



# FROM THE AIR PROGRAM

## Spring—Summer Events



### STORM SPOTTERS

On June 5th, Warning Coordination Meteorologists from the National Weather Service (NWS) Las Vegas came to Bishop as part of a regional training tour. The Bishop Tribe hosted another year of Storm Spotters training for local weather enthusiasts. The training was held in the Tribal Chambers and about 23 people attended. Attendees included other OV tribal environmental staff, Paiute tribal members, OEHAA and CalOES staff, CHP staff, OVIWC staff, and members of the public. One of the purposes of the training is to become a registered Storm Spotter who reports severe weather to the NWS. It is known that Bishop is in a blank spot for radar, and on-the-ground observations are often used in issuing warnings in our forecast area. The training also is for people to learn about what kind of severe weather we get locally and how to identify them, just for personal knowledge and for safety when people are doing their outside activities. Extreme weather that occurs in the Owens Valley includes high winds, extreme heat, flash floods, hail storms, lightning storms, funnel clouds, and though rare, even small tornadoes have been captured on camera! We hope to provide another training in 2020. Anyone interested can ask more about it and receive invites, call the Air Program at 760-784-9308.

### WILDER THAN WILD

On June 12th, The Air Program hosted a public showing of the 2018 film *Wilder Than Wild* at the Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center. The film was a success, and 9 people attended, including residents from Bishop and Big Pine area, tribal and non-tribal members. There was an “impromptu” group discussion afterwards about controlled burning. Attendees voiced concern about fuels build up locally, asked about the status of local fuels reduction on and off reservations, and gave updates on any known current Forest Service plans for thinning and controlled burning. The Air Quality Specialist gave a brief overview of BPT’s long-time burn permit program. Attendees were encouraged to follow up with the Air Program at EMO-A to resolve any specific permit status inquiries on the reservation, or with the EMO Natural Resources Program for info on lots surveyed as priority targets for fuels reduction projects. Due to the progression of wildland and urban-interface fires in California since the film was made (i.e. the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, CA) ensuing (new) status of PG&E, and changes made since then within California towards fuels reduction funding and efforts, the Air Program isn’t planning a repeat showing of the film.