

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIBAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

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# Climate change and indigenous communities

- *Climate justice*: Indigenous communities have contributed comparatively little to the causes of climate change.
- *Social Vulnerability*: Some populations may have less capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related hazards and may be disproportionately affected by climate change.



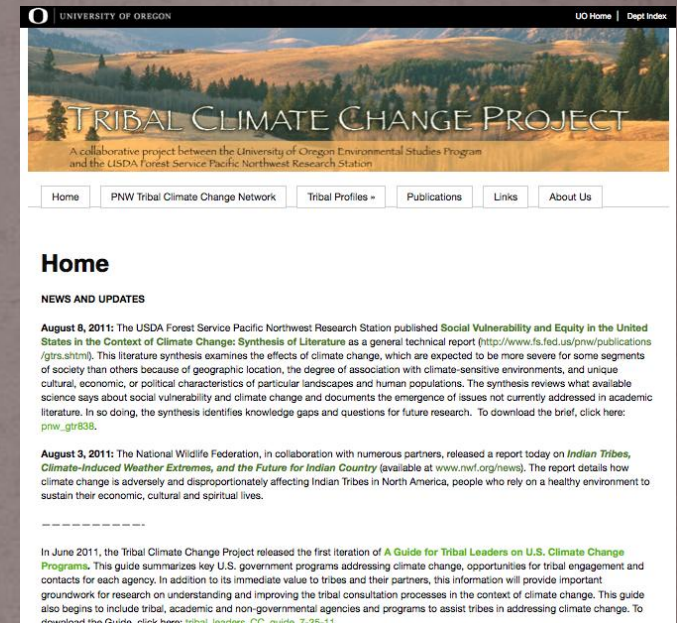
# PNW Tribal Climate Change Project

## Network

- Increase opportunities for tribes to engage in climate change policy.
- Foster meaningful collaboration between tribes, agencies and organizations to address climate change.
- Engage in regional partnerships to address climate change

## Planning Resources:

- Tribal Climate Change Profiles
- A Guide for Tribal Leaders on U.S. Climate Change Programs
- Literature synthesis on traditional knowledge and climate change
- Examination of federal consultation policies in a climate context



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# Project focus areas

- **Traditional Knowledge and Climate Change:** Examine the role of traditional knowledge in understanding climate change impacts
- **Government-to-Government:** Understand climate change impacts on the quantity and distribution of culturally important species and management of on- and off-reservation resources.
- **Resource Coordination:** Identify sectors affected by climate change; ensure tribal voice in climate policies, assessments, planning and implementation.



# Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is essential to the economic and cultural survival of indigenous groups, and guides the interactions between indigenous peoples and the land which they inhabit.
- Examine climate change initiatives through an understanding of place-based traditional knowledge.



Post-fire landscape of spruce bark beetle-killed forest.  
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

# The Government-to-Government Relationship in a Climate Context

- Examine the scope of federal consultation policies in the context of climate change
- Identify policies, programs and strategies to strengthen federal-tribal efforts to address climate change.
- Ensure Tribal access to and management of culturally important on- and off-reservation resources
  - Consider changes in the composition of species from climate change and the implications on tribal lands, resources and treaty rights.

# Tribal Climate Change Profiles

- Siletz Tribal Energy Program
- First Foods and Climate Change
- The Lummi Nation: Pursuing Clean Renewable Energy
- Swinomish Climate Change Initiative
- Realities of Relocation for Alaska Native Villages
- Nez Perce Carbon Sequestration Project
- Coquille Climate Change Adaptation Planning

## Revitalizing First Foods

There are some tribes using TEK to preserve access to first foods in the face of climate change. The people of the Tesuque Pueblo of New Mexico have traditionally cultivated plants and are reviving their indigenous agricultural techniques in an effort to reintegrate first foods into their daily lives (Kahnratokwas). By re-establishing traditional cultivation practices, Tesuque people are ensuring that their first foods will be taken care of in the future. Moreover, the farm is educating young people about traditional foods and ways of life, a vital component in maintaining a healthy relationship between first foods and indigenous peoples. The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative (MFSI), based out of Okmulgee Oklahoma, is pursuing a similar goal. Also traditional farmers, the Mvskoke are working to revitalize the cultivation of their first foods as a way of preserving cultural heritage and promoting the peoples' health.



Source: Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative

Many indigenous peoples are recognizing the threats posed to first foods by climate change, and are confronting these challenges in a variety of ways. The potential loss of first foods has spurred many native communities to revitalize their already struggling relationship with first foods. Conversely, native communities with a strong, ongoing relationship with the first foods are taking this challenge as an opportunity to assert the importance of first foods for their communities and the health of the land. First foods continue to nourish indigenous peoples, as they have always done. Even as they are jeopardized by climate change, first foods are inspiring cultural, physical, and ecological health in native communities.

## Resources

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# Questions?

- For more information, visit:

<http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu>

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