In January, I attended the Developing and Implementing Tribal Recycling Program Training in Palm Springs, California. There I learned about different recycling programs that other Tribes have set up on their reservations. Our instructors talked about the obstacles they faced, where they are with their program, the different practices used, and the overall benefit of having a recycling program. We learned a lot about recycling and different ways our program could be set up, whether it be a self-sustaining program or a for-profit program. Having our own recycling program can help develop and promote self-governance, enhance Tribal knowledge and capacity, create jobs, and potentially provide revenue.

One of the first steps to starting a recycling program is to conduct a waste audit. Our department collected 141 lbs. of waste from six residents (two from each community, Nixon, Wadsworth, and Sutcliffe) on March 22, 2017. Waste was sorted based on the type of recycle or waste material, which helped us determine the amount and type of waste that is generated in a typical household and help us better understand how much waste we are sending to the landfill. We found that most of the waste collected was actually food waste, which would drop the Non-Recyclables weight significantly.

Here are those results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Weight in Lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
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<td>Styrofoam</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Recyclables</td>
<td>91.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Collected</td>
<td>141.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Recyclables</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While our Recycling Program is just in the beginning stages, we would like to encourage the community to start thinking green. You can do this by practicing the 5 R’s:

- **Rethink**
  - The first step to the Waste Reduction Hierarchy is rethink! The more you do of this step, the less you have to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. Start Here!

- **Refuse**
  - Sometimes you should just say no! Making better everyday choices, learning how to shop smarter and other alternatives will all help our planet!

- **Reduce**
  - There are many ways to reduce your eco-footprint, and to reduce the amount of waste going from your house to your local landfill. Learn more here!

- **Reuse**
  - Is that junk or not? Can it be loved by someone else? Do you really need to purchase that? Find helpful tips on how to reuse everyday products here.

- **Recycle**
  - If you couldn't rethink it, refuse it, reduce it, reuse it... Well then hopefully you can recycle it! Start here to learn everything about recycling in the Peace Region.

http://www.prrrdy.com/learn/5-rs

If you have any questions regarding our new Recycling Program please feel free to call:
The Natural Resources Department
(775) 574-0101
Greetings from the Natural Resources Department!

We have had a very busy winter and spring season with the excessive rains and snow, but big snow melt will continue throughout the summer. The Earth Day events were a big success, with volunteers from the Tribal government, community, and youth from Natchez Elementary. It was nice to see so many people getting involved to learn about protecting our natural resources, while helping clean up the Reservation. The Natural Resources Department is compelled to promote public outreach and opportunities to get the community involved in environmental activities. We are planning other events to carry the Earth Day spirit throughout the year, so please join us in our effort to keep the Reservation clean. We are planning next year’s events, so if you have any suggestions please come by and let us know.

The Natural Resources Department is funded entirely by grants. Our continuing grants help us to achieve our objectives in monitoring water and air quality, minimizing non-point source pollution, eradicating noxious weeds, evaluating Brownfields sites, assessing wetlands, scheduling water deliveries, overseeing the irrigation systems, exploring renewable energy projects, supporting summer college interns, monitoring illegal dumping, and buying water rights for Pyramid Lake. These tasks are very important in the protection of Tribal resources, but we are always building capacity within the department to include sustainable programs to address other environmental concerns.

The department continues to assess and prioritize the critical issues impacting the environment and help determine future objectives. In the coming years, our programs plan to address aquatic invasive species, water quality modeling for the lake, and fish barrier removal in the river. Grants are currently being completed for these activities and we will continue submitting these grants to a variety of federal agencies until they are funded. These grants will allow our department to grow without encumbering the current work being done.

Tule Fire Recovery Update

The Tule Fire above Sutcliffe left behind mountains lacking vegetation and vulnerable to dust generation, erosion, and flood potential. Before funding was received for restoration work, flooding in January hit the area with several excessive and prolonged rain events. Increased stream flow created gullies in the stream beds and increased sediment loading to downstream areas.

The department assisted partnering departments and agencies in conducting assessments of the burn areas in the aftermath of the abnormally wet winter. Restoration of these lands will be focused on protecting the water quality in the streams and lake. Burn areas will be reseeded in the upcoming fall to stabilize the soils and prevent further erosion, as well as prevent further migration of contaminants to surface waters. The initial phases of the restoration will involve clean-up of culverts, stream beds, and controlling the flow of Hardscrabble Creek as it passes through Sutcliffe.

The mitigation measures found within the Burned Area Emergency Plan, written by a multi-disciplinary team with experience in fire restoration from federal agencies all over the western United States. Implementation of the high and moderate risk activities are included as emergency stabilization measures will address impacts that are a threat to life, property, and cultural resources will be completed within a year. Low risk activities will be completed over the following 5 years, with funding dependent upon on the cost and feasibility of the activity. The Natural Resources Department is working to complete the emergency stabilization measures before the end of the summer.

The Natural Resources Departments mission is “to ensure clean air, water and lands to maintain healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations for future generations to preserve the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe’s culture and way of life” and we take this mission seriously by thinking about it every day and with every decision made.

Donna Marie Noel
Natural Resources Director
Did you know that runoff generated from ranch and farm operations is the leading source of impairments to assessed rivers and lakes?

According to the 2012 U.S. National Resources Inventory Census of Agriculture and Farmland Information Center, the United States has more than 900 million acres of agricultural land that produce an abundant supply of food and other products. American agriculture is noted worldwide for its high productivity, quality, and efficiency in delivering goods to the consumer. However, when improperly managed, activities from working farms and ranches can affect water quality. In the 2000 National Water Quality Inventory, states reported that agricultural nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the leading source of water quality impacts on surveyed rivers and lakes, the second largest source of impairments to wetlands, and a major contributor to contamination of surveyed estuaries and ground water.

Agricultural activities that cause NPS pollution include poorly located or managed animal feeding operations; overgrazing; plowing too often or at the wrong time; unleveled fields; and improper, excessive, or poorly timed application of pesticides, irrigation water, and fertilizer.

Pollutants that result from farming and ranching include sediment, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, metals, and salts. Impacts from agricultural activities on surface water and ground water can be minimized by using management practices that are adapted to local conditions. Many practices designed to reduce pollution also increase productivity and save farmers and ranchers money in the long run.

There are many government programs available to help farmers and ranchers design and pay for management approaches to prevent and control NPS pollution. For example, over 40 percent of U.S. EPA Section 319 Clean Water Act grants have been used to control NPS pollution from working farms and ranches. Furthermore, many programs funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by states provide cost-share, technical assistance, and economic incentives to implement NPS pollution management practices. Many local organizations and individuals have come together to help create regional support networks to adopt technologies and practices to eliminate or reduce water quality impacts caused by agricultural activities.

Sedimentation
The most prevalent source of agricultural water pollution is soil that is washed off fields. Rain water carries soil particles (sediment) and dumps them into nearby lakes or streams. Too much sediment can cloud the water, reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches aquatic plants. It can also clog the gills of fish or smother fish larvae. In addition, other pollutants like fertilizers, pesticides, and heavy metals are often attached to the soil particles and washed into the water bodies, causing algal blooms and depleted oxygen, which is deadly to most aquatic life. Farmers and ranchers can reduce erosion and sedimentation by 20 to 90 percent by applying management practices that control the volume and flow rate of runoff water, keep the soil in place, and reduce soil transport.

Nutrients
Farmers and ranchers apply nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium in the form of chemical fertilizers, manure, and sludge. They may also grow legumes and leave crop residues to enhance production. When these sources exceed plant needs, or are applied just before it rains, nutrients can wash into aquatic ecosystems. There they can cause algal blooms, which can ruin recreation opportunities, create foul taste and odor in drinking water, and kill fish by removing oxygen from the water. High concentrations of nitrate in drinking water can cause methemoglobinemia, a potentially fatal disease in infants, also known as blue baby syndrome. To combat nutrient losses, farmers can implement nutrient management plans that help maintain high yields and save money on fertilizers.
Animal Feeding Operations
By confining animals in small areas or lots, farmers and ranchers can efficiently feed and maintain livestock. But these confined areas become major sources of animal waste. An estimated 238,000 working farms and ranches in the United States are considered animal feeding operations, generating about 500 million tons of manure each year. Runoff from poorly managed facilities can carry pathogens such as bacteria and viruses, nutrients, and oxygen-demanding organics and solids that contaminate fishing areas, and cause other water quality problems. Ground water can also be contaminated by waste seepage. Farmers and ranchers can limit discharges by storing and managing facility wastewater and runoff with appropriate waste management systems.

Livestock Grazing
Overgrazing exposes soils, increases erosion, encourages invasion by undesirable plants, destroys fish habitat, and may destroy streambanks and floodplain vegetation necessary for habitat and water quality filtration. To reduce the impacts of grazing on water quality, farmers and ranchers can adjust grazing intensity, keep livestock out of sensitive areas, provide alternative sources of water and shade, and promote revegetation of ranges, pastures, and riparian zones.

Irrigation
Irrigation water is applied to supplement natural precipitation or to protect crops against freezing or wilting. Inefficient irrigation can also cause water quality problems. In arid areas, for example, where rainwater does not carry minerals deep into the soil, evaporation of irrigation water can concentrate salts. Excessive irrigation can affect water quality by causing erosion, transporting nutrients, pesticides, and heavy metals, or decreasing the amount of water that flows naturally in streams and rivers. It can also cause a buildup of selenium, a toxic metal that can harm waterfowl reproduction. Farmers and ranchers can reduce NPS pollution from irrigation by improving water use efficiency. They can laser-level fields, measure actual crop needs, and apply only the amount of water required. Farmers and ranchers may also choose to convert irrigation systems to higher efficiency equipment.

Pesticides
Insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used to kill agricultural pests. These chemicals can enter and contaminate water through direct application, runoff, and atmospheric deposition. They can poison fish and wildlife, contaminate food sources, and destroy the habitat that animals use for protective cover. To reduce contamination from pesticides, farmers and ranchers should use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques based on the specific soils, climate, pest history, and crop conditions for a particular field. IPM encourages natural barriers and limits pesticide use, and manages necessary applications to minimize pesticide movement from the field.

Funding Sources
Searchable Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection: https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/watershedfunding/f?p=fedfund:1
Clean Water Act Section 319 funding: (https://www.epa.gov/nps/319-grant-program-states-and-territories) is provided to designated state and tribal agencies to implement approved nonpoint source management programs.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program: (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/) offers financial, technical, and educational assistance to install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices designed to conserve soil and other natural resources.
Conservation Reserve and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs: (https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/) implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide financial incentives to encourage farmers and ranchers to voluntarily protect soil, water, and wildlife resources.

For More Information
Contact Olivia John, Water Quality Standards Specialist, in the Pyramid Lake Natural Resources Department at (775) 574-0101, Ext. 13, oajohn@plpt.nsn.us.
Post Flood Conditions
— At Numana Wetland Site

By: Emily Gibson

The Wetlands Program has been working diligently to develop a restoration design for the Numana Wetland. The Wetland Program would like to update the community on the current conditions of Numana Wetland after our recent weather events. As the Truckee River banks filled this past winter, the quantity and velocity of the water eroded the banks between the wetland and river. The wetland filled with great force leaving the wetland walkways severely damaged. Visitation and recreation in the Numana Wetland area is strongly discouraged. As the water subsides, damage will be evaluated and repairs will be made as resources become available. Your patience and caution is greatly appreciated.

- Emily Gibson
Wetland Specialist

Dealing with the Aftermath
— The 2017 Flooding Event

By: Brandon Brady

Brandon Brady Here Again,
What a crazy start to the new year it has been! The Water Quality Program has been very busy dealing with the aftermath of the flood events in January and February. My flood assessment team consisted of Jeremiah Sampson, Wetland Technician; Pat John, Environmental Intern; Ryan Dunn and Brian Davis, Conservation technicians. Our team conducted assessments immediately after the flood events and documented the vast amount of damage that occurred along the lower Truckee River corridor, mountain streams, and along Highway 445 between Nixon and Sutcliffe. We collected data on how much land was inundated (flooded with water), how many areas sustained damage and how extensive the damage was to those areas. While collecting this data we also collaborated with many of our various partner agencies like NDEP (Nevada Department of Environmental Protection), NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), and U.S. EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) to ensure vital areas like Highway 445 and many others were repaired and in a timely manner. While it has been a few months since the flood events, we are still working closely with our partner agencies and other tribal departments to rebuild/repair areas that have been damaged.

*Please stay away from the river during these high flow periods. With the amount of expected runoff from the snowpack, the river will continue to run swiftly. Areas along the riverbanks are saturated from the rise in water level, which can cause them to easily give way and erode. With the high flows and unknown debris inside the river, the river poses a new threat to our community. *
The 2017 Summer Youth Camp
— Catching a Sense of Place
By: Jeremiah Sampson

Our 4th Annual Kooyooc Tukadu Environmental Youth Camp took place June 13th-15th at S-S Ranch and was a wonderful success. This year was our biggest camp yet with 23 students in attendance. The theme for this year’s 2017 Youth Camp was, “Catching a Sense of Place.” The Department would like to thank those that attended and also encourage any youth between the ages of 13-18 to attend next year if you couldn’t make it this year. The Summer Youth Camp is filled with many fun and educational activities/workshops involving environmental studies and cultural disciplines pertaining to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. By bringing youth in our communities together, we hope to not only inform them of the importance in preserving our natural resources, but to also instill values of cultural inheritance.

Like in previous years, we had numerous recreational activities planned for our participants. Here are some of the exciting things that took place during the 2017 Summer Youth Camp:

The 2017 Youth camp was designed to include various workshops and activities such as: Ethnobotany, Astronomy (star gazing), Geology, Noxious Weeds, Air quality, Water Quality, Archery and our Paiute Language Program. A tour included the Numana Fish Hatchery and The Nature Conservancy restoration project along the Truckee River. This Environmental camp showed the students real life career opportunities that students could follow to earn a living and take care of the environment to be safe, healthy and build sustainable communities for all. Other activities included traditional Numu (Paiute) games, Storytelling, and everybody enjoyed swimming at our beautiful Pyramid Lake.
Participant and chaperone applications are welcomed. If you are interested in attending next year, please contact our office or visit our website:

(775) 574-0101
plptwq.org
or mail us at:
Pyramid Lake Natural Resources Department
P.O. BOX 256
Hello, my name is Patrick John and I am a Water Quality Intern for the Natural Resources Department. Working with the department has been a positive experience. I started almost a year ago with the summer Tribal Youth Initiative Internship and have since transitioned to the Water Quality Program, which has been a great learning experience since I’m pursuing my bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science at UNR. My job is very hands on and interactive, with work consisting of collecting water samples throughout the lower Truckee River, conducting stream and wetland bioassessments, develop monitoring photo worksheets, and teaching youth about water quality and the environment.

Conducting public outreach is important because it promotes awareness of the water quality issues that affect Pyramid Lake and the Truckee River. The most recent public outreach event I organized was a clean-up at Blockhouse Beach on Pyramid Lake, with Boy Scouts of America from Carson City. There were 12 boy scouts and 6 troop leaders that participated in the event. Before the cleanup, we discussed why water quality is important and how trash from visitors or upstream can effect Pyramid Lake and the Truckee River. The campers were interested in water quality and I was surprised to hear how much they already knew about the watershed and its issues. The beach debris consisted of spent fireworks, aluminum cans and loose trash caught in the bushes.

The Boy Scouts had a great time at the beach cleanup and camping at Pyramid Lake – one camper was excited to report that he had caught a fish! In the end, volunteers received key chains in gratitude for their help, which goes a long way to helping our beautiful lake.

The following activities have occurred since the last Tribal Response Program news article was published in the Tribal Newspaper:

- One meeting was held in Wadsworth, Nixon, and Sutcliffe during the last week of March, to introduce community members to the Tribal Response Program (AKA The Brownfields Program). During the meetings, participants also had a chance to provide input into the prioritization and redevelopment of designated brownfield sites.

- The Tribal Response Program website is in the works. Once completed, community members may access it to obtain important brownfield information; fill-out Brownfield Site Notification Forms to report brownfield sites; and access the PLPT Brownfields Public Record, which lists the brownfield sites at which response actions (i.e., assessments, cleanup, etc.) have been or will be completed.

- An environmental consultant has been selected to conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) at the Urrutia Property in Wadsworth. The assessment will be used to determine if contamination at the site is likely.

- Please be on the lookout for flyers about Tribal Response Program meetings; feedback from the community on response actions is important and greatly appreciated!

For questions pertaining to the Tribal Response Program, please contact Ruben Ramos-Avina, Environmental Specialist, at 775-574-0101, extension 10.
Asking for help isn’t always easy. However, learning by way of others has always been proven to be an effective learning method. When people think of the word “mentor”, they usually imagine someone older in age who passes on their experience to someone younger. However, a mentor is a term for the process for which those with more experience assist those with developing skills, resulting in collaboration and information sharing. The PLPT Water Quality (WQ) Program recently partnered with the Bishop Paiute Tribe (BPT) to develop a mentorship to train the PLPT on continuous water quality monitoring.

Although the PLPT WQ Program has been collecting water quality samples since 1981, the program has only been collecting continuous monitoring data for the past couple of years. Continuous monitoring, compared to other traditional forms, involves using a device that collects data at a specified interval for an extended amount of time. Continuous monitoring data offers a more complete picture of the changing conditions within a waterbody and can capture episodic events, such as flash flooding or drought. The data generated includes dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity and others. This information not only improves our understanding of the Truckee River’s water quality, but can also lead to more effective management of the river. Data may also help in determining effects of pollutants that originate from upstream of the Reservation.

The PLPT WQ Program traveled to the Bishop Paiute Reservation to participate in a mentorship in April 2017 to learn everything there is to know about continuous water quality monitoring. The BPT’s WQ Control Program maintains four continuous monitoring stations on the north and south forks of Bishop Creek. For two days, PLPT staff shadowed the BPT to visit their sites and learn how their program conducts the monitoring. The objectives included everything from setting up and maintaining a site, to data quality control. Work doesn’t stop once the data is collected. Collecting massive amounts of data requires intense data management and an eye for data validation, analysis and organization. The lessons learned through the mentorship will be used to establish two new monitoring stations on the lower Truckee River in Wadsworth and Nixon by the end of this year.

Provided that most tribal environmental programs operate within a strict budget, it’s important to exchange ideas and skills with one another. There are numerous benefits to mentorships compared to traditional forms of learning, including quicker path to success, lowered costs, increased tribal capacity and an opportunity to network with other tribes. Mentorships can also provide a hands-on experience to offer advice on lessons learned and provide resources for technical assistance. There are also benefits for the mentor as well. Teaching someone calls for a complete understanding of a concept, reinforcing the lesson being taught.

The PLPT’s monitoring stations will provide water quality data for determining the condition of the lower Truckee River and management strategies. Once implemented, the PLPT can mentor other Tribes interested in continuous water quality monitoring.
NO DUMPING ANNOUNCEMENT – Natural Resources Department

The Pyramid Lake Natural Resources Department will be engaging to clean up several open dumps that have been identified within the boundary of the reservation. Site visits to the previously closed, open dumps, discovered that the bad habit of dumping garbage on the ground continues. We all have an obligation to ensure we keep our lands free from unsightly, and potentially hazardous dumping.

In accordance with the Tribal Illegal Dumping Ordinance #50 (Resolution PL 50-03) anyone that is convicted of violating any provision for illegal dumping can be fined up to $500.00. If anyone witnesses illegal dumping, please contact the Pyramid Lake Police Department at (775) 574-1014.

The Environmental Department will be installing signs announcing NO DUMPING in each of the three reservation communities. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Department at (775) 574-0101 x17.
Sustained High Flows
— In the Truckee River

By: Mervin Wright Jr.

SUSTAINED HIGH FLOWS IN THE TUCKEE RIVER FROM WADSWORTH TO PYRAMID LAKE

The high flows in the Truckee River have been forecasted, and it is predicted that the high flows will be sustained through July. The January and February flood events have up-rooted trees and they are not located throughout the corridor from Wadsworth to the river delta.

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE RIVER: THE DANGER OF UNDERWATER SNAGS, BARBED WIRE/FENCING, AND OTHER HAZARDS HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED OR MARKED.

THE EXPOSED STREAMBANKS CAN CAVE INTO THE RIVER AT ANY MOMENT: AVOID STANDING NEAR THE EDGE ON EXPOSED STREAMBANKS.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Department at (775) 574-0101 x17.
The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe’s monitoring station, located in Wadsworth next to the Natchez Elementary School, continuously monitors for particle pollution (also known as PM), and observes different weather parameters such as wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity, and precipitation. Data from the Wadsworth Station is available to the public through the Tribal Exchange Network (TREX) website and now is also available through a mobile app for your convenience.

To check current air quality and local weather data from the Wadsworth Station simply download your FREE mobile app and get access to hourly data to help plan your day.

To get the TREX Dashboard on your mobile device:

- Go to the App Store and search “TREX Dashboard Sutron.”
- Select and install free TREX Dashboard by the Sutron Corp.
- Once installed, select “All Sites”
- Select “1026 Pyramid Lake Paiute Wadsworth-NV.”
- Air quality and meteorological data will appear.

Values are created once an hour and reflect the last hourly average. Data displayed on the dashboard represents the current air pollution levels and meteorological values and is not quality assured until verified by a certified specialist.

For more information please contact:

Tanda Roberts,
Air Quality Specialist
775-574-0101 ext. 18
troberts@plpt.nsn.us.
Current Truckee River Water Flows

Snow Water Equivalent in Truckee River above Pyramid Lake

Provided By the: United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Nevada
For More Information Visit:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nv/snow/products/?cid=nrcseprd1330670
The Natural Resources Department Staff

Donna Marie Noel
Natural Resources Director

Kameron Morgan
Water Quality Manager

Mervin Wright Jr.
Environmental Manager

Amanda Davis
Environmental Assistant

Susan Albright
Water Resources Technician

Tanda Roberts
Air Quality Specialist

Olivia John
Water Quality Standards Specialist

Brandon Brady
Water Quality Technician

Emily Gibson
Wetland Specialist

Ryan Dunn
Conservation Technician

Not Pictured:

John Dunn - Conservation Technician

Jeremiah Sampson
Wetland Technician

Ruben Ramos-Avina
Brownfields Tribal Response Program Coordinator

Patrick John
Water Quality Intern
### Contact Us: Natural Resources Directory

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<td>Kameron Morgan</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Ruben Ramos-Avina</td>
<td>Tribal Response Coordinator</td>
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Environmental Department is to preserve the health and culture of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe through the protection and restoration of the natural environment including air, water, and lands upon which the Tribal Members have depended on for thousands of years.

Vision Statement

Ensure clean air, water, and lands to maintain healthy fish, wildlife and plant populations for future generations to preserve the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe’s Culture and way of life.

Preserve Pyramid Lake!