

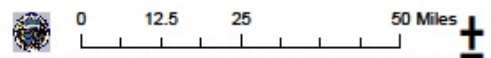
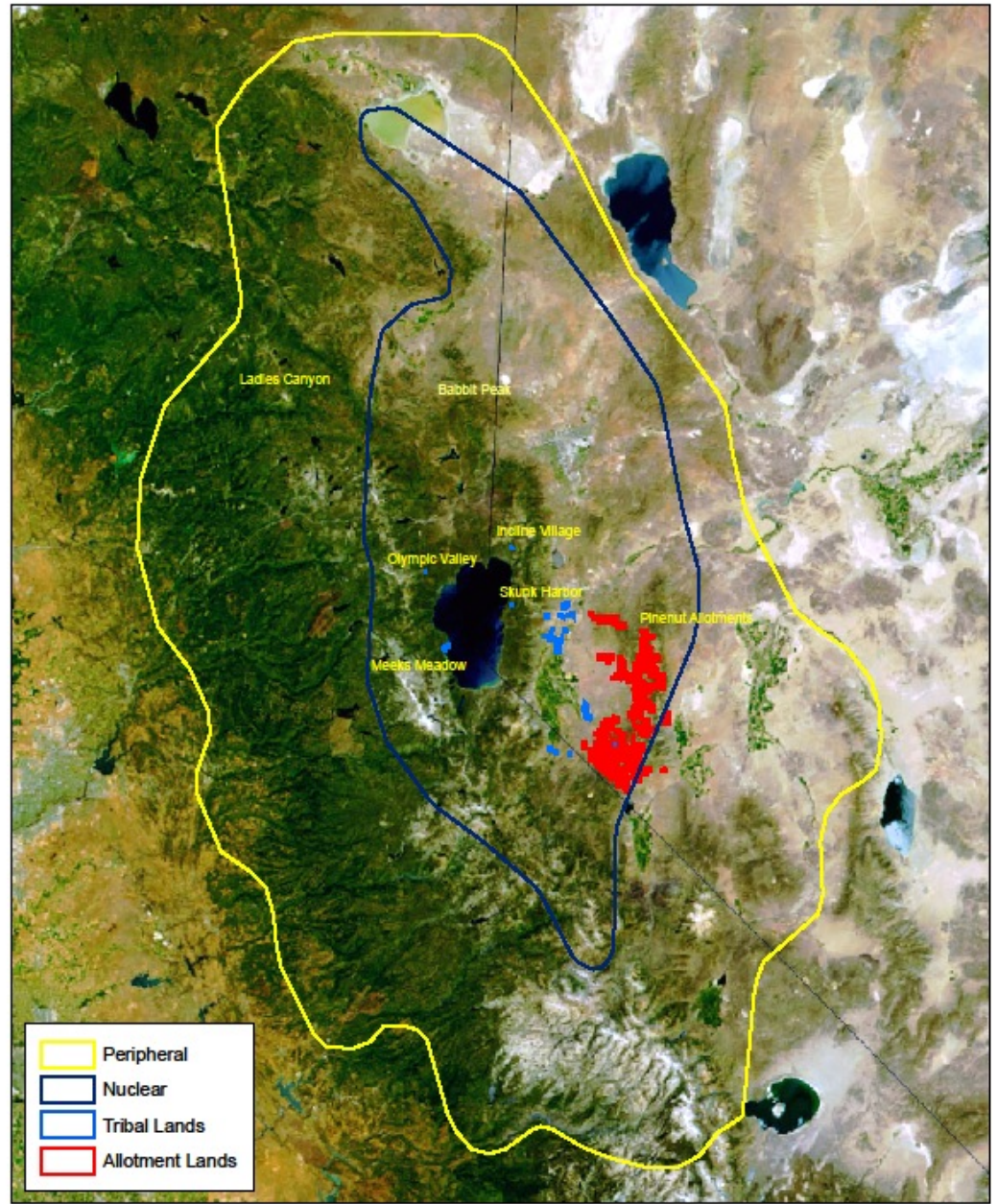
# 2012 Department of Energy Tribal Energy Program Review



**Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California  
Presented by  
Tara Hess, Environmental Specialist II**

# Overview of Tribe

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended. The Tribe is governed by a twelve-member, elected Tribal Council that includes two representatives from each of the four Community Councils, two off-reservation representatives, a Reno/Sparks Indian Colony representative, and a Tribal Chairperson elected at-large. The Chairperson and Washoe Tribal Council are elected to four-year terms.



This data has been compiled on a geographic information system for the use of Washoe Tribe Environmental. The data does not represent survey delineation and should not be construed as a replacement for the authoritative source. The Washoe Tribe assumes no liability as to the sufficiency or accuracy of this data.

# Tribe's Energy Vision

- To guarantee the availability of affordable and reliable energy to all its members
- To further the Tribe's goals for self-sufficiency and self-determination through empowerment in the Tribe's energy interests
- To reduce the environmental impact of the Tribe's energy consumption
- To promote conservation and efficient use of energy
- To contribute to the Washoe Tribe's local economy consistent with the Tribe's overall mission which is "To achieve and ensure the integrity of an environment and way of life that is one with nature's elements, community, traditions, and values that promote health and wellness for future generations."
- And to produce a majority of the Tribe's energy needs through renewable sources by 2025



# Tribe' DO Energy Project

- Alternative Energy Feasibility Study
  - On-going thru July 2013
- First Steps – Nevada Inter-Tribal Energy Consortium Energy Organization Enhancement Project
  - September 2011 thru 2013
- EECEBG
  - Grant ends December 3, 2012

# Alternative Energy Feasibility Study – Summary of Project

To create a Comprehensive Final Report based on the feasibility study that determines which alternative energy resource has the greatest return per dollar on Washoe land and concludes if a large-scale alternative energy project is an economically viable alternative for the Washoe Tribe to invest in given current technology while respecting cultural and environmental values.

# Progress-To-Date

On-going throughout grant project period:

- Continued meetings of the Alternative Energy Task Force
- Posting information regarding energy project related activities in Tribal newsletters, website, Tribal Council monthly reports, presentations to Community Council
- Continue to add data to draft Alternative Feasibility Study Report

Training:

- One-day Energy Efficiency Training to Staff & Community Tribal Members
- Energy Study Report on Tribal Administration & Community Buildings
- 96-hour Nevada Focus Energy Efficiency Training and Certification Program for Commercial and Public Building Operators
- Commercial Real Estate: Best Practices to Improve Energy Performance
- US EPA's Portfolio Manager: benchmarking buildings
- National Workshops
- Webinars (real-time & archived)
- Tools & Models (NREL, US EPA, USFW)

Researching all opportunities available to work with other organizations, local governments and agencies and use their data and instrumentations –

- Desert Research Institute – Clean Technologies and Renewable Energy Center
- University of Nevada - Reno –
  - W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mining Research Information Center, Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Division of Atmospheric Science, and College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources
- Western Regional Climate Center
- Bureau of Land Management - Nevada State Office
- Department of Energy Tribal Energy and Environmental Information Clearing House
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Portfolio Manager
- Nevada Intertribal Energy Consortium
- A variety of web-based tools



Meet and collaborate with the following organizations:

- NV Energy – portfolio standards are met through 2022
- Carson City's Biomass Plant - facility closed in 2010
- Bently Biofuels Plant - biofuel capabilities and alternative crop
- Nevada Energy Audits & Energy Masters – energy audit contractors
- Planet Safe Systems & Black Rock Solar – wind & solar contactors
- Have Lights Will Travel – lighting retrofit contractor

Calculating Tribal Energy Demand: administrative & community on Tribal land

- Completed through energy study reports

Evaluating the number of heating and cooling days to determine where the primary emphasis should be

- Completed through energy study reports

# Activities To Come...

- Overlaying resource maps with Washoe Tribal Land maps to be able to determine best drilling locations for geothermal research:
  - The Tribe is currently conducting a *Geothermal Feasibility Study* utilizing Division of Energy & Mineral Development funding; we will incorporate research studies to identifying the best drilling location for geothermal research
- Public Utilities Commission and the 77<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Nevada Legislation to begin on February 4, 2013
- Review all collected information and identifying data gaps
- Performing any environmental assessment and cultural resource surveys for proposed data collection sites
- Final Comprehensive Alternative Feasibility Project Plan

# Lessons Learned

- Trusting of data sources
- Collaboration with other Tribes with similar renewable energy projects
- Requesting a one-year no-cost grant extension to expanding research to incorporate algae biofuel

# Next Steps...

- Generating the Alternative Energy Feasibility Study Report
- Presenting report to Tribal/Community Council
- Continued collaboration with the Nevada Inter-Tribal Energy Consortium

# Nevada Inter-Tribal Energy Consortium – Summary of Project

This project will further the achievement and implementation of common goals and strategic energy plans of Nevada member tribes. The project is intended to enhance the capacity of the Nevada Inter-Tribal Energy Consortium (NITEC) to effectively assist Nevada tribes to technically manage tribal energy resources and implement tribal energy programs.



# Progress-To-Date

- Approved Job description for NITEC Manager
  - Position has been open since the beginning of the year
  - Will have an office in our Washoe Environmental Protection Department under the direct supervision of the environmental director, Ms. Marie Barry
- Continued monthly NITEC meetings with participating Nevada member Tribes
- Meet and collaborate with the following organizations:
  - Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians – energy program
  - Western Regional Partnership – Energy/Tribal Relations Committees
  - Nevada State Office of Energy – energy programs

# Activities To Come...

- Assist in the development of renewable energy projects for Nevada tribes
- Research and coordinate technical assistance in energy related projects;
- Research and provide information on various funding sources and cooperative agreements for potential renewable energy projects;
- Seek opportunities and coordinate energy related training and job development;
- Support renewable energy product development and production for tribes;
- Provide training and conferences on energy related topics;
- Collect and disseminate the latest energy related information and contacts to the tribes;
- Assist tribes in identifying potential projects;
- Provide assistance in economic and business development issues; and
- Seek opportunities in green products and technology development

# Lessons Learned

- Filling the NITEC Manager position
- Networking with Tribal and non-Tribal organizations
- Need to educate Tribes

# Next Steps...

- Filling NITEC Manager position
- Creating a blog and other media
- Expanding participation
- Training and workshops

# Energy Efficiency Energy Block Grant (EECBG)

The Tribe performed energy audits on our administration and community buildings to assess how much energy each building consumes, inefficiencies in the heating and cooling systems, and to be able to pinpoint where the buildings are losing energy. The audits will provide recommendations on what measures the tribe can take to make each building more energy efficient. The project includes an educational outreach component to staff and community members on energy matters and the importance of energy conservation.



# Contact Information

Tara Hess  
Environmental Specialist II  
775-265-8691  
[tara.hess@washoetribe.us](mailto:tara.hess@washoetribe.us)