



November 2020 Story Archives

Contribute to the Fifth National Climate Assessment

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is pleased to announce that the call for author nominations and technical inputs for the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) is now open.

Please refer to the [Federal Register Notice](#) for a full description of the call. Prospective authors nominated through this call may be invited to serve as Chapter Lead Authors, Authors, or Technical Contributors to NCA5. Read more about [the Fifth National Climate Assessment](#).

Submission deadline: November 14, 2020.

Tribal Climate Conference Addresses Environmental Issues in Indian Country

“More than 2,400 participants from 30 countries and over 150 Tribal Nations sat in front of their screens to attend the first biennial National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference, held online Sept. 14-17. “The virtual conference examined how climate change affects Indigenous peoples and emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge and Native stewardship of the earth.”

The Seminole Tribune, local news source for USET member Tribal Nation The Seminole Tribe of Florida, [highlights](#) some of the major takeaways of this extensive virtual conference.

Preserving Our Place: Isle de Jean Charles

“The influx of saltwater killed the marsh grasses. Trees that once offered shelter from hurricane-force winds were turned a skeletal white by the salt...”

“Preserving a moment in time has different meanings for everyone. Using the five senses helps to create a

memory. Throughout time, there are days when we remember exactly where we were and the events surrounding them: Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941; the John F. Kennedy assassination, November 22, 1963; World Trade Center, September 11, 2001. Just as these moments were of deep national impact, so this moment is of deep impact for our Tribal nation. Preserving a place, whether physically, historically, or emotionally, usually comes about through great loss—as is the case with Isle de Jean Charles.”

Read the [story](#) by author Chantel Comardelle in the fall 2020 edition of Nonprofit Quarterly.

Declining Marine Health Threatens Traditional Subsistence Fishing for Tribal Nations

“Melissa Watkinson recalls a time in the past when she could go crabbing at the end of the dock in the Puget Sound and catch a great deal of crab. She can’t do that anymore. These days, she has to go on a boat into deeper waters to catch any. ‘My nieces won’t know what it’s like to be able to throw a pot at the end of a dock and catch some crab,’ Watkinson said. ‘Climate change and other changes in the ocean are having an impact on our ability to access some of these traditional foods for our family,’ she continued...”

Read Frances Lee’s [article](#) in the South Seattle Emerald.

“Mask-to-Mask” Tribal Consultation in A New Era of Social Interaction

A brief intro to a story posted on the USFS Tribal Relations blog on October 5, 2020 by Sandy Marin, Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations:



“As the COVID-19 pandemic stunted business as usual in many ways, the Forest Service is still finding ways to meaningfully consult with Tribal Nations on planned projects. Throughout the pandemic, Forest Service has remained committed to serving the public and Tribal partners. Staff on the Santa Fe National

Forest have truly embodied agency core values of safety, interdependence, and service through recent government-to-government consultations with the Pueblos of Tesuque and Jemez.

“The new reality of reduced physical interaction means being creative in offering high quality service to stakeholders. **As part of the federal trust responsibility to Native American Tribal Nations, meaningful government-to-government consultation on any projects that may impact Tribal lands or a Tribal Nation’s ability to access culturally significant resources is a legal obligation.** Face-to-face consultation is imperative to Tribal leaders in carrying out meaningful, and effective consultation.”

[Read the full story.](#)

USET Awarded Outstanding Leadership in Climate Adaptation



The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies celebrated the [six winners of the 2020 Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards](#) for Natural Resources during the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Virtual Annual Meeting. Among the awardees was the United South and Eastern Tribes – Office of Environmental Resource Management (USET-OERM) for their work in connecting Tribal natural-cultural resource departments, environmental departments, and other Tribal programmatic staff with resources at the Northeast and Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Centers (NE/SE CASCs) and for hosting key networking and programmatic support events for Tribal Nations such as the Tribal Climate Resilience Summit, Climate Adaptation Plan Writing Retreats, USET Climate Change Adaptation Stories and Resources Web Page and the planned Tribal Climate Resilience Camp. The Leadership in Climate Awards were established in 2016 to recognize outstanding leadership by individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies to support the resilience of America’s vital natural resources and the many people, businesses, and communities that depend on them in the face of a changing climate. We are proud to recognize these leaders who are on the ground implementing adaptation strategies to safeguard our fish, wildlife, and plants now and for future generations. Please help us in congratulating these [#AdaptationLeaders!](#)

The award reception can be viewed [here](#) (at minute 18:25). Accepting the award on behalf of USET are Aranzazu Lascurain, Assistant University Director for the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SE CASC) and Casey Thornbrugh, Tribal Climate Science Liaison with the United South and Eastern Tribes.

Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy America

The U.S. House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis recently released their Climate Crisis Action plan, which lays out plans to work towards ambitious and actionable climate solutions that Congress should enact to benefit American communities in addressing climate change. This 547-page report includes a section on Partnering with Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities for Climate Adaptation and Resilience. *For more information or to access the full report, click [here](#).*

North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center Launches the Tribal Climate Leaders Program (TCLP)

The *Tribal Climate Leaders Program (TCLP)* supports Native American graduate students to become the next generation of Tribal environmental leaders. The TCLP was launch this fall 2020 and will be providing 5 fully-funded, 2-year fellowships to Native American students pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Colorado Boulder in fields related to climate adaptation science. This is a new pilot program open to Native American students affiliated with the 32 federally-recognized Tribes in the 7-state North Central region.

To read more about current fellows see [here](#).

The Indigenous Environmental Network: Offering Free, Virtual Carbon Pricing Training Workshops

The Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) is providing free virtual educational trainings on carbon pricing in Indian Country. These virtual workshops aim to create collaborative spaces to discuss and learn about carbon pricing mechanisms and are tailored to fit each interested individuals or organization. IEN will be offering these virtual workshops from September to December 2020.

For more information or to sign up for a workshop, please click [here](#).