

**Impacts of Climate Change on Our  
Tribal Lifeways in the Salish Sea Ecosystem  
Draft Agenda  
April 26 and 27, 2010  
Tulalip Resort and Conference Center  
Tulalip, Washington**

**Summit Purpose:** To provide an opportunity for Coast Salish Nations' leaders, policy analysts, legal staff and scientists to gather for dialogue on climate change impacts and planning—sharing and strengthening our science and policy in addressing environmental impacts on our natural resources, traditional rights and cultural sustainability.

**Invitation and Organization:** The Summit is intended for tribal leaders, executive staff and environmental/natural resources directors and their staff. The first day will provide in-depth technical discussion regarding planning for climate change impacts. The second day will provide summary discussions of Day One, and then focus on policy implications. The second day is intended for strong discussion and outcomes.

**Contact Information:** Debra Lekanof, Coast Salish Gathering Coordinator  
[dlekanof@swinomish.nsn.us](mailto:dlekanof@swinomish.nsn.us); 360-391-5296

---

**Day One: Tribal Science and Policy Climate Change Summit**

**Purpose of Day One Sessions:** Technical information sharing sessions on mitigating and/or adapting to climate change impacts. **Each Session will begin with a presentation, followed by a facilitated discussion with Summit participants.**

**Opening:**

Time: 8:00-9:30

- Welcome and Introductions
- Keynote Address: Professor Rebecca Tsosie, University of Oregon Law School  
*"Native Nations and Climate Change: Charting the Pathway to Environmental Self-Determination"*

Climate change poses a daunting challenge for all nations; however, it is also provides an opportunity for Native Nations to craft charters for "environmental self-determination." The ecosystem approach to adaptive management can be used to reclaim tribal sovereignty over the traditional landbase of Native peoples. In that sense, the concepts of "adaptation" and "mitigation" have unique importance for land-based indigenous peoples, and the synergy of traditional knowledge and scientific management is the "pathway" to environmental self-determination for Native Nations. This presentation is intended to encourage Native Nations to generate their own policies for climate change and assert those within the national and global contexts for climate change policy.

### **Session 1: Tribal Planning for Potential Climate Change Impacts**

Time: 9:30-10:30

- Presentation: *Report: An overview of the policy, legal and cultural implications of potential climate change impacts on the indigenous communities*—Professor Alan Parker, Evergreen College
- Open floor discussion: Opportunity for participants to discuss the challenges to their communities from potential climate change impacts and plan strategies:
  - Draw strength from the past to protect the future
    - “We have survived through many calamities; how can our live ways help us now as we face climate change impacts?”

### **Morning Break: 10:30 – 11:00**

### **Session 2: Climate Change Impacts on Natural Resources, Part 1**

Time: 11:00-12:00

- Presentation: *Impacts of Climate Change on Fisheries Management* --Paul Lumley, Executive Director, Columbia River Inter Tribal Fisheries Commission
- Open floor discussion: Opportunity for participants to discuss the potential impacts to natural resources, and planning for those impacts.

### **Lunch: 12:00 – 1:30**

Luncheon Speaker: Fawn Sharp, President, Quinault Nation

### **Session 3: Climate Change Impacts on Natural Resources, Part 2**

Time: 1:30-2:30

- Presentation: *Impact of Climate Change on Salmon and Indigenous Life ways*—David Close, University of British Columbia
- Open floor discussion: Identify the impacts on our natural resources: what we have seen, endured, and resiliency into the future

### **Afternoon Break: 2:30 – 3:00**

### **Session 4: Role of Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change Policy**

Time: 3:00-4:30

Presentations:

- *The Role of Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change Policy*-Teara Farrow, Confederation of Umatilla Tribes
- *The Experience of Traditional Knowledge in Science at Swinomish*---Eric Beamer, Swinomish Tribe
- Open floor discussion: The role of Traditional Knowledge in climate change policy and science.

### **Wrap-up**

Time: 4:30 – 5:00

- Next Steps and Closing Remarks

## **Day Two: Tribal Science and Policy Climate Change Summit**



**Opening and Keynote:**

Time: 8:00-9:00 am

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Day One
- Keynote Presentation: Swinomish Climate Change Adaptation Plan

**Session 1: Climate Change Impacts on Traditional Rights**

Time: 9:00-12:00

- Panel Discussion: Native American Rights Fund, University of Washington, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Arizona State University
  - This session will build on the previous day's discussions about the potential adverse effects of climate change on tribal legal rights. It will begin by identifying those legal rights that could be affected and will then explore the legal and policy options available to address the dangers posed. This will include a discussion of the need to establish those rights legally, the possibility and need to ensure that any climate change legislation includes Indian tribes as sovereign partners in assessing and addressing climate change and includes tribes in mitigation and adaptation programs funding; the need for cooperative management agreements between federal, state and local governments and tribes, and finally, a preliminary discussion of the legal options available for litigation to protect treaty and other rights.
- Open floor discussion: Developing a common pathway for policy, legal and science address impacts to Traditional Rights.

**Lunch: summary of events and closing remarks**

Time: 12:00-1:30