



National
Congress of
American
Indians

National Congress of American Indians
2015 Mid Year Conference
St. Paul, Minnesota

Afternoon Breakout 3

June 30, 2015

1:30 – 4:00 pm

We Have Always Been Scientists:
Future Leaders, Future Environments

Description: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and tribal cultural practices are leading the charge for restoration—specifically in mitigating the effects of climate change, sustaining endangered plant and animals, and enhancing water quality. Participants will meet the minds that are bringing environmental science back to its future and will learn how to replicate and apply their research for the benefit of tribal communities across the nation.

Policy Applications: The information shared in this session will inform policies that leverage the resources of tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), bring environmental health literacy curriculum into schools, engage youth as leaders in science, root environmental management in tribal cultural values and practices, and implement adaptations to climate change.

Co-Facilitators:

Chairman Darrin Old Coyote, Crow Nation (*invited*)
Vanessa Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Community

PRESENTATIONS:

The Tribal EcoAmbassadors Program

- *Assessing Dragonflies as a Sentinel Species for Mercury in the St. Louis River Watershed*
Dr. Courtney Kowalczak, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College

- *Mapping stories of change - Indigenous ecological knowledge and sustainable technologies for student-led campus climate adaptation and mitigation projects*
Annie McDonnell, Institute of American Indian Arts

- *Foodscaping a Tribal College*

Ane Berrett, Northwest Indian College

- *Informing Camas Restoration on the Flathead Indian Reservation: adapting to climate change and invasive species*

Robert Kenning, Salish Kootenai College

Tribal Cultural Adaptations of Northwest Tribes in Response to Climate Change Effects

Dr. Samantha Hatfield, Oregon State University/ Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indian of Oregon, Cherokee Nation

Environmental Health Literacy and Children as Agents of Change

Candy Felicia, Little Big Horn College

Deb LaVeaux, Montana State University

Jason Cummins, Crow Agency Elementary School

Grant BullTail, Crow Tribe

Erin Smith, Montana State University

Mari Eggers, Montana State University