



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Dedicated to Promoting Tribal Self Determination & Sovereignty

Good afternoon, my name is Don Sampson and I serve as the Climate Change Project Director for the Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians. I am a fisheries scientist and served as the former Chairman and as the Executive Director of the Umatilla Tribe and Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

The Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians is a nonprofit organization founded in 1953 and represents 57 Northwest tribal governments from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, southeast Alaska, Northern California and Western Montana. All nine of the Oregon Tribes are members of ATNI. ATNI is dedicated to promoting and protecting tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and self-determination of our tribal governments. ATNI is addressing among other things, issues such as energy and economic development, fishing, and treaty rights, and environmental issues including climate change.

Indigenous Peoples in the U.S., including 574 federally-recognized Tribes, are facing immediate and significant impacts from climate change. These sovereign Tribal governments are committed to tackling climate change impacts on Tribal communities, our natural resources, and our health, economy, and traditional lifestyle.

A growing body of literature illustrates the unique issues facing Tribes from climate change, including the recently developed Primer on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples, Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges (TKs) in Climate Change Initiatives, and the special issue of the peer-reviewed journal Climatic Change, "Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States: Impacts, Experiences and Actions."

Furthermore, the Oregon State government acknowledges the disproportionate threats of climate change to Indigenous Peoples, particularly the threat to first foods and health, as described in The Second and Third Oregon Climate Assessment reports published by the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute.

The Oregonians are experiencing the direct effect of climate impacts including:

- **Long-term warming**, a lengthening of the frost-free season, and more frequent nighttime heat waves;
- **The coastal ocean is acidifying**, and some local inshore coastal waters are warming. Ocean acidity is projected to increase 100-150% percent by 2100;
- **Near-Term Challenges of Sea Level Rise**. Increased storm surge and the risk of flooding, erosion, and habitat loss;
- **Reducing snowpack**. By 2050, 30% less area will be snow-covered in US West;
- **Disappearing glaciers**. Glacier National Park (GNP), Montana - 110 glaciers have disappeared from GNP in the past 150 years and the remaining 37 glaciers estimated to be gone by 2050;
- **Changes in the Timing of Streamflow** related to changing snowmelt have occurred and will continue. Spring peak streamflow shifted earlier by up to 20 days, depending on location;
- **Rising temperatures, lower summer flows will impact fish species such as trout and salmon**

6636 NE Sandy Boulevard – Portland OR 97213

P: 503.249.5770 F: 503.249.5773 E: atni@atnitrines.org W: www.atnitrines.org

- **Increasing catastrophic wildfires.** Since 1970 the areas burned is projected to double by 2040 and triple by 2080. Probability of more than 2M acres burning in a single year historically was 5%, by 2080 will exceed 33%.

For Oregon's Tribes and other Tribal nations in the Pacific Northwest, we are experiencing climate impacts for the past 15-20 years and will see greater impacts now and into the future:

- A decline or loss of key plant and animal species
- A loss of reservation land
- Loss of cultural sites to sea level rise
- Loss or changes in traditional foods
- Impact to tribal physical & spiritual health
- Impact to tribal economies

On January 25, 2018 the ATNI passed a resolution in support of the Oregon Clean Energy Jobs bill. The Oregon Tribes have specific knowledge about clean energy opportunities on tribal lands and the potential to sequester carbon on tribal land and have experience with innovative partnerships and projects. Renewable sources of energy can have significant public health and other co-benefits that can help address pressing ecological and environmental justice challenges in sensitive ecosystems, Tribal governments, and Native American and rural communities in Oregon and around the country.

Therefore, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians move to endorse the Oregon Clean Energy Jobs bill to cap and price Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and invest proceeds in Oregon's clean energy economy and call on all Oregon state government officials, including state agencies to ensure that Oregon tribes are full partners in developing and implementing the Clean Energy Jobs bill in Oregon. Further we support the proposed amendments identified by the Warm Springs Tribe and other Oregon Tribes that recognize the sovereign rights of Oregon's Tribes, fully incorporates them into the governance and oversight of the cap, trade, and reinvest program, specifically recognizes tribes as impacted communities, provides a Tribal set aside in each of the programs funds, and promotes direct government to government consultation with Oregon Tribes on all programs and investments funded and implemented as part of the Oregon Clean Energy Jobs bill. Now is the time to act. Thank you, Don Sampson