

**Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project  
DRAFT Meeting Notes – Wednesday, January 21, 2015**

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**Call Participants:**

- Colby Duren, National Congress of American Indians
- Kathy Ferge, National Resources Conservation Service
- Megan Flier, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Laura Gephart, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
- Eliza Ghitis, NW Indians Fisheries Commission
- Bob Goodwin, Forest Service Tribal Relations, Region 5
- Oliver Grah, Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Rachel Gregg, EcoAdapt
- Jennifer Hanlon, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida
- George Hart, Navy Region NW
- James Holt, Nez Perce
- Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe
- Carolyn Kelly, Quinault Indian Nation
- Linda Kruger, USDA Forest Service
- Siena Lopez-Johnston, Bonneville Power Administration
- Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon
- John Mankowski, North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Guillaume Mauger, UW Climate Impacts Group
- Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
- Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council
- Gary Morishima, Quinault Management Center
- Mariel Murray, USDA Forest Service
- Cynthia Rossi, Point no Point Treaty Council
- Jon Treasure, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Sue Wotkyns, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Ann Wyatt, Klawock Tribe
- Kimberly Yazzie, Portland State University

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**Upcoming PNW Tribal Climate Change Network Conference Call Dates**

- February 18, 2015
  - March 18, 2015
  - April 15, 2015
  - May 20, 2015
  - June 17, 2015
  - July 15, 2015
  - August 19, 2015
  - September 16, 2015
  - October 21, 2015
  - November 18, 2015
  - December 16, 2015
- Call-in Information:*  
*Call Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 Pacific*  
*Call-in #: 1-888-858-2144*  
*Pass code: 5064716*

## Meeting Minutes

### ATNI Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is hosting a Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change on March 10-11, 2015 in Portland, Oregon. The purpose of the Summit is:

- To convene ATNI Tribal Leaders to discuss Climate Change Impacts
- To Share Tribal Strategies, Plans, Policy on Climate Change, Energy, and Carbon Emissions
- To Discuss Regional, National, and International Policy on Climate Change
- To Discuss Tribal Needs and Funding Opportunities
- To Identify Strategies to Promote and Protect Tribal Sovereignty and Tribal Resources
- To Discuss the opportunity to develop a NW Tribal Action Plan on Climate Change

For more information, visit: <http://www.atnitribes.org/>. To register, click [here](#). Contact: Don Sampson, Executive Director. Institute for Tribal Government and ATNI Climate Change Project Coordinator, [Don@Seventhgenerationllc.com](mailto:Don@Seventhgenerationllc.com).

### Federal Climate Change Adaptation Plans

In October 2014, the White House released the final versions of Climate Change Adaptation Plans for federal departments and agencies. Links to the federal climate plans are available here:

[www.performance.gov/node/3406/view?view=public#supporting-info](http://www.performance.gov/node/3406/view?view=public#supporting-info). Kathy shared a framework for reviewing the plans that includes the following categories:

- Policies and Goals
- Climate risk and vulnerability
- Science and communication
- Trust Responsibility
- Tribal Treaty Rights
- Government-to-Government
- Tribal Consultation
- Traditional Knowledge
- Cultural Resources
- Coordination and Partnerships
- Specific Agency Actions

Goals of reviewing these plans include illustrating the ways in which federal climate change adaptation plans are addressing tribal issues as well as gaps that may exist. This information could be used to inform tribal understanding of how agency plans are addressing tribal needs, and to develop recommendations for the agencies on how to strengthen actions related to tribes in these plans. Findings and recommendations from this review could be shared through the National Climate Assessment sustained assessment process, and with Climate Science and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, among other groups.

Gary suggested that without funds for implementation, agency adaptation plans may be limited in how tribal issues are addressed (even if they are included in the planning documents.) Linda suggested that although these plans have been completed, many agencies might be interested in hearing the kinds of recommendations that could strengthen how tribal issues are addressed in these plans. Gary suggested that one concern is that there is tension and potential conflict in what agencies and western scientists consider *best available science* to be in comparison with indigenous understandings of knowledge and science. Kathy will incorporate these issues within the review of the federal adaptation plan and provide an update on the review process during the February call.

### ITEP Webinar series

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is coordinating a webinar series focused on climate change adaptation as part of a collaborative project with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and

the PNW Tribal Climate Change Project. This webinar series follows an early set of webinars on climate change adaptation planning, a September climate change adaptation training workshop in Portland, Oregon. The preliminary list of webinars and presenters is listed here:

- Webinar 1: January 15, 2015, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. PST. Nooksack Indian Tribe Climate Change Impacts Assessment, Vulnerability Assessment, and Adaptation Plan. Presenter: Oliver Grah, Nooksack Tribe *\*\*This webinar was recorded and will be available on the ITEP Website soon.*
- Webinar 2: January 30, 10-11:15 a.m. PST. [Tribal Landscape Conservation Case Studies](#). Presenters (*invited*): Laurie Whitehead, Lands Manager, Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department and Nathan Lojewsk, Chugachmiut berry risk mapping project.
- Webinar 3: February 23, 10-11:15 a.m. PST. [Climate Adaptation for Fisheries: Two projects by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission](#). Presenters: Bob Heinith, David Graves, and Shawn Narum, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.
- Webinar 4: February 25, 2015, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. PST. [Climate Change Funding and Technical Resources For Tribes](#). Presenters: Kathy Lynn, PNW Tribal Climate Change Project and Sue Wotkyns, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals.

ITEP webinars and registration information is available here:  
[http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc\\_webinars.asp](http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_webinars.asp)

### **Data Accessibility and Down-Scaling**

In the discussion about federal adaptation plans, Paul asked how agency adaptation plans addressed making science and data available to tribes through down-scaling or other mechanisms, and that better linkages between tribes and scientists is important. Gary suggested that making information available at the appropriate scale is an important issue. Paul asked about the best strategies for finding out what down-scaling costs, and how we can communicate that to the agencies funding this kind of work. Eliza mentioned that she has been working with Paul on this issue, and recently reached out to Amy Snover with the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group to discuss opportunities and limitations to down-scaling data. Guillaume discussed the importance of identifying what data is currently available, how accessible it is tribes and opportunities for tribes and researchers to work together on the development, delivery and use of science and data.

Gary mentioned that the DOI Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resources Science has a workgroup focused on downscaling. Issues they work on include uncertainty, the availability of data, and the reliability of inferences that can be made about data based on different scales. Gary also mentioned the issue of up-scaling: how do we integrate activities, research and knowledge at the local level to the actions and decisions made at a broader scale that affect larger areas? Linda suggested she would give some thought to Forest Service scientists working on this issues, as well as strategies for communicating issues about down-scaling and data sharing within the Forest Service.

Kathy will incorporate considerations of down-scaling and making climate data accessible in the review of federal climate change plans. Kathy will also work with Eliza, Guillaume, Phil Mote, Amy Snover and others to facilitate a discussion of the needs and opportunities during the February Network call.

### **General Updates**

#### **National Adaptation Forum Registration and Travel Support Applications**

2015 has arrived and the National Adaptation Forum is just around the corner. [Early Bird Registration](#) is available to receive discounted rates. Early Bird Registration ends on February 28th. Due to a handful of generous sponsors, travel support to attend the National Adaptation Forum is now available for a limited number of participants.

Learn more about this opportunity, including how to apply, by visiting the [Travel Support](#) page on the [Forum](#) website. Applications for travel support are due on **February 28, 2015**. Rachel Gregg from EcoAdapt encouraged people to apply for travel support if they are interested in attending. The conference organizers are continuing to work towards getting significant travel support for those interested. Sue Wotkyns mentioned that ITEP is working to contribute funds towards tribal travel support as well (that will be part of the National Adaptation Forum travel support fund). Gary asked when decisions would be made about proposed sessions. Rachel suggested that those would be announced in the next few weeks.

### **Columbia River Management Joint Operating Committee (RMJOC-II) Transboundary Climate Change Workshop. February 19-20, 2015.**

*Location: BPA Rates Hearing Room, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Room 200, Portland, OR*

*\*\* Shared after the call by Siena Lopez-Johnston, Bonneville Power Administration*

This workshop will coordinate and communicate ongoing research on climate change implications for Columbia Basin hydrology. In particular, the workshop will focus on the two ongoing Columbia River Management Joint Operating Committee (RMJOC) climate change studies commissioned by BPA and others in late 2013 led by the University of Washington and Portland State University. These studies will assess not only the implications of the latest global climate projections, but to also better account for the uncertainties in global climate models, downscaling methods, and hydrologic models. It is our hope that by understanding these uncertainties will allow regional planners to make better-informed risk assessments, and yield a better understanding of the possible range of hydroclimatic outcomes in the Columbia River Basin over the next 50 years.

Since the RMJOC published its first series of reports on regional hydrologic climate change in 2010-11, the science of global climate modeling, downscaling of temperature and precipitation predictions, and hydrologic modeling have advanced. For example, both the UW and PSU studies are utilizing the latest information from the Fifth Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP-5), which informed the recent [Intergovernmental Panel Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report](#). Each step in preparing hydrologic scenarios accounting for climate change introduces uncertainty, and these uncertainties need to be taken into account for by decision-makers. In January 2014, the first workshop addressing these new studies, and others using the new CMIP-5 climate projections, was sponsored by NOAA and the Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). Even though the projects were in their infancy, technical experts at the workshop opened several productive lines of communication which enhanced all of the ongoing studies in the region.

Now that both RMJOC-II studies have made significant progress, and are beginning to identify some initial trends, this second RMJOC-II workshop will further coordinate and communicate these ongoing efforts. We have again invited several technical leaders who are also conducting hydroclimate research in the Pacific Northwest. They will also share progress on their studies, and will help give us a better sense on how the RMJOC-II final results, which will be available in 2016-17, are likely to compare and contrast. For more information, a draft agenda, and to RSVP, e-mail Kevin Werner ([kevin.werner@noaa.gov](mailto:kevin.werner@noaa.gov)) or Erik Pytlak ([espytlak@bpa.gov](mailto:espytlak@bpa.gov)) by **February 10, 2015**.

### **Regional and National Tribal Climate Change Resources, Newsletters, and Event Calendars**

- [ITEP Tribes and Climate Change Newsletter](#)
- [NW CSC](#) and [NPLCC Northwest Climate Digest](#); [NW CSC Calendar](#)
  - [NPLCC – 4000 people in the region. Invited to share information with the NPLCC to include that in the digest..](#)
- [EPA Calendar of Events](#)

### **Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Conference**

The University of Oregon hosted the [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Conference](#) in December 2014. Patricia Cochran, Executive Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission served as the keynote speaker. Wisdom of the Elders recorded her talk, which is available here: <http://vimeo.com/114802182>. Student presentations and research abstracts are available here: <http://ccip.uoregon.edu/2014-student-abstracts/>.

## **Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide**

We are frequently updating the tribal funding guide. The Funding Guide is intended to provide up-to-date information on grants and programs that may assist tribes in addressing climate change through a broad range of sectors. Recently, the guide has been expanded to include existing tribal climate change adaptation plans in the US. Email [kathy@uoregon.edu](mailto:kathy@uoregon.edu) if you have any information to add to the guide. To access the funding guide, please visit <http://envs.uoregon.edu/tribal-climate/>

## **Native American Student Research Grant**

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC), in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for Native American students who are planning or currently conducting tribally relevant research in a natural resource issue. The deadline is **January 26, 2015** at 5:00 PM PST. Awards are for up to \$4,000. Grant information can be found online at [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org).

## **Forest Site Classification for Cultural Plant Harvest by Tribal Weavers Can Inform Management**

Hummel, S.; Lake, F.K. 2015. Forest Site Classification for Cultural Plant Harvest by Tribal Weavers Can Inform Management. *Journal of Forestry*, Volume 113, Number 1, January 2015, pp. 30-39(10). To learn more about the study, visit <http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.13-082>. Abstract: Do qualitative classifications of ecological conditions for harvesting culturally important forest plants correspond to quantitative differences among sites? To address this question, we blended scientific methods (SEK) and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to identify conditions on sites considered good, marginal, or poor for harvesting the leaves of a plant (beargrass; *Xerophyllum tenax*) used in tribal basket weaving. We relied on voluntary participation of six expert weavers, a stratified, randomized field sample, discriminant analysis (DA), a standardized color system, and paired t-tests. We accepted each weaver's classification (good, marginal, or poor) of forested sites for beargrass harvest and then measured forest and plant attributes on two plots at each harvest area in each class ( $n=72$ ). The DA yielded descriptive but not predictive results. Coarse woody debris (CWD) levels and the number of trees (trees per acre [TPA]) differed significantly between good and poor sites across California, Oregon, and Washington, whereas basal area did not. Good sites had less CWD ( $P=0.0360$ ) and fewer TPA ( $P=0.001$ ) than poor sites. Variations in leaf color decreased as the site class for plant harvest improved. Results reveal a crosswalk between ecological knowledge derived via SEK and TEK for culturally important plants.

## **Upcoming Events**

**January 21-22, 2015. [NPLCC-funded workshop: Using Beaver to Restore Streams](#).** Portland, OR. This workshop is part of a 2013 NPLCC funded project with Portland State University and USFWS. It is a 1-day workshops for practitioners, reviewers, funders, landowners, land managers and regulators.

**January 23, 11:00-12:00 Pacific. [Webinar: Wood Replenishment: A Superhero in the Battle against Climate Change](#).** Sponsored by the National Conservation Training Center, Presented by: Scott Nicolai, Yakama Nation Fisheries.

**January 28th, 2015, 10-11am Pacific. [NPLCC Science-Management Webinar: Stream temperature database & high-resolution NorWeST climate scenarios](#)**

*Presenter: Dan Isaak, USDA Forest Service.* This project collected existing stream temperature data from numerous federal, state, tribal, and private sources to develop an integrated regional database. Spatial statistical models for river networks will be applied to these data to develop an accurate model that predicts stream temperature for all fish-bearing streams in the US portion of the NPLCC. Differences between model outputs for historic and future climate scenarios will be used to assess spatial variation in the vulnerability of sensitive fish species across the NPLCC. Learn more about the NorWeST database. Register for the webinar: <http://www.northpacificlcc.org/nplcc-science-management-webinar-stream-temperature-database-high-resolution-norwest-climate-scenarios>.

**January 28th, 2015, 10 am Pacific. [Webinar: Drought and Public Health](#)**

The NIDIS Engaging Preparedness Communities Working Group will host a drought and public health webinar on January 28 at 12:00 p.m. Central Time. A presentation by Cornelia and Jan Flora (Kansas State University), originators of the Community Capitals Framework Model, will discuss how the model is applied towards global climate change adaptation, specifically in the health sector. Nicole Wall (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, National Drought Mitigation Center) will follow-up with a talk related to the application of CCF to drought and public health. Dr. Deborah Bathke (Co-Chair of the EPC working group), will give also update regarding the new leadership changes, events, and possible opportunities to come. To Register, please visit: <http://drought.unl.edu/NewsOutreach/UpcomingEvents.aspx>. Instructions on accessing the webinar will be sent one week before the event to registered participants. If you have questions about the webinar, contact Nicole Wall [atnwall2@unl.edu](mailto:atnwall2@unl.edu). For questions about Engaging Preparedness Communities, contact Deborah Bathke at [dbathke2@unl.edu](mailto:dbathke2@unl.edu).

**January 28-29, 2015. [Columbia Basin Partner Forum](#).** Contact Stephen Waste, USGS for more information at: [swaste@usgs.gov](mailto:swaste@usgs.gov)

**January 30, 10-11:15 a.m. Pacific. [ITEP Webinar: Tribal Landscape Conservation Case Studies](#)**

*Part 1 – Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in the Central Coast of British Columbia: Heiltsuk Participation in the Strategic Landscape Reserve Design (SLRD) Process*

Presenter: Laurie Whitehead, Lands Manager, Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department

*Part 2 – NPLCC-funded Project by Chugachmiut Tribe*

Presenter: Nathan Lojewski, Forestry Manager, Chugachmiut Tribe

Please register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/160921586508344066>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**February 23, 2015, 10:00-11:15 Pacific. [ITEP Webinar: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission \(CRITFC\) Climate Impacts and Adaptation Projects](#)**

*Part 1 – Climate Change Impacts on Columbia River Treaty Tribe's Resources*

Presenters: David Graves, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), and Bob Heinith, technical consultant for CRITFC

*Part 2 – Adaptation of Salmonids to Climate Change*

Presenter: Shawn Narum, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)

Please register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8043789937499597826>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**February 25, 2015, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Pacific. [ITEP Webinar: Climate Change Funding and Technical Resources for Tribes](#)**

Presenters: Kathy Lynn, Project Coordinator, Tribal Climate Change Project, Environmental Studies Program, University of Oregon, and Sue Wotkyns, Climate Change Program Manager, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern Arizona University

Please register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4786137095427859202>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**February 9 – 13, 2015. [Alaska Forum on the Environment. Anchorage, AK, USA](#)**

The Alaska Forum on the Environment is Alaska's largest statewide gathering of environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit and for-profit businesses, community leaders, Alaskan youth, conservationists, biologists and community elders. It will include sessions on climate change, energy, environmental regulations, cleanup and remediation, fish & wildlife, solid waste, and of course much more.

<http://akforum.com/>



**February 12, 2015.** [NPLCC-funded workshop: Using Beaver to Restore Streams.](#) Weed, CA.

**February 17-19, 2015.** [Great Basin Consortium Conference.](#) Boise State University, ID.

**February 19-20, 2015. Columbia River Management Joint Operating Committee (RMJOC-II) Transboundary Climate Change Workshop. Portland, Oregon.** For more information and to RSVP, Kevin Werner ([kevin.werner@noaa.gov](mailto:kevin.werner@noaa.gov)) or Erik Pytlak ([espytlak@bpa.gov](mailto:espytlak@bpa.gov)) by February 10, 2015.

**March 10 - 11, 2015. ATNI Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change, Portland Oregon**  
*For more information, contact Don Sampson, Executive Director, Institute for Tribal Government & ATNI Climate Change Project Coordinator. [Don@Seventhgenerationllc.com](mailto:Don@Seventhgenerationllc.com).*

**March 14-15, 2015. Indigenous Peoples' Climate Change Working Group Meeting, Albuquerque, NM**  
Hosted by Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. For more information, contact: Kiksapa Consulting ([kbennett@kiksapa.com](mailto:kbennett@kiksapa.com)).

**April 14, 2015.** [NPLCC-funded workshop: Using Beaver to Restore Streams.](#) Juneau, AK

**April 20-22, 2015, 3rd Annual Spatial Statistical Stream Network Models training workshop, Boise, Idaho**  
A new class of spatial statistical network model (SSNM) for data on stream networks has recently been developed & free software is available for implementing the models. SSNMs account for network topology (i.e., flow direction, stream size, tributary confluences) and offer significant improvements over many traditional statistical techniques that were developed originally for terrestrial applications. Information and registration is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-spatial-modeling-workshop-registration-14636384821>.

**May 12-15, 2015.** [2nd National Adaptation Forum.](#) St. Louis, MO.

## **Announcements**

### **Indigenous Climate Change Adaptation Planning Using a Values-Focused Approach: A Case Study with the Gitga'at Nation**

Michael G. Reid, Colleen Hamilton, Sarah K. Reid, William Trousdale, Cam Hill, Nancy Turner, Chris R. Picard, Cassandra Lamontagne and H. Damon Matthews

Local values and knowledge can be important components in creating robust climate change adaptation strategies for marginalized communities. Incorporating local values into the climate change planning process in a structured way and effectively using local knowledge not only improves the identification of priority actions for climate change adaptation, but also supports successful implementation. Much of climate change adaptation planning in recent years identifies actions derived from expert-driven vulnerability assessments and adaptation actions. Yet the values of each community influence how climate change impacts are perceived, and what adaptation actions are locally acceptable and will have local buy-in for implementation. Thus, it is important that planning incorporates local values if the goal is successful adaptation to climate change. This paper provides one approach for addressing this through a participatory, values-based process for climate change adaptation planning. The approach is contextualized through a case study of the Gitga'at Nation, located in northern coastal British Columbia, Canada, where key values were found to be culturally important food sources, culture, environmental resources, self-sufficiency, health, infrastructure to enable us to live well, and Gitga'at pride and cooperation. These values were used throughout the planning process to contextualize climate change impacts on Gitga'at members' way of life and to develop and evaluate adaptation actions. It is hoped that this case study provides further proof of the utility of values-based planning in the context of adaptation planning for marginalized communities. To download the article visit: <http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.2993/0278-0771-34.3.401?af=R&> or contact Michael Reid at: [michaelreid@gitgaat.net](mailto:michaelreid@gitgaat.net).

## Job Announcement

The Forest Service is conducting outreach to gauge interest from potential applicants for a new **GS-301-14 Assistant Director, Office of Tribal Relations**. Our intent is to fill the position soon through a detail while the position is advertised to be filled permanently. The detail would last for up to 120 days, or such time as the position is filled permanently. This is one of two Assistant Director positions on the OTR staff, with the other slot continuing to be filled by Estelle Bowman. The outreach is for both the detail and the permanent position. *About the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations:* Located in the Yates Building, the headquarters of the Forest Service in Washington, DC, the OTR resides operationally within the State and Private Forestry Deputy Area. The OTR covers the entire Agency organization regarding issues, interactions, decisions, policies, or other aspects of the Agency's work that intersects with federally recognized Indian tribes. We help to build, maintain, and enhance relationships with Tribes in ways that honor treaty rights, redeem the Agency's trust responsibilities, and expand shared stewardship. We are looking for the best. For more information, please visit the Tribal Relations Web Site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/> and see the attached outreach notice.

## New Partnership Allows Remote Alaskan Villages to Mitigate Climate Change and Protect Forests (from Erick Giles, [National Indian Carbon Coalition](#))

Native Alaskan villages will be soon be able to fight climate change while protecting native forests, thanks to a new partnership between the Maine-based the [National Indian Carbon Coalition](#) (NICC) and the Alaska Carbon Exchange (ACE). The partnership will develop verified carbon offsets from Alaska Native Corporation lands using state-of-the-art technology to quantify the carbon stocks on the remote tundra and forests of Alaska. The technical work will be led by the Spatial Informatics Group-Natural Assets Laboratory (SIG-NAL), a non-profit research organization with offices in Maine and California. The NICC is a non-profit program of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation and the Intertribal Agriculture Council. ACE is a program of the Alaska Village Initiatives, which facilitates economic development in rural Alaska. Alaska Village Initiatives Executive Director, Charles Parker said the following about the partnership, "Alaska's rural communities have been feeling the negative effects of climate change for years. With the Alaska Carbon Exchange we are looking to address this issue with a program which protects our traditions and culture, revives our rural economy, and helps protect and renew our land. Our land has sustained us for generations, and with programs like these it can continue to sustain us for generations to come." John Gunn, Executive Director for SIG-NAL said that "Measuring and monitoring above-ground carbon stocks can be costly and logistically challenging in remote landscapes. We're excited to have this opportunity to test new approaches that will help remote villages gain access to global carbon offset markets." The Program Director for NICC, Erick Giles, said "We are honored for the opportunity to sustain indigenous communities and protect forest ecosystems. We believe this partnership with ACE will flourish and become a model of innovation that transforms environmental markets in Indian Country." The carbon credits will likely be sold in the voluntary carbon market, where organizations purchase the credits to reduce environmental impacts. NativeEnergy, a leading carbon project developer and retailer, believes the carbon credits generated by the ACE program will be very attractive to their credit buyers. "NativeEnergy's first initiatives were renewable energy projects on tribal land. Our clients want to support Native American tribal efforts to protect their land and culture. The environmental benefits generated give us the mechanism to make the connection," says Jeff Bernicke, CEO of NativeEnergy.

## Call for Proposals: 10th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum - Deadline 2/9/2015

The Call for Proposals for the 10th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum is now open! To honor the 10th anniversary of the Forum, we will explore how our communities can draw from our cultural wisdom and research to build a more just vision for our futures—a vision that modernizes the trust relationship, engages traditional ecological knowledge, advances restorative justice, and so forth. The NCAI Policy Research Center Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 in St. Paul, Minnesota at the NCAI Mid Year Conference. More information and proposal submission materials are available at: <http://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/initiatives/tribal-leader-scholar-forum>. Please send proposals to Joel Chastain [atjchastain@ncai.org](mailto:atjchastain@ncai.org).