

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

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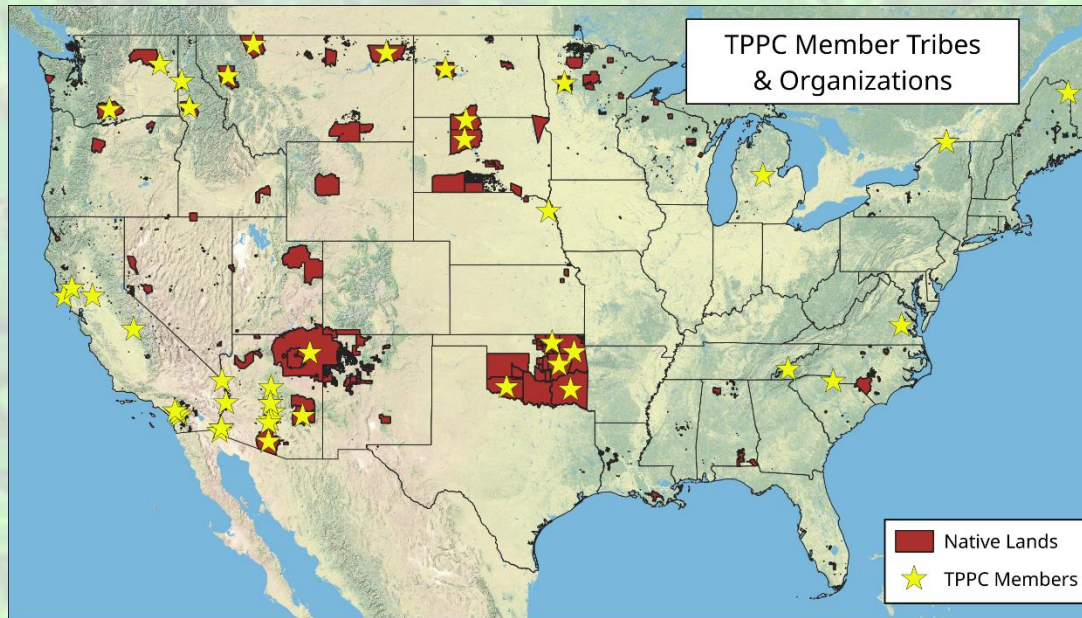


# The Tribal Pesticide Program Council

- 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 108 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
- 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
  - Policy
  - Risk Assessment\*



# 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

- Spring Meeting – March 2026 in Washington DC.
- Comments on EPA's proposed changes to the chemical accident risk management program rule
- Comments on EPA's proposed rescission of the 2024 Water Quality Standards tribal reserved rights rule
- Comments on EPA's Draft Guidance for Pesticide Registrants on Notifications
- 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 Fungicide Strategy soon.

# How to Get Involved

- Check out our website: <https://tppcwebsite.org>
- Contact TPPC Chair Renee Keezer at [renee.keezer@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:renee.keezer@whiteearth-nsn.gov)
- Contact TPPC Coordinator at [mark.daniels@nau.edu](mailto: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!

