



# Quartz Valley Indian Reservation

## Environmental Department

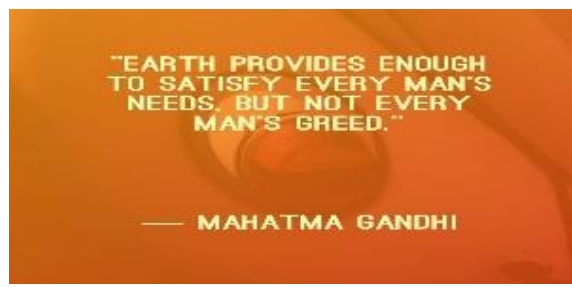
### Mark your calendars!

September

2<sup>nd</sup> - Labor Day

15<sup>th</sup> - National Greenpeace Day

27<sup>th</sup> - CA Native American Day



## Newsletter Summer Edition 2019

### Our Staff >>>

We currently employ 4 full-time positions at the QVIR Environmental Department. Here is an introduction to our staff:

Director: Crystal Robinson

Program Manager: Marla Bennett

Field Technicians: Alex Case & Isaiah Williams

Summer Intern Staff:

Lincoln McCloud, Kasydi Bennett, & Aarika Croy

Contact information:

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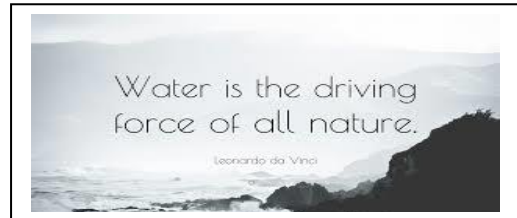
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### Summer Internship

Our summer interns were employed with us for 5 weeks during the summer months. The students that participated this year were in high school (2) and college (1). They shadowed our field technicians learning various tasks both in and out of the office. Some of the tasks included hiking mountain trails to collect water samples for analysis, solid waste clean-up, noxious weed removal, swim site sample collection, and whitebark pine tree identification and measurements. In the office the interns did data entry, quantified & processed water samples in the lab, and helped organize the garage. They also participated in a few events including QVIR culture camp, adopt-a-highway and waterway clean-ups.



### Water Quality

Our field technicians continue to collect water samples from our local streams and river to test for Total Coliform and E.coli bacteria. The sampling events occur once each month and will continue throughout the year. We continuously track stream temperatures and ground water levels too. Testing of QVIR residential drinking wells also occurs monthly. We are glad to report that we haven't seen many positive testings for bacteria in the drinking wells.

Our technicians have been busy constructing the flow monitoring stations at both Mill and Shackleford Creeks. The stations will be up and tracking continuous flow of the creeks by the end of September. This information will be available online for folks that are interested.



### Forestry

This past summer our field technicians and summer interns had the opportunity to work alongside U.S. Forest Service botanists to learn how to identify and monitor tree health of the whitebark pine. We were able to establish 4 monitoring plots up Big Meadows. This work is possible due to funding received from the U.S. Forest Service this year.

We recently submitted our application for Wildland Urban Interface (WUIP) funding. This funding would be used to create a fuel break around parcels of QVIR.



The piles left from previous WUIP projects have been approved by BIA to be burned. A crew will be hired and trained to burn this coming Spring.

### Recycling

We continue to collect and dispose of cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminum, batteries, and motor oil at our facility. We also coordinate annually with the County of Siskiyou to dispose of tires, mattresses, electronics and other hazardous waste. Keep an eye out for flyers advertising these events

### Solid Waste

We have been working under funding received from EPA to clean-up a couple of dump sites on the reservation. We are proud to say that the fenced area across from the Tribal Admin Office and the dump pile in the “Middle Rez” are approximately 90% cleaned-up.



### Environmental Education/Outreach

We have been busy educating our youth through events and activities both in and out of the classroom. During the Spring we conducted the trout in the classroom project with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from both Etna and Fort Jones Elementary Schools, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science class at Scott Valley Junior High, and the Freshman Ag class at Etna High School. This included six classroom lessons, fish dissections, water quality testing, and the rotary screw trap fieldtrip on the Shasta River. We participated in the Science Day held at Jackson Street School by hosting a station on macro invertebrates (aquatic insects). Before school was released for Summer, we coordinated with Anav Tribal Health Clinic to host our annual Water Festival/Health Fair. Students from Etna and Fort Jones schools, and local community members participated. We also conducted the Adopt-a-Highway and Waterway Clean-up events this summer. We removed trash and recyclables from our 3-mile stretch of Quartz Valley Road and at our local swim sites.

### Noxious Weeds

Our Summer Interns worked on removal of Marlahan Mustard weeds along Shackelford Creek and the “Middle Rez” this Summer. They filled (10) 40-gallon trash bags!

### Travel >>>

#### Meetings/Conferences

*Here is a list some of the local meetings that we have attended recently:*

*SisQ Groundwater Users, Klamath Basin Monitoring program (KBMP), Klamath River Renewal Corp (KRRC), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Scott River Watershed Council, Siskiyou County Supervisors, Scott Watershed Informational Forum ( SWIF), Scott Valley Coordination meetings, and Scott Ground Water meetings*

#### Other Conferences & Meetings Include:

- Annual Tribal EPA Conference
- Quarterly Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC)
- Cal EPA Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting held @ QVIR)
- Dam Removal meetings
- N. Cal Water Quality Control Board
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



Our Department is currently operating on grant funding from 5 agencies including:

- EPA
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Board of Reclamation
- US Forest Service



