of today's release of NTAA's Status of Tribal Air Report?"

(Ask Randy Ashley standing nearby and he answers)

Randy: This year's STAR was easy to access on this flash drive here and really provided a solid snapshot of tribal air programs' successes and challenges throughout the year. I really like the budget analysis that demonstrated that funding levels for tribal air programs have...

Andy: (Cutting off Randy...) Thank you for going on and on sir and I think before we lose any more viewers, we need to move on.

(Andy gently pushes away Randy)

Andy: As always, a picture is worth a thousand words, so in the NTAA STAR, we wanted to show some of the successful and not so successful efforts from Tribal air programs around the country:

(Show slide of pigeon air monitoring)

After learning from NTAA weekly updates about a unique program in London to use pigeons to monitor for air quality, several Alaskan Native Villages tried a similar approach, but with birds common to their home: Ravens.

Several selected ravens were sent from Alaska to London **(Show slide of Raven in London)** for training with ITEP's new training program for birds to conduct air quality monitoring.

After filling out ITEP's extensive evaluation forms and securing travel reimbursements, the ravens were fitted with air monitors and sent out. On the first day of work, there were readings of high levels of methane and various toxins from the nearly all of the bird's monitoring equipment packaged in raven's backpacks. The mysterious readings were explained by tribal air program staff that tracked the ravens with GPS signals and found them all at dumpsters behind tribal administration buildings.

(Show slide of Ravens in trash bin)

In addition to the STAR, the NTAA National Indoor Air Quality work group recently completed a Needs Assessment for Indian Country and the final report results will be discussed here, at NTFAQ later today at 3 pm in Event Center B. Indoor Air quality is a growing concern since many people are now spending nearly 90% of their time indoors.

By the way, I find it a bit odd that your man in the field is actually indoors right now. I actually wanted to do this by the Falls. Just wanted to point that out... In any case, please remember that NTAA is here to help with all your air quality policy needs...

MC Manny: (Thanks **Andy** turns the show back to **Twa-le**)

10:55 - 11:10 Host Twa-le

(Cue the Pollution and Health Slide)

Twa-le: *Our last topic is air pollution and health. We have long known that air pollution can cause and exacerbate respiratory problems like asthma and infections and lung cancer. Studies now show contributions to a diverse range of disorders, from heart disease to obesity.*

Ambient air is the cleanest it has been in four decades, yet pollution is still a major public health problem. According to estimates from the American Lung Association, more than 46 million Americans or about 15% of the population are chronically exposed to levels of particle pollution that exceeds EPA standards. Environmental Health and Technology estimated that we could avoid two million deaths globally by cleaning up the world's air.

That is just outside, we are continuously learning more about the impacts of indoor air, especially in Tribal communities.

Janet, how important are the Tribal and EPA efforts to reduce air pollution in improving health in Tribal communities?

Janet Responds

Protecting the health of our communities is the #1 goal for many Tribes, so **Vickie, can you share how air pollution has impacted the health of your Reservation?**

Vickie Responds

Normally to open the NTF, Tribal representatives list regional and national Tribal priorities. **Ralph, can you tell us about some of the work that the NTAA is doing to support Tribal efforts to improve air quality and health in Indian Country?**

Ralph Responds

11:10 - 11:25 Host Twa-le I think we have time for a couple questions from the audience. (Turns show back to **MC Manny**) (**Manny** hands mic to first questioner **and** question is asked.)

(Host asks for panelists to answer)

MC Manny: closes questions from audience after time check and closes with final responses

(MC Manny throws show back to **Host Twa-le** who finishes with her opinion)

11:25 - 11:30 Host Twa-le: *Thank you for your questions, we are almost out of time and would like to end today's show by thanking our guests and all of you for staying with us for the first Tribal Air TODAY Show! We hope you enjoyed it. Remember, keep these discussions going!*

Twa-le: (Congratulates everyone for the participation.) (Turns the show back to **MC Manny**)

MC Manny thanks **Twa-le, Panelists, Andy, Randy** and the audience. Adds reminder: Time for lunch and NTAA member Tribes and invited guests can proceed immediately to the La Cascata Restaurant for the NTAA Annual Meeting. Concludes the show with **(cue the closing music and credits slide)**