



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

December 2025

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.



Photo credit: Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Adobe stock

Meet the Team

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Yá'at'ééh! Gumyu! Loloma! Hello!



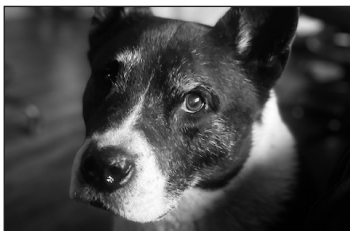
Photo: Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, WA, in Early Spring Adobe.stock

This month, we're sharing a little joy from our homes with the pets who keep us company every day. From early-morning walks to late-night couch cuddles, our dogs, cats, and other beloved animals bring comfort, laughter, and a lot of personality into our lives. We hope meeting our pets brings you as much joy as they bring us. As we enjoy some time off for the holiday, we hope you're able to rest, recharge, and enjoy the season (perhaps with a furry friend close by).

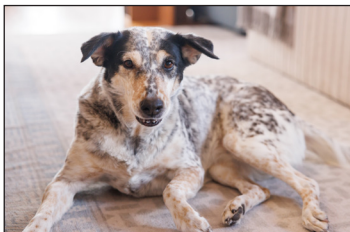
Nikki's Dog:

Mitchell: Director of Hugs and Wellbeing

He has been with Nikki and her family for 12 years and is from Chinle, AZ. He is a quiet but strong presence and ensures everyone is happy and loved. He has provided countless support to his family after surgeries, scrapes and even provided support to college kids with broken hearts or stress from exams/assignments. Mitchell is the best and has even been featured in articles regarding care for the earth and people. He loves people but loves the cold weather even more.



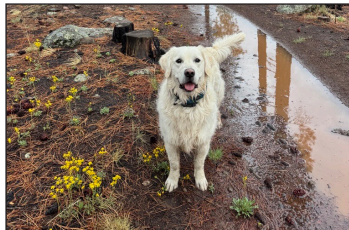
Ashley's Dog: Zeda: Wrangler of Wiggles



Zeda is our 11-year-old Australian Cattle Rez dog - adopted from the Flagstaff Humane Society. She is the SWEETEST dog you'll ever meet, and is so polite, unless she feels left out of the conversation, in which case, she'll make sure to insert herself. She brings me so much joy- encouraging me to play outside even when it's frigid, watching her little paws run in her sleep, and watching her chase dogs that are chasing balls :)

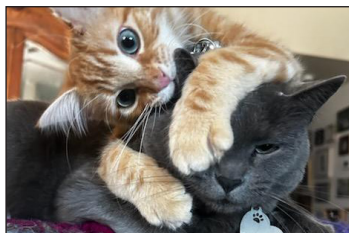
Kim's Dog:

Winston Boop: Executive Director of Sparkle & Mud



Cara's Cats:

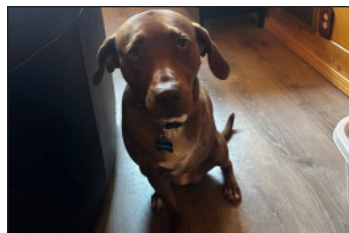
Persephone (grey cat) & Arthur Floyd: Chill Coordinators



Kieren's Dog:

Princess Peanut Butter: Lead of Positive Attitudes

She is full of joy and positivity in her household of humans and other animals.



Kelsey's Pets:

Mila (dog) & Aria (cat): Department of Snuggles and Security

Meet the team dedicated to keeping Mom safe, comforted, and thoroughly snuggled. Aria's role focuses on clingy companionship, while Mila handles protection with a strong side of affection. Rescued from the rez by Mom and Dad, now live well fed, comfy, and adored. "Zoomies" are also a part of their daily schedule.



In The News

[How Indigenous Cultural Burns Can Help Heal Climate-Ravaged Forests—and People](#)

To combat increasingly dangerous wildfires, modern fire management teams may use prescribed burns to reduce fuel buildup before fire season begins. But around the world, Indigenous people have been using fire on the landscape for thousands of years. One such practice comes from the Métis tradition in Western Canada. While a prescribed burn is typically a larger, low- to moderate-intensity fire, the Métis burning practice is much smaller, more closely resembling a campfire, and it carries cultural significance. Cree-Métis scientist Amy Cardinal Christianson is a senior fire advisor with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative and host of the Good Fire podcast. This interview has been edited for length and clarity. © Inside Climate News, 11/29/25

[Klamath Tribes challenge orders based on secret agreement between irrigator group and state](#)

On November 19, 2025, the Klamath Tribes filed a motion to amend their petition in the Circuit Court of Klamath County. The amended petition seeks to reverse recent illegal orders that replaced a long-time administrative law judge in the Klamath Basin Adjudication (KBA) on the heels of a secret deal cut between the Oregon State Office of Administrative Hearings and certain water users in the Upper Klamath Basin. © Native American Rights Fund, 12/01/25

[A Lakota Matriarch Offers Perspective on the Long Struggle for LandBack](#)

During uncertain times, people often turn to history to glean lessons that can guide us in challenging moments. This is why I wanted to revisit our first LANDBACK for the People podcast episode, initially broadcast in April 2023. In “Madonna Thunder Hawk: A Matriarch of the Movement,” NDN’s CEO and founder Nick Tilsen sat down with Thunder Hawk to discuss the intergenerational, decades-long resistance efforts to defend our land, water, and people. © NP, 12/02/25

[Northern Chumash leader named to TIME100 Climate list](#)

Violet Sage Walker, chairwoman of

the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, earned a spot on TIME magazine’s prestigious TIME100 Climate list, which recognizes 100 highly influential leaders driving business climate action worldwide. The 2025 list includes Pope Leo XIV, King Charles III, actor Samuel L. Jackson, President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the European Central Bank Christine Lagarde and California Gov. Gavin Newsom. Walker’s recognition follows years of advocacy to establish the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, a campaign she began with her father, Chief Fred Collins, in 2015, according to prior reporting by Tribal Business News. © Tribal Business News, 12/03/25

[A land fight pits a sacred Apache tradition against a copper mine](#)

Several days earlier, Lozen Brown-Lopez had arrived at the top of Oak Flat. She was 11 years old, from the San Carlos Apache Tribe and about to endure a grueling four-day ceremony that has been practiced by Apaches for centuries. Surrounded by a hundred family and fellow tribal members, dancers, singers and medicine men, she would perform the Sunrise Dance, reenacting part of the Apache creation story. At the end, after she had been daubed in clay to represent the mythological mother of all Apaches and ritually cleansed, Lozen would emerge as a young woman. © The Washington Post, 12/06/25

[From Consultation to Co-Management: Redefining Tribal Forestry Partnerships](#)

Indigenous management systems take a holistic view of forest management, recognizing the value of applying active management principles to achieve social, economic, and ecological outcomes such as restoring species’ habitats and preventing catastrophic wildfire, rather than a rigid statutory framework, which often results in a “hands off” approach. ©Medium, 12/08/25

[Colorado wolves are on the move](#)

Since their reintroduction to the state in late 2023, Colorado wolves have roamed widely. In October, a wolf activity map issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife showed that

wolves are nearing the state’s southern and western borders. Highlighting the watersheds where biologists located at least one collared wolf during the previous month — without revealing specific location data — the map showed that wolves have been present in Archuleta, Conejos, and Costilla counties, all of which border New Mexico. Wolves can cover up to 30 miles in a single day, and one collared wolf has traveled about 4,000 miles since she was reintroduced in January. © High Country News, 12/12/25

[Seven quiet wins for climate and nature in 2025](#)

This year’s environmental backdrop is familiar: emissions are rising and nature is continuing to decline. But there have nevertheless been bright spots in 2025. Targeted action in clean energy, conservation and indigenous rights have led to some tangible positive results for the climate and nature. These quiet breakthroughs can sometimes go unheard amidst the noise of the news cycle. So, from dramatic growth in renewable power to the return of endangered turtles and tigers, the BBC revisits seven milestones reached in 2025. © BBC, 12/16/25

[Here’s the global playbook being used to crack down on climate protest](#)

A new study finds that repression of environmental protest is rising worldwide and Indigenous land defenders face the greatest risk. A new study published this month in the journal Environmental Politics reveals that efforts to repress climate and environmental protest are growing worldwide through a combination of new legislation, novel uses of existing legal processes, police actions, vilification of activists, and both violence and killings. © Grist, 12/18/25

Resources

Call for Abstracts: [2026 NTFAQ Requests for Presentation or Training Abstracts](#)

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) aims to support tribal programs by fostering information-sharing and networking opportunities that are focused on building tribal capacity in air quality management. The event's agenda is driven by tribal input and priorities, with a focus on increasing tribal engagement in air quality initiatives that are relevant to tribal communities across the nation. Forum organizers are actively seeking abstracts for presentations (oral/poster), trainings, and other informational sessions that support our goal of providing engaging opportunities for tribes to connect with others working to address air quality concerns. Abstracts should be related to air quality topics relevant to tribal stakeholders. Forum sponsors are not responsible for issues related to copyright or otherwise protected or culturally sensitive information. **Deadline: January 9, 2026**

Call for Abstracts: [Native American Fish & Wildlife Society 2026 Annual National Conference](#)

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is now accepting abstracts for presentations at the 2026 National Conference, taking place May 4–7, 2026, at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY. Hosted by the Oneida Indian Nation of New York, this annual gathering brings together Tribal natural resource professionals from across the country for four days of learning, collaboration, and connection. We're sharing the call early so you can plan ahead—submit your presentation ideas, secure travel, and get ready to join us for this important national event. **Deadline: March 6, 2026**

Video: [Nature-Based Solutions as an Adaptation Strategy to Extreme Weather](#)

This session explores the critical role of nature-based solutions (NbS) in disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. The presentations and discussions focus on actionable strategies for scaling up NbS, with an emphasis on overcoming challenges such as securing the necessary funding to bring these innovative solutions to life. Thought leaders from several agencies (including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Interior) discuss how they incorporate NbS into disaster planning and share relevant technical and financial resources. (12/11/25)

[Dancing with Deadpool- Colorado River Insights, 2025](#)

In a collection of essays and research summaries, eleven members of the Colorado River Research Group (with eight guest contributors) touch on issues as diverse as plummeting reservoir storage, climate change trends, risk management, agricultural water conservation, equity, and governance, all against the backdrop of the need to fashion post-2026 reservoir operating rules. (December 2025)

[IndigenousACCESS - PNW Tribal Flood Response Dashboard](#)

Real-time atmospheric river tracking, flood alerts, and forecasts for Pacific Northwest Tribal communities

[Blog: About Tribal Nations, Tribal Citizens, and the United States](#)

Tribal Nations are sovereign governments with inherent authority over their lands and citizens. This is a political status that predates the establishment of the United States and continues to be recognized by the United States. Historically, the federal government has used terms like "Tribes," to refer to Tribal Nations and "Tribal member" to describe Tribal citizenship. Similarly, the United States has used terms like "Indian" or "American Indian" to refer to Tribal citizens. These terms continue to be used in different settings, especially because they are ingrained in the body of law known as Federal Indian Law. (Native American Rights Fund, 11/12/25)

[Radio Story Series: Still Here: Native American Resilience in New England](#)

2026 marks a milestone in America's history – 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Our founding document put forward aspirations that have shaped America and inspired the world. But the Declaration may surprise you. It calls the Native peoples of America "merciless Indian Savages." For generations, stories of Native America have been kept separate and apart from the American story. Take a fresh look at the history of our region — and hear today's Indigenous voices. It's part of Still Here: Native American Resilience in New England — a special series from Connecticut Public, featuring radio storytelling, in-depth videos, digital stories, pictures and a community conversation. (11/14/25)

[The Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement](#)

This updated publication outlines a landmark water rights settlement involving the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe. The agreement addresses claims to the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers and groundwater across northeastern Arizona, while establishing a reservation for the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe and authorizing over \$5 billion in water infrastructure funding. With provisions for off-reservation water leasing, system conservation in Lake Powell, and enhanced water access for tens of thousands of Tribal and non-tribal residents, NAIWRSA represents a historic step toward equitable water management and legal certainty in the Colorado River Basin. (November 2025)

[Hoh Tribe's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment](#)

While there have been broad assessments that included portions of the Hoh usual and accustomed area (U&A) or focused on combined coastal Treaty Tribe concerns, there has not yet been a report produced solely by the Hoh Tribe. Seeing this gap, this is the Tribe's first climate change assessment, focused on their specific experiences, concerns, and needs. The goal of this document is to share the changes Tribal members are experiencing, the future changes the Tribe can expect, and the impacts on ecosystems, species, and well-being. It was created through interviews with Tribal members and a synthesis of scientific literature and reports. (2025)

Job & Internship Opportunities

Post Doctoral Fellow Native American Studies

The Department of Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellow to begin in August 2026. This is a full-time position with specialization in Indigenous leadership, self-determination, sustainability, pedagogy, and/or Indigenous community/Native Nation building. Applicants must have a PhD in Native American Studies, American Indian Studies, Indigenous Studies, or a related field by start date of appointment. **Application deadline: January 12, 2026**

EMERGE Alaska Fellowship

The EMERGE Alaska Program strengthens graduate education and marine ecosystem research while helping build a skilled marine science workforce. Centered on academic training, research, professional development, and student support, the program is housed within UAF's College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. EMERGE Alaska is housed in the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS), which has three departments: Fisheries, Marine Biology, and Oceanography. It offers three years of full financial support to applicants who received an NSF GRFP Honorable Mention in Spring 2022 or later. Twelve PhD fellowships will begin in Summer or Fall 2026. Applicants must apply through the NSF ETAP portal before applying to UAF graduate school. **Application deadline: January 15, 2026**

Summer 2026 Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Internship

Summer cohorts of interns work directly with host organizations from across the country to work on projects specifically benefiting the Tribal resilience efforts. We encourage and emphasize the need and significance for the interns to learn about the intergenerational teachings between Elders and Leaders in order for Elders and youth to pass on cultural teachings, language and Traditional and Indigenous knowledges. **Application deadline: January 31, 2026**

2026 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Application

Sponsored by the Intertribal Timber Council. Dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources, Forestry, and Fire. The Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program is dedicated to supporting Native American students pursuing higher education in Natural Resources. Preference will be given to students whose degree or area of study directly involves management of Forest Resources or Fire. **Application deadline: March 20, 2026**

TCU Student Internship - Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Climate Resilience Internship 2026

Engage in a year of learning, connection, and discovery—where data meets story, land, and community. Become part of the next generation of leaders strengthening Tribal sovereignty, protecting homelands, and building resilience for generations to come. The Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Climate Data for Resilience Initiative brings together Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Tribal Nations, climate scientists, and local knowledge-holders to better understand how changing weather, water, and climate conditions affect our lands and communities. This internship supports TCU students in exploring climate resilience through community values, local data, and

Indigenous knowledge systems. Interns collaborate with mentors from TCUs, Tribal resource programs, and university partners to create a project rooted in their own interests. **Applications open through March 2026**

Development Director - Grand Canyon Trust

The Grand Canyon Trust is seeking a mission-driven, experienced, and collaborative leader to serve as our next development director. Candidates must have an understanding of conservation issues — ideally those affecting the Colorado Plateau — as well as a high level of development expertise. The development director is responsible for furthering our strategic and comprehensive fundraising program and will supervise, lead, and collaborate with a small but high-performing team of individuals to ensure that the annual fundraising goals and long-term financial sustainability of the Trust's priorities are achieved. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Grants Field Liaison - Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society is seeking a qualified individual to fill a Grants Field Liaison position. NAFWS Grants Field Liaisons assist Tribes in identifying funding opportunities available for Tribal fish and wildlife programs. They will coordinate information dissemination and technical assistance opportunities to increase Tribal participation in funding opportunities. They will become proficient in multiple grant application platforms to assist Tribes with submittal processes. They have a specialized knowledge of grant writing, Tribal and federal governments, Tribal treaties, fish and wildlife management, and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. **Application deadline: Open until filled**

Managing Director -Stanford Center for Just Environmental Futures

The Stanford Center for Just Environmental Futures, housed within SSI, will be a hub for interdisciplinary work on equitable and sustainable futures. The Center will drive this mission through research, education, and initiatives that address environmental harm, climate impacts, inequitable access to biodiversity benefits, and historic marginalization. The Managing Director will oversee Center strategy, operations, and evaluation; hire and manage staff; and build partnerships across and beyond Stanford. This role reports to the Faculty Director, with a dotted line to SSI's staff lead. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Alaska State Director - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

TNC in Alaska works in deep partnership with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, government agencies, and local communities to advance conservation work centered primarily in Southeast Alaska and Bristol Bay, where we work on issues like climate resilience, sustainable fisheries, forest stewardship and thriving communities. TNC is seeking a dynamic and strategic Alaska State Director to lead the Alaska Business Unit and serve as a partner with colleagues in TNC's Western US and Canada Division as we execute on our ambitious conservation goals. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Funding Opportunities



Additional Sources for More Opportunities:

- 1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website: <https://itep.nau.edu/>
- 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. <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/>
- 4) Tribal Funding Registry Presented by: The Hozhonigo Institute <https://www.tribalfunding.org/>

Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise (SLR) Tribal Cultural Resources Funding Program

The purpose of the SLR Tribal Cultural Resources Funding Program is to provide funding for tribes to assess and plan for the impacts of SLR on their ancestral lands, cultural sites, lifeways, and resources in a manner that is beneficial to the tribe. This program is an alternative and more flexible funding pathway within OPC's broader SB 1 Grant Program. Eligible project types include both pre-planning activities (community visioning, education and outreach, data collection, and vulnerability assessments) and planning activities (setting adaptation priorities and developing culturally appropriate strategies to preserve and protect tribal cultural resources threatened by existing coastal hazards or future impacts of SLR). **Next round due: January 6, 2026**

Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-COMP) for FY2025

The Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-COMP) provides competitive grant opportunities to eligible IHBG formula recipients under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)

to carry out eligible affordable housing activities for the benefit of low-income Tribal families. **Application deadline: January 15, 2026**

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

The Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program will assist local waste management authorities by supporting improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs, and assisting local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems. Consistent with the authorizing statute in Section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, SWIFR will support an economy that uses a systems-focused approach and involves industrial processes and economic activities that are restorative or regenerative by design, enables resources used in such processes and activities to maintain their highest value for as long as possible, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, and systems (including business models). **Application deadline: January 23, 2026**

Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current

Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current aims to better align the delivery of FMA flood mitigation funding to the disaster survivor experience. The purpose of FMA Swift Current is to reduce or eliminate the flood risk to NFIP-participating communities and repetitive flood damage to structures and buildings insured by the NFIP following a flood-related disaster event, and to enhance community flood resilience within NFIP-participating communities. It does so by providing funding for mitigation opportunities immediately after a flood disaster event with the aim of delivering mitigation outcomes. **Application deadline: January 15, 2025**

National Forest Foundation 2026 Matching Awards Program Nationwide Grant Opportunity

Through the Matching Awards Program (MAP), the NFF is soliciting proposals to provide funds for projects that directly benefit America's National Forests and Grasslands. MAP pairs federal funds provided through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service with non-federal dollars raised by award recipients,

multiplying the resources available to benefit the National Forest System. **Application deadline: January 22, 2026**

Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education

Focus area 2: Enhancing Capacity for Fire Resilience in the Wildland-Urban Interface (FIRE-WUI); Considering impacts of wildland fire at the WUI in the context of global change, including demographics, ecosystems, land use and development, FIRE-WUI awards will support research that may for example: Inform community adaptation and governance relevant to wildland fire. **Application deadline: February 10, 2026**

The Climate Smart Communities Initiative - 2026 Grant Cycle

CSCI awards provide funding and technical assistance to advance community-based climate resilience in US communities or regions that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The total grants budget is \$1.5-2 million, and grants typically range from \$75,000 to \$115,000 based on the scope of work proposed in the application. CSCI anticipates awarding between 16-20 grants for the 2026 cycle. The program prioritizes funding for communities that include historically disinvested populations at increased risk to climate-related impacts. It is open to US-based project teams composed of a climate adaptation practitioner and representatives from a local or regional government entity and a community-based organization. **Application deadline: March 12, 2025**

Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects (Small Storage Program)

The Secretary of the Interior gives priority to proposals that meet one or more of the following criteria: Projects that will provide a more reliable water supply for States, Indian Tribes, and local governments. Projects that will increase water management flexibility and reduce impacts on environmental resources from projects operated by Federal and State agencies. Projects that are regional in nature. Projects with multiple stakeholders. Projects that will provide multiple benefits, including water supply reliability, ecosystem benefits, groundwater management and enhancements, and water quality improvements. **Application deadline: April 17, 2026**

Upcoming Events

NOTE: Updated info on events can be found at the Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Website:
<https://itep.nau.edu/tw7g/>

February

Webinar Series: February-September 2026, Virutal SW CASC - Tribal Community Resilience Webinar Series

Join presentations and Q&A focusing on how Tribal Nations, Native Villages, and Pueblos are responding to resilience challenges across regions throughout the U.S. Together, you will explore these topics on the following dates:

- **February 5th** - Data Protection & Security
- **March 5th** - Fire
- **April 2nd** - Resilient Infrastructure
- **May 14th** - Water
- **June 4th** - Forestry
- **July 2nd** - Fish & Wildlife
- **August 6th** - Emergency Preparedness
- **September 3rd** - Food Security

Conference: February 24-26, Wisconsin WWA's 31st Annual Wetland Science Conference

The annual Wetland Science Conference is a program of Wisconsin Wetlands Association. The conference typically runs for 2-3 days and includes a keynote address, topical oral sessions, a poster session, workshops, working groups, a Wednesday evening networking event, and field trips to area wetlands.

March

Workshop: March 4-6, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA Adapting Together: Shaping the Future of Fire in the Northwest - Oregon State University

Join Oregon State University, the Fire Adapted Communities Network and partners for an engaging workshop to transform how we adapt and coexist with wildfire in light of dynamic ecological, social and economic challenges. As new fire policies and adaptation strategies have grown across the Northwest, it is essential

that we work together to learn, share and craft actionable visions. The workshop will be a space that honors wildfire adaptation as a collective and long-term journey involving diverse voices, generations, roles and experiences.

April

Summit: April 11-12, Tucson, AZ U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance Summit 2026

The U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network invites Tribal and Indigenous leaders, Indigenous community programs, Indigenous data-focused scholars, policy experts, and other data actors and practitioners to submit a proposal for the 2026 Summit, "Coming Home: Indigenous Data Governance By Us For Us."

Forum: April 15-17, San Antonio, TX 2026 South Central Climate Resilience Forum

The Forum will bring together representatives from non-profit organizations, all levels of government, community groups, the private sector, and academia from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The goals of the event are to improve understanding of the climate-related challenges facing the region and increase awareness of work that is being done to enhance resilience in the region. The program will include presentations, symposiums, and workshops on resources, research, tools, knowledge, and experiences, and will provide opportunities for information exchange and network-building.

Forum: April 27-30, Pacific Northwest National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) aims to support tribal programs by fostering information-sharing and networking opportunities that are focused on building tribal capacity in air quality management.

The event's agenda is driven by tribal input and priorities, with a focus on increasing tribal engagement in air quality initiatives that are relevant to tribal communities across the nation.

May

Forum: May 12-14, Pittsburgh, PA 7th National Adaptation Forum

The National Adaptation Forum is a biennial convening for adaptation professionals to innovate, network, and focus on established and emerging climate adaptation issues of the day. The Forum provides opportunities for professional development through training sessions, facilitated presentations and panels, and formal and informal networking sessions. At its core, the Forum is cross-disciplinary, bringing together practitioners from a variety of sectors, spanning natural, built, and social systems. Participants include representatives from governments (local, state, federal and tribal), nonprofit organizations, corporate sector and universities.

Conference: May 21-22, University of Redlands, CA Second Annual California Native American Tribal GIS Summit 2026

The second Annual California Native American Tribal GIS Summit 2026 will take place in Redlands, CA. It is a gathering space for Tribal GIS practitioners - CA Native American Tribes, Tribal Partners and Organization who have an interest in the Tribal uses, needs, and solutions of GIS based technology. Virtual option for plenary sessions; workshops in person. Contact Donna Miranda-Begay if you have any questions about the summit at donnabegay@yahoo.com.

International Indigenous News & Resources

In the News

[The Indigenous women changing the course of their communities](#)

Indigenous women leaders don't only sustain life in their territories; they are also active defenders of water, seeds, ancestral knowledge and biodiversity. Together, they lead environmental restoration processes and care for the health of their communities. They also pave the way for political participation, claiming spaces where decision-making affects their communities. © Mongabay, 12/04/25

[Decolonizing Wealth Project's Indigenous Earth Fund Awards \\$1 Million to 30 Grantees, Powering Indigenous Sovereignty in Climate and Conservation](#)

Today, Decolonizing Wealth Project (DWP) announced the awardees of the 2025 Indigenous Earth Fund (IEF), comprised of 30 organizations working to unlock resources for Indigenous-led climate and conservation advocacy efforts. This \$1 million funding round, powered by DWP's Liberated Capital fund and donor community, will support Tribes and Indigenous organizations across the United States that are advancing climate solutions rooted in ancestral wisdom and ecological stewardship, while championing bold advocacy to dismantle systemic barriers and push for policy change that protects people and the planet. © Liberated Capital Press Release, 12/8/25

Call for Input & Nominations

[Call for Applications: 2026 International Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Policy](#)

The International Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Policy is now accepting applications for its upcoming training in July 2026 in Geneva. Designed for Indigenous professionals, researchers, practitioners, and advanced students, the Institute provides in-depth training on international human rights mechanisms and practical engagement with UN processes. **Deadline: February 1, 2026**

[Call for Inputs: OHCHR Report on climate financing and human rights](#)

The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 59/25 of 8 July 2025 entitled "Human rights and climate change" (para. 24), has requested the Secretary-General to consult Member States and other relevant stakeholders in order to prepare and submit to its sixty-third session a synthesis report on actionable pathways in mobilizing sufficient climate financing and associated challenges and opportunities in the pursuit of the full realization of human rights for all people. **Deadline: January 15, 2026**

Job & Internship Opportunities

[Job: Scientist- The Center for International Forestry Research \(CIFOR\)](#)

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) envision a more equitable world where trees in all landscapes, from drylands to the humid tropics, enhance the environment and well-

being for all. CIFOR and ICRAF are non-profit science institutions that build and apply evidence to today's most pressing challenges, including energy insecurity and the climate and biodiversity crises. This Scientist will coordinate research and engagement at different levels and geographical scales (including global comparative research) related to social inclusion, environmental justice, gender equity, and land and resource rights, with an emphasis on work with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Afro-descendent people. He or she will lead work and capacity strengthening at CIFOR-ICRAF on rights-based approaches and contribute to theory and practice on participation, power and accountability, as well as multi- and trans-disciplinary, intercultural and traditional science approaches. **Application deadline: January 6, 2026**

[Fellowship: Applications Open for 2026-27 Global Change Research Fellows](#)

The Global Change Research Fellows program provides financial, scientific, and professional-development support for graduate students who are incoming to or currently enrolled at a Consortium University or a citizen of a USET member Tribal Nation in the Southeast attending any university. Recipients will join an interdisciplinary community of graduate students and faculty focused on global environmental change. Fellows will participate in a fully funded, week-long Climate Adaptation Science Field Intensive in August or December 2026, attend weekly virtual cohort meetings and workshops and contribute to a Team Science Synthesis Project, SE CASC Working Group, or Communications Project. During the 2026-27 academic year, fellows will also host at least two SE CASC-related convenings and create a Researcher Spotlight showcasing their work, along with taking part in additional professional development opportunities. **Application deadline: January 17, 2026**

[Fellowship: 2026 OHCHR Minority Fellowship Programme \(MFP\)](#)

Are you a human-rights defender from a national, ethnic, religious, or linguistic minority group? The UN Human Rights Office's Minorities Fellowship Programme is your opportunity to gain world-class training, expand your global network, and amplify the voices of your community on the international stage. **Application deadline: January 31, 2026**

Resources & Funding

[Funding: 2026 Future Conservationist Awards](#)

CLP offers Future Conservationist Awards of up to US \$15,000 each to conduct scientific research, encourage and promote pro-conservation attitudes and deliver tangible results to better conserve and manage the natural world. Early-career conservationists in eligible countries can apply for project grants of up to USD 15,000, leadership training, and access to a global alumni network. Projects should focus on conserving globally threatened or data-deficient species and priority habitats, addressing themes such as climate adaptation, habitat restoration, Indigenous participation, wellbeing, and environmental policy. Teams (minimum 3 members) must be early-career and primarily national to the project country. **Application deadline: January 9, 2026**

Accreditation Application: [United Nations Permanent](#)

International Indigenous Resources

Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) UNPFII

Participation in the annual session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is open to Member States, the UN and other intergovernmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs), academia accredited to the Permanent Forum and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with ECOSOC. Indigenous parliamentarians and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) may also be invited to attend. Online registration is mandatory for all participants by the deadlines. For IPOs and academia, there is a two-step accreditation and registration process. While those that have previously participated in UNPFII may already have iCSO accreditation, all organizations are strongly encouraged to review and update their iCSO profiles to ensure the information is correct, up to date and that their accreditation remains active. **Application deadline: January 30, 2026**

Notice of Funding: Youth Climate Justice Fund

The Youth Climate Justice Fund provides funding to emerging youth-led climate justice and socio-environmental groups through a participatory decision-making process. Our 2026 application round will open soon. Eligible groups working at local or national levels are invited to apply for grants of up to USD 20,000 for local groups and USD 40,000 for national groups. **Application deadline: Coming Soon!**

Publication: Summary Notes for the 18th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

The 18th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) was held in Geneva from 14 to 18 July 2025, bringing together Indigenous Peoples, States, civil society and UN experts to advance implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Key proceedings emphasized Indigenous data sovereignty such as upholding rights to access, control, repatriate, and govern data affecting Indigenous Peoples and protection of traditional economies, as vital expressions of self-determination. Participants also explored mechanisms to enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation at the UN and the Human Rights Council, including a new status and accreditation modalities. Budget constraints were noted as a serious concern, resulting in cancellation of planned country engagements such as in Brazil, though EMRIP remained committed to other forms of engagements.

Publication: Co-producing ocean plans with Indigenous and traditional knowledge holders (November 17, 2025)

Globally, there is a call to recognize and empower Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge holders' leadership in ocean governance, yet the ensuing processes often maintain power inequities and colonial legacies. We propose eight recommendations for equitable, inclusive, and knowledge-based approaches to co-producing sustainable ocean plans with Indigenous and traditional knowledge holders. These are 1) recognizing rights, 2) acknowledging pluralism, 3) aligning policy frameworks, 4) building relationships, 5) prioritizing accessible data, 6) funding Indigenous-led research, 7) addressing intersectionality, and 8) pursuing iterative planning processes.

Funding: Youth Wellness Honorarium (Indigenous Climate Action)

Honorariums are intended for Indigenous Youth engaged in frontline activism and/or climate justice organizing. At

ICA we know that financial and mental health barriers often impact Indigenous Peoples when engaging in climate justice work. By creating this fund, Indigenous Climate Action hopes to remove some of those barriers that come up when upholding our sacred responsibilities. The fund can be used to pay for counseling sessions, provide an honorarium to an elder for their teachings, pay for an art or yoga class, or for gas to get out on the land if you live elsewhere. **Deadline: ongoing.**

Events

Meeting: December 1-3, Virtual

Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the context of the climate crisis, biodiversity governance & territorial integrity: focusing on nomadic & semi-nomadic peoples, including pastoralists & shifting cultivators

Every year, the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch within the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organizes an international expert group meeting (EGM) on a theme recommended by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and endorse by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In its twenty-fourth session in 2025, the Permanent Forum recommended the theme of the EGM: "Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the context of the climate crisis, biodiversity governance and territorial integrity: focusing on nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples, including pastoralists and shifting cultivators".

Forum: April 20th -May 1st, 2026, UN Headquarters, New York

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) will be held from April 20 to May 1, 2026, with the theme "Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' Health, Including in the Context of Conflict." As a high-level advisory body to ECOSOC, the Forum addresses Indigenous issues related to development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights.

July 13-17, 2026, Geneva, Switzerland

UN 19th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The calls for applications for participation in meetings in 2026 will be launched soon