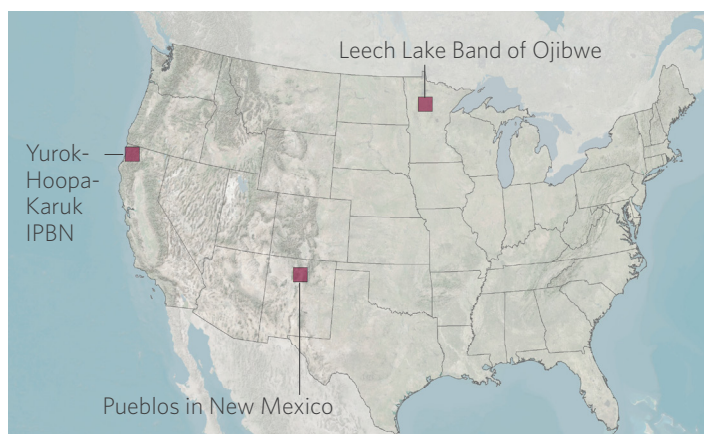


Indigenous Peoples Burning Network

Great change is underway for the fire-related future of our forests, communities and firefighters. Increasingly, indigenous peoples are recognized for their ability to contribute to solutions for our mounting fire challenges. By providing a supportive framework, the IPBN is uniquely positioned to elevate tribal contributions in this shared journey.

The IPBN has grown from a single landscape in 2015—in the combined ancestral territories of the Yurok, Hoopa and Karuk Tribes of Northern California—to include participants from multiple pueblos in New Mexico and land managers from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota. The network is also nurturing connections with landscapes in Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington. Accomplishments include numerous controlled burns through family-led burning and Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX); these have provided training for fire practitioners from multiple tribes, while supporting culturally important natural resources and improving community safety. The network has also produced a review of policy and statutes addressing fire-related rights of indigenous people, a five-year strategic plan for revitalizing fire culture in one landscape, and a cultural exchange between Northern California tribes and the Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico.



The goal of the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN) is to achieve fire-related cultural restoration—knowledge and practices—in large landscapes to perpetuate traditions and the quality of the environment. Viewed through a different lens, the IPBN is advancing forest resilience and hazardous fuel reduction through shared stewardship between agencies and tribes.

Indigenous Peoples Burning Network Landscapes



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Northern California In the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk IPBN landscape, partners used a planning process developed by aboriginal peoples in Australia to craft a Healthy Country Plan laying out a five-year strategic plan. The plan highlights cultural burning and intergenerational learning. This partnership is exploring expansion to encompass as many as 15 tribes in Northern California. This growth will allow the IPBN to support a greater tribal contribution to addressing California's fire challenges.



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Southwest With the Rio Grande Water Fund, the IPBN is bringing together land managers from eight New Mexico pueblos to advance forest treatments, including controlled burning. Connecting people with fire training opportunities is a priority, along with facilitating project planning and implementation in priority watersheds.



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Great Lakes In central Minnesota, the IPBN and Fire Learning Network are supporting collaboration between the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Reservation. Against a backdrop of treaty obligations to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, this collaboration seeks to enable the primary parties to chart a shared path toward forest resilience and vibrant native culture.

Growing the Network Federal agencies and local TNC projects are increasing their commitments to equitable partnerships with tribes. For example, IPBN landscapes are funding restoration projects through the Reserved Treaty Rights Lands program and cross-boundary efforts like the Rio Grande Water Fund, and working with Forest Service partnership offices. Word of the IPBN is also spreading across family lines and through traditional trade routes. As a result, there is demand for expanding the IPBN. Building genuine partnerships moves at the speed of trust, though. First steps may include people from one tribe visiting another's homeland. Others engage through TREX events where cultural connections to fire are integrated into fire training. Rooted in self-determination, the IPBN leadership team is guiding network growth and adapting the network's structure to welcome new tribal landscapes.

Who We Are

The IPBN is a strategy of the PERFECT cooperative agreement, and is led by staff from The Nature Conservancy's North America Fire Initiative. They work closely with staff from the Watershed Research and Training Center (who facilitate the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and other strategies) and from University of California Cooperative Extension, the Conservancy's Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team, and the Forest Service Landscapes and Partnerships Program. Partners in landscape and community efforts span a full range of affiliations, from federal, state, local and tribal agencies; businesses; non-profit organizations and universities to private landowners and engaged residents. Interests are equally varied, and this diversity helps build strong, resilient networks.

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Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) is a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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