

Quartz Valley Indian Reservation

Environmental Department

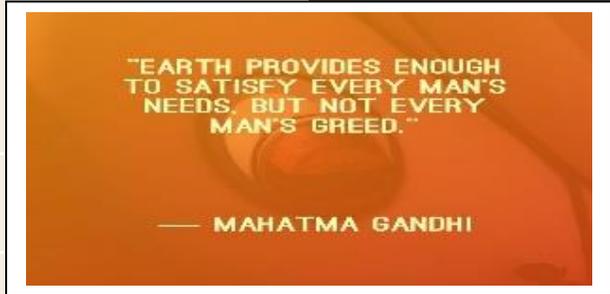
Mark your calendars!

September

7th - Labor Day

22nd - 1st Day of Autumn

25th - CA Native American Day



Newsletter Summer Edition 2020

Our Staff >>>

We currently employ 5 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

Environmental Scientist: Sean Ryan

Contact information:

Phone: (530) 468-5907

Director: ext. 318

Program Manager: ext. 317

Field Technicians: ext. 319

Fax: (530) 468-2108

Email:

crystal.robinson@qvir-nsn.gov

marla.bennett@qvir-nsn.gov

alex.case@qvir-nsn.gov

isaiah.williams@qvir-nsn.gov

sean.ryan@qvir-nsn.gov

STAYING SAFE DURING WILDFIRES

- Be ready to quickly evacuate.
- Listen to local radio and/or TV stations for updated information.
- Keep your emergency kit nearby and replenished.

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 have only seen a few positive tests for bacteria in the drinking wells.

The flow station installed at Shackleford Creek last fall is complete and is continuously tracking the flow of the creek.

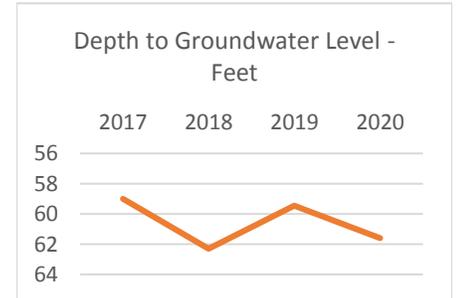
Our technicians have been working with a consultant to get the flow monitoring station at Mill Creek up and running. The flow information is now available online for anyone that is interested.

Just a reminder, if your curious of what the ground water levels are looking like at QVIR you can access our continuous monitoring well information online as well.

Contact us for access to the online portal.

Water News

We have been collecting ground water elevation levels on the reservation for several years. Typically, the lowest levels are found to be during the months of August and September. Below is a graph of ground water elevation levels collected between 2017-2020.



Summer Internship

Unfortunately, this Summer we were unable to offer internships to our tribal high school/college students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking forward to engaging our tribal youth in the environmental sciences through events and activities as soon as these trying times pass.

Forestry

During these summer months our field technicians once again, can work alongside U.S. Forest Service botanists to learn how to identify and monitor tree health of the whitebark pine. We are in the process of setting up 5 more monitoring plots up Big Meadows. This work is possible due to funding received from the U.S. Forest Service.

We are currently awaiting news of our Wildland Urban Interface (WUIP) funding. This funding would be used to create a fuel break around parcels of QVIR.

With previous funding we have a plan to burn the piles left from prior WUIP projects. BIA has approved the piles



to be burned once the QVIR burn plan is complete. We will then hire and train a crew to conduct the burning of piles.

Beautification Project

QVIR EPA is promoting “Community Pride” by offering incentives to residents to clean-up and/or beautify their outdoor living space. This project will end on 8/31/20. If you are interested in participating contact our department.

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.

Solid Waste

Our department assisted with transportation of items to Yreka Transfer Station, which were collected during this years’ Spring clean-up event hosted by Modoc Lassen Indian Housing Authority. We hauled (2) 2-ton truckloads of unwanted electronics and household items for disposal. At the end of August, we will also transport over 50 car/truck tires that were collected within the QVIR community.



Environmental Education/Outreach

We have been doing our best during these trying times to educate 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 4th grade students from both Etna and Fort Jones Elementary Schools, the 7th grade science class at Scott Valley Junior High, and the Freshman Ag class at Etna High School. Unfortunately, this project was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures. We were able to present three of the six classroom lessons and missed doing the fish dissections, water quality testing, and the rotary screw trap fieldtrip on the Shasta River. We participated in the QVIR drive-thru safety fair by hosting a station on wildfire smoke health & safety. Our annual Water Festival/Health Fair was cancelled this Summer, but we will work on revamping our curriculum to make it extra fun next year! During the month of August, we will be conducting our bi-annual Adopt-a-Highway and Waterway Clean-up. Those dates are tentatively set for August 25th and 31st. If you are interested in helping with the clean-up of our local roadways and/or swim sites please contact us to sign up as a volunteer.

Meetings/Conferences>>>

Here is a list some of the local meetings that we have attended virtually or by phone:

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
- 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



