

Supporting coastal resilience of tribal communities:

Lessons in ethical and effective collaboration among tribal and academic partners



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Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative



The Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative aims to assist Tribes and frontline communities in improving their resilience to climate change while addressing the legacy of systemic inequity that continues to influence their lives and livelihoods.

The Tribal Coastal Resilience Project supports the climate readiness of Northwest coastal tribes by:

- Centering coastal tribal priorities and participation in climate adaptation
- Providing information to tribes and non-tribal partners for advancing coastal resilience
- Enhancing capacity for addressing the climate risks and needs of coastal tribes



Benjamin Leung / Skagit Valley Herald

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

**Climate Adaptation
Needs Assessment**

Where are coastal tribes currently in their adaptation efforts, what barriers are they facing and what do they need to make progress?

Deep Dives into Priority Barriers and Needs

How can we most effectively catalyze progress on resilience objectives for tribal coastal communities?

Provide Climate Services to Coastal Tribes

Best practices for academics in partnering with tribes

- Take a co-production approach
- Respect tribal sovereignty
- Use tribal information ethically
- Ensure tribes receive more than we take

1. Take a co-production approach



Meade Krosby, Co-Lead
UW Climate Impacts Group



Amelia Marchand, Co-Lead
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians



Ryan Hasert, Project Manager
UW Climate Impacts Group



Chas Jones
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians



Chandler Countryman
Washington Sea Grant



Marco Hatch
Western Washington University



Melissa Poe
Washington Sea Grant

1. Take a co-production approach

Tribal Advisory Group

Vanessa Castle

Klallam Tribe

Natural Resources Technician, Lower Elwha

Tanya Eison

Citizen, Quinault Indian Nation

Ryan Erhart

Environmental Divisions Manager, Makah Tribe

Aaron Jones

Treaty Rights Specialist, Tulalip Tribes

Todd Mitchell

Environmental Director, Swinomish Indian Tribal

Community

Kristopher Murphy

Natural Resources Technician, Coquille Indian Tribe

Candace Penn

Climate Change Specialist, Squaxin Island Tribe

1. Take a co-production approach

Listening Sessions

- An in-person session at the *Tribal Leaders Climate Change Summit* (Nov 28, 2022)
- An in-person session at the *ATNI Winter Convention* (Jan 25, 2023)
- Three virtual, online sessions (spring/summer 2023)
- In-person sessions being organized with individual tribes

2. Respect Tribal Sovereignty

Go in through the front door



Makah Tribal Council
181 Resort Drive
Neah Bay, WA, 98357

Re: Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative: Coastal Tribal Resilience Project

Dear Chairman [Timothy J. Greene, Sr.](#),

We are writing to share information regarding a new initiative aimed at supporting the climate resilience of Northwest coastal tribes, and our interest in contacting your staff to invite their participation.

[The Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative](#) is a participatory research program designed to support the resilience of communities at the frontlines of climate change. The Collaborative is housed at the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group and brings together ten partner organizations across Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

[The Tribal Coastal Resilience Portfolio](#) of the Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative is co-led by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. It aims to support coastal tribes in Washington and Oregon by:

- Centering coastal tribal priorities and participation in climate adaptation
- Providing information to tribes and non-tribal partners for advancing coastal resilience
- Enhancing capacity for addressing the climate risks and needs of coastal tribes

We are planning to contact your relevant staff to invite their participation in this effort. Opportunities for involvement include 1) listening sessions (held in years 2022-2023) to inform an assessment of climate readiness and key barriers to adaptation among Northwest coastal tribes, and 2) annual Deep Dive workshops (held in years 2024-2026) to collaboratively identify opportunities for addressing those barriers. All participating staff will be offered compensation for their time, and no sensitive information will be solicited or shared without free, prior and informed consent. *If there are specific staff you would like us to contact, please let us know.*

All products and resources developed through this effort will adhere to principles of free, prior, informed consent. Deliverables may include assessments, peer-reviewed publications, policy briefs, community-facing materials or other products co-produced in collaboration with tribal partners. Products will be shared directly with participants, through existing tribal networks and on the Collaborative's website.

Please let us know if you prefer that we NOT invite your staff to participate for whatever reason. We also welcome your feedback and any suggested contacts for potential participants within your Tribe.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding your staff's participation in this effort.

Sincerely,

3. Use tribal information ethically

Obtain free, prior and informed consent

Create data-sharing agreements

Listening Session Consent Form

Project title: Tribal Coastal Resilience - Regional Listening Sessions

Project leads: Meade Krosby (University of Washington) and Amelia Marchand (Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians)

The Tribal Coastal Resilience project recognizes that individuals have the right to provide input in a variety of ways, given the diverse personal, professional and cultural roles that individuals in Tribal communities have. We are committed to supporting respectful and transparent engagement and hope to encourage participation of all interested parties.

Participant Name: _____

I am speaking on behalf of (select all that qualify):

- Myself, as a Tribal citizen, community member or staff member
(specify affiliation: _____)
- A tribal government or organization, as an authorized representative
(specify affiliation: _____)
- A non-tribal organization or entity, as an authorized representative
(specify affiliation: _____)

Your involvement and the content of your contribution to the Listening Session may be used in the following:

- Any project products, including reports, academic papers, policy briefs or other publications or deliverables.
- Our website and other media we may produce, such as presentations or news articles.
- Future Listening Sessions or other outreach events.
- An archive of the project.

Quotation Agreement

I understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, **please initial next to any of the statements you agree with:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to review the notes, transcripts or other information collected during the project that specifically pertain to me.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to review any final products before publication that use the information I've provided.

4. Ensure tribes receive more than we take

Tribal participants are compensated for their time at all stages of the project

- Project team
- Tribal advisory group
- Listening session participants
- Tribal review of project deliverables

Best practices for academics in partnering with tribes

- Take a co-production approach
- Respect tribal sovereignty
- Use tribal information ethically
- Ensure tribes receive more than we take
- *Commit to long-term, reciprocal relationships*

Thank you