Elevating Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Decision Making

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Intro

• About me: Member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Klamath Tribes, Yurok Tribe, Sakagoan Band of Chippewa
• Home: Klamath Basin, Southern OR
• Background:
  • University of Oregon (Go Ducks!)
  • Tribal engagement, consultation, climate change, and environmental & climate justice
  • Big sister of 3 younger siblings
Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee

• IARPC Arctic Research Plan 2022-2026: Address most pressing Arctic research needs

• Four Priority Areas and Goals:
  1. Community Resilience and Health
  2. Arctic Systems Interactions
  3. Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods
  4. Risk Management and Hazard Mitigation
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ARCTIC EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE (AESC)
Arctic Executive Steering Committee

- **Executive Order 13689** – Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic
- **AESC**: Works to provide guidance to federal departments and agencies and to enhance coordination of Federal Arctic policies
  - Coordinates with State, local, and Alaska Native tribal governments and other Alaska Native Organizations, academic and research institutions, and the private and nonprofit sectors
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NORTHERN BERING SEA
CLIMATE RESILIENCE AREA
Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area

• **Executive Order 13754** – December 9, 2016
  • Northern Bering Climate Resilience Task Force
  • NBS Tribal Advisory Council
TRIBAL CONSULTATION
The Biden–Harris Administration’s Commitment to Strengthening Relationships with Tribal Nations

“It is a priority of my Administration to make respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations cornerstones of Federal Indian policy.”

Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, January 26, 2001
EXECUTIVE ORDER 13175

• Applies to rules, policies, and guidance with Tribal Implications

• **Tribal Implications is defined as:**
  • having substantial direct effects on one or more Indian Tribes
  • on the relationship between the Federal government and Indian Tribes, or
  • on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the federal government and Indian Tribes.

• **Requires the Federal government to consult** with Federally recognized Tribal Nations on policies that affect them.
Elevating Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Decisionmaking
IK in Federal Decision-Making: Examples

• **Cowlitz Indian Tribe & NOAA**: Application of Tribal oral histories & reconstruction of fish distribution

• **Wabanaki Tribal citizens and NPS**: Shared governance and research on sweetgrass harvesting

• **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**: Co-management and Hawaiian Knowledge

• **Tribes, AK native non-profits, Elders & TK holders, and the Federal Government**: Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area

OSTP–CEQ Memorandum on Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Decisionmaking

Executive Office of the President
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Council on Environmental Quality
Washington, D.C.

November 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Eric S. Lander
President’s Science Advisor and Director,
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Brenda Mallory
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Federal Decision Making

Background

President Biden is committed to strengthening the relationship between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations and to advancing equity for Indigenous people, including Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Indigenous peoples of the U.S. territories. These commitments include ensuring that Federal agencies conduct regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of federal research, policies, and decisions, especially decisions that may affect Tribal Nations and the people they represent.

Consistent with the Administration’s additional commitment to scientific integrity and knowledge- and evidence-based policymaking, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued White House Memorandum issued November 2021.

Memo includes a commitment and process to elevate IK in decisionmaking across the government.

Tribal Consultations

Public Engagement and Outreach

White House Guidance for Federal Agencies to be released later this year.
Developing Guidance for Federal Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge

• **Interagency Working Group** with more than 25 agencies represented, including:
  
  • Department of the Interior  
    • USGS, FWS, BIA  
  • Department of Commerce  
    • NOAA  
  • Department of Defense  
    • Army Corp of Engineers  
  • Department of Labor  
  • Department of Energy  
  • State Department  
  • Department of Justice  
  • Department of Education  
  • Department of Transportation  
  • White House Council on Native American Affairs  
  • US Department of Agriculture  
  • Health and Human Services  
    • IHS, CDC, NIH  
  • Homeland Security  
    • FEMA  
  • Environmental Protection Agency  
  • National Science Foundation  
  • Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
  • Smithsonian Institution  
  • National Archives and Records Administration
White House Team

Dr. Gretchen Goldman
Assistant Director for Environmental Science, Engineering, Policy, and Justice, OSTP

‘Aulani Wilhelm
Assistant Director for Ocean Conservation, OSTP

Larry Hinzman
Assistant Director for Polar Sciences

Haley Case-Scott
Policy Assistant, OSTP and Vice-Chair of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge Working Group

Raychelle Aluaq Daniel
Deputy Director of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee Policy and Advisor for Indigenous Knowledge, OSTP

Justin Pidot
General Council, CEQ

Dominic Maione
Deputy Director for Species and Conservation, CEQ
Developing Guidance for Federal Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge

• Focus areas of:
  1. Definitions, examples, and background
  2. Collaboration and relationship building
  3. Data sovereignty, confidentiality, and right to decline
  4. Relationship with western science, research methods
  5. Federal laws, regulations, and processes

• We anticipate the guidance will:
  • Provide an overview of Indigenous Knowledge,
  • Address the importance of growing and maintaining relationships with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to support Indigenous Knowledge, and
  • Identify statutory authorities and practices that can assist agencies to protect and apply Indigenous Knowledge and collaborate with the Tribes and Indigenous Peoples who possess it.
Tribal Consultation & Engagement

• Tribal Consultation Session

  • When: Thursday, September 22, 2022, 3:00-5:00 pm EDT

  • Who: Tribal Leaders and Tribal Representatives

  • Written comments can be submitted to ITEK@ostp.eop.gov by EOD October 11, 2022.
Questions to Guide Input

• What are specific aspects of the proposed Guidance topics that would help ensure the appropriate consideration of Indigenous Knowledge in Federal decision making?
• What are specific practices related to the Guidance that would enhance the effective and appropriate elevation of Indigenous Knowledge in Federal decision making?
• What are some opportunities that are particularly relevant to your Tribal Nation for Federal agencies to consider Indigenous Knowledge in decision making?
• In Highly Influential Scientific Assessments, like the National Climate Assessment, the Federal government is required to ensure conclusions are supported by evidence of appropriate quality. How should Indigenous Knowledge be evaluated for applications in such scientific assessments?[1]

Thank you!

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