

TRIBAL APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

JULIE THORSTENSON, PHD – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 NIEHS WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM SPRING WORKSHOP

5/18/22

NAFWS

- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit 1983
- MISSION
 - Assist Native American and Alaska Native Tribes with the conservation, protection, and enhancement of their fish and wildlife resources.



MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION

- 7 Regions
- 227 Support Tribes
- Individual Membership
- Conservation Officers, Biologists, Technicians, etc.
- Tribal, Federal, State, Non-Governmental Organizations, Private, students, etc.



- 574 Federally Recognized Tribes in the U.S.
 - 109 in California
 - 229 in Alaska
- Sovereign Nations inherent authority of indigenous tribes to govern themselves within the U.S.

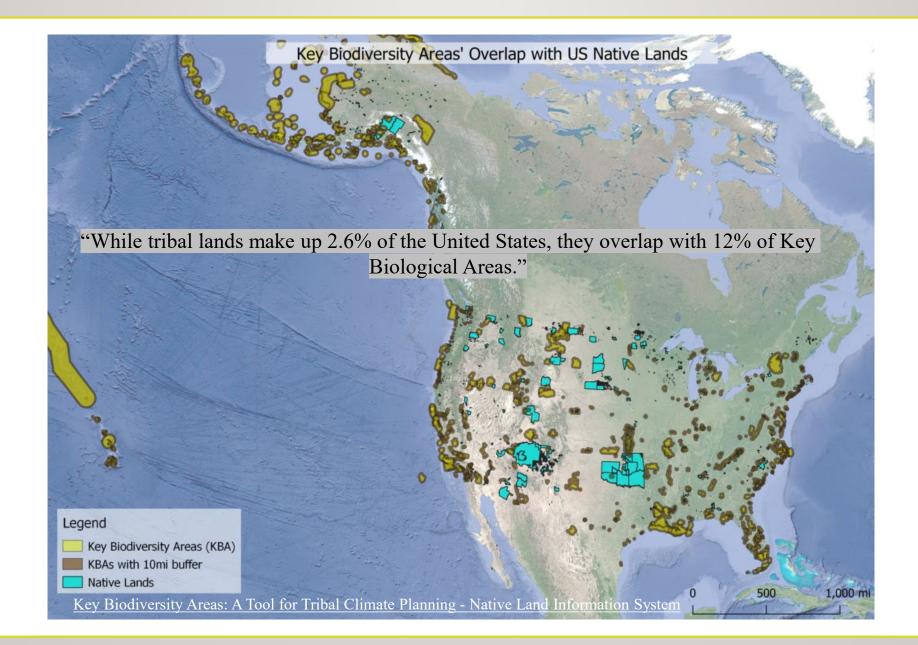




TRIBAL FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

Tribes own or influence the management of nearly 140 million acres





NAFWS 2022 NATIONAL INITIATIVE - CLIMATE CHANGE

- Workshop at National NAFWS Conference
- BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Grant AK Region
 - 3 Tribal Climate Liaisons
 - I Intern AK region (currently advertising)
- Tribal Vulnerability Assessments
- Partnerships with Climate Adaptation Science Centers
- Tribal Leaders & Organizations 30x30 Group



Justin Leon, M.S.

SENIOR TRIBAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE LIAISON

- Outreach to Potential NAFWS Collaborators
- Conducted TCRP Proposal Workshop w/AK CASC
- Listen to Tribes to bring Tribal perspectives to conversations
- Bring the science to the Tribes









TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT - CHALLENGES

- Lack of capacity
- Other Tribal Priorities
- State-Tribal Relations
- Contradicting management goals
- Connecting with the right person
- Benefits for Tribes?

WORKING WITH TRIBES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- Build relationships
 - Know the key people
- Safeguard the environment and Tribal cultural values
- Nation-to-Nation relationships
- Uphold Tribal Sovereignty and self-determination
- Consider TEK as an integral part of the conversations
- Partner with Intertribal Organizations



NOBODY TELLS OUR STORY BETTER THAN US

Email – JThor@nafws.org

NAFWS

0

QUESTIONS?

Visit: www.nafws.org

- News in tribal conservation
- Job postings and youth programs
- Funding opportunities

For quarterly updates subscribe to the Eagle's Nest Newsletter

@native_wildlife
NAFWS_insta
Native American

Fish & Wildlife Society