



# Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

January 2026

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.



Klamath Falls. Adobe.stock

## Meet the Team

**Nikki Cooley, Diné (Asdzáá/She/Her)**  
*Director*  
[Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu](mailto:Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu)

**Karen Cozzetto (She/Her)**  
*TW7G Manager*  
[Karen.Cozzetto@nau.edu](mailto:Karen.Cozzetto@nau.edu)

**Ashley Gries (She/Her)**  
*Assistant Manager*  
[Ashley.Gries@nau.edu](mailto:Ashley.Gries@nau.edu)

**Laureen Lewis, Hopi/Havasupai, (She/Her)**  
*Financial Oversight Analyst*  
[Laureen.Lewis@nau.edu](mailto:Laureen.Lewis@nau.edu)

**Kim Shaw (She/Her)**  
*Internship Coordinator*  
[Kim.Shaw@nau.edu](mailto:Kim.Shaw@nau.edu)

**Taryn Bell (They/Them)**  
*Research Assistant*  
[Taryn.Bell@nau.edu](mailto:Taryn.Bell@nau.edu)

**Cara Corbin (She/Her)**  
*Community Program Coordinator, Sr.*  
[Cara.Corbin@nau.edu](mailto:Cara.Corbin@nau.edu)

**Kieren Daley Larsen (He/Him)**  
*Community Program Coordinator, Sr.*  
[Kieren.Daley-Laursen@nau.edu](mailto:Kieren.Daley-Laursen@nau.edu)

**Zane Jacobs, Diné (Nádleehé/He/Him)**  
*Events Coordinator*  
[Zane.Jacobs@nau.edu](mailto:Zane.Jacobs@nau.edu)

**Kelsey Jensen, Diné (She/Her)**  
*Program Assistant*  
[Kelsey.Jensen@nau.edu](mailto:Kelsey.Jensen@nau.edu)

**Joan Chepngeno Langat**  
*Program Assistant*  
[Joan.Langat@nau.edu](mailto:Joan.Langat@nau.edu)



Bison Bulls in Winter in Northern Arizona. Adobe.stock

*Happy Gregorian New Year! The start of the calendar year for many serves as an opportunity to take on resolutions to better ourselves, tackle goals, and hope for an even better outlook for our communities, families, and ourselves. Personally, I celebrate our Diné new year in October, but I don't make resolutions. I tried it once and realized I was better off setting goals for myself throughout the year. Two goals I set for myself in summer 2025 was to read more. Read more of everything. One of my favorite things to read about is our rising leaders who are gaining their education, experience, and confidence. I encourage you to read and be inspired by one of those leaders who, I have no doubt, will continue to pave the way for others. Ahé'hee!*

### A Lifelong Quest

By: Reanna L. Yazzie (ITEP Intern and NAU Graduate)

**S**tepping into academia began as a personal achievement and grew into a passion for reclaiming the Indigenous narrative in anthropology. My perspectives and motivation in this field are shaped by experiences as a Diné woman from the rural Four-Corners area of the Navajo Nation.

Yá'át'ééh, I am Reanna Yazzie. I am of the Near the Water Clan (Tó'ahani - mother's clan), born for the Bitter Water Clan (Tódích'ii'nii - father's clan). My maternal grandfather is of the Tobacco People Division of Red Streak Running Into the Water Clan (Táchii'nii), and my paternal grandfather is Mexican (Naakai dine'é). I am from Dennehotso, Arizona, near the Four Corners area of the Navajo Nation, where I spent almost every summer with my grandparents, helping with the livestock and following my grandmother to her job as a dormitory aid, where I learned about a hard work ethic. I followed my grandfather, a school bus driver by day and a medicine man the rest of the time, and I learned the value of Diné culture and how it blends with the teachings of the Native American Church. He also taught me the meaning of resilience and family values. My great-grandmother would also come to my grandmother's at the same time. She only spoke Diné, however, we communicated using improvised sign language, and she was my best friend. She taught me the value of life and the importance of appreciating my surroundings. My time during those summers was very influential to my perspectives and my motivations to studying anthropology.

After graduating from high school, I wanted to start classes at Coconino Community College (CCC) in Flagstaff, AZ;

however, it did not work out financially. Soon thereafter, I had my son and began working in retail. When my little sister began working at CCC, she encouraged me to sign up for classes, and once enrolled, I was welcomed by considerate staff, amazing resources, and helpful peers. I felt comfortable in my learning environment, which helped me thrive. I met great professors who advocated for anthropology and the importance of Indigenous perspectives. I also met my advisor at TRIO Student Support Services, who became a long-term mentor, and has helped me transitioned me from CCC to Northern Arizona University. During my last semester at CCC, I obtained an internship at the Museum of Northern Arizona, where I have been interning for the past three years, working on the Heritage Festival and the museum's summer camps.

Once I started school at NAU, I learned much more about research, including decolonizing methods, community collaboration, and the importance of power dynamics in Indigenous regions in anthropological research. During this time, one of my previous professors asked if I would like to join her research team at the Water, Society, and Policy Research Lab. I was pleased to learn that I would be working with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. I was excited to hear that the lab was conducting a qualitative regional landscape analysis on water security and leadership, and, better yet, that the focus was the Colorado Plateau of Northern Arizona. This included the area where I spent my summers as a child. I was ready to connect the methods I had been learning to an area I know personally and to offer my input on situations and places I am familiar with. I joined this project in August 2026, and so far, I've observed the perspectives of many influential water managers, experts, and advocates and have learned a great deal about the skills, values, and knowledge a successful water leader may possess. I am pleased to be taking on a bigger role in this research project this spring and cannot wait to connect with more water leaders and advocates.

My grandfather was known to pray for a long time; he prayed in detail for every creature, every little plant, and every bug. He taught me the importance of water, and I am grateful to be doing what I can to help a world he prayed so strongly for.

# In The News

## [Wool in Watershed Restoration Pilot Project Install](#)

What started as an idea in August 2025, while passing through one of the lesser-wooded communities on the Navajo Nation, morphed into a mini-pilot project. The Navajo Nation is in no short supply of wool and mohair; often, communities that don't use wool for weaving discard the wool. Here at Tó Nizhóní Ání (TNA), our watershed restoration crew experimented with wool and watershed restoration to find ways to repurpose unwanted/rough wool. ©Tó Nizhóní Ání, 12/2/25

## [‘Everything is drying up’: As springs on Hopi land decline, a sacred connection is threatened](#)

At the base of a sandstone mesa, the ground descends in a series of stone terraces and steps, forming an oval-shaped ceremonial gathering place with flat rocks arranged around a central pit. At the bottom, a pool of water shimmers in the sun. This natural spring, called Toreva Spring, is a sacred place for Hopi people. For centuries, they have held religious ceremonies here while looking into its serene waters. When he was a boy, Howard Dennis sat by the water during ceremonies and dangled his feet in the cool spring. © azcentral, 12/14/2025

## [What We Don’t Know \(Yet\)](#)

“I’m researching the environmental impacts and opportunities of data centers in the U.S.,” I type into ChatGPT. “Please compile three concerns, three innovations, and a list of active research related to data centers and the environment.” Send. The words are translated and beamed to a massive data center, location unknown. The model reads it, builds a response, retranslates it, and shoots it back. In 16 seconds. “Nice — good, timely beat,” Chat responds, followed by an organized list of 30 links. My research time shrank from hours to seconds — a win for productivity. ©Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, 12/15/25

## [Indigenous tribe celebrates incredible victory with 700-mile journey: ‘Honors our commitment’](#)

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation celebrated an incredible victory in conservation efforts with the relocation of 100 pronghorn from Nevada to Washington. [Source One News](#) reported that the initiative is part of the Tribes’ long-term goals to help the [species make a comeback](#) in its native range in the Inland Northwest. Colville Tribes Fish &

Wildlife reported that the mission took approximately five days and was [supported by local volunteers](#), the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and tribal wildlife staff. ©The Cool Down, 01/05/26

## [Indigenous-led conservation efforts match or surpass similar initiatives when properly funded, new research shows](#)

Government support helps communities limit carbon emissions and promote biodiversity while maintaining cultural heritage and traditions. Federally funded Indigenous-led conservation programs are delivering highly effective climate and biodiversity outcomes, aligning with national greenhouse gas mitigation and biodiversity goals, according to a new paper led by Concordia researchers. Writing in the journal Earth’s Future, the authors say these programs, as Indigenous-led Nature-based Solutions (NbS), can be just as or even more effective at carbon storage and biodiversity conservation as conventional national and provincial parks. © Concordia University, 01/06/26

## [Trump administration proposes Colorado River options that could hit California hard](#)

The Trump administration has released an outline of four new options for dealing with the Colorado River’s deepening water shortages, and they could dramatically cut the amount of water available for Southern California. Several of the alternatives are “alarming” because they could mean major water cutbacks for Southern California, said Shivaji Deshmukh, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District, which distributes water in the region. © Los Angeles Times, 01/9/26

## [What does ‘time immemorial’ really mean?](#)

Recently, while reading a draft of a story by another writer for this magazine, I tripped over a familiar phrase: time immemorial. If you read (or write) Indigenous affairs journalism, it comes up a lot. As in Indigenous cultures have been here since time immemorial — I’ve seen it so often it disappears into the wallpaper, an invisible cliché. But this time, I realized I had questions. Why do Indigenous affairs writers — myself included — rely on this phrase so much? Natives have been told our whole lives — in classrooms, through academic research and in popular myth — that humans first migrated into North America around 12,000

years ago. © High Country News, 01/12/26

## [Supreme Court victory secures Alaska Native subsistence fishing fights](#)

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) celebrates a historic victory for our clients and Alaska Native communities as the United States Supreme Court announced on January 12, 2026, that it will not review the State of Alaska’s latest challenge to long-standing federal protections for rural subsistence rights. This decision officially ends U.S. v. Alaska, reaffirming the legacy of the landmark Katie John cases and ensuring that Alaska Native peoples can continue to practice their traditional hunting and fishing lifeways. ©Native American Rights Fund, 01/12/26

## [Forest Service seeks feedback on Gifford Pinchot commercial huckleberry harvest](#)

The U.S. Forest Service announced a new public survey Wednesday to investigate the impacts of its 2025 ban on commercial huckleberry harvests in Gifford Pinchot National Forest. “Hearing everyone’s perspective is helpful to make a balanced well-informed decision for the 2026 huckleberry season and into the future,” Amanda Kill, a spokesperson for the agency, said in a statement. She said the survey results and conversations with “partners, interested parties, tribes (and the) wild foods industry” will help decide the future of commercial harvesting in the forest. The survey can be found at [forms.office.com/g/T9bnsTigMB](#). ©The Columbian, 01/12/26

## [Growing the Next Generation of Farmers](#)

Along the San Juan River on the Navajo Nation, wide stretches of farmland have gone to dusty soil where verdant crops once grew to sustain Diné communities. For generations, aspiring Diné farmers who wanted to cultivate food—and businesses—on the reservation have struggled to access the resources, training, equipment, and, most simply, the land they would need to succeed. Enter the cofounders of Bidii Baby Foods and the BEN Initiative. Building on their own experience farming and starting an ancestral foods business in Shiprock, Dr. Mary Ben and her husband, Zach Ben, have begun addressing the unique needs of such farmers head-on. © Edible New Mexico, 01/13/26

# Resources

## **Assessment: Take the Tribal Needs Assessment**

With our partners at Sun Singer Consulting, the Arbor Day Foundation is seeking a better understanding of how we can best support Tribal communities in using trees as a solution for food sovereignty and cultural preservation. Historically, we know that there are numerous barriers that prevent Tribal communities from seeking support for trees to produce food or cultural products. This survey aims to gather information on finding solutions. The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes. We will randomly select one respondent who completes the survey to win a \$100 Visa gift card by the end of January 2026! Please complete the survey by this date to be eligible for the drawing!

## **Course Registration: Irrigation Water Management Technician Training**

The Resilient Agricultural Water Community Systems (RAWCS) project is hosting an Irrigation Water Management Technician Training in **Las Cruces, NM from March 18-20, 2026**. This hands-on course covers soil-water relationships, ET-based irrigation scheduling, climate data use, FAO CROPWAT, and practical field demonstrations. \$200 general/\$100 students. **Special Early Bird pricing now through February 28, 2026.**

## **2026 Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress**

Join students from across the country to discuss community adaptation and related environmental issues impacting Native peoples. The mission of the Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress (NYCALC) is to develop future conservation leaders with the skills, knowledge, and tools to address environmental change and conservation challenges to better serve their schools and home communities. The mission of the Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress (NYCALC) is to develop future conservation leaders with the skills, knowledge, and tools to address environmental change and conservation challenges to better serve their schools and home communities. **Application deadline: February 27, 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**

## **Call for Nominations: 2026 Earle R. Wilcox Memorial National and Individual Achievement Awards**

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) is seeking nominations for individuals who deserve special recognition for their achievements in Indian forestry or natural resources at the local, regional, or national level. Let's recognize the leaders who have dedicated themselves to bettering tribal communities and their forests. We wish to celebrate the outstanding leaders shaping the future of our natural resources! Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian forestry, fire,

or related natural resources programs. These awards are given in honor of Mr. Earle R. Wilcox, who will always be remembered for his significant achievements on behalf of Indian people and their forests. **Deadline: March 13, 2026**

## **Call for Nominations- Colorado River Indigenous Youth Advisory Council (CRIYAC)**

The Colorado River Indigenous Youth Advisory Council (CRIYAC), supported by the National Wildlife Federation through its Tribal & Indigenous Partnerships Enhancement Strategy, is now accepting nominations for the 2026–27 council term. We invite you to nominate (or self-nominate!) a young person ages 18–25 who is passionate about community, speaking up, the environment, and conservation—and who is ready to help uplift Tribal voices across the Colorado River Basin. Selected members may serve a one- or two-year term and will receive a stipend, with travel and lodging covered for in-person engagement. For questions, please contact NWF Tribal Partnerships Program Coordinator Nizhooni St Paul at [stpauln@nwf.org](mailto:stpauln@nwf.org). **Deadline: March 31, 2026**

## **Commercial Huckleberry Condition Feedback Form**

This summer, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest paused commercial huckleberry permits to address sustainability concerns, enforcement challenges, and conflicts among harvesters. Personal use berry picking continued under the free-use permit program. Now we need your input. We are inviting community members, businesses, Tribal governments, industry representatives, and harvesters to share their experiences during the pause. Your feedback will help us assess impacts and shape a long-term management plan that balances ecological, cultural, and economic needs. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **From River to Prairie: Kul Wicasa Oyate Climate Resilience Plan (2025-2050)**

This Climate Resilience Plan is a tool for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe to respond to those changes. It reflects the observations and knowledge shared by the elders, other community members, and Tribal staff. It builds on the results of the Vulnerability Assessment, which identified where we are most at risk and which parts of our community may need the most support in the face of climate stress. It also draws from both traditional knowledge and scientific data to better understand the challenges ahead. Adaptation, as we define it here, means taking practical steps to prepare for climate impacts and reduce the risks to our land, our people, and our way of life. It means looking at what is already happening, thinking ahead about what is likely to come, and choosing actions that can help us stay strong in the face of uncertainty.

## **How Swinomish youth sparked a clean energy movement**

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, located on Swinomish Channel along the Puget Sound in Skagit County, is guided by a longstanding ethic of environmental stewardship, salmon health, and responsibility to future generations. For the Tribe, protecting the salmon is inseparable from caring for the land and waters that sustain them, an obligation rooted in culture, diet and identity. This worldview shapes every decision: take only what you need, and consider the next generation who will inherit what you leave behind.

# Job & Internship Opportunities

## 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 Šakówin 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 Šakówin 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**

## Research Fellow in Indigenous Community Wellbeing

Under the supervision of Prof. Joseph Gone, Faculty Director of the Harvard University Native American Program, and in collaboration with Indigenous community partners, the fellow will support community-engaged mental health research by advancing research projects and publications, strengthening and developing partnerships, assisting with research logistics and grant activities, building networks of researchers and Indigenous knowledge keepers, and supervising project students, staff, and volunteers. The role requires managing virtual meetings and traveling to regional and national project sites as needed. **Application deadline: April 1, 2026**

## Executive Director - Klamath Indigenous Land Trust (KILT)

Klamath Indigenous Land Trust (KILT) is a new organization focused on land stewardship in the Klamath Basin through land return, conservation, and habitat restoration for Tribal communities and the public. Led by a Tribal board with deep roots in Klamath River dam removal, KILT seeks a collaborative, mission-driven Executive Director to guide its growth and advance its work in water quality, fish and wildlife, and community well-being. **Application deadline: open until filled**

## Tribal Partnership Program Director - Trout Unlimited

This role offers a self-motivated, skilled leader the opportunity to launch and lead TU's Tribal Partnership Program, working with TU staff and Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities nationwide to build respectful, mutually beneficial partnerships that sustain trout, salmon, and coldwater habitats. The Director will ground programs in sovereignty, cultural humility, and equity; co-design initiatives; secure resources; and support the program's growth to strengthen collaboration and long-term conservation outcomes. **Application deadline: ASAP**

## Department of Environmental Protection: Vegetation Specialist

The Vegetation Specialist is responsible for providing programmatic, field, technical, and administrative support for the Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection's Forestry, Camas, and Noxious Weed Control Programs, by supervising vegetation field activities and data collection. The required work includes plant identification, vegetation field crew

leadership and participation using a full range of vegetation management techniques, and fieldwork tracking and reporting. The position is supervised by the Forester and provides general oversight to 3-5 technical environmental staff and/or seasonal technicians or interns in vegetation-related activities.

**Application deadline: Open until filled**

## Conservation Forester - The Tulalip Tribes

The Conservation Forester will support the development and implementation of site-specific off-reservation forest management plans that integrate traditional ecological and forestry knowledge with modern and innovative forestry practices. Coordinate and oversee activities related to forest inventory, data collection, hazardous fuels reduction, invasive species control, and wildlife and aquatic habitat enhancement. Work with contractors and internal staff to ensure project and grant goals are met on time and within budget. Facilitate interdepartmental and interjurisdictional coordination to align land management efforts with broader environmental strategies. **Application deadline: Open until filled**

## Tribal Engagement Coordinator - Indigenous Conservation Council

This position is grounded in relationship-building, place-based engagement, and Indigenous-led conservation. The Tribal Engagement Coordinator will play a key role in implementing our new Listening to Our Lands program, a place-based initiative designed to bring Tribal Nations onto protected lands to foster land reconnection, knowledge exchange, and shared stewardship across Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed and throughout what is now known as the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through community-centered engagement, land tours, gatherings, and collaborative sessions, the program will seek to advance Indigenous conservation priorities related to land access, tenure, data sovereignty, and long-term conservation relationships. **Application deadline: Open until filled**

# 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/>

## IEN-WMAN Mining Mini-Grant Program

The IEN-WMAN Mining Mini-Grant Program offers financial grant assistance to communities threatened or adversely affected by mining in the U.S. and Canada. The IEN -WMAN Grassroots Communities Mining Mini-Grant Program distributes over \$200,000 per year in \$4,000 USD grants to Indigenous communities and non-profit grassroots organizations across the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to give at least 50% of the Mini-Grants to Indigenous communities. We recognize that mining activity often has detrimental impacts to all aspects of community and cultural well-being and we encourage projects that strive to protect the environment, ecosystems, cultural resources, and community health from mining impacts. This program is of tremendous value to community-based organizations, many of whom have very few opportunities to access financial support outside of their own pockets. **Applications open January 1, May 1, and September 1, 2026. Grant Deadlines for submission are February 1, June 1, and October 1, 2026.**

## Conservation Leasing on Tribal Lands Proposal

Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance (BNGA) invites Tribal Departments to

submit proposals for the Conservation Leasing on Tribal Lands funding opportunity. BNNGA will fund the cost of leasing eligible croplands for grassland restoration. BNNGA will provide funding for Tribal Departments to secure leases on Tribal, Tribal fee, or individual trust lands that have a cropland history and will be restored to native grasslands. BNNGA can fund leases up to 5 years and offers technical assistance throughout the process — including conservation planning, navigating Tribal/BIA leasing procedures, identifying restoration funding, and more. **Application deadline: February 6, 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**

## Clif Family Foundation Grants Program- Open Call

This open call grant opportunity supports nonprofit organizations advancing equitable, healthy, and sustainable food and environmental systems. Funding priorities include regenerative and organic farming, food production workers' health and safety, climate justice, healthy and culturally appropriate food access, inclusive indoor and outdoor spaces for physical and mental well-being, and efforts to reduce pollution and toxic exposure in air, water, soil, and built environments. Grants support general operating costs for 501(c) (3) organizations or those with fiscal sponsors. **Application deadlines: March 1 and August 1.**

## 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**

## 2026 Community Micro-Grant Program

Supporting Hopi Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, the Natwani Coalition's Community Micro Grant Program is dedicated to empowering Hopi farmers, gardeners, and community members by providing financial support for projects that enhance traditional agricultural practices, food production, and sustainability. This program aims to strengthen food security, preserve cultural knowledge, and promote self-sufficiency across the Hopi community. Whether you're starting a new garden, improving irrigation systems, or revitalizing heirloom seed collections, our grants can help bring your vision to life. To date, the program has awarded over \$140,000 in funding, supporting 115 projects across the Hopi community. These projects have addressed diverse needs, from enhancing food security to fostering cultural preservation.

**Application deadline: March 13, 2026**

## 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, Virtual

#### 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

### Working Group: February 17, Virtual

#### Tribal Fish & Wildlife Management Pollinator Working Group

The Tribal Fish and Wildlife Working Group is a Tribal-only forum dedicated to advancing the conservation, protection, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources across Tribal lands and communities. Meetings are held virtually, enabling broad participation and regular dialogue among Tribal natural resource professionals. Through this working group, participating Tribes strengthen partnerships, exchange best practices, and support the long-term sustainability of the natural resources that are vital to their cultural, ecological, and community well-being.

### 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.

### Virtual Conference, February 25-26 2026 National Native Seed Conference

The 2026 National Native Seed Conference is dedicated to the science, practice, and policy of producing and effectively using native seed. Join this two-day virtual conference designed to:

- Provide opportunities for attendees to explore new ideas
- Share success stories and lessons learned
- Connect and collaborate with colleagues across the country

## 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

### 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

### Conference: May 4-7, Verona, NY 43rd Annual NAFWS National Conference

The 2026 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Annual National Conference, hosted by the Oneida Indian Nation, will be held from May 4 to 7, 2026 at Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY.

### Conference: May 19-21, Fort Collins, CO Confluence 2026 - Western Collaborative Conservation Network

Confluence is expressly focused on providing a place for collaborative conservation professionals, students, and emerging leaders to connect with one another and learn together about the best-practices, processes, and outcomes of collaborative conservation. It will be structured to support peer-to-peer learning about collaborative processes and skillsets, and designed as best as we can to create a space for community-building, networking, and mentorship for everyone who attends. The theme of the year is: "The Future of Collaboration: The Power of Working Across Divides."

# International Indigenous News & Resources

## In the News

### [Linking science to dance, culture and more expands who can take part](#)

Step, shake, clap. A group of teens moves to the beat. In a video of their dance, colorful starbursts break out from their hands. These girls created their own moves. For the video, they also coded visual effects that respond to those. Combining dance with coding opens up all sorts of creative possibilities. “If you put your right fist in the air, you could trigger lightning to come down,” says engineer Kayla DesPortes in New York City. At New York University, she studies ways to teach computing. The teens created these flashy effects with a technology called [danceON](#). Kids have been learning to use this tool at a yearly summer program called [STEM From Dance](#). © Science News Explores, 01/15/26

### [Daria Egereva fought for Indigenous voices at the UN. Now she's in a Russian jail](#)

Russian authorities have detained an Indigenous climate advocate, accusing her of participating in a terrorist organization in what international observers are calling “retribution” for her United Nations advocacy on behalf of Indigenous peoples. Daria Egereva, an Indigenous Selkup woman from the city of Tomsk in western Siberia, has been involved in international advocacy at the United Nations for several years and has been a co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change since 2023 — an official forum that facilitates the participation of Indigenous peoples in U.N. meetings and gatherings, including the annual Conference of the Parties climate change conventions, also known as COP. © Grist, 01/16/26

### [Stingless bees from the Amazon granted legal rights in world first](#)

Stingless bees from the Amazon have become the first insects to be granted legal rights anywhere in the world, in a breakthrough supporters hope will be a catalyst for similar moves to protect bees elsewhere. It means that across a broad swathe of the Peruvian Amazon, the rainforest's long-overlooked native bees — which, unlike their cousins the European honeybees, have no sting — now have the right to exist and to flourish. Cultivated by Indigenous peoples since pre-Columbian times, stingless bees are thought to be key rainforest pollinators, sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. ©The Guardian, 12/29/25

### [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 Case Studies: Global Indigenous Peoples' Climate Contributions](#)

ELATIA network and Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), in partnership with the UN High-level Champion for COP28, Razan Al Mubarak, and with support from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, are pleased to announce the call for case study submissions for the global data study on Indigenous Peoples and climate change. The Study emphasizes a rights- and responsibilities-based approach, highlighting Indigenous Peoples as agents of change in climate action at local, regional, national, and international levels. It will focus on case studies from the seven socio-cultural regions of Indigenous Peoples: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Arctic, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Russian Federation, illustrating their contributions to climate ambition, mitigation, adaptation, and trends in access to climate finance. **Deadline to Submit: ASAP**

## Job & Internship Opportunities

### [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**

### [Volunteer Request: UNPFII 2026 April 20-May 1](#)

Volunteer with the Docip for the Twenty-Fifth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) held at the UN Headquarters in New York from April 20 to May 1 with preparatory meetings taking place April 17-20. **Application deadline: February 9, 2026**

# International Indigenous Resources

## **Call for Applications: 2026 UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF)**

The Call for Applications is now open! Indigenous Youth from the seven socio-cultural regions are invited to apply. We encourage Indigenous Youth who are working for the future of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and climate change resilience to join us for the III Session of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF). Discover more about the UNGIYF. nCo-hosted by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) and FAO, the UNGIYF is the only high-level forum in the UN dedicated to Indigenous Youth. It is a biennial forum, taking place every 2 years, and builds on the momentum of the positive changes that Indigenous Youth are advancing globally.

## **Call for Nominations: 3rd Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum**

The UN encourages Indigenous Youth who are working for the future of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and climate change resilience to join us for the III Session of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF). Co-hosted by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) and FAO, the UNGIYF is the only high-level forum in the UN dedicated to Indigenous Youth. It is a biennial forum, taking place every 2 years, and builds on the momentum of the positive changes that Indigenous Youth are advancing globally. **Deadline to Submit: ASAP**

## Resources & Funding

### **Accreditation Application: United Nations Permanent 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: Exploring intergenerational knowledge transfer within Inuvialuit families: connecting wellbeing, food security, and climate resiliency**

Today in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Canada, many community members are closely connected to and dependent on the land, with 68.9% of Indigenous people

in the ISR indicating that they fished and harvested in 2023. Access to cultural practices and activities with family and on-the-land has been identified as vital to food sovereignty, food security, and wellbeing. Methods: This study, using a foodways transmission lens, documents Inuvialuit families' experiences with CF and subsistence harvesting, including the intergenerational transmission of Inuvialuit Knowledge, which support food sovereignty and wellbeing. Using a community-based action research approach, we partnered with community organizations and community researchers to conduct nine family-group interviews with participants (n = 28) across Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, and Ulukhaktok, representing two to three generations (youth, middle-aged adults and Elder). (01/06/26)

### **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

### **Gathering: March 4-6, Wanuskewin, Saskatoon, SK Brading Knowledges 2026 Gathering**

The Braiding Knowledges Gathering at Wanuskewin brings together Indigenous and Western knowledge systems through a national event featuring Indigenous-led and co-led research from across Canada. Through keynotes, panels, and interactive discussions, the gathering connects Indigenous communities, researchers, and partners to share knowledge, build collaboration, and support inclusive decision-making.

### **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