



United States Department of Agriculture

Tribes and Climate Change Research USDA Forest Service

Tribes have unique rights, cultures, and economies that may be vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Research Objectives

The Pacific Northwest Station (PNW) is the founding station of Tribes and Climate Change Research. PNW research focuses on:

- Understanding needs and opportunities for tribal climate change planning
- Examining climate change impacts on tribal culture, sovereignty and traditional ways of life
- Examining the role of traditional knowledge in climate change assessments and planning.

Accomplishments

Information resources for tribes, policy makers, agency officials and other organizations responsible for climate-related policies and programs:

- *Exploring the Role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Climate Change Initiatives* (http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr879.pdf): This General Technical Report examines the role of TEK in climate change assessment and adaptation efforts and explores the challenges and benefits of bringing together TEK with Western science.
- *Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide* (<http://envs.uoregon.edu/tribal-climate/>): This online, searchable database includes information on funding programs that can assist tribes in addressing climate change.
- *A Guide for Tribal Leaders on U.S. Climate Change Programs* (<http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/publications/>): This guide summarizes key federal climate change programs, opportunities for tribal engagement, and contacts for each agency.
- *Social Vulnerability and Equity in the United States in the Context of Climate Change* (http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/files/2010/11/pnw_gtr8381.pdf): This General Technical Report defines social vulnerability, equity, and climate justice, highlighting key issues and considerations pertaining to the effects of climate change on socially vulnerable populations.
- *Tribal Climate Change Profiles* (<http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/tribal-profiles/>): Profiles showcase innovative adaptation and mitigation strategies by tribes to address climate change, including the:
 - Swinomish Tribe and Tsleil Waututh First Nation
 - South Central Climate Science Center: Tribal Climate Change Variability Workshops
 - Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians: Climate Change & Environmental Programs
 - Indigenous Peoples and Northwest Climate Initiatives
 - Vulnerability of Coastal Louisiana Tribes

Establishment of the *Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network*. Inaugurated in 2009, it strengthens communication between tribes, agencies, and other entities on policies, programs, grants, and other issues pertaining to tribes and climate change. The group meets via teleconference monthly. Participants include tribes from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Northern California and Alaska, federal agencies, intertribal organizations, conservation groups, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations.



Forest Service

Research & Development

Pacific Northwest Research Station

Tribes and Climate Change Research

USDA Forest Service

Ongoing Research and Activities

- Anticipating climate change impacts on tribal culture and sovereignty. This research seeks to understand the implications of climate change for the composition and distribution of culturally important species and the role of federal-tribal relationships in addressing access to off-reservation resources.
- Ongoing facilitation of the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network.
- Developing profiles of innovative tribal efforts to address climate change.
- Co-hosting and supporting participation of tribal college students at the annual Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Conference at the University of Oregon (<http://ccip.uoregon.edu/>).



Above photo: Rock revetment project, Kivalina, Alaska. Credit: Millie Hawley, Kivalina Environmental Program

Right photo: Aerial view of Swinomish Indian Reservation and La Conner vicinity. Credit: Swinomish Indian Tribe

Selected Partners and Contacts

- Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Working Group
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- National Wildlife Federation Tribal Lands Program
- Northwest Climate Science Center
- North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Linda Kruger
PNW Research Station
Juneau, Alaska
907-586-7814
lkruger@fs.fed.us

Kathy Lynn
Tribal Climate Change Project
University of Oregon
541-346-5777
kathy@uoregon.edu



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON