



A VIRTUAL POLICY FORUM

Traditional Knowledges & Tribal Sovereignty

June 8, 2021

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Pacific Time

Draft Speaker's Agenda

Registration Link:

<https://kauffmaninc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtceihrjMjHtfbq0C4SDwD-aqUWzI9jwMm>

Purpose of Event:

Create a forum for learning about how Traditional Knowledges are defined, preserved, transmitted to next generation, and applied in ways that advance Tribal natural, cultural, and community goals related to climate impacts and resiliency. Explore how the current movement to create a more just and equitable climate response can advance Tribal priorities for recognition of sovereignty, self-governance, co-management, and honoring of treaty rights. Weave together learnings from previous summit discussions on climate policy, community resiliency, and youth empowerment.

Objectives of the Forum:

1. Hear from Elders – Perspectives on TK, tribal sovereignty in climate response, importance of community and cultural resiliency, role of youth in future leadership.
2. Explore TK – How to define, collect, protect, and apply. Learn from case studies through panel presentations and moderated roundtable discussion. Highlight regional examples (different regions and ecosystems – arctic, marine, desert, forest, etc.) - including work internal and external to Tribal communities

3. Roundtable policy discussion on the Indigenous perspectives on TK and larger challenges and opportunities to advance Tribal rights within the justice, equity, and inclusion movement.

Intended audience:

- Tribal leaders, youth program leads, Indigenous youth
- Advocacy groups, foundations
- Students, including tribal colleges
- Participants from previous three Climate Policy Summits
- Agencies and organizations supporting of Indigenous youth engagement in climate action

Proposed Agenda

10:00 – 10:05 Session Opens – *Don Sampson – Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Climate Change Project Director*

KAI opens session, provides Zoom platform instructions, and introduces Don Sampson
Don provides opening remarks, reviews agenda for day (2-3 slides)
Introduces Alberta Nells for the invocation

10:05 – 10:10 Invocation – *Alberta Nells, Youth Leader, Navajo Nation*

Don thanks Alberta and introduces Keynoters with introduction slides

10:10 – 10:40 Keynoters – *Thoughts from Tribal Elders. How Traditional Knowledges and Indigenous world views can help us understand and adapt to our rapidly changing environmental and cultural landscapes. The importance of preserving Traditional Knowledge and educating future generations. How can we capitalize on more-favorable current political US climate for advancing Tribal priorities. (30 min)*

- **Rose High Bear**, *Deg Hit'an Dine, Inupiaq, Founder of Wisdom of the Elderberry Farm*
 - Transfer of Traditional Knowledge to next generation – practices and opportunities
 - Messages to future generations
- **Larry 'Kuuyux' Mercurieff**, *Aleut, President of Global Center for Indigenous Leadership and Lifeways.*
 - Indigenous culture and sovereignty, 7-generation planning
 - Messages to future generations

- Don asks a question or two in follow up to their remarks.
- Don thanks keynoters and introduces Yellowwash from slide

10:40 – 11:55 Panel I – Traditional Knowledges – protection/ownership, application, sharing with next generation – Why and How? (75 min)

- ***Moderator: Davis Washines (Yellowwash), Yakama Nation, Cultural Leader, Yakama Nation Fisheries Govt Relations***

Four panelists highlighting different aspects of Traditional Knowledge in a diverse array of communities and scales.

Davis introduces the panelists (with slides) and provides brief framing remarks on the session goal of providing examples of gathering and sharing Traditional Knowledges.

Each panelist provides opening remarks for 6-8 minutes on their topic area, followed by a question from the moderator or other panelists on aspects of what was learned about gathering/sharing Traditional Knowledges, based on their presentations (10 minutes, total, per panelist)

(After each panelist provides their opening comments and responds to a few questions, the moderator will lead a roundtable discussion for the remaining 20 minutes.)

Panelists and suggested speaking topics

1. Collecting, caring, and applying Traditional Knowledge in Tribal community – Joe Hostler, Yurok Tribe, Environmental Program
 - Using Yurok Traditional Ecological Knowledge to inform climate change priorities.
 - Tribe's climate adaptation plan and how they engaged Elders, steps taken, what was learned
2. First foods as a resource management framework - Wenix Red Elk, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Education Outreach Coordinator
 - *Creation of First Foods and Food Systems framework*
 - *Land management strategy based on preserving foods and traditional ways*
3. Transfer of Traditional Knowledges to younger generation – Linda Sampson, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Lead Teacher

4. Youth Perspective – **Alexis Wagner**, *Tsimshian, Haida, and Tlingit from the Metlakatla Indian Community*
- Why and how to engage Tribal youth in education and perpetuation of Traditional Knowledges.
 - Examples from Metlakatla Community

Panel Roundtable Discussion - Topics/Questions (20 min)

- Discussion questions will be developed by the moderator and shared with panelists prior to the event

Field questions from audience via Chat box (15 min)

Don thanks Davis and Panelists, then introduces XXX – youth presentation

11:55 – 12:00 Youth in Action (5 min)

- **XXX (?)**
 - Promote Youth-Only event on June 9th
 - *Stretch break* - Slide show of . . .
 - Additional video if needed from Rose High Bear. A Message of Hope for Native America Youth and Families- www.elderberrywisdom.org

Don thanks XXX and introduces Kyle

12:00 – 12:55 Panel II - Applying TK through Sovereignty and Tribal world views - Exercising sovereignty internationally, nationally, inter-tribal and inter-regional agreements; collaborations with local governments; Tribal powers at different scales; UN Declaration on rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). (55 min)

Moderator: Kyle Whyte, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, George Willis Pack Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan

This panel will feature a discussion with 3-4 leaders/experts in innovations in Tribal sovereignty and Traditional Knowledges. The moderator will provide a brief overview of purpose of the policy discussion. Each panelist will then have 5 minutes to introduce themselves, discuss their primary topic of interest (below). The moderator will then facilitate a round table discussion. Discussion questions will be developed by the moderator and shared with panelists prior to the event

Panelists:

1. Tribal Innovations in Renewable Energy - **Emilee Gilpin**, Journalist and Managing Director First Nations Forward
2. Indigenous Innovations in Traditional Knowledge and governance – **Julian Brave NoiseCat**, member of the *Canim Lake Band (Tsq'escen)*, Vice President of Policy & Strategy with Data for Progress
3. Indigenous Environmental Justice – **Deborah McGregor**, Anishinaabe Whitefish River First Nation, York University

If time allows, questions can be selected from the Audience via the chat box

Don thanks Kyle and panel

12:55 – 1:58 – Climate Summit Series Synthesis – **Don Sampson** (5 min)

- What was learned from past events
- How the region as advanced knowledge and action from these events; opportunities to move forward
- Inspirational encouragement

Don introduces Frank

12:58 – 1:00 Closing remarks or prayer – **Frank Egawatashick (invited)** (5 min)