



United States Department of Agriculture

Tribes and Climate Change Research USDA Forest Service

Tribe-driven research helps meet federal trust responsibilities while enriching the pool of adaptation and mitigation strategies for all.

Research Objectives

The Leopold Institute joined the Forest Service Research & Development Tribes & Climate Change Research Program in 2011. Its research objective is to provide scientific capacity in support of tribally driven research on climate change implications for resource management.

Accomplishments

- Research Joint Venture Agreement with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes for research on climate change uncertainty in forest and fire management plan revision.
- *Living Waters: Assessing cultural knowledge and ecosystem services in developing trans-boundary collaboration* presentation accepted at the National Water Monitoring Conference (April 2012).



The Mission Mountains, Flathead Indian Reservation. Credit: Leopold Institute



Forest Service

Research & Development

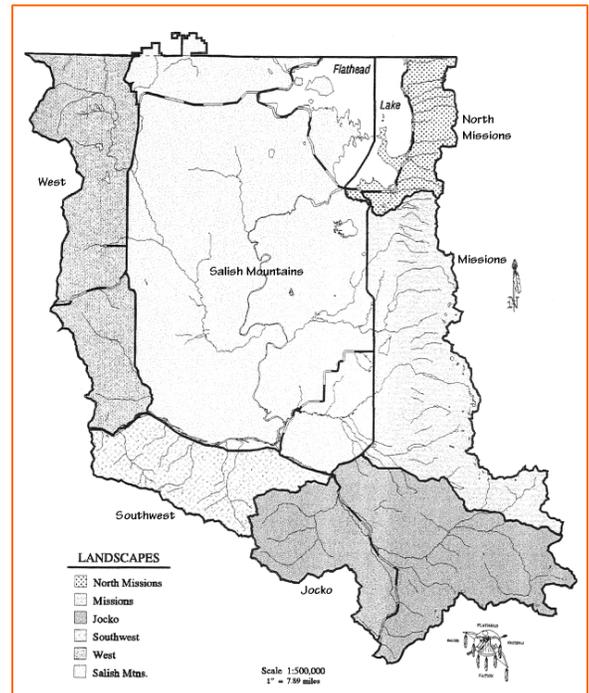
Rocky Mountain Research Station
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

Tribes and Climate Change Research

U.S. Forest Service Research & Development

Ongoing Research

- Bringing together information from tribal and non-tribal residents of the Flathead Indian Reservation, resource managers, and scientists to research climate change uncertainty in the revision of forest and fire management plans. This is done to describe a landscape unit with complex fire regime, water and commodity issues and to explore mitigation of negative climate change effects.
- Drawing on interviews with knowledgeable tribal representatives in research on indigenous cultures, ecosystem services and water flowing from protected areas to understand the value of water and other ecosystem services to native peoples and to identify threats to those benefits from climate change.
- Training on data archiving and maintenance is being provided to the Salish Kootenai Tribal College and students in order to build Tribal capacity and knowledge about data archiving techniques and importance.



Above Right: The Flathead Indian Reservation illustrating six landscape planning units. Current efforts to address climate change uncertainty are focused on the Jocko landscape unit. Others will be addressed as funding becomes available. Credit: Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes



The Mission Mountain landscape on the Flathead Indian Reservation, with fire regimes illustrated. Credit: Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Selected Partners and Contact

- Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- Salish Kootenai College
- Evergreen State College
- Leeds University, UK

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