

McCoy Oatman, Vice-Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
Nez Perce Tribe

McCoy Oatman is the current Vice-Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC), the governing body of the Nez Perce Tribe. Vice-Chairman Oatman has served on the NPTEC for over a decade. During his tenure on the NPTEC he has served in several different officer positions including as Chairman, Secretary, Vice-Chairman, Chaplain, Treasurer, Natural Resources Subcommittee Chairman, and Budget & Finance Subcommittee Chairman. In addition to his current role as Vice-Chairman, he is also the Chair of Land Enterprise Subcommittee for the NPTEC. As an elected member of the NPTEC, he is responsible for oversight of Tribal government and its departments/programs, and the tribal fiscal budgets.

Vice-Chairman Oatman also serves on several regional and national committees on behalf of the Tribe. Since 2011, he has served as the Nez Perce Tribe representative to the Policy Committee which is responsible for the administration and oversight of the implementation of the United States v. Oregon 2018-2027 Management Agreement. The purpose of the Policy Committee is to facilitate cooperative action by the involved parties with regard to fishing regulations, policy issues or disputes, and the coordination of the management of fisheries on Columbia River runs and production and harvest measures.

Since 2012, he has served as an Alternate Tribal Commissioner on the U.S. Pacific Salmon Commission. The Pacific Salmon Commission is a body comprised of representatives from both the U.S. and Canada and is charged with implementing the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. The fundamental role of the Pacific Salmon Commission is two-fold: 1) it is to conserve salmon to achieve optimum production, and 2) to divide harvests such that each country receives benefits of its investments in salmon management.

Since 2011, he has represented the Nez Perce Tribe on the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) as a Tribal Delegate. The IBMP is a cooperative, multi-agency effort that guides the management of bison and brucellosis in and around Yellowstone National Park. The plan was developed by the National Park Service, USDA-Forest Service, USDA-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Montana Department of Livestock and Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks.

From 2011 to 2013, Vice-Chairman Oatman served on the State & Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG) in the Department of Energy (DOE). STGWG is composed of policy-level representatives of states and tribes that host DOE facilities or are otherwise impacted by activities at DOE facilities. Its composition offers a unique perspective on issues such as long-term stewardship, tribal issues, transportation planning, nuclear waste and materials disposition, and deactivation and decommissioning activities.