


STEWARDING NATIVE LANDS PRESENTS
INTERTRIBAL COALITIONS

WEBINAR MANAGEMENT

All attendees will be muted throughout this webinar.



If you have questions, please type them in the question box. They will be addressed during the Questions section.



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First Nations' mission is to **uplift** and **sustain** the lifeways and economies of Native communities through **advocacy**, **financial support**, and **knowledge sharing**.

The Mission of the Stewarding Native Lands program is to **invest in** and **center** Native peoples in the **stewardship** of their lands for a generous future.



SNL INITIATIVES



ENVIRONMENTAL SOVEREIGNTY & JUSTICE

Protecting communities and lands from harmful practices, projects, and policies



STEWARDSHIP

Sustainably managing and restoring lands for our communities and future generations



CLIMATE

Addressing ongoing and anticipated impacts of climate change to preserve lands and cultural lifeways



COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

Upholding traditional knowledge systems



WOVEN LANDS

Creating new models, investments, and other tools to secure and expand Native ownership and stewardship over tribal homelands

PRESENTER



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Tribal Co-Stewardship and Co-Management in Inter- Tribal Coalitions

September 10, 2025

Professor Hillary M. Hoffmann



Webinar Overview

- ▶ Introduction & Scope
- ▶ Advantages to Coalition Model
- ▶ Concepts & Terminology
- ▶ Framework Questions
- ▶ Legal Considerations
- ▶ Practical Considerations
- ▶ Final Thoughts
- ▶ Q & A



Introduction & Scope

- Scope: Coalitions vs. coalitions
- Framing: Co-Stewardship, Co-Management, etc.
- Special Note on Tribal Sovereignty
 - Inherent (internal source)
 - Delegated (external source – Congress)
 - Negotiated (external source – treaty or treaties)
- Acknowledgements



Advantages to the Coalition Model

- ▶ The collective can often be stronger than the individual.
(Win together what you can't alone!)
- ▶ Increase capacity
- ▶ Share resources
- ▶ Share responsibility & decision making
- ▶ Scale up!
- ▶ Learn from each other
- ▶ Heal relationships



Concepts & Terminology

- ▶ Inter-Tribal Coalitions
- ▶ Co-stewardship
 - Advisory
- ▶ Collaborative management
 - Advisory, with accountability
- ▶ Co-management
 - Shared decisionmaking, with accountability



Concepts & Terminology, cont.

- ▶ Cooperative Agreement
 - Like MOU, can be general
- ▶ Assistance Agreement
 - Specific, can tie to funding
- ▶ Planning
 - Federal term of art related to public lands management
- ▶ Implementation
 - Federal term of art, follows planning



Framework Questions

- Who will make the decisions about co-stewardship?
 - How will Tribal Sovereignty of individual nations be protected?
 - How will those decisions be made?
- Who can speak for the Coalition?
 - Who/what will fund the work?
- How will information be protected?
 - Will there be a governance structure?

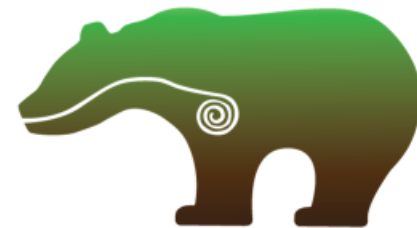


Example: Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

- ▶ Who will make the decisions?
- ▶ How will the decisions be made?
- ▶ What is the governance structure?
- ▶ How is Tribal sovereignty protected?
- ▶ How will the work be funded?
- ▶ How will information be protected?

Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Overview

- ← Coalition is organized as a nonprofit, with Tribal leaders serving as our BOD.
- ← Each Tribe selects representative/s to serve as Coalition leader.
- ← Coalition is an extension of each Tribe's sovereign authority.
- ← Coalition staff work with leadership to implement collective vision of Tribes.
- ← Coalition funds Tribes' and Bears Ears Commission's expenses. (Commission is entity that has co-management authority).



BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION
HOPI - ZUNI - UTE MOUNTAIN UTE - DINÉ - UTE

Legal Considerations

- Prior Authority for entering Co-Stewardship Agreement
 - Tribal
 - Federal
- Terms of Co-Stewardship Agreement
- Terms of Inter-Tribal Agreements re Co-Stewardship (ie, Memorandum of Understanding between Tribes)
- Terms of Tribal Agreements with other entities supporting Co-Stewardship (ie, Memorandum of Understanding with NGO)
- Federal Advisory Committee Act
 - UMRA Exception
- Federal Laws Governing Procedure and Place (ie, NEPA, FLMPA)
- Tribal Procedural & Substantive Laws, Regulations, protocols

Example: US Forest Service-BLM-Tribal Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement (2022)

- Statement of Joint Objectives
- Scope (planning, implementation-level decision making, programs, knowledge-sharing)
- Duration, Modification, Termination
- (No) Financial Support
- Communication on Agency-Decisionmaking





Practical Considerations

- ▶ Allowing for Growth
 - Can Coalition form Sub-committees or other bodies to help share the workload?
- ▶ Financial
 - Who or what holds the money raised for co-management?
 - How is it accessed and used?
- ▶ Dispute Resolution
 - What happens if there is disagreement amongst Tribes, or individual Coalition representatives?



Practical Considerations, cont.

- ▶ Is the Coalition intended to be permanent?
- ▶ Should the Coalition have staff?
- ▶ Should the Coalition engage in other work supportive of the co-stewardship goal?
 - ▶ Education/outreach
 - ▶ Cultural competency trainings
 - ▶ Youth programming
 - ▶ Leadership training
- ▶ Will Tribal staff, leaders, or representatives need training to engage meaningfully in Coalition work?

Example: Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

- ← Planning occupied most of Commission, Coalition, and Tribes' time, energy, and resources from 2022-2025.
- ← Other work included:
 - ← Site visits for Tribal youth, leaders, and Tribal staff
 - ← Partner meetings/collaboration
 - ← Community Engagement (in Tribal communities)
 - ← Ethnographic Research
 - ← Cultural Sensitivity Training/Education
 - ← Bears Ears Youth/Elder Conservation Corps
 - ← Native Youth Leadership Initiative



Final Food for Thought

- ▶ Federal planning timeliness are not ideal for Coalition-led co-stewardship work.
- ▶ Cooperative agreement, Secretarial Orders, other laws & guidance can be subsumed (consumed?) by NEPA.
- ▶ Education needed around Traditional Indigenous Knowledge/Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
- ▶ Co-management is expensive.
- ▶ Comprehensive surveys of cultural resources (before planning starts) would help the planning process.
- ▶ Agency capture can be a challenge.
- ▶ Tribal resources, capacity, time are constant and growing issues, especially for Tribes stewarding many different areas.

QUESTIONS

A stylized illustration of a person's profile in shades of teal and blue. The person's mouth is open, and a speech bubble is positioned directly below it. The background is a dark teal color. The word "QUESTIONS" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font across the upper portion of the image.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

Register for the next webinar in the Tribal Co-Stewardship and Co-Management Webinar Series:

Indigenous Stewardship of National Forests Case Study Report

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 1 pm Mountain Time.

Links to the webinars' registration pages can be found online in First Nations' Knowledge Center.

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