



Utilizing Yurok Traditional Ecological Knowledge to Inform Climate Change Priorities

Case study of one way to gather TEK

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ITEP Tribal Climate Change Webinar Series:

Role of Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives

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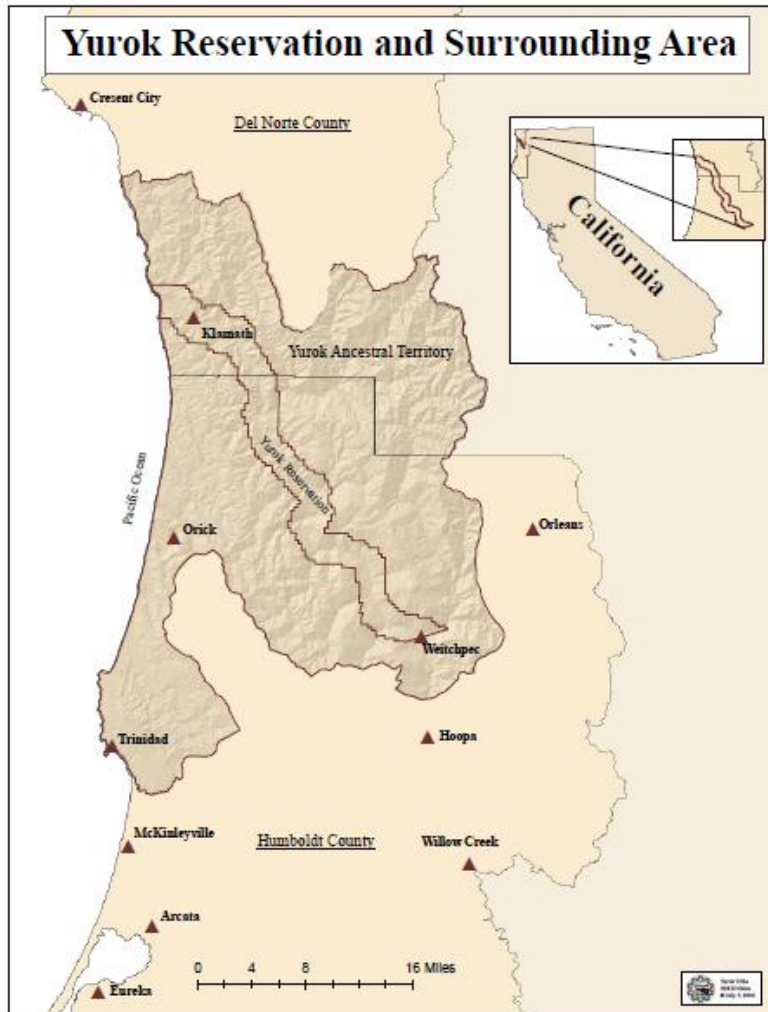
- Disclaimer
 - I'm not an "expert."
 - Project wasn't perfect
 - Intention is to help show others one way to conduct TEK research
 - Project not finalized. Still under review before public release.



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Tribal Background

- Yurok People:
 - California's largest Tribe. Nearly 6,000 members
 - Yurok Indian Reservation is 1 mile each side of the lower 46 Miles of the Klamath River. = 56,000 acres.

Yurok Tribal Government

- Constitution 1993
- 9 member Council with Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, & 7 Council Districts.
- Committees advise council



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1 of 7 grants funded by North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) FY 2012
\$50,000. w/ 3 month No Cost Extension.

DOI Secretarial Order 3289- Address Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural & Cultural Resources.

-American Indian & Alaska Natives:

Federal trust responsibility,

Gov-to-Gov consultation,

Best available science including TEK.

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Some notable RFP info:

- NPLCC required all applicants to show substantive involvement from Tribal/First Nation entities.
- The purpose of the funding opportunity was to demonstrate how TEK can be integrated with the work of the NPLCC and to I.D. un-met information needs of Tribes and First Nations regarding how natural and cultural resources may be affected by climate change.
- Sensitivity of Tribal/First Nations Knowledge: Proposed work must include methods to protect sensitive TEK. This should include an opportunity for Tribal or First Nations to identify any information or materials they consider “sensitive” or “protected” and to classify and describe the TEK/Climate Change tribal issues that are permissible or “OK” to share, as appropriate.
 - Vital requirement due to serious concerns with Freedom of Information Act and other potential threats.

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- Some Potential Threats:
 - Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
 - Department of Interior V. Klamath Water Users Association 121 S.Ct. 1060 (2001)
 - Differences between Native Knowledge and Western Knowledge
 - Intellectual Property Rights
 - Biopiracy

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Community scoping under previous climate change grant funding Identified TEK as a top research priority.

All YTEP research projects utilize Community Based Participatory Research Model.

Includes and relies on Tribal membership, committees, and Tribal Council to ID research priorities and methods.

Results in buy-in and accountability from Tribal membership.

Extensive public scoping :

Tribal Membership meetings

Advisory Committees

Tribal Council

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Methods: Project consists of 2 phases:

Phase 1-TEK Data collection

public scoping

10 elder interviews

Phase 2-Analysis

final report



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Methods:

Phase 1-TEK Data collection

Phase 1: series of community scoping meetings.

-Culture Committee-

Elders discussed the role of Traditional Knowledge in Yurok Society and how it's not freely shared or sharable with everyone equally.

Access to TEK is protected, proprietary and considered intellectual property. Elders were concerned with confidentiality and protection of cultural information.

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- -Consulted with Office of Tribal Attorney
 - Create informed consent/use agreements and contracts with focus to protect Yurok TEK and cultural information. Legal documents were developed to include language that reflected proprietary and confidential aspects of information gathered in interviews.
 - Included language related to Free, Prior and Informed Consent from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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- **Contracts**
 - Confidentiality. Can't reveal or transfer to 3rd party
 - Ownership of info and docs. "All information documented in the interview will remain the intellectual property of the participant."
- **Scope of work**-Any future uses will require written approval from the contractor and the Yurok Tribal Council.
- **Informed consent agreement**
 - additional conditions requested by interviewee
 - IE. for educational use only, not for monetary gain, come talk to me first.

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Methods:

Phase 1: completion of a series of structured elder interviews.

Design

- Each participant signed informed consent use agreement, & contract.
- All recordings, transcriptions, notes, maps and contracts stored in Tribal Archive. (Archive acts as repository and protector of tribal information)
- Additional protections written into contracts. Any other use requires prior approval from both individual and Tribal Council.

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Methods:

Phase 2-Analysis

Final report

Tribal Council Review

Final Report contains information selected to be shared with funding agency and public.

Lessons learned: read the funding agreement and ask funding agency lots of questions to ensure protection of sensitive information.



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- Helpful resources
 - Trimble C, Sommer B, & M Quinlan. 2008. The American Indian Oral History Manual: Making Many Voices Heard. Left Coast Press: Walnut Creek, California www.leftcoastpress.com
 - Hansen, S & J Van Fleet. 2003. Traditional Knowledge & Intellectual Property: A Handbook On Issues & Options For Traditional Knowledge Holders in Protecting Their Intellectual Property & Maintaining Biological Diversity. American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Program.
<http://shr.aas.org/tek/handbook>
 - Miraglia, Rita. 1998. Traditional Ecological Knowledge Handbook: A Training Manual & Reference Guide For Designing, Conducting, And Participating In Research Projects Using TEK. Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Division of Subsistence. Anchorage, Alaska.





Wo-hlklaw'
Thank you



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