

# Ecotrust

## **A Call to Action for Indigenous Communities**

While land acknowledgements are intended to be respectful, they oversimplify complex tribal histories and fail to recognize the ongoing impacts of colonization that tribal communities continue to live with to this day.

In place of a land acknowledgement, Ecotrust staff -- and especially the Native staff -- are asking you to support Indigenous communities by taking action. We ask that you:

1. Give land back to tribes.
2. Protect the environment and salmon. Tribal cultures depend on them.
3. Insist that the United States respect tribal sovereignty and uphold its trust responsibility to tribes, which includes appropriate levels of federal funding to support tribal needs. Many promises to tribes still need to be kept.
4. Elect officials and judges that understand tribal governments, relationships, and law.
5. Invest in tribal economies.
6. Challenge and reject all stereotypes about Indigenous people.
7. Insist that your children and grandchildren are taught accurate information about the histories, cultures, and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples in your school system. And,
8. Inform yourself about issues impacting Indigenous communities and speak up.

The sovereignty, well-being, cultures, and languages of Indigenous peoples are borne of their homelands and that makes these lands and waters precious to Native communities. All of us have the responsibility to treat them with the respect and care they deserve, and to steward them carefully for the next generations. Please do your part.

Thank you.

*January 2022*