FALLON PAIUTE-SHOSHONE TRIBE

December 2019

Environmental Protection Department Newsletter

Season's Greetings from the staff at the Environmental Protection Department. May this holiday season and the New Year be filled with health and happiness.

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Honoring our Veterans

To honor those who have served, a Tribal Veteran's Brunch was held at the gym on November 8th. Tribal Law Enforcement provided the Color Guard to Post Colors. Reverend Ernie Hooper opened the event with an invocation, which was followed with an opening address given by Chairman Len George. Joey Fanjul provided master of ceremonies services for the event.

Pictured to the right is Richard Black, Environmental Manager, Vietnam War Army Veteran and Reverend Ernie Hooper, Korean War Army Veteran. The Environmental Protection Department gifted Ernie his hat (pictured), to show gratitude for praying for Earth Day, our Mother Earth and our People during our annual Earth Day event throughout the years. The design was beaded by Ileana Henry.

Many thanks to the Fallon Business Council and to those special people who contributed to this annual event. To all of our Veterans: Thank you for your service.

EPD Newsletter is going digital! You can find it on the Tribal

'Tis the Season for Radon Testing

86
Rn
Radon

The Environmental Department will continue radon testing for homes on the reservation again this year. Testing needs to take place during the cold months as the cold weather affects radon levels. Winter is a good time to test for radon because you are, in-most cases, measuring the worst case scenario for your home.
Cold weather increased the amount of warm air that is escaping from your house through vents or drafty windows. This escape of air causes a vacuum inside the home. If the air in your home is under negative pressure, radon gas can be pulled in from the soil below the foundation. Cracks in the concrete floors, foundations and sump pumps are typical radon entry points. This stack effect can be greater in the winter months resulting in more gas entering the home. Radon gas occurs naturally in the soil.

Unfortunately, during the winter or rainy seasons, the ground around your home can become saturated with water and in some cases frozen. When this happens, it can block the flow of radon into the atmosphere and redirect it into your home in higher concentrations. During the winter months, most people keep their windows shut. They fire up the furnace and recirculate the same air throughout their home. Many homes have poor indoor air quality and higher radon levels because the home is closed up during winter months. In modern years, more homes are built to be energy efficient and more "tight." This energy efficiency can help keep the house warmer but it also can trap the bad air inside.

If you are interested in having your home tested for radon, please call the Environmental Protection Department at 775.423.0590 to sign up.

Snowmelt and Nonpint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution does not result from a single definable location, such as an industrial discharge pipe, but rather results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, or percolation. Exceptions are irrigation return flows and storm water flows which are deemed nonpoint sources.

Besides the runoff due to rainfall in summer, the snowmelt runoff in early spring could also play an important role in deteriorating the water quality of the receiving waters. When it snows, atmospheric pollutants can be absorbed by the snow, eventually contributing to the runoff water contamination. In contrast to summer, the air quality in winter is usually much worse than that of other seasons because of the combustion of coal for heating.

Snow accumulates a variety of contaminants from the atmosphere, motor vehicles and roadways. These contaminants include salts and salt additives, heavy metals, petroleum products such as oil and grease, bacteria, organic chemicals such as pesticides and PCBs, soil materials and litter. Sand and other soil particles act as contaminants by filling our lakes, dams and navigation channels.

Constructed wetlands are the preferred tool of ecological purification. Wetlands have gained interest due to their low maintenance and operational costs, and their high removal capacity for many kinds of pollutants. Fortunately, we have two wetlands at the end of our watershed.

Water Quality Monitoring

Our sampling events for 2019 went well. Overall, the tribal waters are improving in quality. When conducting analysis, we compare the results of our samples to the national EPA recommendations for these core water quality indicators: Dissolved Oxygen, pH, water temperature, turbidity, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and e.Coli. We also sample for Arsenic, conductivity, and Iron.

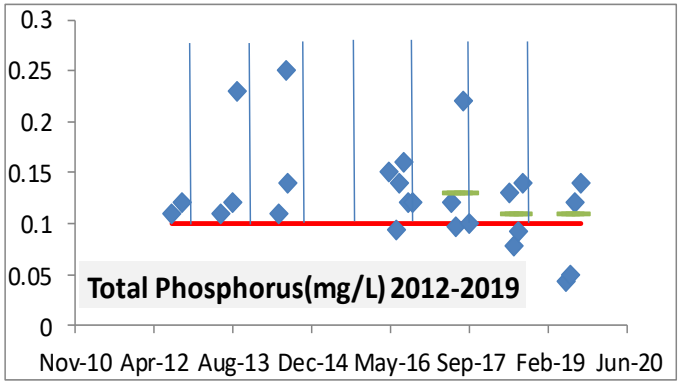
Pictured left: Sonia Corleto, Environmental Specialist, and Richard Black, Environmental Manager, prepare a duplicate sample using a churn splitter.

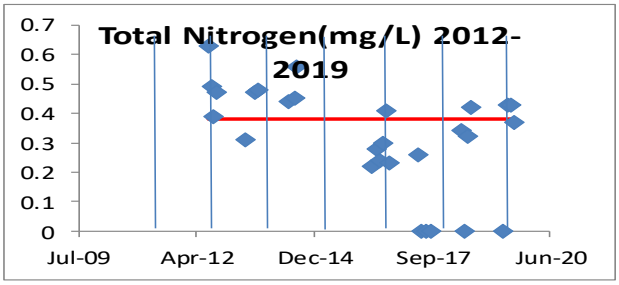
Pictured below: Richard Black, Environmental Manager, pulling a water sam-

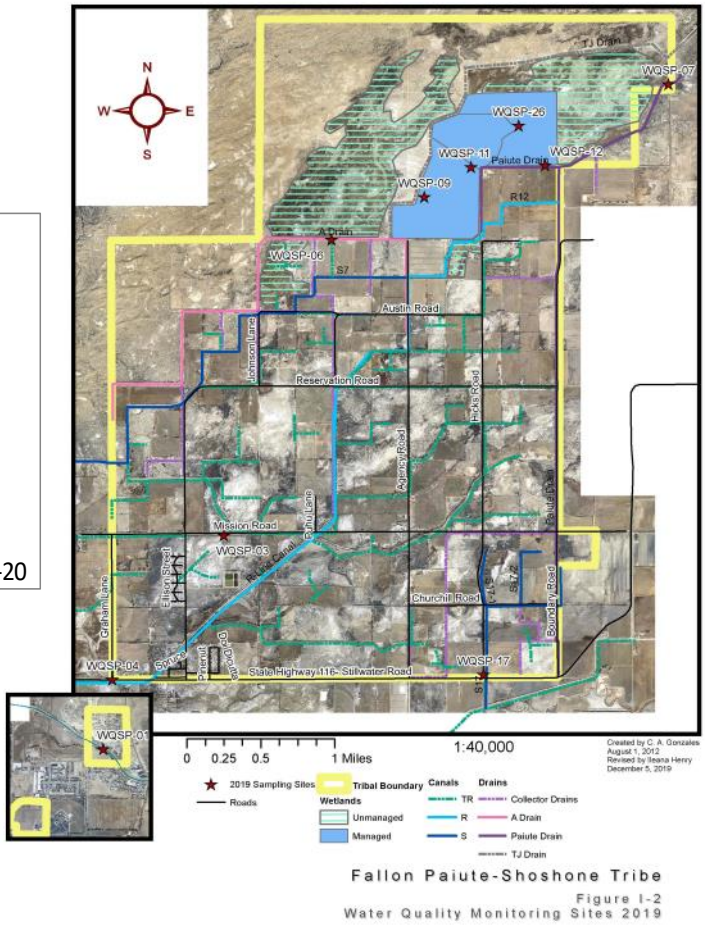
The Land and Water department was a great resource to our water sampling department by helping train us on operating the YSI Sonde equipment. We thank them for their continued support in helping our department achieve our grant match requirement in the form of outreach opportunities and a little bit of field assistance when they are able. Together, we can achieve our goal of protecting the integrity of our waterways and wetlands for agricultural needs of the community and for future generations.

2019 Water Quality Assessment Report		
Sample Site:	Status	Trend Analysis
WQSP-01	Impaired	Improved
WQSP-03	Impaired	Improved
WQSP-04	Impaired	Improved
WQSP-06	Impaired	Improved
WQSP-07	Impaired	Degraded
WQSP-09	Impaired	Improved
WQSP-11	Impaired	Maintained
WQSP-12	Impaired	Degraded
WQSP-17	Impaired	Improved/Degraded
WQSP-26	Impaired	Degraded

An example of site WQSP-01 is included below. This site is impaired currently for Phosphorus and Nitrogen amounts but the trend shows improvement in both constituents as well as Turbidity and Iron.







Planet vs. Plastic

As you may or may not have heard, there has been a global crisis occurring regarding our recyclable plastics. For years, America sold millions of tons of used yogurt cups, juice containers, shampoo bottles and other kinds of plastic trash to China to be recycled into new products. Numerous Chinese millionaires were minted as recycling businesses started and blossomed. Sure, they paid for the world's plastic and paper trash, but they made far more money from processing it and selling the resulting raw materials. In 2016, China imported two-thirds of the world's plastic waste.

About five years ago, the Chinese government started to worry about all this trash coming in. A lot of the plastic was contaminated with stuff that made it difficult and expensive to recycle – paper, food waste, plastic wrap (which is not recyclable). The plastic that was too difficult to recycle, or not recyclable at all, ended up being dumped. In January 2018, it banned almost all imports. Last year, China took in less than 1 percent of its 2016 total. Since the ban, China took in 282 million tons of metal and plastic. Prior to the ban, China took in 12.6 billion pounds of the world's plastic a year, 700,000 tons from the U.S. alone.

So when China stopped buying the world's discarded plastics, it threw the market for recyclables into turmoil. That means a huge amount of plastic is looking for a place to go. A lot of local centers are stockpiling the plastic; other communities have stopped accepting plastic all together until they can find a buyer.

Pictured: Bales of plastic at the Fallon Transfer Station awaiting a buyer.

This is a real problem that we are facing and it isn't going anywhere. Consumers are using more and more, that means more and more is ending up in the landfills or being incinerated causing air pollution. When heated, worn, or pressurized, plastic leaches toxic chemicals like bisphenol A, styrene, vinyl chloride, and phthalates. So the big question is, what do we do with our plastics now that China is no longer buying it? What can we do? For one, we need to cut down on the amount of plastic that we use.

Here are several ideas to help cut down on plastic. They may not be the most convenient, but neither is our planet being suffocated by the amount of trash that it is being subjected to or our oceans being filled with garbage. In 50 years, it is estimated that there will be more garbage weight in the oceans than the weight of fish. So just keep an open mind.

1. Canvas Grocery Bag

Those plastic grocery sacks that you use every week to lug your food out of the store are not economical. They are cheap, reusable, and far more durable.

2. Reusable Sandwich Bags/Containers

If you're like me and have to pack your child's lunch every day, plastic sandwich bags are probably your go to storage option for lunch, but they shouldn't be. Reusable sandwich bags are not only more durable, but they're also cleaner and safer.

3. Reusable Produce Bags

Stick a couple reusable produce bags in your canvas grocery sacks, and you'll never have to use the plastic ones again!

4. Bar Soap

Bar soap is a great alternative to liquid soap because liquid soap comes in a plastic container.

5. Glass Water Bottles

Glass water bottles certainly last longer than their plastic counterparts if you take care of them.

Planet vs. Plastic cont.

6. Glass Straws

If you must use a straw, buy some glass straws instead of using those wimpy plastic ones.

7. Glass Tupperware

Glass tupperware is definitely superior to plastic tupperware because you can put hot food right into them without worrying that the container will melt or leach chemicals into it.

8. Eat Fresh, Whole Foods

Buy fresh food devoid of packaging. Whole foods without packaging are far better for you than the alternative. For instance, instead of buying apple packages treated with vitamin c or ascorbic acid, just buy whole apples

9. For the Kids: Try Lincoln Logs instead of Legos

So I actually had these as a kid and I loved them! Yes, Legos are great for your future engineer kiddo, but they're made out of plastic. Lincoln logs, however, are made out of wood.

10. Try Hemp Phone Cases

Rather than a conventional plastic phone case, get one that's made out of hemp! They are stylish and protect your phone just as well as plastic ones.

11. Pet Parents, Get a Ceramic Pet Food Bowl

Plastic food bowls are lighter weight than ceramic ones, but the latter won't expose your lovable little rascal to the nastiness of plastic.

12. Try Bamboo or Porcelain Plates

If you're used to always having plastic or paper plates, then you should reconsider what you put your food on. Rather than purchase plates, buy reusable ones like porcelain, and just stick them in the dishwasher. If you must have a plate to throwaway and you despise dishwashers, then use bamboo plates that are biodegradable.

13. Metal or Biodegradable Silverware

Metal silverware is a lot better than plastic silverware. So, when you're cutting or eating, do it with a sturdier eating utensil that's good for the environment too.

14. Paper cups

I go into a lot of offices and I also drink a lot of water. One of the things that I notice when refilling my water bottle at the water stations is that some places use plastic or Styrofoam disposable cups. A simple switch to paper cups would give you a biodegradable alternative.

Plastic is not as safe as manufacturers would have you believe, so it's best to use as little as possible: they mimic hormones in the body and pollute the environment. As a rule, look around your house for plastic items that can easily be replaced with a reusable alternative and replace them accordingly.

Wood Smoke Safety

www.epa.gov/burnwise

Nothing feels more like the holidays than sipping a cup of hot cocoa and the comfort of a crackling fire. The smell of wood smoke may smell good, but it's not good for your health. Reducing wood smoke in your home is a good idea to keep the air you breathe clean.

Wood Smoke and Your Health

Wood smoke contains tiny particles that can affect your health. You probably already know that wood smoke particles can affect your lungs and trigger asthma attacks and aggravate other lung diseases and damage, especially in children. What you might not know is that particles from wood smoke can increase the risk of having a heart attack, irregular heartbeat, heart failure, stroke and can also cause early death. The people who are at greatest risk of suffering from health effects caused by wood smoke are older adults; children and teens; and people with heart of lung disease.

How to Reduce Wood Smoke

- Burn dry, seasoned wood that has been split, stacked, covered, and stored.
- Use a cleaner-burning gas or wood stove.
- Provide sufficient air to the fire; never let it smolder.

WILSON'S SNIPE

Wilson's Snipe exhibits three dark facial bands on either side of its head separated by five white stripes, active camouflage, and a series of colorful stripes along its back and sides that delineate scale like feathering. This bird has a mosquito-like bill designed to detect small invertebrates. This bird is able to maneuver it's bill thanks to increased flexibility even when muddied by sediment. During breeding season, pairs form and nest in small patches of grass, usually producing four eggs. This bird is usually at home in the shallow waters of the Paiute Drain where frozen ponds and ice crystals dominate the landscape during the winter months. During the freezing cold temperatures of winter, spectacular sunsets with rays of light lend themselves to blankets of snow reminding us that warmer days will arrive again soon.

Farewell Jackie Conway!

Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the tribe. Not only in Emergency Management, but in the Environmental and Natural Resource Departments as well. We wish you best of luck in the future and for many good things to come your way. We bid thee farewell Jackie!

Pictured from left: Alicia Youngman, Richard Black, Sonia Corleto, Cameron Allen, Ileana Henry, Jackie Conway & Edwin Conway.

Recycling Do's and Don'ts

Our local transfer station only accepts plastics 1&2's. Look on the bottom of the plastic container for the code.

1—PET/PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate)

2—HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)

NO CAPS - Bottle caps are made from a different kind of plastic which IS NOT recyclable. Please discard caps appropriately.

•ALUMINUM CANS

•STEEL (TIN)CANS

•NEWSPAPER

•MAGAZINES

•CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

(BROKEN DOWN, FLATTENED)

Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any material discarded from a home that may pose a threat to human health or the environment when disposed of improperly. It differs from other household waste because it can be toxic, corrosive, flammable or explosive. Household hazardous waste is not covered under the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA), or any other legislation, yet a typical home contains many materials that if generated by industry would be classified as hazardous under RCRA. Toxic chemicals such as arsenic may be found in medicine, rat poison and plant killers. Lead may be found in paint and gasoline. Organic solvents may be found in the home in cleaning fluids, nail polish remover, paint thinners and spray enamels. Improper disposal of any of these products and numerous others could contaminate groundwater, poison wildlife, damage sewer systems, harm refuse collectors or contaminate the air if incinerated improperly.

Household
Hazardous Waste

Protecting Human Health And The Environment

Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

Environmental Protection Department
P: (775)423-0590 F:(775)423-0593
1011 Rio Vista Drive
Fallon, NV 89406

Address/Return Service Requested

CURBSIDE RECYCLING PILOT PROJECT SURVEY

November 8, 2019

The Environmental Protection Department is conducting a public survey seeking community input for a free curbside recycling collection pilot project for one subdivision.

We are seeking input from residents of the following subdivisions:

Colony: **Red Eagle**

Reservation: **Stillwater View, Spirit Winds and Eagles Nest**

If you reside in one of these subdivisions and are interested in participating in a free curbside recycling project, please call our office at 423-0590 or stop by with your contact information.

The subdivision reflecting the most interest in the curbside recycling collection will be selected for the pilot project. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

FPST Environmental Protection Department