

# **Tribal Engagement and Collaboration in Local, Regional and National Climate Adaptation Initiatives**

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**National Adaptation Forum – April 2013**

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# Opportunities for Engagement and Collaboration

- Climate change will impact culturally important resources on- **and** off- reservation
  - Tribal
  - Federal
  - State
  - Private/NGO



Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, 2005 fires

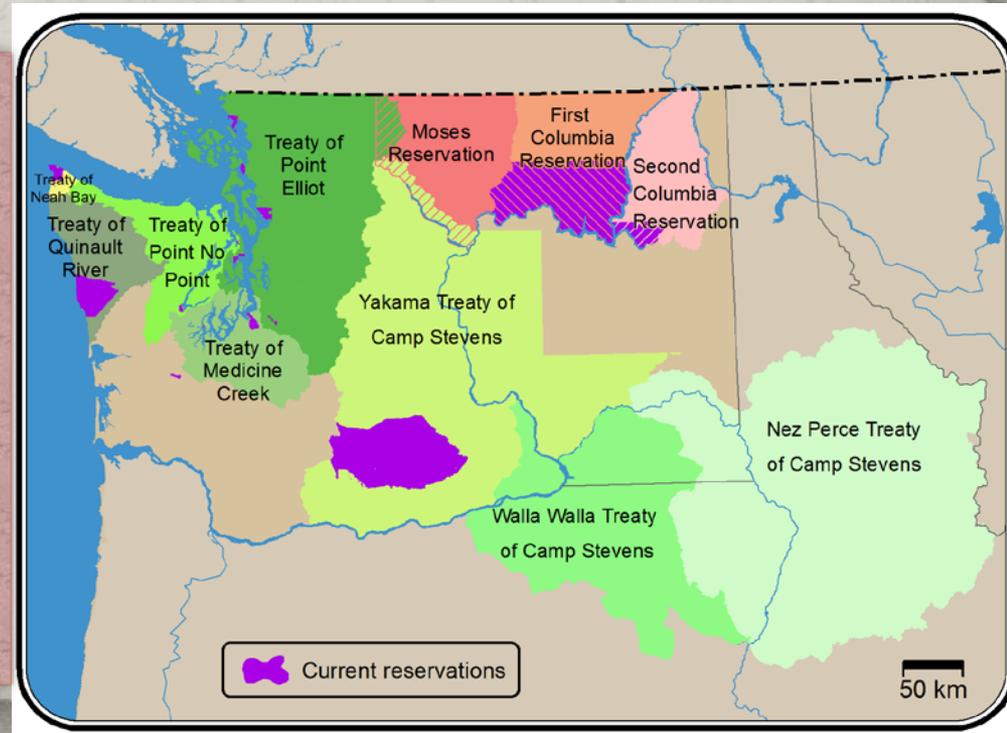
# Climate Impacts on Tribal Sovereignty

- Treaty and reserved rights -- access to sacred sites, cultural resources and traditional practices on ceded lands
- Federal trust responsibilities, governance and maintenance of land and water resources
- Traditional Knowledge

## Move to where?

*“Few contemporary tribes can afford the purchase of large tracts of new land, and federal laws hinder the transfer or expansion of tribal jurisdiction. Tribes therefore see their traditional cultures directly endangered by the magnitude of the projected climate change.”*

(Houser et al. 2000, p.357)



# Federal Initiatives

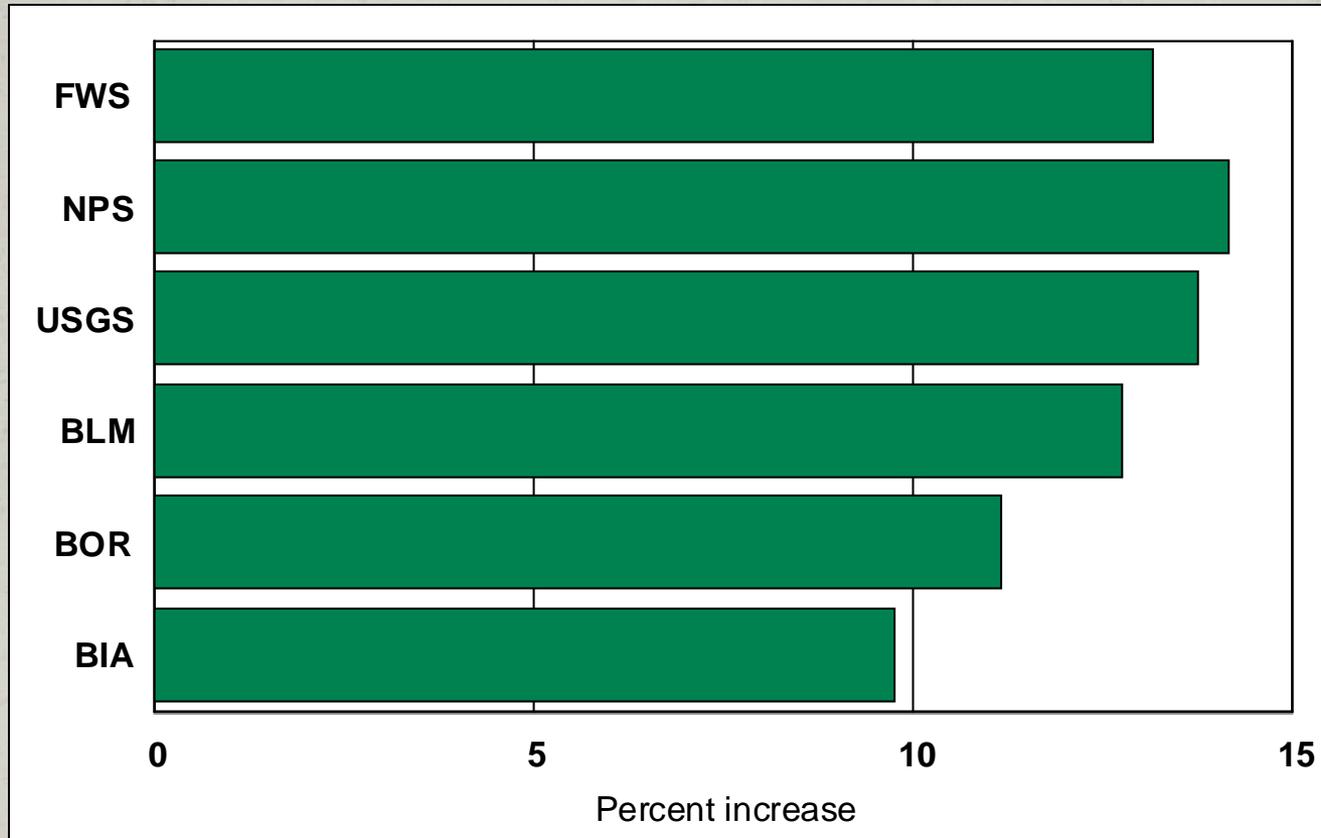
- National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy [www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov](http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov)
- EPA Climate Adaptation Plan <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/fed-programs.html>
- DOI Climate Change Program <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/climate/index.cfm>
- DOI Climate Change Adaptation Policy <http://elips.doi.gov/ELIPS/0/doc/3741/Page1.aspx>



Swinomish fishermen offers a salmon carcass in thanks. PBS NewsHour photo by Saskia de Melker

# Federal Funding Trends and Opportunities

## Budget Increases for the 6 Largest Interior Agencies FY2004 to FY2012



Source: Dave Connor, Red Lake Band of Chippewa

# BIA Trust Natural Resource Funding

*Tribes have more than \$356 million of unmet annual needs for natural resource management and conservation. BIA, 1999 Report*

- BIA Trust Natural Resource (TNR) funding has remained essentially flat over the last twelve years.
- Creatively integrate climate change into normal natural resource planning efforts.
- BIA TNR funding information provides background to gain increased support from federal agencies and other partners to adapt to climate change.

# Cooperative Landscape Conservation

The Cooperative Landscape Conservation offers two programs:

1. DOI Climate Science Centers (CSC)
  2. Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)
- Technical Assistance Opportunities:
    - Participate in identifying science priorities and resources needed for climate change assessments and planning.
    - Consider the role of traditional ecological knowledge in understanding climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.

# DOI Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Cooperative Landscape Conservation Initiative Funding  
(dollars in millions)

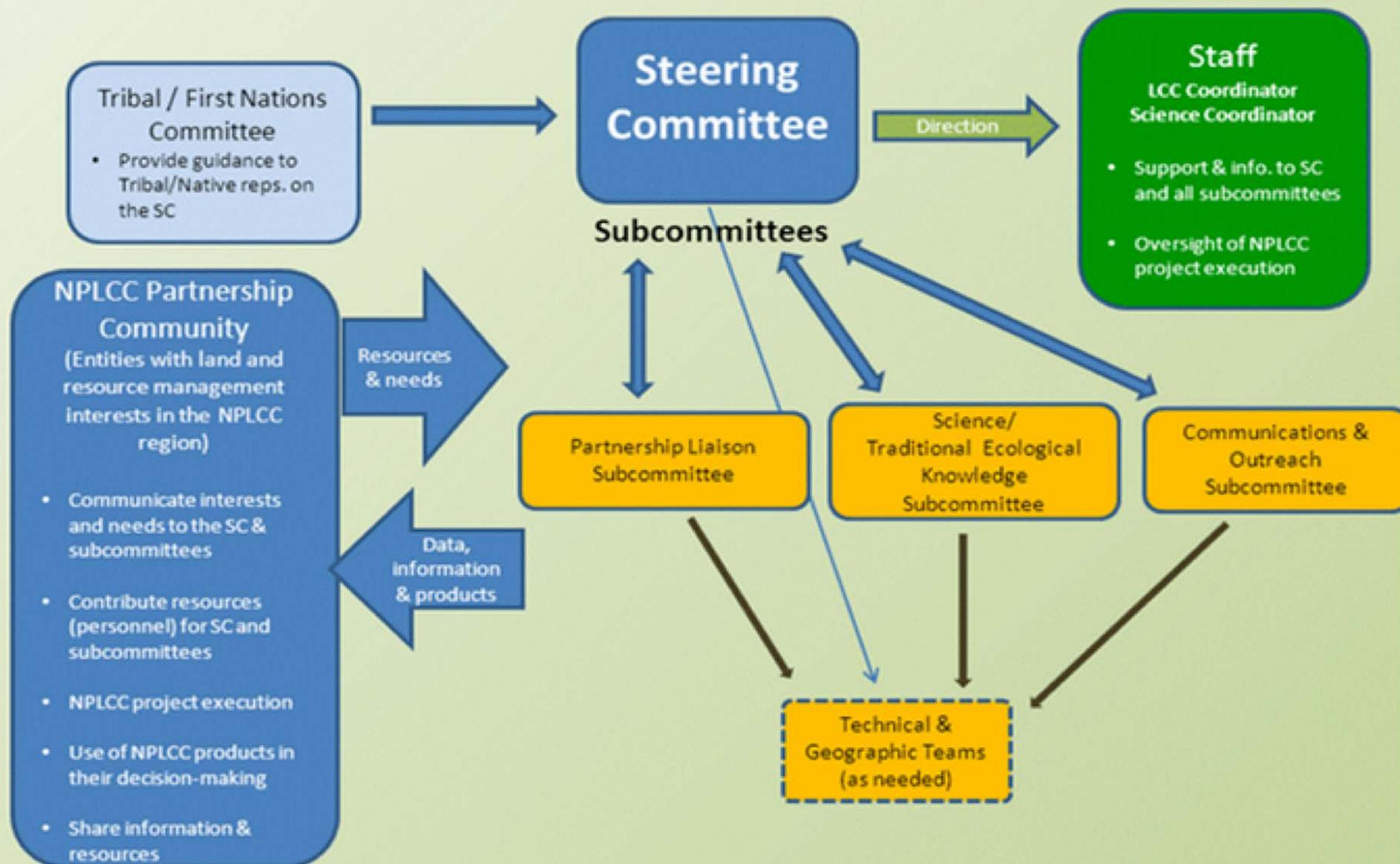
Bureau	FY 2010/2011	FY 2012	Change
BLM	15.0	17.5	+2.5
Reclamation	3	7.0	+4
 USGS	63.2	72.9	+9.7
 FWS	40.0	67.5	+27.5
NPS	10.0	9.9	-0.1
 BIA	0.0	0.419	+0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>131.2</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>+43.8</b>

*“To gain effective and broad collaboration to...reduce or reverse climate impacts to lands, waters, natural and cultural resources.”*

# DOI Cooperative Landscape Conservation

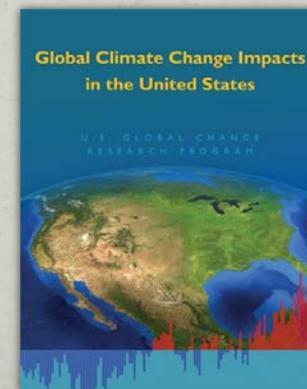
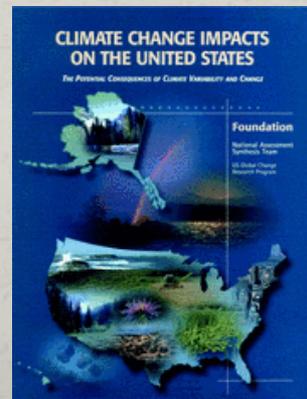
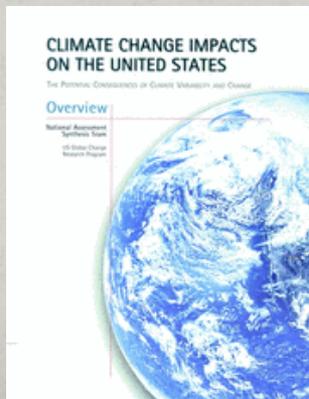
- What is equitable?
  - Adaptation Initiative Acreage = 16% or \$27.4 million
  - Tribal Acreage, Population, & Habitat Value
  - Tribal Request: 5% or \$8.55 million
- Federal Trust Responsibility
- Secretarial Order 3289
- FY 13 Request = \$800,000

# North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative



# National Climate Assessment

- Enhance the ability of the United States to anticipate, mitigate and adapt to changes in the global environment.
- Advance an inclusive, broad-based, and sustained process for assessing and communicating scientific knowledge of the impacts, risks and vulnerabilities associated with a changing global climate in support of decision-making across the United States.



# NCA – Tribal Chapter

Climate change related impacts, such as increased frequency and intensity of wildfires, higher temperatures, ecosystem changes, ocean acidification, forest loss, and habitat damage, are ***threatening Native American and Alaska Native access to traditional foods such as salmon, shellfish, wild and cultivated crops, and marine mammals.***



Climate change is increasing the mobility of sand dunes in the southwest and the Navajo Nation. USGS scientists working with students and members of tribal nations to plant seeds on the sand dunes in the southwest as a means to help facilitate plant growth and dune stabilization. Photo source: USGS

# Other key messages

- Impacts to **water quality and quantity** is affecting tribal access to drinking water supplies, food, cultures, ceremonies, and traditional ways of life.
- **Declining sea ice in Alaska** is resulting in risky travel and hunting conditions, damage and/or loss of homes and settlements, food insecurity from changing availability of wild food sources, and socioeconomic and health impacts from loss of cultures, traditional knowledge, and homelands.
- **Accelerated sea level rise, erosion, permafrost thaw, and/or increased intensity of weather events** are forcing relocation of entire tribal and indigenous communities in Alaska, Louisiana, the Pacific Islands, and other coastal locations.

# 2013 National Climate Assessment

- COMMENTS DUE APRIL 12, 2013 - <http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/>
- Regions and biogeographical cross-cuts
- Mitigation and adaptation
- The NCA sustained assessment

Sectors	Sectoral cross-cuts
Water resources	Water, energy, and land use
Energy supply and use	Urban/infrastructure/vulnerability
Transportation	<b><u>Impacts of climate change on tribal, indigenous, and native lands and resources</u></b>
Agriculture	Land use and land cover change
Forestry	Rural communities, agriculture, and development
Ecosystems and biodiversity	Impacts on biogeochemical cycles
Human health	

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	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Current tribal information</b>	<b>Comments/Suggestions</b>	<b>Citations to include</b>
2	All Regional Chapters	All regional chapters should incorporate a reference to the tribal chapter, which addresses impacts on tribal lands and resources across the country. All regional chapters should state the number of tribes within the region and summary of key impacts on native communities if available. Best practices: Alaska/Arctic Chapter and Great Plains Chapter.		
15	9. Human Health	Mentions Alaska Natives in traceable accounts		
16	10. Water, Energy, and Land Use			
17	11. Urban Systems, Infrastructure, and Vulnerability			
18	12. Impacts of Climate Change on Tribal, Indigenous, and Native Lands and Resources			
19	13. Land Use and Land Cover Change	Mentions that land cover and land use are focus areas for Native American lands		
20	14. Rural Communities	This chapter includes a citation for "Warmer weather and higher water temperatures will reduce salmon harvests, creating hardships for the rural communities that depend upon these catches (NTAA 2009)."	The NTAA citation is directly from tribal research. Suggest amending this to state "rural communities and tribes", and include an in-text citation for Chapter 12: Tribal Lands and Resources.	
21	15. Interactions of Climate Change and Tribal Lands and Resources			

# Tribal Initiatives

- American Indian Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group: <http://aianclimatechange.com/>
- First Stewards: [www.firststewards.org](http://www.firststewards.org)
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Local Environmental Observer project: <http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/climate/leo/>
- Our Natural Resources: [www.ournaturalresources.org](http://www.ournaturalresources.org)
- Intertribal Timber Council: [www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org)
- Manajiwin: Respecting Tribes and First Nations in Environmental Management: <http://sites.dartmouth.edu/reo/projects/>



*Lino Olopai, from the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, opens the Pacific Islands panel with a traditional dance.*

[www.firststewards.org](http://www.firststewards.org)

# Other Initiatives

- National Wildlife Federation [www.nwf.org/climate-smart](http://www.nwf.org/climate-smart)
  - Guide for Climate Vulnerability Assessment
  - Guide to Climate-Smart Conservation
  - Adaptation 2011
- USDA Forest Service Coordinated Research Strategy
  - PNW Tribal Climate Change Project - <http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/>
  - Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
  - College of Menominee Nation
  - Native Hawaiian Climate Change Conference



Haxton Way Pedestrian Path  
Source: Rocket Horse  
Photography

# Final Thoughts

- Climate change won't respect jurisdictional boundaries between tribal, private, state and federal lands.
- Tribal participation in climate research, policy and planning will contribute to solutions that fully consider tribal environmental and cultural values.
- Government-to-government relationships AND collaboration is vital to moving forward.



Suquamish Tribal students present their work on ocean acidification at the 3rd National Summit on Oceans and Coasts in Washington, D.C. Source: Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

# For More Information:

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