

# BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022



(c) M.Estrada



BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

HOPI - ZUNI - UTE MOUNTAIN UTE - DINÉ - UTE

## Greetings Bears Ears Community

Ahéhee' - Kwakwhay - Askwali -

Tog'oiak' - Elahkwa

Thank you for subscribing and for  
your ongoing support!





As we enter the third Spring of the pandemic we recognize that we are still in the throes of its dark shadow, but we also acknowledge that the Spring represents new growth and more sunshine. In spite of the extraordinary collective trauma of the last few years, much of which is still with us, we must remain hopeful and do what we can to honor our ancestors and do well for our kin.



The days are officially getting longer, the plants are starting to bloom, and the critters are starting to buzz. May the warmth of the Spring give you hope for a healthy and wholesome future.

We're excited to share our Spring Newsletter to highlight a little of what we've been up to.





# Tribal Leader Meeting in Albuquerque

The Coalition is taking concrete steps to ensure that the five Tribes have a meaningful say in the management of the Bears Ears National Monument. Just last month we convened a pivotal Tribal Leader Meeting in Albuquerque.

Representing all five Tribes, our Coalition's leadership met with officials from the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to discuss how to move forward with monument co-management. Both Presidential Proclamations establishing Bears Ears acknowledged that the five Tribes have been calling for the protection of their ancestral lands for more than a century, and that the Tribes will be involved in the management of the Monument.

We expect our collective Land Management Plan, from the perspective of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, to be a cornerstone and benchmark of Tribal Co-Management moving forward. There is much still to be seen, but the meeting left us hopeful that the Coalition Tribes will have a meaningful say in the management of our ancestral homelands.





# Indigenous Earth Fund Grantees

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We are proud to announce that we have been awarded funding as an Indigenous Earth Fund Grantee!

Liberated Capital's Indigenous Earth Fund recognizes Indigenous leadership at the forefront of protecting and conserving land and reversing climate destruction. We are honored and privileged to receive funding and recognition from The Decolonizing Wealth Project. The fund is seeking to disrupt the flow of capital to save our planet and heal the earth by recognizing the importance of centering Indigenous perspectives.



Along with 16 Indigenous-led organizations, we were awarded funding for our movement-building efforts that center Indigenous self-determination and for promoting Traditional Knowledge.

We will use these funds to facilitate the final stages of our Land Management Plan and to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into the Co-Management of the Bears Ears National Monument.

## INDIGENOUS EARTH FUND

### Summary

36

proposals  
received

16

organizations  
and movements  
funded

\$1M+

redistributed





# Congressional Hearing:

## “Examining the History of Federal Lands and the Development of Tribal Co-Management”

The Natural Resource Committee held a hearing titled “Examining the History of Federal Lands and the Development of Tribal Co-Management”. Our very own Co-Chair, Lieutenant Gov. Carleton Bowekaty (Pueblo of Zuni), was invited to serve as an expert panelist. Mr. Bowekaty spoke about the Coalition's efforts to support and manage the Bears Ears National Monument, and how dedicated funding for Tribal engagement is essential for ongoing collaborative management efforts.

As far as federal hearings go, this one was incredible and unprecedented. The Chairman of the Committee, Raúl M. Grijalva, said this would be the first of many to investigate how federal agencies move forward with Tribal Co-Management. It was acknowledged that the loss of Native lands directly corresponds with the growth of Public Lands across, what is today called, North America.

“Today, instead of being removed from a landscape to make way for a public park, we are being invited back to our ancestral homelands to help repair them and plan for a resilient future. We are being asked to apply our traditional knowledge to both the natural and human caused ecological challenges, drought, erosion, visitation, etc., What can be a better avenue of restorative justice than giving tribes the opportunity to participate in the management of lands their ancestors were removed from?”

-BEITC Co-Chair & Lt. Gov. of Zuni Pueblo,  
Carleton Bowekaty





# Indigenous Futures Survey

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[IndigenousFutures.org](https://IndigenousFutures.org)

#IndigenousFuturesSurvey

Deadline extended to March 31, 2022



## TAKE & SHARE THE SURVEY TODAY

We are asking our supporters to take and/or share the Indigenous Futures Survey (IFS). We think that it is critical for Native people to have their voices heard.

The IFS is one way for Native folks to express your experiences and priorities for your family and community. The results will drive policy change and shape the work of programs that serve our Native communities.

The survey only takes about 15-20 minutes. We ask that you share this opportunity with your relatives, as well as encourage your family members, friends and community members to share and partake as well.

The IFS is the largest "by us and for us" study in Indian Country with 2020 participation from over 6,400 Native peoples, representing 401 tribes and from all 50 states with a diverse and representative sample across age, gender and geography.

**The survey closes on March 31!**



# Before we go...

## We have just two quick announcements.

### **We are seeking a Public Lands Specialist to join our team.**

The Public Lands Specialist serves as the primary nexus between the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service, and other federal agencies, for the advancement and realization of the collaborative management relationship at the Bears Ears National Monument.

### **We are seeking someone who...**

- Is committed to work that preserves the sovereignty of Tribal Nations while promoting cross-cultural collaboration.
- Cultivates strong and cooperative working partnerships across the five Coalition Tribes as well as with governmental agencies, congressional allies, consultants, grassroots, and other partners.

Find out more about this role on our website:



The graphic features a stylized bear silhouette in the top right corner. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow. The text is arranged in a central column, with a blue box at the bottom containing contact information.

**We're Hiring**

**NOW HIRING**

**PUBLIC LANDS SPECIALIST**

FULL TIME  
COMPETITIVE SALARY  
REMOTE  
GREAT BENEFITS

Send your resume, cover letter and three references to:  
[Info@BearsEarsCoalition.org](mailto:Info@BearsEarsCoalition.org)

### **Incorporating Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) into Federal Decision-making**

In making good on the Biden and Harris promise to incorporate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) into federal decision-making, The Administration recently announced an opportunity for Tribal and Public input.



Though our knowledge and ways of understanding don't need to be validated, we invite federal recognition of ITEK as one of the many important bodies of knowledge that contributes to the scientific, technical, social, and economic advancements of our collective understanding of the natural world.

In terms of incorporating ITEK into federal decision-making, there is an option to submit written public comments and there will also be a Public Listening session in Early April.

See below for more details:



## In a good way...

We are grateful for your continued support.

We wish you a happy Spring, and look forward to seeing you next quarter!

**Thank you • Elahkwa • Ahéhee' •  
Kwakwhay • Askwali • Tog'oiak'**

