

The Tribal Pesticide Program Council: Promoting the Responsible Use of Pesticides to Protect Tribal Lands and Communities

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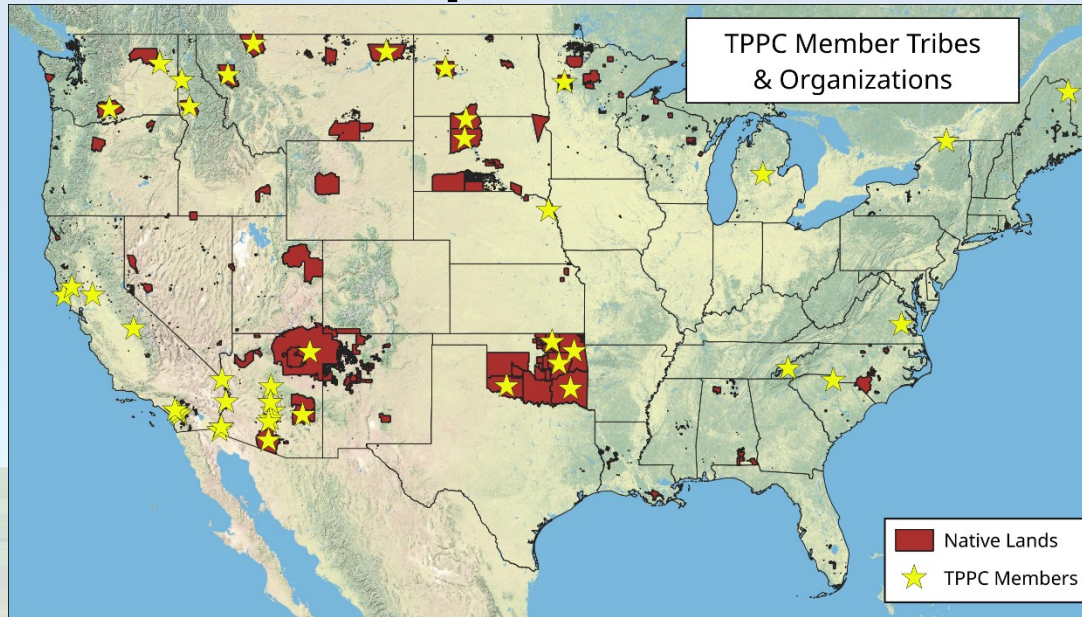


The Tribal Pesticide Program Council

- Established in 1997, with support from the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs
- Purpose: to be a tribal technical resource and program/policy development dialogue group, focused on pesticides issues and concerns (both agricultural and structural)
- Funded through a cooperative agreement between the EPA and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University
- Not a substitute for government-to-government consultation



Membership & Governance



- Made up of individuals from Tribes and tribal organizations across the country
- Currently comprised of 100 members from 64 Tribes and tribal organizations
- Governed by an Executive Committee with a chair and co-chair, representatives from each of the 10 EPA regions plus Alaska, and 4 at-large representatives
- Executive Committee members elected for 2-year terms



Calls and Meetings

- Executive Committee calls are held each month – these are open to anyone, and often include presentations by EPA or other federal agencies
- Full Council meetings held in person twice a year, typically one at a tribal facility and the other in Washington, DC to meet with federal officials



The Fall 2023 in-person meeting at the Choctaw Nation



Collaborators

- The TPPC works on issues of common interest with groups such as:
 - National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC)
 - Regional Tribal Operations Committees (RTOC)
 - The EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO)
 - The Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC)
 - The State FIFRA Issues Research & Evaluations Group (SFIREG)
 - Association of American Pesticide Control Officers (AAPCO)
 - Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO)
 - California Indian Basketweavers (CIBA)

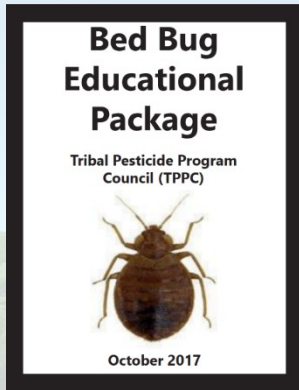


Issues Addressed by the TPPC

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Worker Protection Standard
- Pest Control in Schools and other Tribal Facilities
- Certification & Training of Pesticide Applicators
- Endangered Species Protections
- Pesticide Drift
- Pesticide exposure from cultural practices such as gathering plants for basket weaving
- Bed Bugs & Other Community Pests
- Plus we have three workgroups that meet monthly to focus on broad topics including:
 - Pollinator Protection
 - Risk Assessment
 - Policy



TPPC Assistance to Tribes



- Pesticide education, research, and program development, seeking to ensure that tribes with less experience can develop mentoring/coaching relationships with more experienced tribes
- Informational resources such as a bed bug educational package to help Tribes address common pest problems
- Training & webinars on subjects of interest to members
- A quarterly newsletter with feature articles, upcoming events, TPPC contact lists, and more
- A listserv used to distribute information about the group and pesticide issues
- A website with valuable information on Tribes and pesticides



TPPC Engagement with EPA and Other Federal Agencies

- White papers & issue papers on topics of interest to the membership
- Comments on impending pesticide-related regulatory actions that affect Tribes
- EPA Tribal Pesticide Team members attend all TPPC calls and meetings to inform members of upcoming actions and convey tribal concerns back to the agency



Current/Recent TPPC Activities

- TPPC Risk Assessment workgroup helping EPA coordinate a project with the White Earth Nation of Minnesota to gather tribal consumption & use data to better incorporate tribal exposures into EPA risk assessments
- Comments on the regulation of pesticide-treated seeds and the regulation of rodenticides
- Issue paper on options for Tribes around the federal Certification & Training plan for application of RUPs in Indian Country
- Issue paper for EPA, USDA, and DEA on tribal concerns about cannabis cultivation and regulation
- Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report (released in late 2020, but a good place to learn about tribal pesticide issues)
- TPPC Chair Jasmine Courville actively involved with the Tribal PFAS working group

How to Get Involved

- Check out our website: <https://tppcwebsite.org>
- Contact TPPC Chair Jasmine Courville at jasmine.courville@cslt.org
- Contact TPPC Coordinator at mark.daniels@nau.edu
- Join one of our monthly Executive Committee calls on the third Wednesday of every month, from 2-4 PM Eastern
- Subscribe to our listserv to stay informed

Thank you for your attention!

