

## **TAIMI LYNNE HOAG AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

### **BACKGROUND**

This Award recognizes significant contributions in environmental management and/or stewardship within Region 5 Indian Country. The Award is given in honor of Taimi Lynne Hoag who was called back home to the Creator in 2002. Ms. Hoag served as the Environmental Director for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians from 1999-2002. Taimi was a leader at the local, regional and national levels for environmental protection in Indian country. She advocated for tribal sovereignty and worked to strengthen the government to government relationships on environmental issues. The Award was established in 2003 by the Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee (R5TOC) to recognize tribal professionals and/or elected officials in the region who show leadership, dedication, advocacy and progress on environmental issues. The Tribal Caucus is responsible for the nomination review process and selection of the recipient with administrative support for the award provided by the Region 5 Indian Environmental Office (IEO).

### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

On behalf of the Tribal Caucus, IEO will distribute a request for nominations to the environmental managers of each federally-recognized tribe and inter-tribal organization. Tribal environmental managers will be asked to share the nomination request within their Tribe or organizations and submit nominations to the IEO Director by a specific date (not less than 45 days). Two weeks before the due date, IEO will send a reminder.

### **NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY**

Current or past elected officials or staff persons of federally-recognized Indian tribes or inter-tribal organizations located in EPA Region 5 are eligible to be nominated. Nominees must meet one or more of the criteria below.

### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

1. Demonstrates a high degree of initiative, leadership, and/or accomplishment in environmental protection in Indian country.
2. Provides exceptional commitment, direction, or representation on issues related to the protection of air, water, land, or other natural resources of an Indian tribe or Indian country.
3. Develops/leads a public forum to address a significant environmental issue(s) affecting an Indian tribe or Indian country.
4. Makes a positive and noteworthy contribution to an Indian tribe's environmental protection program in a leadership capacity for an extended period of time.

Nominations must be submitted by tribal staff or elected officials of Region 5 federally-recognized Indian tribes or inter-tribal organizations and should not exceed two pages. Multiple nominations will be accepted if a federally-recognized tribe or inter-tribal organization staff or elected officials submit more than one nomination. Letters of support will not be accepted as this award is intended to be a tribal professional or elected official recognition by Region 5 federally-recognized Indian tribes or an inter-tribal organization only. The nomination must specify which of the four criteria the nominee has achieved and provide supporting information.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

All nominations received by the due date will be assembled and transmitted by the IEO Director to the six official members of the Tribal Caucus for review. The Tribal Caucus will review the nominations to determine that the eligibility requirements are satisfied. Any nomination made by the deadline will be considered as long as one of the criteria is met. Of the nominees that are determined to be eligible, the Tribal Caucus will select a recipient that best represents or demonstrates at least one of the four criteria listed above. If none of the nominations are found to be eligible, or the Tribal Caucus does not believe that any of the nominations have achieved a level of accomplishment that satisfies one of the four criteria, the Tribal Caucus reserves the option to not select a recipient. In this event, an Award will not be presented for that year and the federally-recognized tribes or inter-tribal organizations that did nominate an individual will receive a response as to why their nominee was not eligible or selected. If no nominations are received by the deadline, the R5TOC will not issue the award for that year. The R5TOC Tribal Co-Chair will notify the IEO Director of the outcome of the selection process.

**PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD**

IEO will assist the Tribal Caucus to notify the recipient and make the necessary arrangements for presenting the Award. The Tribal Caucus will present the Award to the recipient at the annual R5TOC meeting held at the EPA office in Chicago.

Revised by the R5TOC Tribal Caucus  
December 2013