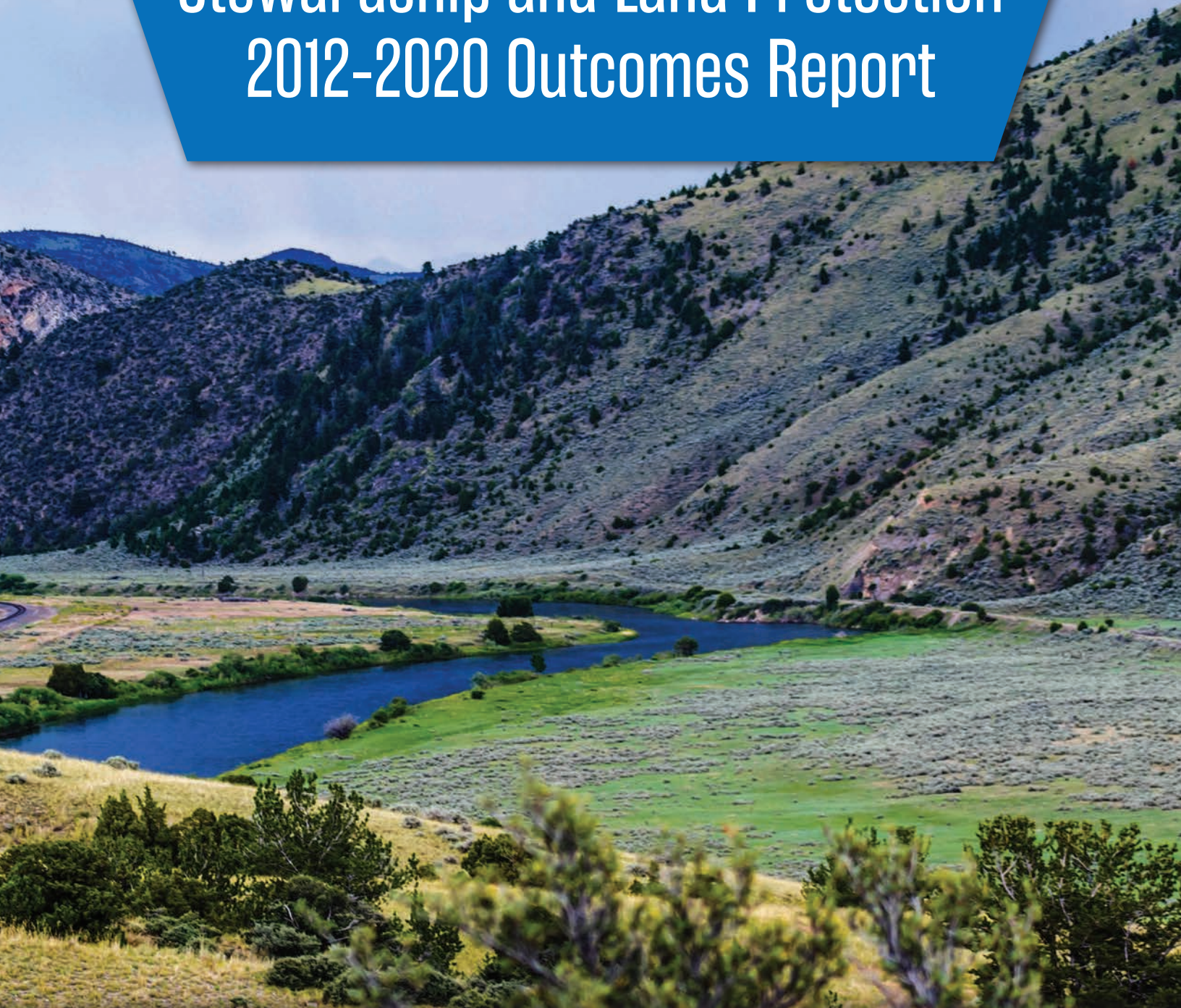


Supporting Native Ecological Stewardship and Land Protection 2012-2020 Outcomes Report



FIRST NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE





FIRST NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

OUR MISSION

First Nations Development Institute's mission is to strengthen American Indian economies to support healthy Native communities. We invest in and create innovative institutions and models that strengthen asset control and support economic development for American Indian people and their communities.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

First Nations Development Institute believes that when armed with the appropriate resources, Native peoples hold the capacity and ingenuity to ensure the sustainable, economic, spiritual, and cultural well-being of their communities.

WHO WE ARE

First Nations Development Institute is a Native American-led, national, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



10 YEARS IN A ROW

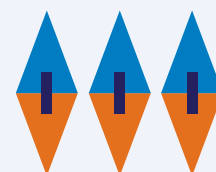


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This report was written by Marian Quinlan, consultant to First Nations Development Institute, and it was created for the exclusive use of First Nations Development Institute.

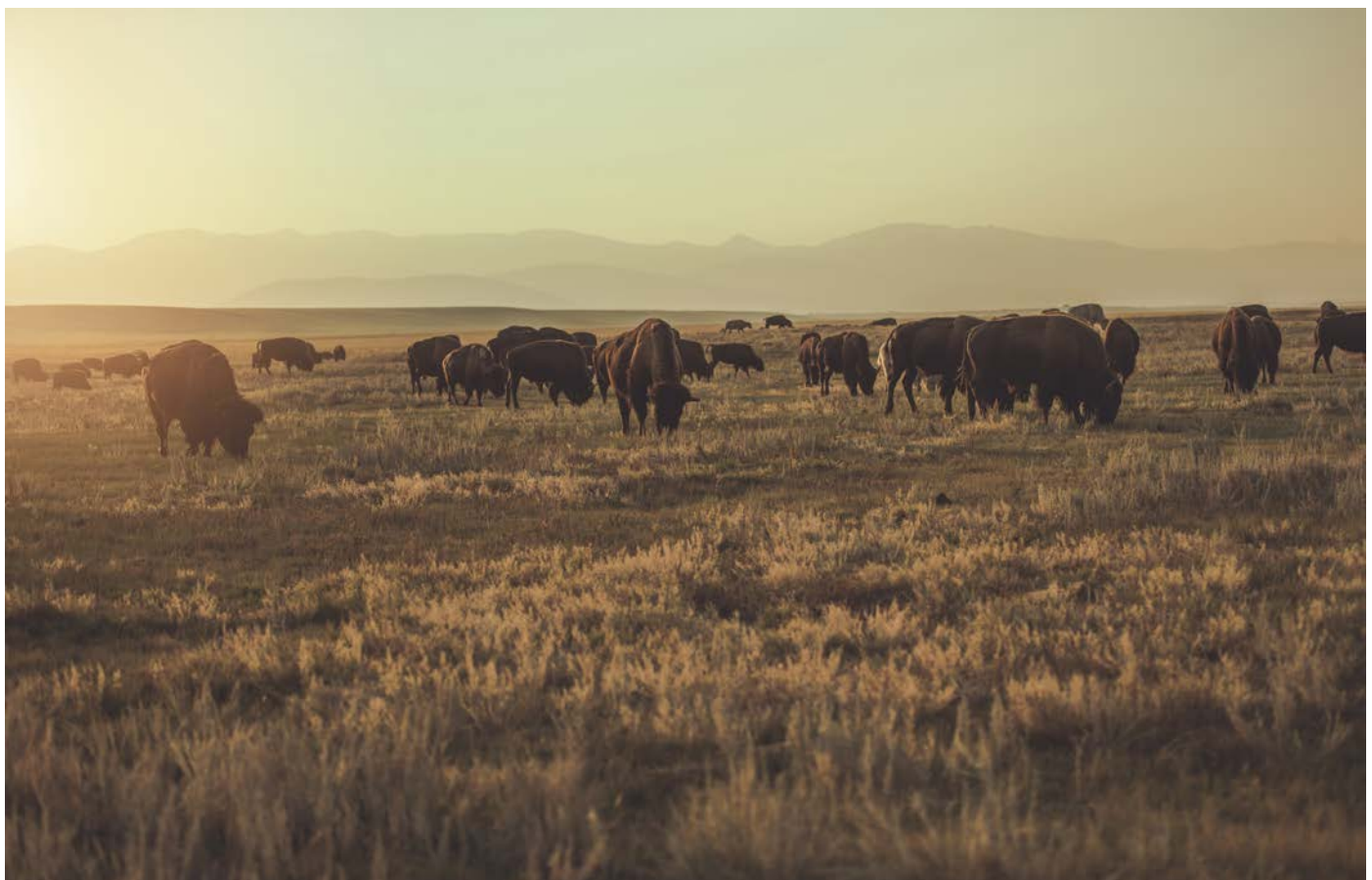
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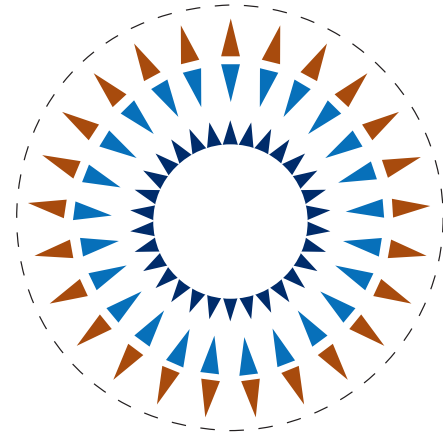
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report shares outcomes and activities resulting from First Nations Development Institute's support of Native American ecological stewardship and protection of Native lands.

This report:

- ◆ Highlights emerging models that assert Native control and protection of natural resources to safeguard tribal members' health, lands, sacred sites, cultural traditions, foodways, and sustainable economic development.
- ◆ Shares First Nations' community-based research and publications to inspire and encourage the adaptation of successful models and practices.
- ◆ Showcases issues and key takeaways affecting Native communities' natural resource management and protection.

This report was based on a review of First Nations' grants and projects completed during 2012-2020 through our Nourishing Native Foods & Health, Strengthening Tribal & Community Institutions, and Stewarding Native Lands programs.

Overview of grants:

- ◆ 68 grants supported 23 Native nonprofit organizations, 14 tribes, and one Tribal college
- ◆ Grants were made in Alaska (8), Arizona (13), Montana (8), South Dakota (12), Wisconsin (3), California, Minnesota, and Texas (2 each), and Hawaii, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, and Washington (1 each)
- ◆ Grants totaled \$1,361,051
- ◆ Grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$80,000

Grantees' focus areas included:

- ◆ Climate change (4 grants)
- ◆ Range management (24 grants)
- ◆ Environmental justice (23 grants)
- ◆ Traditional ecological knowledge (8 grants)
- ◆ Youth conservation education (6 grants)
- ◆ Ecotourism (3 grants)

Grantees' successes confirmed the value of:

- ◆ Tribal sovereignty, treaties, partnerships, and federal and state policies and regulations
- ◆ Engaging community, media, and non-Native allies
- ◆ Patience and persistence in the face of delays
- ◆ Basing efforts on tribal traditions, knowing that efforts springing from culture are backed by the wisdom of generations
- ◆ Turning to western technology as needed to implement and manage community-driven programs

First Nations leveraged the lessons and learning from our community partners through 13 publications including resource guides, case studies, "how to" workbooks, and summaries of Native leaders' perspectives. Topics included:

- ◆ Conservation planning (5 reports)
- ◆ Conservation practices for sustainable food systems (3 reports)
- ◆ Environmental justice (1 report)
- ◆ Traditional ecological knowledge and stewardship (3 reports)
- ◆ Tribal policy reform (1 report)

First Nations' efforts to support Native conservation and natural resource protection led to the establishment of the First Nations Stewarding Native Lands program in 2020. Through this program, First Nations will provide grants, technical assistance, training and research to protect and conserve Native land, water, and natural resources for future generations.



TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) systems emphasize balance and reciprocal relationships among human and non-human communities. Directly from First Nations publication; TEK values included:

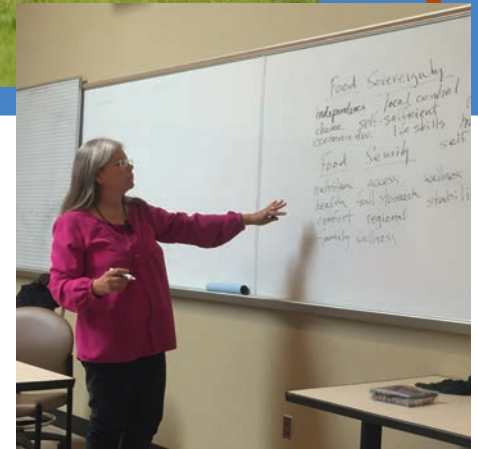
- ◆ Generosity
- ◆ Reciprocity
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Humility
- ◆ Learning
- ◆ Kindness
- ◆ Connection
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Love
- ◆ Honor



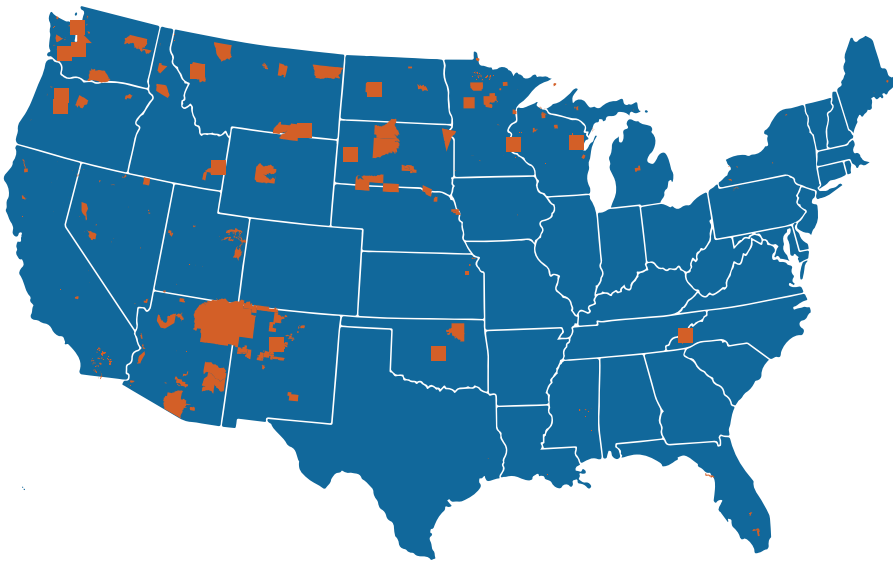
BEYOND GRANTS: HOW ELSE FIRST NATIONS HELPS

Each First Nations' grant goes hand-in-hand with our individualized technical assistance and group trainings.

Through in-person site visits, national conferences, group convenings, workshops, webinars, and peer learning, Native community organizations and programs grow, build their capacity, practice sustainability, and learn from each other's models.



Approximately 56 million acres of land is held in trust by the federal government

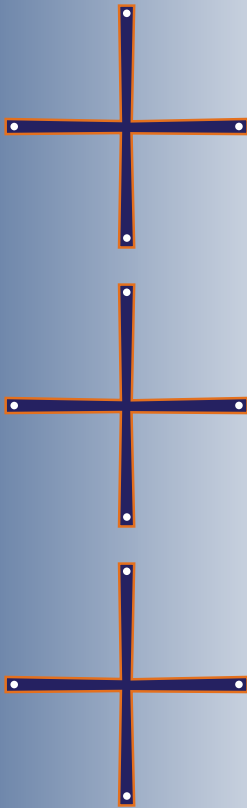


- ◆ Tribes hold 44 million of those acres
- ◆ Native individuals hold the remaining 11 million acres

Tribal Lands: Past, Present, and Future

While 500 years of non-Native occupation and land grabs instigated and sanctioned by the U.S. federal government have greatly reduced lands controlled by tribes, native lands still compose about 5.8% of the contiguous United States.¹ Approximately 56 million acres of land² are held in trust by the federal government for tribes (44 million acres) and Native individuals (11 million acres).³

For Native Peoples, lands are a primary link to cultural identity, a source of life-sustaining food and water, a place to pray and honor ancestors, and where tribal governments are sovereign – in short, home.



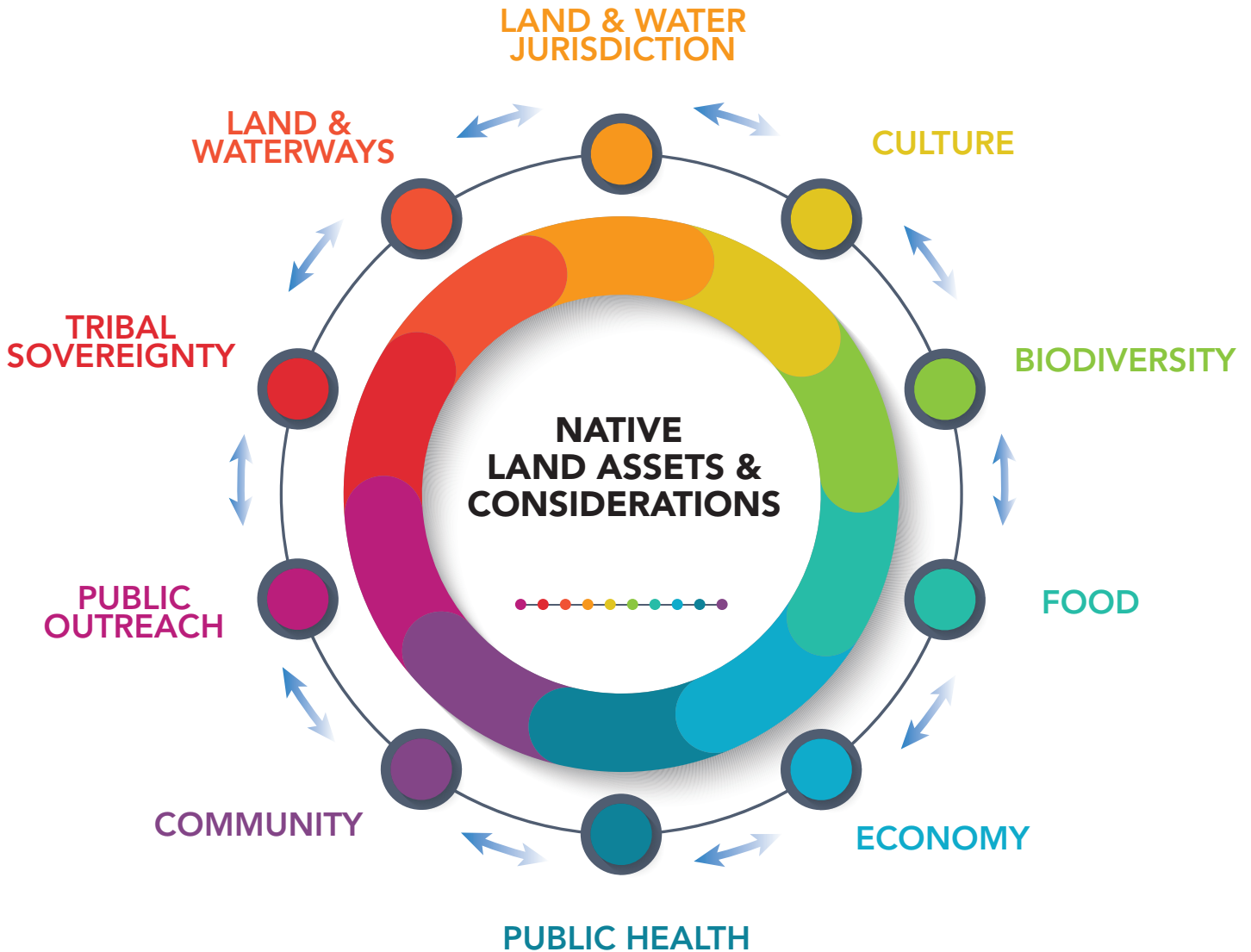
Contrary to the western concept of “wilderness,” Native Peoples have actively and sustainably managed their lands for thousands of years based on a worldview of reciprocity and balance. Traditional ecological knowledge has shaped the landscape and supported bountiful resources that are holistically stewarded in an integrated social-ecological system. Indigenous management practices are recognized as critical to protecting biodiversity.⁴

Because (at least in part) tribes prioritize non-monetary value of lands (such as cultural connections) over economic benefit,⁵ tribal lands in the Lower 48 have maintained a higher proportion of natural area (more than 97%) during 2001-2017 than federal, state, or private lands.⁶ In fact, about 10% of the 90 million acres of unplowed grasslands on the Northern Great Plains are on tribal lands.⁷ In addition, 18 million acres of tribal forests produce about 250% more timber (on a per-acre basis) than U.S. Forest Service lands.⁸

Moreover, tribal lands offer hope for transitioning to green energy. According to the Department of Energy, although tribal lands represent 2% of U.S. land, they comprise 5% of all renewable energy resources. This figure includes 3.4% of the U.S. technical potential for wind energy and 5.1% for commercial-scale rural solar power.⁹ Native control of Native lands hinges upon many interrelated and interdependent assets with social, environmental, economic, cultural, political, health and community considerations.



NATIVE LAND



LAND & WATER JURISDICTION

Forms of land ownership, access to land & water, Fire/controlled burns, conservation plans, climate change mitigation, data & technology, infrastructure & equipment, traditional ecological knowledge

CULTURE

Traditional ecological knowledge, sacred sites, cultural & medicinal uses of native & introduced plants

BIODIVERSITY

Habitat, endangered species, culturally-significant animals

FOOD

Culturally-significant foods
Agriculture – farming & ranching
Subsistence – hunting & gathering, value-added products

ECONOMY

Workforce development, tourism/hospitality industry, arts & crafts, sustainable food production

PUBLIC HEALTH

Safe food sources, clean water, clean air

COMMUNITY

Youth, elders, community education & activism, and language preservation.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Development permitting & planning processes, media & messaging, mobilization of non-native allies, land redesignation

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Tribal policies, treaty enforcement

LAND & WATERWAYS

Wetlands, grasslands, hills, & mountains, forests, coastal areas, arid lands, scenic views

First Nations Development Institute: Stewarding Native Lands Program

For decades, First Nations has supported community-driven programs that advocate for Native control of land and natural resources. Early on, we focused on our partners' food systems efforts that linked to natural resource management. Today, our and our partners' work in this space includes conservation planning, environmental justice, resource management, treaty rights, youth environmental education, tribal policy reform, water conservation, traditional ecological knowledge, sustainable economic development and climate change adaptation.

In 2020, First Nations established the Stewarding Native Lands program to provide grants, technical assistance, training, and research to protect and conserve Native land, water, and natural resources for future generations.

Priorities are to:

1. Support Native ecological stewardship
2. Improve Native control of and access to ancestral lands and resources to support the sustainable, economic, spiritual, and cultural well-being of Native communities.
3. Supported programs honor and uplift tribal values, customs, knowledge, and sovereignty.

Stewarding Native Lands responds to community partners' expressed needs for:

- ◆ Planning (at the tribal and community levels);
- ◆ Capacity building;
- ◆ Education and engagement (with the community and others);
- ◆ Access to traditional areas and natural resources;
- ◆ Resources for project implementation (after planning and capacity building); and
- ◆ Infrastructure (to meet the real-world needs of communities)

NATIVE STEWARDSHIP MODELS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Each First Nations' Community Partner continues to demonstrate passion and tenacity in protecting their environment and fulfilling age-old cultural values that recognize the interconnectedness of all things.

During this project period, each utilized a strengths-based approach that leverages assets such as traditional ecological knowledge, human capacity, natural resources, youth, elders, community-based institutions, tribal sovereignty, economic opportunity, community food systems, and treaty rights. Each took advantage of circumstances and available resources to develop unique strategies and tactics demonstrating ingenuity and initiative.

Highlighted here are a few grantee programs and key takeaways that offer insight to how they achieved their successes.



Grantee	Key Takeaways
<p>Fort Belknap Community Economic Development Corporation Harlem, Montana</p> <p>Grants of \$10,000 in 2016 and \$70,000 in 2020 bolstered the Fort Belknap Indian Community's ecotourism efforts, spotlighting the Reservation's virtually crowd-free spectacular scenery. Visitors will enjoy hiking 17 miles of trails in the Little Rocky Mountains and viewing the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes' genetically-pure Yellowstone bison herd. Four new rental recreational vehicles will attract adventurers, with access to a fully modern RV park. A gift shop offers locally-made traditional beadwork, jewelry, arts and crafts.</p>	<p>Be flexible. In response to the lack of available land on the Reservation, this project pivoted from building cabins to offering rental RV trailers that could be moved to various campground sites on and off the reservation at existing campgrounds.</p> <p>Plan and implement. The tribe's strategic plan indicated that tourism has the most potential to generate revenue that could be directed toward conservation priorities.</p>



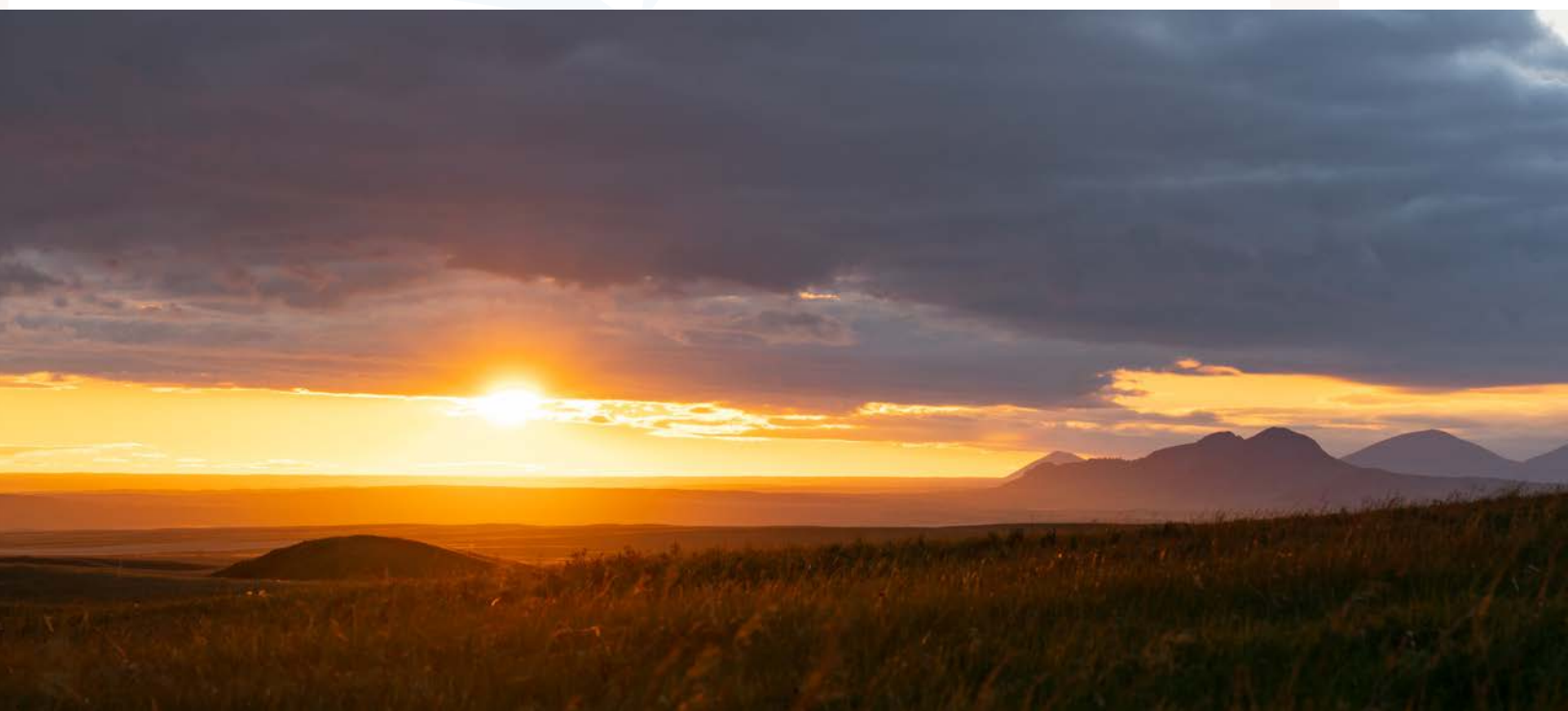
Grantee	Key Takeaways
<p>Gwich'in Steering Committee (GSC) Fairbanks, Alaska</p> <p>Grants of \$20,000 in 2018, \$10,000 in 2019, and \$15,000 in 2020 supported this dynamic group at the forefront of the fight to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas exploration and development. Part of the motivation is to protect the Porcupine caribou herd upon which Gwich'in people depend for food security and spiritual sustenance. Using every tool at their disposal, from federal permitting processes, community organizing, and public pressure on private entities, the GSC's relentlessness and the leadership of its Gwich'in Youth Council will be needed in the ongoing battle to preserve this pristine coastal plain. As of June 2021, the tide is turning in the GSC's favor, as the Biden Administration has suspended drilling permits auctioned by the Trump Administration in January 2021.</p>	<p>Federal public engagement processes are environmentalists' allies. Proposed environmental changes allow for public comments and inputs through policies and procedures. The impact of public participation in defined rulemaking processes is not to be underestimated.</p> <p>As in every community, young people represent the future. Tribal youth need community engagement and education to become keepers of traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Patience and persistence are key. No matter the project, thorough processes require time to plan, implement, assess, and adjust. For environmental justice programs fighting extractive resource development, it is not uncommon for years to pass during which victories, appeals, and delays occur before final decisions.</p>



Grantee	Key Takeaway
<p>Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Lower Brule, South Dakota</p> <p>Grants of \$10,000 in 2016, \$30,000 in 2017, and \$70,000 in 2020 positioned the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe as a resource to other tribes on carbon sequestration and boosted its conservation of pronghorn antelope and endangered black-footed ferrets. The Tribe’s monitoring program for the black-footed ferret and other significant wildlife species provides context on overall ecological health. In alignment with tribal values, over the past several years, Tribal priorities have shifted from stewarding resources for hunting (by non-tribal members) to wildlife management, with game hunting supported as a by-product. The Tribe’s stewardship practices earned the 2018 U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service’s South Dakota Excellence in Cooperative Conservation Award.</p>	<p>Data gathering (baseline and ongoing), technology, research, and planning are essential for effective and efficient conservation work and sound decision-making.</p>



Grantee	Key Takeaways
<p data-bbox="142 913 703 976">Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government Venetie, Alaska</p> <p data-bbox="142 1014 797 1266">Grants of \$4,000 in 2018, \$10,000 in 2019, and \$20,000 in 2020 helped the Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government leverage its sovereign status to litigate to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling. The Refuge's coastal plain, known as <i>lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit</i> (the Sacred Place Where Life Begins), is fundamental to tribal identity and traditional lifeways.</p>	<p data-bbox="837 913 1430 1003">Tribal sovereignty is fundamental to tribes' ability to protect the health and well-being of their communities.</p> <p data-bbox="837 1035 1471 1157">Federal permitting processes must account for peer-to-peer consultation with tribes and for public input, presenting opportunities to amplify voices and perspectives that will otherwise be overshadowed.</p>





Grantee	Key Takeaway
<p>RedTailed Hawk Collective Lumberton, North Carolina</p> <p>A grant of \$20,000 in 2019 provided a boost at a critical time to the Lumbee, Haliwa-Saponi, Coharie, and Meherrin Tribes' grassroots opposition to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), which would have transported fracked natural gas 600 miles from West Virginia to southeastern North Carolina. The economically- and environmentally-irresponsible ACP would have damaged culturally important tribal areas and the "Amazon of North Carolina," known for its diversity of waterways, plants, animals, and other lifeforms.</p> <p>Community organizing and mobilized volunteers ensured that the Native voice was heard – protecting Native rights and ensuring tribal determination for Native health and welfare. Support from the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi, Sapony Tribe, and Waccamaw Siouan Tribe confirmed that the ACP's permitting process did not follow federal law requiring tribal consultation.</p> <p>Pressure from the RedTailed Hawk Collective and thousands of activists and grassroots groups culminated in the developers' announcement on July 5, 2020, that the ACP plans were cancelled.</p> <p>The RedTailed Hawk Collective's efforts demonstrate that Native people are becoming much more informed and empowered about their rights and ready to stand their ground when it comes to land ownership and federal laws.</p>	<p>Community engagement, media exposure, and messaging are powerful. The power of many voices, particularly at-large citizens (as well as special interest groups), is a force to be reckoned with. Under pressure, even multinational corporations must bow to public demand for accountability.</p>





Grantee	Key Takeaway
<p>Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association (TLLWUA)</p> <p>Tolani Lake, Arizona</p> <p>Grants of \$10,000 in 2017 and \$20,000 in 2020 supported conservation plan training for over 100 Native agricultural producers and a community-tiered approach to conservation planning. In a community-tiered approach, producers collectively assess the local ecology and identify resource concerns, with individual conservation plans complementing the whole in revitalizing soil health, ecology, and natural resources, and address rangeland management issues such as soil erosion, soil quality, and insufficient water resources that impact livestock production. TLLWUA's producers have revitalized approximately 100,000 acres through rotational grazing practices, mitigation of water runoff, and community conservation practices. Improved soil health, increased root growth, more and more diverse wildlife, and increased water resources have boosted livestock production and economic opportunities.</p>	<p>Native cultural traditions of conservation, supported by technical assistance and training on conservation practices, can actualize the sustainable management of agricultural resources in ways that cross traditional boundaries.</p>

PUBLICATIONS

Conservation Planning

- ◆ ***Navajo Western Agency Chapter Technical Assistance Project: Strategies for Advancing Individual Farmers and Ranchers on the Navajo Western Agency; A Final Report to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Advocacy and Outreach.*** (2012). The report documents First Nations' capacity-building efforts to bolster Navajo organization participation in USDA programs and concludes with strategies to advance individual farmers and ranchers and the recommendation for further efforts develop Navajo-centric models and strategies.
- ◆ ***A Conservation Planning Guide for Native Ranchers: Developed in Cooperation with the 14R Ranch on the Navajo Nation, Arizona.*** (2016). This guidebook presents the three basic steps to developing a conservation plan as well as the six important parts of a conservation plan. The guide provides Native producers with conservation best practices, required regulations by tribal and federal agencies, and the on-the-ground knowledge for the producers themselves. The Conservation Planning Guide outlines a process through which producers may balance traditional ecological stewardship with USDA requirements. The Guide is used by USDA, Navajo Nation producers, and other Tribal producers managing lands located within Arizona's 10 Tribal Conservation Districts.
- ◆ ***Strengthening Native American Communities and Producers through Ecological Stewardship: A First Nations Project Outcome Report.*** (2018). This report summarizes First Nations' two-year project that resulted in the 1) creation of the Arizona Association of Tribal Conservation Districts (AATCD) as a nonprofit organization that serves a network of Arizona tribes working to maintain and restore ecological stewardship in Tribal communities and 2) development of an innovative, community-tiered approach to conservation planning that infuses traditional ecological knowledge and community engagement and collaboration into USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation planning process. The community-tiered approach is a successful model in the development of conservation plans for Native American producers. During 2016 to 2018, this conservation planning process was piloted in three Arizona communities, resulting in increased opportunities, new markets, and community engagement.
- ◆ ***Community-Tiered Approach to Conservation Planning: Strengthening Capacity of Native Producers and Communities.*** (2018). This report summarizes the process, outputs, and outcomes of four model tribal communities in Arizona that created community-tiered conservation plans. This conservation planning approach works within the confines of "fractionated" land ownership (with numerous owners), streamlining available information and resources for the benefit of the communities and individual producers within those communities who will use the community-wide conservation plan as a springboard for developing individualized conservation plans. This publication is catalyzing Native conservation plans for ecosystems that do not recognize formal boundaries of land ownership and management.
- ◆ ***Conservation Planning Tools and Resources: A Reference for Agricultural Producers:*** (2018). This workbook provides agricultural producers and other land managers with information and online resources for developing and implementing a conservation plan for USDA financial assistance programs. This reference was organized based on the steps an NRCS conservation planner might employ to help a producer develop a conservation plan. Information or tools that are used for each step in the process, including USDA NRCS financial assistance programs, are included to help producers implement their conservation plans.

ABOUT CONSERVATION PLANS

A conservation plan is a road map for assessing agricultural and natural resources, maintaining and improving the short- and long-term health and sustainability of these assets, and ongoing monitoring and adjustments as needed. A conservation plan is required for agricultural producers to become eligible for USDA grant and assistance programs.

The process of developing a conservation plan is: 1) conducting a baseline inventory, assessment of the land's condition (including soil health/structure and vegetation), and evaluation of current management; 2) creating needed tools (maps, inventories, and schedules), 3) creating an implementation plan, and 4) developing a short- and long-term monitoring plan.

First Nations' conservation planning publications account for Native management issues such as land ownership status; policies instituted by tribes, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and traditional ecological knowledge.



Conservation Practices for Sustainable Food Systems

Building Sustainable Food Systems on the Colorado Plateau. (2014). This paper showcases the efforts of seven Native communities and organizations on the Colorado Plateau to 1) revive local food systems and agriculture and 2) regain control of ecological stewardship. In the context of limited resources, geographic isolation, and inadequate infrastructure, these groups are positively impacting their communities through: a) Reviving Traditional Agricultural Practices; b) Ecological Stewardship; c) Regional Networking and Partnerships; d) Education and Outreach; and d) Continuous Improvement.

Reviving Economies, Restoring Food Systems: Models of Food Enterprises in Indian Country. (2017). This report presents five food enterprises in Native American and Native Hawaiian communities that are leading the way to positive health factors and building wealth for their community members on Indigenous terms. On their journey of food reclamation, they have encountered and overcome many challenges in generating economic development in Native communities. While their approaches vary, they share commonalities that may be helpful to others seeking to develop similar projects.

Indigenous Food Systems: Transformative Strategies to Perpetuate Nationhood. (2018). The food movement in Native communities involves protecting sacred sites, preserving the land and environment, increasing access to traditional and healthy foods to feed people, and engaging youth and other members of Native communities to take action to improve well-being. This collection of stories shares the efforts of selected Native communities to protect Native food sovereignty and ensure tribal nationhood in the future.



Environmental Justice

Lessons Learned from Standing Rock. (2018). The construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) constructed adjacent to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota inspired thousands of Native and non-Native activists to join at an encampment during April 2016 through February 2017. This report analyzes how the movement, told through citizen journalists, social media, alternative media, and ultimately mainstream media, resonated with the public. The movement garnered worldwide attention because it: 1) was organic, authentic, and created from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's traditional teachings and cultural values; 2) grew from grassroots and was guided by the leadership of a Tribal Nation; 3) brought together the largest unification of Tribal Nations in recent history; and 4) leveraged the power of social and alternative media, combined with the advocacy of celebrities, to force coverage by mainstream media. For many, the Standing Rock movement was the first time they had seen coverage about tribal sovereignty and ongoing injustices inflicted on Native communities and Native Peoples.



Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Stewardship

Leveraging Native Lands, Sovereignty and Traditions: Models and Resources for Tribal Ecological Stewardship. (2018). This report showcases tribal models of culturally appropriate and values-centered development in which tribes are leveraging their lands and sovereignty to their economic, environmental and cultural benefit. Featured strategies catalyze ecological stewardship initiatives that are compatible with tribal values and that contribute to economic and community development opportunities.

Increasing Ecological Stewardship of Tribal Lands, Natural Resources and Historical Sites. (2019) This reports summarizes the findings and recommendations by a group of natural resource professionals and experts in Native law and policy who gathered in November 2018 in Denver, Colorado. The dialogue on tribal stewardship of land, natural resources, and sacred sites illustrates how traditional ecological knowledge is uniquely adapted to local environments and is essential to all conservation work. The report also outlines steps for enhancing tribal control of natural assets and how non-Native allies can best assist this cause. Preserving traditional ecological knowledge is essential to adapting to climate change, as this knowledge supports local ecosystems that are sustainably managed and integrated.



Recognition and Support of Indigenous California Land Stewards, Practitioners of Kincentric Ecology. (2020). The authors define “kincentric ecology” or “kincentricity” as the art of living as a part of a place where the land is a relative and remembers everything that the people have experienced on it. Indigenous knowledge and practices are deeply grounded in their local landscapes and, therefore, cannot be generalized outside of those landscapes and local systems. Case studies on the Karuk Nation and the Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation demonstrate the importance of 1) recognition of Indigenous land stewardship and kincentric ecology as the foundational framework to all Indigenous food production and land management; 2) acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples and their ancestral wisdom; 3) how these systems continue to provide a regenerative and resilient foundation to modern-day ecological farming practices; and 4) support of Native practitioners and nations.

Tribal Policy Reform

Land Reform in the Navajo Nation: Possibilities of Renewal for Our People. (2018; published by the Diné Policy Institute with funding from First Nations Development Institute). This publication discusses historic and customary uses of land by the Navajo People as well as presents the evolution of land policy upon colonization. Surveys, interviews, focus groups, and observations conducted in 2017 document how Navajo people think about land, development, and regulation today. Finally, a series of recommendations for the Navajo Nation calls for land policy reform through increased empowerment of local governments to manage and designate land, with an emphasis on community and sustainability.





MEET OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

2014 Grants

Grantee Name	Grantee Location	Amount of Grant	Project Name	Summary of Project	Issue
Dream of Wild Health	Minneapolis, Minnesota	\$7,000	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant	A new 1.7-acre Pollinator Meadow served as an invaluable tool for teaching 60 Dakota and Ojibwe youth and 40 community members about the role of pollinators in growing food, threats to the existence of pollinators, as well as important cultural lessons about the relationships of plants, insects, and birds. Bees specially adapted to this region are vital to propagating native plants, which help to reinforce control of the local food system. Care and maintenance of the Pollinator Meadow is now a regular youth activity at the farm.	Youth conservation education
North Leupp Family Farms (NLFF)	Leupp, Arizona	\$5,000	NLFF Infrastructure Development Program/ USDA-Environmental Quality Incentive Program Match	NLFF upgraded 55 acres of outdated irrigation infrastructure with new pipes, valves, and a micro-irrigation system that will conserve water and improve soil health/crop yield.	Conservation practices

Award total: \$12,000

2015 Grant

Grantee Name	Grantee Location	Amount of Grant	Project Name	Summary of Project	Issue
Nahata Dziil 14R Ranch Corporation	Sanders, Arizona	\$15,000	Outreach Education to the Nahata Dziil 14R Ranchers	<p>14R Ranch enhanced its conservation practices in collaboration with nearly 80 Navajo cattle ranchers to respond to long-term drought conditions. As a result, producers increased their potential to engage in USDA funding programs and other ranching programs.</p> <p>First Nations' work with 14R served as a basis for our 2016 publication, A Conservation Planning Guide for Native Ranchers, which provided a conservation planning template to meet the standards of USDA NRCS, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Navajo Nation.</p>	Conservation practices

Award total: \$15,000

2016 Grants

Grantee Name	Grantee Location	Amount of Grant	Project Name	Summary of Project	Issue
Arizona Association of Tribal Conservation Districts (AATCD)	Flagstaff, Arizona	\$25,000	Nonprofit Organization Startup	AATCD obtained IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization status, strengthening its ability to assist ecological stewardship initiatives with Native communities, ranchers, farmers, and Tribal conservation districts. AATCD consists of five districts on the Navajo Nation and one district each on the Hopi Nation, Hualapai Tribe, San Carlos Apache Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Tohono O'odham Nation (encompassing a majority of the Colorado Plateau).	Conservation practices
Fort Belknap Community Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)	Harlem, Montana	\$10,000	Fort Belknap Recreational Trails	Fort Belknap CEDC restored and maintained walking trails with the help of tribal youth to support ecotourism and community use (including fencing and noxious weed removal).	Ecotourism/ Youth conservation education
Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo	Kaneohe, Hawaii	\$2,000	E Alu Pu Global Gathering	Travel scholarships enabled Native community leaders to participate in the 2016 World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, elevating Indigenous voices in shaping worldwide conservation and sustainable development agendas for years to come.	Conservation practices
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	Lower Brule, South Dakota	\$10,000	Feasibility Study of Developing a Carbon Sequestration Project on Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Lands	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe assessed the feasibility for a (potentially revenue-generating) grasslands carbon sequestration project. There was a steep learning curve to develop an approach that would be consistent with tribal values and resource needs. This work required extensive review of different methodologies and developing data to support this assessment. To comply with carbon sequestration land-leasing requirements, Lower Brule determined the need for a policy change to extend tribal grazing lease terms from 5 and 10 years to (a minimum of) 25 years. In the course of this project, the Tribe developed specialized knowledge about carbon sequestration for grasslands, and now shares this knowledge with other tribes.	Climate change

Northern California Tribal Court Coalition (NCTCC)	Eureka, California	\$37,761	Tribal Food Purity Project	NCTCC worked with its member tribes (Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, and Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria) to safeguard the health of tribal members and the food system. A model tribal ordinance to control the release of toxic pesticides within tribal jurisdiction and lands was made available to NCTCC member tribes. Two additional model ordinances (addressing genetically engineered organisms [GEO] and environmental protection) also were developed and made available to NCTCC member tribes. As a result of work with the Karuk Tribe, NCTCC produced an Environmental Protection Ordinance, which combines provisions from GEO and pesticide ordinances. An education and advocacy toolkit aids tribes to enact pesticide and GEO ordinances within their reservations.	Land Protections
Oglala Sioux Tribe	Kyle, South Dakota	\$10,000	Natural Resources Forestry Thinning Project	The Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority staff received forestry best practices training, including how to best manage contracts associated with forestry.	Natural Resource Management
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Rosebud, South Dakota	\$10,000	Wildlife of Rosebud Conservation and Management	The Rosebud Sioux Tribe developed protocols for surveying wildlife populations. Such data is necessary to establish sustainable hunting and fishing operations by setting annual harvest levels.	Natural Resource Management

Award total: \$104,761

2017 Grants

Grantee Name	Grantee Location	Amount of Grant	Project Name	Summary of Project	Issue
Arizona Association of Tribal Conservation Districts (AATCD)	Flagstaff, Arizona	\$8,000	Conservation Partnerships	Tribal conservation leaders elevated Native perspectives and priorities by participating in the National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) Pacific & Southwest Regional Meeting and NACD's Urban and Community Resource Policy Group Nationwide Conservation Initiative Committee meeting.	Tribal Advocacy

Black Mesa Water Coalition	Flagstaff, Arizona	\$20,000	Dzil Yijiin Food Sovereignty Project	This project was based on the Diné Philosophy of Sa'aah Naaghai Bik'é Hoozhoon model (the traditional living system that places Navajo life in harmony with the natural world and the universe). Community members of the Burnt Corn Valley cooperatively mapped local food systems infrastructure, watershed data, and housing/structures data to dialogue on how they can restore the health of their land and communities.	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
Diné College	Tsaile, Arizona	\$20,190	Diné Policy Institute (DPI) Comprehensive Land Reform Study	This project culminated in the 2018 publication, <i>Land Reform in the Navajo Nation: Possibilities of Renewal for Our People</i> . A community engagement process of primary research as well as a literature review 1) identified the entities responsible for Navajo land management, 2) identified sacred sites, traditional and historic family territories, and barriers to developing land and its agricultural usage, and 3) gathered information about land policy, rules, and regulations supporting or providing barriers to traditional organic farming practices. The report includes recommendations for reforms to Navajo Nation laws and policies to support sustainable agriculture, water use, and local development across the reservation.	Land Management
Grasshopper Livestock Association	Cibecue, Arizona	\$40,000	Grasshopper Beginning Farmers and Ranchers	Youth ranchers on the White Mountain Apache Reservation benefited from hands-on learning about environmental and modern herd ranching, range and business practices, controlling cattle disease, and increasing profitability through modern business practices.	Youth conservation education
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	Lower Brule, South Dakota	\$30,000	Lower Brule Natural Resource Economic Development	The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe researched a (potentially revenue-generating) carbon sequestration project for grassland areas. A feasibility study related to red salt cedar (a bio-control lab and value-added products) concluded the impracticality of the project. However, the Tribe's growing expertise in leveraging revenue streams to advance ecological stewardship initiatives have benefited other tribes.	Climate change
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Rosebud, South Dakota	\$30,000	Maps For the Future	Revenue from hunting guide maps and branded merchandise supported the Tribe's conservation efforts such as wildlife monitoring, data collection, and reestablishing rare Native grasslands that were lost to farming.	Conservation practices

Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association	Tolani Lake, Arizona	\$10,000	Producing Grass Farmers in Tolani Lake	Workshops on conservation planning (which facilitates agricultural producers' access to USDA funding) and grass farming moved Tolani Lake area ranchers to focus on the condition of rangeland rather than cattle sales only.	Rangeland Management
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Award total: \$158,190

2018 Grants

Grantee Name	Grantee Location	Amount of Grant	Project Name	Summary of Project	Issue
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST)	Eagle Butte, South Dakota	\$10,000	Black-footed Ferret Habitat Landowner Incentives	CRST surveyed prairie dog colonies to identify suitable habitat for a self-sustaining population of black-footed ferrets, one of the rarest mammals in North America. In addition, CRST applied for project implementation and management funding and for black-footed ferrets from the National Black-footed Ferret Recovery Center.	Wildlife Restoration
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST)	Eagle Butte, South Dakota	\$32,300	Black-footed Ferret Habitat Landowner Incentives	CRST developed a Declaration of Commitment (in lieu of a conservation easement) to protect 5,000 acres for endangered black-footed ferret habitat. This move made CRST eligible to receive funds from new sources, as well as ferrets from the National Black-footed Ferret Recovery Center.	Wildlife Restoration
Chippewa Cree Tribe	Box Elder, Montana	\$25,000	Enhancing Tribal Natural Resource Management	The Tribe cleared surface fuels from its forest to reduce risk of wildfire and generate firewood for disabled and elderly tribal members. In addition, improved camp sites now create revenue-generating opportunities.	Conservation practices/ Ecotourism

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)	Portland, Oregon	\$20,000	Fossil Fuel Transportation	CRITFC works on behalf of the approximately 400 fishers from four treaty tribes (Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama Nation) who harvest salmon from the Columbia River and its tributaries. With this funding, CRITFC assessed legislation and policies affecting treaty rights to protect resources from fossil fuel transportation through the Columbia River basin. CRITFC developed a Tribal Contingency Plan (TCP) to integrate with federal and state spill emergency response. The TCP allows CRITFC and its member tribes to have a seat at the table for any response that would occur around or near tribal treaty resources. Improved relationships with responders ensure that CRITFC will be contacted in the event of fossil fuel spills and will be allowed to lend their staff, boats, enforcement officers, and intimate knowledge of the river to the cleanup effort.	Environmental justice
Crow Tribe of Montana	Crow Agency, Montana	\$11,200	Survey of Big Horn Sheep	The Tribe mapped 647 acres of its forest and removed surface fuels (saving one house from a wildfire). The grass-fed market herd of bison grew by 24 animals that were tested for disease. In addition, the bighorn sheep population was surveyed for a management plan that could support revenue-generating hunting in the future.	Natural Resource Management
Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (C.A.R.E.)	Winslow, Arizona	\$20,000	Fractured Communities: Understanding the Cultural, Spiritual, and Health Impacts of Fossil Fuel Extraction Near Chaco Canyon	Diné C.A.R.E. organized Navajo citizens, academics, non-Native environmental organizations, and Navajo Nation departments to increase understanding of and actions addressing the environmental, economic, and social impacts of oil and gas fracking in Navajo communities. In tribal, state, and congressional spaces, Diné C.A.R.E. is helping to shape policy. With the goal of protecting water resources from contamination, the organization holds accountable state and federal agencies to commitments to reduce greenhouse gases, accelerate the deployment of critical clean technologies, and promote peer engagement with the Navajo Nation and citizens.	Environmental justice

Gwich'in Steering Committee (GSC)	Fairbanks, Alaska	\$20,000	Protecting the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge	To protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain from oil and gas exploration and development, GSC represented the interests of communities in Alaska and Canada in numerous public hearings and meetings with key decisionmakers, including financial lenders. For Gwich'in people, the Refuge's Porcupine caribou herd represents food security and is a human rights issue to protect a cultural way of life. Relentless community organizing and collaborations with partners generated over 250,000 messages and hundreds of phone calls to the company proposing to devastate this unspoiled ecosystem.	Environmental justice/ Traditional ecological knowledge
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW)	Keshena, Wisconsin	\$15,000	Menominee Tribe's Opposition Efforts to the Back Forty Mine Project - Public Relations Campaign	In response to environmental and cultural threats posed by the Back Forty mine project, MITW organized a rigorous public relations campaign. The proposed 580-acre Back Forty mine would incorporate a 7-year open pit situated 50 yards from the edge of the Menominee River (one of Lake Michigan's largest tributaries) followed by a 9-year underground mining operation. Aside from obvious environmental damage the mine would cause to waterways and habitat, Menominee cultural sites (including burial mounds) are at risk. To boost opposition support, MITW developed www.noback40.org , implemented a social media presence, and led efforts to get formal resolutions from seven counties, towns, and cities in Wisconsin and Michigan, dozens of tribes, and nearly every national and regional inter-tribal organization. MITW participated in all public hearings and made public comments when opportunities arose. MITW challenged the issuance of the Mining Permit and gave a 60-day notice of intent to sue the federal government for the lack of involvement in the permitting. Lastly, the Tribe engaged government officials and various investors to oppose the project.	Environmental justice
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government	Venetie, Alaska	\$4,000	Anti-Extraction Efforts	The Native Village of Venetie advocated to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas exploration to preserve the breeding grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd. The Neets'ai Gwich'in rely heavily on the herd for food and cultural practices.	Environmental justice/ Traditional ecological knowledge

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	Pawnee, Oklahoma	\$20,000	Subsurface Environmental Investigation Training Using Geo-Scanning Technology	Ground penetrating radar (GPR) and software was used to locate piping for abandoned underground storage tanks to eliminate the potential for ground water contamination. Integration of GPR into daily operations will allow the Tribe to assess subsurface contamination to hold energy producers accountable for cleaning up spills in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.	Environmental Justice
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Award total: \$177,500

2019 Grants

Grantee Name	Grantee Location	Amount of Grant	Project Name	Summary of Project	Issue
Carrizo/ Comecrudo Tribe of Texas	Floresville, Texas	\$20,000	Build a Village, Save the Earth - Project Stop Texas Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	The Tribe focused on protecting the Garcia Pasture site in the Rio Grande Valley from Texas LNG development. The Garcia Pasture is a tribal sacred site that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Strategy combined encouraging financial divestment from lenders, stakeholders' participation in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's process, and community organizing to pressure government officials to not allow the licensing of the project.	Environmental justice
Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC)	Anchorage, Alaska	\$80,000	Chugach Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Taskforce - Empowering Our People, Encouraging Involvement, Changing Regulations	Representing several Alaska Native villages, CRRC formed the Chugach Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Taskforce to protect Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights. The Taskforce increased Alaska Native influence in regulation/policy by educating its Tribes and Tribal members about the complex land, fish, and wildlife management policies in Alaska. The Taskforce will catalyze regulatory change proposals/communications to favor Alaska Native access to fresh and healthy foods for families and cultural ways of life.	Traditional ecological knowledge

Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (C.A.R.E.)	Winslow, Arizona	\$15,000	Empowering Greater Chaco Diné Communities	Chaco Culture National Historical Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Diné (Navajo) communities in northwest New Mexico are near oil and gas extraction projects that threaten environmental, human, animal, and cultural health. Diné C.A.R.E. activated Indigenous and non-Native allies from across New Mexico to ensure Indigenous (and non-) community stakeholder input in public hearings, listening sessions, and meetings with state and federal agencies. In response to public pressure, a U.S. House bill (H.R. 2181) called for a 10-mile buffer around Chaco National Park prohibiting oil and gas development. During the process of finalizing a Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan, Diné C.A.R.E. and its allies aimed for the fair and equitable participation of Indigenous communities in the public comment process. In addition to legal interventions advocating for renewable energy, Diné C.A.R.E. co-developed an Indigenous coalition to express community concerns on methane regulations rollbacks to the federal Office of Management and Budget.	Environmental justice
Gwich'in Steering Committee (GSC)	Fairbanks, Alaska	\$10,000	Protecting the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge	GSC worked with its partners on administrative, legislative, and corporate campaigns to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain from oil and gas exploration and development. The campaigns built support (in the form of private and public meetings) to repeal the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which (unrelated to tax code) authorized the sale of oil and gas leases in a section of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.	Environmental justice/ Traditional ecological knowledge
Indigenous Caucus of the Western Mining Action Network (ICWMAN)	Billings, Montana	\$3,600	Indigenous Caucus of the Western Mining Action Network Representation	Two ICWMAN representatives attended its September 2019 in-person strategic planning meeting in Oklahoma to prioritize goals for the next 2 to 5 years. This meeting was planned in conjunction with a conference of the nonprofit, Indigenous-led Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency to support efforts addressing lead contamination.	Environmental justice

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW)	Keshena, Wisconsin	\$20,000	Menominee Tribe's Opposition Efforts to the Back Forty Mine Project - Public Relations Campaign	MITW mobilized public, private, and legal support opposing the Back Forty Mine project (along the Menominee River in upper peninsula of Michigan) which would impact Menominee cultural and burial sites. Opposition efforts for this costly, resource-intensive and time-consuming fight included legal challenge of a mining permit, researching a shareholder advocacy strategy, leveraging public comments in government processes, and government relations in Wisconsin and Michigan.	Environmental justice
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government	Venetie, Alaska	\$10,000	Protecting the Arctic Refuge	Native activists fought to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil and gas development. Representatives travelled to Washington, DC, to participate in the Section 106 review process of the National Historic Preservation Act, which calls for federal agencies to take into account public views and concerns about historic preservation issues.	Environmental justice/ Traditional ecological knowledge
Niibi Center	Calloway, Minnesota	\$70,000	Institute for the Rights of Nature	Elders of the White Earth Nation, supported by the White Earth Natural Resources Department, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, White Earth Manoomin (wild rice) Office, and elected leadership, are researching how to implement the Nation's legislation that protects the rights of Manoomin to clean water and a natural environment. Ultimately, laws, regulations, policies, practices and standards within the community, tribal governmental and legal systems will protect lakes, rivers and the rice beds growing there – the foundation of their people's spiritual and physical health.	Environmental Justice
Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians	Pauma Valley, California	\$40,000	Indigenous Foodways Collaborative	Pauma Tribal Farms, an 87-acre organic fruit and vegetable operation, demonstrated how agriculture and traditional ecological knowledge can mitigate climate change. No-till, carbon sink farming increased soil organic matter an average of 5%. For every 1% increase in soil organic matter, the Farms expect to reduce water usage by 1-acre foot, or 325,851 gallons. Public events, including the November 2019 Carbon Sink Farming Convergence, educated 1,426 farmers, ranchers, advocates, and students about the value of no-till farming methods.	Climate change

Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation	Kingston, Washington	\$80,000	S'Klallam Shellfish Grow-Out Expansion	To protect its farmed Pacific oyster population from climate change, pollution, and harvest pressure, a community Work Group drafted a Shellfish Aquaculture Policy. The Policy will help maintain and expand shellfish populations for sustenance and commercial endeavors. Besides providing a healthy and traditional food source, shellfish reduce the effects of pollution and climate change by removing nitrogen from the water as they feed and by incorporating carbon into their shells. The project included tribal input in the school district's science curriculum, a youth-centered book on intertidal harvesting, and student engagement to care for shellfish.	Climate change/ Youth conservation education
RedTailed Hawk Collective	Lumberton, North Carolina	\$20,000	Southeast Indigenous Climate Change Working Group	Four tribes directly impacted by the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) undertook education, organizing, and advocacy strategies to oppose the transportation of fracked natural gas 600 miles from West Virginia to southeastern North Carolina. The group brought attention to threatened tribal cultural resources, streams, forests, and wetlands. The Native voice, which is often unnoticed by mainstream environmental organizations and media, helped contribute to the cancellation of the ACP announced July 5, 2020.	Environmental justice
Rosebud Ranch and Farming Enterprise	Rosebud, South Dakota	\$40,000	Strengthening Lakota Kinship with the Land	Nearly 150 youth and adult cattle ranchers learned about sustainable grazing practices, traditional medicinal plants that indicate range health, and cultural and medicinal uses of native and introduced plants. The workshop series allowed participants to identify and acknowledge their kinship with the land, accountability as stewards of the land, and the importance of transferring this knowledge and kinship to the younger generation.	Range Management

Sicangu Lakota Treaty Council	Rosebud, South Dakota	\$20,000	No Keystone Pipeline (KXL) Project	The proposed northern leg of the Keystone XL pipeline would transport tar sands oil from Canada to Nebraska, traversing the Great Sioux Reservation that was established by the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. A weeklong workshop in November 2019 allowed tribal community representatives to develop a unified strategy to oppose the pipeline based on violations of the Fort Laramie Treaties of 1868 and 1851. An illuminated billboard near South Dakota’s capital (with the message, “Take Care of Our Mother”) mobilized public support for Sicangu Lakota opposition to the pipeline. [Update: In January 2021, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order revoking the Keystone XL’s cross-border permit. In June 2021, after more than a decade of controversy, the developer announced the termination of the project – an enormous victory for environmental activists and green energy advocates.]	Environmental justice
United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB)	Dillingham, Alaska	\$20,000	Protect Bristol Bay Tribal Engagement Project	Through public engagement, organizing, and government-to-government consultation, UTBB worked to protect Bristol Bay, home to two of the greatest wild salmon-producing rivers in the world, from the proposed Pebble Mine. If permitted, the metallic sulfide mine would be the largest open-pit mine in North America and would decimate the salmon population upon which Alaska Natives depend for food, culture, and social structure. While ensuring that all tribal members and non-Native allies had the information and opportunity to submit public comment during the permitting process, UTBB also convened the elected tribal leaders with federal agency heads and decision makers for peer consultation. [Update: In February 2021, the Army Corps of Engineers accepted to review an appeal of a denied permit filed by mine-owner Northern Dynasty Minerals. The permit was initially denied because the project would cause “significant degradation” to the region’s aquatic resources and was found to be not “in the public interest.” In June 2021, the nonprofit Conservation Fund purchased 44,000 acres of land near Bristol Bay and will protect the area from future developments, including the proposed mine’s access road.]	Environmental justice/ Traditional ecological knowledge

Award total: \$448,600

2020 Grants

Grantee Name	Grantee Location	Amount of Grant	Project Name	Summary of Project	Issue
Blackfeet Tribe	Browning, Montana	\$15,000	Badger Two Medicine Community Education Project	The Tribe will advocate to co-manage with the U.S. Forest Service the Blackfeet lands known as Badger Two Medicine that were ceded in 1896 to the United States. In so doing, the Tribe reserved the rights to hunting, fishing, and gathering. The Tribe will re-create a factual account of tribal land management rights by gathering data from the Federal Records Bureau, university collections, archives, museums, periodicals, legal reviews, and other sources relative to the 1896 Agreement. Empowered by a fact-based, comprehensive history, the Blackfeet community may leverage their 1896 rights to resist hydrocarbon development in Badger Two Medicine.	Environmental justice
Carrizo/ Comecrudo Tribe of Texas	Floresville, Texas	\$20,000	Build a Village; Save the Earth	The Tribe is a hub for grassroots activism, facilitating public engagement to participate in federal permitting processes and litigation to oppose the planned Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal and border wall construction that endanger sacred ancestral lands. The first Carrizo Comecrudo Native American Tribunal for Human Rights featured the testimony of subject matter experts and tribal leaders on the impact of LNG, and the associated effects on poverty, oppression, missing and murdered Indigenous women and men, health risks, and pollution to communities subjected to this harm. The Tribunal (https://youtu.be/SZz1Js7NzTE) drew virtual 500 attendees, 8,000 views worldwide, and 4,000 views for a follow-up question/answer session on social media. Construction of the LNG terminal has been delayed as a result of these activities as well as: 25 cease and desist letters to contractors and government agencies; documents filed in federal court in October 2019 claiming sovereignty; participating in a successful injunction against the Trump Administration regarding federal fund appropriation for border wall construction; and helping to secure a waiver in the FY20 Homeland Security Appropriations bill to protect all historic cemeteries in the Rio Grande Valley from border wall construction.	Environmental justice

The Center Pole	Garryowen, Montana	\$30,000	Crow Living Landscape and Learning Center	The Center Pole conducted site remediation and planning for grassland restoration, traditional permaculture, and soil regeneration based on traditional ecological knowledge as preparation for an ecotourism and learning center. Community interns received natural resource training, while tribal elders helped design a medicine garden.	Conservation practices/ Youth conservation education
Chippewa Cree Tribe	Box Elder, Montana	\$70,000	Forestry and Geographic Information System (GIS)	This project will create a GIS database of tribal natural resources and other assets, greatly streamlining emergency/disaster response and tribal management planning.	Natural Resource Management
Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (C.A.R.E.)	Winslow, Arizona	\$20,000	Protecting the Greater Chaco Region through a Resource Management Planning Process	Diné C.A.R.E. is facilitating the participation of the Navajo Nation and Navajo public to protect Chaco Culture National Historical Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Diné communities in northwest New Mexico. Despite formal opposition to fracking in the Greater Chaco region, the Bureau of Land Management's Farmington Field Office (FFO) has continued to lease lands and approve drilling permits. Diné C.A.R.E continues to demand broad protections and meaningful tribal consultation in the FFO Resource Management Plan. Concurrently, the group is building the capacity of new community leaders who will seek strong stronger federal, state and Navajo Nation environmental and cultural protections.	Environmental justice
Fort Belknap Community Economic Development Corporation	Harlem, Montana	\$70,000	Aaniih Nakoda Tours Tipi & Cabin Campground	Four rental recreational vehicles will house visitors attracted to the reservation's 17 miles of hiking trails and viewing of the Tribe's genetically-pure Yellowstone bison herd.	Ecotourism
Gwich'in Steering Committee (GSC)	Fairbanks, Alaska	\$15,000	Gwich'in Steering Committee Operating Support	In striving for permanent protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain, GSC will build the leadership capacity of its Gwich'in Youth Council and implement a corporate divestment campaign targeting banks, oil corporations, and insurance companies. GSC will leverage public defense of the Arctic Refuge, upon which their Peoples depend for food and cultural lifeways.	Environmental justice/ Traditional ecological knowledge/ Youth conservation education

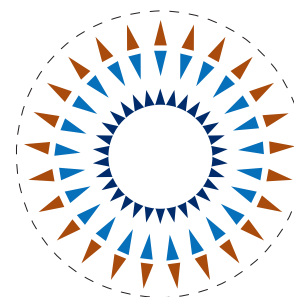
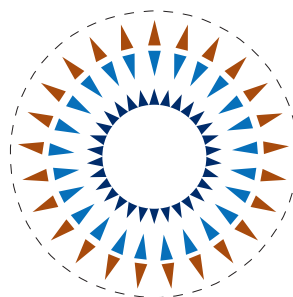
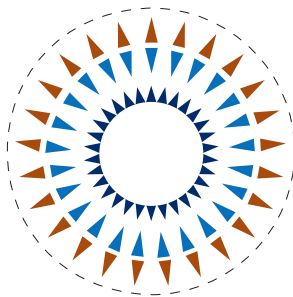
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	Lower Brule, South Dakota	\$70,000	Continuation of pronghorn and black-footed ferret projects	This project is increasing the pronghorn antelope population through the capture, surgical sterilization, and release of coyotes that prey on pronghorn kids. In addition, the project is restoring culturally- and ecologically-important black-footed ferrets to tribal lands. Endangered black-footed ferrets balance the ecosystem by keeping the prairie dog population in check. Ferrets are believed to possess knowledge of medicine and provide strength to those who emulate them because of their elusiveness and rarity.	Wildlife restoration
Magpie Buffalo Organizing	Rapid City, South Dakota	\$15,000	Great Race Obligations	Magpie Buffalo Organizing (MBO) takes its name from the Great Race, when human beings won the Responsibility and Spiritual Obligation to speak for and protect those who have no voice. Part of this Responsibility and Obligation, as original inhabitants of this area, is to speak and fight against projects that threaten the lands and waters of the Black Hills ("HeSapa" in Lakota) and all who live there. MBO works to protect the sacred Black Hills from mining depredations by assisting the Oglala Sioux Tribe as needed on peer-to-peer federal consultations, media outreach, and healing connections for the land and Indigenous Peoples through sacred rituals.	Environmental justice
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW)	Keshena, Wisconsin	\$20,000	Menominee Tribe's Efforts to Oppose the Back Forty Mine Project	To counter threats from sulfide mining to the Menominee Tribe, its cultural sites, the Menominee River, and the Wolf River, MITW is undertaking a robust strategy of cultural resource protection, public education, and legal options. By submitting a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Menominee cultural landscape, titled "Anaem Omot," MITW will advocate for protection of the Menominee River. The Tribe's sacred place of origin is at the mouth of the Menominee River.	Environmental justice
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government	Venetie, Alaska	\$20,000	Protecting the Arctic Refuge	The calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge provide a major food source and cultural grounding for the Native Village of Venetie. With this pristine and fragile environment threatened by oil and gas drilling, the Village is using every litigation and legal strategy at its disposal.	Environmental justice/ Traditional ecological knowledge

Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Rosebud, South Dakota	\$20,000	Oceti Sakowin Oyate ("Great Sioux Nation") Strategic Plan	The Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Sicangu Lakota Treaty Council will work with traditional and tribal leaders to develop a strategic plan focused on mitigating damage to ground- and surface-water posed by the proposed northern leg of the Keystone XL (KXL) Pipeline. If completed, KXL would cut through the territory of the Oceti Sakowin Oyate, the unceded territory of the Ponca Nation, and the states of Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, endangering thousands of bodies of water. [Update: In January 2021, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order revoking the Keystone XL's cross-border permit. In June 2021, after more than a decade of controversy, the developer announced the termination of the project – an enormous victory for environmental activists and green energy advocates.]	Environmental justice
Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association	Tolani Lake, Arizona	\$20,000	Holistic and Regenerative Grazing: A Pathway to Restore Native Lands and Benefit Native Families	To counter longstanding drought and a warming climate which have led to deteriorating range conditions, this project offers ranching families in the Southwestern Navajo Nation training on best practices in holistic, regenerative, and high- impact grazing that improves forage, builds and retains soil, and cares for local natural resources. The project will benefit ranchers by improving the quality of the range and by increasing knowledge of cattle husbandry that will enhance herd health. Youth will learn alongside experienced ranchers how to responsibly manage livestock, reinforcing Indigenous stewardship values and traditions.	Range Management
Tsaile Wheatfields Diné Water Users (TW-DWU)	Tsaile, Arizona	\$20,000	Tsaile/ Wheatfields Watershed Management Plan Project	With input from (mainly youth) community stakeholders in a Watershed Management Plan, TW-DWU renovated the TseZhin Bitoh water hauling site. Before renovation, accessing clean, quality water required an entire day during summer. After navigating Navajo Nation complicated permits and procedures, the site now has two dispensing systems for 7+ communities' agricultural and domestic use. Now, the wait time averages less than 10 minutes. The availability to clean water is a tremendous success. People from 50+ miles away who haul water from this site have requested similar improvements for their communities.	Water resource management



<p>Utah Diné Bikeyah (UDB)</p>	<p>Salt Lake City, Utah</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>Utah Diné Bikeyah's Bears Ears Restoration Plan</p>	<p>UDB will advocate to restore the full 1.3 million acres of Bears Ears National Monument, which was reduced to 201,876 acres in 2017 by the Trump Administration. For Native Peoples, Bears Ears is an essential focal point for ancestral relations between humans and the natural world. UDB will support the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition of five sovereign tribal nations to defend their position in federal court from the Trump Administration's alleged violation of the United States Constitution and the Antiquities Act of 1906. These proposed changes would lay Bears Ears open to extractive resource development, grave robbing, and irreversible loss of archaeological information. UDB also will develop the foundation for a land management plan for the greater Bears Ears landscape (1.9 million+ acres) that is rooted in Indigenous perspectives and place-based conservation strategies.</p>	<p>Environmental justice</p>
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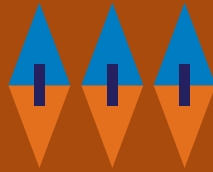
Award total: \$445,000



Endnotes

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