



# **UPDATE ON MISSING AND ENDANGERED PERSONS EVENT CODE**

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
APRIL 11, 2025**

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**FIRST NATIONS**  
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

# OUTLINE

- **Introduction**
- **What is the Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code?**
- **State Jurisdiction Alerting**
- **Integrated Public Alert Warning System Overview**
- **Native Public Media MEP Working Group**
- **Questions**



## **OUR MISSION**

To promote the self-determination of indigenous peoples through media access, storytelling, and ownership

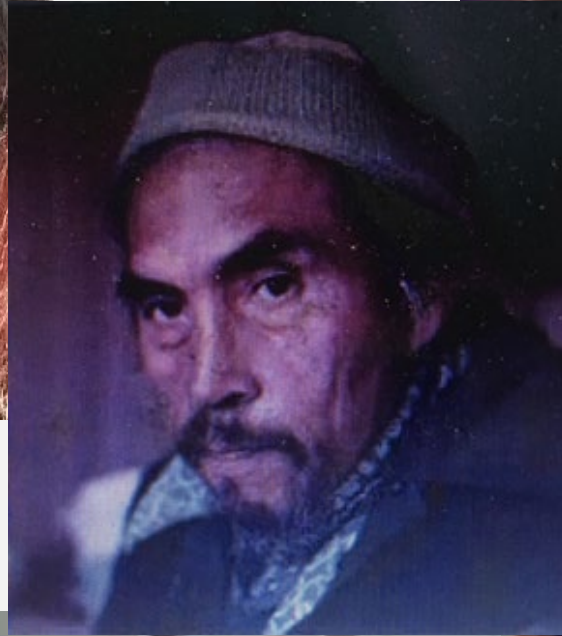
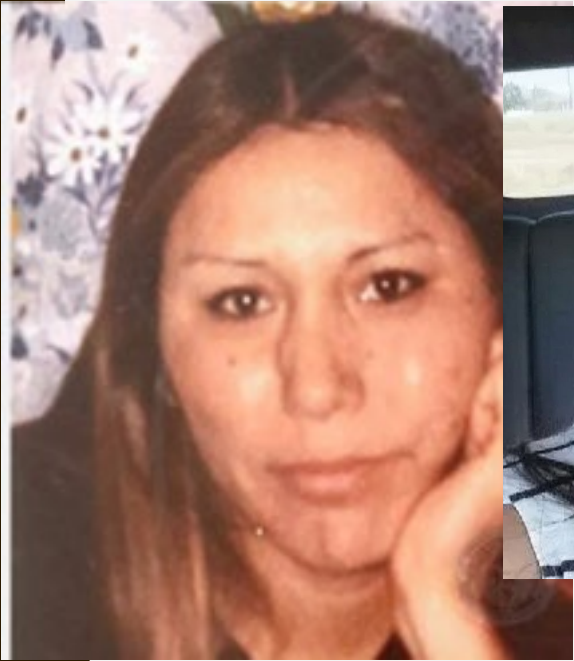
## **GOVERNANCE**

- Board
- Station Advisory Committee

## **PROGRAMS**

- Training & Education
- Station Support Program
- Broadcast Service Program
- Advocacy







**WHAT IS THE  
MISSING AND  
ENDANGERED  
PERSONS EVENT  
CODE?**

# MEP Event Code Adopted August 7, 2024

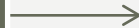
## It will activate by Fall 2025

- ADR – Administrative Message
- AVA – Avalanche Watch
- BLU – Blue Alert
- CAE – Child Abduction Emergency
- CDW – Civil Danger Warning
- CEM – Civil Emergency Message
- DMO – Practice/Demo Warning
- EQW – Earthquake Warning
- EVI – Immediate Evacuation
- FRW – Fire Warning
- HMW – Hazardous Materials Warning
- LAE – Local Area Emergency
- LEW – Law Enforcement Warning
- **MEP – Missing and Endangered Persons**
- NUW – Nuclear Power Plant Warning
- RHW – Radiological Hazard Warning
- RMT – Required Monthly Test
- RWT – Required Weekly Test
- SPW – Shelter in Place Warning
- TOE – 911 Telephone Outage Emergency
- VOW – Volcano Warning

# THE FCC REGULATORY PROCESS

**NOVEMBER 2023**

NCAI passes NPM's resolution urging the FCC to establish a national Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) event code all 50 states, Indian country, and U.S. territories can use.



**MARCH 14, 2024**

Taylor testifies before the FCC

FCC approves an MEP Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Public submits comments

**JULY 17, 2024**

FCC publishes MEP report and order



Fall 2025

The MEP Event Code will activate!





# STATE JURISDICTION ALERTING

# State Alerts

State	Initiative	Description
California	Feather Alert	Designed to alert the public regarding Native American missing persons.
Washington	Indigenous Persons Alert	Implemented for rapid response to missing Indigenous persons.
Colorado	Missing Person Alert	Focuses on immediate notification concerning missing individuals.
New Mexico	Amber Alert for MMIW	Developed to address missing and murdered Indigenous women specifically.

# Colorado Missing/Endangered Alert

The alerts won't automatically pop up on your phone like an Amber Alert, the alert instantly goes to all Colorado law enforcement, while media and the public can sign up for email alerts.

The alert features the missing person's picture, name and description. Along with any other relevant details and which law enforcement agency to contact if you have any information.

# California Feather Alert

For a Feather Alert to be activated, a law enforcement agency must determine that the following criteria have been met:

1. The missing person is an indigenous woman or indigenous person.
2. The investigating law enforcement agency has utilized available local and tribal resources.
3. The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplainable or suspicious circumstances.
4. The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger.
5. There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.





# **INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT WARNING SYSTEM OVERVIEW**



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The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established the **Integrated Public Alert and Warning System** in 2006 by Presidential Executive Order 13407.

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IPAWS disseminates alerts across various platforms, reaching the public efficiently and effectively.



# GOVERNMENT ROLES



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The **Federal Communications Commission** establishes new Event Codes and maintains the list of approved Event Codes.

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The **Federal Emergency Management Agency** trains Alerting Authorities and grants them permission to use IPAWS.

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Tribal, Federal, State, local, and territorial **Alerting Authorities** message alerts and use Event Codes to issue alerts over IPAWS for emergencies and early warning.

# ALERTS REACH THE PUBLIC IN SEVERAL WAYS



Radio and television using the Emergency Alert System (**EAS**)



Cell phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts (**WEA**)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Weather Radio.



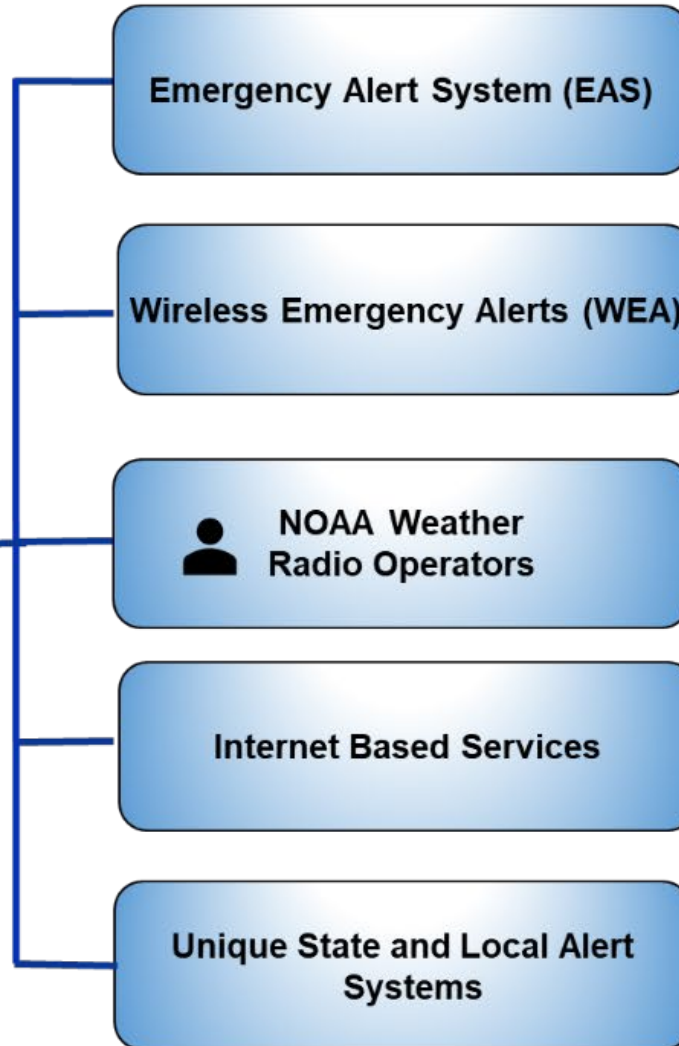
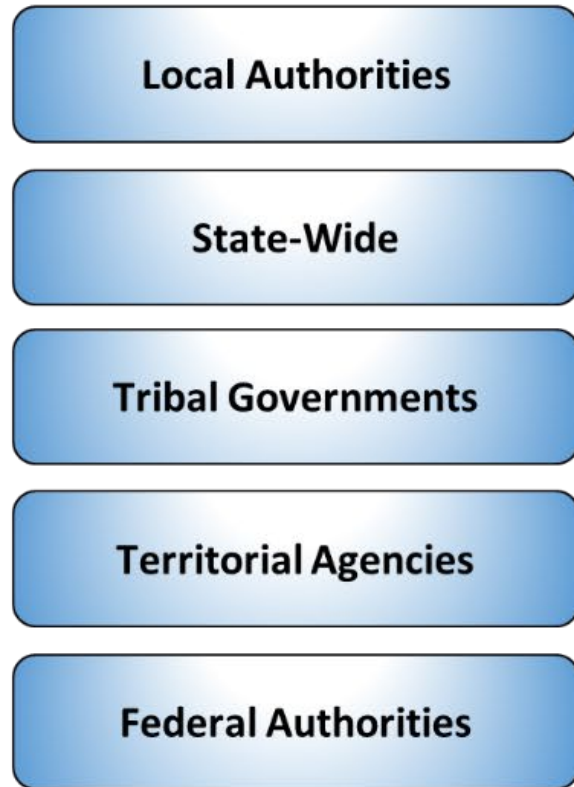
Internet and unique alert systems.

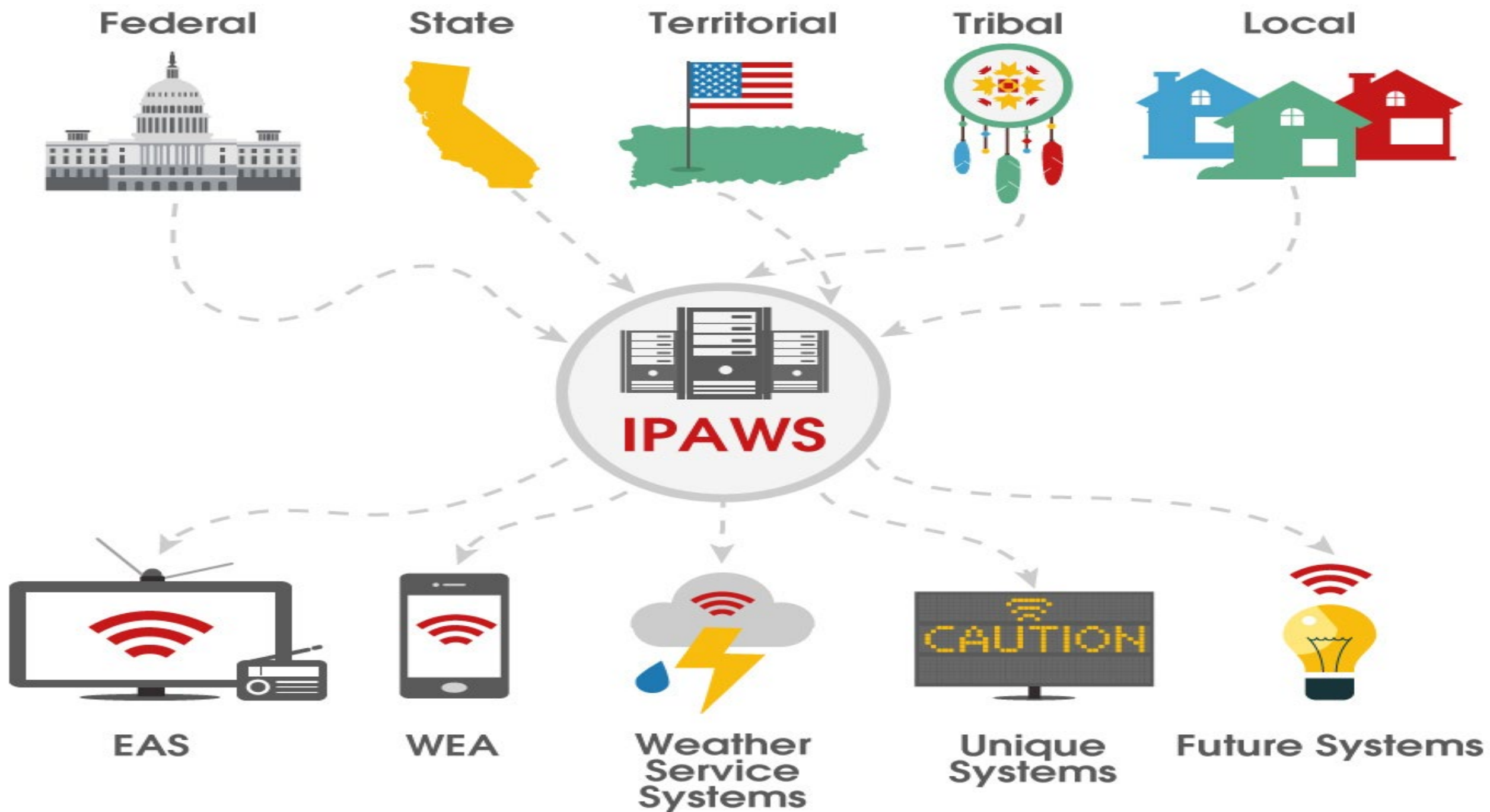
*Alerting Authorities*

*IPAWS Gateway*

*Alert Disseminators*

*Public*



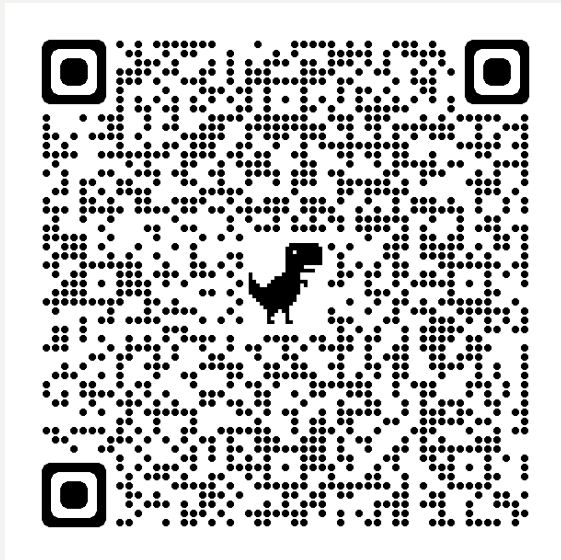




# IPAWS ALERTING AUTHORITIES

## STATE DIRECTORY QR CODE

1,600+ federal, state, local, tribal and territorial Alerting Authorities use IPAWS to issue critical public alerts and warnings in their jurisdictions.



## 12 OUT OF 574 TRIBAL ALERTING AUTHORITIES

- Chickasaw Nation
- Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
- Navajo Nation
- Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation
- Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Pascua Yaqui
- Shawnee Tribe
- Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope

# **Native Public Media Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) Working Group**

**Purpose:** Coordination team with various stakeholders and agencies to assist in the launch of the **MEP Event Code**.

**Next Steps:**

- Propose criteria for **MEP Alert** for States and Tribes
- Provide awareness and advocacy for **MEP Event Code**
- Work with Tribes on becoming **Alerting Authorities**



## **Establish a National MEP Alert Criteria by Summer 25**

- 10 Criterion
- Finalize by Summer
- Covers minors that do not meet the AMBER Alert criteria
- A jurisdiction may choose to add to or change the criteria, as needed.

## **Issuing MEP Alerts will be voluntary**

- Urge your jurisdictions to use the MEP Alert to locate missing and endangered adults.
- Urge jurisdictions to collaborate rescue and recovery of missing and endangered adults across borders.
- Inform the public about the national MEP criteria so they know what to report to the authorities.

# All 50 States use the Amber Alert

The AMBER alert uses the Child Abduction Emergency (CAE) Event Code and is issued by Alerting Authorities including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.





S c a n   Q R   C o d e   f o r  
c o n t a c t  
i n f o r m a t i o n



**B r i a n   W a d s w o r t h**

**E - m a i l :**

[B w a d s w o r t h @ n a t i v e p u b l i c m e d i a . o r g](mailto:Bwadsworth@nativepublicmedia.org)





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