A leader in the Pacific Northwest and the highest levels of the U.S. federal government, Roy Sampsel possesses an exceptional ability to make the most of the opportunities he finds and to help others do the same.
Roy Hunter Sampsel is honored for his work on indigenous governance and environmental stewardship in the Pacific Northwest and at the highest levels of the U.S. federal government. Today, Roy provides counsel to tribal governments and federal and state agencies in the development of fish and wildlife programs. In his long history of such service, he has become a highly respected and beloved mentor and leader to many. Roy describes himself as lucky to have been present and involved in some historic changes in indigenous governance and environmental stewardship.

“A big part of my story was just blind luck. I was fortunate enough to move out to the Northwest in the early 50s when there was a regional tribal marketplace along the entire Columbia River. This whole area was inundated by the construction of the Dalles Dam, prior to the tribes asserting the fishing rights and other rights to the river. I had the luck to be there as a young man and see it in person.

“For me, this experience was a grounding point; when I had discussions about tribal and governmental co-management, I had that foundational base about why it was important. The flooding was such a traumatic cultural and historic loss.”
Roy possesses an exceptional ability to make the most of the opportunities he finds and to help others do the same. Roy has been a trailblazer in advancing federally recognized tribal fishing rights. As Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Roy led the way in establishing tribal fishing rights and winning vastly greater protection for the Columbia River watershed.

From 1981 to 1983, in the Department of the Interior, Roy served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. Roy recently stepped
down as Director of the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University and today is the Executive Director of a natural resource management firm in Portland.

“The ability to share knowledge and power lets leadership grow. Leadership is not necessarily individually achieved. I share whatever recognition I am given with others who were willing to share with me, and those who were able to inspire that ability to pursue change.”

Mentorship has been a strong force in Roy’s life. He credits Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton with giving him the opportunity to lend a hand in the formative days of federal environmental regulation.

Tribal leaders have offered great inspiration and support. Roy names Lucy Covington, a Colville woman and a famous adversary of the termination of indigenous rights, as one example of a mentor who was especially generous to him with her time and encouragement. She made the time to take him out for coffee, ask him direct questions about his work, and tell him that she thought he was turning into a fine young man and to keep working hard.
During his childhood in Oklahoma, Roy’s grandmother was a powerful influence. “She was a woman who shared that sense of history, and why it was important to be who you were. Those were lessons that I hope I’ve been able to live up to over the course of my life.”

Colleagues, friends, and the many others Roy has mentored over the years agree that Roy lives up to his ideals of mentorship and leadership. He has helped many people with their missions of environmental stewardship and has inspired many more to become leaders in their own ways.

On mentorship, Roy says, “The ability to share knowledge and power lets leadership grow. Leadership is not necessarily individually achieved. I share whatever recognition I am given with others who were willing to share with me, and those who were able to inspire that ability to pursue change. It’s my continuing responsibility to share
what I can with those that I can. I hope that what I’ve been able to share has had a lasting benefit.”

Roy’s work has had great benefits so far, and his impacts on the world and especially on those around him are sure to last for many years to come.

On November 14, 2014, Roy Sampsel and four others were honored at the 12th annual Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in a private ceremony at the Portland Art Museum. Find out more about the award at ecotrust.org/ila.

Categories Fisheries, Native Communities
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Tags indigenous leaders, policy

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Quaempts has shown visionary leadership in structuring the Umatilla tribes’ natural resource department around their First Foods, which are deeply ingrained in tribal religion, traditions, and cultural rituals.

Eric Quaempts, director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
Indian Reservation Department of Natural Resources and a Yakama tribal member of Umatilla and Yakama descent, has shown visionary leadership in integrating traditional ecological and cultural knowledge with scientific practice to guide natural resource management.

Quaempts (pronounced kw·EH·mps) has amassed almost 30 years of experience in the greater Umatilla and Walla Walla Basins, beginning as a wildlife biologist and growing into a groundbreaking director who has spearheaded a radically different approach to how he and his staff organize their work.

Specifically, he has structured the Umatilla tribes’ natural resource department around what the tribal community knows as First Foods – water, salmon (fish), deer (big game species), cous (roots), and berries – which are deeply ingrained in tribal religion, traditions, and cultural rituals. The First Foods serving order, which mirrors the order in which the foods promised themselves to people in the tribal creation myth, forms the heart of this tradition.

“The First Foods serving order is an elegant and powerful ritual that reminds us not only of the promises the foods made to take care of the people, but our reciprocal responsibility to take care of the foods,” Quaempts says. This approach to natural resources has resonated with tribal community members, their partners, United States tribes, federal and state agencies, and other indigenous communities, from Washington to Australia and Chile.
Quaempts was raised within a family that was very active in the community. His father was involved in the Washat, or Seven Drum religion, on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and he and his cohorts, including Atway Louie Dick, his wife Marie Dick, and Steve Sohappy, indirectly and directly reinforced the importance of First Foods to Quaempts throughout his life. His father’s artwork, across diverse mediums, from oil paintings to sculpture, frequently includes First Foods.

“He was inspirational,” reflects Quaempts. “Even after he passed, those First Foods themes and his work helped me get to the mission we have today.”

Quaempts earned his Bachelor of Science in wildlife science from Oregon State University, completed graduate-level course work at Colorado State University in fire and land management, and then worked for eight years as a wildlife biologist for the US Forest Service out of Walla Walla — doing everything from a radio telemetry study of elk to monitoring bird habitat, surveying fish habitat, and learning range management principles, fire management, and National Environmental Policy Act planning and analysis. In 1995, Quaempts joined the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to...
continue work as a wildlife biologist and take on increasing leadership and responsibility for strategic planning and project fundraising.

In 2004, Quaempts became director of the department of natural resources, and in 2005, he unveiled his plan to organize the department’s mission, organizational structure, and goals around protecting, restoring, and enhancing the First Foods. The approach takes a holistic view of the span of natural resources, looking beyond water and fisheries to big game, the women’s foods—roots and berries—and the ecosystems upon which they depend. “We don’t want to see our cous or huckleberries on the threatened or endangered list before anyone does something about them. That’s what happened with salmon,” he says.
The First Foods approach also values cultural knowledge by blending scientific field investigations with archaeological and ethnographic research, historical documents, and oral history data to inform population and habitat management goals, policies, and regulatory mechanisms. Placing current scientific data in historic context gives the tribes a powerful tool for looking forward and facing the impacts of climate change.

The First Foods paradigm informs every aspect of Quaempts’ work. He encouraged the tribal health center to incorporate First Foods concepts into health promotion programs to help combat food-related diseases like diabetes that are over-represented in tribal communities. And he continues to advocate for a First Foods-based education curriculum for the Nixyaawii Community School.

Recognition of his leadership and collaborative spirit is growing. As a member of the grant-making Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board since 2009, Quaempts in 2013 became the first tribal representative to serve as co-chair. In 2011, he was honored with the Potlatch Fund’s Billy Frank Jr. Natural Resource Protection Award.

He says: “First Foods is an aboriginal system that incorporates people into ecology, something western resource management has always struggled to do.” His eagerness to share and ability to act on his vision are helping his community regain a powerful sense of place, purpose, and cultural continuity.
On November 14, 2014, Eric Quaempts and four others were honored at the 12th annual Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in a private ceremony at the Portland Art Museum. Find out more about the award at ecotrust.org/ila.

Categories Ecosystem Services, Food and Farms, Native Communities
Published October 31, 2014

Tags indigenous leaders, salmon

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Pedaling soup with
McPhee has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the economic prosperity of her Tahltan Nation people, while protecting their lands and way of life in northwestern British Columbia.

Annita McPhee is an accomplished professional and indigenous
As a three-term President of the Tahltan Central Council (TCC), the administrative governing body representing the Tahltan Nation, Annita worked on behalf of the nation through some of the most challenging and exciting times in its history. The abundance of natural resources in the nation has brought overwhelming interest in resource development by government and industry. Annita has worked diligently to negotiate agreements with industry and the BC Government on revenue sharing and shared decision making processes to ensure that the Tahltan people shape development in their territory. She

leader who has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the economic prosperity of her Tahltan Nation people, while protecting their lands and way of life in northwestern British Columbia.

She embraces a respectful, balanced, and mutually beneficial approach to economic development in Aboriginal communities: responsible resource development respects Aboriginal title and rights.
Annita was instrumental in negotiating more than $2 billion worth of agreements on behalf of the Tahltan Nation for BC Hydro’s Northwest Transmission Line and AltaGas’ run of river projects.

Annita has also played an integral role in helping to permanently protect the Sacred Headwaters region of British Columbia, in the heart of Tahltan territory, from resource development. The region, centered around Mount Klappan, is the headwaters for three salmon-bearing rivers essential to the sustenance of the Tahltan people — the Nass, Stikine, and Skeena.

Annita lead a coalition that convinced Shell Oil to withdraw its plan to drill for coalbed methane on Klappan, and worked to halt Fortune Minerals’ planned open pit coal mine on the same mountain. She continues to work with the province of British Columbia to outline a collective long-term land use vision for the headwaters area.

Her thoughtful, globally-aware stance on economic development attracted the attention of James Anaya, the United Nation’s Special Rapporteur on the rights of Aboriginal peoples, who visited with Annita in 2013. “I am inspired by the teachings and courage of my Elders from the Klabona Keepers, who through their commitment to the land have brought international awareness to protecting our Sacred Headwaters,” Annita says.
The Tahltan Social Cultural Working Group’s innovative approach earned the Premier’s Award for the Province of BC in 2013.

Annita holds a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Victoria, and studied Public Relations at BCIT. Early in her career, Annita worked with First Nations people and organizations throughout British Columbia to provide legal assistance, fundraising, business development, and substance addiction and family support.

She was named a National Native Role Model in 2000 by former BC Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, for her commitment to
community service and aboriginal youth.

She now consults with industry and First Nations working to find common ground in energy and resource development. She became the first Aboriginal woman named to the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada board and is a member of the Vancouver Board of Trade’s Aboriginal Affairs Committee and BC Hydro’s Strategic Aboriginal Engagement Committee.

Chief Rick McLean, of the Tahltan Band Council, says: “Annita never fails to impress me with her commitment to our people and land.”

*On November 14, 2014, Annita McPhee and four others were honored at the 12th annual Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in a private ceremony at the Portland Art Museum. Find out more about the award at [ecotrust.org/ila](http://ecotrust.org/ila).*

**Categories** Native Communities

Published October 28, 2014

**Tags**

british columbia, economic development, indigenous leaders
As an artist and then leader among BC coastal First Nations, Sterritt demonstrates a great and rare ability to identify what ought to be done and then to do it.

By Clara Sachsse
Art Sterritt has brought together an astoundingly wide range of people in support of social and environmental well-being in the coastal Great Bear Rainforest region of British Columbia and beyond. As a founder of the Coastal First Nations: Great Bear Initiative, and as its Executive Director since 2004, Art has rallied together First Nations and other indigenous groups, environmental groups, industrialists, unions, and municipal and provincial governments, all while directly forwarding the interests of the 20,000 members of the Coastal First Nations.

From 2001 to 2005, as Executive Director of the Gitga’at Development Corporation, Art supported innovative and balanced business initiatives in forestry, fishing, and community education and fostered sustainable prosperity in the Gitga’at community.

Art demonstrates a great and rare ability to identify what ought to be done and then to do it. Where others might think in terms of what’s been done and in terms of merely minimizing damage, he finds ways to think outside established paradigms and create new balances between people and the land. His colleagues agree that Art exemplifies great courage in the face of exceptionally tough adversaries and challenges.
Art started his working life as an artist specializing in painting screens and woodcarving. His leadership roles gradually took over as his primary work starting in the 1980s, as he served as a board member of the BC Indian Arts and Crafts Society and then as a board member of the Northern Native Fishing Corporation. In various leadership roles, Art helped combine traditional stewardship principles with modern scientific innovation to strengthen the economics and ecology of communities along the BC coast.

After serving as the President of the Tsimshian Tribal Council and President of the Northern Coast Tribal Council, Art became Treaty
Commissioner and a founding member of the BC Treaty Commission. As chief negotiator for the Gitga’at First Nation from 1995 to 2005, Art won the protection of the Gitga’at Aboriginal Rights and Title and negotiated landmark agreements on forestry and land rights.

The Great Bear Rainforest includes 21 million acres of coastal temperate rainforest and is home to over 40,000 people, over half of whom are First Nations. It stands today as an incredibly valuable and uniquely protected area, largely thanks to Art’s work. Conservationist Bruce Hill called the Great Bear Agreement “one of the most celebrated and important conservation victories in Canada’s history.” To date, with Art’s persistence, a vast and diverse network of allies has been able to block a tar sands pipeline and oil tanker shipping routes from coming through the Great Bear region. The struggle for protection continues today, with Art on the front lines.
Art and his wife have three children and have fostered two more; many of their sixteen grandchildren now live in the Great Bear Rainforest.

On November 14, 2014, Arthur Williams Sterritt and four others were honored at the 12th annual Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in a private ceremony at the Portland Art Museum. Find out more about the award at ecotrust.org/ila.

Categories Ecological Forestry, Native Communities
Published October 23, 2014

Tags british columbia, indigenous leaders

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For nearly twenty years, she has helped the Chumash Nation reestablish a connection to its canoeing and seafaring roots, while actively pursuing ways to give tribal people a voice in marine planning in California.
“I’m a facilitator,” says Roberta Cordero. “I love to help people come together and talk, say what they need to say without fear, and know that they are heard and understood.”

For more than twenty years, Roberta has been bringing indigenous voices to the table throughout the state of California — both together over their shared heritage and in conversation with state and federal agencies around the state’s marine planning efforts.

Growing up in Santa Barbara, Roberta’s love for the ocean was established at a young age and, in the days before the boogie board was invented, she spent time with her family body-surfing and riding the waves on old-style canvas blow-up mattresses. Reflecting traditional values, her family was “ahead” of the times in other ways.

“My family was supportive and encouraging to me as a young woman,” she says. “My father, especially, told me that I could do what I wanted with my life and that being a woman had nothing to do with keeping me back.”

Eventually moving away from the California coastline of her youth, Roberta found herself in Seattle, where she raised her five children, graduated music and then law school, and began her path as a mediator and facilitator. But always the ocean was calling to her.

“I was like a little lemming running out to the ocean whenever I had a chance — keeping tabs and realizing over time the kind of degradation that was happening.”
As she was pulled to reconnect with her Chumash heritage and an earth-based spirituality, she started connecting with Native communities in the Pacific Northwest and, as fate would have it, attended the first Paddle to Bella Bella in 1993.

“That was a real life-changing event. It brought so many things together for me about how cultures form and how spirituality is connected to the place you live,” she says “My favorite definition for ‘culture’ is ‘how we do things around here.’ In other words, each place will allow you to behave only in certain ways if you want to survive, and those ways become the culture of the place.”

Following the Paddle to Bella Bella, Roberta and her daughter, Julie, moved back to their Chumash homeland. From the Northwest canoe nations, they bore a message
to build a traditional canoe and an invitation to join the canoe nations in Tribal Journeys.

With other like-minded Chumash, they did build a *tomol* — a traditional Chumash redwood plank canoe — funded by a grant from NOAA. ‘Elye’wun (Swordfish) was launched in 1997. The same year, Roberta, her daughter, and four others founded the nonprofit Chumash Maritime Association in order to hold the tomol’s ownership on behalf of all Chumash as well as to promulgate the revitalization of indigenous maritime culture. Although a few tomols had been built during the 20th century, ‘Elye’wun was the first to be owned by Chumash people in generations.

On September 8, 2001, the tomol made her first Santa Barbara Channel crossing to *Limuw* (aka Santa Cruz Island), regarded as an origin place for Chumash. She was greeted by about 150 Chumash individuals, families, and friends, most of whom were in this sacred place for the first time. Old connections were renewed and new ones forged. This has now become an annual event that continues to foster ongoing renewal of language, art, song, dance, and lasting friendships.

“Some of our young people were very small children when we started this journey thirteen years ago; they are the first generation in a long time that can take having canoes for granted,” Roberta says.
Roberta was invited to sit on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, providing the first indigenous voice for the Council from 2000 to 2003. Through her advocacy, a full Chumash council seat was added, which has now been actively occupied for more than ten years. From there, her involvement in the protection of marine and coastal areas grew. From 2008 to 2011 she was a tribal representative for the South Coast Regional Stakeholders Group of California’s Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) and then the only tribal member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for MLPAI’s process in Northern California — all the while bringing
additional Native voices to the conversation and continuing her role as a mediator and facilitator professionally. Most of her path-finding for Chumash and other California Native groups she has done as a volunteer.

When asked what her hopes are for the next generation of native leaders, Roberta says, “It’s critically important for the young leaders to be deeply connected to their homelands, to the place where they live now. I hope for them that leadership will come out of that connection.”

She continues, “In my view, it is not enough to learn how to make the beautiful traditional artifacts of our ancestors. We must know the natural resources intimately and then take care of the places where they are. These go hand in hand.”

In addition, she says, she sincerely hopes one or two of her grandkids will become marine biologists.

*On November 14, 2014, Roberta Cordero and four others were honored at the 12th annual Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in a private ceremony at the Portland Art Museum. Find out more about the award at [ecotrust.org/ila](http://ecotrust.org/ila).*

**Categories** Marine Planning, Native Communities

Published October 21, 2014
2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Awardee: Clarence Alexander

“You know what I want? I want clean water. It's as simple as that.”
—Clarence Alexander

Clarence Alexander is honored as the recipient of the 2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his many years of work advocating for environmental justice, tribal rights and protection of the Yukon River Watershed. He is a respected leader with indigenous values, strong coalition building skills and extraordinary vision. Alexander is Dranjik Gwich’in and lives in Fort Yukon, Alaska.

As one of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council's four founders, Alexander oversaw the coming together and consensus decision-making of sixty sovereign governments bound together by treaty. The council has worked to clean up solid wastes, introduce recycling in over forty Native communities and institute a program of river monitoring on the Yukon. In addition, the council has effectively pressed the U.S. Department of Defense to begin clean up of several military contaminant sites in Alaska.

As a co-founder of the Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed Council, Alexander advocates for clean up of the Yukon River and its tributaries, including Canada. The Yukon River is one of the largest watersheds in North America. Its headwaters are in the mountains of British Columbia and it empties into the Bering Sea.

Alexander is also a co-founder of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments. The council localized management of inter-tribal regional programs including natural resource management and tribal health funding. This localization resulted in improved health care, increased tribal oversight of federal land management and greater control of programs such as housing, education and environmental quality.

As former Grand Chief of the Gwich'in peoples, Alexander gathered seventeen tribes to discuss oil development's threat to the caribou and Gwich'in people. Discussion of these threats generated a unified stand of Tribal Chiefs on oil development in the region and increased awareness of threats to community quality of life in the Yukon River Watershed. Alexander also appointed spokespersons to the concurrently formed Gwich'in Steering Committee to address oil development. That committee continues to influence Congress with respect to concerns about oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
Alexander is currently Chairman of the Gwichyaa Zhee Corporation. He has served on the River Network Board since 2001 and was on the Board of the Alaska Humanities Forum. Alexander served as the Chief of Fort Yukon from 1980 to 1994. He is a founder of KZPA 900 AM Gwandak Radio and served as Chairman in the 1990s. In recognition of his leadership, the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University interviewed him to become part of the Great Tribal Leaders curriculum.

Alexander worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for twenty years. He also served for sixteen years in the National Guard. Clarence and Virginia Alexander are nearing completion of their work on a Gwich'in Athabascan-English dictionary.
2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award
Awardee: Chairman W. Ron Allen

“We must never neglect our rights to self-government, culture and our spiritual values. We are the people of this land and we stand ready to protect it in every way.”
—Chairman W. Ron Allen

Chairman W. Ron Allen is honored as the recipient of the 2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his work in the fields of tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and governmental responsibilities at both the regional and national levels. He has also worked with great vision and dedication to advance the political, cultural and economic interests of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe.

Chairman Allen’s regional and national leadership spans several decades of contribution and dedication. He has served as a long-term representative on numerous tribal governance organizations such as the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. From 1990 to 1996, he co-chaired the National Indian Policy Center at George Washington University. Chairman Allen presently serves as a delegate to the Point No Point Treaty Council, commissioner to the US-Canada Pacific Salmon Commission and co-chair of the Washington Coalition for Self Reliance. He is also president of the Washington Indian Gaming Association.

For over 15 years, Chairman Allen has served the National Congress of American Indians in a number of leadership positions, including president from 1995 to 1999. His responsibilities have included the facilitation of national tribal leadership forums to develop tribal government priorities and strategic planning efforts in working with the White House and Congress.

Since 1977, W. Ron Allen has served as Tribal Chairman for the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. Under his leadership, the Tribe has moved from “no federal recognition” to its present status as a recognized and highly esteemed sovereign nation. The Tribe also went from a landless reservation base to a land base of approximately 800 acres.

Chairman Allen has also served as Executive Director of the Tribe since 1982. In this role, he is responsible for the administration of all the Tribe’s programs including education, career development, social services, housing, health, economic development, natural resource management and cultural/traditional affairs.
Since 2003, Chairman Allen has served as a representative on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Tribal Technical Advisory Group. He also serves on the Olympic Memorial Hospital Foundation Board. From 1994 to 1996, he served as the founding chairman of the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State and continues to participate as a Tribal representative.

Chairman Allen serves on The Institute for Tribal Government Policy Board at Portland State University. He holds a double BA from the University of Washington in Political Science and Economics. Chairman Allen currently resides in Sequim, Washington.
"Today we human beings face the biggest of obstacles, and so the greatest of challenges to our creativity and responsibility. Let us begin with courage and without limitation, and we will come up with surprising solutions."

—Jeannette Armstrong

Jeannette Armstrong is honored as the recipient of the 2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her work as a community leader, educator and indigenous rights activist. She is a member of the Okanagan Nation and currently resides in Penticton, British Columbia, Canada. Armstrong plans to use the fellowship to restore the land surrounding the En’owkin Centre through the replanting of native and traditional medicine plants.

Armstrong currently serves as Executive Director of the En’owkin Centre, located in the Penticton Reserve. This indigenous cultural, educational, ecological and creative arts post-secondary institution practices and implements indigenous knowledge and systems. The school is affiliated with the University of Victoria.

Armstrong also serves as consultant to the Center for Ecoliteracy in Berkley, California. This foundation fosters education that leads to sustainable patterns of living. She has served as a consultant to other environmental and social change organizations including the Esalen Institute, Omega Institute, Center for Creative Change and World Institute for Humanities at Salado.

As an indigenous rights activist, Armstrong serves as an international observer to the Continental Coordinating Commission of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations. She was also appointed one of seven Indigenous Judges to the First Nations Court of Justice called by the Chiefs of Ontario and to the Council of Listeners in the International Testimonials on Violations of Indigenous Sovereignty for the United Nations.

Armstrong has served on various international councils and working groups on a wide variety of issues. She has addressed conferences and assemblies at universities in Japan, Moscow, Switzerland, Germany, New Zealand as well as the USA and Canada. Armstrong is also currently serving on the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and recently served as a representative to the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan.

She is also a visual artist and author of a number of books, scripts and a collection of poetry. Armstrong’s books include Slash, Native Creative Process, Breathtracks and Whispering in Shadows. She has also published numerous articles on the impacts of globalization. Her work includes a local storytelling TV mini-series and a Vision TV talk show, Arts Express.
Armstrong received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria in 1978 and recently received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from St. Thomas University, Fredericton. She is a fluent speaker of the Okanagan language and has studied traditional teachings for many years under the direction of the Okanagan elders.
Kelly Brown is honored as the recipient of the 2002 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his work as a negotiator, planner and educator in the areas of cultural restoration and conservation. Brown will use the Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award fellowship to continue his work on Aboriginal title issues and enrich his professional accreditation in Aboriginal Law.

For six years, Brown worked as a Senior Negotiator for the Heiltsuk Tribal Council. He participated in treaty negotiations with the province of British Columbia and the federal government of Canada. Brown worked on a research methodology framework called the Heiltsuk Cultural Landscape Assessment that helped support Heiltsuk title and rights to the territory. He spearheaded the project by convening meetings with external experts in ecosystem-based science, land-use and First Nations culture.

Over the past year, Kelly Brown has dedicated much of his time to developing a Heiltsuk-led cedar protection strategy. The strategy identifies key principles that must be followed in the harvesting and conservation of cedar in the Heiltsuk Territory and states the objectives of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council with respect to the harvesting and conservation of the cedar resource.

While Brown has invested large amounts of his professional time towards conservation-based development in the Heiltsuk Territory, he has spent a significant amount of his personal time nurturing Aboriginal cultural development. Brown has been working the past few years with the Ainu of Japan on asserting Aboriginal rights, title and culture in their own homeland.

Brown previously worked as an Instructor at Heiltsuk College and a teacher at Seabird Island Community School. He received a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia in 1993.

Kelly Brown is a member of the Heiltsuk Nation and was recently elected to the Heiltsuk Tribal Council. He resides in Waglisla (known as Bella Bella) on the central coast of British Columbia with his wife Fran. They have three children and three grandchildren.
2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Susan "Tweet" Burdick

"I am living as a traditional Yurok woman should live, doing what I should be doing; taking care of our precious elders, guiding and teaching the children about being Indian in this part of the country."

—Susan Burdick

Susan Burdick is honored as a finalist for the 2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in Conservation for her community work in the areas of cultural rejuvenation and environmental health. Susan is a member of the Yurok Tribe and lives in Salyer, California.

Susan is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to improve identification and conservation management practices of endangered medicinal plants and significant basket materials. Last spring, Susan was elected as a member of the esteemed Elders Circle for the Medicinal Plants Working Group in conjunction with U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Susan is a co-founder of the Northern Californian Basketweavers and Gatherers Project. As a project leader for this organization, she has spoken at community meetings and national conferences on the issues of environmental health and cultural rejuvenation. Susan is also working independently on cultural issues in numerous forums.

Susan was a founding member of the California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA). She helped shape CIBA’s mission to address the dangers posed to basketweavers by the use of pesticides and halt their use on public and private lands.

Susan has taught basket weaving at Humboldt State University for over eleven years. She also taught traditional twined basket weaving at the College of the Redwoods Eureka Extension Branch and in McKinleyville.

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2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Susan "Tweet" Burdick
2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Awardee: Phillip Cash Cash

Wáaqo’ ʼew’něhpi’t’e keyóx
hišhaplátisha Ki’u ʼinim hěshinpa kaa
tim’népe ʼinim titogatímtki
"Now, I am bringing forward that which is blooming like flowers here in my breath and in my heart — my indigenous language."
-Phillip E. Cash Cash

Phillip E. Cash Cash (formerly Phillip E. Minthorn, Jr.) is honored as the recipient of the 2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in Conservation for his language preservation work among the Sahaptian speaking peoples of the southern Columbia Plateau. Phillip will use the fellowship to continue his language documentation work, elder outreach and cultural research for the Tamastslik Cultural Institute.

Indigenous communities throughout the Northwest are experiencing language loss as a result of a diminished use of language, losing aged fluent speakers, and children not learning the language. Phillip’s work will help document these endangered languages and assist in language revitalization efforts at the community level. Languages he is most committed to working with are Nez Perce, Sahaptin, Cayuse, Klamath, Chinook Jargon and other Oregon languages.

As part of his language preservation work, Phillip made significant contributions to the Tamastslik Cultural Institute’s sixty exhibit text panels that include historical stories about the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. His linguistic research has also made valuable insights towards understanding Nez Perce language use and history. Language materials researched as part of the Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award fellowship will be deposited at the Tamastslik Cultural Institute.

Phillip is currently working on his doctoral requirements in the Joint Ph.D Program in Anthropology and Linguistics at the University of Arizona. Previous to pursuing an advanced degree, he has had over ten years of experience working in the Native community in the areas of anthropology, repatriation and cultural research. His most rewarding experience has been his work as a research consultant at the Tamastslik Cultural Institute and as a Museum Specialist at the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.
Phillip is a speaker of Nez Perce and is a Cayuse/Nez Perce tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon. Phillip has served his Tribal community not only in language preservation but also through his work in fine arts, oral history collection, archaeological field work, conservation and historical research.
2012 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Brian Cladoosby

Chairman Brian Cladoosby of the Swinomish Tribe from coastal Washington is honored as a finalist for the 2012 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his exceptional skill in strengthening economic and environmental conditions among Coast Salish tribal communities. His dedication to developing a holistic voice for all members of 66 Coast Salish tribes and nations has bridged tribal boundaries, strengthening efforts to protect indigenous human rights and to restore the region from ecological degradation. He has served the Swinomish Tribal Senate for 28 years and has been elected chairman for the past sixteen consecutive years.

As a fisherman, Cladoosby has a strong connection to the salmon from which Coast Salish tribes draw their livelihood. Of his own tribe, he says, "Swinomish always has been and always will be a fishing tribe." Echoed in this statement is the Chairman’s commitment to protect the environment and natural resources, while ensuring the prosperity of an age-old traditional industry for future generations. The sustenance of these resources for tribal culture and health is of utmost importance.

Chairman Cladoosby and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community share a common goal: to develop a strong economic development plan that supports members’ way of life. The tribe committed to this plan when they purchased the formerly leased Swinomish Fish Company in 2009. The Swinomish Fish Company, one of two remaining canneries in western Washington, represents a tribal investment that ensures that all fishermen, tribal and non-tribal, have the ability to maintain their livelihood.

Brian’s vision and hard work, along with the help of tribal elders and the community, have increased the Swinomish Fish Company’s annual revenue from $3 million in 2009 to $14 million in 2011, bringing economic development back into the hands of tribal communities. Swinomish Fish Company has also increased inter-tribal cooperation in the Pacific Northwest, Canada and Alaska through its purchases of nearly 22 tribes’ fish and seafood resources. By creating the Native Catch seafood brand, Cladoosby has added value to all tribal fishing communities and created a positive image of Indian country seafood processing.
Under the Chairman's leadership, economic activity has thrived in the Swinomish community with nearly 750 people involved in tribal enterprise. In 2011, Cladoosby was honored with the American Indian Tribal Leader Award at the Reservation Economic Summit & American Indian Business Trade Fair for his exceptional achievements.

Cladoosby has been a strong supporter of the Coast Salish Gathering, a platform that brings together tribal and non-tribal governing bodies to develop innovative policies to protect the environment and natural resources. In 2008, he helped organize the Tribal Journey Water Quality Project in collaboration with the Coast Salish Western Washington Tribes, British Columbia First Nations, and the U.S. Geological Survey to map 607 miles of coastline along the Salish Sea. The initiative coupled traditional tribal ecological knowledge with modern technological equipment, as participants towed state-of-the-art water quality probes and global positioning systems (GPS) in canoes. These efforts were honored in 2009 by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and earned the Coast Salish Gathering the Partners in Conservation Award. The Coast Salish Nation owns the data collected through this project, emphasizing the importance of indigenous autonomy in environmental protection efforts.

When President Obama held the first government-to-government meeting of his presidency in 2010, Brian Cladoosby was selected from a pool of 571 candidates as one of twelve tribal leaders to attend. His eminent career as a spokesman for the preservation of indigenous culture and the development of economic opportunity for Coast Salish tribes makes Cladoosby a distinguished choice for this honor. A visionary dedicated to serving the needs of his people, Brian brings together a strong focus on environmental stewardship, productive dialogue, and spiritual connectedness.

Brian and his wife of 33 years, Nina, live in La Conner, Washington. They have two daughters, LaVonne and Mary, granddaughter Isabella and new grandson, Nathanael.
Janeen Comenote is a 2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honoree for her continued leadership in improving the lives of urban Indian families in Seattle, and national guidance educating and informing others of the needs of urban indigenous people. Janeen lives in Seattle WA. She is Hesquiaht and Kwakiutl First Nation from her mother's side and Oglala Lakota and enrolled Quinault from her father's side. Born and raised in Seattle, the conditions facing urban Indians are familiar to her, as a child she spent a lot of time attending events at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center. She has spent the last 10 years advocating for American Indians/Alaska Native who live off reservations and endeavoring to provide a voice to this often “silent majority” in Indian Country.

For the last 12 years Janeen has been employed by the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF) in Seattle, WA in a variety of positions spanning street youth counseling, Indian Child Welfare advocacy, foster home licensing, poverty reduction/research, local coalition building and currently, development. She is also a founding member and Director for the National Urban Indian Family Coalition.

In 2003, through her work with urban Indian families, she saw the need for urban Indian centers to find ways to collaborate to improve services to Native American children and families nationwide, prompting her to initiate the creation of the National Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUIFC). The NUIFC is a growing national coalition representing 24 urban Indian centers in 19 cities, several Native American organizations and more than 860,000 Native Americans living away from their traditional land base. The NUIFC is headquartered at the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation in Seattle, WA.

Janeen is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Tomorrow, a regional leadership program, a 1999 alumni of the prestigious Americans for Indian Opportunity Ambassador program, is a Kellogg Fellow and was chosen and highlighted in the November 2008 edition of O magazine for her participation in Women Rule; 80 Women Who Could Change America, a joint project between the White House Project and Oprah magazine. As such she is also highlighted in Oprah Winfrey's book Dream Big: O's Guide to Discovering Your Best Life. In 2007, she was awarded the Fran James Cultural Preservation award by the Potlatch Fund.

Janeen presented urban Indian issues at the United Nation’s World Urban Forum, the Council on...
Foundations and the National Conference of State Legislatures. She is currently working towards bridging urban Indigenous peoples in Canada, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand and has been invited to present at the 2010 U.N. World Urban Forum in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Additionally, she has been a Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Seattle, worked on several documentary films and written a screenplay. She sits on the Board of Directors for the Washington State Children’s Alliance, Washington Indian Civil Rights Commission and the Chief Seattle Club.
2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award
Awardee: Roberta (Bobbie) Conner

“Culture brings us together. Culture reflects our values. It’s what we hold closest to our hearts and cling to in times of need.”
—Roberta Conner

Roberta Conner is the honored recipient of the 2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her work representing the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) as a community and national leader, museum director, curator, speaker and author. She is an enrolled member of the CTUIR and her ancestry is Umatilla, Cayuse and Nez Perce. Conner currently resides in Pendleton, Oregon.

Since 1998, Conner has served as the Director of the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, which preserves, protects and promotes the culture of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla. This facility houses an interpretive center, library, photo archive, gallery and theater. Conner assisted with curation of the Many Nations Many Voices exhibit. From 2003 to 2006, the exhibit appeared at numerous venues including the University of Virginia, American Academy of Sciences, Denver Museum of Natural Sciences, and the Oregon Historical Society.

Conner is a well-published writer and lecturer on cultural preservation issues. Her idea to hold convocations of tribal elders, tribal and non-Indian scholars and tribal students resulted in a new tribal history book and the development of a Sahaptian language place names atlas that is due out in 2008. Conner also mentors young scholars who are interested in tribal cultural preservation by developing opportunities for them to work with well-known historians and authors on Tamástslikt projects.

Conner currently serves on the board of the Wallowa Homeland Project and the Oregon Cultural Trust as a special advisor for tribal issues. She also served as Vice-President of the National Council of the Lewis &Clark Bicentennial Board of Directors. She has previously served on numerous Boards and committees including the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission (2000 to 2004); Oregon Council for the Humanities Board (2000 to 2001) and the Governors Task Force for Cultural Development, Oregon (2000 to 2001).

Learn More
Roberta (Bobbie) Conner Bio (80kb pdf)
Roberta Conner Presentation on Leadership for Award Ceremony (1.5mb pdf)
Native America Calling: Indigenous Leadership program featuring Roberta Conner & Liz Woody (38mb mp3 download)
Hallie Ford Museum of Art Exhibition Selected for Oregon American Masterpieces Grant
Wiyaxayxt / Wiyaakaa’awn / As Days Go By: Our History, Our Land, Our People–The Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla
Roberta Conner (Contributor)
Tamástslikt director wins indigenous leadership prize ($5.2mb pdf)
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, September 27, 2007
Conner wins Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for leadership
Confederated Umatilla Journal, October 2007 (420kb pdf)
Tamásóstlikt director wins national award
The East Oregonian, October 14, 2007
Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award money to be used for cultural projects
Indian Country Today, November 26, 2007

“We have had to learn how to
From 1977 to 1982, Conner provided technical assistance to Indian education grantees in the Pacific Northwest for the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation in Seattle. She worked for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) from 1984 to 1997 in Denver and Sacramento as a Presidential Management Intern, Branch Manager and District Director.

In 1997, Conner came home and served as Tamástlít’k’s Chief Operating Officer. In this role, she also served as a liaison to the Oregon Native American Business and Entrepreneurial Network, Crow’s Shadow Art Institute and the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center. Conner also worked to set-up a business service center.

Conner attended the University of Oregon’s School of Journalism and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977. She also received a Master of Management in 1984 from the Atkinson Graduate School at Willamette University.

"be interpreters of our own culture"

The Daily Astorian, March 26, 2008
Native Perspectives on Sustainability
Interview with Bobbie Conner for dissertation by David Hall, Ph.D.
2002 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Carol Craig

Carol Craig is honored as a finalist for the 2002 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her work educating the public about tribal treaty rights. In her public education efforts, Craig has addressed many civic organizations and visited schools throughout the Pacific Northwest from kindergarten through college level classes. She has spoken on tribal treaty rights both regionally and nationally over the past 16 years.

Since 1995, Craig has worked as the Public Information Manager for the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Resource Management Program in Toppenish, Washington. She also currently writes, edits and takes photographs for the quarterly Yakama Nation publication Sin-Wit-Ki (All life on earth) and contributes to various tribal newspapers including the Yakama Nation Review and News From Indian Country.

In 1998, the Yakama Tribal Council requested that Craig provide assistance to the Makah Nation in working with the media after they announced they would revive their whale hunting tradition. She worked extensively on this issue in 1999 and continues to educate the public about the Makah whale hunt.

Formerly with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Portland, Oregon, Craig worked as the Tribal Information and Education Coordinator as well as contributing writer to Wana Chinook Tymoo (Columbia River fish stories). Craig was also the editor of the bi-weekly newssheet, Currents.

In 1992, Craig was among the first 13 tribal journalists to receive the Howard Simon Fellowship from the Society of Environmental Journalists. Carol Craig is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, Society of Environmental Journalists, Society of Professional Journalists, Washington Press Women and National Federation of Press Women. She is a graduate of Portland State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1994.

Craig serves as a mentor to Yakama tribal students who want to learn more about becoming a photographer and journalist. She serves as a Board of Director for the Salmon Corps and also sits on the Board for the Employees Club for the Yakama Nation.

Carol Craig is a Yakama tribal member. She is also part Puyallup, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Squaxin, Snohomish, Snoqualmie and Stillaquamish. Craig is a single mother, with two children and two grandchildren.
2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Carol Craig

“The Yakama people have used traditional environmental knowledge to guide the preservation of natural resources that continue to sustain us today.”

—Carol Craig

Carol Craig is an honored 2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her work educating the public about tribal treaty rights, salmon recovery and environmental protection. As part of her public education efforts over the past twenty years, Craig has addressed civic organizations, government employees and Pacific Northwest students from kindergarten through college. She is an enrolled Yakama Nation tribal member.

Since 1995, Craig has worked as the Public Information Manager for the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Resource Management Program in Toppenish, Washington. She also writes, edits and takes photographs for the Yakama Nation publication Sin-Wit-Ki. Craig has coordinated film projects about the tribe’s fisheries and wildlife programs. She served as a script consultant for the award-winning 2003 documentary, Sacred Salmon — A Gift to Sustain Life. In 2006, Craig was selected as one of the inaugural year speakers for the Conversations in Indian Country series at Willamette University, Salem, Oregon. She spoke on the topic of tribal sovereignty with Louie Pitt, Jr. of Warm Springs, Oregon.

Craig’s community service activities include giving her time both locally and regionally. She recently put together a photo essay for an Oregon Historical Quarterly special issue commemorating the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls. Craig serves on the Salmon Corps Board of Directors and on the KYNR Radio Advisory Board. She also serves as a mentor to Yakama tribal students who want to learn more about becoming a photographer and journalist.

In 1998, the Yakama Tribal Council requested that Craig provide assistance to the Makah Nation in working with the media after they announced they would revive their whale hunting tradition. She worked extensively on this issue at that time and continues to educate the public about the Makah whale hunt.

From 1986 to 1994, Craig worked for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) in Portland, Oregon as the Tribal Information and Education Coordinator. She also was a contributing writer to Wana Chinook Tymoo and edited an award winning in-house newsletter.
In 1993, Craig was among the first 13 tribal journalists to receive the Howard Simon Fellowship Award from the Society of Environmental Journalists. Her numerous awards include the CRITFC 2003 Spirit of Salmon Award for Education and a 2006 Enduring Spirit Award from the Native Action Network. Craig is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, Washington State Association of Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women.

Craig is a graduate of Portland State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1994. She raised two children as a single parent and has three grandchildren. In addition to being an enrolled Yakama tribal member, Craig is also part Puyallup, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Squaxin, Snohomish, Snoqualmie and Stillaquamish. She currently resides in the ceded area at Zillah, Washington.
2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Robi Michelle Craig

The 2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honors Robi Michelle Craig as a finalist for her efforts to improve the cultural, social, environmental and economic conditions of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. She is a member of the Kiks.adi Clan, Steel House of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (Tlingit). Robi Craig demonstrates innovative leadership, dedication to duty, and sensitive treatment of traditional Native knowledge in her work with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

Robi Craig is currently the Deputy General Manager of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. As a part of her job, she has secured grant project funding for the Tribe from a variety of sources including the National Park Service, University of Alaska, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Forest Service, US Department of Justice, US Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, the State of Alaska, the Federal Aviation Agency and the Administration for Native Americans.

Robi Craig is presently working on the Sockeye Salmon Traditional Ecological Knowledge project. She is gathering knowledge from Elders on the traditional use of Sockeye Salmon for each river in the tribal territory. This information is a unique baseline for the tribal biologist to measure the health of these rivers and Sockeye populations.

From 1996 to 2001, Robi Craig served as the Tribal Anthropologist. She collaborated with Elders to complete the Tribe's Tlingit Geographic Place Names of the Tribe's traditional territory. It is a multimedia, GIS mapping project that audio-visually recounts the tribe's traditional territory and all the clan salmon streams, hunting areas, campsites and archeological sites in the Tlingit language.

Robi Craig also assisted the tribal plant harvesters and the Sitka Tribal Council during the creation of the Tribe's Kayaani (traditional plant use) Commission. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Kayaani Commission brought Natives from all over Alaska to Sitka for a gathering to share their traditional knowledge of plants and to help guide the management of public lands.

As part of contract work with numerous organizations, Robi Craig has worked on traditional ecological knowledge documentation for the US Forest Service, a necropsy database conversion for The Alaska Sea Otter and Stellar Sea Lion Commission and a Toxins in Alaskan Foods Database for the Native American Fish and Wildlife Service.
Through her job as Tribal Deputy General Manager, Robi Craig is presently working on additional funding to help develop local businesses, an artist's market and the Sitka Tribal Tannery. Robi Craig has a BA in Anthropology from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and lives in Sitka, Alaska.
2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award
Finalist: Terry L. Cross

“We won’t ever forget the loss of our children, and frankly, we are still losing them in many places. But the time has come to heal.”
—Terry L. Cross (In response to a formal apology made to NICWA by the executive director of the Child Welfare League of America)

Terry L. Cross, “Hah-ne-ga-noh,” (Seneca Nation of Indians, Bear Clan) is honored as a 2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his lifelong work and steadfast commitment, vision, and passion to improving the lives of Indian children and families. Cross has done this by providing support and advocacy for Indigenous children, on and off of the reservation. His work provides the strongest, up-to-date information available to support child welfare staff. He has worked tirelessly to develop and improve child welfare programs and is an advocate at all levels of government for Indian children and families in the crafting and implementing of effective public policy. Terry is a noted teacher and the author of articles, books, and training materials that address Indian child welfare issues.

Terry Cross, MSW, ACSW, LCWS, was raised in Cassadaga, New York, and spent summers with his maternal grandparents at Red House on the Allegany Reservation. With the help of the Seneca Nation Educational Foundation, Cross attended and graduated from Grove City College in Pennsylvania. An apprenticeship in public child welfare inspired him to seek more training and information and led him to Portland State University on scholarship where he received a Master’s Degree in Social Work. His first post graduate job on the Allegheny Reservation with the Seneca Nation led him to compile and create much of the information needed to train others.

By 1982, Terry began training Indian child welfare workers across the Pacific Northwest. In 1983, the Northwest Indian Child Welfare Institute was officially opened, to provide culturally based instruction for those training tribal child welfare workers. After convening fifty tribal child welfare directors and Elders to develop a culturally sensitive plan, the Northwest Indian Child Welfare Association was born and in 1994 this organization became the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). It has been directed and led by Cross from its early beginnings. NICWA continues to train individuals in the United States and Canada, disseminating thousands of training curricula and child abuse prevention materials.

Terry Cross served on the faculty of Portland State University School of Social Work for fifteen
years. He has served on the Board of the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse and currently holds an appointment to the National Advisory Council at the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration. Terry has traveled internationally to make presentations in relation to child welfare work and has regularly visited the White House and Congress to advocate for Indian children and families.

Terry is the author of several curricula including *Heritage and Helping* and *Positive Indian Parenting*, and of a book, *Cross-Cultural Skills in Indian Child Welfare*. He has contributed numerous articles, chapters, and reports to the literature of Indian social work. Cross and NICWA are recognized throughout Indian country as *the* main source for understanding and tracking legislation that affects tribal children and families, for technical assistance, and for training tribal child welfare workers. Terry Cross has been honored for his decades of passionate commitment to Indian children and their families numerous times. In 1999 he was selected as the Portland State University Alumna of the Year. Cross was initiated in 1999 into the Kainai Chieftanship of the Blood Tribe of Canada, a high honor limited to forty living persons from around the world who advocate for people of the Blood Tribe and for First Nations people. Terry lives and works in Portland, Oregon.
LISTENING FOR NATIVE VOICES
(Native Writers' Workshop, Nome, Alaska)

- for Joy Harjo

"Trapped voices,
frozen
under sea ice of English,
buckle,
surging to be heard.
We say
'Trueen for sounds.
They are as important
as voices.'

Listen.
Listen.
Listen.
Listen."

— Nora Dauenhauer, April, 1984

Nora Marks Dauenhauer (Tlingit) is honored as a 2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her decades of work as an internationally recognized linguist, responsible for significant fieldwork, transcription, translation, and explication of Tlingit oral literature. Working with the Sealaska Heritage Foundation in Juneau, Alaska, where she served as Principal Researcher in Language and Cultural Studies, Nora has tirelessly documented the Tlingit language, collecting stories and folklore from elders. In books and articles, first person accounts of this rich heritage are now preserved and available for new generations of non-Tlingit speakers. Her creative writing — fiction, memoir, essay, poetry, and drama — has been widely published, anthologized, performed, recognized, and honored. Currently semiretired, Nora continues her research, writing, consulting, and volunteer work with schools and community.

Nora Dauenhauer was born in Juneau, Alaska, and raised in Juneau and Hoonah, as well as on her family's fishing boat and in seasonal subsistence sites around Icy Straits, Glacier Bay, and Cape Spencer in Alaska. Nora's first language is Tlingit. She began to learn English upon entering school.
at the age of eight, finishing a G.E.D., and going on to receive a B.A. in Anthropology from Alaska Methodist University. In 2001 she received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from the University of Alaska Southeast in recognition of her work as a linguist, creative writer, and teacher.

Nora and her husband, Richard Dauenhauer, also a writer and a former poet laureate of Alaska, are responsible for a lengthy list of articles and books that have appeared over the course of the last thirty years. Nora has worked with museums around the world to insure that accurate translations of the Tlingit language, and thus culture, are available. Tlingit Artist Teri Rofkar has best expressed the extraordinary value of this service, “Art and oral history were a traditional way of recording everything, from historic events, to the sciences. With Nora’s work I am able to investigate and research with help from the past. She gives me the "First voice" connection to continue rather than restart cultural knowledge.”

As an emissary of her people, Nora has told her own life story within the context of her community’s history, in many creative forms. Her Raven plays have been performed nationally and internationally, including at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She has given innumerable poetry readings, lectures, and seminar presentations around the country and has received numerous awards for her creative writing, including Humanist of the Year (Alaska Humanities Forum, 1980), Alaska Governor’s Award for the Arts (1989), and twice won the Before Columbus Foundation’s American Book Award (1991 and 2008). Her writing has appeared and been anthologized by major publishers including Cambridge University Press, Graywolf Press, Harper and Row, Houghton Mifflin, Random House, Rizzoli, W.W. Norton, and many academic presses in the United States and Canada, as well as by many small and regional presses.

Nora Marks Dauenhauer is married to Richard Dauenhauer and lives in Juneau, Alaska. They have four children, twelve grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. The fruit of Nora’s labors as a translator, collector of oral traditions, and writer ensure an essential link to the wisdom of her people’s past for current and future generations.
2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Clan Chief Adam Dick

"...I never talk about things I don't know about, haven't done, I never use the words I guess... I actually did it, learned our ways that have been here since the beginning of time... I can still see their faces and I can still hear the voices of the old Chiefs echoing down the mountain side...."

—Clan Chief Adam Dick, Kwaxsistalla

Clan Chief Adam Dick, Kwaxsistalla, (Kawadillikall Clan of Dzawatainuk Tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation in British Columbia, Canada) is honored as a 2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his lifelong work as a traditionally trained hereditary leader of his nation, as a knowledge holder and speaker, and as a unique and highly valued teacher/interpreter/preserver of his culture. Adam was chosen by members of his chiefly family at the age of four to be taught a complex, multi-faceted education. This was accomplished in brilliant, lasting defiance of the anti-potlatch laws and forced secular education imposed on Indian peoples in Canada from 1924 until 1951. Clan Chief Kwaxsistalla has worked tirelessly to teach and re-interpret his vast storehouse of traditional ecological, managerial, cultural and spiritual knowledge to his people, as well as to university scholars and students alike. His work has ensured the continuance of this knowledge for future generations.

In 1929 Adam Dick was born into a powerful family of hereditary chiefs at Tlamataxw (Campbell River), B.C. and was then raised from the age of four at Kingcome Inlet on the British Columbia mainland and around the Broughton Archipelago (remote areas of the B.C. coast). Adam never attended western school and never learned to read or write. Instead, when the police came to take tribal children to residential school, during the peak of the Canadian crackdown on indigenous cultural and economic practices, his elders kept him sequestered and thus safe and away, where he was given rigorous and intensive instruction in all aspects of traditional leadership as a Clan Chief and Potlatch speaker. Because of this unique background and his spiritual and intellectual capacities, he is a veritable storehouse of knowledge about his culture. This extends from making bentwood boxes, to potlatch protocols around ownership of traditional names and dances in the Big House, to hundreds of sacred stories and songs that encode a time-honored wisdom, to detailed knowledge of social and economic systems and important ceremonial aspects of life, as well as to the intricacies of Kwak'wala language, geography, ecology, resource sustainability, and history.

In adulthood Adam has worked as a widely sought-after authority among his people and other peoples along the B.C. coast. Since the demise of the residential schools system and the of repeal the potlatch ban in 1951, Adam has been able to openly act as teacher, mentor, and potlatch...
leader, helping to carry forward the social, economic, agricultural and ceremonial practices of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. As a commercial fisherman in his adult years and until retirement, he assumed a leadership role for his people in economic matters, helping young people learn commercial fishing skills. He has taken on tribal cultural apprentices as well, teaching the detailed skills of traditional leadership in the customary way.

For decades now, and particularly since retiring, Adam has overcome an initial reluctance to share his knowledge with outsiders, so that the wisdom entrusted to him by his Elders can now be documented and preserved. In this capacity he has served as consultant to a succession of graduate student theses and dissertations, and his knowledge has been the foundation for literally a long list of publications, books, and movies. His influence on the sciences has been profound, and his knowledge and experiences have been the basis for two movies, Singing through the Seasons and Smoke from His Fire, with a third movie in progress.

Now in his 80s, Clan Chief Adam Dick, Kwaxsistalla, may be the last man of our time who has been so steeped in the ancient leadership traditions of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. To this day he continues as a prominent ceremonial leader serving the vital role as his peoples’ main authority on social, cultural, and economic matters. He is an irreplaceable advisor and teacher to a large group of graduate students and to their mentors as well. He has been a thoughtful, humble caretaker of the chiefly ‘seat’ he occupies. With an utterly delightful sense of humor as well as deep sense of the purpose bestowed on him by his ancestors to carry the people forward culturally intact, Clan Chief Adam Dick, Kwaxsistalla, gracefully embodies the best qualities of a modern and traditional leader. He lives on Qualicum Indian Reserve, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
Wayne Warren Don (Cup'ig/Yupik tribes of Alaska) is honored as a 2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his work leading his people to financial profitability by creating new, innovative, and successful programs. Wayne has been recognized for his visionary leadership in Alaska, as well as nationally and internationally, and for his professional achievements as a tribal and business leader, soldier and international ambassador. Wayne is chief executive of NIMA, the Nunivak Island Mekoryuk Alaska Corporation, a private, for-profit Alaska Native-owned corporation, representing the interests of the Nunivarmiut people, or Cup'ig Eskimos, of Nunivak Island. Wayne is a former combat army officer, and currently is serving as a major in the Alaska National Guard. He has combined his exceptional negotiating and managerial skills with a desire to provide opportunity for Native youth. The innovative programs he directs are recognized widely.

Wayne Don was raised on Nunivak Island, an island forty miles off the coast of southwestern Alaska in the Bering Sea, within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. He received both a Western and a traditional cultural education. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a Masters in Business Administration from the same institution. From 1994 until 2005, Wayne was a commissioned officer in the United States Army, serving in Bosnia and Afghanistan, and responsible for supervision of personnel, including multinational armies. Trained in planning, logistics, and materials management, Wayne became a primary military representative to and trainer of the Mongolian Armed Forces. He has led negotiations to bring former warring ethnic groups together for treaty compliance, to settle boundary disputes, and to accomplish complex de-mining operations. He has taught upper level courses in military science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and currently continues to serve as a Major in the Alaska Army National Guard.

In 2007, Wayne Don was elected as the youngest chairman of his Alaska Native village corporation, NIMA, and has worked to bring progress and change to his village, and to the expanded community. NIMA is committed to the preservation of Cup'ig traditions and culture, to the protection of ancestral lands, and to the development of human and financial resources. Under Wayne's
leadership of NIMA, five subsidiary companies have been established, including an innovative culture and tourism camp that is serving as a model for other communities. This camp, NICEA, Nunivak Island Culture, Education and Adventures, in partnership with the University of Alaska, offers alternative education and outdoor adventures on Nunivak Island. It has a cultural, educational, and business component, offering a core curriculum that blends Western academic science, technology, archaeology, and traditional indigenous subsistence sciences. The program recognizes high performing students from the region and the staff includes Native elders in residence.

Wayne Don has received prestigious honors recognizing his leadership. He was selected in 2011 to represent the United States in Europe as an American Marshall Memorial Fellow. He was selected by the state of Alaska to serve as the state’s director for the Alaska Mongolia State Partnership, representing Alaska and the United States in their formal relationship as partner countries. He has been recognized by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, the Alaska State Legislature, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, the German Marshall Fund and the United States Army. He volunteers his time for the Boy Scouts of America, Native American Business Leaders, and the Native Youth Olympics.

Equally at ease on the sea ice, where he was trained to hunt and fish in one of the harshest climates in the world, as he is with diplomats, ambassadors, and politicians, Wayne Don has dedicated his career to economic progress for his community and to teaching younger generations the early childhood lessons he learned in fish camp with his parents, grandparents, and elders. Wayne lives in Eagle River, Alaska with his wife Alicia and children; Phylicia, Gannon, and Delaina. He is second of three brothers and his parents are Fred and Annie Don of Mekoryuk and Quinhagak, Alaska.
Patience Andersen Faulkner, Chugach Eskimo, is honored as a 2012 Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her grassroots leadership, teaching and fostering of native culture and community health in her hometown of Cordova, Alaska. She’s carried her experience and wisdom to native communities and local organizers across the country. Faulkner’s work centers on the idea that strong, revitalized native communities steeped in indigenous culture are the cornerstones for resilience in an ever-changing world. When the inevitable forces of change bear down on Cordova and similar communities around the country, she has been able to demonstrate that strong local ties and knowledge form a crucial safety net.

As a legal aid, Faulkner represented Cordova fishermen in successfully processing claims for damages after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. She then represented local fishing interests as the Cordova District Fishermen United designate to the Prince William Sound Region Citizen’s Advisory Council, which was set up to oversee the oil industry’s tanker practices in the sound. She was the council’s president from 2007 to 2009, and she successfully lobbied for a new federal law requiring that loaded oil tankers be accompanied by two escort tugs in Prince William Sound.

With sociologists, Patience developed an educational program to help communities cope with large-scale disasters, including a guidebook and a peer listener training program. Her materials were used by Gulf of Mexico communities in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. She then personally ministered to people on the Gulf coast after the Deepwater Horizon oil rig blowout in 2010. Traveling to native communities, Faulkner spoke to packed community halls about how to cope with rising crime rates, family stress, and economic hardship and about how to navigate the legal channels for compensation. She soothed tribal members with workshops on traditional basket weaving and ethnobotany. “She gave our tribe hope when things were darkest,” said one Gulf coast tribal leader, who received a healing drum from Faulkner.

At home in Cordova, Faulkner works with Alaskan youth, instilling in them traditional knowledge and practices. Patience herself has learned through informal teaching and mimicking, and she offers widely accessible trainings on beadwork, basket making, drum making, herbal and edible plant identification and harvesting, fur sewing, knitting and porcupine quill artwork. “Anybody who wants to learn from me will walk away with finished product and be inspired to grow themselves,” she says. Each summer, she travels to a remote island village in Prince William Sound for the two-week...
Nuuciq Spirit Camp for native youth—held at a historic Chugach maritime village. She also helps at the Tatitlek Cultural Heritage camps with native students from around Alaska. And she’s a steady fixture at Ilanka Cultural Center in her hometown. Patience has led her people formally as an Eyak Tribal Council member and Cordova School Board member, and she is a member of the Chugach Alaska Native Corporation.

Faulkner has spoken internationally and built deep relationships with academics across the country, bridging the divide between traditional knowledge and science. In addition to her traditional knowledge base, she holds a B.A. in justice and sociology from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and a certificate in federal Indian law. She’s also a certified paralegal.

This summer, she joined a plenary panel at the 75th Rural Sociological Society meeting in Chicago, focusing on inter-ethnic collaboration to promote community healing and ecological stewardship.

Patience’s deep relationships run across generations, from bright-eyed school kids to congressmen and tribal elders. Descended from Chugach people on her father’s side and Scandanavian people on her mother’s side, Faulkner has an extensive family in both Cordova and Minnesota. She taught her son Martin to hunt and prepare game and coached her late daughter Cindy in the craft skills that have become Faulkner’s forte.
2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Billy Frank Jr.

"Cooperative management results in increased economic vitality and a healthy environment. Everyone will benefit from rational management of our natural resources that contributes to the overall health and diversity of our ecosystem."

—Billy Frank, Jr.

Billy Frank, Jr. is honored as a finalist for the 2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his Pacific Northwest fisheries conservation work, indigenous rights advocacy and exceptional leadership abilities. Frank has spent much of his life building bridges of understanding between tribal and non-tribal governments.

Since 1981, Frank has chaired the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), serving twenty Western Washington treaty tribes in natural resource management. Frank has been involved in the development of programs ranging from the Timber-Fish-Wildlife Agreement to the Chelan Agreement (a water resources planning agreement). He has testified at numerous congressional hearings on fish and wildlife management issues.

Frank is a Nisqually Tribe member and has lived in the Olympia, Washington area his entire life where he has served in a leadership role in the management of the Nisqually River system. He was also a leader in the effort to reassert and secure tribal fishing rights in the late 1960s and early 1970s. His perseverance landed him in jail many times for exercising treaty-protected rights. But his efforts eventually helped reaffirm tribal fishing rights when the U.S. vs. Washington (Boldt) Decision was passed down in 1974 and reconfirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1978.

Frank has served on numerous boards, commissions and committees including the Nisqually Land Trust, Washington State Centennial Commission, Salmon Homecoming Advisory Committee, Puget Sound Shared Salmon Strategy program and the Evergreen State College Board of Trustees.

Among his many awards, Frank received the 1992 Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism and the 1990 Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award for Humanitarian Achievement. He was also profiled in Charles Wilkinson's book, Messages From Frank's Landing: A Story of Salmon, Treaties, and the Indian Way.
2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Awardee: Guujaaw

“We either fight, surrender, or work things out... and surrender is not an option for us.”
—Gujaaw, SpruceRoots, February 2000

Gujaaw (Haida) is the honored recipient of the 2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his work as a political leader, carver, traditional medicine practitioner, singer and negotiator. Guujaaw has worked with great dedication and purpose for more than three decades to advance the political, cultural, and environmental interests of the Haida Nation. He currently resides in Skidegate, Haida Gwaii.

In various capacities, Guujaaw has fought for protection of the land, economic sustainability, and Haida rights and title over Haida territory. He was the lead CHN negotiator on the Gwaii Haanas Agreement. Guujaaw has been a member of the Archipelago Management Board that co-manages Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site. National Geographic honored it last year as the best managed protected area in North America.

Gujaaw is currently the President of the Haida Nation and instrumental in the formation of the Coastal First Nations (Turning Point Initiative). This group is comprised of eight coastal Indigenous Nations working together in common cause to protect the ecological and cultural integrity of their territories. He has also held the official position of ‘Firekeeper’ for the Hereditary Chiefs of Haida Gwaii.

At the community level, Guujaaw was involved in the establishment of the Gwaii Trust, a locally controlled, interest-bearing fund to advance economic diversification and sustainable development on Haida Gwaii. Haida and the Canadian population consensually control the Trust to build a new and enduring society on Haida Gwaii.

On Haida Gwaii, Guujaaw was involved in the start up of the internationally renowned Rediscovery Program for native and non-native youth to discover their personal nature, cultural integrity, and the power of the natural world. Guujaaw has worked to develop guidelines and policies towards the protection of living Haida archaeological sites. Most recently, Guujaaw and his people have succeeded in protecting the West Coast along with other important cultural and sensitive sites. Their current fights include offshore drilling and tanker traffic, as they bring their case for Aboriginal Title before the Canadian Courts.

Gujaaw is also a talented carver with monumental works in such distant places as Indonesia and...
Japan. "While this may seem out of context," says Guujaaw, "totem poles inspire people to consider their relationship to this earth." His early work includes sculptural work as an assistant to Haida artist Bill Reid. In the 1980s, Guujaaw was involved in traditional carpentry and engineering in the form of canoes and longhouses. A dedicated teacher, Guujaaw works to pass songs and dances on to the next generation within the broader context of Haida culture.

Gujjaaw has represented the Haida Nation at national and international conferences and workshops as well as on Canadian, British, and American television specials. The Nature of Things series hosted by David Suzuki featured Guujaaw on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Islands at the Edge. Guujaaw and the Higagalda Dancers performed on the Sesame Street television show. The First International Forum of United Indigenous Peoples in Pau, France spotlighted Guujaaw and the Haida people. All public appearances support and raise awareness of the struggle to protect Haida homelands and culture.

"We aren't fighting for anything more than we are entitled... our lands from which we get our culture and our life," says Guujaaw. "A leader is only as strong as the will of his people."
2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Harold Gatensby

Harold Gatensby (Dahka T’lingit) is an honored 2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his advocacy efforts to protect the Yukon River Watershed and his work within the justice system for better treatment of Native people. Gatensby is one of the co-founders of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) and currently serves on its Executive Committee. He has also worked as a community-based justice training facilitator. Gatensby resides in Carcross, Yukon Territory, Canada.

As a co-founder of the YRITWC, Gatensby advocates for the clean-up of the Yukon River and its tributaries, one of the largest watersheds in North America. The coalition of indigenous governments of the YRITWC are indigenous citizens dependent on the environmental integrity of the Yukon River for survival; they unite on issues related to the environmental and cultural integrity of the entire watershed. Gatensby traveled to South Africa to represent the YRITWC at the 2002 United Nations Earth Summit.

Gatensby has been a keynote speaker at numerous events including the Alaska Federation of Natives annual meeting. He served as the Yukon Territory representative on the Advisory Board to the Aboriginal Justice Learning Network in Ottawa, a Canadian federal government-appointed board. He was instrumental in the creation of the Southern Lake Justice Committee in the early 1990s and served on the Committee in various capacities.

In 1995, Gatensby founded Nares Mountain Wilderness Camp, which he still owns and runs today. At the retreat center, Gatensby facilitates restorative justice and environmental trainings for individuals, community groups, and professionals from around North America. Gatensby’s application of community-based justice (also known as circle sentencing) and indigenous T’lingit cultural traditions helps address the poverty, pain, violence and cycle of loss in his community as a result of residential schools and related institutions that were imposed by the Canadian government on his people.

Gatensby’s personal history informs his community justice work. Memories of boarding schools for many First Nation generations recall pain and mental suffering. Youth incarceration is one symptom of this history. Gatensby is one face among the statistics. Spending many years of his youth in the prison systems, Gatensby made a conscious decision to turn his life around and help other people. He is now a respected House Leader of the Kookhittaan clan of the Dakha T’lingit Nation and on the
front lines of community and environmental stewardship. Still, Gatensby regularly returns to correctional facilities to help inmates. He works tirelessly within the justice system for better treatment and cultural respect for Native people, cultural mediation and peace keeping.

In 2000, Gatensby received a Probation 2000 (three-day international conference) Individual Merit Award for his community justice work, presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne of the United Kingdom. This Award brings recognition to individuals who have developed innovative approaches to reducing crime in their communities. In 2004, Gatensby and his wife received the Cultural Volunteers of the Year Award from Carcross Community School. He is the proud parent of thirteen children.
2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: David Hatch

"The ocean we see today is not the healthy ocean which belongs here."
—David Hatch

David Hatch is honored as a finalist for the 2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in Conservation for his work to return the sea otter (elakha) to the Oregon coast where it has been extinct for nearly a century. David is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and lives in Portland, Oregon.

In his efforts to return sea otters to the Oregon Coast, David co-founded the Elakha Alliance. This organization represents a collaboration between the Oregon Zoo, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, Oregon's coastal tribal governments and others.

David is working hard to raise public awareness of the potential to restore both the sea otter to the Oregon coast and the natural biodiversity of the near shore ecosystem. In support of his efforts, the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians recently passed a resolution that endorses the efforts of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Elakha Alliance to restore the coastal ecosystem and the elakha population of the Oregon Coast.

David Hatch is a Project Engineer for the City of Portland Traffic Management Department. David previously worked as an Instructor at Oregon State University’s Transportation Research Institute. He received a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University in 1978.

David has been a member of the Oregon Community Foundation’s Howard Vollum Council since 1986. The council works specifically towards increasing the numbers of American Indian students entering and succeeding in the fields of science and engineering.

As a community volunteer, David has worked with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry on the Salmon Camp Project for American Indian middle school and high school students. He also serves on Oregon State University’s Board of Visitors, a group dedicated to increasing the diversity of the university.
2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: David Hatch
2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Leaf Hillman

The 2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honors Vice Chair Leaf Hillman as a finalist for his grassroots efforts to restore the Klamath River salmon habitat, protect sacred sites and build the capacity of the Karuk Tribal government. Hillman is a member of the Karuk Tribe of California and lives in Orleans, California.

Hillman has served as Vice-chairman of the Karuk Tribal Council since 2002. From 1995 to 2002, he worked as the Director of the Karuk Department of Natural Resources. Hillman served as the Karuk Fisheries Department Director from 1990 to 1995. Hillman also worked as a program supervisor on the Northern California Indian Development Council's Native Stocks Enhancement Program from 1985 to 1990.

Hillman's development of the Tribal Fisheries and Natural Resources Departments is a vehicle through which habitat restoration work has been accomplished, research conducted and political decisions affected. For example, Hillman worked with UC Davis researchers to evaluate the health impacts associated with the loss of the traditional, predominantly salmon rich, Karuk diet. Their study revealed an alarming increase of diet-related illnesses such diabetes and heart disease. These results provide a valuable environmental justice tool to evaluate river management decisions based upon human health.

Hillman serves as the Chairman of the Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish and Water Commission. Currently the commission is hoping to seize upon the opportunity afforded by the federal relicensing of Klamath dams to promote dam removal. This campaign has brought together neighboring tribes, fishing organizations and environmental groups. If successful, the result would be the reintroduction of salmon in the Upper Klamath Basin.

From 1986 to 2003, Hillman served on the State Board of Forestry's Native American Advisory Committee. He is currently the Bring the Salmon Home Campaign Steering Committee Chair. Hillman also served on the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force from 1985 to 2005.

Hillman serves as Chairman of the Karuk Tribal Court Appointed Special Advocate Program designed to keep Karuk children in Karuk families. From 1984 to 1988, he served on the United Way of Humboldt County Board of Directors. Hillman also served on the American Red Cross of Humboldt County Board of Directors from 1983 to 1986.
Leaf Hillman is a descendant of a Karuk dance owning family and serves as a ceremonial leader during Pikyowish, the Karuk World Renewal Ceremonies. Over the past twenty years, Hillman has also taught the Karuk language at all levels of public education including adult community classes.

For more information on the Karuk Tribe and Bring the Salmon Home Campaign, visit www.karuk.us.
2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Jessie Housty

"For too long, Heiltsuk youth have been undermined by the common stereotype of First Nations as victims and have-nots; while it is undeniable that Indigenous peoples around the world have been marginalized in untold ways, we believe the misconception that our people are less because they have less does a disservice to the power and positive energy that exists deep in our community on every level."

—Jessie Housty, proposal to initiate a Heiltsuk Youth Capacity Building Initiative

Jessie Housty, (Heiltsuk First Nation), is an honored 2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her highly innovative and passionate commitment to provide cultural opportunities for her peers and for the wider community, in particular her role in the creation of the Thistalalh Memorial Library in Bella Bella, British Columbia. Herself a young woman, Housty has regularly volunteered as a teacher, mentor, helper, and program initiator, serving others in her own community and abroad.

Before the creation of the Thistalalh Memorial Library in 2007, the remote British Columbia community of Bella Bella had no publicly accessible collection of literature, no bookstore or lending library, and no literacy programs. Seeing a need and believing strongly that all children and adults deserve access to books, Jessie successfully pursued the dream of creating a community library. Through networking, pursuit of grants, and avid promotion and program development, Jessie gathered a central and still growing collection of several thousand books and a strong body of patrons for the library. Literacy programs were created, book clubs started, and events offered to meet diverse interests. Jessie continues to help other communities develop similar programs. The library was named to honor the memory of Jessie’s grandfather, hereditary Chief Ed Martin, who held the traditional name Thistalalh among his chief’s names. Ed Martin was a prominent figure in the cultural reawakening of the Heiltsuk People and known as a great storyteller.

Jessie Housty is in fact a storyteller in her own right and a published poet as well. She is pursuing a Master of Arts in English at the University of Victoria, with an interest in medieval language. She has combined her academic pursuits and interest in medieval literature with her background and keen interest in traditional and medicinal Heiltsuk plants. An avid volunteer ethnobotanist, Jessie initiated interviews with older women in the Heiltsuk community to learn about traditional uses of plants and herbs, and to discover their locations. Out of this work, she produced an Eco-manual on traditional Heiltsuk plants. Her Master’s thesis work, in progress at the University of Victoria, is
exemplary of the way Jessie is combining a keen interest in the ways and wisdom of her people with her love of literature.

In her work with the Qqs Project Society, a non-profit Heiltsuk organization supporting youth, culture and respect for the environment, Jessie is serving as the Society's Chief Conservancy Management Planner, and as Director of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. She has been involved in the summer educational camps and field operations in the Koeye River Watershed of the Great Bear Rainforest, in the establishment of a scientific field station, ecotourism operations and youth camps. She has worked with the Raincoast Conservation Society as a field assistant in the first study of Sandhill cranes on the central coast of British Columbia and is also involved in ongoing research into the Great Bear Rainforest’s wolf population.

Jessie Housty’s strong interest in Heiltsuk culture and language has fueled her work to engage youth and community in the practice and preservation of Heiltsuk language and ceremony. She is involved in learning and perpetuating the traditional practice of oral history, and of preserving the bighouse protocol and Heiltsuk traditional laws (gvi/las). Part of this work continues through the Koeye Café in Bella Bella, a gathering place Jessie took part in establishing as a means of keeping the work of the summer camps alive in her village.

After the earthquake of January, 2010 in Haiti, Jessie traveled to Haiti as part of the Global Volunteer Network. She returned to her people with a plan for a Heiltsuk Youth Capacity Building Initiative, to provide her peers with relevant volunteer opportunities in "...a First Nations Youth Corp that provides youth with relevant volunteer programs and internships around the world, linking them to networks of Indigenous and conversation-based programs that shake them out of those down-and-out reservation stereotypes and help them to recognize their own potential through experience and positive challenge."

Currently twenty-four years of age, Jessie Housty has blessed her community with vision, wisdom and actions that distinguish her as an outstanding emerging leader.
2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Ivan Jackson, Sr.

"I think by sharing with and educating the whole community and government officials, more will know of and appreciate the importance of our hunting and gathering camps. I would love it if our cultural ways were more valued and appreciated and supported by the entire community?"

—Ivan Jackson, Sr.

Ivan Jackson, Sr.’s efforts keep the cultural traditions of the Klamath Tribes people alive. Honored as a finalist for the 2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award, Jackson’s technical applications of traditional knowledge provide the Tribes a culturally grounded presence for their restoration process. He is Klamath/Modoc and lives in Klamath Falls.

Jackson’s mission is to teach and share the old Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin traditions that existed prior to 1820. He gained his knowledge from family members, Tribal elders and documentation produced by linguists, archeologists and anthropologists. Jackson speaks the Klamath and Modoc languages.

Since 1995, Jackson has served as an artist and cultural instructor at the Klamath Tribes Culture Camp. He also serves as a workshop presenter for Chiloquin high school students at the U.S. Forest Service Chiloquin Ranger Group camp.

Jackson has handpicked tribal members to apprentice under him as a way to build a bridge for future programs. He documents old customs with photos, videos, presentations and demonstrations. Jackson spends his days making tools, clothing, weapons, and basketry for use in demonstrations, interpretive displays and for the book he would like to publish on cultural traditions. He teaches construction of various traditional houses, like the earth lodge, tribal house pit, winter houses and tule mat houses.

Since 2001, Jackson has coordinated the Modoc Cultural display that is currently under construction for the Tulelake-Butte Valley Museum and the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds. Numerous museums and galleries including the Pacific Northwest Museum of Natural History, Klamath Tribes Museum and the High Desert Museum have shown his work.

Jackson teaches a variety of classes and workshops including bow making, traditional basketry, weaving and mat making, traditional clothing, tool making and reed boat making. He has presented these traditional arts at various locations including the Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference,
Jackson has served as a cultural authenticity advisor to the EulaLona Native American Arts Center project, High Desert Museum and Tulelake-Butte Valley Museum. From 1991 to 2001, he served as the chair of the Klamath Tribes Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act committee.
2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Sarah James

"At times, the state of the world may appear overwhelming. We must always remember our successes to help us stay strong and never give up. We must speak with one voice and we must make a strong stand and believe that we can accomplish what ever we set out to do."

—Sarah James

The 2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honors Sarah James as a finalist for her indigenous rights advocacy and ongoing contributions to the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. James has proven that an individual has the power to change the world through direct communication and grassroots leadership. She is Neetsaii Gwich’in and lives in Arctic Village, Alaska.

As a spokesperson and board member of the Gwich’in Steering Committee, James works to protect the Porcupine Caribou Herd’s birthing grounds on the coastal plains of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Oil drilling or any other large-scale land disturbing enterprise would have a major impact on the health and welfare of the region’s indigenous peoples, caribou and other natural resources upon which the tribes depend. Her efforts help protect the land-based cultural livelihood of people throughout the region.

James also communicates passionately on environmental issues and human rights in national and international forums. Since 1989, she has served on the board of the International Indian Treaty Council that addresses human rights violations against indigenous peoples. James has also served on the EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee since 1996. The subcommittee advises the EPA on development of federal legislation and policy to secure environmental justice for indigenous peoples.

Since 1998, James has served as an advisor to the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. She also serves on the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments. The Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government previously employed James as an environmental technician.

Conferences across the country ask Sarah to speak and participate on panels. She has addressed international gatherings that include the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil and the First International Summit for Indigenous People in Guatemala. CNN, McNeil-Lehrer News Hour and ABC World News Tonight all have interviewed James. Sarah James has received a Bannerman Fellowship, Ford Foundation Fellowship and the Goldman Environmental Prize.
2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Alfred (Bud) Lane III

“Knowledge allows us to see further.”
—Bud Lane

Alfred (Bud) Lane III is an honored 2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his tireless efforts to restore, teach and promote understanding of Siletz tribal culture. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were detrimentally impacted by a war for their homeland, the removal policies of the 1800s and termination policies of the last century. For many years, Lane and his family have focused on strengthening Siletz cultural activities through basket making, teaching the Athabaskan language and helping build the Siletz Dance House and restore its ceremonial activities. He and his family are all enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

In 2003, the Siletz Tribal Council recruited Lane to fill a newly created position, Language and Traditional Arts Instructor. This enabled Lane to leave his union job at a local paper mill and devote all of his energy to teaching the Siletz culture. In this position, he focuses much of his time on language instruction, but also teaches basket weaving, regalia-making, and traditional foods gathering and preparation.

Lane has studied the Athabaskan language with the tribal elders for nearly thirty years and is now one of the tribe's most fluent speakers. He teaches community classes and helps with elementary, middle and high school classes at the Siletz Charter School. Lane has also produced language CDs, DVDs and an Athabaskan dictionary.

Lane's basketry work is featured in collections of the Hallie Ford Museum and University of Oregon. He has served as a master artist with the Oregon Historical Society's Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. Lane is a member of Willamette University's Native American Advisory Council. In 2008, the Hallie Ford Museum will host The Art of Ceremony: Regalia of Native Oregon and Lane is providing guidance and assistance to the curator of this exhibit.

Since 2005, Lane has served on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Native American Basket Weavers Association. He hosted a group of Maori weavers when they visited Oregon and then traveled to New Zealand in 2005 and 2007 as part of a cultural exchange. Lane also demonstrated Siletz weaving at the Carriers of Culture: Living Native Basket Traditions exhibition at the 2006...
Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Lane is currently Vice-Chairman of the Siletz Tribal Council. He has served on the Tribal Council since 2004 and previously served from 1984 to 1990. In this capacity, he oversees tribal business, legal, financial and social matters and represents the tribe on a regional and national level.

Because his father was in the military, Lane grew up away from the Reservation, but returned to Siletz, Oregon in 1975. After graduating high school, he went to work as logger for thirteen years and then worked for fifteen years at the Georgia Pacific Corporation Pulp and Paper Division. Lane and his wife Cheryl still live in Siletz, Oregon. They have two children and one grandchild.
2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: James Manion

2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Awardee: James Manion

“From being involved with many different groups and organizations both on- and off-reservation, Jim has the capacity to have dialogue and exchange ideas and information with a vast variety of people.”

—Ed Manion, Jim's father

James Manion is the honored recipient of the 2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his work representing the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) as General Manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises and Chair of the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC). Jim has, throughout his career, focused his dedication to improving the Tribe’s economic, political, and environmental strength through creative leadership, managerial skills, and open form of communication.

Jim Manion is the third of six children born of Ed and Urbana Manion. He is of Wasco descent, one of the three distinct tribes that make up the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. He has worked for Warm Springs Power Enterprises since its inception in 1981, and has been the General Manager since 1986. Through this responsibility, he manages the Tribe’s interest in the largest hydroelectric project within Oregon — the Pelton-Round Butte Hydroelectric Project.

Jim Manion was responsible for negotiating with Portland General Electric (PGE) for joint ownership of the Project — an unprecedented negotiation in Indian country. Through this process, Jim led a tribal effort to prepare a license application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which provided more substantial tribal vision for the Project, including more focus on environmental mitigation, fish and wildlife usage.

Through several layers of arduous, multi-party negotiations, restoration of fish passage above the Project was included in a long-term settlement agreement, ultimately securing $125 million in mitigation and enhancement funding to achieve this goal. Jim Manion’s leadership, and capacity to bridge cultural divides was significant in guiding this process, ultimately resulting in a source of renewable energy for the region, economic support for the Tribe, and improvement of environmental conditions from an earlier constructed Project that had more substantial environmental costs associated with it.

As a tribal member that grew up on the Reservation, his knowledge of tradition and tribal culture, mixed with contemporary business management capacity and skills, results in Jim Manion having...
unique vision for balancing economic development, natural resource protection, and cultural preservation.

This unique leadership, though, is also outward facing to the entire Deschutes basin. The idea for the Deschutes River Conservancy came out of the Warm Springs Reservation, and as Chair of the DRC, Jim guides a diverse group of individuals from State, local, and federal agencies, as well as NGOs and private interests to make decisions that benefit the health of the Deschutes River Basin.

In addition, he has served on the local school board, and created new opportunities for tribal access to credit through the Warm Springs Credit Enterprises Board of Directors. Jim and his wife Donna have three children, and he continues to seek long-term solutions to community economic, energy, and environmental challenges through creative thinking and collaboration with partners.
Dennis Martinez is honored as a finalist for the 2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in Conservation for his work over the past thirty-two years on indigenous community based ecological and cultural restoration, and for his endeavors in building bridges between Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Western Ecological Science (WES). He is an internationally active speaker and writer. He has worked throughout North America and Hawaii on indigenous land and culture issues.

Dennis is co-director (with Agnes Pilgrim of Siletz Confederated Tribes) of the Takelma Intertribal Project in southern Oregon. Agnes and Dennis brought back the Salmon Thanksgiving Ceremony in 1994 after an absence of 150 years and seek to restore thousands of acres of the Takelma / Da-du-be-de-te cultural landscape (oak savanna). He is currently working as a restoration consultant to the Nor-Rel-Muk Band of Wintu Indians, and works with many other cultural groups including Mt. Maidu, Kashaya Pomo, and Native Hawaiians (Kaho‘olawe).

Dennis is a past board member of the International Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and a past chair of SER’s Science and Policy Working Group. He is currently chair of SER's Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network. Dennis co-edited, with Jessie Ford of Oregon State University, the October 2000 issue of Ecological Applications (Ecological Society of America), which features international TEK/cultural and land restoration.

Dennis serves as an advisor to the Pacific Traditional Ecological Knowledge program at Oregon State University. He has served on the national Traditional Knowledge council (chaired by Vine Deloria, Ph.D.).

"There is no Indian word for wilderness because there was no wilderness."
—Dennis Martinez (Sierra)

"Conserving our options means, in part, conserving the diversity of ways of thinking about problems."
—Jessie Ford and Dennis Martinez (Ecological Applications)
Dennis also works on the ground restoring forest ecosystems including prescription fire, thinning, seeding, growing native plants, prairie and savanna, and aquatic habitat (successfully restoring coho salmon and steelhead runs) in Oregon and California. In its developmental phase he worked with the nursery Ya-Ka-Ama at Sonoma County, CA. Dennis is a member of the National Network of Forest Practitioners and the Alliance of Forest Workers and Harvesters, focusing on multi-cultural restoration training workshops.

In 1997, Dennis won the John Rieger Service Award from the Society for Ecological Restoration for substantial contributions to the field of ecological restoration, and was awarded one of three prestigious national 2001 Bioneer awards. Dennis is of O’odham / Anglo / Chicano heritage and lives nears Douglas City, Trinity County, California.
2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Susan Masten

"I'm a firm believer that when you have capabilities as individuals or organizations, you have the responsibilities to be a part of making your communities healthier and more prosperous."
—Susan Masten

Susan Masten is honored as a finalist for the 2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her work advocating the legal and human rights of indigenous communities on a local, state and national level over the past 25 years. She is the Yurok Tribal Chairperson and lives in Hoopa along the Northern California coast.

Masten has served as co-chair of the National Trust Reform Task Force. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Indian Law Resource Center. Masten has given more than 100 keynote addresses and presentations to numerous organizations including the University of Oregon’s Environmental Racism Conference, National Indian Education Association and President Clinton’s Digital Divide Roundtable.

While serving as president of the National Congress of American Indians, Masten advocated for Native Americans on a variety of issues including energy, natural resource management, housing and sovereignty protection. Masten also served as the National Congress of American Indians First-Vice President from 1994 to 1996.

Masten attended college at Oregon State University and was elected one of the original presidents of the Native American Student Association. After graduation, she returned to California and worked for United Indian Development Association as a promotion and marketing specialist.

Masten then returned to the Yurok reservation and helped to secure the tribe’s "not less than fifty percent of harvest" of salmon on the Klamath River. From 1988 to 1991, she served as a Yurok Transition Team Member to implement the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act. Masten also served on the Intertribal Monitoring Association on Indian Trust Funds from 1991 to 2002, and the Yurok Interim Tribal Council from 1991 to 1992. She has been Tribal Chair since 1997.

For the past twenty-seven years, Masten has served as the master of ceremonies at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. She has also served as Klamath Chamber of Commerce President and chair of the Klamath River Traditional Indian Fishers Committee. Masten is active in traditional Yurok practices including fishing on the Klamath River and is responsible for the care of the family’s ceremonial regalia.
2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Susan Masten

2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Chief Nathan Matthew

"We have a right to celebrate who we are and to continue to practice our traditions and cultures and determine how we will live. Education is the tool we have to transmit those understandings to future generations."

—Chief Nathan Matthew

Chief Nathan Matthew is honored as a finalist for the 2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his work advancing the social, economic, educational and environmental conditions of the Secwepemc people. He is now serving his third term as Chairman of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council and is currently Chief of the North Thompson Indian Band.

As Chairman of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Matthew has worked with other levels of government for recognition of aboriginal rights and title for the Secwepemc people. He has been instrumental in the development of several important Secwepemc organizations including the Secwepemc Fisheries Commission and the Shuswap Cultural Education Society.

During a recent forest fire that burned in and around his community, Matthew played an integral role in coordinating multiple evacuations, security issues and the move home. He also helped his community deal with the aftermath of a long power outage. While his own community was in crisis, Matthew continued to provide support to the entire Shuswap Nation by establishing an emergency center at the Shuswap Tribal Council office. This center provided shelter, food and information for concerned family and friends and governing access through the evacuation.

As a professional educator, Matthew's contributions extend from his community to regional and provincial initiatives. Under his leadership, the first Aboriginal Education Improvement Agreement was developed and implemented in the province of British Columbia. Since 1987, he has directed and instructed a national course at the University of British Columbia entitled Short Course for Principals of First Nation Schools.

For the past eight years, Matthew has chaired the First Nations Education Council in School District No. 73. This council structure was put in place by the provincial government to ensure that First Nations communities and families have a direct voice in education decisions that affect their children.

Matthew also works as a professional consultant with First Nation communities and organizations. Some of his recent professional activities include BC First Nations Post Secondary Institutes Conference moderator, First Nations Community Futures Conference facilitator, Treaty 6 Education
Conference keynote speaker and All Nations Trust Strategic Planning facilitator.

Matthew currently serves on the BC First Nations Forestry Advisory Council and the UBC First Nations Forestry Program Advisory Committee. He is also the BC First Nations Representative on the Education Advisory Council to the Minister of Education.

Chief Nathan Matthew currently lives in Barriere, British Columbia, Canada. He received a Master of Education in 1990 from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor of Recreation Education in 1972.
2012 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Micah McCarty

Chairman Micah McCarty of the Makah Tribal Council on the Olympic Peninsula is honored as a finalist for the 2012 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award. As chairman, McCarty has garnered important successes for Makah Nation by serving as a liaison between indigenous communities and the broader political system. His work in Neah Bay, Washington has led to significant headway in strengthening the response to oil spills in coastal waters, has helped to protect tribal whaling rights, and has fostered strong connections between tribal and non-tribal governments. McCarty’s passion, skill, and integrity make him a gifted advocate for tribal rights and environmental protections.

As a child, Micah lived away from Neah Bay with his mother, a descendant of New England colonists, and attended both tribal and non-tribal schools. During the summer, he often returned to Neah Bay to fish with his father, strengthening his knowledge and awareness of long-standing Makah traditions and culture. These experiences helped give McCarty a talent for articulating common goals across communities that takes into account a wide diversity of opinions. His leadership in environmental and natural resource protection, whaling rights advocacy, and artistry demonstrate his ability to defend Makah tribal rights while navigating a complex contemporary political context.

McCarty’s career began to take shape in 1994, shortly after the Makah Tribal Council formed the Makah Whaling Commission, a result of the tribe’s participation in the International Whaling Commission. McCarty began attending meetings as an alternate for his father, and his commitment to developing sound public policy deepened after 18 months of serving in his father’s place. In his autobiography, McCarty describes this experience as “stepping out of the canoe” into a profession that has since become his calling. As an advocate on behalf of the Makah Whaling Commission, McCarty has worked tirelessly to support the Makah’s sense of community and self-determination in protecting their treaty rights to harvest whales. In spite of critiques against whaling, he respectfully and enthusiastically works to bridge the native/non-native divide to preserve his tribe's autonomy in managing natural resources. In 2008, he formed the Office of Marine Affairs in order to develop marine planning policies for the Makah Tribal Organization, a testament to his dedication in this arena.

McCarty has defended tribal interests across several political spectrums, pushing the boundaries of government-to-government consultation. He has encouraged both native and non-native leaders to embrace collaboration and has assisted state agencies to improve their policies and practices to
protect native rights and resources. In addition to supporting tribal whaling rights, McCarty’s efforts have led to greater oil spill response protection in Neah Bay. Due to his leadership, Neah Bay now boasts a full-time emergency response tugboat (ERT) that prevents ship groundings in the area. Furthermore, Micah helped train members of Makah Nation to operate the ERT and other spill response equipment in Neah Bay, an effort that helps to ensure tribal autonomy.

These initiatives inform Micah’s role as an advisor to NOAA’s Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council, as well as his position as Vice Chairman on the Governance Coordinating Committee for the National Ocean Council. He is a co-founder of the Navy-Tribal Council and a strong supporter of the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program, working with the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, and the Department of Defense on key energy and environmental initiatives. Under McCarty’s leadership, hundreds of tribal leaders and government officials joined together in July 2012 at the First Stewards conference in Washington DC to address climate change in coastal communities.

With a holistic sense of community, environment, and culture, Micah McCarty inspires visionary thinking to protect natural resources and preserve tribal autonomy. Through collaboration with the University of Washington’s School of Marine Affairs, Peninsula College, and a range of university Native Studies programs, McCarty has inspired several theses and dissertations to support the development of curricula for a sustainable future. One member of the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership praised Micah for his “prodigious memory for people and ideas. He brings this remarkable storehouse of knowledge to every endeavor in which he engages.”

With keen insight on how to navigate the overlapping interests of the many communities in which he participates, Chairman McCarty inspires leaders across the Pacific Northwest in their vision to heal and restore our natural world.
2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Ilarion (Larry) Merculieff

Ilarion (Larry) Merculieff is an honored 2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his many contributions to increased involvement of Native organizations in scientific research and political efforts to protect Alaska's environment, subsistence rights, and the Bering Sea. Over the past thirty years, he has also been instrumental in achieving legal, cultural and economic victories for Aleuts and other indigenous peoples. Merculieff (Aleut) was born and raised on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. He resides in Anchorage, Alaska.

Merculieff is currently the Alaska Native Science Commission's Deputy Director. In this role, he has used his exceptional public education, negotiating and leadership skills to work effectively with a wide variety of interests including scientists, journalists, Alaska's Native tribal officials, the environmental community, federal and state government officials, young people, and the general public.

Merculieff's previous professional work experience includes Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Rural Alaska Community Action Program (2000-2003); Director, Environmental Programs, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (1998); City Manager, City of St. Paul, Alaska (1990-1994); Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development, State of Alaska (1989-1990); Business Manager, President and CEO, Tanadgusix Corporation (1975-1985) and Chairman of the Board, Aleut Corporation (1980).


Merculieff's advocacy work at the federal level has helped pass legislation including the 1994 Marine Mammal Protection Act amendments. He served as a principal advocate and negotiator for establishment of the Pribilof Islands National Maritime Wildlife Refuge while protecting Aleut subsistence rights in perpetuity. Merculieff led successful efforts to secure international, federal and state recognition of the rights of Alaska Natives to take halibut for subsistence with the International Pacific Halibut Commission and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Merculieff served as the planning committee co-chair and march leader for the largest subsistence rights march in Alaska's history on behalf of Katie John and the rights of Alaska Natives to subsistence fishing they have relied on since time immemorial.
Merculieff has made many presentations on the Bering Sea ecosystem, traditional elder wisdom, and global climate change, including at the 1998 White House Conference on Oceans with Vice President Al Gore in Monterey, California. He has also played a key role in advancing these issues through local, national and international radio shows, TV documentaries, magazines and newspapers. In 2004, Merculieff received the Alaska Native Writers on the Environment Award.

Merculieff has been successful in his environmental work in bridging the traditional knowledge obtained from indigenous elders with the western approach to ecosystem research and management. He has also spent time exchanging cultural wisdom with the Mapuche Elders in Patagonia, Alaska Native Elders, the Stoney Elders in Alberta, the Cree, Sioux, Mayans, Kechua in the Andes, among many others.
2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Lillian Moyer

“We are not against some development, but too much too fast will be the death of our land and culture.”
—Lillian Moyer

Lillian Moyer is an honored 2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her work as a community leader and her ongoing efforts to protect the watersheds of the Sacred Headwaters of the Stikine, Skeena and Nass wilderness river systems. Moyer is a Tahltan Nation member and currently resides in Dease Lake, British Columbia, Canada.

Moyer is President of the Tahltan Elders Society. The society expresses the views of the elders and she often serves as its spokesperson. Moyer is also dedicated to protecting the Sacred Headwaters of the Stikine, Skeena and Nass rivers because of their sensitive ecosystems and importance to future generations of Tahltan families. Tahltan Nation traditional territory and rights are significant reasons for the elders’ public protest against the industrial development of the Sacred Headwaters. The RCMP arrested Lillian Moyer along with nine elders and a number of youth during a blockade against the mining company, Fortune Minerals Ltd. in 2005. They are not opposed to development, only the massive scope of these projects that will detrimentally impact their territories productivity and integral Native food systems.

Since 1996, Moyer has worked as a Family Support Worker for the Tahltan Band Council. Her work has included transportation clerk, housing officer, social services assistant, counseling and home care. Moyer previously owned and operated Tiger Lil's Pilot Car Services (1986-1997) and Tiger's Take-Out (1984–1986). She also teaches her family about their traditional seasonal gathering and hunting practices and its proper traditional management.

Moyer served as a Tahltan Band Councilor for eight years. She has also served on numerous Tahltan Nation committees including the Stikine Health Board and the Child and Family Services Committee. Moyer donated her time to the Suicide Prevention Team and facilitated suicide prevention services in her community. She currently provides layman ministerial services through the local church that she attends in Dease Lake.

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Moyer's own life story is the basis of her social service interests and deep understanding of human struggle and accomplishment. Her mother was a Healer and Midwife who gave birth to sixteen children. Moyer suffered with tuberculosis when she was fifteen. She has personally survived abuse and overcame alcoholism. As a single parent, Moyer raised four children. She is currently a grandmother and great-grandmother. Her traditional role is to share their unique history by passing along generation to generation their strengths, and their collective anecdotal databank of their homelands.

Moyer also organizes trips for the local elders. On one occasion, she organized and raised funds for a trip to the Anthropology Museum in Vancouver so that the elders could participate in the grand opening of a Tahltan art exhibit. Moyer's volunteer efforts supports elders sharing their wisdom and continue their life long learning about other First Nations.
2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Chief Robert Pasco (Paska)

The 2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honors Chief Robert Pasco (Paska) as a finalist for his contributions to the improvements of Nlaka'pamux Nation social, political, economic, and environmental conditions. Chief Pasco is Chief of the Oregon Jack Creek Indian Band, member of the Nlaka'pamux Nation, and serves as chair of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC).

Chief Pasco was born at Ntequem, a small Nlaka'pamux community near Ashcroft, British Columbia where he and his family have lived for generations. He attended a residential school at Lytton, BC for six and a half years. The education policy of the day for most indigenous people was removal of children from families into a separate school system.

The sixteen Bands of the Nlaka'pamux Nation mandated Chief Pasco and the NNTC to be responsible for the protection and promotion of the Nlaka'pamux title and rights. The Nlaka'pamux Nation is located in the southern interior of British Columbia and extends into the state of Washington.

Chief Pasco is currently challenging the Greater Vancouver Regional District's attempt to place a garbage dump on the homeland of the Nlaka'pamux. He is working to find mutually acceptable and beneficial alternatives such as thermal gasification. His efforts focus on proper solid waste management by those who create the garbage, while protecting the Fraser River fishery, which is one of the largest in the world. This resource is important to all the Indigenous Nations in the Fraser River watershed.

Chief Pasco initiated the development of the Interior Tribal Fishing Treaty, which has the support of most First Nations along the Fraser River System. The court case of Pasco v. CN Rail has also provided significant environmental protection to the Nlaka'pamux fishery that is at the heart of Nlaka'pamux title and rights.

Chief Pasco participated in the creation of and assists the Nlaka'pamux Services Society, which addresses the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of the Nlaka'pamux. He also worked with the other Nlaka'pamux Chiefs and Tribal staff in the creation of a safe house for women and children.
Chief Pasco works through other organizations to achieve the objectives of the Nlaka'pamux Nation. He has participated in the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and served on two Federal Environmental Review Panels. Chief Pasco is a member of the Fraser River Management Board, Credit Union Board, National Economic Development Program Board and BC Rail Board. He serves as President of both the Ashcroft Rancher's Association (BC Cattlemen's Association) and the Western Indian Rodeo and Exhibition Association.

Chief Pasco has served as a presenter and educator on matters ranging from community planning, sovereignty, jurisdiction, fishing education, and language. Chief Pasco, Eddie and Amy Charlie, Bev Phillips, Les Edmunds, Hank Andrews, and Nlaka'pamux Tribal staff are documenting the Nlaka'pamux language in a unique system. Chief Pasco is also involved in ranching at his home in Ntequem near Ashcroft, British Columbia.

Chief Robert Pasco, the Chair of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, has dedicated his life to the protection and promotion of Nlaka'pamux title and rights, not only for the benefit of the Nlaka'pamux but for the community as a whole. His work has resulted in the protection of the fishery, the environment and the Nlaka'pamux culture and language. He is currently working to develop viable alternatives to the garbage dump the GVRD is attempting to impose on the homelands of the Nlaka'pamux. With the 2010 Olympics being hosted by the neighbouring Nation in their traditional lands, this is an opportunity to show the world that positive resolution of a common challenge is possible. Chief Pasco is focused on finding positive solutions which will ensure the continuation of Nlaka'pamux title and rights for future generations.
Michael Pavel, Ph.D., who carries the traditional name of ChiXapkaid, is an honored 2007 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his work as a Salish traditional bearer, professor, traditional artist, researcher, author, environmental conservationist and community leader. Pavel has worked throughout his life to bridge the divide between Indigenous ways of knowing and knowledge systems of contemporary society. He is an enrolled member of the Skokomish Tribal Nation.

Pavel is a Tradition Bearer of the Southern Puget Salish traditional culture and a leader in the traditional society in the House of slanay on the Skokomish Reservation. His training has been ongoing since the age of thirteen and has primarily focused on learning the language, traditions, history and ceremonial way of life among the twuaduq (Tswana) and other Pacific Northwest Salish peoples. Pavel had the opportunity to apprentice with his late uncle, Bruce Miller (subiyay) and other elders.

Pavel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling Psychology, College of Education, Washington State University, Pullman. He is the co-author of The American Indian and Alaska Native Student's Guide to College Success (2007). Pavel has presented research findings on the positive influence of traditional knowledge in the education of Indigenous youth.

Pavel is currently working on two projects: one funded by the Kellogg Foundation entitled In Our Mother's Voices and another with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to develop a comprehensive middle school curriculum on environmental conservation and salmon restoration entitled Shadow of the Salmon. Pavel has also worked to prevent environmental degradation of the Hood Canal and Puget Sound watersheds.

A well-published author and researcher, Pavel's writing includes books, national studies, book chapters, major foundation and professional reports, journal articles and book reviews. He has
served as the Principal Investigator on various grants and contracts including the recent *Graduate and Professional School Attainment: The Impact of Gates Millennium Scholarship Funding* (2007). Pavel is a national keynote speaker, facilitator and presenter in both academic and service presentations around the country including the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education and the National Symposium on Postsecondary Student Success.

From 2002 to 2005, Pavel served on the Editorial Board of the *American Educational Research Journal: Section on Social and Institutional Analysis*. He is a member of the Council of 100 Distinguished Native Leaders, Scholars, and Elders at the American Indian Graduate Center. In 2007, the Washington State Indian Education Association honored Pavel as the Indian Educator of the Year.

Pavel received a Ph.D. in Higher and Adult Education from Arizona State University in 1991 and a M.Ed. in 1986. He also received a B.A. in Urban Affairs in 1981 from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. Pavel currently lives in Skokomish, Washington with his wife Susan and two sons Kaid’dub and Akea.
2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award
Delores Ann Pigsley

Delores Ann (Dee) Pigsley, (Siletz), is the honored recipient of the 2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her tireless, successful leadership as a member of the tribal council of her people, serving 32 years until the present. During twenty-six of those years, she has served as Tribal Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon. Throughout this time, Delores has represented the best interests of her tribe with city, county, state, and federal officials. She has testified before Congress in support of adequate funding for native programs, and has worked vigorously for tribal sovereignty. She was a leading figure in the successful battle to repeal the 1954 federal statute terminating the Siletz nation, and a key individual responsible for the restoration of the tribe to sovereignty, and to vitality ever since. Because of Dee’s leadership, a myriad of important services have been provided to her people. She has continuously advocated for the development of tribal youth, culture, and history in an ongoing effort to ensure that Siletz traditions will continue in future generations.

Delores Pigsley was born in Toledo, Oregon, the youngest of eight children. She lived and grew up at the Chemawa Indian School, where her parents were employed, graduating from North Salem High School. Delores began her career working for the Prudential Insurance Company, and retired in 1998 after 24 years of service with the federal government at the Social Security Administration in Salem, rising to Operations Supervisor.

Delores was elected as a Siletz Tribal Council Representative in September of 1975. In 1954 the U.S. Congress passed the termination statute selling off all Siletz tribal lands, abrogating all treaties, cutting off all federal benefits. The Siletz were no longer recognized as a sovereign Indian nation. In the early 1970s the tribe reorganized and launched their effort to restore federal recognition. The Native American Rights Fund stepped forward and provided legal services through Don Miller and Charles Wilkinson, and a lobbying strategy was developed. The Tribal Council and a core group of tribal members worked tirelessly to publicly make their case. Delores was a leading figure in this extremely contentious battle, and when the restoration was achieved through federal statutes of 1977 and 1980, the Siletz became only the second tribe nationwide to achieve repatriation.
As tribal Chairman, Delores has met with city, country, state, and federal officials to represent the tribe’s position on many issues. She has negotiated agreements, testified before congressional hearings, and continuously advocated for adequate funding for Indian programs. Delores’s efforts to build tribal sovereignty have resulted in improved law enforcement, housing, education, cultural resources, health care, and environmental and natural resources management. Environmental protection has been a priority under her leadership, and the tribe has been recognized for their timber management practices. And, in efforts to improve the efficiency of the Tribal Council, Delores has implemented technological improvements and other procedural changes.

Economic development has always been a priority for Chairman Pigsley. In the face of contentious local and state opposition, she led her tribe in the establishment of the Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center in the mid-1990s. Today, this successfully managed venture not only provides tribal and local community members with several hundred jobs, but revenue provides significant funds for governmental programs, as well as for contributions to nonprofit organizations statewide.

Chairman Pigsley has served as a member of the National Congress of American Indians, the National Tribal Chairman's Association, the National Indian Women's Association, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, the Chemawa Indian School Board, and the National Indian Council on Aging, and as official delegate to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

Delores has furthermore been instrumental in overseeing the cultural revival of the Siletz tribe. She worked closely with the author of a recent history of the Siletz, *The People Are Dancing Again*, helping to facilitate interviews with tribal members. The nearly defunct Siletz tradition of basket weaving, including the difficult task of gathering traditional natural materials, has been revived, as has their age-old traditional dance, Nee-Dosh. Currently, the tribal council has undertaken the first steps toward the building of a tribal museum. Though none of this would have been accomplished without the contributions of many, clearly the leadership of Chairman Delores Pigsley has played a pivotal role in the revival of the Siletz.

Chairman Pigsley is married to Donald Pigsley, a member of the Yankton Sioux tribe. They had three children, Timothy, Troy (deceased), and Quanna and have seven children. She lives in Keizer, Oregon.
2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Agnes Pilgrim

"Often in our busy lives, we pay lip service to protecting our environment, but when it comes to action, we fall short."
—Agnes Pilgrim

Agnes Pilgrim is honored as a finalist for the 2003 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her cultural preservation efforts, environmental advocacy and work with Native American youth. She is a member of the Oregon Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and resides in Grants Pass, Oregon.

As the Elder Advisor of the Southern Oregon University Native American Student Union, Pilgrim is a role model to many students. She has been involved with the Konaway Nika Tillicum Native American Youth Academy at Southern Oregon University since its inception and currently serves as the Elder-in-Residence.

Pilgrim’s work with Native American youth has helped ensure the continuation of inter-generational traditions. Pilgrim shares her skills at the annual Culture Camp at the Siletz Reservation. She also visits many of the local elementary, middle and high schools and introduces students to her traditional crafts and culture.

Pilgrim has been an active member of the Cultural Heritage and Sacred Lands Committee of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for more than twenty years. She also serves on the Table Rock Foundation Board of Directors in Grants Pass, Oregon and carries out some of her Native traditions work through the foundation as a volunteer.

In 1994, the United States Forest Service granted Pilgrim and her tribe the right to use Kanaka Flat as an area to perform the Sacred Salmon Ceremony. In recent years, the ceremony has attracted visits from National Geographic, former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Katherine Fuller, President of the World Wildlife Fund.

Pilgrim has worked with great dedication over the years as an environmental advocate. In 2002, she traveled to Washington D.C. with representatives from the Siskiyou Project and the World Wildlife Fund to lobby the Oregon congressional delegation for the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument. She has also worked towards better forest and salmon protections.

Pilgrim graduated from Southern Oregon University and currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Center for First Nations Studies. In 2002, she was recognized as a Southern Oregon University Distinguished Alumnae of the Year.
Agnes Pilgrim is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the oldest living woman of the Takelma Indians from the Table Rocks area along the Rogue River in southwestern Oregon. She is a traditional dress, basket, hat and necklace maker.
2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Allen Pinkham, Sr.

Allen Pinkham, Sr. is an honoree for the 2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award as a statesman for the Nez Perce Tribe, improving social conditions and cultural understanding on the Nez Perce reservations for his storied career as community leader, scholar, and advocate for his people and lands.

Pinkham served in different leadership positions within the Tribe, including as elected Chairperson of the Executive Committee, and formerly served as President of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and vice-President of the National Congress of American Indians. He served as a Board of Trustees member for the National Museum of the American Indian, and board member of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

Underpining this career of leadership is a lifetime rooted in place and culture. At a relatively young age, Allen’s family and Tribe selected him as a storyteller. He respectfully accepted this designation, learning stories from his elders, passing on the traditions and always working to preserve traditions and cultural heritage of the Nez Perce people.

Allen Pinkham, Sr. is a respected scholar, having co-authored *Salmon and His People: Fish and Fishing in Nez Perce Culture* (1999), and contributed a chapter to Alvin Josephy, Jr.’s publication *Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes*.

His leadership serving on the Tribal Executive Committee is directly linked to tribal resurgence and strengthening, evidenced by acquisition of 23,000 acres of land during that timeframe. He has been instrumental in seeing Nez Perce treaty fishing rights translate into salmon enhancement, protection, and restoration on the upper reaches of the Columbia and Snake River basins.

Pinkham, Sr. is directly associated with the founding and ongoing leadership of the Chief Joseph Foundation. Founded in 1993, the CJF emphasizes Nez Perce horse culture, seeking to better the community through Appaloosa horse conservation and maintenance, as well as youth education and development. The CJF has a Mounted Scholars program, working to increase student performance through horse culture and curriculum, and continues to work with Special Olympics Idaho in development of an equestrian program.

He is currently working on a major work with Dr. Steve Evans connecting and understanding oral history associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition’s experience with the Nez Perce Tribe in...
2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Allen Pinkham, Sr.

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"Basketry is in everyone's background, no matter where their ancestors may have lived; you just have to go back far enough. The part that makes the art unique is the materials used. This art form is a reflection of the relationship we have with where we live."
—Teri Rofkar

The 2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honors Teri Rofkar as a finalist for her efforts to preserve the Tlingit's ancient art of weaving and basketry. Rofkar's artwork serves as a link in sustaining indigenous culture in a modern context. In the context of her Southeast Alaskan cultural heritage, she has focused diligently on the renewable use of natural resources with the Tlingit's cultural art of weaving. Rofkar is a member of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (Tlingit) and resides in Sitka, Alaska.

During summer seasons, Rofkar demonstrates methods of weaving and basketry at the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center (SEAICC) and in connection with museums throughout the United States. Through these venues, she educates thousands of people with the message of renewal and respect for natural resources. In 2003, Rofkar also traveled to the east coast museums as part of a Smithsonian Institute's 2003 National Museum of the American Indian fellowship. She researched robes and baskets gathered from the Tlingit from the 1800s to early 1900s.

Rofkar is writing a book, in conjunction with the Sealaska Heritage Institute, on traditional methods of gathering materials for Tlingit basketry. Rofkar recently applied for a permit from the Federal Subsistence Board for the 2004 Mt. Goat Wool Project. Weavers with the SEAICC utilized the mountain goat wool for traditional Tlingit Chilkat and Raven's Tail weaving.

Rofkar connects indigenous and non-indigenous regional and national leadership through her work at many noteworthy museums and cultural centers. She has been an instructor or lecturer for culturally and geographically diverse organizations around the country including the American Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Yale Peabody Museum and the Denver Museum of Natural History.

In her role as an educator, Rofkar has served as an artist-in-the-schools and a master artist for the Alaska State Council on the Arts apprenticeship program. She has also participated in the Alaska Elderhostel Program as a lecturer and demonstrator.
Rofka is a member of the Sitka Tribe Enterprise Board. She was commissioned to weave baskets for the 2002 Governor's Art Awards in Alaska. Rofkar's mother and daughter are also weavers.
2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award
Kim Recalma-Clutesi

"There was a time on this great land when all was not separated. Long before the flood, long before the beginning of the world as we know it today...all the kingdoms spoke with one language and with one voice; the animal kingdom, the undersea kingdom, the elements, and the creatures that flew closest to the heavens. The world knew no boundaries, no limitations. Everything was alive, the trees, the plant life, the wind, the sun and the moon. Nothing was separated, all was one. Man and woman were to come into a land where all was interconnected and interdependent on each other. In the great circles of this land all lands stretched out between the worlds, the kingdoms and the elements. All had a responsibility to this planet. It was a time of harmony, great humility and the profound awareness of how each one's supernatural energy balanced the other..."

—Kim Recalma-Clutesi for the XV Commonwealth Games Operating Ceremonies, the Legend of Kawadillikalo, opening narration, August 1994, Victoria, BC

Kim Recalma-Clutesi, Ogwí'low'gwa, (Kwagiulth/Pentlatch) is the honored recipient of the 2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her decades of work as an activist and political organizer, cross-cultural interpreter, teacher and academic researcher of ethnobotany, reporter, photographer, historian and award-winning videographer and producer. Kim has devoted most of her life to learning, teaching, interpreting and preserving the Kwagiulth/Pentlatch culture, heritage and history of her people. She is a recognized expert on intellectual property rights for her people and led the file on revising the policies on repatriating sacred artifacts and objects. Recalma-Clutesi served as the elected Chief to the Qualicum Band of Indians in British Columbia from 2002 to 2006 and served on dozens of Aboriginal NGOs, always taking the lead to set policy and changes to Aboriginal rights-based issues. She lectures extensively on cross-cultural interpretations of the values held within her nation and has organized multiple key cultural gatherings for the outside world locally, regionally, nationally and internationally as well.

Based on the Qualicum Indian Reserve on the southeast coast of Vancouver Island, B.C., Kim is the daughter of hereditary Chief Ewanuxdzi, the late Buddy Recalma and sister and cultural advisor to the current Chief Klaqwagila, Mark Recalma. She worked with both her parents since her teens and until their passing, on their lifelong fight for Aboriginal rights, beginning as a photographer, videographer, editor, typesetter and graphics artist for the R.A.V.E.N. Society. Her youth and adulthood were steeped in land, social and economic rights, language and ceremony reclamation, and the regaining of access to traditional lands and food resources. From childhood, Kim was trained in ethnobotany, indigenous food gathering and preparation practices, cultural and ritual art
and oral history. She has spent a career making this knowledge available to her people and to the wider community.

As a mature student at the University of Victoria, Kim helped revitalize the Native Student Union, served as its president and was elected twice to the UVic Senate, a position not since or before held by a First Nations student. She spearheaded an Aboriginal admissions policy, developed new history courses drawing on oral history, planned and produced two campus-wide tri-cultural events that led to an invitation to be the Co-Chair of the Native Participation Committee and was appointed associate producer for the Legend of Kawadilikala for the 1994 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremonies.

From 1989 until the present, Recalma-Clutesi has been a member of the Ninogad Collective, an organization formed by traditionally trained holders of ritual rights and privileges to mentor Chief George Shaughnessy and Kim in the gender-specific roles associated with the ritual world of the Kwagiulth people. Together, the members of the collective operate in all forms of traditional visual arts to organize hundreds of potlatches, feasts and ceremonies, to teach singing, dancing, regalia and props making, and to instruct families on their responsibilities and the rules of the potlatch ritual world.

Recalma-Clutesi has been a consultant to innumerable heads of governmental departments, giving keynote presentations, lectures and workshops for agencies from the Ministry of Highways and Ministry of Forests, to Heritage Conservation and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. She has developed and conducted cultural competence training for fisheries and police officers. She has also chosen to volunteer for the Arthritis Society of British Columbia, working to improve services and facilities for people with arthritis, she herself serving as a role model for people with disabilities.

Recalma-Clutesi has worked on film documentaries that illuminate aspects of traditional ecological practices, illustrating the intimate relationship between indigenous peoples and their environments on the B.C. coast. The National Geographic film on the Clam Gardens of the Broughton Archipelago "Ancient Sea Gardens: Mysteries of the Northwest Coast," grew out of expeditions Kim organized for researchers and younger village community members alike, to traditional plant harvesting sites to learn about resource management protocols from clan Chief Adam Dick (Kwaxistalla). Kim was the main writer, director, producer, researcher and narrator of "Smoke from His Fire," a film about the sequestered childhood of Kwaxistalla, his training as a traditional potlatch leader, and the crucial importance of the potlatch tradition to native peoples. The film won Best Documentary at the Dreamspeakers International Film Festival 2008.

Recalma-Clutesi continues to live on the Qualicum Indian Reserve, Vancouver Island, B.C. Her past and ongoing research and public education efforts are all undertaken to illuminate and strengthen indigenous resource stewardship traditions and knowledge systems that incorporate the ancestral caring for the environment as a fundamental principle.
Robert Sam is honored as a finalist for the 2002 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his work involving repatriation of human remains as well as his efforts in preserving traditional Tlingit culture. He is a member of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and resides in Sitka.

Sam is currently assisting a Sitka clan in attaining human remains presently held by the National Park Service. He also provides his time to national and international forums regarding sacred sites, traditional Tlingit culture and the respectful return of human remains.

Robert Sam worked for several years as the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Coordinator. During this time, he assisted tribal families and the State of Alaska Department of Transportation in repatriating the remains of 133 individuals who had passed away from tuberculosis at the Mt. Edgecumbe Indian Health Services hospital in Sitka during the 1940s and 1950s.

Sam has served on the Sitka Tribal Council and has been active in local conservation issues. He played an important community role during the investigation of the potential Superfund site of Silver Bay. Sam is also an original member of the Department of Defense Tribal Steering Committee and was instrumental in helping draft their policy on tribal relations, which is used as a model by other tribal governments and agencies.

Sam has spent most of his adult life learning and sharing traditional Tlingit oral narratives. As a member of the Tlingit performing arts troupe, Naa Kahidi Theatre, he shared traditional stories with audiences around the United States and Europe. The local school district brings children to hear his stories at the end of each school year.

Sam is a regular traveler to Japan where he is host to those interested in learning about Tlingit culture. He is scheduled to share oral narratives this fall at conference that addresses children’s mental health. In 1999, Mr. Sam was a keynote speaker at the National Conference of Oral History, organized by the University of Alaska.
2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Chuck Sams

“My grandfather took me up and down the river and showed me what we had lost. He told me I had a responsibility to the People, and to the salmon, to ensure their existence so they would continue to feed the People.”

—Chuck Sams at Lyle Point dedication, May 15, 2007

Charles F. (Chuck) Sams III is honored as a 2011 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his dedication to the repatriation of conservation and cultural lands to tribes. As a founder of Indian Country Conservancy, a national non-profit dedicated to re-acquiring conservation lands taken from tribes during the allotment and termination eras, he continues the work of bringing land back into trust for tribal nations in order to protect both sovereign rights and natural resources. Chuck is also recognized for his extensive work in salmon restoration and his dedication to Native youth, especially in reconnecting them with the way of the salmon.

Chuck Sams grew up on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Northeast Oregon and is enrolled in the Cocopah Nation, with family ties to the Yanktonia Sioux and Cayuse Tribe. After graduating from Pendleton High School he joined the U.S. Navy, graduating with honors from the United States Navy Intelligence Training Center A School. From 1988 until 1995 he served as a Navy Intelligence Specialist on both active and reserve duty, receiving a Navy Achievement Medal in 1991 for combat operations during Desert Storm. He graduated from Concordia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Management, Communications, and Leadership.

Chuck Sams’ career-long commitment to conservation began in 1992 as a policy analyst for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation’s Special Science program, analyzing the effects of nuclear contaminates on salmon and other species near the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This commitment included stints with the City Volunteer Corps of New York, where he developed and managed the first AmeriCorps programs in New York City; with the Earth Conservation Corps’ Salmon Corp program, where he continued his work with young people as Executive Director; with the non-profit Community Energy Project working on energy and water conservation, where he also
served as Executive Director; and as Executive Director of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, restoring and protecting the Columbia Slough and its watershed.

In 2000 Chuck received the U.S. President's Service Medal from the White House and Points of Light Foundation for his work on salmon restoration in the Columbia River basin.

From 2006 until 2010, Chuck worked with the Trust for Public Land as National Director of the Tribal & Native Lands Program. Assisting over seventy tribes and native communities, he helped develop strategies to reclaim Native lands with a focus on watersheds, wildlife corridors, working forests, and waterways. Under his leadership, Lyle Point — an important fishery and burial site for Native people at the confluence of the Klickitat and Columbia Rivers — was acquired by the Yakama Nation. Sams also worked with the Klamath Tribes of Southern Oregon in an ongoing effort to reacquire 90,000 acres of former reservation land — "...a major achievement for this wrongly terminated tribal nation in their long struggle back to cultural independence and economic self-reliance," per Sams.

In 2010 Chuck left the Trust for Public Land to co-found Indian Country Conservancy (ICC), and now serves as President and CEO of this national non-profit organization. ICC is dedicated to re-acquiring critical conservation and cultural lands taken from tribes, missions, pueblos, Rancherias and Native communities. The goal of ICC is to repatriate these lands for tribal stewardship in order to help rebuild Native nations. Concurrently, Chuck is also serving as Executive Director of the Umatilla Tribal Community Foundation, a tax-exempt public charity dedicated to building a foundation that will provide funding for education, culture, economic development, environmental and social programming for tribal members of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Chuck Sams, his wife Lori and their children Rosey, Chauncey, and Clara live in Pendleton, Oregon. He continues to dedicate his life to preserving land for conservation and sustainable use, to honoring the traditional teachings and laws of stewardship he received from his grandfather and elders, and to teaching that wisdom to new generations.
Tawna Sanchez is an honored 2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her steadfast commitment to help Native women and children lead lives free of violence and abuse. She has also worked on peace and social justice issues on an international level. Sanchez is currently the Family Services Director and the Program Coordinator of the Healing Circle Domestic Violence Program at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA Family Center). She resides in Portland, Oregon.

Sanchez is highly respected by the domestic violence response system locally and statewide as well as by the survivors she works with. She spearheaded a co-advocacy agreement between local domestic violence providers and shelters, allowing advocates to share resources and more effectively extend them to clients. Sanchez has facilitated and led training workshops in culturally appropriate services, domestic violence, drug and alcohol prevention, diversity and internalized racism issues.

As the Family Services Director of NAYA Family Center, Sanchez has worked tirelessly to both provide and improve services to Native women who have experienced domestic violence. Sanchez helped to develop the NAYA Family Center’s Healing Circle Domestic Violence Program to fill the void of culturally specific domestic violence services. The NAYA Family Center’s Healing Circle has helped to increase the average stay of Native women fleeing domestic violence in the local shelter system.

In another effort to increase safety and shelter time for Native women, Sanchez spearheaded the Domestic Violence Video Project. This internal video tour of local domestic violence shelters is a helpful tool for women preparing to go into a shelter and is currently available in four languages. Sanchez also works with services providers on cultural competency issues for Russian, Vietnamese, and Latino women as well as Native women.

Sanchez serves on the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Advisory Committee and is a member of the Tri-County Domestic and Sexual Violence Intervention Network. Sanchez currently chairs the Attorney Generals Sexual Assault Task Force’s Indian Country Work Group that addresses sexual assault of Native people in the State of Oregon. From 1994 to 1997, she worked at the American Indian Family Healing Circle in Oakland, California where she provided counseling to individuals and families. Sanchez worked as a night case manager from 1991 to 1994 at the Bradley...
Angle House women’s shelter in Portland, Oregon.

As a volunteer, Sanchez's focus on peace and justice issues reflects both her commitment to traditional values and contributing to the world through service. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Peace Development Fund, the International Indian Treaty Council and the Anpo Spiritual Camp. Sanchez took five NAYA Family Center clients to St. Petersburg, Russia in 2004 for the International Non-Violence and Conflict Resolution Conference.

Sanchez attended the University of California at Berkeley Extension Program and received a Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Studies. She also has an Associates Degree in Business Administration from Merritt College in Oakland, California.
2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Chief Judith Sayers

Chief Judith Sayers, Kekinusuqs, (Nuu-chah-nulth) is an honored 2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her contributions to aboriginal rights, treaty settlements, a sustainable future and equal rights for First Nation women. Chief Sayers has successfully worked to improve the economic, cultural, environmental and social conditions of the Hupacasath First Nation and helped move regional issues to the national stage. She currently resides in Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada.

Hupacasath First Nation first elected Chief Sayers in 1995. As Chief, she oversees the political, administrative and economic development of the Hupacasath First Nation. Chief Sayers has been proactive in improving her people’s economic condition by developing partnerships with government and business. She has also served as the Chief Negotiator for the Hupacasath First Nation since 1993 in the British Columbia treaty process.

Under her leadership, the Hupacasath First Nation has developed a land use plan, community energy plan, cultural programming and Hupacasath language programs which has now produced seven books. Chief Sayers has worked to reduce greenhouse gases through development of green energy, restore salmon populations and habitat, and preserve old growth ecosystems to help ensure a more sustainable future for her people.

Chief Sayers practiced law for Sayers and Associates from 1991 to 2001. From 1982 to 1990, she practiced law with Littlechild and Associates in Hobbema, Alberta and had her own firm in Edmonton. Her primary focus was on treaty rights as well as international and constitutional law. Chief Sayers also worked with the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and other UN specialized agencies.

In addition to working on treaty issues, Chief Sayers has also worked towards equal rights for First Nation women. She has written about the negative effects of colonization on aboriginal women’s roles within governing structures today. Chief Sayers has made recommendations to policy makers, legislators and negotiators on what they can do to ensure that First Nation women have equal participation in governance.

Learn More
About Chief Judith Sayers:
Chief Judith Sayers of the Hupacasath First Nation on proposed Port Alberni Generation Project, squalk.com, June 5, 2001
Democracy Debated - Interview with Judith Sayers, CBC archives, April 25, 2002
Choo-Kwa challenges champion canoes, West Vancouver Island Aquatic Mgmt Board, July 2, 2004
Chief Sayers is currently President of Upnit Power Corporation Green Energy Project. Since 2002, she has served as a Board member of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. Chief Sayers is a founding Board member and Co-Chair for the Island Corridor Foundation that owns the Island Rail Corridor. She is also a Board member of Tsu-ma-uss Transformation Society, which is a Hupacasath First Nation tourism project in its development stage.

In 1981, Chief Sayers received a Law Degree from the University of British Columbia. She also received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Queen's University in 1993 for her work in International and Constitutional Law. Chief Sayers received the Bora Laskin Fellowship on Human Rights in 1990.
2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award
Honoree: Chairman Shawn Yanity

The 2005 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honors Chairman Shawn Yanity as a finalist for his leadership in the areas of intergovernmental cooperation, community development and conservation. Chairman Yanity has also helped improve the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indian's economic development opportunities and served as a catalyst for positive change in the natural resource management area.

Chairman Yanity has helped improve Tribal services in many categories ranging from medical care to education. He has also worked to improve tribal relationships at the state, county and city levels. Chairman Yanity initiated the Snohomish County Cultural Resources Oversight Committee that includes representatives from local tribes, the City of Arlington and Snohomish County.

Chairman Yanity helped establish Bank Savers, the Tribe's native plant nursery. He promotes the business to city, county, and Tribal agencies for wetland and stream restoration. This Tribal resource provides jobs, education and awareness of the importance of indigenous plants and protecting watersheds.

From 1980 to 1986, Shawn Yanity worked as a Fish Culturist and Fish Tagger with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. As Tribal Chairman, he continues to work to protect hunting, fishing and water rights. Chairman Yanity has also been very involved in the recent elk trapping and relocation project on Mount St. Helens.

Chairman Yanity volunteers many hours each year to the Stillaguamish Festival of the River. The festival is a family event that educates the community about watershed issues and salmon recovery efforts of the Tribe, as well as the County and City of Arlington. As Tribal Fisheries Manager, he also works on salmon recovery efforts by meeting with government representatives to discuss issues that affect salmon habitat and watersheds.

Learn More

About Shawn Yanity:

Tribe takes healthy pride in new buffalo herd
The Daily Herald, May 1, 2008

Elk herd keeps Stillaguamish Tribe fed
The Daily Herald, January 23, 2006

Native Perspectives on Sustainability
Interview with Shawn Yanity for dissertation by David Hall, Ph.D.

Tribe memorializes reburial of remains
The Daily Herald, September 23, 2006

Stillaguamish Tribe wants to enlarge its reservation
The Daily Herald, September 16, 2006
Chairman Yanity is a member of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. He is currently attending a Lushootseed language class at Skagit College to become a certified language instructor. Chairman Yanity lives in Arlington, Washington.
2012 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Gail Small

Gail Small was born and raised on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in southeast Montana. She graduated from the University of Oregon Law School in 1982 and began her career with California Indian Legal Services (CILS) in Eureka, California, working on tribal fishing rights and assisting Northern California tribes in protecting their sacred high country. In *Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association*, a United States Supreme Court case also known as the GO-Road case, Gail traveled with tribal elders to the Federal Circuit Court in San Francisco where she helped them formulate such compelling testimony that it won the case for tribal people.

Small returned to Northern Cheyenne reservation in 1984, and with a team of Cheyenne leaders, founded Native Action, one of the first nonprofit organizations on an Indian reservation. For nearly 30 years, Gail’s work with Native Action has changed the landscape of Indian law and environmental policy in the West. Her work has resulted in the establishment of Northern Cheyenne’s first bank, first public high school and first Chamber of Commerce. She has successfully drafted tribal laws for a number of Indian tribes, including a Traditional Tribal Burial Law, a Tribal Environmental Policy Act, and a Tribal Administrative Policy Act. Gail also facilitated the assertion of tribal authority over air and water quality standards on her reservation.

Small has served as an elected member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, and she remains active in both national Indian policy and international indigenous issues. Gail has taught Natural Resource Law and Federal Indian Law at Humboldt State University, Chief Dull Knife Memorial College, and Little Big Horn Community College. She has served on a number of national committees and currently sits on the U.S. EPA National Advisory Committee for the Tri-lateral Commission on NAFTA. She often lectures on environmental topics at universities throughout the country and has testified before Congress on many native issues.

Gail was honored with *Ms. Magazine*’s Gloria Steinem Women of Vision Award in 1995 and A Territory Resource Foundation’s Jeanette Rankin Award in 1997. She was recognized by *Montana Magazine* as one of Montana’s most influential leaders in the past 25 years. Small was awarded the Next Generation Fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation for 2001-2003 and a W.K. Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship. Gail’s environmental justice work is featured in the award-winning 2005 documentary, "Homeland," produced by Katahdin Productions.
Finding common ground is the hallmark of Gail’s career. She prides herself on building and nurturing long-term alliances with non-Indians, labor unions, universities, non-partisan political leaders, and other tribes. Through empowerment and education, Gail’s work bridges race, socioeconomics, and environmental justice gaps to protect and preserve the quality of life for generations to come.

Currently, Gail is working to address climate change issues related to fossil fuel use in the Rocky Mountain region by ensuring that a tribal voice is present and heard in all energy development activities in a five-state area. She continues to expand Native Action’s presence through leadership development initiatives designed to create a new group of young native leaders ready to carry on the important environmental and social justice work so critically needed on reservations. Gail lives in Lame Deer, Montana and is the mother of four children.
Kathleen Shaye Hill is honored as a finalist for the 2002 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her work restoring the Klamath Tribes' federal recognition. Hill played a critical role in getting the Klamath Tribes' trust status restored in 1986 and has continued working to this day for the return of Klamath tribal lands.

Hill served as the Community Support Coordinator for the Tribes' restoration effort, helping to educate and acquire the support of the local community. As a researcher and writer, Hill developed information about the Tribes, reinstated a Tribal newspaper, produced technical reports, handled public relations, edited tribal testimony and served as the Tribes' expert witness at congressional hearings.

Kathleen Hill earned her law degree from the University of Washington in 1994 and received a master of law degree in International Sustainable Development - focusing on the sustainability of tribal nations.

Hill accepted a position with the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995 that combined her interest in the environment and native rights. As the first Tribal Office Director for EPA's Region 10 office in Seattle, she was responsible for helping the region meet its trust responsibility by implementing its Indian lands policy in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. She was the EPA's regional lead in developing government-to-government relationships with the 267 federally recognized tribes in the region.

In 1998, Hill accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Native American Studies Department of Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. Hill has developed curriculum that addresses subjects such as tribal water rights, environmental threats to international indigenous communities and native perspectives on natural resource management.

Hill and her husband, Dr. Joseph Dupris, are currently working with the Klamath Tribes to assist in the development of an environmental protection compliance process that is culturally, socially, scientifically and legally appropriate.

Kathleen Hill is a member of the Klamath Tribes of Oregon. Although the academic year keeps Hill primarily in California's Humbolt County, she and her family spend summers in Chiloquin, Oregon.
2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Sandra Sunrising Osawa

“By claiming and defining our own history, I believe we can more easily build a better life in all other areas. I think media has long been an overlooked part of our struggles and true sovereignty cannot exist until we are truly able to tell our own stories.”

—Sandra Osawa, on Native Networks

Sandra Sunrising Osawa (Makah Indian Nation) is an honored 2010 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for her visionary work as an independent filmmaker. Osawa has spent her long, award-winning career giving voice to contemporary Native issues. She has created a stunning and large body of work out of her clear determination to provide, interpret and tell American Indian stories for her own community and the non-Native population as well. She has continuously advocated for the inclusion of Native American film technicians, writers, actors, producers and directors on projects that tell Native stories directly and from the indigenous point of view and was literally the first to do this. Sandra Sunrising Osawa continues to mentor and teach Native American students in the power and process of filmmaking to this day.

Osawa was raised in Washington State on the Olympic Peninsula. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lewis and Clark College in Portland and was honored with the Distinguished Alumna Award from her alma mater in February 2010. Osawa began her independent film career in 1974, and has worked in that capacity longer than any other Indian filmmaker in the United States. Earlier in her career she worked in Washington State as an organizer for securing treaty fishing rights. In the mid 1960s Sandra was the first Community Action Director for her tribe’s War on Poverty, launching the first Indian Head Start Program in the state of Washington. She developed programs to retain Makah culture and language by organizing summer classes for students in grades 1–12. She began a "movie night" on the reservation and the lack of good movies relevant to Indian people was an early impetus for her enrollment in UCLA’s graduate film program. For decades now, Sandy has produced films that are relevant and accurately portray Indian stories and history from an Indigenous point of view. To date, sixteen documentaries have been written and produced by Osawa and broadcast over both PBS and commercial television stations.

Sandra Osawa’s career in the independent film industry marked a key transition in media history: in the mid 1970s her efforts initiated the first 10-part national series entirely produced, acted, and written by Native Americans. The Native American series was broadcast on NBC and led to an
“Outstanding Producer” award being given to Osawa by the producing station, KNBC in Los Angeles. Sandra Osawa has aired many award winning documentaries nationally on PBS, including Lighting the 7th Fire (1995), about spear-fishing rights in Wisconsin, the first Indian produced program for the major PBS series, Point of View. For PBS, Sandy has also produced and aired films that explore contemporary images of Indian people, especially artists, including Pepper’s Pow Wow (1999) about jazz legend Jim Pepper, On & Off the Res’w/Charlie Hill (2000) about stand-up comedian Charlie Hil; and Maria Tallchief (2007) about the woman who was America’s first prima ballerina and a founder of the New York City Ballet. Sandra’s work is studied at the college classroom level nationwide.

Sandra has also produced more than 50 videos for non-broadcast use for museums, tribes and organizations across the United States. In the Heart of Big Mountain (1980), a portrayal of the struggle to stay on ancestral lands by a Navaho matriarchal family, was taken to the United Nations to present the Navaho position. Osawa’s video work has been featured at national and international film festivals in France, Germany, Vienna, Taos, New Mexico, at the Sundance Film Festival, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Osawa has conducted workshops on filmmaking and has been a guest lecturer on campuses across the United States. She has been the sole writer on all of her 16 broadcast films, as well as for her non-broadcast work and is a member of the Writers Guild of America. She has taught script writing, Native American studies and video production at colleges in Washington state and is a published poet and essayist. Osawa has served as a panelist for the Ford Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Paul Robeson Funding Exchange. She was a Washington State Co-Coordinator for the National Indian Youth Council.

Sandra is currently at work on a comprehensive video depiction of the long struggle by Native leaders and communities to retain the treaty right to fish in the Northwest. She lives and works in Seattle, Washington and is the co-owner of Upstream Productions, the company she co-founded with Yasu Osawa in 1980 and continues to create work that explores American Indian political issues as well as the unique, positive cultural and artistic contributions of Indian people today.
2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: A. Brian Wallace

“The Washoe People, called the Washishiw 'Washoe People from Here' are of a linguistic group considered unique because the Washoe language is not related to surrounding language families, which supports that which our Elders tell us: the Washishiw have always lived on this land.”
—A. Brian Wallace

A. Brian Wallace is an honored 2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his tireless efforts to protect, restore, and strengthen Washoe ancestral homelands, community programs, and tribal culture. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California were removed from the heart of their homeland — the Lake Tahoe basin — during the Gold Rush of the 19th century, but withstood extinction and continue to build community strength.

From 1980 to 2006, Brian Wallace served as a tribally elected official for the Washoe Tribe, including four four-year terms as Tribal Chairman. Wallace’s leadership during this time was instrumental in the growth and strength not only of the Washoe Tribe, but of indigenous people and Indian communities more broadly.

Chairman Wallace worked for nearly twenty years to bring attention to Leviathan Mine, an abandoned open-pit sulfur mine that releases acid mine drainage into a watershed passing through Washoe homelands. His leadership mobilized state and federal agencies to take action protective of biological resources and human health in the region, made more lasting through his creation of the Tribe’s Environmental Protection Department, as well as the Washoe Land Trust, dedicated to protecting sensitive areas in the region.

Following the 1997 Presidential Forum at Lake Tahoe, Chairman Wallace provided leadership in executing several monumental multi-party agreements for cooperative protection and restoration of Lake Tahoe resources. He has served on the Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee since 1998, seeking to implement a regional environmental improvement plan for the entire Basin.

Stemming from this leadership in protecting Lake Tahoe, Wallace executed an agreement with the Buryat Association for Cultural Development, the indigenous people of the Lake Baikal region of Russia, to further efforts to protect cultural and environmental resources of the two lakes. In 2002, then Secretary of State Powell nominated Chairman Wallace to serve on the UN Working Group on Indigenous People’s Rights.
Understanding that the survival of Indian tribes depends on healthy families and children, Wallace has taken on major leadership roles nationally and regionally, focused on Indian education and child welfare. He advocates tirelessly for strengthening the Indian Child Welfare Act, and its local implementation, and works to create opportunities for Washoe schools to pursue language immersion and culture-based education.

Wallace helped create guidance and leadership within the Democratic party in the State of Nevada, increasing tribal participation in voting more broadly, and is recognized as a true innovator in tribal political participation.

He is committed to finding ways to repatriate Washoe homelands and protect cultural sites and lifeways, and continues to work to bring his wealth of leadership experience to improving opportunities for Washoe people, as well as understanding of indigenous ways internationally.
John Ward is honored as a finalist for the 2002 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his leadership in protecting the Taku River Tingit First Nation (TRTFN) traditional territory as well as his watershed planning and salmon conservation efforts. Ward currently serves as the Spokesperson for the TRTFN and resides in Atlin, British Columbia.

Ward's work on the Tulsequah Chief Project Environmental Assessment and subsequent court challenges helped the TRTFN oppose the Tulsequah Chief Mine and its 99-mile access road through their territory. The TRTFN traditional territory includes the Taku River Watershed, which is the prevailing salmon producer of Southeast Alaska.

Under Ward's leadership, the TRTFN is in the process of developing a Taku River watershed plan in conjunction with the Salmon Treaty Commission and a land protection plan for joint planning with the British Columbia government. Ward has also worked very hard to develop sustainable economic opportunities such as the Taku wild smoked salmon venture, a community-supported business that builds on existing skills while creating new economic prospects for a remote community.

John Ward has served the TRTFN in other leadership capacities. For six years, he served as the Crow Clan Director. He also held the positions of Clan Director for TRTFN Land and Resources and Clan Director for TRTFN Administration.

Ward has worked in many capacities over his lifetime including as an evangelic pastor. He also worked as the Regional Manager for the Council of Yukon Indians (now the Council of Yukon First Nations) National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program. During his eight years there, Ward developed and implemented a community driven support program. Ward also spent many years working as a heavy-duty mechanic.

John Ward is an avid hunter and enjoys many traditional activities including relearning his language. He wants to ensure that the Tingit language is preserved and becomes a living language that people use in their daily life.

Ward has also helped with the restoration and reopening of the Nakina Historic Trail. He walks the heritage trail to Nakina River at least once a year, raises funds for trail maintenance and accompanies the work teams of TRTFN youth on trail maintenance projects.
2012 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award
Honoree: Jonathan Andrew Waterhouse

"No one is coming to save our future. We must band together and do it ourselves."
~ Jon Waterhouse

Jonathan Andrew Waterhouse (S’Klallam, Chippewa, Cree) is honored as a 2012 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award finalist for his tireless dedication to the restoration and preservation of the Yukon River Watershed. Among his many roles, Waterhouse serves as executive director for the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), a grassroots organization that brings together 70 sovereign indigenous governments with a simple goal—“to be able to drink directly from the Yukon River.” Jon has an extraordinary ability to capture the vision of the Watershed Council membership and translate it into meaningful and significant implementation. Jon’s work serves as a model for indigenous peoples around the world, as they attempt to restore, protect and preserve their watersheds, while using traditional knowledge as a foundation for achieving their goals.

In 2007, to assess the health of the Yukon River Watershed amid growing concerns about the significant decline in salmon runs, native elders and tribal leaders asked Jon to "go out and take the pulse of the river." That began a 1,500-mile canoe trip that Waterhouse christened "The Healing Journey." Gathering traditional knowledge through stories told by the people of the river while collecting water quality data, the Healing Journey spurred a watershed-wide cleanup effort, removing nearly 16 million pounds of hazardous waste and recyclable materials from the more than 320,000-square-mile watershed. Tribal leaders have praised Jon as a competent and dedicated leader, who follows the guiding principles of the Yukon River elders and respects traditional protocols that have shepherded indigenous people through thousands of years.

Jon’s original goal to restore the intimate connection between Yukon native communities and their natural world has reached far beyond the Yukon to watersheds in remote regions of North and South America, Russia, Europe, Greenland, Africa, and New Zealand. Jon’s original canoe trip has developed into a worldwide Healing Journey event. The Healing Journey is tackling social issues by helping community members reconnect with the natural world and, in turn, with one another.

Born in the South of France to military parents, Jon is one of few North American tribal members who had to become a naturalized citizen. At the age of 14, Jon’s family returned to the United States, but he was discontented and grew rebellious. He turned to the natural world as an escape...
from an unstable home environment, but his vagrant lifestyle and brushes with the law found Jon at a crossroads. In 1975, he joined the military and narrowly averted a prison sentence. Twenty years later, Jon retired as a decorated U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer. In 1997, he began his work with the people of the Yukon River Watershed.

Over the years, Jon’s remarkable work has ranged from policy-level consultation with tribal, national, and international governments to native youth outreach and education. In 2009, Jon guided the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council to U.N. Consultative Status. That same year, Jon was named a National Geographic Education Fellow. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed Waterhouse to the fifteen-member Joint Public Advisory Committee, where he is among representatives from Canada, Mexico, and the United States, who have been chosen to advise the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). He also serves on the Board of the Alaska-Sudan Medical Project as community development director, assisting in the creation of primary medical care facilities in remote areas of South Sudan. Most importantly, Jon’s work has always been about taking direct, impactful action. The late two-time Alaska Governor Walter J. Hickel recognized Jon’s pragmatic approach to the Yukon River Watershed restoration and echoed Jon’s mantra, often quoting him as he urged Alaskans to "put on some gloves and get to work."

Jon lives in Anchorage, Alaska with his wife, writer Mary Marshall, who is a passionate advocate for reconnecting people and the natural world around them.
2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Hilistis Pauline Waterfall

"The boundary of our traditional home extends to those parts over which we have been stewards since we first came here."
—Hilstis Pauline Waterfall

Hilstis (Hee-lees-tees) Pauline Waterfall is honored as a finalist for the 2001 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award in Conservation for her community work on conservation, cultural revitalization and community health issues over the past thirty years. Her community of Waglisla (also known as Bella Bella) is a village of 1,500 people on British Columbia’s central coast. Hilstis Pauline Waterfall is a member of the Heiltsuk Nation. Archeological evidence places Heiltsuk origins to 12,500 years in one of the ancient village sites.

For the past three years, the Heiltsuk Nation has worked in partnership with Ecotrust Canada to develop a comprehensive research project that focuses on support of Heiltsuk title and rights to the territory. Hilstis is a member of the Internal Working Group that provides this project with professional guidance, helps prioritize research projects and coordinates fundraising efforts. She assists in data analysis for research projects to assure that protocol and interpretation reflect Heiltsuk cultural values and knowledge.

Hilstis has been active in the educational development of Heiltsuk Community College. She is currently serving as the college’s Executive Director but plans to retire in the new year. As an instructor, Hilstis designs supplemental materials and courses containing Heiltsuk knowledge that are used in related college courses. She also helped to establish the Band school, allowing youth to attend school beyond Grade 8 after a seventy-five year history of being sent out to residential schools.

Hilstis is currently in the process of developing several new conservation-based, community development initiatives. She plans to document the traditional land stewardship roles and responsibilities historically practiced by her people. Hilstis also has plans to develop school curriculum materials on Heiltsuk traditional values that focus on conservation-based development in the traditional territory.
Hilistis has also served her community by serving on a variety of committees and boards. For the past ten years, she has served as an Advisor for the Heiltsuk Hemas Council, a society comprised of Heiltsuk hereditary chiefs.

Hilistis is mentoring her son, Brett Waterfall. They work together on preservation of the pristine environment that supports their community. The cultural research that she has undertaken for 25 years is now being shared with her son, who teaches young children to sing and dance in the traditional way.
2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Finalist: Patricia L. Whitefoot

"Palatisha Miyanashma" (The children are growing).
—Patricia L. Whitefoot

Patricia L. Whitefoot (Yakama) is honored as a finalist for the 2009 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for her ongoing work and leadership in tribal, regional, and national efforts to improve Indian education at all levels.

Patricia has an amazingly rich and varied set of experiences as a professional educator, from teaching in Ganado, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation to serving as the Supervisor of Indian Education for Washington State. She has worked at every level of Indian education, from Head Start to guiding University program development, currently serving on the Board of Directors of Heritage University.

From 1997 to 2002, Patricia Whitefoot served on the Yakama Nation Tribal Council, later serving as Interim Director of the Nation’s Department of Human Services. More recently, she oversaw a major educational support, resources and technical assistance and training program to 26 school districts through Educational Service District 105 in central Washington to meet the requirements of "No Child Left Behind".

Currently, Ms. Whitefoot serves as the Director of Indian Education for the Toppenish School District on the Yakama Reservation, where she has held that position since 2004. Her responsibilities involve increasing the number of preschool Native children who possess literacy readiness skills that prepare them for kindergarten; K–12 supplemental support for Native students; and, increasing the number of Native high school graduates who increase their competency and skills in challenging subject matter to enable successful transition to postsecondary education. She successfully manages community partnerships with reservation school districts, the Yakama Nation, Heritage University, Yakima County, and the University of Washington in seeking resources to support Native students.

The depth of Patricia Whitefoot’s experience in Indian education is exceptional, having served at different times as Superintendent, Principal, consultant, counselor, teacher, Program Director, School Supervisor, and visionary founder of many instrumental programs. She has won an array of awards for her work, and perhaps no better testament to her leadership can be found than the fact that the Potlatch Fund awarded her their Education Leadership Award in 2005, and the Award continues to bear her name as the Patricia Whitefoot Education Leadership Award.
She is the Education Committee Chairperson for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and President of the National Indian Education Association, further evidencing her commitment to work at the local, regional, and national levels for Indian education. She is relied upon by most of the Pacific Northwest's Universities to serve in different advisory roles, as well as substantial leadership roles within the Washington State Democratic Central Committee. Amazingly, three of the parents she has mentored in her work were later selected as "Parent of the Year" by the Washington State Indian Education Association.

Patricia Whitefoot’s leadership style and capacity is grounded with the indigenous world view nurtured by her grandparents and early childhood experiences in the rural area of Medicine Valley on the Yakama Reservation. She serves as a traditional food gatherer for the Toppenish Creek Longhouse.
2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award Honoree: Terry Williams

“We all share a common planet with many common problems to overcome. Working together, perhaps we can solve them and make this a better place for everyone.”

—Terry Williams

The 2004 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award honors Terry Williams as a finalist for his vision and leadership in natural resource and environmental management. He has helped increase tribal sovereignty through tribal environmental regulatory and programmatic development. Williams is a member of the Tulalip Tribes and lives in Marysville, Washington.

An illustration of William’s work is reflected in the proposed Bio-Gas facility for the Tulalip Tribes and the Lower Skykomish River Dairy Farmers. The sewage treatment system for cow manure provides greater water quality protection for fish and a potential income stream for farmers. This facility will collect methane from the waste and generate power. Collected and processed compost and fertilizer materials with safe bacteria levels may develop into a product for local markets.

Since 1982, Williams has served as a Fisheries and Natural Resources Commissioner for the Tulalip Tribes. In this role, he directs pre-season fisheries negotiations, governmental planning and cooperative habitat management. Since 1985, Williams has served on the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. He has also represented the Tulalip Tribes on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council since 1985 and served on the Pacific Salmon Commission since 1997.

Appointed by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Carol Browner, Williams served as the director of the EPA American Indian Environmental Office in Washington, D.C. from 1995 to 1996. This office addressed specific environmental issues of Indian tribes nationwide. From 2003 to 2004, Williams served as Chair of the Tribal Committee of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. This year, he was a participant in the EPA Tribal Trust Program that addressed cultural sustainability via restoration and protection of endangered species.

Williams has also worked on tribal issues at the international level. In 1997, the Secretary for Policy and International Affairs Office of the Department of the Interior appointed Williams to represent indigenous peoples on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Conference on Biodiversity.

Williams currently serves on the Salmon Homecoming Alliance Board and the Northwest Straits...
Commission. He is also a member of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum, a multi-interest coalition that guides salmon conservation efforts in the Snohomish River basin. The forum is developing a local salmon conservation plan and prioritizing critical restoration projects.

Appointed by Governor Booth Gardner, Williams served from 1985 to 1995 on the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority. He also served on the board of the Center For Streamside Studies, Adopt-A-Stream Foundation and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. Williams has received the Washington State Environmental Award and the Seventh Generation Legacy Award for his work.