

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Greetings. I would like to invite you to the upcoming California Indian Fair for Partnerships in Research (Research Fair) on November 1-2, 2008 at CSU Chico. Project partners include the Community Forestry & Environmental Research Partnership Program (CFERP), the Mechoopda Indians of Chico Rancheria, the Karuk Tribe, CSU Chico, Cooperative Extension Service, the Rumsey Band, the San Manuel Band, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, UC Davis, and the California Indian Forest and Fire Management Council.

The Research Fair is focused on changing the dynamics of research because so often research has been irrelevant and, at times, even detrimental to communities. The fair emphasizes participatory research in that tribes decide what topics are researched and have equal partnership with professional researchers. Our goal is to make the resources of universities accessible and available to communities. This event will be a place to talk about natural resource issues and partnership between universities, tribes, agencies, and non-profit groups.

The research fair includes an exhibit hall for tribes to provide displays about the communities and the natural resource management challenges faced at home. The program will also include information sessions in which tribes will make presentations about specific issues. To help us achieve our goal of tribes initiating research projects, we are asking only tribal representatives to make formal presentations. Facilitators will guide discussions following the presentations. Possible themes covered will include health and economic issues in forest use; toxic waste cleanup; renewable energy, or any other topic important to the tribes.

Universities, land management agencies and non-profit organizations are also welcome to set up displays in the exhibit hall. This will provide an informal setting in which to meet and talk with tribal members. We would like you to attend the fair to meet with tribal representatives and others to discuss research topics and issues of mutual interest.

Please note that the deadline for displays is September 15, 2008. Registration materials are due by October 1, 2008. Limited support is available for graduate students and tribal members in need of travel assistance. Please consider making a donation to the scholarship fund to support tribal and student attendance at the research fair.

Please visit the research fair website for details and to register online at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/researchfair/>. Call me if you have questions at 510-642-3431.

I look forward to hearing from you! Please distribute this invitation widely.

Sincerely,  
Carl Wilmsen