

ATNI Tribal Climate Resilience Committee (CRC)

Strategic Development Team: Introductory Meeting 10/01/2025

Purpose of this document:

Provides an overview of the ongoing Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Climate Resilience Committee strategic development team (task force), that: **(1)** frames an Information Sharing Network (ISN) concept with input from participants; **(2)** details four coordinated Strategic Working Groups with specific functional areas; **(3)** prepares continued development processes, including a working session at the ATNI Annual Convention, and **(4)** organizes immediate next steps and decision points to present to the ATNI CRC voting members for official endorsement.

Participants included:

Avery, Kylie: Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison; Special Projects Manager, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) | *Meeting Facilitator*

Barrett, Doug: Chief, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

Burke, Lea Anne: Tribal Affairs Manager, Puget Sound Partnership

Fernandez, Andrew: Bright Night Power

FiveCrows, Jeremy: Communications, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Freeland, Patrick: Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison, ATNI | *Meeting Facilitator*

Gephart, Laura: Deputy Watershed Manager, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Ghitis, Eliza: Climate Scientist, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Glazewski, Matthew: Washington Climate Corps Network

Israel, Jessie: The Nature Conservancy

James, Aiyana: Climate Resilience Coordinator, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Kralj, Jimmy: Washington State Department of Ecology

Masterman, Stephanie: Tribal Nations Senior Manager, Washington Conservation Action

Pretty Boy, Jason: Philanthropy Northwest

Pullin, Dawn: Tribal Affairs Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Rattling Leaf, James: Consultant, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Integrated Drought Information System (NOAA-NIDIS)

Rohlf, Annie: Public Affairs Specialist, Department of Environmental Quality Cleanup Program

Sherman, Eddie: Against the Current Consulting; *Co-chair, ATNI Climate Resilience Committee*

Shirley, Antoinette: Tribal Forest Management Postdoctoral Fellow, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Northwest Climate Hub

Smaus, Annise: Climate Resilience Specialist, Suquamish Tribe

Sparks, Wendy: Community Development Office, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Stelmach, Gregory Joseph: Postdoctoral Scholar, Oregon State University

Veldez, Kate: Yakama Nation Fisheries

Wilson, Candice: Executive Director for Tribal Health and Relations, Lummi Nation



1. Executive Summary

A. Information Sharing Network (ISN)

Calling on the ATNI CRC to endorse designing and piloting a federated, highly secure and sovereignty-focused, inter-Tribal Information Sharing Network that catalogs ongoing Tribal climate initiatives, resources (including but not limited to: environmental data, resources, knowledge base, etc.) and supports rapid coordination. Initial development (pending approval from the ATNI CRC) will include continued exploration of solutions, associated development costs, infrastructure and technical requirements, and operational and user considerations. Recommendations are to prioritize developing partnerships with trusted inter-Tribal organizations, learning from Tribes or Tribally-affiliated organizations on implementation costs and requirements, and exploring integration with existing systems before developing a full database in-house.

B. Strategic Working Groups (SWGs)

Calling on the ATNI CRC to endorse formation of four coordinated SWGs to distribute implementation and accelerate delivery of CRC strategic development goals:

1. **Intertribal Strategic Defense (ISD)** – Tribal leadership & delegates only; authorization, priority identification, coalitions, knowledge protection.
2. **Research, Science, & Technical Assistance (RSTA)** – researchers & institutional partners; co-production, data access, environmental monitoring, AI/TK ethics.
3. **Governance, Policy & Advocacy (GPA)** – policy practitioners; protocols, consultation integration, funding equity, authority strengthening.
4. **Resources & Capacity (R&C)** – NGOs, universities, inter-Tribal orgs; fundraising & philanthropic coordination, workforce development, community engagement, media and issue attention

C. Near-term Outputs (presented at ATNI Winter Convention)

Calling on the ATNI CRC to endorse formation of four coordinated SWGs to distribute implementation and accelerate delivery of CRC strategic development goals:

- **ISN Proof-of-Concept:** Minimum-viable, federated directory of projects and contacts; common metadata; data classification & consent layers.
- **ATNI Tribal Climate Adaptation Profiles:** Fully development methodology & template; finalized OR Tribal Climate Adaptation Profiles¹; 6-8 pilot profiles (ecoregion-balanced); analysis of ATNI member Tribes' climate projections
- **Data Sovereignty, AI Usage & Knowledge Protection Guidance:** Data Provenance/Governance, FOIA risk posture, CARE/FAIR-aligned guardrails,

¹Authorized via ATNI Resolution #24-15, passed at the 2024 Midyear Convention, provides a framework for meaningful collaboration between Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes and the Oregon Climate Action Commission (OCAC) in implementing natural climate solutions under Oregon House Bill 3409; including supporting development of an OR Tribal Engagement Strategy and development of OR Tribal Climate Adaptation Profiles through ATNI Climate.

Local Contexts TK Labels, and AI policies governing content management, data processing and cross-network protocols for AI systems (ANI, LLM, RAG, etc.).

- **Policy Calendar & Rapid-Response Playbook:** Implementation of Policy & Advocacy working group, consultation windows, partnership identification, funding cycles, and integrated policy recommendations
- **Resource & Workforce Map:** Comprehensive identification of partners, fellowships, career pathways; draft philanthropic prospectus.

D. Decision at ATNI Winter Convention Climate Resilience Committee

Pending full endorsement, the CRC recommends ATNI resolution(s) authorizing: (1) ISN pilot (federated model), (ii) SWG launch and charters, (iii) governance & data-sovereignty framework, and (iv) resourcing plan.

2. Information Sharing Network (ISN)

2.1 Problem to Solve

- Member Tribes need a fast, secure way to identify ongoing climate adaptation efforts (**who is doing what, where, and with whom?**) to coordinate, avoid duplication, fill gaps, and lead rapid-response”
- ATNI currently lacks capacity for a development of a centralized database with necessary infrastructure; **federation and partnership** are the pragmatic path.

2.2 Scope (initial)

- **Directory & Metadata:** Projects, status, leads, partners, ecoregion, hazards, key docs/links.
- **Profiles:** ATNI Tribal Climate Adaptation Profiles (public-facing summaries with clear consent).
- **Rapid-Response Channels:** Targeted updates for events (funding windows, disasters, policy shifts, misinformation).
- **Governance & Security:** OCAP-aligned custody; consent; tiered access; audit trail; TK labels; MOU & DUAs.

2.3 Architecture Options (ranked)

Option A – Federated Index with Trusted Partners (recommended)

- **What:** Lightweight ATNI index that points to/ingests **publicly shareable** metadata from partners (e.g., existing inter-Tribal hubs, research alliances), with opt-in contribution from Tribes.
- **Why:** Lowest cost/speed to value; avoids duplicating mature systems; reduces FOIA exposure by minimizing central storage.
- **Needs:** Common schema; contributor agreements; review workflow; hosting + identity management.

Option B – Alliance-Hosted Hub (Trusted InterTribal organizations)

- **What:** A partner with established secure infrastructure hosts a shared workspace with ATNI governance.
- **Why:** Inherits security & staffing; clear data-custody lines.
- **Needs:** Joint governance board; cost-share/MOA; scoped SLAs.

Option C – University-Hosted (MOU + IRB pathways)

- **What:** University partner hosts with strict access controls and research compliance.
- **Why:** Staffing depth; research pipelines; student workforce.
- **Risks:** IP/sovereignty clarity; publication pressures; long MOUs.

Option D – Custom Build

- **What:** Dedicated ATNI tenancy, managed service.
- **Why:** Feature control; enterprise security.
- **Risks:** Higher cost; staffing; ongoing maintenance.

2.4 Data Sovereignty & Security (baseline)

- **Classification:** T0 Public | T1 Community-share | T2 Government-to-Government | T3 Sensitive TK/No-share.
- **Consent & Labels:** CARE/FAIR alignment; **Local Contexts TK Labels;** explicit sharing consents per artifact.
- **Access Control:** Role-based + least-privilege; Tribal-controlled keys where feasible; audit logging.
- **FOIA Posture:** Favor partner-hosted/federated models; avoid centralizing sensitive records; route requests per custodian.
- **Agreements:** MOU + DSMOA templates; contributor license terms; opt-out / take-down mechanism; data provenance/governance compliance standards
- **AI Guardrails:** No model training on T2/T3; require TK labels & consent for any automated summarization; maintain provenance.

2.5 Rapid-Response Logic Map (concept)

Trigger → Intake → Triage Cell → SWG Activation → Targeted Comms → Follow-Up

- **Triggers:** Policy windows; extreme events; funding calls; priority research gaps; misinformation.
- **Intake:** Single form/email; tag by ecoregion, hazard, urgency ,etc.
- **Triage Cell:** Designated point of accountability; active conflict resolution
- **Activation:** Assign leads; time-boxed sprints; produce action memos, template letters, fact sheets, and contacts
- **Comms:** Informed from Tribal leaders, practitioners, partners (T2/T3 boundaries)
- **Follow-Up:** Capture outcomes; update directory; lessons learned

3. Strategic Working Group Charters

3.1 Intertribal Strategic Defense (ISD)

Membership: Restricted to Tribal leadership/delegates designated by governments.

Purpose: Set priorities; authorize coalitions/partnerships; protect critical knowledge; guide rapid responses.

- Priority threats/opportunities list (top 10) + alignment to ecoregions.
- Allies & red-lines map; partnership vetting rubric.
- Knowledge-protection posture (TK labels, consent, FOIA strategy).

3.2 Research Sciences & Technical Assistance (RSTA)

Membership: Researchers, university partners, education programs, data managers.

Purpose: Co-produce knowledge; coordinate data access; build monitoring; map research gaps; lead AI/TK ethics.

- Ecoregion-based research-gap matrix (hazard × ecoregion × timeline).
- Pilot **Tribal Climate Adaptation Profiles** (5–8).
- **AI & Knowledge Protection Guidance v0.1** (CARE/FAIR, Local Contexts, provenance).

3.3 Governance, Advocacy, & Policy (GAP)

Membership: Tribal policy staff; state/federal practitioners; legal advisors as invited.

Purpose: Formal protocol(s); embed consultation; strengthen authority; funding equity.

- Consultation & policy calendar (rolling 12 months).
- Rapid-response advocacy kit (templates; contact lists; briefing notes).
- Draft policy principles for ATNI adoption.

3.4 Adaptation Resources & Capacity (ARC)

Membership: NGOs, universities, inter-Tribal orgs, philanthropy partners.

Purpose: Centralize resources; workforce pipelines; TA matchmaking; communications amplification.

- TA & Workforce map; fellowship/intern pathways.
- Philanthropy prospectus + 3–5 priority funders and LOIs.
- Media/communications plan aligned to ISN outputs.

4. Timeline

- **Now → Convention (Pre-work):** Comprehensive “Vision”; design ISN schema; articulate SWG and roles
- **ATNI 2025 Annual Convention:** CRC presentation & discussion; committee endorsement
- **Interim (Oct - Dec):** ISN proof-of-concept (directory + submission form) live; SWG pilot(s); draft resolutions
- **ATNI Winter Convention:** Present revised strategic plan; evaluate success of ISN proof-of-concept and SWG pilot(s); resolution to support strategic plan
- **Interim (Jan - May):** Prepare full ISN proposal and scoping, develop funding strategy; SWG kickoff and deliverables identified
- **ATNI Mid-Year Convention:** Comprehensive Report; Formal Presentation to ATNI Member Tribes; Authorize Funding Strategy
- **Interim (Jun - Oct):** Secure Funding; Establish formal reporting; ISN Initial Development; Identify SWG successes; Initial baseline Evaluation
- **ATNI Annual Convention:** Formal Report; Soft Launch and Recruitment to ISN; SWG Expansion (evaluation/revision cycle); initiate 2-year strategic planning

CRC Decision Items (for the resolution)

1. **Endorse ISN scoping and proof-of-concept** with sovereignty-first governance.
2. **Establish and/or Pilot** the four SWGs and formulate charters in

What we’re asking CRC to endorse

A. Information Sharing Network (ISN)

Endorse designing and piloting an Information Sharing Network that catalogs ongoing Tribal climate initiatives and supports rapid coordination, exploring proof-of-concepts via partnerships with trusted InterTribal organizations.

B. Strategic Working Groups (SWGs)

Authorize formation of four SWGs under the CR:

1. **Intertribal Strategic Defense (ISD)** – Tribal leadership & delegates only; priorities, coalitions, knowledge protection.
2. **Science Strategy (SciStrat)** – researchers & education partners; co-production, data access, monitoring, research gaps, AI/TK ethics.
3. **Policy & Advocacy (P&A)** – policy practitioners; protocols, consultation integration, funding equity, authority strengthening.
4. **Resources & Capacity (R&CB)** – NGOs, universities, inter-Tribal orgs; workforce, TA networks, philanthropic coordination, media.