



The Green Clan



A Word or Two About Climate Change

“Climate Change” a term that scientists use describe climatic changes now occurring on this planet. Scientists research the effects of greenhouse gas emission—mostly caused by man. Indigenous people have already experienced effects of climate change on this continent when tribes were forcibly placed in different regions of the country. When Eastern woodland tribes were displaced in Midwest prairies, that was a definite form of climate change. Scientists study simulated mod-

els to predict how climate change will affect human existence; they should simply look at Native American communities across the country to see its affect on human populations. For many native communities, water quality has been negatively impacted causing diseases stemming from poor diets and poor growing conditions. Sprays and contaminants have

found their way into foods and water for many native people. Climate change can be termed by native people as survival under new environmental conditions.

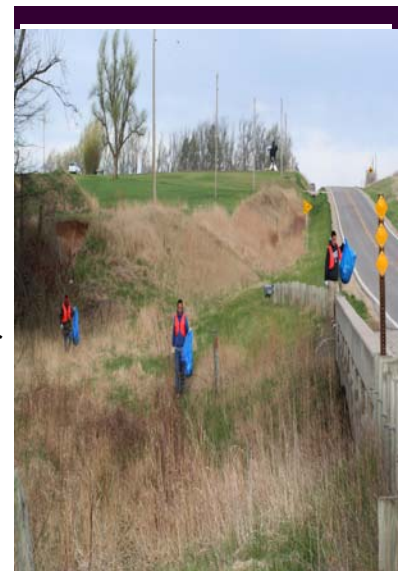
Cecilia Flores is the Water Quality Coordinator for the Kickapoo Tribe. The opinions expressed in this article are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. EPA or its policies.

Earth Day 2009 Job Well Done By All!

The next community cleanup will be held in the month of September, so be watching for our flyers during September, and we may try another tire

The staff of the Kickapoo Environmental Office would like to thank the participants of the annual 2009 Earth Day Event that took place on April 22nd. There were 96 participants helping remove an estimated 3,456 lbs of debris along the Kickapoo Veterans Memorial Highway from U.S. 75 Highway to the Horton city limits! To encourage and thank those who lend a helping hand, participants were given an assort-

ment of goodies prior to the event. The Kickapoo Housing Authority helped sponsor this event and provided additional door prizes and an excellent lunch. This event is a perfect example of how a community can pull together and accomplish a very large goal!



From August 24 thru Friday at noon on August 28, you can drop off your e-waste by the EPA recycling trailer. We are sponsoring an e-waste collection event for Tribal residents and offices.

In September we will have another tire round up, so be watching for our flyers or call us at 486-2601.

For Emergency Preparedness be sure to keep flashlight, batteries, food and water for three days and a good first aid kit. A small battery radio would also be helpful when the power is out.

The Following is a Greeting from our new Environmental Worker, Cecilia Flores

Greetings! My name is Cecilia Flores I am the newly hired Water Quality Coordinator in the Kickapoo Environmental Office. My position is supported by a Clean Water Act Section 106 EPA Grant. I a member of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, which is located 75 miles north of Houston, Texas. I graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University majoring in Environmental Science. My experience and background includes working in tribal environmental programs and nonprofit environmental groups. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and will work to help meet the challenges of water quality and quantity faced by this community. Under the current grant work plan the goals are to monitor and collect data on streams throughout and around the reservation, make an assessment on the data collected, develop a water quality monitoring strategy, submitting data to EPA and to ensure the water quality program continues here on the Kickapoo reservation.

My interest in water began very early in my life, when I was about 8 or 9 years old my families' water supply was a shallow water well. We had to draw the water up with a long slender bucket and rope. It was my job to draw the water maybe two or three times a day or more. One summer, our well got contaminated and we could no longer use it, so I had to walk to my grandmother's house about a half mile away carrying two buckets of water back to our house. I learned very early in life the importance of having a good quality water source.

I have followed the issues surrounding the Plum Creek Reservoir and look forward to the day that project becomes a reality. All Indian people have the inherent right to maintain a high quality of life on the lands of which the federal government has placed us.

Recycling More Efficiently on the Reservation



There had been a request to switch positions with plastic and the shredded paper in our recycle trailer. We can't do it. The divider in the plastic bin would tear open the shredded paper. Too messy.

Plastic is the most frequently dropped off material, and it is the most difficult to manage. All kinds of plastic

gets tossed in there even though we only recycle #1 and #2 plastic. We don't recycle bags or bottle lids.

Please remove the plastic lids, and throw away the bags.

It would be helpful to us if you would put your plastic in a bag

rather than throw them loosely in the bin. It makes it very difficult to unload later. Most of you do a great job using the trailer, and some of you just need to modify your recycling habits. We sure appreciate your help in this matter.