



# ATNI Tribes and First Nations Climate Summit Proceedings

## July 30-31, 2019

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## Executive Summary and Recommendations

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### Summit Overview

The 2019 ATNI Tribes and First Nations Climate Change Summit took place July 30-31, 2019 in Spokane, WA and convened leaders from Tribes and First Nations throughout the Pacific Northwest and North America to advance tribal climate change policy and action. Tribes and First Nations in the Pacific Northwest have made great progress in observing, documenting, and preparing for environmental change on their homelands, but climate change is increasing at a pace that challenges important ways of life. Tribes and First Nations across the region came together to learn from past work and to discuss how to continue climate change studies, adapt to environmental change, and reduce greenhouse gasses, providing the support communities need to adapt and thrive for generations to come. The Summit convened leaders from Tribes and First Nations throughout North America to advance tribal climate change policy and action. The Summit focused on tribal climate change resiliency, protecting and applying Traditional Knowledges in climate change initiatives, and implementing a unified tribal climate change policy agenda. The Summit also included a tour of the Spokane Tribal Housing Program solar project, Children of the Sun Solar Initiative (COSSI). Tribal elected and appointed leaders, resource managers, health specialists, traditional elders, scientists, students and practitioners discussed current issues along three Summit Tracks.

The Summit was held at the [Northern Quest Casino](#) and co-sponsored by the [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians](#) (ATNI), [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#) (BIA), and partnering with the [North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative](#) (NPLCC), [PNW Tribal Climate Change Network](#), and the [Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center](#). Other Summit partners included [Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation](#), [Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission](#), [Upper Columbia United Tribes](#), [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission](#), and the [Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals](#).

### Participant Overview:

- Total Number of Participants: 240
- Number of Tribes Attending: 41
- Tribal Council Members: 34
- Tribal Elders/Tribal citizens: 22
- Tribal Staff: 55
- Tribal and Intertribal organizations: 32
- Tribal Students: 6
- Non-tribal organizations, individuals and students: 65
- Geographic representation:
  - Northwest: Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and California
  - Pacific/Southwest: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Hawaii
  - East/Midwest: Kansas, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, and Maryland

### Themes

- **Traditional Knowledges:** How are traditional knowledges shaping conservation and adaptation actions while ensuring appropriate engagement protocols are upheld and knowledges are protected?
- **Tribal Climate Resiliency:** Plans and Actions: How are vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and approaches to resiliency increasing tribal engagement in climate change mitigation and adaptation?
- **Advancing Policy:** How can Tribes engage in local, regional, and international climate policy to build tribal capacity and craft a unified message in support of tribal climate resiliency?

**Key Summit Links:**

- ATNI Tribes and First Nations Climate Summit: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/ts-info/past-summits/2019-ts/>
- Summit Agenda and Speaker Slides: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/ts-info/past-summits/2019-ts/2019-ts-agenda/>
- Bios: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/ts-info/past-summits/2019-ts/2019-ts-agenda/2019-ts-speakers/>

**Contacts:** For more information or questions please contact:

- **Don Sampson**, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians – Project Change Director, [Don@Seventhgenerationllc.com](mailto:Don@Seventhgenerationllc.com)
- **Peggy Harris**, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians – Project Change Coordinator, [Peggy@Seventhgenerationllc.com](mailto:Peggy@Seventhgenerationllc.com)
- **Chas Jones**, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians/Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center - Tribal Liaison, [cejones@usgs.gov](mailto:cejones@usgs.gov)
- **Kathy Lynn**, PNW Tribal Climate Change Network – Director, [Kathy@uoregon.edu](mailto:Kathy@uoregon.edu)
- **John Mankowski**, North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative – Coordinator, [John@mankowskienvironmental.com](mailto:John@mankowskienvironmental.com)

**Recommendations:*****Overarching recommendation:***

- Tribes need to tell their stories and take the fight against climate change to Washington D.C. by requesting congressional hearings on the Environmental Impacts on Tribal Communities.

***Budget and Finance:***

- Ensure consistent multi-year funding for Tribes through the BIA Tribal Resilience Grants and other funding programs including the Climate Science and Adaptation Centers, and the Landscape Conservation Collaborative Program.
- Direct federal and state appropriations and create and streamline federal grant processes/programs to provide full support for tribal climate programs.
- Support federal and state financing for tribal priorities related to displacement, relocation and emergency services, and renewable energy production.
- Develop administrative rules that provide for tribal co-management of resources and land.
- Address the need for stronger relationships between tribes and funders to increase understanding and effectiveness of funding.
- Address the impacts on funding resources that are caused by changing federal authorities.
- Tribes need site specific funding in terms of using TK, integrating climate change and STEM education, accessing site-specific data, building tribal capacity, and implementation of projects.

***Carbon Policy/ Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction:***

- Develop and pass equitable legislation related to cap and trade and or carbon tax/fee that specifically includes tribes, provides a set aside of revenues for tribes, increases tribal capacity, and provides tribal investments in carbon sequestration, carbon reduction actions, renewable energy, and climate adaptation and mitigation funding.
- Tribes should develop their own tribal policy and strategies for greenhouse gas reduction that meet or exceed the Paris Climate Agreement goals and coordinate implementing those strategies with other tribes, state, cities, counties and organizations who do the same (e.g., COP, We Are Still In)
- Classify carbon revenue as trust revenue (through carbon offset projects developed by tribes)

- Create forest management plans that include carbon sequestration and consider ecosystem services.
- Federal Transit Administration guidelines should reflect Green House Gas emissions; Tribes need green infrastructure to solve transit issues.
- Federal mandates for green building to reflect Climate Change priorities should be integrated within Tribal housing programs.

#### ***Renewables/ Energy Sovereignty:***

- Promote tribal energy sovereignty that reflects climate change priorities including funding to develop tribal solar, wind, geothermal, energy efficiency and other green technologies .
- Congress should develop policies and incentives for tribes to develop renewable energy generation on tribal infrastructure and tribal trust lands.
- Decentralize renewable energy and provide incentives. Recognize the connections between housing and energy production.
- The Federal government should serve as a mediator between tribes and financial institutions to finance green building, renewable energy, etc.

#### ***Traditional Knowledges:***

- Co-develop perspectives, research, and projects using Traditional Knowledges to better understand and interact with unique cultural landscapes.
- Create research questions that would lead to compatible management strategies, values, and goals between tribes and agencies.
- Ensure for the protection of cultural tribal knowledges and TK as partnerships evolve. Disseminate information data sharing agreements early on in planning process and understand FOIA and how it can be problematic for protecting sensitive information.
- Create policy requiring the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Tribes when working with TK.
- Tribal Government and tribal perspectives need to be understood by agency staff and other partners when using TK.

#### ***Youth Engagement/ Education:***

- Fund and invest in multi-cultural and interdisciplinary science to raise awareness among tribal citizens and youth.
- Integrate climate change education into tribal communities through K-12 curriculum and community education programs.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs should re-invest in funding in youth programs, including internships to provide tribal youth and early career tribal citizens with the training and experience needed to address climate change.
- Tribes and First Nations should be working collectively on youth and climate change education and STEM at the state, regional, national, and international levels.

#### ***Adaptation:***

- Agency partnerships with tribes should be based on climate bioregions, and inform various partnerships networks that strengthen cross-boundary management. Continued support for Landscape Conservation Cooperatives is one example of this.
- Federal agencies need to provide more technical assistance in developing data sharing agreements and to make site-specific data more accessible to tribes.

- Work with BIA programs and other agencies to support tribal priorities: Food sovereignty, entrepreneurship, economic sovereignty, and energy efficiency
- Tribal and natural resource agencies should promote diverse stand management structures and vegetation in their management and administrative practices to meet the need for creating resilient forest conditions, including restoration practices.
- Tribal adaptation plans should be looked at as models for non-tribal jurisdictions doing adaptation planning in regions covered or adjacent to Tribal plans.

## Day 1: Morning Welcome and Keynote

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**Don Sampson**, (Walla Walla) ATNI Climate Change Project Director

### **Curt Holmes, Tribal Councilman - Kalispell Tribe - Invocation and Welcome**

Councilman Holmes gave an overview of the Kalispell Tribal history and how the tribe has been impacted by a changing climate. In 1850, 50% of the tribe was wiped out overnight due to influenza. In 1914, President Wilson established the tribe's reservation. In 2000, the Tribe opened the Casino, and their resources changed. The Tribe did not have access to safe drinking water until 2006. Councilman Holmes highlighted a few issues that the tribe is facing: There is a Silicon Smelter proposal that has received a class 1 designation and is located 15 miles up the river. The proposed Carbon bill exempts the silicon smelter, which will be producing coal. There are high levels of mercury in the water, and pregnant women and children are not supposed to eat the fish that swim within it. The Tribe is viewed as stopping progress, had to learn how to deal with folks who do not care or do not want to understand the science. Anybody that is against smelter production needs to stand up against it. There needs to be smart dialogue, and everyone in the room needs to be open to learning something new, and we need to understand why we are all here.

### **Terri Parr-Wynecoop, Executive Director of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians**

ATNI member tribes have been national leaders in climate action. ATNI aims to amplify tribes' voices on sovereignty, TEK and climate change. In 2011, ATNI submitted a Climate Change Resolution which called on United States Agencies to address tribal governments on climate change policy. In 2014, ATNI developed the [ATNI Climate Change Program](#). More ATNI Resolutions related to climate change can be found at: <http://atnitribes.org/resolutions>

### **Debra Lekanoff, Democratic Member of the Washington State House of Representatives**

Debra Lekanoff is the first Native American Women to be sworn into the Washington State House of Representatives. Before being sworn into the House, Deb served as the Swinomish Governmental Affairs Director and as the Chair of an Alaska Village Corporation. House member Lekanoff stated that she is a product of what everyone in the room has built. We are here and our voices of seven generations of decision making will be influential in climate policy. You will make sure that we all have clean water, access to resources, and hold industry accountable. It's time for us in Washington State to have another native person in the house and senate. The Washington State legislature has been able to pass five of the strongest climate bills in the nation, **"we can only do more together"**. Knock on the door, be fearless, run for office, any office, push open that door and take your tribal chairmen with you. "We must learn to make seven generations of decision making"

### **Governor Jay Inslee Video**

Tribes are leading the way in climate action. The current administration is undermining Washington's right to clean water and air. We will not let this administration take away the resources we have fought so hard to protect. We are ready to take this fight on, we can defeat climate change, put people to work with good paying jobs, solve culvert challenges, and restore salmon habitat.

### **Congresswoman Deb Haaland Video**

Congresswoman Haaland supports the Green New Deal and the creation of a Congressional Climate Commission. She introduced the Antiquities Act to protect our land and sacred sites from the impacts of climate change and resource extraction.

## **Panel 1: Traditional Knowledges in Conservation and Adaptation**

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### **John Sirois, Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)**

John is Okanagan and Wenatchi of the Colville Confederated Tribes and has spent 20 years at the Colville Tribes' working with cultural revitalization, renewable energy, policy and governance as a former Council Chairman and Member. He currently serves as the Committee Coordinator at the UCUT, where he facilitates the collaborative intertribal committee process. His work focuses on the reintroduction of salmon and addressing climate change impacts through the lens of cultural upbringing and applied science. John spoke about how Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) grounds us to who we are, provides a direction to culture, and how we treat one another. It teaches us how and why we are responsible for the earth. We make decisions considering the seventh generation, and that is how we need to continue making decisions moving forward for the next seven generations.

### **Preston Hardison, Tulalip Tribes, Considering Traditional Knowledge (TK) in climate initiatives**

Preston is a Policy Analyst for the Tulalip Tribes. He provides policy advice on the best practices of incorporating traditional knowledge into natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and treaty rights to biodiversity. Preston worked for 20 years on the United Nations System, working at the World Intellectual Property Organization and is also involved with the Climate and Traditional Knowledges Workgroup. Preston presented the Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives. Fourteen tribal authors were included in the writing of the guidelines. He explained that the guidelines were developed in order to address past and present issues, including TK in Climate Change initiatives or management actions. These guidelines provide a framework when using TK in climate change adaptation. Preston noted that if TK is going to be used, it needs to be protected. There are issues with how TK can be inappropriately implemented and used without the right framework or approach. Tribal perspectives and tribal government need to be included and understood when using TK. Preston emphasized that TK does not have one universal definition and that there are many phrases that are used including: Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Traditional Intellectual Knowledge, and Traditional Indigenous Knowledge. To access the guidelines:

<https://climatetkw.wordpress.com/guidelines/>.

### **Dr. Kyle Whyte, Professor and Timnick Chair in the Humanities, Departments of Philosophy and Community Sustainability, Michigan State University**

Kyle's research aims to address moral and political issues concerning climate policy and Indigenous peoples, the ethics of cooperative relationships between indigenous peoples and science organizations, and problems of indigenous justice. Kyle is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is involved and participates in several projects and organizations that advance Indigenous research methodologies. One project that Kyle helps conduct is the Northwest Tribal Climate Camp. The camp focuses on key events for climate change and aims to empower tribal staff and community members to come together in addressing climate change. When you think of your tribe and the educational system that everyone participates in, is there any TK in that education? Is it shaping how students are exposed to science? How TK can be a part of the broader educational system? The only challenge that is posed in terms of considering TK as a part of current science curriculum is letting scientists know that they can do more to increase awareness. TK is not in conflict with western science, it adds people, reciprocity, responsibility, and accountability. Are humans carrying out their responsibilities and their culture? Usually the answer is no and this puts us at a disadvantage. How do we identify those tribal programs that already exist, that don't seem they would be related to climate change and make it important to everything that tribes are doing? Kyle emphasized the need to incorporate TK and Climate Change into

all tribal programs including: education, health, economic development, disaster response, and food policy.

**Dr. Frank Kanawha Lake, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station- TK and Climate change adaptation: Traditional Use of Fire**

Frank currently serves a Research Ecologist at the USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station, Fire and Fuels Program. His research includes the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge into landscape restoration strategies, wildland fire and forest management, and the effects of climate change in the Pacific Northwest and northern California, with an emphasis on the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion. For the PNW Research Station, Frank is the Tribal Climate Change contact and lead coordinating scientist for the Redwood Experimental Forest and Western Klamath Restoration Partnership Landscape Collaborative. Traditional Knowledges are things that can be taught but there are things that take training in order to learn. Important questions to consider: What was I trained to do? How do I exercise that knowledge in my profession and in my community and family? What are the sources of indigenous/ tribal knowledge applications and implications? What are best practices of working with tribes and indigenous communities when requesting the use or incorporation of their traditional knowledge and practices? Tribes need to consider what is being affected by doing the following: Identify tribal case studies that can provide geographical representations, cultural areas, and different resources.

**Dr. Daniel Wildcat, Professor at Haskell Indian Nations University**

Dr. Wildcat is the director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center. He also recently formed the American Indian and Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group. His studies focus on Indigenous Knowledge, technology, environment, and education. There are Symbiotic relationships between people and place now that landscapes are different and now that we are different. We are in a struggle to revitalize indigenous languages, which are often the foundation of our worldviews. It's important to remember the relationship between languages and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. We need to be mindful of the kinds of relationships, partnerships, and coalitions that we are a part of. Indigenous peoples need to be in leadership roles. The best thing we can do is honor the fact that our most ancient knowledges (which are embodied knowledges; we didn't have to take TEK 101 or 102) are a way of life embedded in our customs, lifeways, songs, languages, everything. One issue we are faced is the overwhelming boundaries that are created by property rights. We need to understand TK through a paradigm of relatives rather than property and resources. If we do, people will start coming to us, then we can explain to them how our communities will negotiate and enact what we can and cannot share. Forming partnerships and alliances may be difficult work but we are the right people to make that happen. **"We need to roll up our sleeves and do the work."**

**Participant Q&A and Reflections:**

Difficult to teach our ways of life to our younger generations because we were discouraged to practice those ways of life. In today's world, if we practiced what our people would want, we would not be the primary people using it. Who are we building it up for and what kind of models are we going to use to protect it? How are we going to teach our children when we have to compete with modern teachings and schools? How is TK used when tribes are primarily funded by federal agencies? How can we get the broader population and planet a little more aware of the UN report which found that biodiversity has the highest levels of success in indigenous managed areas?



- Frank suggested that everything that makes up an ecosystem, including cultural and scientific knowledges, are embodied in human services completed for ecosystems and responsibility to maintain those ecosystems. Those lands need to be placed in the lead of adaptation actions. *“Share what you need to and understand the relationality.”*

## **Breakout Session: Traditional Knowledges in Conservation and Adaptation**

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1. **Are there policies or strategies that your communities are using to address climate change that could scale for implementation at the federal level, including traditional knowledge?**
  - Forest Management plans that include Carbon Sequestration and consider Ecosystem Services – Door for holistic approach (e.g. Suquamish)
  - Forest buffers for streams – federal fencing, managing the forest and saving old growth
  - Need to protect forests for future generations
  - Promote diverse stand management structures and vegetation; need accelerated forestry practices
  - Protect headwaters and sources; recognize key species for watersheds (e.g. Beaver)
  - Salmon Habitat restoration
  - Federal Agencies need to consider riparian ecosystem protection
  - Energy Production
  - Ocean Acidification monitoring
  - Integrate Climate Change education into tribal communities
    - STEM focused youth programs; find funding sources for place specific STEM
  - Community engagement, creating awareness of climate change through social media, and telling stories.
  - Increase federal agency capacity on understanding tribal sovereignty through education and move away from historical norms
    - Workforce training career ladders
    - E.g. collecting knowledge; respecting knowledges and protocols; understand changes to the landscape and how that relates to TK.
    - Recognize our food and water rights as equal (Anishinaabe, NZ Amazon); Look at foods and medicines off-reservation to create a unified voice; Tribal access to landscapes and resources and recognizing treaty rights.
  - Recognize the importance and value of inter-cultural communication across scales, agency boundaries, etc.
    - Partner with agencies based on climate regions; see if lessons across boundaries inform various partnerships and create networks
    - Consortium of scientists and knowledge holders; bridge science and policy decisions
    - Federal scientists need partners to build opportunities for policy and advocacy
    - EPA and western science find a common language among agencies
  - Connecting foods with cycles: Food programs, food sovereignty; ex: Umatilla greenhouse
  - Identify our own blind spots and find the subject matter experts who can communicate across boundaries
  - Tribal nations/people control definitions and should interpret science and knowledge. Sovereignty and self-determination are important in terms of how science and knowledge inform decisions and actions.

- Holistic processes – restoring ecologic processes; Get away from free market approach. Not seeing relatives/resources as commodities; Bring TK to the forefront of management actions and science, and consider how it can be useful in understanding climate change and its impacts.
- Elected representatives need to take this seriously; Hold people accountable.
- USDA Tribal Conservation District

## **2. How are traditional knowledge advancing Indigenous capacity to address climate change?**

- Capacity and Access to tribal communities (location for example) and traditional knowledge.
  - It takes a lifetime to learn about TK. Finding language to communicate science and knowledge
  - TEK can contribute to sovereignty
- Co-develop perspectives/ research/projects using TK to better understand and interact with unique cultural landscapes and create research questions that would lead to compatible management strategies, values, and goals between tribes and agencies.
  - Meet in tribal colleges to develop science
  - Sharing across peoples and places. Work together through intertribal organizations e.g. ATNI, ITEP, and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
  - Exchange approaches and build examples
  - Assess what we already have
- The old ways can be remembered, and can teach us the values of stories, myths, songs, and dances.
  - Community health and well-being
  - Provide resilience for the future. Umatilla First Foods Program
  - Restructuring problem solving
- Tribal education programs and educational curriculum is needed to strengthen tribal self-determination and sovereignty.
  - Interpreting treaties for our children; need to focus on youth.
  - Oregon SB 13 – Integrating tribal history and knowledge in public school curriculum. Umatilla will focus on TK and Climate Change – Teaching and education for everyone
  - Washington state curriculum – Paul Williams – Time Immemorial
  - Not just incorporating into social studies – science math literature
  - Indigenous based science curriculum (PEI)
- Using TK
  - Modern concept for assisted living
  - Intergenerational solutions
- Sharing TK
  - Trust and understanding  
Awareness
  - Who is doing the work?
  - How can we protect what we have?

## **3. What strategies are needed to ensure that traditional knowledges are protected, and appropriately applied, in collaborative climate change initiatives?**

- Ensure for the protection of cultural tribal knowledges and TK as we evolve; Disseminate information data sharing agreements early on in planning process; understand FOIA and how it can be problematic; Policy protecting FPIC
  - Sometimes an institution has a protocol, but not everyone knows/abides

- Realize that everything is affected: clothes, foods, etc. and that TK/Indigenous Knowledge is not homogenous and does not belong to everyone; Culture isn't a class, it's a way of life.
- Policies within tribal communities; Let tribes determine health and own decisions; Foster inter-tribal connections and learn from successful examples; Involvement in planning process
- Project based education and Treaty based education
- Integrate TK into existing efforts, new efforts, and into planning meetings
- Protect TK through federal advisory committees, boards, councils, etc. with tribal representatives
- Ongoing relationship structure (liaison) within state governments
- Major initiatives to zero-out carbon
- University collaboration with tribes

## Day 1 Lunch Keynote

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### **Chuck Schumer, United States Senator of New York. Video address**

Privileged to address tribal leaders on the frontline of climate change adaptation. Recognizing the need for infrastructure and helping leaders get a seat at the table. He is working hard to fight for funding for tribal adaptation. There is far more we must do to adapt to climate change and he looks forward to hearing from the conference attendees.

### **Kailani Sirois, Youth Plaintiff, Our Children's Trust (OCT)**

Kailani is 14 years old and in the 9th grade. She joined OCT in 2017. OCT is an organization that supports youth as future leaders. Climate change is real and it affects all of us. Kailani spoke about her perspective as a young Indigenous woman and how she has been taught how to gather food and give thanks to mother earth for what she provides. In her short life she has already witnessed the changes in our resources. Kailani shared that she cannot just watch as the earth gets worse, so she joined OCT. She also stated, "This dream is not impossible, we can fix what we've created. Climate change will be a memory of the past."

### **Andrea K. Rodgers, Senior Attorney, Our Children's Trust**

Andrea serves as co-counsel on the constitutional youth climate lawsuit against the federal government, *Juliana v. United States*. Andrea provided information on [Juliana v. U.S.](#), filed against the U.S. government in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in 2015. Per the Our Children's Trust Website, the complaint *"asserts that, through the government's affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources."* Andrea also provided information on the OCT [case](#) filed in the State of Washington in 2018. Andrea asked that our leaders to recognize the fundamental right to a healthy climate system and to think about our message of urgency: are you dealing with this issue with the urgency it deserves? For more information about Our Children's Trust, visit: <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>.

## Panel 2: Tribal Climate Resilience: Plans and Actions

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### **Laura Gephardt and Eliza Ghitis, Moderators**

Plans and Actions: Vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and approaches to resiliency are increasing tribal engagement in climate change mitigation and adaptation

### **Nikki Cooley, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)**

Nikki is the co-manager for ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change Program. Her current work at ITEP takes her all over the U.S. to work with regional, national, tribal, and federal partners to address the urgency of climate change impacts on tribal/Indigenous culture and resources. ITEP's website can be found at <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Home/>. ITEP's mission is to increase tribal sovereignty and capacity to conduct Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation planning. There are many frameworks for adaptation plans and we encourage you to use whatever plan is the best one for you. Our framework incorporates tribal frames of mind into a living document (unique). It should always involve and include our traditional identities. There are 30-40 tribal adaptation plans that have been produced. ITEP encourages tribes without plans to look at the ones that are already available. ITEP also has numerous profiles of tribal efforts to address climate change and host tribal climate change adaptation trainings around the country.

### **Dr. Jamie Donatuto and Larry Campbell, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community**

Jamie has worked for the Swinomish Tribe for 20 years and has developed and implemented community-based Indigenous Health Indicators. She is a researcher and practitioner with a current focus on evaluating tribal health-related impacts from climate change, developing community-driven adaptive management projects, and managing a Coast Salish foods and resources community education program. Larry has worked for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community for almost 40 years and currently co-manages the Swinomish Community Environmental Health Program. *"If our land is healthy, if our culture is healthy, if our way of life is healthy, then we will be healthy. But it's not healthy now. How do we balance both tradition and progress? Moving forward we need to figure out how we think and talk about health as an aspect of climate change."* The Indigenous Health Indicators (IHIs) combine two sciences: ways of life and connecting Climate Change to resource impacts through community health indicators. They serve as a "Desktop method" for tribes to conduct a public health assessment that's related to the effects of climate change using the Center for Disease Control Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework. First step is to recognize the connection between health and natural resources and prioritizing it. Those priorities will be different for every community. Then forecast a model based off those priorities and have the community evaluate those priorities and identify next steps. The Indigenous Health Indicators has users consider self-determination and sovereignty as an aspect of health. This model is also useful because it includes a community aspect, getting out and starting the conversation with your community, such as bringing lunch to elders and asking them what they think. We have the ability to share these models and are putting together a cohort to help us learn more about how to better apply them. If you would like to provide feedback on the [Swinomish Indigenous Health curriculum module](#), contact Jamie at [jdonatuto@swinomish.nsn.us](mailto:jdonatuto@swinomish.nsn.us)

### **Angie Hacker, Tribal Climate and Health Project, Prosper Sustainably**

Angie is the Vice President of Prosper Sustainably and is currently developing several regional and national tribal climate change and health adaptation programs and tools to increase tribal capacity. Angie called on health professionals to consider how their work is affected by climate change and to make a critical difference in how that connection is understood. Tribal communities are doing a better

job of collaborating on climate and health adaptation. The Tribal Climate and Health Project focuses on trying to help tribes from across the country. The project was funded by the Environmental Protection Network, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Indian Health Board to help put on the Tribal Climate Health Conference. Visit the [Tribal Climate Health Project](#) which identifies exposures, direct and indirect impacts, and strategies or attend in-person or online. Values-based decision making is what matters, so the framework from the Pala Band can help simplify the process of health/climate assessment so users can focus on decision making.

### **Alexis Malcomb, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation (USRT)**

USRT's project area covers 97,000 square miles and aims to protect and conserve cultural resources, water, and sage brush steppe habitat. USRT's tribes noticed a change in species abundance, shifts in seasons, etc. USRT's mission is to identify and address cultural impacts on water, cultural species, and their habitats. Alexis highlighted four major climate related projects that USRT is working on to include the 2016-2017 [Vulnerability Assessment for the Upper Snake River Watershed](#), where tribal membership and local observations were essential to the success of the assessment. USRT's Climate Adaptation & Strategy Plan aims to construct adaptation strategies that address the vulnerabilities highlighted in the 2016-2017 assessment. The strategies identified will be developed into a workbook to help tribes to enhance resilience. USRT also developed climate resilience videos for each of their member tribes in order to connect with the tribes as a whole, instead of just people with technical backgrounds. All of USRT's projects focus on species of importance and tribal youth.

### **Amelia Marchand, Confederated Colville Tribes (CCT)**

Amelia shared the climate adaptation actions CCT has taken. CCT's Tribal Council developed a holistically organized framework that focused on quality of life, future goals, and creating a future research base. Each paragraph in the framework identifies traditional foods and medicines. The CCT conducted a climate vulnerability assessment starting in 2017, first with a physical driver report (2017) which covered all CCT's reservation lands and their traditional territories in British Columbia. The Tribes' climate assessment included a TEK survey and evaluated 70+ species of importance in the study area. A portion of the education component has been reintegrated into the climate vulnerability assessment. CCT worked with UW Climate Impacts Group to develop communication and youth outreach materials. CCT has applied for a grant to fund a climate change adaptation plan. They have plans that identify and address risks but those are external to natural resources. However, the plans will help inform their future climate adaptation planning. CCT are also working to inform the revision of land use regulations and to ensure adequate protections for floodplains and wetlands, wildfires, and how to incorporate Wildland Urban Interface land management for construction. Other areas the CCT are addressing include: ecological restoration, emergency response and public safety, food sovereignty and protection, water security, permitting, and the production and protection of knowledge.

## **Breakout Session: Tribal Climate Change Resilience: Plans and Actions**

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### **1. What are the most significant needs your tribe has to build resilience and adapt to climate change?**

- Decolonize education; Fund multi-cultural and interdisciplinary science; and raise awareness among tribal citizens through training and citizen science.
  - Online communities, forums, support for this work when can't meet in person
  - Voter registration
  - Knowledgeable staff mentorships

- Youth involvement
- Promote food preservation: engage tribal communities to raise their own food, e.g. local and traditional foods
- Assess response and responsibility in addressing climate impacts (e.g. infrastructure, SLR)
  - Databases to inform climate change trends
- Decentralize renewable energy and provide incentives. Recognize the connections between housing and energy production; Energy sovereignty; Have tribal governance and development reflect climate priorities (rejecting oil and gas incentives)
- Uphold international climate policy/agreements
  - We Are Still In (Paris Climate Accord)
- Ensuring adequate and inclusive funding for: specific tribal needs, disaster and emergency services, and invasive species control and elimination
- Having an adequate land base and mobility to be able to govern allotments and pursue transboundary policies
- Relationship building between agencies and tribes and between different tribal nations.
  - Use trust, common language
  - Through cooperation, partnerships, co-management opportunities, and opportunities for co-investigation
  - Capacity within organizations
  - Connecting adaptive actions and coordination between departments and funding both long-term planning and urgent actions
  - Needs assessment and risk identification
  - Increase decision maker understanding and ensure regulations better align with changes
- Educating sportsmen

## **2. What policies, regulations, and programs have proven particularly useful in assisting communities in mitigating and responding to climate change impacts**

- Climate change within tribal college and university curriculum; Indigenous based science curriculum
  - STAR program in Arizona
  - Eco-cultural immersion programs
- We need infrastructure for transit solutions, Federal Transit Administration guidelines are not reflecting GHG emissions
- Work with BIA programs and other agencies to support tribal priorities: Food sovereignty, entrepreneurship, economic sovereignty, and energy efficiency
  - Funding Concerns/Needs: Capacity needed to help develop grants and relationships and need for multi-year funding
  - Need stronger relationships and MOUs to increase understanding between tribes and funders
- Engage Tribal Leaders in taking action. “Walk the Walk”
  - Make Leadership accountable
  - Think in terms of 7 generations
  - Useful Resources/ Strategies for Assisting your Communities: North Portland Area Indian Health Board – grants and support
  - Community groups, task forces, education (e.g., Kalispell Fisheries, forestry)
  - Indigenous summer planning institute
  - ITEP – online cohorts, workshops, capacity building, EPA, LCCs

- Climate RFPs from Landscape Conservation Cooperatives; Regional consortiums addressing health and climate disaster preparedness
- Tribal Youth Education e.g. Unity Conference
- Agencies need to consider:
  - Aspects of proper consultation with tribes for initiatives or coalitions that will impact or are currently impacting tribes
  - Prior research, WIPO, prior consultation, protocols
- Carbon tax credits – pass legislation that includes tribes, tax breaks, and increases tribal capacity
- Need Tribal Strategic Plans that include:
  - Reservations
  - Department plans that fit into the bigger picture
  - Strategic approaches to use end of year federal funding at tribal level and have a well-vetted funding plan in hand
- Rebuilding Alaska River System (simpler methods)
- Power and irrigation

### **3. What actions or policies could federal agencies take within existing authorities to improve climate change mitigation and resilience in Tribal communities?**

- Increase access to data and decision support tools
- Federal government serves as a mediator between tribes and financial institutions to finance green building, renewable energy, etc. (Federal guarantee for loans)
  - Federal mandate for green building to reflect climate change priorities
  - Promote alternative energy systems on tribal lands
- FEMA, ARMY Corp of Engineers, and USGS need to be pro-active not response oriented; Federal agencies need to fund climate change initiatives.
  - Other Federal programs such as Head Start need to be more responsive to climate change
  - Funding – a lot of program have matching funds – do away with this on reservations – you don’t know what’s happening out there.
  - Increase BIA funding and bring back BIA ATNI Interns and Climate Change Youth funding
  - Provide more technical assistance in developing data sharing agreements
- Acknowledge that climate change is irrefutable
- Update conservation and deregulation policies
- Develop cultural competency and staff
- Consideration of Definitions and Understanding:
  - Local climate impacts vs. collective impacts; create and honor common terms to be flexible at different scales and with unique places
  - Is mitigation proper terminology? Critical examination
- Honor treaty rights, teach about sovereignty and historical relationships, improve consultation, funding resources, and address changing authorities
- Include tribes in federal climate change planning (Canada and US)
  - Keep limited tribal capacity in mind
  - Obtain free, prior, and informed consent
  - Include state and federal planning initiatives
  - Delegate Federal permitting to tribal nations
- Stay in Paris agreement
- No more tax breaks
- Connecting tribes/alliances to build capacity at larger scales

## Lightning Presentations and Posters

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1. **Haley Case-Scott, Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network:** Tribal Climate Adaptation Guidebook
2. **Chas Jones, ATNI / NW CASC:** Tribal Climate Camp: Tribes engaging Tribes to achieve their climate programming goals
3. **Jamie Donatuto, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community:** Methods to bring Indigenous health values equitably into climate change assessments (*table*)
4. **Timothy Horan, Spokane Indian Housing Authority:** Children of the Sun Solar Initiative, "COSSI"
5. **Meade Krosby, Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington,** Tribal Vulnerability Assessment Resources.
6. **Erin Whorton, USGS:** Current and future glacier melt impacts on stream temperature and habitat conditions for threatened cold-water fish species in Washington State rivers
7. **Leland Fuhrig, USGS:** Climate Change Impacts on Washington Groundwater
8. **Megan Heller, Eastern Washington University:** Planning for Climate Change: The Indigenous Perspective
9. **Clifton Cottrell, University of Maryland,** Food-Energy-Water Nexus Analysis in Tribal Climate Planning
10. **Marie Diodati, Department of Environmental Quality:** Food Waste Prevention and Climate
11. **Roger Ebbage, Lane Community College Energy Water Programs:** Water & Energy Programs Online 2-yr degree
12. **Phyllis J. Kardos, Responsible Growth \* NE Washington:** Proposed Newport Silicon Metal Smelter opposition.

## Poster Session

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1. **Jezra Beaulieu, Nooksack Indian Tribe:** Monitoring of the Sholes Glacier, Mount Baker, WA
2. **Nikki Cooley, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals:** Tribes and Climate Change Program
3. **Frank K. Lake, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station:** Understanding Effects of Climate Change on Forest Resources for Tribal Communities in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California
4. **Kimberly Yazzie, University of Washington:** Tailoring Climate Data to Tribal Information Needs: An Example from the Tribal Climate Tool
5. **Sue Kahle, USGS Washington Water Science Center**
6. **Darren McCrea, Colville Tribes:** CO<sub>2</sub> - Too much of a good thing could be killing our trees and other vegetation.
7. **David Jaber, Blue Star Integrative Studio:** Renewable Energy on Tribal Lands
8. **Tracy Morgan, Selkirk Conservation Alliance:** Selkirk Basin Climate and Wildlife Corridor Project

Please refer to the ATNI website at <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/events/> for an executive summary of all abstracts.



## Day 1 Evening Keynote

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### **Nuno Louzeiro, Innergex**

Innergex aims to balance people, the planet, and profits. They also promote an emission free and reliable, stable revenue stream to host communities, partners, and investors. They are a publicly traded organization, and an independent renewable power producer, which develops and operates hydroelectric facilities, wind farms, and solar farms. They have operations located in Canada, the United States, France, and Chile. Innergex focuses on utility scale projects and they have a long history of partnering with indigenous communities. They currently have 44 separate projects with indigenous communities and there is the potential to extend far beyond the sharing of profits produced. The partnership between the Kanaka Bar Indian Band provides more opportunities for future generations.

### **Chief Patrick Michell, Kanaka Bar Indian Band**

Chief Patrick Michell mentioned that foundational changes have taken place within their community since the implementation of the Kwoeik Creek Hydro Project. The Kanaka Bar Indian Band has seen positive changes in their food, energy, planet, and self-sufficiency. Chief Michell stressed the importance of having local weather stations because the data they have collected is site specific to their community. **“You’re guessing if you don’t have site specific data.”** The Kanaka Bar gathered information for 36 years and have mapped all their resources. The community is putting up two more solar projects. There are currently nine operating solar projects within their community that have site specific data. The Kanaka Bar also owns all the water licenses in their territory and they control 100% of all development. They own all the fee simple land in their territory.

- **“Map your assets: leadership need to be prepared to make the decisions.”**
- **“Get involved in the renewable energy sector, understand the policy.”**

## Day 2: Welcome, Invocation, and Keynote

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### Carol Evans, Chairwoman – Spokane Tribe – Invocation

#### **Leonard Forsman, President Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; Chairman Suquamish Tribe**

Leonard emphasized the need to advance climate change work in an adverse political environment. Tribes need to form partnerships and educate their communities and local governments, especially when federal progress is limited. “We are in a crisis, the science backs it up, but not the politics.” Tribes and First Nations are on the frontlines, we have seen this crisis coming a long time before the science came. The changes in the land, fish, berries, and times of harvesting. The Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force has been working decades politically and for thousands of years before that, in order to take care of the land in a sustainable way. We are at a crossroads in human history, our tribal elders warned us of this. There has been an increase in the number and intensity of fires and our glaciers are melting rapidly. We have a lot of allies and it’s important to form those partnerships. We must continue fighting the short-term thinking taking place in Washington D.C. If you’re on tribal council, work with them, stay engaged on different levels. We must educate our local governments and remind them of their responsibilities. Continue to be bold and be present. Clean water is good for the economy. We need to invest in better technology and create a more bipartisan approach to addressing climate change. We have to protect our treaty resources that are crucial to us.

#### **Anne Marie Chischilly, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern Arizona University**

Anne Marie talked about the need to recognize and allow for “climate grieving/mourning” and remember to take care of each other. How many of you have dealt with some climate factor up front? Floods? Fires? “I was doing reviews of my staff and I decided I would bring up climate grief, climate anxiety.” Hope and empowerment can come from these conversations. There are a lot of people out there that are a one or two-person organization and they have no one to talk to. Supervisors and tribal leaders need to recognize what climate grief is and what it looks like. How we introduce this to our children is of utmost importance. Our children are the 7th generation, the ones who we have been speaking of. That’s a heavy burden to have as a young one but all the generations coming up have that burden. We have over 500 years of resilience in our DNA, running strong through the plagues, the Indian Wars, the Long Walks, boarding schools, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, but we are still standing, we are still fighting, and we will keep doing it.

- “No matter where we are, where we stand, we will rise up.”
- “All we need is hope because we have each other.”

#### **Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; NCAI Climate Action Task Force Co-Chair**

Chairman Cladoosby emphasized the need to take this fight to the White House and Congress and the need to request a hearing on the environmental impacts to Tribal communities. He encouraged participants to consider that [we] are survivors, not victims, and that we need to teach and train our children about the importance of taking care of mother earth. He also challenged participants to always tell their stories and to educate Congress to ensure that they understand that tribes are leaders in this movement and that tribes are doing this for the seventh generation.

## **Policy Plenary A: Tribal Policy: What Policies have Tribes Implemented to Advance Climate Adaptation and Mitigation?**

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### **Will Micklin, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska**

In addition to climate change, South East Alaska (SE AK) tribes are facing impacts related to cruise ship dumping of waste and mining impacts upriver in British Columbia. For states that do not directly contribute to climate change, they are the ones who can ally with tribal nations to help indigenous governments reclaim sovereignty. Our grandchildren are most likely to be alive in 2100, which is also when most of the climate impacts will be occurring. There are 16 Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) tribes in SE AK and each have their own issues with climate and different affiliations. All of the IRA tribes are working together on climate change. The impacts are significant and most states are not prepared for what will occur after a 2 degrees Celsius rise. Through indigenous leadership, we need to diffuse the carbon cycle. Will mentioned the Tribal Climate Adaptation Guidebook as a helpful resource in developing overarching strategies and approaches to climate change that fit within tribal goals and priorities. Impacts caused by climate change that we must consider: Waste dumping from cruise lines; Transboundary mining impacts; there is a treaty that prohibits this but it's being violated by corporations that pose an existential threat. We need to enhance participation in the UN assembly directly and address domestic issues.

### **Kenneth Weitzel, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska**

Kenneth is the Natural Resource Specialist at Tlingit and Haida and is working on climate change adaptation, transboundary watersheds and mining, GIS, and forestry land management. The transboundary river water study is one of the most significant studies in Southeast Alaska. The report can be summed up in one word: Salmon. Tlingit and Haida are working with many tribes and tribal members in collecting shellfish data in order to measure toxicity. [South East Alaska Tribes Ocean Research](#) (SEATOR) and the Sitka Tribe are well known for their science and shellfish research. Toxicity in shellfish has been a huge issue this summer for the tribes. Tlingit and Haida Tribes are also doing research on harmful algal blooms, as well as ocean acidification and shellfish biomass using spatial analysis. All Tlingit and Haida tribes have an in-house GIS shop. Terrestrially, they are doing forest inventory reports and management plans.

### **Tim Horan, Spokane Tribal Energy Project**

Tim is the Executive Director of the [Spokane Indian Housing Authority](#) (SIHA) for which he has overseen several large housing developments. SIHA is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity of the Spokane Indian Tribe. SIHA was established in 1971 to meet the housing needs of the Tribe through providing safe, decent, and affordable housing to its members. SIHA is currently installing the Children of the Sun Solar Initiative (COSSI) which will save the Tribe \$2.8 million over its 35-year lifespan. This project supports energy sovereignty with 650 kW of PV solar on 23 residences and 9 tribal buildings. Phase II will provide solar for the balance of the managed units and works toward creating a microgrid system.

### **Mike Durglo, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (SKC)**

Mike is the Department Head for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Historic Preservation Department. He mentioned that SKC's Climate Change Adaptation Program is supported by tribal policy. The tribe started their adaptation planning in 2011 and received \$30,000 to conduct the climate adaptation plan. The Tribe's first adaptation plan was completed in 2012. CSK is one of the first tribes to update their adaptation plan. Last year the tribe applied for the BIA Tribal Resilience Program (BIA TRP)

to rewrite the plan. With the BIA TRP funding, the tribe can bring people together to support the rewriting of plan. The CSKT are looking for ways to share this information more effectively.

## **Policy Plenary B: Regional and National Climate Policy Partnerships: How can Tribes and States Work Together on Climate Policy and What Opportunities Existing at the National Level**

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### **Don Sampson, ATNI Climate Change Project Director**

We started the climate program in 2014 and are focused on assessing and planning for climate change impacts on our member tribes. ATNI is working to build alliances between tribes and states where we have common cause. We believe the quickest way to address climate change is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, work locally, and foster collaboration between tribes and states. We have placed our support behind the alternatives available in reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions. The first alternative is implementing a carbon tax, which has been introduced in Washington State, but did not pass. Another alternative is Cap and Trade, which was introduced in Oregon and almost passed in the 2019 legislative session. Cap and Trade programs give an allowance for each ton of GHG emitted, total number of allowances available are capped, and industries can trade spare allowances with industries that require more allowances. Carbon pricing is the most effective and easiest way to reduce emissions. By the end of 2014, 30 countries will have some form of carbon pricing in place but we are still nowhere near addressing the external costs of climate change and GHG emissions.

- Pacific Institute Climate Solutions - Video: Goods and services we produce and consume are a main source of GHG; this is a market failure. The simplest way to correct this failure is to reduce carbon dioxide by putting a price on carbon through carbon reduction initiatives. Reducing emissions can stimulate innovation. Taxing carbon emitters offers 3 key benefits: emissions decline which allows producers to become more efficient, revenue can be used to fund sustainable initiatives, and annual increases encourages less fossil fuel use.

### **Lauren McCloy, Senior Policy Advisor Washington Governor's Office**

The State of Washington's climate work is connected to energy, transportation, building, and natural resources. Lauren highlighted the 2008 greenhouse gas limits legislation in Washington that requires the state to meet certain GHG emissions reductions by 2020, 2035, and 2050. They're 10 years into implementing the bill, but the new science shows that those limits are not strong enough. This year, Governor Inslee passed a package of legislation to make the most progress yet toward meeting those statewide targets, passing bills to move toward 100 percent clean electricity, promote clean buildings, improve clean transportation, and phase down super-pollutants. Governor Inslee has taken executive action to make sure that state agencies are taking a leadership role in reducing their GHG emissions through fleets, buildings, and reducing toxic chemicals. Governor Inslee also co-founded the U.S. climate alliance which includes 25 U.S. States and territories who are committed to implementing policies that follow the Paris Accord. The Governor's office is working closely with Washington Tribes, the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, and other stakeholders on deciding what steps to take next in addressing climate change.

### **Shilpa Joshi, Oregon Clean Energy Jobs Bill (HB 2020)**

*"Building coalitions with Tribes on Oregon's cap, trade, and invest program –what happened and what are the next steps"* Shilpa gave an overview of what occurred in Oregon and the Clean Energy Jobs Bill, which would have set a price on carbon and focused on Cap and Trade. Although the bill didn't pass,

Shilpa talked about next steps and the work that the Renew Oregon Coalition did with Oregon Tribes in developing and supporting the bill. As a coalition, we recognized the need for more messengers and how it applies to Oregonians. We need to make this bill more real to those who are being affected.

**Keith Hatch, BIA Northwest Region Fisheries Biologist and Regional Contact for the Tribal Resilience Program**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Ocean and Coastal management is about 40% of the Tribal Resilience Program and is a place where states and tribes work together. The whole of the program has allocated about \$9.9 million since beginning. Currently, about \$7 million goes into the program, the other \$2 million goes into funding the tribal liaisons and the NW Science Conference. Currently, no cost extensions are due. *“Secret to change: Don’t fight the old, focus on building the new.”*

**Direlle Calica: Tribal Energy Policy Manager, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation**

*“How regional and national renewable energy and energy conservation can support Tribal climate resilience”* Direlle provided information on the ATNI Tribal Renewable Energy program which is intended to support tribal/ indigenous climate resilience. ATNI’s program has focused on national and regional policy, energy efficiency and conservation, advocacy, and education, training, and technical assistance.

**Joel Moffett, Moderator, Natural Resources coordinator for ATNI**

Northwest tribes are leading the way in climate change policy. We have two options of reducing GHG emissions. Two years ago tribal leaders rolled up their sleeves in addressing these options to hold polluters accountable through a coalition of partners. These coalitions came up with an initiative, including SB 1631 that was placed on the ballot in 2018 but did not pass. Tribes want to stay engaged, they want to maintain that coalition and strength from standing together.

## **Day 2 Lunch Keynote**

**Clarita Lefthand-Begay, University of Washington**

*“Using science and traditional knowledge to support Tribal climate policy”*. How can we use science to combat climate change? We can try and partner with universities and agencies, which takes time, money, and a great deal of expertise, but encourages us to use a sustainable model. We can also convince our youth that they too can be scientists and decision makers. It is an investment that can help us to fully answer the question. Are there questions that we can’t ask our people? Is there a certain time of the year or day when we should not be asking or conducting a question? How can we indigenize the scientific method?

**Paulette Jordan- Snake River Dam Removal**

## **Policy Plenary C: International Policy and Tribal Engagement at the United Nations on climate change.**

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**Kyle Whyte, Moderator**

There are a lot of individuals who have taken on the work in an international sense but there is still room for many of us in these spaces. If all of our leaders want to be effective in representing our interests, then we can all get involved in the international realm.

### **Preston Hardison, UNDRIP and WIPO International Indigenous Peoples Caucus**

*“What are the current issues affecting U.S. Tribal governments”.* The WIPO process has a lot of indigenous participation, which is increasing. These UN bodies can be influenced; there are a lot of opportunities for tribes to participate. WIPO is recognizing the rights of cultural and genetic resources -- focused on aspects of change. They have not had tribal delegates on their council and they don't seek tribal advice. Be aware, the space to participate is there but there are some challenges. We need real consultation and not just listening sessions.

### **Kim Gottschalk, Native American Rights Fund**

In 1992 the UN started a framework on climate. Indigenous people from around the world realize they have a stake in this process and have been recognized as official constituencies in the UNFCCC (9 total). The term “Local Communities” is a real problem; no one knows who they are, where they are, and they don't currently have a constituency. Three things to focus on: knowledge, capacity building, and transferring those priorities into policy.

### **Frank Ettawageshik, NCAI Representative to the U.N. International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change**

There are indigenous caucus meetings that take place before the UN meetings. All you need to join is to just show up. You have a domestic policy and you have a foreign policy (dealing with a government outside of your own). Tribes need to budget in order to send a tribal leader and dedicated staff to international meetings. Figure out the costs, find support, and obtain the proper credentials. WIPO aims to define indigenous people's participation in international meetings.

## **Breakout Session: Policy**

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- 1. What new policies would you recommend Congress consider improving climate change resilience in your communities, reduce emissions of heat-trapping pollution, increase the development and availability of renewable resources, or capture or off-set emissions of heat-trapping pollution?**
  - Cap and trade policies on the national level
  
- 2. How can Tribes protect tribal climate programs, funding, initiatives, and policy under the current administration?**
  - Work Collaboratively with state, local, and regional governments
  - Create strong partnerships
  - Make sure your communities understand the importance of voting
  - Educate our youth and help them gain the experience they need to take on the work your tribes are already doing
  
- 3. What are the most significant climate change priorities that Tribes and First Nations should be working on collectively at state, regional, national, and international levels?**
  - Infrastructure
  - Renewable Energy
  - Sustainable practices
  - Education, Youth

**4. What opportunities are there to work collaboratively on advancing tribal climate change priorities?**

- Data sharing?
- Combined climate initiatives
- Information gathering
- Planning
- Community engagement
- Federal obligation to protect trust resources
- Separate tribal comments from other US Comments; tribal input IS NOT public input
- Recognize Tribal sovereignty
- Congress should improve recycling process and infrastructure
- Move away from petroleum-based plastics
- Fossil fuel based energy systems must pay costs that exceed those of renewables
- Promote clean energy development in tribal communities
- Congress should develop policies and incentives for renewable energy generation on hospitals, police, and infrastructure (solar development and storage)
- Overturn Citizens United

## **Closing Session and Remarks**

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**Haley Case-Scott, Research Assistant Program Intern at PNW Tribal CC Network**

**Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes**

**Frank Ettawageshik Executive Director, United Tribes of Michigan**

Frank made the following recommendations:

- streamline federal grant processes/programs to provide full support for tribal climate programs;
- create policies that ensure utility companies cannot reject tribally-generated renewable energy generation (e.g., windmills);
- eliminate the exemption for DOD for environmental regulation (EIS, NEPA, etc.);
- create incentive program for conservation and recycling and renewable energy

## Senate Request for Input from American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Community Leaders about Potential Solutions and Adaptive Responses to Climate Change

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1. **What policies, regulations, and programs have proven particularly useful in assisting your communities in mitigating and responding to climate change impacts?**
  - Climate change within tribal college and university curriculum; Indigenous based science curriculum
    - STAR program in Arizona
    - Eco-cultural immersion programs
  - We need infrastructure for transit solutions and Federal Transit Administration guidelines are not reflecting GHG emissions
  - Work with BIA programs and other agencies to support tribal priorities: Food sovereignty, entrepreneurship, economic sovereignty, and energy efficiency
    - Funding Concerns/Needs: Capacity needed to help develop grants and relationships, need for multi-year funding
    - Need stronger relationships and MOUs to increase understanding between tribes and funders
  - Engage Tribal Leaders in taking action. “Walk the Walk”
    - Make Leadership accountable
    - Think in terms of 7 generations
    - Useful Resources/ Strategies for Assisting your communities: North Portland Area Indian Health Board – grants and support
    - Community groups, task forces, education, (e.g., Kalispell Fisheries, forestry)
    - Indigenous summer planning institute
    - ITEP – online cohorts, workshops, capacity building, EPA, LCCs
    - Climate RFPs from Landscape Conservation Cooperatives; Regional Consortiums regarding health and climate disaster preparedness
    - Tribal Youth Education, e.g. Unity Conference
  - Agencies need to consider:
    - Aspects of proper consultation with tribes for initiatives or coalitions that will impact tribes
    - Prior research, WIPO, prior consultation, protocols
  - Carbon tax credits
    - Pass legislation that includes tribes, tax breaks, and increases tribal capacity
  - Need Tribal Strategic Plans that include:
    - Reservations
    - Department plans that fit into the bigger picture
    - Strategic approaches to use end of year federal funding at tribal level; have a well-vetted funding plan in hand
  - Rebuilding Alaska River System (simpler methods)
  - Power and Irrigation
2. **Are there policies or strategies that your communities are using to address climate change that could scale for implementation at the federal level, including traditional knowledge?**



- Forest Management plans that include carbon sequestration and consider ecosystem services; Door for holistic approach (e.g. Suquamish)
- Forest buffers for streams – federal fencing; Managing the forest and saving old growth
- Need to protect forests for the future generation
- Promote diverse stand management structures and vegetation; need accelerated forestry practices
- Protect headwaters and sources; recognize key species for watersheds (e.g. Beaver)
- Salmon Habitat restoration
- Federal Agencies need to consider riparian ecosystem protection
- Energy Production
- Ocean acidification monitoring
- Integrate Climate Change education into tribal communities
  - STEM focused youth programs; find funding sources for place specific STEM
- Community engagement by creating awareness of climate change through social media and telling stories.
- Increase federal agency capacity on understanding tribal sovereignty through education and move away from historical norms
  - Workforce training career ladders
  - E.g. collecting knowledge; respecting knowledges and protocols; understand changes to the landscape and how that relates to TK.
  - Recognize our food and water rights as equal (Anishinaabe, NZ Amazon); look at foods and medicines off-reservation to create a unified voice; tribal access to landscapes and resources, recognizing treaty rights.
- Recognize the importance and value of inter-cultural communication across scales, agency boundaries, etc.
  - Partner with agencies based on climate regions; see if lessons across boundaries inform various partnerships and create networks
  - Consortium of scientists and knowledge holders; bridge science and policy decisions
  - Federal scientists need partners to build opportunities for policy and advocacy
  - EPA and western science should find a common language among agencies
- Connecting foods with cycles: food programs, food sovereignty (ex: Umatilla greenhouse)
- Identify our own blind spots and find the subject matter experts use to communicate across boundaries
- Tribal nations/people control definitions and should interpret science and knowledge. Sovereignty and self-determination are important in terms of how science and knowledge inform decisions and actions.
- Holistic processes – restoring ecologic processes: get away from the free market approach; not seeing relatives/resources as commodities; bring TK to the forefront of management actions and science and consider how it can be useful in understanding climate change and its impacts?
- Elected representatives need to take this seriously and hold people accountable
- USDA Tribal Conservation District

**3. What actions or policies could federal agencies take within existing authorities to improve climate change mitigation and resilience in your communities?**

- Increase access to data and decision support tools

- Federal government serves as a mediator between tribes and financial institutions to finance green building, renewable energy, etc. (Federal guarantee for loans)
  - Federal mandate for green building to reflect climate change priorities
  - Promote alternative energy systems on tribal lands
- FEMA, ARMY Corp of Engineers, and USGS need to be pro-active and not response oriented; Federal agencies need to fund climate change initiatives
  - Other Federal programs like Head Start need to be more responsive to climate change
  - Funding – many programs have matching funds – do away with this on reservations because the federal government does not know what’s happening out there
  - Increase BIA funding and bring back the BIA ATNI Interns and Climate Change Youth Funding
  - Provide more technical assistance in developing data sharing agreements
- Acknowledge that climate change is irrefutable
- Update conservation and deregulation policies
- Develop cultural competency and staff
- Consideration of Definitions and Understanding:
  - Local climate impacts vs. collective impacts; create and honor common terms to be flexible at different scales and with unique places
  - Is mitigation proper terminology? Needs critical examination
- Honor treaty rights, teach about sovereignty and historical relationships, improve consultation, funding resources, and address changing authorities
- Include tribes in Federal climate change planning (Canada and US)
  - Keep limited tribal capacity in mind
  - Obtain free, prior, and informed consent
  - Include state and federal planning initiatives
  - Delegate Federal permitting to tribal nations
- Stay in Paris agreement
- No more tax breaks
- Connecting tribes/alliances to build capacity at larger scales

**4. What new policies would you recommend Congress consider to improve climate change resilience in your communities, reduce emissions of heat-trapping pollution, increase the development and availability of renewable resources, or capture or off-set emissions of heat-trapping pollution?**

- Cap and trade policies on the national level
- Recognize Tribal Sovereignty in climate change collaborations:
  - Federal obligation to protect trust resources
  - Separate tribal comments from other US Comments; tribal input IS NOT public input
- Work collaboratively with state, local, and regional governments; create strong partnerships
- Increase voter registration in tribal communities
- Educate our youth and help them gain the experience they need to take on the work your tribes are already doing
- Identify the most significant climate change priorities: infrastructure, sustainable practices, education, and youth
- Advance collaborative climate change policies: information gathering, data sharing, and community engagement
- Congress should improve recycling processes and infrastructure

- Policies to further renewable energy:
  - Move away from petroleum-based plastics
  - Fossil fuel based energy systems must pay costs that exceed those of renewables
  - Promote clean energy development in tribal communities
  - Congress develop policies and incentives for renewable energy generation for hospitals, police, and infrastructure (solar development and storage)

## Resources

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### ATNI Climate Change Summit:

- Agenda: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/ts-info/past-summits/2019-ts/2019-ts-agenda/>
- Speaker Bios: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/ts-info/past-summits/2019-ts/2019-ts-agenda/2019-ts-speakers/>
- Lightning Presentation and Poster Abstracts: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/ts-info/past-summits/2019-ts/2019-abstracts/>

### Tribal Climate Change Resources:

- Online Tribal Climate Change Guide: <https://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu/>
- Tribal Climate and Health Project: <http://tribalclimatehealth.org/>
- Swinomish Curriculum: <http://www.swinomish-nsn.gov/ihi/>
- Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Home/>
- Rising Voices: <https://risingvoices.ucar.edu/>
- Tribal Climate Adaptation Guidebook: <http://www.occri.net/projects/tribal-climate-adaptation-guidebook/>
- Tribal Vulnerability Assessment Resources: <https://cig.uw.edu/resources/tribal-vulnerability-assessment-resources/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention BRACE Framework: <https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/BRACE.htm>
- U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit: <https://toolkit.climate.gov/>
- Fourth National Climate Assessment: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <https://www.ipcc.ch/>
- Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives: <https://climatetkw.wordpress.com/>
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives: <https://lccnetwork.org/cooperatives>
- USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers: <https://www.usgs.gov/land-resources/climate-adaptation-science-centers>
- Intertribal Timber Council: <https://www.itcnet.org/>
- Native American Rights Fund: <https://www.narf.org/>
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Resilience Program: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/tribal-resilience-program>
- 2019 Tribal Climate Camp Resources: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/tribal-climate-camp/tcc-pastcamps/tcc2019/2019-tcc-resources/>