

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

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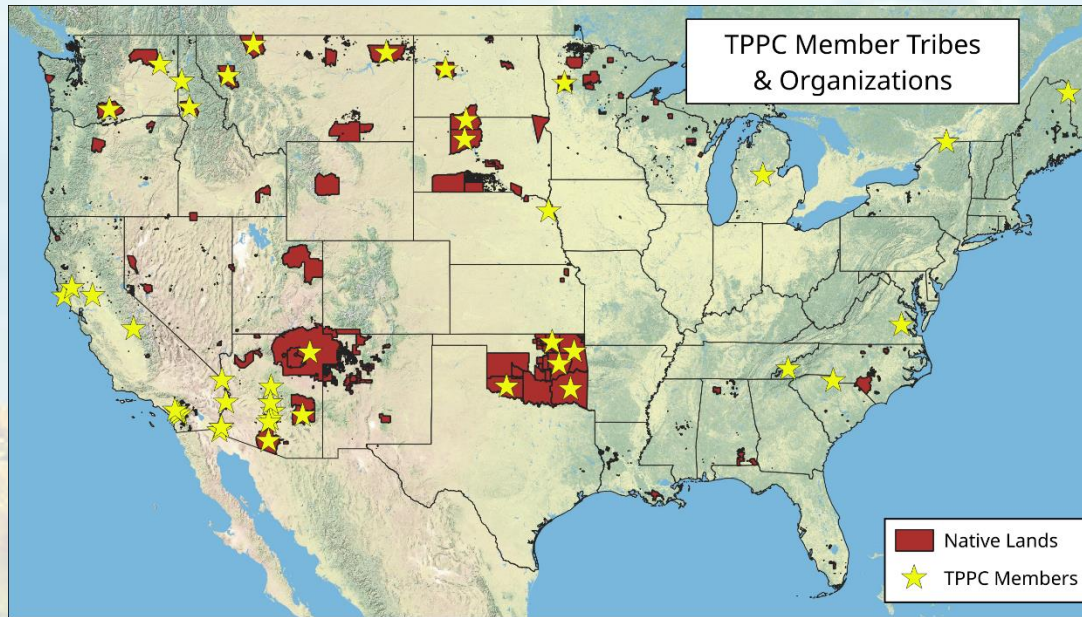


The Tribal Pesticide Program Council

- Established in 1997, with support from the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs – coming up on 30 years!!!
- Purpose: to be a tribal technical resource and program/policy development dialogue group, focused on all pesticide issues and concerns.
- Funded through a cooperative agreement between the EPA and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University.
- Reminder that discussion with TPPC is not consultation; that is done directly with Tribal Governments.



Membership & Governance



- Made up of individuals from Tribes and Tribal Organizations across the country.
- Currently comprised of 106 members from 68 Tribes and tribal organizations.
- Comprised of an Executive Committee with a Chair and Co-Chair, Representatives from the 10 EPA Regions plus Alaska, and 4 At-Large Representatives.
- Executive Committee members elected for 2-year terms.



Calls and Meetings

- Monthly Executive Committee calls – open and include presentations by EPA or other federal agencies
- Twice a year - Full Council meetings – One in DC, one in Indian Country



Fall 2025 in-person meeting at the Ak-Chin Indian Community



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)
 - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)



Issues Addressed by the TPPC

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Safety – Inspectors, Community, and Workers – due to regulatory changes
- Revision of the Certification & Training of Pesticide Applicators Online Units for Indian Country – TPPC reviewing as units are developed
- Endangered Species Protections
- Pesticide off-target movement – more than spray drift
- Pesticide exposure from cultural practices such as gathering plants for basket weaving
- 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 tribes with less experience can develop mentoring 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 EPA's Herbicide Strategy.
- Comments on the Clean Water Act Waters of the U.S. reappraisal.
- Comments on removal of the NEPA implementing regulations.
- Fewer comments submitted this year due to some tumultuous events – grant termination & reinstatement, extended government shutdown,
- Issue paper for EPA, USDA, and DEA on tribal concerns about cannabis cultivation and regulation – really pushing for some movement on this topic despite the federal status, given its pervasiveness across the country. Recommended changes in the Farm Bill for Hemp.
- Will be providing comments on EPA's upcoming Fungicide Strategy.
- Meeting with CropLife America in February 2026.
- Planning Spring Meeting – March 2026 in Washington DC.

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!

