

# INSTITUTE FOR TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS



**NAU**  
NORTHERN  
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Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

May 2026

Welcome to our monthly newsletter which provides news items, resources, announcements about funding opportunities, conferences, and training, and other information relevant to tribal environmental threats.



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## Meet the Team

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## Yá'át'ééh! Gumyu! Loloma! Hello!



Photo Credit: [Hristo Anestev/Wirestock Creators](#) on [Adobe.stock](#)

### I've danced with fire.

**W**hen I was 19 years old, I showed up at a fire station in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. My memory may be a little blurred, but I swear the crew was not expecting to see me—a short, brown, seemingly quiet young woman. I could see it in their expressions: confusion, as if they were asking themselves whether I was in the right place.

Long story short—I was.

Earlier in the spring of 2000, I had received a phone call letting me know I had a spot on an engine crew if I wanted it. Before accepting, I checked with a summer research field crew I had been part of, and they gave me the summer off. After school ended, I packed up my Ford Bronco II and headed to Alpine, Arizona, to work as a wildland firefighter on an engine crew.

That summer was a continuation of the many adventures I would live—it was one of the best summers of my life. I worked with an amazing crew who not only pushed me to be stronger and better but also encouraged me to continue my education. I learned how to sharpen and tune a chainsaw, and how to carry it on my shoulders while hiking up steep mountains. I worked alongside hand crews and engine crews from all over. My favorite were the Apache hand crews. I loved working alongside other Natives. It felt like home, hearing their language, banter, jokes, and stories.

Growing up with my Diné culture, family, and traditions, I learned that fire is a living entity—a relative to be respected, honored, and treated with care. I had spent evenings and nights in ceremony accompanied by fire. The fireplace is sacred. It is a place where the ancestors communicate with us and where we maintain discipline and connection with our non-human relatives. We are taught never to spit in or at the fire, and to share our food with it.

The reverence I had—and still have—for fire stayed with me during an assignment in Nevada. We were tasked with helping people evacuate their mountain homes; some were even releasing their horses. I remember the horses moving calmly, somehow knowing the roads were the way out.

As I stood near one of those roads, the fire was intensifying. Flames reached higher into the sky. I had made an offering earlier that morning and carried corn pollen in the pocket of my Nomex shirt. I vividly remember the fire moving and circling close to me. I never once felt in danger. Then, suddenly, it shifted—it moved away from me and up the slope.

I have always been grateful for the teachings passed down to me. I truly believe the fire recognized me as a relative. Of course, my engine boss—a towering Zuni man—scolded me for being too close to the fire and not close enough to him.

I sometimes wish I had spent more time on fire crews, but I know my path was meant for many other adventures.

As Billy Joel once sang, **“We didn't start the fire. It was always burning since the world's been turning.”** I know the lyrics carry many meanings, but they speak differently to me. The foundations set by our ancestors are still with us today, and it is up to us to carry them forward—to maintain those practices and share that knowledge.

It is the way.

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

## IN THE NEWS

### [The Wabanaki Basketmakers' Plans to Save Maine's Ash Trees](#)

The invasive emerald ash borer, native to northeast Asia, has spread to 37 states over the past quarter century, killing nearly all of the ash trees it infests. But in Maine, a coalition of basketmakers, scientists and government officials are plotting a future for their trees. © Inside Climate News, 3/30/2026

### [As data becomes a strategic asset, Native leaders face a new sovereignty test](#)

For more than a decade, Indigenous researchers and advocates have built frameworks to govern Native data. That work, long confined to academic circles, is now colliding with a broader shift in the economy. Artificial intelligence, precision health, federal data centralization efforts and global research demand are all accelerating the value of data — including data tied to Indigenous peoples, lands and cultures. © Tribal Business News, 4/7/2026

### [USDA terminates land-access grants, stalling tribal agriculture projects and stripping millions in funding](#)

A \$300 million federal program aimed at expanding land access, capital and infrastructure for farmers has been halted — after awards were already made. The U.S. Department of Agriculture terminated 49 of 50 grants under its Increasing Land, Capital and Market Access Program, affecting tribal governments and Native-serving organizations across the country. Projects tied to land acquisition, producer training and food systems development are now in limbo — from a planned \$9 million food hub on the Blackfeet Reservation to land purchases and farmer training at Rocky Boy's. USDA says tribes are not subject to the administration's rollback of DEI initiatives. At the same time, cancellation letters cite concerns over "race- and sex-based remedies." © Tribal Business News, 4/10/2026

### [Feds and Mi'kmaq Nation sign deal to protect piece of Aroostook wilderness](#)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials and leaders of the Mi'kmaq Nation gathered at the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge in Limestone Wednesday to sign a co-stewardship agreement to preserve and connect land surrounding the former Loring Air Force Base. The federal government controls several thousand acres of land to the east and west of the Cold War military installation. The Mi'kmaq own about 600 acres to the south of the base that abuts both sections of the refuge. © Bangor Daily News, 04/22/2026

### [Lawmakers introduce bills targeting tribal water rights, infrastructure gaps in the West](#)

Congress is mounting a broader push to close long-standing drinking-water gaps in tribal communities across the Western United States. Legislators have introduced two bills aimed at securing water rights, modernizing aging systems and directing federal dollars toward regions facing some of the most persistent water-access challenges in the country. © Tribal Business News, 4/26/26

### [NDN Collective launches Landback Action Network to coordinate land return efforts](#)

NDN Collective has launched the LandBack Action Network, a platform connecting tribal nations, organizers and partners working on land return. The network aims to coordinate efforts, share strategy and align projects with funding, building on years of collaboration across Indian Country. © Tribal Business News, 4/26/26

### [The Bison Is America's National Mammal. Here's How Indigenous Tribes and Conservationists Aided Its Return to the Prairies After Near Extinction](#)

Officially named America's national mammal in 2016, it is a perfect, beastly representative of the country's natural history. As such, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History has created bison-centric exhibitions to coincide with the celebration of America's 250th this year. Opening May 7, "Bison: Standing Strong" will run until May 2029 and chart the animal's evolutionary history and relationship with Indigenous peoples, its rise and fall and its place in the future. © Smithsonian magazine, 5/6/26

### [Indian Affairs Releases \\$20 Million in Emergency Aid to Alaska Native Villages Amid Harsh Winter Crisis](#)

The Department of the Interior's Indian Affairs division has announced \$20 million in emergency funding to support Alaska Native communities grappling with severe winter conditions that have disrupted critical supply chains. Of that total, \$4 million is being distributed immediately to 16 villages facing acute shortages of heating fuel, gasoline, firewood, and potable water after extreme weather delayed or halted essential deliveries. © Native News Online, 5/6/26

### [Interior Enters into Nation's First-Ever Tribal Energy Agreement](#)

The Department of the Interior approved the nation's first-ever tribal energy resource agreement, increasing the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's sovereign authority to manage and develop energy resources on its lands while reducing federal bureaucracy. This step strengthens tribal self-determination and supports broader efforts to advance U.S. Energy Dominance by ensuring affordable, reliable and domestically produced energy in the United States, furthering the objectives of Executive Order 14154 "Unleashing American Energy." © U.S. Department of the Interior, 5/11/26

### [Report: Nevada's lithium boom comes at the expense of Indigenous rights](#)

As the Trump administration continues its push to secure critical minerals like lithium, the U.S. government and private corporations have ignored Indigenous peoples' rights in Nevada. That's according to a report released today by Amnesty International, which is calling for the suspension of federal permits for all lithium mines in the state. © Grist, 5/12/26

### [Feds officially cancel conservation rule for public lands](#)

The United States Bureau of Land Management on Monday formally cancelled the so-called "Public Land Rule," which required the agency to consider conservation and development equally in land-use decisions for millions of acres across the West. The BLM, which manages 13.5 million acres of land in New Mexico, published a notice Monday, May 11, in the Federal Register finalizing its elimination of the 2024 rule, officially known as the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule. The agency first announced it was considering eliminating the rule in September. © ICT, 5/12/26

[Montana tribes combine traditional knowledge and Western science in climate plan](#)

Warmer temperatures, beetle outbreaks, and an invasive fungus have killed half the population of the sacred trees since the 1990s. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana have been harvesting cones from healthy trees to regrow seedlings resistant to the fungus. Restoring whitebark pine forests will also help keep snow on the landscape longer and stave off drought and wildfires. Mike Durglo Jr. has been the tribes' climate change coordinator for nearly 20 years; he wrote one of the first tribal climate action plans in the country over 15 years ago. © NPR, 5/18/2026

## RESOURCES

[Request for Qualifications: Navajo Generating Station Battery Storage and Transmission Project](#)

A new RFQ has been released by the Navajo Nation Minerals Department for a Battery Energy Storage and Transmission Project. The development of this RFQ was supported by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP)'s Energy and Minerals Team and the US Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy. This effort highlights the growing role of grid-scale storage and modern transmission in advancing domestic energy security and dominance. **Deadline: June 3, 2026**

[Call for Review: Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft \(SOD\) of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities](#)

If you are an expert or government representative with expertise on climate change and/or urban issues, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) would like to hear from you. You must register before the deadline in order to be included in the review process.

**Deadline: June 26, 2026**

[Call for Papers: Special Issue of Environmental Justice](#)

As we approach the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence and look ahead to the nation's tricentennial in 2076, this special issue invites critical, justice-centered contributions from a wide range of voices - especially grassroots leaders, community advocates, Indigenous scholars, organizers, and practitioners. We are actively seeking submissions in diverse formats: research articles, community voice stories, case studies, policy briefs, commentaries, and practice briefs. **Abstract deadline: October 30, 2026**

[Climate Catalysts Mentorship Programme 3.0](#)

Ready to turn your climate ideas into global impact? Applications are now open for the Climate Catalysts Mentorship Programme 3.0 - a powerful opportunity for young changemakers committed to climate action. Selected participants may even present their climate project to an international audience of policymakers, experts, and innovators at COP31. If you're passionate about driving climate solutions and want your voice heard on the global stage, this is your moment. **Deadline: open**

[Tribal Energy & Climate Collaborative eXchange \(TECC-X\) Meeting Series](#)

Leaders and representatives of California Tribes and Tribal-serving organizations are invited to participate

in Tribal Energy & Climate Collaborative eXchange (TECC-X) meetings to learn, share, and discuss important climate- and energy-related opportunities and issues affecting California Tribes. These monthly, one-hour meetings are co-hosted by the Tribal Energy & Climate Collaborative (TECC) and Tribal Climate Health Project (TCHP) with breakout sessions focused on different topics. **Next meeting is June 23, 2026.**

**Book:** ["The Rights of Children and Youth in the Climate Crisis: Action and Litigation"](#)

From the beginning, the Youth Climate Justice project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC), has been committed to open science. This book belongs to the public and that includes the children and young people at the heart of its argument. The book is now available open access: free to read, to share, and to use.

**Podcast:** [Listening to the Ripples](#)

Introducing Listening to the Ripples podcast - a podcast about centering and honoring our relationship with water through the care and leadership of Indigenous matriarchs, Tune into the podcast to learn more about the purpose, vision, and mission of the podcast. The podcast is hosted by tylee nez, a water protector, storyteller, youth leader, and artist from the high deserts of the Navajo and Hopi lands, within Lower Colorado River Basin.

**Policy Tools:** [Responding to Disasters in Indian Country](#)

This guide is designed to help Tribal leadership and staff decide if and how to seek federal disaster assistance after a disaster. It includes an introduction to the disaster declaration process, the three types of declarations available to Tribal Nations, and the administrative and financial obligations associated with each. This guide was prepared by the Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program (EELP), and incorporates feedback from Tribal leaders and staff who participated in virtual and in-person workshops convened by the Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative.

**Report:** [Arbor Day Foundation's Tribal Forestry Needs Assessment](#)

Indigenous groups are leading innovative forestry and food sovereignty work central to culture, health, and climate resilience, yet systemic barriers limit long-term sustainability. This report provides a framework for understanding needs based on direct outreach to Tribal networks.

**Publication:** ["Caring for Our Kin: Stories of Indigenous Environmental Stewardship"](#)

The American Indian College Fund has released a new publication, "Caring for Our Kin: Stories of Indigenous Environmental Stewardship," highlighting the work and perspectives of seven Indigenous environmental leaders. Designed as a guidebook for Native students and community members, the publication offers insight into how Indigenous knowledge systems and community-based approaches can shape the future of environmental stewardship.

[The Tribal Guide To Implementing FPIC In The Context Of Conservation And Development](#)

This guide seeks to provide educational information to Tribal governments regarding Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), as articulated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration). It

focuses on opportunities to use FPIC as a tool to protect Tribal rights and interests in the context of conservation and development.

**Article: [Rivers and Data Centers: What's at Stake for Water Supply, Water Quality, and Energy](#)**

Data centers are a new reality of life as technology develops rapidly and society becomes increasingly reliant upon AI. Data centers are big facilities that house servers, storage, networking equipment, and supporting infrastructure that power websites and other digital services people use every day. They are vital to everyday modern life, economic growth, and national security. However, as data centers are being constructed at unprecedented rates, they have significant impacts on communities, on surrounding landscapes, and on our rivers. While each construction project is unique, when done without rivers in mind, it can inflict harmful impacts on our nation's water supplies, community health, aquatic habitats, and river-based economies.

**[The Youth Funding Toolkit from The Iris Project](#)**

Every year, young leaders do incredible work for nature and climate, but accessing funding can be a real challenge. The Youth Funding Toolkit, from The Iris Project, is a free, open-access resource co-created with project leaders and youth-led organizations, packed with practical tips on telling your story, building budgets, preparing for donors, and finding the right opportunities. If you're supporting youth-led projects, or part of one yourself, check it out.

**Report: [Nature-Based Climate Solutions](#)**

Indigenous Climate Action has officially released their latest report: Nature-Based Climate Solutions. While NbCS are often positioned as climate solutions, this report takes a deeper look at what they mean for Indigenous Peoples, lands, and sovereignty. The report features details on a) what NbCS are and how they're being used; b) critical perspectives on settler-led approaches; c) the risks, harms, and barriers impacting our communities; and d) opportunities for Indigenous-led climate solutions rooted in rights, responsibilities, and land-based knowledge.

## JOBS & INTERNSHIPS

**[Program Officer, Native Self-Determination](#)**

The Program Officer plays a central role in implementing the Foundation's Native Self-Determination strategy through grantmaking, relationship-building, learning, and community engagement. Responsibilities include developing and managing a grant portfolio; cultivating trust-based relationships with Indigenous partners; participating in field learning; and advancing grantmaking practices that emphasize accountability, flexibility, and respect. With the Director, the role works collaboratively across the Foundation to align strategy, learning, and operations with Indigenous values and community-defined outcomes. **Deadline: ASAP**

**[Leadershift-environmental justice and advocacy training program \(Grand Canyon Trust\)](#)**

LeaderShift is an immersive environmental justice and advocacy training program for college-age students. With the land as our classroom, we travel across various corners of the Colorado Plateau; sleep under the stars; and spend our days learning from local changemakers and each other. LeaderShift examines the legacy of energy extraction, its impacts on local communities, and paths toward a just and equitable future. Participants see firsthand how Native communities are transitioning away from fossil fuels toward healthy economies. This program is for young leaders between the ages of 18 and 27 who love the Colorado Plateau and are eager to be part of the environmental justice movement. **Deadline: ASAP**

**[Native Teen Guide In Training Program](#)**

This camp was developed to invest in Native-Centered Teen programming for rising 8th-12th graders through place-based outdoor education, social-emotional learning curriculum, as well as to provide accessible pathways for Native Teens to learn about guiding and natural resource career opportunities. The Native Teen Guide-In-Training Camp begins at San Island in Bluff, Utah, which launches into an 8 day and 7 night river trip down the San Juan River that stretches through the desert landscapes and canyons of the Diné-Navajo Nation. There are two sessions, one of which will be filmed by a professional documentary crew. **Deadline: ASAP**

**[Tribal Liaison](#)**

The position of Tribal Liaison is responsible for providing intra-district and intergovernmental coordination for the purpose of satisfying the interests of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the respective tribal governments. **Deadline: June 1, 2026**

**[Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Faculty Fellowship Program](#)**

The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center is now accepting applications for their 2027 Faculty Fellowship Program. The NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program supports research related to climate adaptation in Northwest natural and cultural resource management as well as training in the principles and practices of co-producing decision-relevant (i.e., "actionable") science. **Deadline: July 15, 2026**

**[Programs Director](#)**

The Programs Director provides leadership, management, and vision to ensure that The Cultural Conservancy's programs reflect and advance the organization's mission, values, and strategic direction. Working in close coordination with the Executive Director and senior leadership, the Programs Director is responsible for program strategy, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability across TCC's locations and initiatives. **Deadline: open until filled**

**[Director of Development](#)**

The Director of Development is a mid-to-senior leadership role responsible for advancing The Cultural Conservancy's fundraising strategy, donor engagement, and development operations. Working in close partnership with the Executive Resource Director and staff, this role supports TCC's long-term financial sustainability by cultivating diverse, values-aligned funding sources. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Chief Executive Officer

The CEO of Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance (BNGA) will serve as the Chief Administrator for BNGA under the guidance and direction of the Board of Directors. The CEO will be the public face of BNGA, creating and maintaining strong, collaborative relationships with all BNGA partners, people, and organizations in the U.S. Northern Great Plains ecoregion, including Tribal Councils, Tribal Leaders' Associations, Tribal natural resources departments, Native peoples, Native non-governmental organizations, federal agencies, and other organizations. **Deadline: open until filled**

### 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**

### Administrator, Native Self-Determination

The Native Self-Determination portfolio centers the capacities of Native Nations and Indigenous communities to define and pursue their own priorities, elevating Indigenous knowledge, governance, and leadership. The portfolio invests in Native-led organizations, tribal governments, and community-based initiatives that build community and institutional capacity to support sustainable pathways to self-determination. The Administrator is an integral and active part of the Native Self-Determination Team's Core Group, which includes active participation in meetings, seminars, site visits, etc. The Administrator works closely with the Coordinator to ensure smooth operations for the Team and reports to the Director, Native Self-Determination. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Environmental Justice Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to advance scholarly leadership at the intersection of humanities research, humanities education, and environmental justice. The successful candidate will play an important role in a community of humanities scholars at the University of Michigan that are advancing place-based education in environmental justice, a new environmental justice minor, and the creation of new courses, curricula, and research with humanities emphasis. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Native Agriculture and Food Systems Investments Program Associate

The Program Associate is an entry-level position at First Nations and plays an integral role in supporting the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Investments program staff in the administration and implementation of projects. These responsibilities may include coordination of internal and external virtual meetings, participation in site visits or convenings, grantee and consultant communications,

participation in internal grant reviews, developing consultant agreements, coordinating travel arrangements, updating meeting notes, performing data entry in Airtable, and organizing files under the guidance of senior program staff. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Native Arts, Language, and Knowledge Senior Program Officer

The position of the Senior Program Officer at First Nations is responsible for the planning, implementation, and management of one or more initiatives and projects under the Native Arts, Language, and Knowledge Program. This position's priority initiative will be the Native Fundraisers Community of Practice, a multi-year, complex project. The Senior Program Officer will lead this initiative and direct the efforts of program officers and program associates on various aspects of the Native Fundraisers Community of Practice project by providing direction, setting goals, giving feedback, coaching, and ensuring professional development and training. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Policy Advisor, Natural Resource Justice

The Policy Advisor supports Oxfam's Natural Resource Justice (NRJ) global program. They will work with the NRJ Associate Directors to provide program implementation, grants management, policy analysis, research and advocacy support, in line with Oxfam's natural resource justice agenda. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Professor of Indigenous Conservation

The Rob Walton School of Conservation Futures (SCF) at Arizona State University invites applications for a full-time, academic year (9-month) faculty appointment. This position is part of the new School's commitment to advancing research, teaching, and partnerships that support Indigenous-led conservation, multiple knowledge systems, community land stewardship, and environmental governance. The successful candidate will contribute to transdisciplinary collaborations across fields such as Ecology, Sustainability, Environmental Science, Anthropology, Geography, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Forestry, or Public Policy. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Director of Science

The Nature Conservancy is hiring a Director of Science for the Nevada and Utah chapters! The Director of Science will provide critical leadership for the Nevada and Utah Chapters, developing and deploying an evidence-based, scientific approach to inspire, inform and shape their conservation and policy strategies. This job will require up to 30% travel between Salt Lake City and Reno and the surrounding areas. **Deadline: open until filled**

### Arizona Water Policy Fellow

Audubon Southwest is the regional office of the National Audubon Society in Arizona and New Mexico. They are currently seeking a two-semester (Fall 2026 and Spring 2027) Water Policy Fellow to advance Audubon's policy work on water management within Arizona. The primary focus of the Water Policy Fellow will be on Colorado River, groundwater, and water quality issues and how they impact birds and people in Arizona. **Deadline: open until filled**

**Senior Manager, Watersheds Partnerships**

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is seeking a passionate, collaborative team member leader to join our integrated floodplain and watershed management programs. The successful candidate will join the BEF Watersheds team, building relationships and working with communities that are leading and supporting ambitious floodplain and watershed resilience initiatives.

**Deadline: open until filled**

**Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's (MMIP) Administrative Assistant**

The MMIP Administrative Assistant under the supervision of the MMIP Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator will be responsible for assisting the development of the Karuk Tribe's project to address the issue of Murdered and Missing Indigenous People. This includes coordination with the Karuk community, various Karuk government departments, contracting partners, law enforcement (tribal, state, and federal) and partnering agencies.

**Deadline: open until filled**

**Program Director - Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance**

The Program Director is a community-oriented leader who helps build capacity for the Tribal community to steward their ancestral lands. The Director develops and oversees all of TERA's training, outreach, and education programs. The Program Director will oversee the Native Stewards Fellowship, a 140-hour workforce development program that weaves traditional knowledge with wildfire resilience and vocational skills, preparing fellows for meaningful careers stewarding our ancestral lands.

**Deadline: open until filled**

**Program Coordinator - Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance**

The Program Coordinator provides coordination and logistical support for TERA's diverse set of education, outreach, and training programs. The Program Coordinator will provide assistance to the Program Director, including assisting with program planning and development, distribution of promotional materials and program-related communications, and coordinating and participating in outreach activities, among other things.

**Deadline: open until filled**

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## [NOAA Climate Program Office NOFO](#)

The NOAA Climate Program Office announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity for nine Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) teams. These cooperative agreements will advance the understanding of hazards such as flooding, water shortages, and wildfires to support local risk planning and preparedness. **Deadline: June 5, 2026**

## [Indigenous Earth Fund](#)

Decolonizing Wealth Project's (DWP) Indigenous Earth Fund returns for year 6 with another \$1M! DWP's Indigenous Earth Fund is the only Indigenous-led fund of its kind in the United States. In their first five years of this fund, they granted \$5.3 million to Indigenous-led organizations and Tribes across the country. This year, they'll invest another \$1M because, as Edgar Villanueva shared in his Time100 Climate 2025 interview, "Investing in this kind of leadership is not charity, it is a high-impact climate strategy." **Deadline: June 11, 2026**

## [WaterSMART Applied Science Grants](#)

Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan and implement actions to increase water supply and hydropower reliability. **Deadline: July 8, 2026**

## [Wildfire Prevention Grants](#)

As California recognizes Wildfire Preparedness Week, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is advancing the state's ongoing Wildfire and Forest Resilience efforts by announcing the availability of up to \$70 million in funding for community-focused Wildfire Prevention and Resilience projects. These grants support locally led efforts that reduce wildfire risk, strengthen preparedness, and help protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure. **Deadline: July 8, 2026**

## [National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program](#)

The National Forest Foundation's flagship competitive grant program, the Matching Awards Program (MAP), focuses on community engagement and completion of appropriate stewardship activities. The program's

goal is to create lasting change that provides all communities with opportunities to benefit from activities on National Forest lands. **Deadline: July 9, 2026**

## [National Forest Foundation: 2026 Collaborative Capacity Program](#)

Collaborative Capacity Program financial awards invest in collaborative activities that support wildfire resilience, recreation opportunities, land & watershed restoration, and rural economies. This year's program funds projects that prioritize shared decision-making and bring together multiple perspectives to co-create solutions for forest stewardship or increase Tribal co-stewardship of National Forests and grasslands. **Deadline: July 13, 2026**

## [Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#)

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program provides federal funding to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribes, and local governments for hazard mitigation projects. The program focuses on strengthening infrastructure to reduce risks from natural hazards and improve community resilience. BRIC prioritizes proactive, infrastructure-based solutions over post-disaster response, emphasizing projects that deliver clear, measurable risk reduction. It also supports modern building code adoption and enforcement when directly tied to infrastructure resilience. **Deadline: July 23, 2026**

## [Unleashing Tribal Energy Development NOFO](#)

Under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs is soliciting applications to advance affordable, reliable, and secure energy development of Tribal energy resources for the benefit of Tribes and their members. Projects funded under this NOFO are expected to advance Tribal sovereignty through Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use. **Deadline: July 24, 2026**

## [WaterSMART Drought Response Program](#)

WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and other entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase

## **Additional Sources for More Opportunities:**

1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations website: <https://itp.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/>

water supply and hydropower reliability. The WaterSMART Drought Response Program NOFO invites eligible applicants to submit proposals for projects designed to improve drought resilience by developing effective water management strategies and drought contingency plans. **Deadline: July 28, 2026**

## [Tribal Housing Pre-Development Fund](#)

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for the Tribal Housing Pre-Development Fund (the Fund) through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The SGC anticipates that approximately \$20 million will be available for competitive grant awards in this funding round. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, until funds are expended. Awarded Tribes may receive funding up to \$3 million for a three-year grant term. **Deadline: August 11, 2026**

## [Tribal Capacity Building Program](#)

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for Round 2 of the Tribal Capacity Building Program through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The SGC anticipates \$5 million will be available for competitive grant awards in this funding round. Awarded Tribes may receive funding between \$350,000 and \$420,000 for the three-year grant term. The Tribal Capacity Building Program is part of California Climate Investments and furthers the purpose of several senate bills by investing in Tribal projects related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **Deadline: August 11, 2026**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE

**June 2-4: Bangor, ME**  
**[11th Native CDFI Capital Access Convening](#)**

This gathering brings together Native CDFIs, partners, and community leaders from across the country to learn from one another, share ideas, and strengthen the relationships that make this work possible. The theme this year, Investing in Relationships: Stronger Together, reflects the truth that strong Native economies grow from collaboration, trust, and community.

**June 8-11: Keshena, WI**  
**[49th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium](#)**

Hosted by the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community and Intertribal Timber Council, this year's theme is "Forestry in a Changing Environment." Each year, Tribal leaders, foresters, fire professionals, students, federal agencies and partners gather to share knowledge, strengthen relationships, and support the future of Tribal forestry.

**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.

**June 24-25: Universal City, CA**  
**[17th Annual CCEC Forum](#)**

The 17th Annual California Climate & Energy Collaborative Forum is coming to Los Angeles on June 24-25th, themed "Grounded in People, Guided by Possibility: Shaping our Future in a Changing California." This year's two-day event (with optional day 0 activities for public agencies on June 23rd) is jam-packed with opportunities to network, learn, and collaborate.

**June 24-26: Shelton, WA**  
**[2026 Indigenous Agroforestry Network Gathering](#)**

The Indigenous Agroforestry Network invites Indigenous land

stewards, gatherers, farmers, cultural practitioners, researchers, agency staff, nonprofit partners, and community members to join them for three days of learning, connection, and land-based exchange. Explore the intersections of Indigenous land stewardship, agroforestry, food sovereignty, forest and marine ecology, cultural arts, land back initiatives and more. Participants will engage in presentations, breakout sessions, panels, and field immersions visiting land and water projects.

### JULY

**July 6-12: Anchorage, AK**  
**[Alaska Summer Youth Practicum](#)**

The Alaska Summer Youth Practicum (AKSYP) is designed to provide Alaska Native students who are 15-17 years of age an opportunity to gain hands-on and in-lecture experience in the interdisciplinary components of natural resource management and Indigenous knowledge. One of the goals of the NAFWS is to educate Native American youth to understand the importance of professional natural resource management and the interconnectedness to culture, as well encourage them to continue their education and pursue careers in the natural resource fields. Students will learn directly from Tribal Environmental Professionals here in Alaska.

### AUGUST

**August 10-13: Olympia, WA**  
**[Changing Currents 2026 Tribal Youth Water Summit](#)**

The 2026 Changing Currents Tribal Youth Water Summit & Journeys in Creativity Pre-College Residency will take place at The Evergreen State College from August 10-13, 2026. This event will empower Indigenous youth by providing them with leadership development tools and opportunities to amplify their voices on tribal water issues. By fostering creativity and leadership, this youth event will support the next generation of Indigenous leaders in advocating for the health and sustainability of their communities' water resources.

**August 19-20: Anchorage, AK**  
**[Indigenous-Led Evaluation Gathering](#)**

This isn't a first-come, first-served event. Our relational selection process is anchored in Indigenous-led evaluation and knowledge practices, guided by principles of

Relational Accountability, Respect, Equity & Resurgence, and Learning & Reciprocity. We are committed to fostering a space rooted in these guiding values.

### SEPTEMBER

**September 30 - October 2: Keshena, WI**  
**[Seven Generations Intertribal Leadership Summit 2026](#)**

The Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit, taking place September 30th–October 2nd, 2026, at College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, brings together tribal leadership, educators, students, elders, and community members under this year's theme, "The Land Remembers Us." Hosted in partnership with Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University and the Universities of Wisconsin, the summit offers learning across key areas including education, workforce development, health, and environmental stewardship, while creating space to build connections, share knowledge, and envision a strong future grounded in culture.

### OCTOBER

**October 5-8: Reno, NV**  
**[National Tribal Infrastructure Coordination Conference \(NTICC\)](#)**

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals' Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations (TW7G) Program is pleased to announce the Fourth Biennial NTICC conference taking place in Reno, Nevada, October 5-8, 2026! This year's event will strengthen the resilience of communities, nature, and built environments to evolving hazards through coordination, collaboration, partnerships and honoring reciprocity with one another and the natural world.

**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.

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

# INTERNATIONAL

## IN THE NEWS

### [How First Nations' Treaties can hold back the tide of Alberta separatism](#)

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith pledged to hold a referendum on separating Alberta from Canada. First Nations in the province are going to court this week to argue that she has no legal right to do that. © Breach Media, 4/8/2026

### ['The birds are a global citizen': Indigenous groups in Australia and Alaska team up to track a feathered adventurer's epic journey](#)

Short-tailed shearwaters used to blacken the skies on the south-west coast of Australia between August and September, and at the other end of the year, they would darken the skies in Alaska. But First Nations peoples on both coasts have noticed that something is wrong. They began to see sick and dying shearwaters washing up on beaches: emaciated, their bellies filled with microplastic instead of food. © The Guardian, 4/25/26

### [Nearly two decades after landmark Indigenous rights declaration, countries still aren't complying](#)

Nearly two decades after the United Nations adopted a landmark declaration on Indigenous rights, advocates say countries still aren't living up to their promises to uphold and respect those rights. Indigenous people are being killed for protecting their territories, criminalized for practicing their culture, and seeing their lands stripped of resources without consent. Last month at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, or UNPFII, the world's largest gathering of Indigenous peoples, leaders called for countries to fully implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or UNDRIP, and other international human rights standards. © Grist, 4/27/26

### [The uncertain future of the UN's leading voice on Indigenous rights](#)

Earlier this month, the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues released urgent calls to action, including a pause on fast-tracked critical mineral projects and increased funding for Indigenous climate projects. But those recommendations come as the Forum itself is facing an existential crisis. For 25 years, the Forum has been the leading United Nations body representing Indigenous peoples, but that status has not always translated to policy change by member states or the U.N. itself. © Grist, 5/6/26

### [Using songlines, elders codify traditional knowledge to care for Country](#)

With young Walpiri increasingly growing up in towns, a generation of Warlpiri elders who grew up in the desert are developing resources to teach a new generation of Warlpiri, both in the desert and in classrooms. © Mongabay, 5/7/26

### [Sour on the 'blue economy,' small-scale fishers seek 'blue justice' instead](#)

Globally, the "blue economy" dominates discussions of ocean-related projects. At the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in France in June 2025, references to the blue economy abounded, and the government of Monaco co-sponsored a two-day event on the blue economy and finance that featured world-famous dignitaries. Yet there's debate and confusion over what the blue economy is. © Mongabay, 5/12/26

### [In eastern Indonesia, communities revive customary systems to protect the seas](#)

On small islands across eastern Indonesia, coastal communities are reviving customary rules, seasonal fishing closures, turtle protection and mangrove stewardship to protect marine ecosystems threatened by blast fishing, turtle hunting and habitat loss. Their efforts are the focus of Jejak Wallacea, a new documentary produced by Burung Indonesia and Arise! Indonesia as part of the Wallacea Partnership Program II, a conservation initiative supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. © Mongabay, 5/13/26

## CALL FOR INPUT & NOMINATIONS

### [Registration for EMRIP conference open](#)

The registration for the 19th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is open. **Deadline: July 3, 2026**

### [Call for Abstracts: "Rooted in the Earth: Indigenous Peoples and the Future of Their Lands"](#)

This special issue of the Land Tenure Journal seeks to identify, analyze, and assess emerging strategies and shifts that contribute to the recognition and the protection of Indigenous Peoples' land rights—whether through legal frameworks, governance arrangements, community-based initiatives, or socio-political process. In doing so, it aims to contribute to a new cycle of reflection and action in securing Indigenous Peoples' land rights. **Deadline: June 15, 2026**

### [Call for Abstracts: 12th International Indigenous Research Conference](#)

Abstract submissions are now invited for the 12th International Indigenous Research Conference (IIRC 2026), an Indigenous-led, in-person conference bringing together Indigenous researchers, communities, and allies from around the world. Proposals are invited for Indigenous-led research that moves beyond insight into action, research that supports wellbeing, self-determination, and flourishing Indigenous futures. Submissions must be Indigenous-led and presented, with the lead presenter clearly identifying their Indigenous or traditional affiliations. **Deadline: July 10, 2026**

### [Call for Input: Impact of work under the LCIPP](#)

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) is looking for input on the impact of their work and assistance shaping the next workplan. Parties, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to submit their views on the following issues: a) activities and thematic focuses for the workplan of LCIPP for 2028-2031 (deadline: 30 September 2026); and b) impact of work under the LCIPP (deadline: 1 November 2026). **Deadlines: September 30, 2026 & November 1, 2026 (see above)**

### [Report: 21st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests](#)

The 21st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests occurred between May 11 and May 15, 2026, and reported out the coverage for each day of the forum. Per the event website, "UNFF21 is expected to negotiate an omnibus resolution focused on three of the Global Forest Goals while also discussing the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests and considering appropriate resources for the Forum Secretariat."

# INTERNATIONAL

## [Call for Input: Survey on Energy Sovereignty](#)

Recently, multiple levels of government in Canada have increased investment in major fossil-fuel-based energy projects. These efforts aim to position Canada as a “global energy superpower” through conventional, non-renewable energy development, raising concerns among many Indigenous Nations. International Climate Action (ICA) is developing a report that highlights Indigenous-led clean and just energy initiatives across the lands currently known as Canada. They are calling for input from the following Nations/projects: Three Nation Energy (3NE) Solar Farm, Gitchi Animki Hydroelectric Project, Cowwessess FN x SASK Research Council, Piitapan Solar Project, Old Crow Solar Project<sup>3</sup>, Mesgi’g Ugu’s’n Wind Farm, Glooscap Energy Projects, Sukunka Wind Energy Project<sup>3</sup>, Wocawson Energy Project, Beaubassin Mi’kmaq Wind Management Company, and Tu Deh Kah Geothermal.

## [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: open**

## JOB & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### [UNFCCC CAPACITY Fellowship Program](#)

The UNFCCC Secretariat is launching a new round of the Capacity Award Programme to Advance Capabilities and Institutional Training in one Year (CAPACITY) Fellowship Programme. The purpose of this programme is developing the capacity of negotiators and increasing the level of implementation of the Paris Agreement. The program is a fully-funded 1-year Fellowship located in Bonn, Germany. **Deadline: June 8, 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

### [Funding: The Jennifer Easton Community Spirit Award](#)

Named after First Peoples Fund’s founder, the annual Community Spirit Awards program recognizes Native artists who have worked selflessly throughout their lives to share their cultural knowledge and ancestral gifts with their communities. Recipients receive an award grant of up to \$50,000. The award is designed to support these essential bearers of cultural practice to carry forward their wisdom and help Native communities heal and thrive. Note that self-nominations are not allowed. **Deadline: June 17, 2026**

### [Report: Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in Nepal and Bangladesh Insights from Indigenous communities](#)

Indigenous Peoples face the worst impacts of climate change, yet their voices are often left out of national climate plans. This report uses data gathered directly by the Gurung community in Nepal and the Munda community in Bangladesh to show how the climate crisis threatens their lands, livelihoods, and cultural survival. By highlighting critical gaps in current policies, the report shows why Indigenous knowledge and leadership are essential for real climate action.

### [Report: Relational futures: Indigenous sovereignty and the governance of artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#)

Artificial intelligence is increasingly embedded in everyday life in Australia, shaping communication, services, and relationships. This report presents findings from the Relational Futures project, an Indigenous led study examining how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are encountering and responding to AI, including generative systems, automated decision-making tools, and AI companions. The research draws on a mixed methods approach combining an online survey with 36 respondents and yarning circles with 22 participants, providing both broad and in-depth insight into Indigenous experiences of AI across community and professional contexts. This report presents the initial findings as the project continues.

### [Brief: “Role of the arts and culture in addressing the health impacts of climate change”](#)

This new WHO policy brief argues that the climate crisis is not just an environmental issue - it’s a public health issue, a mental health issue, and a cultural issue. And importantly, that technical solutions alone are not enough.

### [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Technical Advisory Note](#)

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) has just released a new Technical Advisory Note on Canada, focusing on proposed amendments to the Indian Act and their alignment with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). An important contribution to ongoing discussions on Indigenous self-determination, participation, and legislative reform.

# INTERNATIONAL

**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**

**December 9-11: [Montego Bay, Jamaica 2nd Islands Water Congress](#)**

The Islands Water Congress is a leading global forum dedicated to freshwater management in island contexts. Under the theme “Resilient Islands: Securing Water for Sustainable Development in a Changing World,” the Congress convenes policymakers, scientists, practitioners, researchers, and island leaders from across the globe to confront the urgent and interconnected water challenges facing island communities.

## EVENTS

**June 3-4: [Bangkok, Thailand](#)  
[Strengthening Evidence on the Outcomes of Locally Led Adaptation Symposium](#)**

More than 130 organizations and governments have endorsed the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), yet only a small share of international climate finance supports adaptation at local levels – and even less of this funding is truly locally led. The symposium will bring together 25-30 researchers, practitioners, and knowledge holders to share new findings, take stock of the current state of evidence on the outcomes of LLA, and co-develop a forward-looking agenda for strengthening evidence that is credible, inclusive, and usable for decision-making.

**June 8-18: [Bonn, Germany](#)  
[UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)**

This year’s June Climate Meetings will address a broad spectrum of the issues considered under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, ranging from mitigation to adaptation and finance to technology, capacity-building, and more.

**July 13-17: [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.

**October 5-8: [Hamilton, Ontario](#)  
[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.