



William Tripp,

Biographical Summary

Profile Summary

This biographical summary intends to convey a general understanding of life goals ambitions, programs, functions actions and activities undertaken as a dedicated and steadfast professional with 31 years cumulative professional experience in progressing indigenous stewardship principles and practices. It Seeks to showcase the impact achieved as a persistent, perceptive, and mission driven individual that fosters strategic approaches to collaborative problem - solving that is proficient in leveraging partnerships and bridging networks to facilitate systemic and transformational change.

Life Goals

To be a highly creative and visionary protector of tribal culture, traditions, and indigenous rights, focusing on incorporation of traditional cultural values into a new era of locally led community based policy, management, and practice, with an emphasis on tribal sovereignty, community engagement, and intergovernmental affairs. Primarily seeking to revitalize human/fire relationships and indigenous stewardship principles and practices in a manner that works to truly bring fire back to the people.

Boards and Committees

Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission 2023 - 2024

Convened under the US Department of Agriculture, interior, and Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Commission focused on collaboration among secretarial appointees to produce a comprehensive report to Congress on wildland fire mitigation and management, an addendum to the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, and an Aviation Report.

Contact

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Commission Reports

https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wfmmc_final-report-09-2023.pdf

<https://forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/strategy/natl-cohesive-wildland-fire-mgmt-strategy-addendum-update-2023.pdf>

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wildfire-commission-aviation-report.pdf>



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Boards and Committees

Wildland Fire Leadership Council

2024 - Present

Collaborate with leadership from the federal family of fire service agencies, national, and international fire service nongovernmental organizations, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control

Intertribal Timber Council Fire Subcommittee – Co- Chair

2023 - Present

Lead fire policy discussions among tribes, Department of Interior Office of Wildland Fire, US Forest Service, and Wildland Fire Leadership Council Coordinator.

Organize workgroup discussions on cultural burning and co- management among Tribal delegates, the Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources and the Environment, and US Forest Service staff

Western Region Strategy Committee – Co- Chair

2012- Present

Collaborate with fire practitioners from the western states to develop the National Cohesive wildland Fire Management Strategy

Collaborate with fire practitioners from the western states to progress the integration of western science and indigenous knowledge

Collaborate with fire practitioners from the western states to develop the Western Region Phase III Science Based Risk Analyses report

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Publications

<https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/strategy/strategy/CSPPhaseIIINationalStrategyApr2014.pdf>

<https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/strategy/reports/phase3/WesternRegionalRiskAnalysisReportNov2012.pdf>

<https://nwfirescience.org/sites/default/files/publications/Ecological%20Applications%20-%202024%20-%20Greenler%20%20Blending%20Indigenous%20and%20western%20science%20%20Quantifying%20cultural%20burning%20impacts.pdf>



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Boards and Committees

Indigenous Stewardship Network – Co-Founder

2022 - Present

Establish fiscal sponsorships and coordinate with contractors to establish tribally chartered non - governmental organization, hold convenings, and develop strategic business plan

Pilot Rekindling Fire and Culture grant program

Northern California Prescribed Fire Council Steering Committee

2009 - Present

Collaborate with fire practitioners and academics throughout California to facilitate change regarding the fire management paradigm and help inspire rollout of Prescribed Fire Councils throughout the west

The Nature Conservancy Family of North American Fire Networks

2008 - Present

Co-Lead Klamath Siskiyou Fire Learning Network

Lead for Karuk Tribe Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network pilot community

Advisor to the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) Coaches Network

Advisor to the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network

Western Klamath Restoration Partnership – Co-Lead

2007 - Present

Collaborate with tribal and federal agency staffs, fire practitioners, and community partners from the Klamath Mountains to restore historic fire regimes

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Web Links

<https://www.indigenoustewardship.org/>

<https://www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org/about>

https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Documents/FactSheet_IPBN.pdf

<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/traditional-ecological-knowledge-world-renewal-ceremonies-fire-adaptation/>

<https://firenetworks.org/trex-where-we-work/>

<https://firenetworks.org/ipbn/>

<https://www.wkrp.network/>



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Work History

Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources

Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy 2020 - Present

Departmental oversight; pay disparity assessment; coalition building; congressional testimony; Tribal Council briefing; COVID- 19 response coordination; conversions of Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 4 and 11 to safety plans for firefighting, fuels reduction, prescribed fire training, and agriculture and natural resources actions and activities; drafting National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) resolutions; philanthropic consultations; law, regulation and policy review and revision; media engagement; multi-year funding agreement negotiation.

Deputy Director of Eco - Cultural Revitalization 2013 - 2020

Departmental restructuring; intergovernmental consultation, coordination, and communication; Non-Governmental Organization outreach, communication, and coordination; grant writing; community development oversight; research direction, review, and revision; multi-organizational capacity building; Local, regional and national committees, coalitions, and networks; collaborative group leadership, support and administration; strategic planning and coordination; supervision of management level positions; contract management, oversight, review and modification; programmatic oversight for Eco-Cultural Revitalization Branch comprised of fire response, fuels projects, forestry projects, botany surveys, GIS data stewarding, wildlife surveys, K- 12 education, higher education and research, workforce development and internships, sipnuuk digital library services, food security and food sovereignty; Climate adaptation planning; fundraising; and collaborative stewardship. Inter- Tribal Consortia Development; Interim Director duties as assigned.

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Awards

Honorary Doctor of Humane Sciences – Cal Poly Humboldt



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Work History

Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources

Eco-Cultural Revitalization Specialist 2004 - 2013

Integrated Resource Management Planning; government to government consultation/coordination/negotiation; Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) development; Designated Tribal Government Representative and Heritage Consultant Coordinator on wildland fire events; review and comment on grants and agreements; negotiation of United States Forest Service (USFS) hazard fuels reduction project work; participation on USFS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) interdisciplinary (ID) teams; review and comment on national and regional federal policies, rules, and regulations; research authorities, laws, policies, and declarations as applicable to tribal sovereignty and intergovernmental relationships; participation on the Western Regional Technical Workgroup and Communications Team in the development of the Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management; coordinate with tribal and non-tribal agencies, organizations, and academic institutions; draft tribal policies and program specific operational protocols between intra-governmental entities; review and draft formal government to government correspondence between the chairman and federal agencies relating to natural resource and sovereignty issues, concerns, beliefs, and interests; prepare budgets and draft resolutions for Council review and approval.

Air Quality Coordinator 1998 - 2004

Program development; proposal writing; grants management; budgeting; fire planning; government to government consultation; MOU negotiations; particulate monitoring; networking; capacity building; youth supervision; cultural resource monitoring; Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping; procurement; policy, law, and historical research.

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Water Resources Technician

Fish counts; screw trap; water temperature monitoring; harvest monitoring; wildlife surveys, data entry, report formatting, GIS development, grant writing, fuels program development; Swamper, Heritage Consultant, and Crew Boss on wildfire assignments; Government to Government consultation and coordination; NEPA planning; habitat typing; habitat structure installation.

Publication Samples

Karuk Tribe- UC Berkeley Collaborative, Daniel Sarna- Wojcicki, Megan Mucioki, Kathy McCovey, Lisa Morehead- Hillman, Leaf Hillman, Frank Lake, Shawn Bourque, Vikki Preston, Frankie Tripp, Bill Tripp, Jennifer Sowerwine. "Indigenous science key to climate change adaptation and Karuk: Indigenous Cultural Agroecosystem Resilience (ICAR)," *Journal of Sustainability*, under review.

Sara A. Clark, Bill Tripp, Don Hankins, Colleen E. Rossier, Abigail Varney, and Isobel Narin. [Good Fire 2: Current Barriers to the Expansion of Cultural Burning and Prescribed Fire In California.](#) May 2024

Skye M. Greenler, Frank K. Lake, William Tripp, Kathy McCovey, Analisa Tripp, Leaf G. Hillman, Christopher J. Dunn, Susan J. Prichard, Paul F. Hessburg, Will Harling, John D. Bailey. [Blending Indigenous and Western Science: Quantifying Cultural Burning Impacts in Karuk Aboriginal Territory](#) September 2023

Bill Tripp. [Our land was taken. But we still hold the knowledge of how to stop mega - fires.](#) The Guardian September 2020

Norgaard and Tripp et al. [Karuk Climate Adaptation Plan](#) March 2019

Bill Tripp, Alex Watts- Tobin, Jennifer Dyer . [Somes Bar Integrated Wildland Fire Management Project – Cultural Specialist Report](#) June 2017

Will Harling and Bill Tripp. [Western Klamath Restoration Partnership: A Plan for Restoring Fire Resilient Landscapes](#) June 2014

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Summary Impact Statement

To whom it may concern,

As a Karuk cultural fire practitioner who began his traditional indigenous education in this practice at four years old, I chose the life long mission of helping to bring fire back to the people at the age of eight.

I gained my first full time permanent job with the Karuk Department of Natural Resources after submitting an essay to the inaugural BIA Water Resources Technician Training Program. This essay outlined how if given unlimited resources, I would restore fire regimes to ensure survival of Salmon in the Klamath Basin following dam removal.

Throughout my career I have worked to integrate western science and indigenous knowledge, practice, and belief systems working at local, regional, and national scales. Dams have come down, community based collaborative action has become the foundation for upslope management, and fire regime restoration has received significant investment.

I have also helped to teach numerous students at institutions such as Cal Poly Humboldt, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Yale School of Forestry, Harvard, UC Davis, and Northern Arizona University through invitational presentations. I have served as an advisor on multiple dissertations, and co - authored many research publications, some of which are highlighted in this correspondence.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have had the opportunity to progress my indigenous principles through a career to sequentially progress my lifelong mission in such profound and impactful ways. Though credit for such profound impact is due to many more than can be mentioned here, I hope you find the information contained herein useful for your consideration.

Yôotva (Thank You),

William Tripp



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References

Dr. Jeffrey Kane

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Dr. Jennifer Sowerwine

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Dr. Kari Marie Norgaard

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Ken Pimlott

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Meryl Harrell

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Dr. Paul Hessberg

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