

Hoh Indian Tribe Hershman Fellowship Project

Climate Change: Adaptation Planning, Treaty Rights Impacts, and Consultation Guidelines.

1. Host Organization

Hoh Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 2196
2426 Lower Hoh Rd.
Forks, WA 98331
Website: <https://hohtribe-nsn.org>

2. Fellowship mentor/supervisor

Julie Ann Koehlinger, MMA
Natural Resources Director, Hoh Indian Tribe
(Julie Ann was a 2018-2019 Hershman Fellow)

3. Position Description

Background

The fellowship is offered by the Hoh Tribe (Chalá·at: People of the Hoh River), a small, federally recognized tribe whose people have lived on Washington's Olympic Coast since time immemorial. The Hoh reservation is located approximately 30 minutes south of Forks, WA. The Hoh, along with the Quileute and Quinault, signed the Treaty of Olympia in 1855. With this treaty they reserved rights to hunt, fish, and gather in their Usual and Accustomed Areas, including, in part, the Hoh River watershed and adjacent Pacific Ocean. The legal decisions that have resulted from *United States v. Washington* (the Boldt decision), established the tribe as a co-manager of fisheries and continues to shape natural resource management in the state of Washington.

Project Overview

The Hoh Tribe does not have a formal climate adaptation plan and the primary task of the fellow will be to facilitate the development of this plan. The plan will mirror the National Climate Change Action Plan by prioritizing food security (including traditional foods), water sufficiency, ecological and environmental sustainability of natural and cultural resources, human security, climate-smart services, sustainable energy, and knowledge development.

Major Project Components

Assessment of Climate Change Impacts

In 2016, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute published a *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Treaty of Olympia Tribes* (Hoh Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault

Indian Nation). This document will serve as a starting point for the assessment of climate change impacts to the Tribe. Other useful documents will include reports from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's Climate Vulnerability Assessment, and the Ocean Acidification Regional Vulnerability Assessment reports. Part of this assessment may also include an analysis of what science is needed to inform decision making.

Prioritized list of affected Treaty Rights

Climate change is already impacting the Hoh Tribe. Future effects are likely to be numerous and will have profound impacts on both subsistence and commercial harvest of traditional resources. As an aid to prioritizing the commitments of the Natural Resources Department, the fellow will develop a list of (present and future) effects on treaty rights and recommend a prioritization framework. This will require discussions with Natural Resources staff, the Hoh Tribal Business Council, and tribal members.

Consultation guideline document

Under the Climate Commitment Act, the State of Washington is committed to consulting with tribes on management of greenhouse gas emissions, including the cap and trade and carbon sequestration programs. A consultation guideline document will outline guidelines for evaluating projects for government-to-government consultation, including intertribal collaboration if a project affects more than one tribe.

Professional Development and Networking Opportunities

The fellow will benefit from a background in climate science, tribal treaty rights (especially the Boldt decision), geographic information systems, strong communication and writing skills and familiarity with natural resource policy in Washington State.

The fellow will work directly with Natural Resources staff from the Hoh Tribe, including the Director, Fisheries Management Biologist, Water Quality Specialist, Timber, Fish, and Wildlife Biologist, and technicians. The fellow will also have the opportunity to work with technical staff from other tribes and partner organizations that are focused on climate change and natural resource management on Washington's Olympic Coast. The fellow will be tasked with reporting their progress and findings to the Hoh Tribal Business Committee (with support from the mentor). There will be opportunities for the selected fellow to attend meetings and conferences relevant to Tribal Natural Resource and Climate Change issues.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

(Because the Tribe has Native American hiring preference, I have just included the standard language we put on all of our job descriptions.)

Except as provided by the Federal Indian Preference Act, Title 25 USC 45 – 46, there will be no discrimination in selection process for this position because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, physical handicap, marital status, political membership or non-membership

in an employee organization. If the applicants have equal qualifications, preference will be given to Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. Applicants claiming Indian preference must submit verification of Indian certification by tribe of affiliation or other acceptable documentation of Indian heritage. All other interested persons are encouraged to apply.