



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribes & Climate Change Newsletter

November 2024

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



Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

Meet the Climate Change Team

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Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

A part of growing up or rather aging (some of us don't grow up or don't want to, right? Ayyy.) is realizing and coping with the fact that our loved ones leave us. They walk onto the next world and leave us physically and we are left with an array of emotions. I do realize that some of us experience this too young and far too often, and to try and imagine that is nothing compared to what those folks are feeling and going through. Then, in other instances, people leave us to move on to cultivate and build up their worlds. As I grew personally and professionally, I found myself in light-bulb moments where I found myself putting energy into relationships and work that was fulfilling and healthier in the long term. I have had my heart broken enough (not just romantically) to know that making healthy decisions made me happier, lighter, and calmer. In addition, I realized that it was okay to move on, and be okay with others doing the same.

I'm not trying to be a downer, morbid, or sad, but rather, once again, reflective. If you recall, my family and I take a daily evening walk and it's one of the best things we have done for ourselves. Our three doggies (sometimes the cat) love it and it's time spent with each other. Our oldest dog, Mitchell, is now 11 years young and he is a mix of an Akita and a Pit Bull. He is a rescue from Chinle, AZ, and we have had him since he was three months old. Of course, he is the best dog and is well-known among my friends, and coworkers, and was once featured in a story about my climate work that our local NPR station did. He has slowed down a bit, but as most rez dogs are, he is quite healthy and active. Mitchell has seen me through some tough times, and his presence has always been comforting, and is always willing to give hugs. Since he turned ten, I have been preparing myself for his eventual departure and it's not an easy thing to think about because he has been a constant presence in our lives. He has watched over my children, hangs out with the chickens, nursed my partner through two knee replacements, comforted college students with broken hearts or through finals, and greeted my coworkers with delight.

It is only in the last ten years that I have been comfortable with dealing with emotions that don't serve me well. Mitchell has certainly helped with that since his usual feedback involves tail wags and a heavy lean into me, and he is always happy to see me. You could say that writing these narratives has been therapeutic. When it comes to knowing that people have walked on and left us, I mourn but experience inhibited grief. My emotions are numbed but it doesn't mean I do not feel anything internally. In our work learning about, discussing, and taking actions to deal with and address climate impacts, there is a lingering sense of hopelessness and grief.

I guess what I'm getting at here is, how should we or how do we deal with grief, overwhelming sadness, and heartbreak? It comes in many forms and there is no one recipe for healing. My family has chosen to have and treat our dogs like family and they are one way we deal with our emotions. They offer comfort without human words. Will you share with me how you cope or have dealt with healing yourself or others?

To end this, I want to honor our relatives who have walked on. I cannot name all of them but I want to mention our former ITEP colleague, Ryan Tsingine who was working with Washington State University and their Green Transportation program who recently walked on. He worked with ITEP's National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) and the Tribal Clean Transportation Program before he went to the Northwest. If you knew him, you would remember his smile, enthusiasm, and commitment to his family. And then, before the 2024 Gregorian New Year, our relative, Klee Benally, walked on and left us with memories and inspiration of his time as a warrior who spoke up and fought relentlessly to protect Mother Earth, our sacred mountains, waters, animals, air, and all relatives. To those of you who are mourning the loss of relatives, we will burn cedar for you and your family and say words of acknowledgment and love.

Hózhó jí! In harmony, beauty and balance

With gratitude and respect, on behalf of the [climate warriors at ITEP](#), Nikki Cooley

Advisory Committee Members:

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In The News

[The Tiny Potato at the Heart of One Tribe's Fight Against Climate Change](#)

Last October, Aiyana James attended her first water potato harvest on the reservation of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in northwestern Idaho. The weather was unusually cold, but she was determined to harvest her first water potatoes, a small wetland tuber that's one of the tribe's key traditional foods. The smell of smoke and drying elk meat filled the air along the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, where the tribe set up food booths and educational stations. © Grist, 10/19/24

[Watch: Biden Makes Historic Apology For 'sin' Of U.S. Role In Deadly Indigenous Boarding Schools](#)

President Joe Biden formally apologized on Friday for the country's role in the Indian boarding school system, which devastated the lives of generations of Indigenous children and their ancestors. "I would never have guessed in a million years that something like this would happen," said Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna. "It's a big deal to me. I'm sure it will be a big deal to all of Indian Country." Shortly after becoming the first Native American to lead the Interior, Haaland launched an investigation into the boarding school system, which found that at least 18,000 children, some as young as 4, were taken from their parents and forced to attend schools that sought to assimilate them, in an effort to dispossess their tribal nations of land. It also documented nearly 1,000 deaths and 74 gravesites associated with the more than 500 schools. © PBS, 10/25/24

[National Wildlife Federation Pledges to Stand Up for Wildlife. Climate Solutions, Frontline Communities](#)

"The voters have spoken, and now the hard work continues to stand up for wildlife, frontline communities, and future generations," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "We will find common ground when possible to recover wildlife, confront the climate crisis, and address generational environmental injustices, but we are also clear-eyed about how several campaign promises of the president-elect could adversely affect wildlife habitat and communities. The stakes could not be higher, and we will work in concert with our state

and territorial affiliates, our seven million members and supporters, and our allies in Congress to defend our bedrock conservation laws, safeguard wildlife and our irreplaceable natural resources, uphold our democratic principles, and make progress on our priorities wherever possible." © National Wildlife Federation, 11/06/24

[Why Indigenous Peoples Are Raising The Alarm On Carbon Trading At UN Climate Summit](#)

As delegates from around the world gather in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the United Nations' 29th annual climate summit, also known as COP29, one of the most contentious debates centers on carbon trading—a mechanism touted as the next big "climate fix" that allows countries and corporations to offset their emissions by investing in carbon-reducing projects elsewhere. According to many Indigenous leaders participating at the so-called "finance COP," carbon trading is a path fraught with risks, especially regarding the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples who have cared for and protected the lands used in these trades since time immemorial. © Forbes, 11/12/24

[NDN Collective Completes Landback Deal In Alaska](#)

Last week, NDN Collective through our community development arm, NDN Holdings, finalized a LANDBACK deal with the Eyak Community Land Trust in Alaska and transferred title to two acres of land back to the Eyak people. In October 2021, NDN Collective was made aware of an opportunity to purchase land along Eyak Lake on the southern coast of the state. NDN Holdings purchased the land and began working with the Eyak community to transfer ownership. As of this week, the two acre property will now be wholly owned by Eyak Community Land Trust, which was established in collaboration with Native Conservancy, and be used by the community to host cultural and ecological education workshops. The community plans to put a sacred totem pole on the property, making it the first time in over 150 years a totem has been set in this area. © NDN Collective, 11/18/24

[Colleen Thurston's 'drowned Land' Brings Fight To Protect Kiamichi River Into Focus](#)

Colleen Thurston is an Oklahoma filmmaker, curator, educator and

Choctaw citizen. Her most recent feature documentary is *Drowned Land*, a film about protecting the Kiamichi River from extraction. The film is personal for Thurston as she narrates her family's relationship with the land and water in what is now southeast Oklahoma on the Choctaw reservation. Natural resource exploitation and displacement are the film's central themes. *Drowned Land* reflects examples of the manipulation of the earth to serve the needs of more populated areas in the state. It also takes viewers on a journey through time — noting the Choctaw people's forced removal, the dislocation of Pushmataha County residents to build the Sardis Lake dam and the threat of forced movement again if the Kiamichi River's water supply is depleted. © KOSU, 11/18/24

[Osage Nation Celebrates Historic Fee-To-Trust Signing](#)

Osage Nation citizens and representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs gathered in Pawhuska on Monday to sign in to place the second-largest acquisition of fee-to-trust land. Renamed 'The Osage Nation Ranch,' the tribe now has concurrent jurisdiction over the 43,000-acre land—meaning the state has less control over how the land is used and reaffirming the tribe's sovereign rights. [The acquisition started in 2016](#) after the tribe purchased the land from television star Ted Turner. After a tedious back and forth with the federal government, eight years later, it belongs to the Osage Nation once again. © KOSU, 11/19/24

[Meet the Peach that Traveled the Trail of Tears and the Elders Working to Save It](#)

It's November and it's unseasonably warm as John John Brown, a Muscogee elder, works to replant peach saplings. "I haven't had much luck growing them from seed," he says. The reason, he thinks, is because peaches need lower temperatures. Around him, tiny peach trees the size of pencils stand above the browning grass underneath their parent tree. Brown harvested around 200 peaches this year from his small orchard — enough for his family and neighbors — but he had competition: A fox has been poking around. © Grist, 11/20/24

Resources

NEW SECTION: TCTAC TIDBIT

In October, Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) Coordinators, Kieren Daley-Laursen and Cara Corbin, attended the Montana Tribal Working Group session on Climate Adaptation Planning. Tribes and supporting organizations from across the state and the greater EPA Region 8 were in attendance to share information from their communities in order to learn from one another to gain new ideas as well as identify potential funding source information to further Tribal climate change work. Michael Durglo of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes arranged field trips to an area greenhouse which is growing out [Whitebark Pine tree seedlings for restoration work](#), and to the [CKST Bison Range](#), which has successfully transitioned from Federal to Tribal oversight.

NEW: ITEP TRIBAL PROFILE: Pueblo de San Ildefonso Climate Action Plan

Pueblo de San Ildefonso is located in present day Northern New Mexico, an area that is facing extreme drought, wildfire, increasing temperatures, and flooding due to climate change. In addition to navigating these new natural hazards, the Pueblo de San Ildefonso community has faced environmental changes given their proximity to the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the legacy contaminants from experiments conducted there. Concerns about climate change led the Pueblo de San Ildefonso to develop a Climate Action Plan, which aims to ensure the Pueblo's culture and traditions thrive under future generations.

New National Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment

The U.S. Forest Service plays a critical role in conserving freshwater biodiversity across the United States.. Understanding the role of national forests and grasslands in sustaining aquatic biodiversity at national and regional scales is essential to effective, ongoing stewardship. The National Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment is an important first step to address this need. A new [interactive map](#) provides background about the project and a new dashboard allows users to explore an inventory of native aquatic taxa for conservation planning on the forests and grasslands managed by the USDA Forest Service.

Indigenous Knowledge In Climate Adaptation Planning: Reflections From Initial Efforts

There are increasing calls to incorporate indigenous knowledge (IK) into climate adaptation planning (CAP) and related projects. However, given unique attributes of IK and the positionality of tribal communities to scientific research, several considerations are important to ensure CAP efforts with IK are ethical and effective. While such topics have been thoroughly explored conceptually, incorporation of IK into CAP is a nascent field only beginning to report findings and improve science production and delivery.

National Renewable Energy Lab: Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Offshore Wind Engagement

NREL is currently seeking feedback from Tribal Nations and Tribal supporting organizations about a potential Capacity Accelerator for Tribal Engagement in Offshore Wind. In response to calls for more resources for Tribal Nations to engage in offshore wind energy decision-making, the Department of Energy's Wind Energy Technologies Office is looking to provide monetary support for Tribal Nation activities, such as:

- Engagement in processes under the National Environmental Protection Act and the National Historic Preservation Act

- Involvement in environmental monitoring and Tribal-led integration of traditional knowledge
- Advancement of offshore wind energy equity and participation in an offshore wind workforce

NOAA Sea Level Calculator

This resource combines functionality from a variety of existing tools, streamlining the effort to access foundational NOAA and NASA sea level data and projections, as well as key findings from the 2022 interagency Sea Level Rise Technical Report. Users like stormwater managers, public works departments, and land-use planners can now better visualize and communicate site-specific sea level information to others in multiple formats for vital resilience planning.

Tribal Lands Conservation Fund Webinar Recording

As part of First Nations' "Bring Back the Native" campaign in support of the Tribal Lands Conservation Fund, representatives from First Nations' Stewarding Native Lands team, the Nez Perce Tribe, and Medicine Fish will present this one-hour webinar about Native approaches to protect lands, waters, and ecosystems for generations. First Nations' Tribal Lands Conservation Fund is an opportunity to amplify Native voices and invest in solutions that lie with the ingenuity of highly resilient peoples who understand the relationships humans have with Mother Earth.

FACT SHEET: President Biden Touts Historic Support for Indian Country and Transformation of the Nation-to-Nation Relationship with Tribal Nations

President Biden and Vice President Harris have taken historic actions to support Indian Country through executive actions, historic investments, and strengthening government-to-government relationships. The President has issued three historic Executive Orders that reform federal funding to help live up to the promise of Tribal self-determination, improve public safety and criminal justice for Native Americans while targeting the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people, and improve educational outcomes and career opportunities for Native American students by focusing on systemic barriers and increasing access to high-quality education. The President has also taken further executive action through two Presidential Memoranda on Tribal consultation, including his [2021 Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#) and his [2022 Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation](#).

Climate Adaptation Barriers and Needs Experienced by Northwest Coastal Tribes: Key Findings from Tribal Listening Sessions

Roadmap to Repair: A Guide to How Cities Can Acknowledge and Address the History of Harm to Indigenous Peoples, Rebuild Trust, and Repair Relationships

The National League of Cities envisions cities and towns that are welcoming and that equitably meet the needs of all their constituents. We want to create a world in which Indigenous Peoples' contributions, culture, and history are respected, and where policies, practices, and procedures improve outcomes for Indigenous People and Communities. The Roadmap to Repair offers guidance to municipal leaders on acknowledging past harm and intentionally moving toward repair. This resource will help guide critical work and efforts in repairing relationships, but also help frame discussions on how to create a more equitable world for everyone.

Job & Internship Opportunities

[Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center - Postdoc Research Scholar to develop 500-year Climate Adaptation Plan with Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians](#)

This project will convene a working group of EBCI staff, EBCI- and Southeast CASC-affiliated researchers, and other federal and state agencies to develop a multi-generational adaptation plan. To build this plan, the project team will co-develop an understanding of community needs and priorities, how the availability of resources may change in the future, and the potential impacts of long-term climate change on valued resources. This understanding will come from multiple approaches, including community involvement through workshops and surveys, Indigenous research methodologies, and modeling scenarios of global warming, land-use change, and resource dynamics. **Application Deadline: ASAP**

[Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies - Hiring 2 Co-Leaders for the Community Coastal Experience](#)

The CCE Co-Leaders will work alongside our CCE Coordinator to plan and lead the month-long traveling internship program for a cohort of approximately 8 local adults. The Co-Leader job is February-August 2025, with the possibility to extend the contract into fall and winter work with CACS. The February-April work could be mostly remote and/or part-time if that works better for the candidate's schedule, with full-time in-person work definitely required in late May, all of June and early July. The job does involve traveling with the cohort for 4-5 weeks, with time spent in 2-4 coastal communities in Southcentral Alaska (such as Homer, Seldovia, Cordova, Kodiak, and/or Seward). **Application deadline: Accepted on a rolling basis with a priority deadline of November 25, 2024**

[Graduate Research Scholarship- Intertribal Timber Council](#)

ITC, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Research and Development, is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for Native American graduate students planning or conducting tribally relevant research on natural resource issues. The ITC Research Scholarship is designed to support tribally relevant, natural resource-based research conducted by Native American Scholars enrolled in a graduate program. **Application deadline: December 2, 2024**

[Climate Resilience Intern, Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance](#)

The Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance is now hiring: A Part-Time Paid Climate Resilience Intern. The Climate Resilience Intern will assist the GPTWA team in advancing climate adaptation and resilience projects that support tribal nations. This part-time role offers an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on experience in climate resilience work, environmental research, and community engagement with a focus on Tribal Climate Resilience. **Application deadline: December 12, 2024**

[Virgil Masayeva Scholarship 2025](#)

The Virgil Masayeva Native American Environmental Education Scholarship Fund supports full-time students at Northern Arizona University (NAU) who are members of federally recognized tribes. Eligible students must be majoring in environmental fields, have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, demonstrate financial need, and be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate students. Applicants must submit a CIB, transcripts, two recommendations, a resume, and a one-page essay by December 31, 2024, noon. Awards start at \$1,000 for the Spring 2025 semester. Contact Mansel A Nelson at mansel.nelson@nau.edu or 928-221-1222 for questions. **Application Deadline: December 31, 2024**

[Postdoctoral Research Associate I, GIS and Mapping](#)

The Water Resources Research Center is seeking candidates for a GIS and Mapping Postdoctoral Research Scholar I. This candidate will work with partners, including local, state, nonprofit, private, sector, federal, and academic, to assist with the development of data analysis and mapping projects, including an update to the Arizona Water Map Poster. The candidate may work with Technical Advisory Committees to develop data analysis and visualization goals, use ArcGIS to perform data analysis and visualization, work with large datasets, and create maps using an iterative and co-productive design approach to communicate complex data and science to audiences ranging from subject matter experts to laypersons. **Application deadline: January 6, 2025**

[2025-2026 Global Change Research Fellows](#)

Sponsored by the USGS Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SE CASC) and NC State University, the Global Change Research Fellows program is designed to provide financial, scientific, and professional-development support for graduate students who are incoming or currently enrolled at a [Consortium university of SE CASC](#) or a citizen of a [USET member Tribal Nation](#) in the Southeast. The mission of the SE CASC is to provide science and tools to help fish, wildlife, water, lands, and people adapt to changing climate and land use. **Application deadline: January 6, 2025**

[The Nature of Our Times - Call for Writing Submissions](#)

We are looking for poems that speak to the immense value of nature—for our children and future generations, for our own and the planet's well-being, and the resilience and survival of our communities. We are looking for poems that query our current practices and what needs to change in our consideration of the natural world, and that show new understandings of what it means to co-exist in it. **Application deadline: January 15, 2025**

[2025 Rising Voices Changing Coasts Summer Internship](#)

This internship trains participants how to explore climate changes through the multiple lenses of research instructed by Native scholars. It will center Indigenous Knowledges/sciences and compliment Western Science as it explores the many ways to do climate science work. Each year the internship will travel to one of four research sites of the NSF CoPe RVCC grant #2103843: Hawaii, Alaska, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico, to meet with the scientists, community members and the land itself to be introduced to how we can learn from and care for places. Interns will spend four plus weeks in Lawrence Kansas at Haskell Indian Nations University studying about research, writing, the site culture, etiquette and protocols, science communication, TEK, Indigenous science and Western science, and science communication. Week five will take students to Louisiana southern coastal regions to visit some research sites, scientists doing research, and Native Americans from the communities to learn about the multiple ways climate is observed, adapted to, and expressed across disciplines to inform other scientists and community members. **Application deadline: February 16, 2025**

[Southwest CASC Communication Specialist](#)

The Southwest CASC is seeking an extended temporary employment Communication Specialist (Communications Specialist II) to develop and implement a communications program. The CS will work closely with the SW CASC Director and Assistant Director to facilitate communication that describe and promote the mission and science activities of the SW CASC. The CS will also coordinate outreach activities within the Southwest region and engage with National CASC activities. This position is on the University of Arizona, Tucson-campus. **Application deadline: accepted on a rolling basis**

[Blue Forest - Indigenous Partnerships Coordinator](#)

The Indigenous Partnerships Coordinator will establish and grow partnerships with Tribal Nations and organizations for Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) projects primarily in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Most projects will center around the restoration of lands within National Forests. Partnership development involves learning about a project to understand past Indigenous engagement and ensure current and future plans incorporate Indigenous values. It also involves learning about Indigenous partners' priorities and interests and identifying opportunities to support and expand Indigenous partnerships, which may include opportunities for Tribal workforce development, community or youth involvement, science and research collaboration, or capacity building to expand co-stewardship of public lands. **Applications deadline: open until filled**

[Clean Energy Group - Project Manager for Fossil Fuel Replacement Initiatives](#)

This position will engage with efforts to phase out fossil fuel peaker plants and educate the public about Hydrogen. Pay ranges from \$54,000 to \$60,000 a year. Applications remain open but are entering review. **Application deadline: open until filled**

Funding Opportunities



Additional Sources for More Opportunities:

1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/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) Conservation Innovation Grants (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

[Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is making available \$800 million in funding under the Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Program as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda and ongoing work to tackle the climate crisis. Administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), LCTM will support the use of low-carbon materials and products used in transportation that reduce air pollution, specifically greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). **Application deadline: November 27, 2024**

[Tribal & Territory Diesel Emissions Reduction Act](#)

The EPA's Diesel Reduction Act Tribes and Territory grants are an opportunity for Tribes interested in electrifying vehicle fleets to access federal funding with no cost share requirement. **Application deadline: December 6, 2024**

[Wood Innovations Grant Program](#)

The Wood Innovation Grants Program,

launched in 2015, stimulates, expands, and supports U.S. wood products markets and wood energy markets to support the long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands. National focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports hazardous fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. **Application deadline: December 11, 2024**

[Philanthropy Northwest & the EPA Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program aims to make it easier for community-based organizations to access federal environmental justice funding. [The Pacific Northwest Grant](#) (\$40 million) is an opportunity for nonprofit organizations, Native American organizations & Tribal governments, local governments, and institutions of higher education. The program was created to respond to feedback from communities about the need to reduce barriers to federal funds and improve the efficiency of the awards process to ensure underinvested communities can access the grants. **Application deadline: December 15, 2024**

[Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Grant Program](#)

The purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. LSR objectives include reduced wildfire risk; improved fish and wildlife habitats; maintained or improved water quality; and mitigated invasive plants, insects, and disease. Recognizing the importance of forest land to Tribal Nations, the Forest Service is seeking proposals from federally recognized Tribal Nations to restore priority forest landscapes on Tribal land. **Application Deadline: December 16, 2024**

[Community Wood Grant Program](#)

The Community Wood Grant Program, launched in 2020, provides funding for grants to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The Forest Service expects renewable wood energy systems installed under this program to use the most stringent control technologies. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology. **Application deadline: December 18, 2024**

[2025 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program for Tribes](#)

The purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration competitive grant program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes. This program supports high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape, leverage public and private resources, and further priorities identified in science-based restoration strategies. **Application deadline: December 16, 2024**

[Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice Grants Hub](#)

The MAP EJ Grants Hub, in [collaboration with our community partners](#), helps design subgrant application processes, awards environmental justice subgrants, implement a subgrants tracking and reporting system, and provide resources and support to communities. The MAP EJ Grants Hub will award [subgrants totaling \\$40 million](#) for projects in EPA's Region 8, under the [Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#). The funding is geared to communities disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health harms and risks. **Application deadline: December 21, 2024**

[National Fish Passage Program](#)

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. In doing so, NFPP aims to maintain or increase native fish populations to improve ecosystem resiliency and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. **Application deadline: December 31, 2024**

[WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025](#)

The objective of this NOFO is to invite States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies. Proposed projects that are supported by an existing water management and conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning effort led by the applicant are prioritized. **Application deadline: January 14, 2025**

Upcoming Events

NOTE: Updated info on events can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website:

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Home/Events>

December 2024

Virtual Training: December 2-6 and 9, 2024

[EPA Virtual Water Quality Standards Academy](#)

The EPA will be holding a six-day session of its virtual Water Quality Standards (WQS) Academy on December 2-6 and December 9 from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM (EST). The WQS Academy provides WQS development and implementation information to WQS professionals associated with the federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. Registration is free and open to the public. Registration will close on November 22nd, or when capacity is reached.

Webinars: December 3-5, Virtual EPA Grants Webinar Series for Grant Applicants and Recipients

EPA is hosting a series of three webinars for assistance agreement (grant) applicants and recipients. During each webinar, EPA staff will review key aspects of EPA's grants processes and requirements, and you will have the opportunity to submit questions. You must register in advance for each webinar.

Webinar: December 3, Virtual CNNTS: Community Conversations Webinar Series- Stewardship Pathways

In the Stewardship Pathways session of the Community Conversations series, the focus will be on "Expanding Landscape Stewardship Pathways". This area of focus emphasizes workforce development through training in plant propagation, fire and fuels management, GIS, and climate monitoring. The session will also cover train-the-trainer programs, regional hubs, and focus groups on coastal and fire stewardship, aimed at growing partnerships and expanding stewardship efforts across the region.

Conference: December 10-12, Palms Casino Resort Las Vegas, NV
[2024 Intertribal Agriculture Conference](#)

This signature event brings together Tribal leaders, farmers, ranchers, youth, and entrepreneurs to explore new markets and collaborate with key partners. Over three days, participants will gain access to resources that drive economic growth and increase sustainable practices across Indian Country. Our food systems have long been disregarded despite deep-rooted traditions that form the foundation

of sustainable, ecologically grounded agricultural practices. This conference offers a unique platform to explore opportunities that rebuild food systems to align with our cultural teachings and values.

Webinar: December 12, 2024

[PFAS in the Southern Plains](#)

Isabella Gandara is a senior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) majoring in Biological Engineering with a focus on public health, genetics, and toxicology. This past summer, she worked as a THESIS Intern for the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, where she pursued an independent research project to investigate what is known about PFAS on tribal lands, as well as risk factors for exposure that should be considered going forward. Concentrating on Oklahoma, her work involved analyzing trends in detection rates of public water systems, using machine learning models to predict PFAS levels in environmental samples, and identifying key risk factors for exposure and priorities for future testing. Zoom Meeting ID: 876 6024 2446 Password: 996191

January 2025

Webinar: January 7, Virtual CNNTS: Community Conversations Webinar Series- Stewardship Pathways

The Entrepreneurship session of the Community Conversations series will highlight how CNNTS is "Supporting Social Entrepreneurship". This session will delve into how promoting social entrepreneurship contributes to building a climate-resilient economy by supporting Indigenous-led businesses. Learn about the expansion of entrepreneurial training opportunities for Tribal partners and how evaluating market opportunities fosters economic growth for Indigenous Fire, Forestry, and Fuels Crews.

February 2025

Conference: February 3-7, Anchorage, Alaska
[Alaska Forum on the Environment](#)

The Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) is Alaska's largest statewide gathering of environmental professionals providing an opportunity for government agencies, non-profit and for-profit businesses, community leaders, Alaska's youth, conservationists, biologists and

community elders to come together and discuss the latest projects, processes, and issues that affect the environment in Alaska. The diversity of attendees and comprehensive agenda sets this conference apart from any other of its kind.

Workshop: February 10-11, 2025, Astoria, Oregon

[Navigating Coastal Hazards Workshop](#)

Join Pacific Northwest coastal leaders, Tribal partners, planners, emergency managers, consultants, and researchers in our second Navigating Coastal Hazards workshop in Astoria, Oregon. Hosted by the Cascadia CoPes Hub and partners, participants from Washington, Oregon, California, and British Columbia will continue to build on connecting the dots between current coastal needs and new research activities through roundtable discussions, posters, and panels. Registration coming soon!

March 2025

Virtual Symposium: March 11-12, Online

[2025 Northeast Invasive Species and Climate Change Symposium](#)

Registration link coming soon

May 2025

Conference: May 20-21, Tucson, Arizona

[WRRC 2025 Annual Conference - Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity](#)

Stay tuned, more information is coming soon!

Conference, May 26-28, 2025 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

[Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects \(ICCE\) National Conference](#)

This year's conference theme is "Honouring All Our Relations: Embracing Indigenous Perspectives on Cumulative Effects", and will feature speakers on interconnectedness and interdependence, Indigenous Knowledge and western science, environmental stewardship, cultural resilience, valuable partnerships and more. The call for proposals is open until September 16, 2024.

International Indigenous News & Resources

In the News

[Conference of the Parties of Three UN Conventions of 2024: A Review of High-level Goals and Outcomes Related to Indigenous Peoples](#)

The last three months of this year are occupied by Conferences of the Parties of three UN Conventions: Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16 UNCBD), Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29 UNFCCC), and Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (COP16 UNCCD). All these processes affect Indigenous Peoples' rights to lands, territories, and resources, rights to traditional governance and management, conservation, protection, and traditional use, and the safeguarding of Indigenous knowledge systems, practices, and full livelihoods. ©Cultural Survival, 11/19/2024.

[The Global Youth Statement Declaration for Climate Justice](#)

The Youth constituency at COP 29 in Baku this November, published the Global Youth Statement, an outline of key demands from children and youth to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. Key demands included: an end to corporate sponsorship of COPs by polluting industries; implementation of a declaration of interests for all stakeholders; ensuring fossil fuel representatives are excluded from closed sessions; and a guarantee of a fossil-free presidency at all future COPs. ©Young COPS, 2024.

[IITC Condemns UNFCCC COP 29's Approval of the Carbon Market as a Direct Threat to Indigenous Rights and Climate Justice](#)

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) strongly condemned the November 11th, 2024 decision by the 29th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 29). States Parties voted unanimously, although some expressed concern, to approve long delayed and controversial carbon market rules contained in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. IITC joined with other participants to warn that these market-based mechanisms threaten Indigenous Peoples' ecosystems and rights and enable continued pollution under the guise of "climate action". ©IITC, 11/14/2024.

[Introducing 'anti-COP': A climate summit for activists who are fed up](#)

Activists rallied around a shared feeling of exclusion from the formal COP process, and concerns that the solutions that come out of it are harming their communities. Anit-COP aimed to provide "a space to articulate our struggles and propose concrete alternatives [to the status quo]." The five-day gathering focused on four major themes: impacts of clean energy megaprojects on the communities around them, the global water crisis, the 'commodification of life', and forced displacement of Indigenous Peoples. ©Grist, 11/15/2024.

[Just for Some. Transition for Whom? Indigenous Peoples Summit on Just Transition reflects on the Future of Territories and Rights in a Landmark Event in Geneva](#)

Stories of environmental exploitation brought together over 100 Indigenous leaders to attend the Just Transition: Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives, Knowledge and Lived Experiences Summit, which took place Oct. 8-10, 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The summit highlighted the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and solutions into the global energy transition. Indigenous representatives from the world's seven socio-

cultural regions emphasized that a rights-based approach rooted in self-determination, FPIC, and cultural and land rights needs to be at the center of the Just Transition. ©Cultural Survival, 11/4/2024.

[What was achieved, and not, for Indigenous and local leaders at COP16](#)

Although some outcomes of this year's U.N. biodiversity conference (COP16) were viewed by some as historic achievements for Indigenous and Afro-descended peoples, many groups were left disappointed. Some of the most significant wins were the acknowledgement of Afro-descendants as essential actors in the care and protection of biodiversity, the decision on Article 8(j) for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' and local community rights within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the adoption of the 'Cali Fund'. However, many were disappointed by the failure to reach a consensus on resource mobilization, direct funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the lack of progress on the monitoring framework to achieve targets and goals to restore nature. ©Mongabay, 11/6/2024.

[UN report backs up Sámi claims that mining in Finland violates their rights to land and culture](#)

Two different U.N. committees found that Finland violated the rights of the Sámi by granting mineral exploration permits in Finnish Sápmi - the homelands of the Sámi peoples that cross Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. The decisions found that Finland violated the rights of the Sámi, specifically their right to culture and land, by granting exploration permits without conducting an impact assessment or securing the community's free, prior, and informed consent, or FPIC. The case was brought to the U.N. by three Sámi sisters, aged 13, 15, and 16 at the time of the filing in 2021. ©Grist, 10/18/2024.

Call for Input

[Call for submissions: Thematic Report on Enforced Disappearances in the Context of the Defense of Land, Environment, and Natural Resources](#)

The United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) invites contributions for a thematic study focusing on enforced disappearances occurring in the context of the defense of land, natural resources, and the environment. The study aims to deepen the understanding of trends, patterns, contributing factors, and impacts of such disappearances, with a view to identifying effective strategies for prevention, search, accountability, and redress. To inform the WGEID's thematic report to be presented at the Human Rights Council in its September 2025 session and at the General Assembly in October 2025. **Deadline: November 30, 2024.**

[Consultation on the HLPE-FSN report on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems](#)

During its 51st plenary session (23-27 October 2023), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) adopted its four-year Programme of Work (MYPOW 2024-2027), which includes a request to its High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) to produce a report on "Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems" to be presented at the 54th plenary session of the CFS in October 2026. Consultations on this scope and on the development of the full report will be held with a comprehensive range of rights-holders and stakeholders. Beneficiaries of the report will be Indigenous Peoples and the wider global community, through the CFS. **Deadline: December 16, 2024**

International Indigenous Resources & Events

[Call for inputs: Just Transition and Human Rights](#)

To inform the Secretary-General's synthesis report on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to a just transition and the full realization of human rights for all people, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session. Human Rights Council resolution 56/8 of 10 July 2024 (A/HRC/RES/56/8) entitled "Human rights and climate change" requested the Secretary-General to consult Member States and other relevant stakeholders in order to prepare and submit to the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council a synthesis report on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to a just transition and the full realization of human rights for all people. **Deadline: December 30, 2024.**

[Call for Inputs: Study on "Indigenous Peoples right to data, including data collection and disaggregation"](#)

In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 33/25, the purpose of the annual study is to analyze the status of the rights of Indigenous Peoples worldwide in the achievement of the ends of the Declaration, focusing on one or more interrelated articles of the Declaration. The purpose of this study is to highlight the significant value of data to Indigenous Peoples while analyzing the right to data, including through collection and disaggregation. It draws on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), in accordance with Articles 3, 4, 5, 15(i), 18, 19, 20(i), 23, 31, 32, 33, 38, and 42, which reaffirm the rights of Indigenous Peoples to control data regarding their peoples, lands, and resources. **Deadline: January 31, 2025**

Job & Internship Opportunities

[Land is Life's Indigenous Women's Program Fellowship](#)

Designed and led by Indigenous women, the program supports Indigenous women and their organizations – in Africa, Asia, and throughout the Americas – to effectively assert their individual and collective rights to access, to use and control land and natural resources, to improve their livelihoods, and to promote and protect their peoples' rights. Under the Indigenous Women's Program, the year-long fellowship helps to nurture the next generation of Indigenous women leaders by supporting young Indigenous women who are taking innovative actions that contribute to gender equality, the well-being of their communities, and the recognition of their land and resource rights. **Deadline: November 24, 2024.**

[Cultural Survival Indigenous Youth Fellowships](#)

Cultural Survival's Indigenous Youth Fellowships support individuals or groups of young Indigenous communicators, activists, artists, creatives, and visionaries to develop their capacities, training, research, production, and creation aimed at strengthening their cultural identity and leadership. Award amount is up to \$6,000. **Deadline to Submit Proposal Concepts: November, 30 2024.**

Resources & Funding Opportunities

Recording: [Recordings of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC COP 29\) can be viewed here](#)

Recording: [Recordings of the U.N. Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity \(COP16 UNCBD\) can be viewed here](#)