



# From the AIR PROGRAM

## 2022 Highlights - Top 5

- 1** The Air and Natural Resources Programs made upgrades to the **burn permits system**, to include screening for hazardous fuels surveyed sites and adapting the CalFire burn suspension for consistency, and BPT EMO confirmed the permit processes with the Bishop Rural Volunteer Fire Department Chief.
- 2** The Air Program conducted 2 local **sampling studies in 2022 for soot/carbon particles** using an aethalometer device. The BPT is likely the only Tribal air program that has started its own black carbon monitoring projects. The study reports are published at <http://www.bishoptribeemo.com/library.htm>. The Air Quality Specialist presented findings of the first study at the National Tribal Forum for Air Quality in Tulsa, OK., and was also one of 2 recipients of the **2022 Virgil Masayesva Excellence Award** from ITEP, the 2nd awardee ever for the Technical Excellence category, which was presented at the conference in Tulsa.
- 3** The **Quality Assurance Plan for PM2.5 monitoring** (one of the instruments on the roof!) was approved by US EPA Region 9, after a process we developed in 2021 for QA oversight was finalized. BPT Air worked as an early adopter of this with ITEP, R9, EMO and other tribal staff on the new protocols and digital tools, and other Tribal Air programs will likely follow a similar method of QA management. The Air Quality Specialist was asked by EPA to be a panelist at a virtual conference, about adapting QA to grants life cycles.
- 4** In 2022, BPT Air continued its 5th year as **co-chairing Tribe for the Tribal Data Workgroup of the Western Regional Air Partnership**. The Tribal Caucus was expanded with several new attendee Tribes joining for discussions on monitoring equipment and methods and protocols in Tribal Air Monitoring. Other activities included attending a virtual workshop with the Fire and Smoke Workgroup, and a workshop in Missoula, MT, with visit to the USFS Rocky Mountain Research lab facilities.
- 5** The Air Program upgraded the **ozone monitoring system calibrator**, an instrument which generates the calibration gases needed to qualify the ozone analyzer. Again, BPT may be the only tribal air program in the region with this newest calibrator model, which achieves a much better resolution for qualifying the pollution measurements. The Quality Assurance Plan for the ozone monitoring was revised in 2022.

**Happy New Year  
from the Air Program**

A decorative graphic featuring two clusters of colorful fireworks (blue, yellow, and orange) on either side of the text. The fireworks are set against a dark background with a grid pattern.