

Native American Ecological Education Symposium

Program Schedule

Friday, April 25th

WELCOME: (10am-10:15am) David West, Native American Studies Program Director, Southern Oregon University

Opening Invocation: (10:15am -10:30am) Grandmother Agnes Bake Pilgrim, Takilma Elder, Confederated Tribes of Siletz

Introductory Presentation: (10:30am -11:15am)

Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Ecosystem Caregiving: A Model for Surviving Climate Change and Ecological Degradation - Dennis Martinez, Coordinator Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network

The millennia-long relationship of the Indigenous peoples of Pacific North America to the historic reciprocal relationship between water, fire, and salmon has fostered the growth, flowering, and relative stability of some of the richest and most sophisticated Native cultures in the world. Thanks to historic photos, we can examine the TEK and traditional resource caregiving of salmon and other marine life forms and discuss how the adaptation of the Indigenous economic model of informed and sophisticated kincentric ecological caregiving to today's environmental challenges could help all peoples in the natural world survive. For this to happen, the revival and survival of Indigenous cultures, their knowledge, and their environmental cultural practices must first occur.

PANEL: Tribal Traditional Food Recovery

Introducing Farm to School in the Tribal Community of Chiloquin (11:15am-11:40am) Delia Sanchez and Derek Kimbol, Founders of the maqlaqs gee'tkni Native American Led Nonprofit, based in Chiloquin, OR.

A history of the Klamath and Modoc tribal communities' place and culture, the status of where these impoverished communities are now, and how they are promoting food security by providing food education at local elementary and high schools.

Farm to School as a Model for Creating Food Sovereignty (11:40am-12pm) Caitlin Mezger-Sieg, SOU Student and Community Volunteer

Farm to School is a nationwide food movement that strives to create just local and regional food systems that ensure the health of children in schools, farms, the environment, and communities. Native American communities are incorporating Farm to School programs in their schools

including nutrition education, and integrating the cultural significance of traditional foods.

Lunch 12pm-1pm

Guest Presentation: *Importance of Acorn for Food and Wildlife* (1pm-1:30pm) – Suzanne Vautier, Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network (CEEN) President

PANEL: Tribal Forest Habitat Restoration Initiatives

Developing Tribal Ecosystem Workforce Initiatives for the implementation of Landscape Scale Forest Restoration in the Upper Klamath Basin (1:30pm-1:45pm) Marko Bey, Lomakatsi Restoration Project Executive Director

In 2009 the Klamath Tribes assembled a tribal restoration workforce and facilitated a workforce training and employment program for 20 unemployed tribal members. With the goal of expanding the tribal ecosystem workforce to implement forest restoration projects in the former Klamath Indian Reservation, now a portion of the Fremont-Winema National Forest, the Klamath Tribes developed strategic partnerships with Lomakatsi Restoration Project and The Nature Conservancy. Over the past 3 years, the partnership has established agreements with the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service to address landscape scale impacts to ecosystem health. In addition to planning and implementing terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, this collaborative effort seeks to expand and continue to provide advanced workforce training and local employment for the tribal community, local forestry contractors and timber operators.

Forest Restoration Strategies for the Klamath Reservation Forest (1:45pm-2:15pm) Steve Rondeau, Lead Forester, Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department

The Klamath Tribes former reservation is located in the Upper Klamath Basin and now constitutes portions of the Fremont-Winema National Forest and adjoining lands. The lands within the present Fremont-Winema National Forest are referred to as the “Klamath Reservation Forest”. These Dry Forest landscapes have been dramatically modified by human activities during the last 150 years. These changes have altered the composition and structure of these forests and, most importantly, their potential responses to disturbances, such as wildfire, drought, and insects. The Klamath Tribes have been providing leadership in the development of innovative forest restoration strategies and practices, for the Dry Forest ponderosa pine and mixed conifer systems in south-central Oregon and beyond.

Forensics Forestry, Reconstructing Historic Conditions for Forest Restoration

(2:15-2:45 pm) Dr. Kerry Metlen, Forest Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

Looking to forests before the era of fire exclusion helps inform ongoing efforts to protect the largest and oldest trees and both open and closed habitats by promoting open forests where ecologically appropriate and supports the careful reintroduction of frequent fire’s critical ecological role. This presentation will highlight local research into historical fire regimes and forests of the mixed

conifer/hardwood forests of the Rogue Basin and discuss what those findings might mean for future forest management.

Humans and Fire History in the South-Central US (2:45pm - 3:15pm) Lyndia Hammer, Lomakatsi Restoration Project Restoration Ecologist

Tree ring research and fire history reconstructions in Missouri and Oklahoma demonstrate the dynamic interactions between changing human populations and cultures, landscape topography, and vegetation during the past 350 years.

Q&A (3:15pm-3:30pm)

Council Discussion: (3:30pm – 3:45pm) Grandma Agnes Baker Pilgrim, Takilma Elder, Confederated Tribes of Siletz

Play movie “Catching Fire (3:45pm - 5pm)

How a small but committed group of local, tribal, state and federal land managers are bringing back the use of prescribed fire as a tool to protect communities and ecosystems across Northern California. Drawing on interviews with fire scientists, tribal and federal land managers, and fire savvy residents from across the North State, this film provides insight on how our relationship to fire can be restored through strategic use of fire as a powerful management tool.

Dinner (5:30pm) Provided by the Southern Oregon University Native American Student Union

Saturday, April 26th

Introduction (10am-10:30am) David West, Native American Studies Program Director, Southern Oregon University

PANEL: Native Education Initiatives in Natural Resources

Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program (10:30am-11am) Trevor Super, Tribal Youth Program Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service

In a collaborative effort between local tribes, federal agencies, and higher education institutions, the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program (KBTYP) is supporting the next generation of conservationist and natural resource managers. Established in 2011, KBTYP has worked with partners focusing on strong partnerships to leverage all opportunities in creating a program to target Tribal Youth to pursue education and career paths in the fields of natural resources. Establishing The KBTYP serves as a model for other regions to take and form their own

programs to support tribal culture and resources important to them.

Mid-Klamath Watershed Council Youth Programs (11am – 11:40am) Jillienne Bishop, Director of Watershed Education, & Grant Gilkison, Foodsheds Program Coordinator

Youth involvement in local watershed management is essential to restoring the Klamath River and its surrounding communities. MKWC's Klamath Youth Stewardship Project provides cost-free opportunities for local youth to explore their watershed while developing science based natural resource career skills. Engagement in stewardship roles encourage youth to make positive contributions towards the revitalization of their rural communities. In addition, the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council has been connecting with youth to local food through a number of projects, including the Ikeesch Tunviiv (Children of the River Garden project), Karuk Youth I-pod Project, and Mid Klamath Foodsheds Sustainable Foods Classes.

Q&A (11:40am-12noon)

Lunch (12pm-1pm)

GUEST PRESENTATION: *Fire, Water, Salmon and Indigenous Concentric Ecology and Economics in the Pacific Northwest* (1pm-2pm) Dennis Martinez, Coordinator for the Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network

The Indigenous peoples face threats and challenges by nation states to their cultural and economic survival. However, Indigenous peoples are adapting to global climate change, fighting against historically unprecedented land grabs through Indigenous mapping and other measures, dealing with relocation from tribal homelands in the name of conservation, and opposing attempts to prevent traditional cultural activities by nation states who are generating income from selling carbon sequestration credits from Indigenous forest homelands. Looking at the historical and present relationship between TEK and Western science, while also analyzing their use in eco-cultural restoration and conservation, this presentation will discuss the need for a new Indigenous-led ecosystem-based adaptation model for dealing with climate and ecosystem destabilization and change.

PANEL: Tribal Aquatic Habitat Restoration Initiatives

Protecting water Quality and Restoring Stream Habitat within Pit River Ancestral lands in Northeastern California (2pm-2:30pm) Marissa Fierro, Environmental Director, Pit River Tribe

A discussion of the Pit River Tribe's historic relationship to water, current regional water quality issues, and the Pit River Tribe's Environmental Department efforts to protect water quality and restore stream habitat within the tribe's Ancestral Territory.

Hat Creek Riparian Restoration and Cultural Protection Project (2:30pm-2:50pm) Marko Bey,

Lomakatsi Restoration Project Executive Director

The upper Wild Trout Area (WTA) of Lower Hat Creek lies within Illmawi and Atsuge Band areas, ancestral territory of the Pit River Tribe, and is partially under the ownership of Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Efforts to restore riparian and aquatic habitat along Lower Hat Creek are being planned and managed by a diverse group of stakeholders assembled by California Trout and the Pit River Tribe and include the Illmawi and Atsuge Bands, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the Hat Resource Advisory Committee. The purpose of the project is to restore the ecological function of the WTA riparian corridor, improve conditions for wild trout populations, and protect the unique cultural and recreational attributes that define Hat Creek as one of California's most important cold-water spring-fed natural resources. Planned riparian restoration plantings will increase native plant diversity, protect fragile low terrace soils, restore eco-cultural plant communities, and continue to provide for angler access to the stream channel.

PANEL: Tribal Aquatic Habitat Restoration Initiatives continued

Restoring the Beaver as a Keystone Species for the Recovery of Salmon (2:50pm-3:20pm) Leonard Houston, Committee Chair, Beaver Advocacy Committee

The South Umpqua Elk Creek basin was historically home to the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indian tribe and their friend the beaver, and saw large runs of salmon steelhead and lamprey. Both the Cow Creek Tribe and the beaver were driven from this valley years ago and salmon runs dropped off the charts as well. Now with both the tribe and beavers back we are seeing amazing change to stream condition and salmon runs.

Q&A (3:20pm - 3:45pm)

BREAK (3:45pm - 4pm)

GUEST PRESENTATION: *Tribal Youth Gang Prevention Advocacy* (4pm-4:15pm) Lowicha "Buddy" Fallsrock, Native American Youth and Family Center

Wrap up (4:15pm-4:45pm) David West, Native American Studies Program Director, Southern Oregon University

Music, Potluck Dinner (5pm)