

# ATNI Tribal Climate Resilience Committee (CRC)

Strategic Development Team: Interim Meeting 12/18/2025, Zoom  
from 11AM - 12PM Pacific

## Purpose of this meeting:

Advances the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Climate Resilience Committee strategic development process by: **(1)** building shared understanding of the Information Sharing Network (ISN) framework and its sovereignty-first federated architecture; **(2)** engaging participants as partners in mapping the regional climate resilience ecosystem through a strategic network survey; **(3)** activating Champions who can strengthen connections between their organizations and this InterTribal initiative; and (4) identifying immediate next steps and supporting materials needed to ensure respectful, effective engagement across diverse organizational contexts.

## Participants:

**Alison Hirata**, Tribal Outreach Manager at Center for Environmental Health Equity at UW (Seattle)

**Amanda Lomasney**, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Public Works Assistant Director

**Andrew Fernandez**, Director of Development with BrightNight Power

**Annise Smaus**, Suquamish Tribe

**Antoinette Shirley**, Navajo, Tribal Forest Management Postdoctoral Fellow with the Northwest Climate Hub, USDA Forest Service

**Bobby Hayden**, Pew Charitable Trusts

**Chief Doug Barrett**, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI)

**Candice Wilson** - Quatz'tenaut, Executive Director Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations

**Eliza Ghitis**, Climate Scientist at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)

**Elizabeth Ruther**, Oregon Dept of Energy, Climate Action Commission

**Felicia Olmeta Schultz**, Coastal Hazards Specialist with OR Sea Grant / Oregon State University Extension

**Gregory Stelmach**, Postdoctoral Scholar at Oregon State University

**Hannah Ljunggren**, Climate Resilience Program Manager at the Suquamish Tribe

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

**Jamie Donatuto**, University of Washington's Center for Disaster Resilience Communities

**Josh Reynolds**, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Public Works Transportation Manager

**Julian Santos**, Washington Conservation Action filling in for Stephanie Masterman (Tribal nations team)

**Kylie Avery**, ATNI Climate Liaison and Special Project Manager

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

**Martha Winishut**, CTWS Land Use Planning Committee Chair

**Nikesa Aubertin**, Nez Perce Tribe's Nimiipuu Energy (solar) Grants and Projects Manager

**Noelani Villa**, Climate Adaptation Specialist for UW Climate Impacts Group

**Patrick Freeland**, ATNI Sr. Climate Liaison

**Shane Crowell**, Suquamish Tribe Solid Waste & Environmental Quality Program Manager

**Tony DiBenedetto**, Coquille Indian Tribe

**Tui Moliga**, Nimiipuu Energy Manager at the Nez Perce Tribe

**Whitney Dorer**, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

## AGENDA

### A. Opening and Context Setting

Opening in a good way, and then brief introductions, with a grounding "Touchpoint Question," asking participants to reflect upon the broader landscape of InterTribal climate coordination and resilience: **"How often have you been in a meeting, presentation, or conversation where someone said 'We need better InterTribal coordination on climate resilience'? And of those times, how many included ATNI in the discussion?"** This establishes both the demonstrated need for this work and ATNI's current positioning within regional conversations, while setting collaborative expectations for today's meeting outcomes.

### B. Information Sharing Network (ISN) Framework

Presenting the federated architecture model in plain language, emphasizing how this approach protects rather than compromises Tribal sovereignty and data governance. Participants will understand federation as ATNI creating a coordinating entity, while partner organizations maintain custody of their own systems, avoiding centralized database risks while enabling rapid coordination. One example of a product from the ISN framework is the [IndigenousACCESS tool](#), which provides real-time atmospheric river tracking, flood alerts, and forecasts for Pacific Northwest Tribal communities. This tool was developed in response to the severe precipitation and flooding affecting many communities in western and central Washington and Oregon.

Overview includes the one-year development timeline from Winter Convention 2025 through Annual Convention 2026, with key decision points: proof-of-concept evaluation (Winter), comprehensive scoping and funding strategy development (Mid-Year), and soft launch with recruitment (Annual).

### C. Strategic Partnership Development Process

Transitioning from concept to action through two interconnected activities::



1. **Network Mapping Survey:** Building collective knowledge of organizations, networks, and practitioners supporting Tribal climate resilience across the Pacific Northwest; learning from participant experience about successful partnership approaches, appropriate engagement levels, and respectful outreach strategies.
2. **Champions Activation:** Identifying participants willing to help ensure this framework reaches the right people, in the right way, at the right time within their organizations; determining what supporting materials (1-pagers, talking points, visual diagrams) enable effective internal communication without over-committing organizational capacity.

#### **D. Regional Strategic Convening Exploration**

Preliminary feasibility discussion for a September 2026 regional gathering that could strengthen networks being built through this process. Gathering initial participant insights on timing, format, potential partners, and strategic value to determine appropriate next steps.

#### **E. Action Items & Commitments**

Establishing clear expectations and follow-through mechanisms to

1. **Clarifying immediate deliverables:** (i) survey completion timeline, (ii) Champion identification and support needs
2. **Maintain momentum through 2026 ATNI Winter Convention:** (iii) communication protocols for sustained engagement, (iv) January 2026 Strategic Development Team meeting, (v) IRCS working space at Winter Convention, (vi) ATNI-CRC Committee Meeting

## **Discussion**

Participants acknowledged the importance of tools like [IndigenousACCESS](#) and a few Tribal leaders and staff mentioned wanting to include their emergency preparedness managers and staff included in these calls to respond to these resources and to expand the network. Others mentioned examples of other ISNs they have been a part of, including the Northwest Indian Fish Commission (NWIFC) and work done on the Columbia River Treaty.

When talking about the NWIFC, one participant shared that they have a data management department that had great discussions on data sovereignty; there is room for education and helping people understand, especially new institutions; and there is an opportunity within the ATNI Climate Resilience Committee Strategic Development Team to teach about Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and data sovereignty. There is also a lot of institutional knowledge at NWIFC of how to hold data and momentum around climate action.

Another participant spoke to their role as a boundary spanner and advocating for Tribal barriers and needs in academic environments. This was expanded on with the question of “how do you build a leadership to advance this work” and what role can universities play in supporting the

Tribes that are leading this work. Lastly, a Tribal leader gave reflections on the meeting, with the message of perseverance and connection. He emphasized the need for more collaboration of Tribes to help move this work forward in a good way.

The next meeting will take place in person during the ATNI Winter Convention being held February 1 - 5, 2026 in Portland, OR.