

# **Summary Report:**

## 2024 NTFAQ & NTAA Annual Member Tribe Meeting









The NTFAQ is a cooperative endeavor co-sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) with funding made available by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the generous contributions of our sponsors.

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#### Introduction

This report summarizes the 2024 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) and the National Tribal Air Association's (NTAA) Annual Member Tribe Meeting. This year's NTFAQ was hosted by The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and occurred in Cherokee, NC on May 6-9, 2024.

Located in Cherokee, North Carolina, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians were once part of a much larger Cherokee Nation population. However, when the Trail of Tears was mandated, and forced removal and relocation were directed by the United States government and then President Andrew Jackson, the Cherokee Tribe became divided into what is known today as the Cherokee Nation and United Kituwah Band located in Oklahoma, and the Eastern Band, made up of those who remained and rebuilt within North Carolina's Qualla Boundary (sometimes called the Cherokee Indian Reservation). The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a Sovereign Nation, meaning it has its own laws, elections, government, and institutions.

The theme of this year's NTFAQ was Environmental Action in Native Communities, with a focus on local and national efforts to advance air quality protection, climate change awareness, and environmental action in Tribal communities.

This report includes a narrative summary, data on NTFAQ attendees, lessons learned, and several appendices including:

- Appendix A: Agenda of the 2024 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality,
- Appendix B: NTFAQ Participant Feedback,
- Appendix C: Photos from the 2024 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality,
- Appendix D: Thank You to Attendees of the 2024 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality.

This year's NTFAQ was the 17th year that ITEP and the NTAA co-sponsored the conference, and the 24<sup>th</sup> year that ITEP has hosted the NTFAQ in general. This year's conference agenda included three (3) offsite field trips and educational tours (1 was cancelled due to weather), nine (9) pre-conference trainings, and thirty-nine (39) breakout sessions and presentations, a welcome event (including snacks, music, and games), an opening general session including an opening prayer and posting of colors. Thomas Belt, Scholar and Distinguished Cherokee Elder, provided the keynote speech.

The week also included networking round tables, panel discussions, the NTFAQ eco-café, and concurrent breakout sessions. Last year's first Tribal Environmental Movie night, where short films/documentaries of Tribal environmental issues were shared, was such a success that it was brought back in 2024. Charly Lowry, Indigenous singer/songwriter, emceed the event and also performed during the NTAA Member Tribe Luncheon.

Other main events include the annual Virgil Masayesva Awards Ceremony, the NTAA Member Tribe Luncheon, and the Breath of Fresh Air Fun Run that raised \$1,259 for the Kituwah Academy to 'provide a nurturing learning environment in a language immersion setting where students, staff, families, and the community work in partnership to rekindle our language and to instill pride in being "Kituwah First". Those in attendance included 216 participants, of whom 117 were Tribal participants representing 72 Tribes, 53 were vendors, 13 were ITEP staff, and 33 were EPA staff.

The annual NTFAQ feedback form was sent directly to all 216 participants' email addresses and was highlighted in NTAA's Weekly Updates. The form garnered 66 responses. Overall, a majority of attendees were either 'very satisfied' or 'highly satisfied' with the event. This year's NTFAQ saw many new faces and comments received show a great appreciation for the networking opportunities that were provided. Suggestions for improvements will be seriously considered during the planning for the 2025 NTFAQ.

## Tribes & Tribal Organizations Represented at the 2024 NTFAQ

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Bad River
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- Delaware Nation of Oklahoma
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

- Fort Mojave Department of Emergency Response/Environmental Protection Agency
- Fort Sill Apache
- Gila River Department of Environmental Quality
- Grand Portage Band of Chippewa
- Grayling Tribal Council Environmental
  Office
- Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Environmental Health
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Hopi
- Hualapai
- Jamul Indian Village of California
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

- Kiowa Tribe
- La Posta Band of Mission Indians
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
   Department of Environmental Protection
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Muscogee Creek Nation Office of Environmental Services
- Native Village of Buckland
- Native Village of Chitina
- Navajo Nation
- Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program
- Noorvik Native Community
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Penobscot Nation
- Peoria Tribe of Indians
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Pueblo of Santa Ana
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
- Quapaw Nation
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Shinnecock Indian nation
- Shoshone Bannock Tribes
- Shoshone Paiute Tribes
- Spirit Lake Tribe

- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- The Chickasaw Nation
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Tuscarora Nation HETF
- Pueblo of Zia
- Quapaw Nation
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community
- Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium/Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Shinnecock
- Shoshone Bannock Tribes
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Table Mountain Rancheria
- Taos Pueblo
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Tribal Healthy Home Network
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
- United Keetoowah Band
- Ute Indian Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California
- White Earth Nation

## Other Entities Represented at the 2024 NTFAQ

- 2B Technologies
- ACOEM / Met One
- Agilaire
- Air Hygiene International
- Alliance for Green Heat

- Ambient Air Consulting LLC
  - Ambilabs
- Apex Instruments
- Auberle Engineering
- Blue Tomorrow, LLC

- Clarity Movement Co
- Diné C.A.R.E. (Navajo Nation)
- EBCI/NPS
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Environmental Engineering & Measurement Services, Inc
- US EPA Office of Transportation & Air Quality
- US EPA OAQPS
- US EPA Office of Atmospheric Protection
- U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
- US EPA ORD
- US EPA Region 1
- US EPA Region 9
- US EPA Region 10
- Gold Systems
- Grandmothers Growing Goodness
- GrayWolf Sensing Solutions
- GSA Zero-Emission Vehicle Team

- ICMA
- IQAir
- JustAir Solutions
- Kansas State University
- Met One Instruments, Inc.
- Moms Clean Air Force
- EcoMadres Colorado
- Open Environment Software
- Red Feather Development Group
- SC&A, Inc.
- Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
- Teledyne API
- The Air I Breathe
- Tisch Environmental
- Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Wilbur Technical Services
- World Resources Institute

## The 2024 NTAA Annual Member Tribe Meeting

The purpose of the NTAA Annual Member Tribe Meeting is to mingle with NTAA members, provide information on ongoing work, and receive feedback. This year's meeting included remarks and a presentation by Syndi Smallwood, the NTAA Chairwoman and Region 9 Primary representative. The NTAA bylaws were reviewed and updated, and the group voted to approve the new bylaws effective May 7, 2024. Finally, Charly Lowry performed for the group.





## Monday, May 6th

S	Start End	Session	Room	
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#### 7:30 AM 6:30 PM Conference Registration Foyer Offsite Educational Trip

8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Clingmans Dome	Meet in front of
		(Limited seats-registration required)	Starbucks

#### **Pre-Conference Trainings**

9:00 AM	5:00 PM	An Introduction to Radon: What is Radon, Why Should We Pay Attention to It, and How to ID Appropriate Radon Contractors  Brian R. Hanson & Kristina Snyder, K-State Radon Programs	101/102
9:00 AM	11:30 AM	Solutions for Cleaner Wood Heat: Unprecedented Funding, Case Studies, and Interventions that Help Reduce Air Pollutants, Health Effects, and Climate Impacts. Gillian Mittelstaedt, Tribal Healthy Homes Network.  Johna Boulafentis, Nez Perce Air Quality Program, Larry Brockman, EPA BurnWise Program. Joe Seidenberg, Red Feather Development Group. John Ackerly, Alliance for Green Heat.	103/104
9:00 AM	11:30 AM	It's All in the Tape  Angela Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe	105

9:00 AM	11:30 AM	Air Quality Sensor Bootcamp: Getting Started with Air Quality Management 2.0  Sean Wihera, Clarity Movement Dr. Meiling Gao, Clarity Movement	109/110
9:00 AM	11:30 AM	Building the Bench Christal Black & Marissa Adams, ITEP	111/112

## Lunch (on your own) 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

## Newbie Group Lunch (pay on your own)-Meet by Escalators @11:45 am

2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Turn Air Quality Data into Action: Community Engagement & Action Planning Workshop	103/104
		Katie Tiger, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Darren Riley, JustAir	
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	T640X Training  Bryan Bibeau-Teledyne	105
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	Understanding and Implementing the EPA Methane Rules Jon Goldstein, EPA, and Eugenia Quintana, Navajo Nation	109/110
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	Quality Review and Exchange System for Tribes and Datalogger Connectivity  Melinda Ronca-Battista & Michael King, TAMS Center	111/112

## **Welcome Reception**

6:00 PM 8:00 PM Light Snacks, Music & Games

107



#### Tuesday, May 7th

Start	End	Session	Room
7:30 AM	8:30 AM	Registration & Breakfast	Foyer

8:30 AM 10:00 AM Opening General Session Keynote Speaker: Thomas Belt, Scholar &

**Distinguished Cherokee Elder** 

10:00 AM 10:30 AM Morning Break Foyer

10:30 AM 11:45AM Networking Round Tables 106/114

NTAA Annual Meeting & Luncheon 12:00 PM 1:30 PM

(Available to NTAA Members ONLY) LUNCH ON YOUR OWN-if not an NTAA Member

101/102	103/104	105	109/110	111/112

## Concurrent Breakout Sessions 2:00-3:00 PM

Deploying Electric School Buses within Tribal Nations & Native	New Source Review Air Permit in Indian Country - Tribe, Small Business, and	Regulatory Air Monitoring Tribal Roundtable	Tools for Protecting the Most Vulnerable During Wildfire Smoke Events	Restoring the Land With Fire Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe
Communities Maranda Compton, Lepwe & Alyssa Curran, World Resource Institute  Tribal Clean Transportation Program Heather Bartlett, ITEP	Industry Outreach Training Ben Garwood, US EPA OAQPS Air Quality Policy Division; New Source Review Group	Panel: Tiffany Wolfe (Pechanga), Lonnie Favel (Ute Indian), Leroy Williams (GRIC), Pam Atcitty (Morongo), and Susie Attocknie (Quapaw) Moderated by Michael King & Melinda Ronca Battista, TAMS Center	Tim Outman Warm Springs Tribe, Aileen Gagney & Gillian Mittelstaedt, Tribal Healthy Homes Network. Invited: Yakama Nation and Colville Tribe.	Benefits of Combining Weatherization, Wood Stoves, and Heat Pumps Federal Funding Available Larry Brockman, EPA Burn Wise Education Program

3:00 PM-3:30 PM Afternoon Break Foyer Concurrent Breakout Sessions 3:30-4:30 PM

Leveraging Funds and Reducing Exposure of Wood/Coal Smoke to Improve Household Health & Safety Joe Seidenberg & Roy Lee Hosteen, Red Feather Development Group	What is the National Tribal Air Association? Carolyn Kelly, NTAA	EJ Grant for the White Mesa Community  Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Janice Archuleta, AQ Program Manager; Arlyssia Sells, AQ  Specialist	IAQ Study in Akwesasne Angela Benedict, SRMT	Working in Partnership to Reduce PM in Shared Airsheds Sandra Brozusky, & India Young, EPA R10, Kathy Moses, Colville Tribe; Katie Swan, Yakama Nation
	An Overview of ITEP's Air Quality Professional Development Opportunities FY 2025 and Beyond Christal Black, AIAQTP/ITEP	Bishop Paiute Tribe Community Air  Monitoring Project Emma Ruppell (Virtual)	Protecting my Family and Community from Radon Mansel A. Nelson, ITEP and Nala Nelson, Kayenta Middle School	

6:30PM 8:00PM NTFAQ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Film Festival Moderated by Singer/Songwriter Charly Lowry



#### Wednesday, May 8th

Start	End	Session  Continental Breakfast	Room			
7:30 AM	8:30 AM		Foyer			
8:30 AM 10:00 AM Opening Plenary: Tribal Electric Vehicle Initiative Panel 106/114						

10:00 AM 10:30 AM Morning Break Foyer

10:30 AM 11:30 AM Eco Café Foyer

11:30 AM 1:30 PM Educational Tour: Kituwah Mound & Lunch Starbucks

(Limited seats-registration required)

#### LUNCH ON YOUR OWN-if not attending tour

101/102	103/104	105	109/110	111/112		
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 2:00-3:00 PM						

Overview of EPA's DERA Tribal Program & Other OTAQ Funding Opportunities for Tribes Lucita Valiere & Christina Guerra, EPA Office of Transportation & Air Quality	What's Happening at the Intersection of Climate, Health Equity and Children's Health in Tribal Communities Almeta E. Cooper and Shaina Oliver, Moms Clean Air Force	Advancing Analysis of PFAS in the Atmosphere: Precipitation, Cloud Waters, & Ambient Air John Offenberg, EPA	Air Sensors for Education and Healthy Homes and Schools Mansel A Nelson, ITEP	CPRG Planning Grants Updates & Next Steps Pat Childers, EPA OAR, Kathryn Harper, EPA Region 9 Palo Verde A & B
	Panel: Angela Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk, Dr. Jennifer Runkle, North Carolina State, and Katie Tiger, Eastern Band			
Mobile Source	of Cherokee	Strengthening Long term EPA- Tribal		
Regulatory Update & Outlook Jessie Fan, EPA 6:00 PM 8:30 PM		Partnerships through the Clean Air Status and Trends Network		
0.00 FIVI 6.30 FIVI	3:00 PM-3:30	(CASTNET) PM Afternoon Break	Foyer	
		PM Afternoon Break akout Sessions 3:30-4		

Focusing Your Air Permit Reviews - Tribal Experiences with the ITEP Permit Screening Tool  Andrew Shroads, SCA, Inc., Craig Kreman, Quapaw Nation, La Shell Thomas, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Dana Hummell, Quapaw Nation	Understanding and Implementing US EPA's Methane Rules  Laura McKelvey, NTAA, Jon Goldstein, EDF, and Eugenia Quintana,  Navajo Nation	Air sensors – General Overview and Applications for Use Amanda Kaufman, US EPA  Data Visualization	Aviation Gasoline (Avgas) and other Emerging AQ Topics in Alaska Abby Nelson, Alaska Department of Health (Virtual)	A Video Premiere! See the Newly Produced Healthy Homes Videos and Hear How Tribes are Rolling Out these Innovative Outreach Tools Aileen Gagney and Gillian
		with RETIGO and Sensor Toolkit  Andrea Clements, EPA/ORD and Menaka Kumar, Oak Ridge Associated Universities Student Services		Mittelstaedt, Tribal Healthy Homes Network. Invited: Louden Tribal Council, Tulalip Tribes, Poarch Band of Creek Indians

## 6:00 PM 8:30 PM Virgil Masaysesva Awards Dinner

- Cultural Performance
- Awardee Receiving Line and Honor Song



## Thursday, May 9th

Start End Session Room

#### 7:30 AM 8:30 AM Breakfast Foyer

101/102	103/104	105	109/110	111/112	
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 8:30-9:30 AM					
Regulating Air Quality Andrew Shroads, SC&A, Inc.	Health Impacts and Air Quality Concerns in Nuiqsut, Alaska Rosemary Ahtuangaruak	A Day in the Life of a Level 1 QC Air  Technician at Morongo Lina Luu, Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Outreach Endeavors Shared by Three Tribes Manny Gomez, Ak- Chin Indian Community; Nicklaus Shumake, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; and Jonathan Lopez, Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians	Research Resources for Tribal Professionals from EPA's Air, Climate and Energy Program Angie Shatas, US EPA  What is the EJ TCTAC Program?  Andy Bessler, EPA, and Nikki Cooley, Dine, ITEP	
9:30 AM-10:00 AM Morning Break Foyer					

Concurrent Brea	kout Sessions 10:00	AM-11:00 AM		
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe Death Valley CA/NV Success with EPA Thomas A. Romero, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	Highlights of the 2023 Status of Tribal Air Report and 2024 Updates Syndi Smallwood, Jamul Indian Village of California and Laura McKelvey, National Tribal Air Association	EPA AirNow Program Update: Interesting Times Ahead John E. White, EPA OAQPS	Measuring Particulate Matter Concentrations PM Monitors to Consider During Wildfires & Health Effects of Smoke James Payne, US EPA	Tribes & Climate Change Nikki Cooley, Dine, ITEP

Educational Tour: Museum of the Cherokee People/Tour of Cherokee & Lunch 11:00- 1:00 pm (Limited seats-registration required)

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN-if not attending tour** 

1:30PM Closing General Session: Closing Speaker, Door Prizes,

An Update of EPA's EJ Technical Assistance & Funding for Tribes 106/114

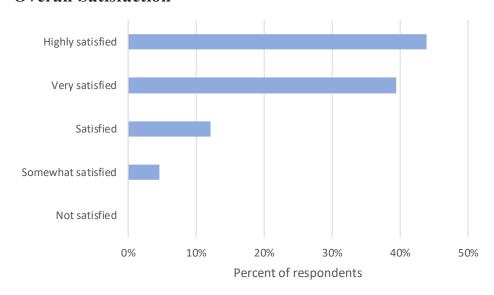
4:30 PM 6:00 PM Breath of Fresh Air 5K Fun Run & Walk Meet in front of Starbucks

Thank you for attending NTFAQ 2024!

# 2024 NTFAQ Survey Report

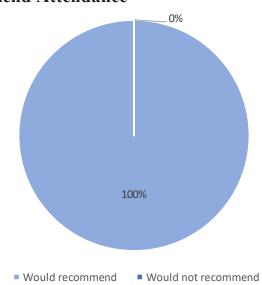
This report compiles the results of a post-event questionnaire regarding attendees' opinions of the event. The questionnaire was sent to all 219 attendees via email and received 66 responses.

## **Overall Satisfaction**



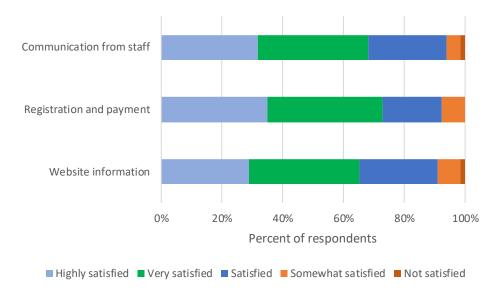
Over 95% of respondents were satisfied with the event.

## Likelihood to Recommend Attendance



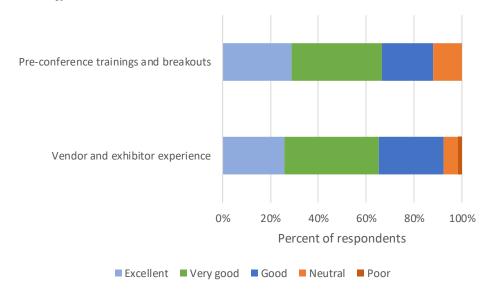
All respondents were likely to recommend NTFAQ to a colleague or co-worker.

## **Satisfaction with Pre-Event Features**



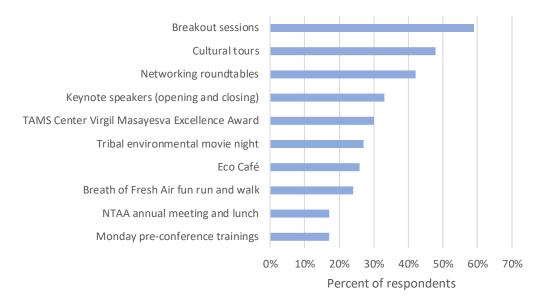
Over 90% of respondents were satisfied with registration and payment, communication from ITEP staff, and the availability of information on the event website.

## **Ratings of Event Features**



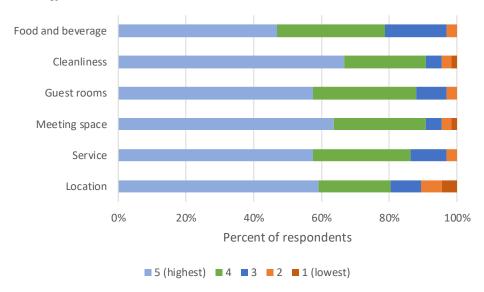
Over 87% of respondents positively rated the pre-conference trainings and breakouts, and over 92% of respondents positively rated the vendor and exhibitor experience.

## **Favorite Event Features**



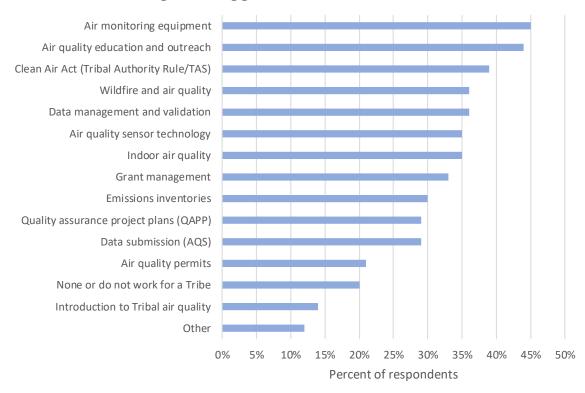
Breakout sessions, cultural tours, and networking roundtables were most frequently cited as respondents' favorite feature of the conference.

## Ratings of the Venue



Respondents ranked the venue's cleanliness and meeting space highest and the food and beverage the lowest.

## **Professional Development Opportunities**

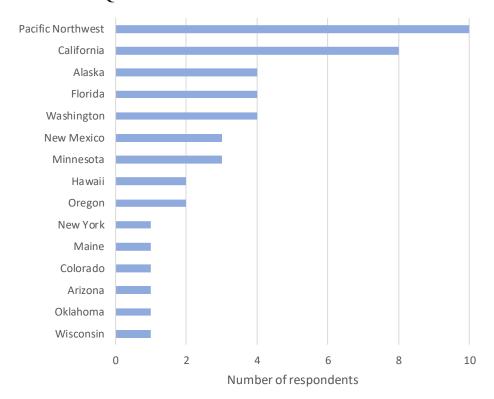


Opportunities related to air monitoring equipment, air quality education and outreach, and the Tribal Authority Rule were most frequently cited as necessary for respondents' jobs.

## **Improvements for 2025 Event**

In response to a qualitative question that asked attendees to share methods to improve NTFAQ for 2025, most respondents wished to see a higher proportion of Tribal presenters as opposed to presentations from EPA staff or vendors. Respondents also wished to receive event information and logistics sooner and to host the event nearer to an airport.

## **Next NTFAQ Location**



The Pacific Northwest was most frequently cited by respondents as the next preferred location for NTFAQ, followed by California (particularly southern California). Less frequently cited locations included Alaska, Florida, and Washington.

## Appendix C: Photos from the 2024 NTFAQ



There were several great field trips included in the 2024 NTFAQ.



Attendees had opportunities to see and learn about work being done by the Tribe.



Atttendees had many planned and unplanned opportunities to network with other Tribal professionals and vendors.



A performance by the Warriors of Anikithuhwa taught members of the audience several dances during the Tribal Air Program Excellence Awards Dinner.



Johna Boulafentis with the Nez Perce Tribe and Joe Hostler with the Yurok Tribe were the 2024 winners of the Virgil Masayesva Award.



NTFAQ's Second Annual Film Festival was hosted by singer/songwriter Charly Lowry and featured several great environmental films.



50+ Participants joined in on the Breath of Fresh Air Fun Run/Walk which was led by local students who run track. \$1,259 dollars were raised in donations to support the Kituwah Academy.

# THANK YOU FOR **ATTENDING NTFAQ 2024**



NTFAQ 2024 was hosted in May 2024 by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, North Carolina.