



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribes & Climate Change Newsletter

2021 September

Welcome to our monthly newsletter which provides news items, resources, announcements about funding opportunities, conferences, and training, and other information relevant to tribal climate change issues.



Autumn Colors

Meet the Climate Change Team

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Photo courtesy of Colleen Cooley

Elders are our libraries of knowledge. I am constantly thinking of my knowledge and how much more I have to learn. When I was in my early 20s (so only five years ago...kidding), I asked one of my uncles how he gained so much knowledge about our Diné way of life. He replied that he learned by listening and asking questions, but there was still a lot more to learn. Some people seem to have an abundance of knowledge and they are usually very humble and say they have more to learn. I've been thinking of how to learn more, specifically on Diné culture. Thankfully, I am fluent in the Diné language and am grateful to learn something new every day from various knowledge sources.

That brings me to my opening statement. Elders are our libraries of knowledge. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has taken some of our Elders way too soon. That scares me. It seems as though the walls are closing in and time is moving faster. I guess that happens as you grow older each year but I never imagined losing so many in such a short amount of time. We do not and should not wait for Elders to approach us but rather we need to approach them. This may seem like a daunting task because some of us do not want face rejection or the absence of our Elders.

In my early 30s, I asked a few Elders to meet with me and only two men showed up. After going through the appropriate greetings and explanations of my purpose for asking questions, I received some feedback, some of which I thought was harsh. Because of this harsh feedback, it took time for me to have the courage to ask questions

from anyone outside of my immediate family. Nowadays, I am not afraid to ask questions and I do so politely and respectfully. I adhere to Indigenous ways of interacting with Indigenous people, knowledge holders and Elders.

I encourage you to ask your Elders to share their stories with you and to spend as much time with them. Upon reflection, I know that my own grandmother will not be with us one day and I dread that day because she is the thread that binds our family. She is my connection to my youth, my language, my memories and my knowledge. She is full of knowledge and stories, but she gets tired easily or is busy weaving and tending to her animals.

When my grandmother decides to move on, I will look to others for not only knowledge but also comfort. Our oral traditions of intergenerational knowledge show that I will be in the position of being an Elder someday, but only if I am fortunate to receive that title. It is earned. Until then, I will continue to learn as much as I can so I can continue to pass on the knowledges. So, let's continue to live in the hoshó way. The Beauty way. Let us walk, talk and think in harmony and in beauty.

[Climate Change Makes Acting on the Elders' Lessons Critical](#)

[Generations: American Society on Aging](#)

[Olohana Foundation](#)

To be Continued, Nikki Cooley on behalf of [The Climate Team](#)

Advisory Committee Members:

Tribal Representatives:

Jerry Cain
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian

Jamie Donatuto
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Michael Durglo, Jr.
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

Shasta Gaughen
Pala Band of Mission Indians

Desirae Mack
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Federal Agency Representatives:

Lisa Bacanskas
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Alicia Bell-Sheetter
U.S. Forest Service

Erica Bollerud
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ashley Fortune Isham
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rachael Novak
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Chris Swanston
U.S. Forest Service/NIACS

Tribal Resilience Liaisons:

Malinda Chase
Alaska Climate Adaption Science Center & Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

Chas Jones
Northwest Climate Adaption Science Center & Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Sara Smith
Northeast Climate Adaption Science Center & College of Menominee Nation

Stefan Tangen
North Central Climate Adaption Science Center & Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance

April Taylor
South Central Climate Adaption Science Center & Chickasaw Nation

Casey Thornburgh
Northeast/Southeast Climate Adaption Science Center & United Southeastern Tribes

Althea Walker-Ortiz
Southwest Climate Adaption Science Center & American Indian Higher Education Consortium

In The News

[Indigenous Women Vital to Climate Action](#)

The International Day of Indigenous Women celebrated annually on 5 September serves as a reminder that indigenous women play a leading role in reducing the harmful emissions that contribute to climate change, and help their communities address adverse, climate-related impacts. As one example, indigenous women from the Kainai First Nation in Canada have helped lead collaborative efforts with scientists and practitioners to develop a project which aims to increase the climate change knowledge and skills of the Tribe. © United Nations Climate Change, 09/03/21

[Federal Judge Allows Excavation Work on Native Massacre Site](#)

Two Native American groups joined a lawsuit against Lithium Americas Corp. The Reno Sparks Indian Colony and Atsa koodakuh wyh Nuwu (People of Red Mountain), members and descendants of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes, want to halt mining at Pee hee mu'huh, or Thacker Pass, a massacre site in northern Nevada. U.S. District Court Chief Judge Miranda Du ruled Friday to allow excavation work to move forward for mining in Northern Nevada, siding with Lithium Americas Corp. © High Country News, 09/03/21

[For Louisiana's Coastal Tribes, 'Being At the End of the Earth is a Dangerous Place'](#)

When Shirell Parfait-Dardar returned to her home in Dulac, she found that Hurricane Ida's unforgiving winds had ripped the roof off and blown the walls in. A dressmaker by trade, she discovered her sewing shop seemed to have been lifted off the ground, flipped upside down and smashed. "Every building on my property was destroyed," said the chief of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw, now staying with her mother in Thibodaux. © Nola.com, 09/06/21

[Committee Approves \\$25.6 Billion Reconciliation Measure to Fund Climate Corps, Coastal Protection, Wildfire Management, Tribal & Territorial Needs](#)

The House Natural Resources Committee, led by Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), today approved its piece of the 10-year budget reconciliation package now before the House of Representatives. The markup, which

began on Sept. 2, saw a second full day of debate and concluded in a 24-13 vote to approve the measure. Among other measures, the Committee approved historic investments in protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Outer Continental Shelf from future fossil fuel drilling, paving the way for more sustainable economic development in both areas. © Natural Resources Committee, 09/09/21

[Indigenous Tribes Facing Displacement in Alaska and Louisiana Say the U.S. is Ignoring Climate Threats](#)

About 31 Native Alaskan communities face imminent climate displacement from flooding and erosion, which could lead cultures to disappear and ways of life to transform, with four tribes already in the process of relocating from their quickly disappearing villages. The Kivaline, Shishmaref, Shaktoolik and Newtok, along with coastal Louisiana tribes, are among the most at risk of displacement due to climate change. © Inside Climate News, 09/13/21

[Lake Tahoe Ski Resort Changes Name to Remove Racist and Misogynistic Slur](#)

A popular ski resort at California's Lake Tahoe has changed its name to remove a racist and misogynistic slur after consultations with local Indigenous groups. The resort, known as Squaw Valley since 1949, will be called Palisades Tahoe, the business announced on Monday. "More than one year ago, we came to the conclusion that it was time to change our name. The reasons were clear - the old name was derogatory and offensive," the resort said in a statement. © The Guardian, 09/13/21

[UArizona Launches Center to Advance Resilience of Native Nations, Address Environmental Challenges](#)

The Indigenous Resilience Center will be a partnership between Native nations and the university's Arizona Institutes for Resilience, Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environment and Social Justice and multiple faculty members and academic programs that focus on supporting the resilience of Native and Indigenous communities. © University of Arizona News, 09/13/21

[U.S. Officials, Native American Leaders to Meet on Returning Lands](#)

Federal officials will meet with Native

American tribes next month to gather recommendations as the federal government seeks to move ahead with efforts to protect and restore tribal homelands, the U.S. the Department of the Interior said on Tuesday. Tribal leaders will be asked for advice on several topics, including the process to take land back into trust, leasing and treaty rights, among other issues under the Biden administration's initiative to streamline steps allowing tribes to regain their land. © Reuters, 09/14/21

[Coalition of Experts Sound Alarm on Line 5 Pipeline's Threats to Tribal Interests and Climate Change](#)

A group of renowned academic experts, climate scientists, and tribal leaders submitted written testimony to the Michigan Public Service Commission yesterday, stressing the grave impacts that the proposed Line 5 oil pipeline tunnel would have on tribal interests and climate change. As Enbridge Energy's risky Line 5 oil pipeline continues to operate illegally in Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, the Canadian company seeks approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission to build a replacement pipeline encased in a tunnel that would run underneath the lakebed of the Straits. © Earthjustice, 09/15/21

[Havasupai, NPS Aim to Rename Site in Grand Canyon](#)

The National Park Service says a process has begun — in collaboration with the Havasupai Tribe — to rename a site currently known as Indian Garden in the Grand Canyon. The NPS and the tribe are aiming to rename the area Havasupai Garden. © KNAU, 09/23/21

[The White Sands discovery only confirms what Indigenous people have said all along](#)

"We have been here since time immemorial." The meaning of the phrase is clear: Indigenous peoples have existed on and stewarded these lands for far longer than modern conceptions of time or human history have ever acknowledged. This truth — this fact — is enshrined through our stories, through our bodies, and through our natural relatives. So why is it that Indigenous findings and voices continue to be ignored, even when they are proved correct? © High Country News, 09/24/21

Resources

ITEP 2021 Status of Tribes and Climate Change Report

ITEP's Tribes and Climate Change Program is excited to announce that the Status of Tribes and Climate Change (STACC) Report is now available. ITEP is so grateful to all partners in helping make this vision a reality which includes over 90 authors and contributors. You may access the Report on the dedicated website below and feel free to share with your networks. In addition, please view the media toolkit for suggestions on sharing the report. To read the report, click [here](#).

Building Authentic Collaborations with Tribal Communities: A Living Reference for Climate Practitioners

The Climate Science Alliance has worked with several partners from across their networks to compile a living reference for climate practitioners. This guide provides important information, key resources, and listed actions to take prior to reaching out to build new relationships with Tribal communities. To review the guide, click [here](#).

Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States: A Focus on Six Impacts

Climate change affects all Americans—regardless of socioeconomic status—and many impacts are projected to worsen. But individuals will not equally experience these changes. This report improves our understanding of the degree to which four socially vulnerable populations—defined based on income, educational attainment, race and ethnicity, and age—may be more exposed to the highest impacts of climate change. Understanding the comparative risks to vulnerable populations is critical for developing effective and equitable strategies for responding to climate change. To read the report, click [here](#).

New Report: Indigenous Resistance Disrupts Billions of Tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Annually

The Indigenous Environmental Network and Oil Change International are releasing a new report titled Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon. The report analyzes the impact that Indigenous resistance to fossil fuel projects in the United States and Canada has had on greenhouse gas emissions over the past 10 years. From the struggle against the Cherry Point coal export terminal in Lummi territory to fights against pipelines crossing critical waterways, Indigenous land defenders have exercised their rights and responsibilities to not only stop fossil fuel projects in their tracks, but establish precedents to build successful social justice movements. To read the report, click [here](#).

Job & Internship Opportunities

[Puget Sound Partnership Tribal Liaison](#)

As the Puget Sound Partnership's Tribal Liaison, you will be an integral part of the Executive Director's Office and reporting to the Equity and Environmental Justice Manager as the first point of contact for tribal governments working to maintain and improve intergovernmental relations. A major function of this position is a leadership role in how the organization works with tribes to recover Puget Sound and ensure alignment and compliance with the HEAL Act, Centennial Accord, treaty rights and other related intergovernmental agreements. **Application deadline: October 3, 2021**

[Save California Salmon \(SCS\) Co-Director](#)

SCS is a small indigenous-led and women-led environmental organization dedicated to policy change and community advocacy for Northern California's salmon and fish-dependent people. Ideal candidates would have experience working with Tribes, underrepresented people, and youth. Computer literacy, public speaking, media, outreach, community organizing, writing, and policy advocacy skills are a must. Candidates must be willing to speak at public meetings, to educators, politicians, policy makers, youth, and to the press both in person and on online platforms. **Application deadline: October 5, 2021**

[Indigenous Storytelling & Engagement Fellow, Ecotrust](#)

The purpose of this Fellowship is to provide an in-depth work experience for a Native American or Alaska Native individual to gain a broad understanding of the communications functions of a nonprofit organization that works at the intersection of environment, economy, and equity. During this year-long, full-time fellowship, the fellow will play a lead role in supporting the Indigenous Leadership Awards by executing on a wide variety of communications, project management, and logistical support to build the Award's significance and reputation and ensure a successful event in April 2022. **Application deadline: October 7, 2021**

[NASA DEVELOP: Applied Earth Science Opportunities](#)

The NASA DEVELOP National Program addresses environmental and public policy issues through interdisciplinary research projects that apply the lens of NASA Earth observations to community concerns around the globe. Teams of DEVELOP participants collaborate with decision makers to conduct rapid 10-week feasibility projects that highlight relevant applications of Earth observing missions, cultivate advanced skills, and increase understanding of NASA Earth science data and technology. **Application deadline: October 8, 2021**

[Su:daḡi 'O Wud Doakag \(Water is Life\) Program](#)

We are now accepting applications to fill ten internship positions for the Su:daḡi 'O Wud Doakag (Water is Life) after-school program. This class will teach and encourage young Tohono O'odham youth to become more connected with their environment and become land stewards within their community through hybrid virtual learning and in-person hands on work. Students will be introduced to permaculture and the ways the O'odham traditionally viewed their relationship with the Sonoran Desert. **Application Deadline: October 8, 2021**

[Indigenous Seedkeepers Network Program Coordinator](#)

The Indigenous Seed Keepers Network (ISKN) Coordinator will provide program leadership and coordinate implementation of the strategic vision. The Program Coordinator will work closely with Regional Mentors to offer capacity-building training, workshops and gatherings to strengthen regional networks. **Application deadline: October 15, 2021.**

[Aawok Georgiana Trull Memorial Scholarship](#)

This Fund was established to honor the work and life of Aawok Goergiana Trull. Aawok Georgiana spent more than 40 years of her life dedicated to revitalization of the Yurok language, contributing to an alphabet and publishing a conversation dictionary. Scholarships of \$2,500 are available to support California Native people actively engaged in Indigenous language revitalization. Students from all academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply. **Application deadline: October 29, 2021**

[Champions for Change: Youth Application](#)

The Champions for Change (CFC) program at the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY), inspired by a 2011 White House initiative, recognizes inspirational Native American youth (ages 14 to 24) working in their tribal or urban Indian communities to promote hope and make a positive impact. Each year, CNAY selects five inspirational Native youth from across the United States to join the CFC program. **Application deadline: October 29, 2021**

[American Climate Leadership Awards \(ACLA\)](#)

The third annual ACLA recognizes, rewards, and shares the models of effective climate advocates. Do you know an on-the-ground climate champion or organization making a serious impact to mobilize Americans to curb climate change in just, equitable, and inclusive ways? ACLA is seeking nominations for a stand out individual or group of individuals making a difference. This year, 20 semi finalists will be awarded \$1,000 (new), 8 finalists will receive \$10,000, 1 runner up will receive \$25,000 and the winner will receive \$50,000. **Application deadline: December 1, 2021**

[NOAA Davidson Graduate Fellowship Applications](#)

Graduate students are encouraged to apply for a two-year Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship, which will focus on field research in social or natural sciences within the nation's diverse estuaries. Students will work with a mentor, fellow scientists, and local communities as the team addresses coastal challenges. Apply for one of the 29 fellowships available through the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, which represent the apex of estuary science, where fieldwork, research, and community engagement come together to create the scientific advances that change communities and the world. **Application deadline: December 10, 2021**

[Sitting Bull College - Meteorology and Atmospheric Science Instructor](#)

This person will teach classes in Environmental Science at Sitting Bull College, especially in the area of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science. This person will mentor and advise students in the SBC Environmental Science degree programs. This person will help develop, maintain and promote the FIARE monitoring station, which is funded by NASA. FIARE will provide research opportunities for BS and MS students using data derived from FIARE. **Application deadline: position open until filled**

[Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps - Indigenous Researching and Mapping Individual Placement](#)

The Partnership for the National Trail System (PNTS) Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC), Federal Land Management agencies and Native Land Digital have partnered to "create and foster conservations about the history of colonialism, indigenous ways of knowing, and settler-Indigenous relations," through educational resources and a GIS mapping. This project is intended to be the beginning of important - and necessary - conversations that will spark genuine future collaborations and long-standing relationships. **Application deadline: position open until filled**

Funding Opportunities



Additional Sources for More Opportunities:

1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Resources/funding>

2) Tribal Climate Change Guide maintained by the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project at the University of Oregon: <http://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu/>

3) Searchable database of all discretionary grants offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies. www.grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsp

4) Conservation Innovation Grants (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

FY 2022 Coping with Drought: Building Tribal Resilience

As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Climate Program Office (CPO) is seeking applications for eight individual competitions in FY22. Several of these components are relevant to four high-priority climate risk areas CPO is focusing on to improve science understanding and/or capabilities that result in user-driven outcomes: coastal inundation, marine ecosystems, water resources, and extreme heat. **Application deadline: October 18, 2021**

University of Arizona Haury Tribal Resilience Initiative Recruitment Grants

The Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environment and Social Justice in 2020 announced its new Tribal Resilience Initiative (TRI). The Haury Program will award up to ten one-time grants in Spring

of 2021 to support the recruitment of scholars whose teaching, scholarship, or outreach centers on matters relevant to Native American and Indigenous resilience. Each one-time award will be for \$18,000 to be used to support the position, or to support a research assistant for the awardee. **Application deadline: December 31, 2021**

2021 EarthLab Innovation Grants Request for Proposals

EarthLab is looking to fund projects that demonstrate co-creation and partnership between community partners and University of Washington researchers, interdisciplinary collaboration, action at the intersection of climate (both mitigation and adaptation) & social justice, and the potential for growth of the project or partnership. The Innovation Grants Program has \$300,000 available for the current funding cycle, with a maximum budget request of \$75,000 per project. **Letter of intent due: January 27, 2022**

FY 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance Notice of Funding

FEMA released the BRIC and FMA Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) on Aug. 9, 2021. The NOFOs are posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and provides detailed program information and other grant application and administration requirements. The application period to apply for fiscal year 2021 (FY 2021) will open on Sept. 30, 2021. **Application deadline: January 28, 2022**

California Climate Investments

The California Climate Investments cap-and-trade program creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are made in disadvantaged communities and low-income communities and households. **Application deadline: accepted on a rolling basis**

Upcoming Events

NOTE: Updated info on events can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website:

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Home/Events>

October 2021

Virtual Conference: October 5-7 Restoring and Protecting Our Native Languages and Landscapes

This conference will equip individuals working at the community level with tools and best practices for revitalizing and strengthening Indigenous languages and the Traditional Ecological Knowledge carried within them. For additional information please contact: adriana.hernandez@cs.org

Virtual Conference: October 5-7 Community and Citizen Science in the Far North

This free, virtual conference will focus on sharing, networking, and discussing the various aspects of conducting community and citizen science research in the Arctic. This conference is in response to a growing community of Arctic researchers, Arctic communities, and Arctic visitors that are becoming more engaged in scientific research. **Registration closes October 1, 2021.**

Webinar Series: October 6, 13, 20, 27, 12 pm ET Alliances for Climate Action Forum

The Annual Forum provides opportunities for partners to engage with other industry peers, network, and identify actionable future collaborations around a priority topic. The virtual series will occur every Wednesday and will explore the following topics around climate action:

- October 6: Our Future Vision
- October 13: When Climate Moves Communities
- October 20: Stories that Inspire
- October 27: Financing Climate Action

Conference: October 6-13 Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainability. Food

A series of virtual events to advance research and education in indigenous knowledge and sustainability in the region. Events are free and open to the public by registration - each event must be registered for separately.

Conference, October 6-10, New Orleans, LA 8th Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference

This conference brings together HBCU faculty and students, researchers, climate professionals and environmental

justice and coastal community residents impacted by toxic facilities and severe weather events related to climate change in order to bridge the gap between theory and experiential realities of climate change. The conference will address issues related to climate justice, adaptation, community resilience, global climate issues, and other major climate change topics.

Webinar: October 13, 4:00pm ET Increasing the Resilience and Resistance of Climate-Vulnerable Species and Ecosystems

Drs. Morelli and Nislow will provide an update on their work for the NE CASC project. A description and updated title for this webinar will be available later this summer.

Virtual Workshop: October 13-15 Indigenous Approaches to Rivercane Restoration Workshop

The Rivercane Restoration Alliance is hosting a virtual workshop on indigenous approaches to rivercane restoration. The three-day workshop will also allow for the identification of rivercane knowledge/data gaps, sharing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Native American perspective on the importance of rivercane, and identification of potential rivercane restoration sites influenced by water management decisions at USACE reservoirs and/or navigation projects.

Register by October 8th.

Forum: October 21-22 U.S. Drought Monitor Forum

Join virtually for the U.S. Drought Monitor Forum. We will gather from 12 - 3pm CT each day to discuss a variety of topics related to the USDM.

Virtual Symposium: October 26-27 Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center Regional Science Symposium

NE CASC invites the climate adaptation science community to participate in the 2021 Regional Science Symposium. Learn about NE CASC research, hear about our new science plan, and discover resources and tools that support climate adaptation. The symposium will also include discussions focused on identifying emerging research and management needs, and it is our hope that it will foster new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations.

November 2021

Symposium: November 15-18, Oklahoma City, OK North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)

The Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association is accepting abstracts for this in-person symposium. The conference will be a great opportunity for networking and consist of multiple panels/discussions focused on the value of water for economics, ecology, and culture.

Webinar: November 17, 4:00pm ET Refugia are Important but are they Connected? Mapping Well- Connected Climate Refugia for Species of Conservation Concern in the Northeastern U.S.

This webinar will provide an update on work that is being undertaken regarding 10 vulnerable species and refugia locations for these species. This project identifies refugia locations for each of the species under consideration, maps how well each refugia location is connected to other refugia locations, and also maps locations that are most critical to connect current habitat to future climate refugia.

December 2021

Webinar: December 1, 4:00pm ET Managing Waterfowl Harvest Under Climate Change: Time- Dependent Optimal Policies to Address Non-Stationary Dynamics

More information coming in the fall.

January 2022

Virtual Conference: Jan. 19-21 Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit

The Climate Science Alliance, in partnership with the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians and the Pala Band of Mission Indians, is excited to announce the 2022 Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit. This event will be a three-day gathering, with engaging discussions and activities centered around the kinship with fire and its role in community, conservation, and climate change adaptation.