



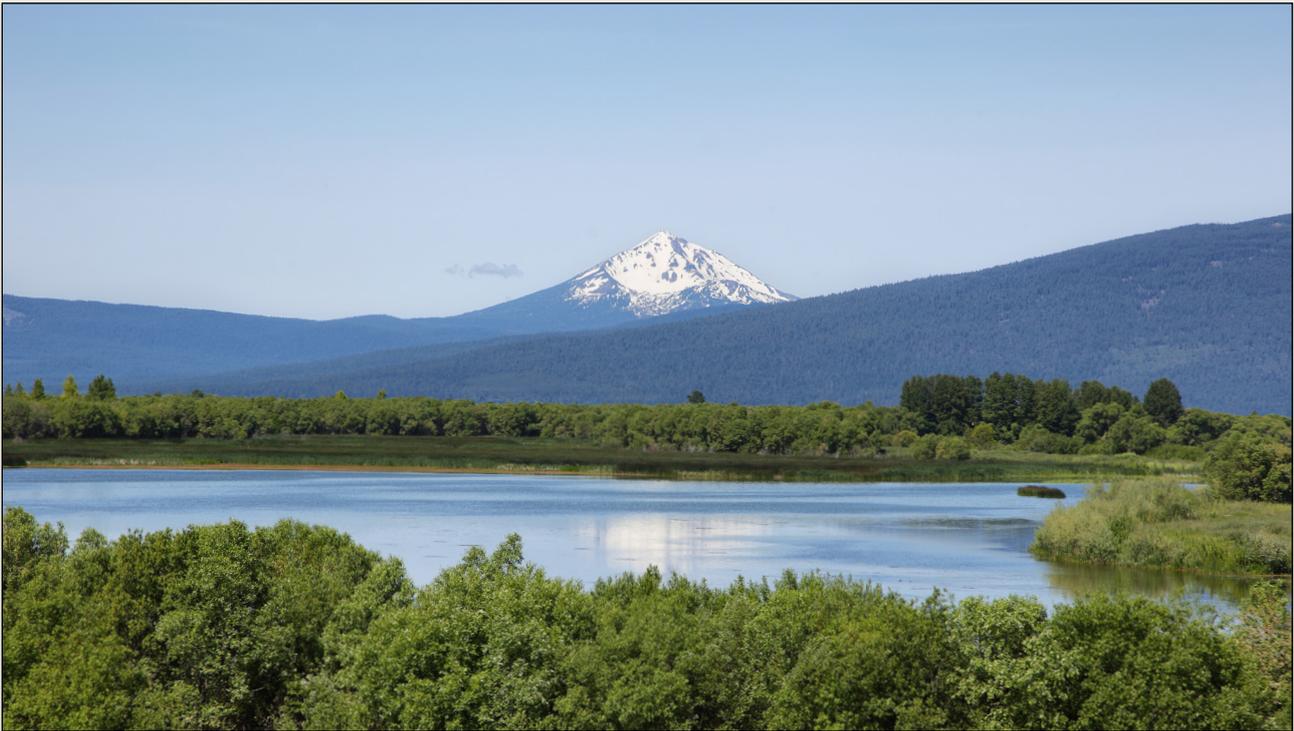
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

February 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.



Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. Adobe stock

Meet the Team

Nikki Cooley, Diné (Asdzáá/She/Her)
Director
Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu

Karen Cozzetto (She/Her)
TW7G Manager
Karen.Cozzetto@nau.edu

Ashley Gries (She/Her)
Assistant Manager
Ashley.Gries@nau.edu

Laureen Lewis, Hopi/Havasupai, (She/Her)
Financial Oversight Analyst
Laureen.Lewis@nau.edu

Kim Shaw (She/Her)
Internship Coordinator
Kim.Shaw@nau.edu

Taryn Bell (They/Them)
Research Assistant
Taryn.Bell@nau.edu

Cara Corbin (She/Her)
Community Program Coordinator, Sr.
Cara.Corbin@nau.edu

Kieren Daley Larsen (He/Him)
Community Program Coordinator, Sr.
Kieren.Daley-Laursen@nau.edu

Zane Jacobs, Diné (Nádleehé/He/Him)
Events Coordinator
Zane.Jacobs@nau.edu

Kelsey Jensen, Diné (She/Her)
Program Assistant
Kelsey.Jensen@nau.edu



Stone Sheep ram portrait. Adobe.stock

Connection: the act of [connecting](#) : the state of being [connected](#) (Merriam-Webster)

Where do you go to connect with the earth? People? Animals? Knowledges? Recently, my colleague, Todd Barnell, with ITEP's Tribal Waste and Response Program wrote a great intro to their [Full Circle Newsletter](#). Maintaining connections, in any shape or size, is a mainstay of any community. This takes initiative, motivation, energy, time and wellbeing. At least for me, I require those of myself, so my relationships and partnerships are meaningful. You can call me a people pleaser or maybe I'm someone who wants everyone to all get along and support one another. I also understand not everyone is in a space or is even willing to give of themselves other than people and animals in their circle. In the last few years, I've given myself permission to be okay with not feeling like I must maintain connections with everyone. And yes, I am a cross between an introvert and extrovert. To start, it is difficult for me to send postcards to wish someone a happy birthday. I do not post on social media much nor do I like to spend time on my cell phone so unless you're my mother or children, I don't text or call back right away. I admire those who can maintain relationships in that manner.

So, this got me wondering, how do you cultivate and maintain connections to those who are important to you?

Professionally, I do this through daily conversations with my colleagues and for others across the country, I do it through these newsletter narratives. I enjoy the technical and social information provided but I wanted to put a personal touch by writing these narratives which have healing. I enjoy hearing that some folks like to read them. Sometimes we just need a small break from our daily work grind. Just like you get up from your chair and desk and take a 10-15-minute walk or to do some stretching, giving your brain a break from the computer screen is making your health a priority. It is a way to connect with others even though you may not know them. For example, my lovely colleague and friend clued me into the Washington Post's [Joy](#)

[Snacks](#) which are feel-good stories through video. I'm still learning about this, but my buddy sent a couple to me, and I've watched them more than once. Another example, during one of our weekly program team meetings, the lead asks a question about favorite book, childhood memories, favorite movie which is how we laugh, smile and learn a bit more about our colleagues.

As [Marie Kondo](#) made famous, what sparks your joy? So, tell us, how do you maintain connections, and do they spark your joy? For me, I love reading books, walking and being outdoors, gardening and being with my family. I love taking moments to look at the sky, hug a tree or give my thanks to the plants and animals. I've been known to greet ravens and crows and give them my respect. I also love all my animals with a special place for my best fur-friend, Mitchell.

[ITEP's Internship Program](#)

[Indigenous Joy in Picture Books](#)

[U.S. Women's Hockey Team](#)

[New Fairy Lantern Found](#)

[Hosava Kretzmann – Olympic Trials](#)

On behalf of our Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Team, Nikki

In The News

[Earth Notes: Ancestral Pueblo Water Conservation](#)

Ancestral Puebloan peoples developed ingenious methods to collect, store, conserve, and utilize water. Their survival in the arid Southwest depended on an intimate understanding of rainfall cycles, seasonal streams, and natural catchments, which they adapted into sustainable systems for agricultural and home uses. One of the most common strategies was the construction of check dams and stone terraces across small washes and slopes. These slowed runoff during summer rains, reducing erosion while allowing water to seep into the soil. The retained moisture nourished maize, beans, and squash, the core of Puebloan agriculture. © KNAU News and Talk, 01/14/26

[California brought back beavers for the first time in 70 years, and the results are already amazing](#)

Deep in the Sierra Nevada foothills on the Tule River Indian Reservation, tribal member Kenneth McDarment had passed by an ochre-red pictograph countless times throughout his life—a simple yet unmistakable image of a beaver with four paws and a distinctive paddle tail. Estimated to be between 500 and 1,000 years old, this ancient artwork adorned the walls of a rock shelter alongside other paintings of wildlife, humans, and geometric designs created by the Yokuts people. © Upworthy, 01/17/26

[Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Pass Historic Youth-Led Rights of Nature Resolution](#)

At the Eastern Band of Cherokee Tribal Council meeting on January 8, 2026, the Council read and unanimously passed a historic resolution affirming the rights of the stream system in the Great Smoky Mountains, known to the Cherokee as “the Longperson”. The Council chamber, an intimate wood-planked room with a horseshoe-shaped table of Council members, was filled with a long line of young Cherokee women representing the NAIWA Daughters (North American Indian Women’s Association). They stood before the podium, ready to testify in support of the resolution they had written to bring before the Council. © Bioneers, 01/22/26

[Yakama Nation works to protect sacred huckleberries from invasive species, overharvesting](#)

A sacred resource for the Yakama Nation is under threat from two fronts: an invasive pest spreading

through native lands and commercial overharvesting that has strained the fragile crop. For the first time ever, the U.S. Forest Service banned commercial huckleberry harvesting in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the summer of 2025, an industry that typically collects 50,000 to 70,000 gallons annually. ©K5, 01/23/26

[Governor Katie Hobbs Appoints Laura Tohe as Arizona Poet Laureate](#)

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Governor Katie Hobbs announced the appointment of celebrated poet Dr. Laura Tohe as Poet Laureate for the State of Arizona. Established in 2012, the position of Arizona Poet Laureate is appointed by the Governor to champion the art of American poetry, inspire an emerging generation of literary artists, and educate Arizonans about poets and authors who have influenced the state through creative literary expression. Dr. Tohe is the second person in the state’s history to serve as Arizona Poet Laureate. The position was previously held by Alberto Álvaro Ríos, who served two consecutive two-year terms from 2014 to 2018. © Arizona Commission of the Arts, 01/20/26

[Living and Eating in Kinship With the Land](#)

An introduction to ‘First Person,’ our series of perspectives on Native foodways, from Indigenous food leaders around the country. We acknowledge Indigenous people as the original keepers of this land, with the knowledge and agency to heal it, and this platform is theirs. At Civil Eats, Indigenous foodways has long been a core area of our coverage. For more than a decade, we’ve reported on foraging and subsistence hunting, food sovereignty, the landback movement, and much more, working with Native reporters and fellows to shine a light on overlooked stories of resilience, strength, and solutions. © Civil Eats, 01/28/26

[Helicopters Help Rebuild Salmon Habitat on the Olympic Peninsula](#)

With NOAA funding, the Quinault Indian Nation and its partners are building engineered log jams on remote tributaries in the Queets-Clearwater watershed. This project restores historically abundant salmon habitat and supports Tribal-led recovery efforts. © NOAA Fisheries, 01/29/26

[UN Says Indigenous Knowledge is Key to Protecting World’s Remaining Wetlands](#)

On World Wetlands Day, the United Nations is spotlighting the vital role of Indigenous traditional knowledge in safeguarding the world’s remaining wetlands. Each year on Feb. 2, nations observe World Wetlands Day to raise awareness about these rich landscapes, where freshwater, saltwater or brackish water covers soil either permanently or seasonally. The observance marks the anniversary of the 1971 Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty aimed at conserving and wisely using these ecosystems that sustain biodiversity, regulate climate and support human life. © IC Magazine, 02/02/26

[Department of the Interior Expands Training Pathway for Native Youth in Wildland Fire Careers](#)

The Department of the Interior announced on February 3, 2026 a new partnership between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education to prepare Native students for careers in wildland firefighting, strengthening the workforce while creating clear school-to-career pathways for tribal youth. Through the Native Youth Firefighter Training Program, high school and post-secondary students receive hands-on instruction, mentorship and technical training that prepares them for seasonal and permanent positions with tribal, federal and state fire programs. © U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs, 02/03/26

Resources

[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 Abstracts: North American Congress for Conservation and Restoration](#)

The call for abstracts for Oral, Speed, and Poster Presentations is now open for the North American Congress for Conservation and Restoration meeting, the theme of which is "Conservation and Restoration for People and Nature". Please see below for information on each presentation type and details regarding the submission process. **Deadline: March 15, 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. **Deadline: March 31, 2026**

[Policy Resources for Addressing Climate Adaptation Funding Barriers Experienced by Northwest Coastal Tribes](#)

Beginning in late 2024, the Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative's Tribal Coastal Resilience Project, a partnership of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, Washington Sea Grant, and Western Washington University, partnered with a team of legal and policy experts from the Harvard Environmental and Energy

Law Program (EELP), the University of Washington Native American Law Center, and the Environmental Policy Innovation Center to better understand available policy frameworks and existing programs that could help streamline funding processes and unlock new sources of funding to advance Tribal adaptation. This research effort produced a suite of policy tools offering a range of approaches and resources for strengthening Tribal funding and capacity for adaptation and resilience efforts. (December 2025)

[Federal Land and Water Management: Additional Actions Would Strengthen Agreements with Tribes](#)

Federal agencies manage national forests, parks, and bodies of water that are Tribes' ancestral territories. These places have special significance for Tribes. Agencies have agreements and work with Tribes to share decision-making when managing these lands and their resources. But more can be done to better facilitate collaboration. For example, agencies have different authorities for entering into agreements with Tribes. As a result, there are fewer opportunities for tribal input. We recommended Congress consider addressing this, and more. We also made recommendations to multiple agencies. Shared decision-making agreements with federal agencies enable Tribes to provide substantive, long-term input into natural and cultural resource management decisions for public lands. In treaties, Tribes ceded millions of acres of their territories to the federal government in exchange for certain commitments. Many of these areas are now public lands. Agencies committed in 2022 to ensure Tribes play an integral role in deciding how to manage federal natural resources. These agencies include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior and their components, such as Agriculture's Forest Service and Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). (January 2026)

Jobs & Internships

[Bureau of Indian Affairs - WaterCorps Program](#)

This program is a partnership between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Stewards Individual Placements, and multiple federal, state and tribal entities who host BIA WaterCorps Members. The WaterCorps program's mission is to provide high quality technical skills and opportunities to Tribal youth in the water resources field. Applicants must be ages 18-34 and a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe, Band, and/or Village, and must have a high school diploma or GED.

Deadline: ASAP

[CU Boulder Graduate Research Assistants](#)

The North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (NC CASC) at CU Boulder has an exciting opportunity available for 4 summer graduate research assistants (GRAs). The four opportunities include a) supporting development of a plant trait database to inform grassland restoration and bison management; b) conducting a high-level synthesis of signals committees for planning for responses to future environmental hazards; c) conducting and analyzing interviews with natural resource managers and conservation planners; and d) conducting spatial analyses to map critical habitats in collaboration with biologists at the US Fish and Wildlife Services. **Deadline: ASAP, open until filled**

[Biologist II- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation](#)

This position will be primarily field-based and focused on the restoration and the research, monitoring, and evaluation of the enhancement of Pacific Lamprey as well as their habitats in the John Day, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Tucannon, Grande Ronde and Imnaha river basins. The position will utilize principles of fishery science, population dynamics, statistics, sampling theory, and experimental design while functioning in this position. Biologist II will work in both field and office settings to carry out assigned projects. **Deadline: ASAP**

[Tribal Science and Data Coordinator](#)

The West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) is seeking proposals from qualified individuals or firms for a limited-duration contract as WCOA's new Tribal Science & Data Coordinator (TSDC). This contractor will support science and data-related activities of Tribal governments that are members of WCOA and the West Coast Ocean Tribal Caucus. The contractor will strengthen Tribal engagement in regional ocean science and data initiatives as part of WCOA's efforts to ensure Tribal priorities are effectively integrated into projects, tools, and deliverables. Facilitating early and ongoing communication with Tribal partners is a core function of this role. This role supports WCOA's broader goals related to ocean health, efficient decision-making, and strengthened Tribal engagement through improved use and coordination of ocean science and data. **Deadline: March 6, 2026**

[Grand Canyon RIISE River Trip 2026 - Participant Application](#)

Young people (ages 16-20) who identify as tribal members of tribes who have cultural connections to the Grand Canyon. In selecting participants, we will look at both the answers to your questions below, and we will attempt to allocate spots as evenly across the representative tribes as we can. The Grand Canyon holds many stories of creation and resilience. On this trip, Indigenous youth will learn traditions, narratives, and histories of the canyon from cultural knowledge-holders of tribes who call this place home. As we travel downriver, adult and youth participants on the trip will determine the cultural sites we visit and the content of discussions and workshops. We expect to share ecological knowledge of the Southwest, ethnographic knowledge of plants and foods, regional astronomy, and intergenerational perspectives of connection to place, among other cultural teachings. When: July 19-27, 2026. **Deadline: March 23, 2026**

[TCU Student Internship - Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Climate Resilience Internship 2026](#)

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**

[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. **Deadline: April 1, 2026**

[Student Assistant - Tribal Climate Service Program](#)

The California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation is currently hiring a Tribal Climate Student Assistant. This role will support climate resilience efforts in partnership with Tribal communities across California, including research support, coordination, engagement, and technical assistance activities connected to California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. **Deadline: April 20, 2026**

[BLM New Mexico Internship](#)

Conservation Corps New Mexico (CCNM), in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District Office (LCDO) and Public Lands Interpretative Association (PLIA), seeks 5 passionate candidates to support a two-phased public land stewardship initiative. The first phase will focus on BLM LCDO projects such as environmental education, community outreach, habitat restoration, and trail/recreation site maintenance with the goal of helping to protect sensitive desert and riparian ecosystems while improving public access to public lands. For the second phase, individual placements will assist PLIA with engaging local 7th and 8th graders by providing classroom lessons and field trips, focused on hiking and learning on public lands. Applicants must be New Mexico residents between the ages of 18 and 25 with a high school diploma or equivalent. **Deadline: open, internship starts June 15**

[Dakota Grasslands Specialist](#)

The Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance is hiring a Dakotas Grasslands Specialist. The Grasslands Specialist will be responsible for providing technical expertise to Native producers (Tribal farmers and ranchers, Tribal programs, and Native-led organizations operating on Tribal and/or Allotted lands) in accessing the technical and financial resources they need to restore grasslands and implement conservation practices through their farming, ranching, and conservation operations. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in agriculture, biological sciences, or related field and reside in South Dakota or North Dakota and within or near the Northern Great Plains ecoregion. **Deadline: Open until filled**

Funding Opportunities



[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. **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. **Deadline: March 13, 2026**

[2026 San Manuel Cares Grant](#)

The San Manuel Cares Grant supports organizations providing services in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, including: public schools, private schools, charter schools, and local government agencies. Applications are also accepted from Tribal Governments and Tribal nonprofit organizations throughout the United States. **Deadline: March 15, 2026**

[2026 Native Food Sovereignty Grant](#)

The Native Agriculture and Food Systems Investments program is a cornerstone of First Nations' efforts to advance food sovereignty and security, strengthen tribal food economies,

and support the relationship between community, place, and food. Established in 2001, this program supports Native food systems through grantmaking, convenings, and advocacy, uplifting the enduring commitment of Native communities to their food relatives and the earth. We provide cycles of funding opportunities focused on Native Food Security, Native Food Sovereignty, Native Food Economies, and Native Food Networks. **Deadline: March 17, 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. **Deadline: April 17, 2026**

[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 nonprofit 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

[Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Tribal Capacity Grant](#)

The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act was passed in 2021 to reduce environmental and health disparities, equitably distribute environmental benefits, and improve the health of all people in Washington state. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act Tribal Capacity Grant is a non-competitive grant program to provide funds to eligible Tribes to engage with DOH and other state agencies on HEAL implementation. All Federally Recognized Indian Tribes with HEAL Act impacts to rights and interests in their Tribal Lands (RCW 70A.02.010) will be eligible for this non-competitive funding opportunity. **Deadline: June 30, 2026**

[Workplace Safety for Workers Affected by Climate Change](#)

The Workplace Safety for Workers Affected by Climate Change Grant program focuses on the workplace health and safety of workers who are affected by climate impacts like extreme heat and cold, wildfire smoke, drought, and flooding. Funding from this grant program can be used to purchase and distribute equipment and resources for outdoor workers in fields like fisheries, treaty rights, and first foods cultivating and harvesting. This is an ongoing grant program. **Deadline: June 30, 2026**

Additional Sources for More Opportunities:

1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations website: <https://itep.nau.edu/tw7g/resources/funding/>

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

3) Searchable database of all discretionary grants offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies: <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/>

4) Tribal Funding Registry Presented by: The Hozhonigo Institute: <https://www.tribalfunding.org/>

Upcoming Events

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

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.

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 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."

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.

JUNE

Conference: June 22-25, Albuquerque, NM

[A Meeting of Sacred Waters: A Global Gathering of Indigenous Voices](#)

A Meeting of Sacred Waters 2026, is a global gathering to highlight Indigenous-led solutions in support of our ancestral waters and lands. Through the collective experiences of Indigenous Peoples from the US and abroad, this global exchange explores solutions to restore balance for the wellbeing of humanity and the environment. We welcome all those who envision a sustainable future, including leaders and representatives from Indigenous Nations and communities.

OCTOBER

Summit: October 20-22, Sacramento, CA
[October Resilient California Summit Survey](#)

The Summit will gather California's climate adaptation and resilience practitioners to share best practices and crucial information to inform climate science, policy, and action. We anticipate broad participation from local government, tribal partners, community organizations, state agencies, utilities, private firms, and academia. Presentations will feature new research findings produced through California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment, innovative resilient projects, and discussions about long-range goals.

International

IN THE NEWS

[Popular movements gather in Colombia for 2nd international agrarian reform conference](#)

Between February 24 and 28, representatives of grassroots movements and Indigenous peoples from around the world gathered in Cartagena, Colombia, for the 2nd International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CIRADR+20). The event comes two decades after the first edition, held in Porto Alegre, southern Brazil, in March 2006. Over this period, land concentration has intensified, while large landowners and corporations have refined mechanisms of land grabbing and water appropriation, increasing the urgency of proposals aimed at protecting both ecosystems and rural communities. © BdF, 02/11/26

[Union Budget must shift from welfare to rights-based public investment for Adivasi communities.](#)

"India's tribal communities — over 104.5 million people, or 8.6 percent of the population — remain among the most marginalized despite decades of welfare schemes and development promises. In states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Rajasthan and Odisha, tribal districts consistently record higher poverty levels than non-tribal areas, even as these regions supply and, forests and minerals for the country's growth. (...) and have often been compelled to relinquish their lands for large-scale infrastructure projects." Down To Earth, February 9th, 2026.

[Maori tribal council backs green energy project to support iwi prosperity.](#)

"An iwi tribal council is at the forefront of a renewable energy development, backing an ambitious green hydrogen and methanol project to benefit its region's people. The electricity venture signals the first significant Maori push beyond established primary sector investments in New Zealand/Aotearoa in large-scale clean energy infrastructure. National Indigenous Times, 2/25/2026.

[How a Groundbreaking Indigenous Treaty on Whales' Rights Could Change National Laws](#)

New Zealand legislators this month introduced a bill (...) affirming whales' rights to migrate, maintain natural behaviors and culture, and live in a healthy environment with damaged habitats restored. The bill (...) would recognize whales as legal persons, a status already held by corporations and other nonhuman entities. Inside Climate News 2/22/2026

[Widening the frame: Indigenous land rights and the future of climate policy](#)

Indigenous and climate advocates point out that given the size and unique ecological functions of (tropical and forested areas) — and inhabitants' ability and commitment to protect them — recognizing and protecting the Indigenous Peoples' decision-making power is a smart way to safeguard the land and mitigate climate change. Big Think. 2/25/2026

CALL FOR INPUT & NOMINATIONS

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: ASAP**

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: ASAP**

Call for Input: [Global Questionnaire on the overall assessment of the work of UNPFII](#)

At its 24th session, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) adopted a decision to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of its work in order to improve and strengthen the effectiveness of the Forum. In accordance with this decision, the volunteer assessment group is conducting a global questionnaire to gather the thoughts, experiences and recommendations of indigenous peoples and organizations around the world.

Deadline: March 6, 2026

Call for Input: [UN Special Rapporteur](#)

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment has opened a call for contributions to his thematic report to the 81st session of the General Assembly. The report will focus on planning as a structural tool for implementing the human right to a healthy environment. Beyond individual impact assessments, it will analyze regulatory frameworks, institutional processes, and coordination mechanisms that enable comprehensive management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Input is being requested on a) current legal tools and frameworks; b) integration of international commitments (NDCs, SDGs, EPANB, PNA); c) public participation, access to information, and justice; d) inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and other rights holders; and e) monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

Deadline: March 30, 2026

Call for Proposals: [2026 AFN 4th National Climate Gathering](#)

In less than 10 months, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will be hosting our 4th National Climate Gathering, from October 5 - 8, 2026. The event will take place at the Hamilton Convention Centre, a venue that is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the 'Dish with One Spoon' wampum agreement.

Deadline: April, 3 2026

International

JOB & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

[Canada Research Chair Tier 2: Indigenous Planning](#)

In response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and in alignment with the strategic and academic plans of the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), we invite applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position and Canada Research Chair Tier 2 in Indigenous Planning. The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate excellence in community-based scholarship and has the potential to advance the foundations of Indigenous planning in Canada. **Deadline: March 2, 2026**

[2026 ICA National Steering Committee Application](#)

Indigenous Climate Action's Steering Committee is a dedicated group of folks, guided by the values and pillars of Indigenous peoples' ancestral teachings, which honor Mother Earth and all our relations. The Steering Committee aims to offer guidance and attention to support the successful development and delivery of ICA's programs, services, and events that reflect the diverse nations and regions across Turtle Island. Applications for the Steering Committee are limited to residents of so-called Canada. **Deadline: March 7, 2026**

[Monitoring, Evaluating, Accountability, and Learning Advisor](#)

The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) is seeking a Monitoring, Evaluating, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Advisor. As an Advisor, you will be responsible for supporting the development and the implementation of IWGIA's MEAL framework and processes. You will be working with a team in IWGIA and with partners to document results, facilitate learning and support capacity building. **Deadline: March 23, 2026**

[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.

RESOURCES & FUNDING

[Podcast: Listening To The Land | With Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, Leader in Indigenous Climate Action](#)

In this week's episode, we are speaking with Eriel Deranger, president of the organization Indigenous Climate Action, the only Indigenous led climate justice organisation in Canada. Eriel is from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation located in Treaty 8 Territory, otherwise known as the Northern Alberta area, and currently resides in Treaty 6 territory also known as Edmonton, Canada.

[Course: Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Program](#)

This is the longest-running annual comprehensive human rights and advocacy course in the region. This intensive program provides participants with a solid foundation of knowledge of international human rights and the UN system. The program builds links between advocates working on diverse human rights concerns including the rights of persons with disability, the rights of women, of Indigenous peoples, those working to defend the environment and the rights of migrant workers to stop torture, "disappearances" and the death penalty. There are intensive skills sessions on advocacy, internet and media skills. **Deadline: March 31, 2026**

[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 Braiding 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.

[Session: July 13-17, 2026, Geneva, Switzerland](#)

[UN 19th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

All participants are encouraged to contribute to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in a spirit of constructive, multi-stakeholder dialogue, keeping a focus on the theme of the discussion; and are strongly encouraged to include concrete recommendations in their statements. EMRIP experts chairing the items will use their discretion in managing interventions from the floor in order to enable different stakeholders to participate in the dialogue and to ensure a balanced debate.