



The Tribal Pesticide Program Council:

**Promoting the Responsible Use of Pesticides
to Protect Tribal Lands and Communities**

Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts & Tortugas Pueblo

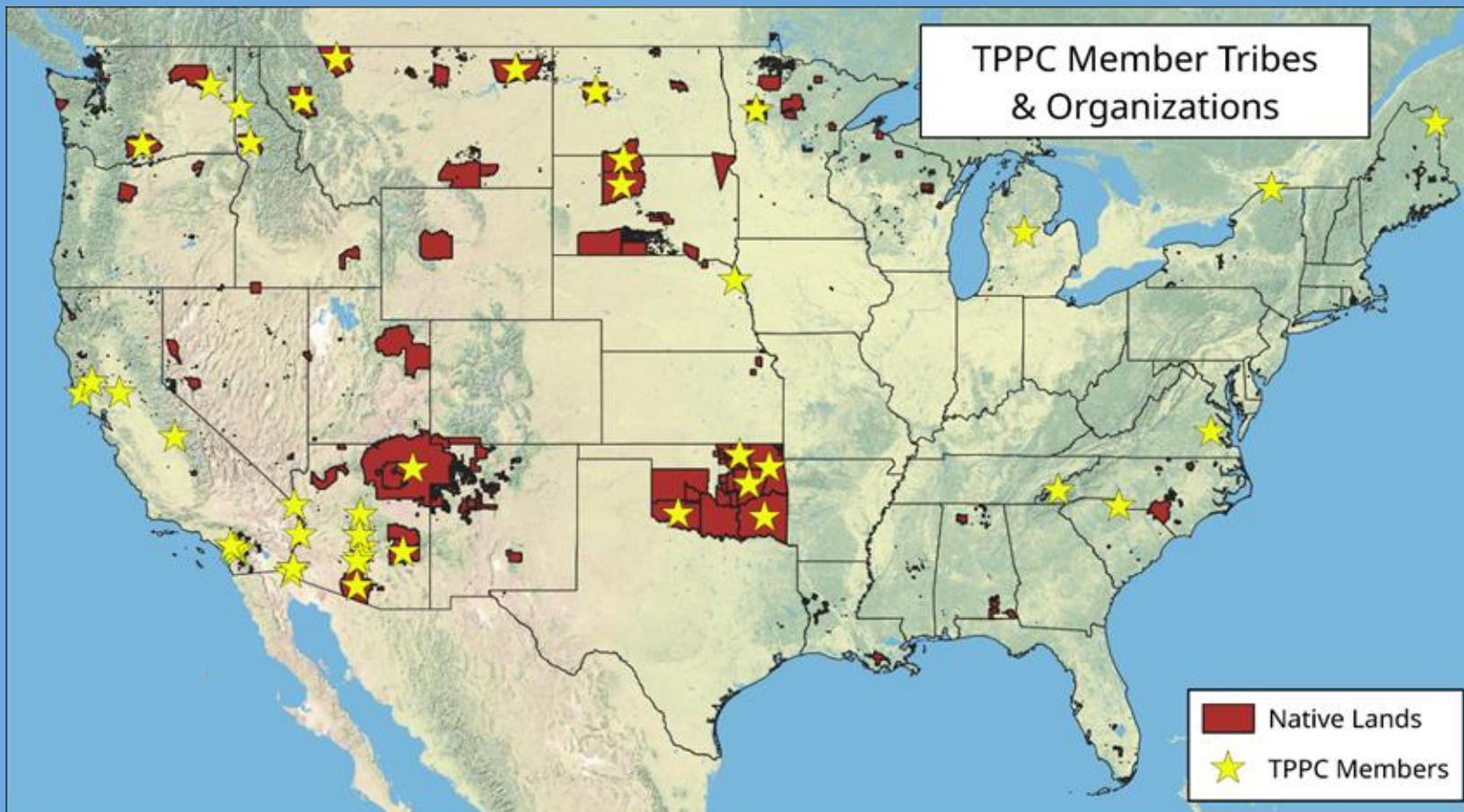
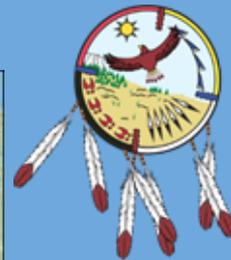


The Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) is comprised of over 30 Tribes nationally who are committed to raising pesticide related issues to the national stage



- **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; Consultation is done directly with Tribal Governments.**

Membership & Governance



- Made up of individuals from Tribes and Tribal Organizations across the country.
- Currently comprised of 107 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

2x/year - Full Council meetings – One in DC, one in Indian Country

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

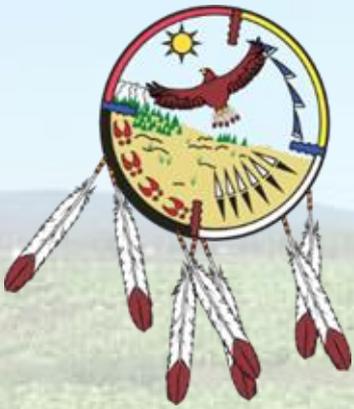
Collaborators

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,
& Workers

Endangered
Species
Protections

Pesticide
off-target
movement –
more than
spray drift

Pesticide
exposure
from cultural
practices such
as gathering
plants for
basket
weaving

Monthly
Workgroups:
*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:

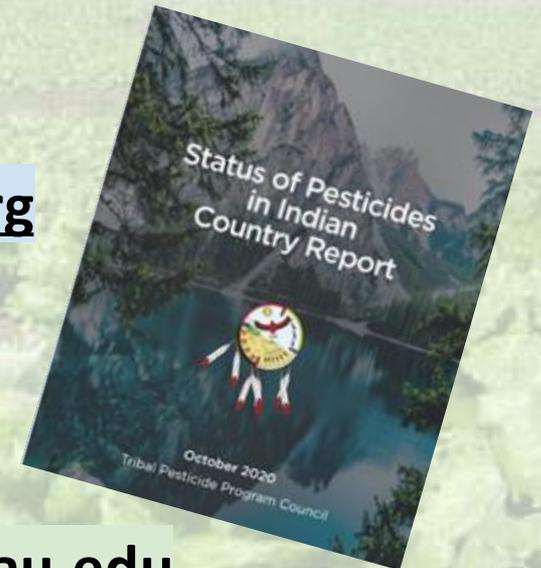
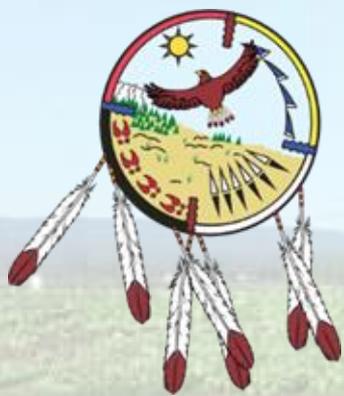
www.tppcwebsite.org



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.
- Issue paper for EPA, USDA, and DEA on tribal concerns about cannabis cultivation and regulation – pushing for some movement on this topic despite the federal status, given its pervasiveness across the country.
- Will be providing comments on EPA's upcoming Fungicide Strategy.
- Spring Meeting – March 2026 in Washington DC.

How to Get Involved



- Check out our website: <https://tppcwebsite.org>
- Contact TPPC Chair Renee Keezer at renee.keezer@whiteearth-nsn.gov
- 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!