

ACCG Shared Vision on TEK

November 16, 2022

INTRODUCTION

For thousands of years Native Americans interacted within the ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada from the western and eastern flanks to the crest through manipulation of vegetation. Native people used plants and animals for food, fiber, and medicine. For a greater chance of survival, they understood and used the relationship between each link of ecosystems and the landscape mosaics favorable to these systems. This knowledge of interacting with and stewarding the landscape is called Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Scientists have used the knowledge of Native people for a deeper understanding of the natural world, including the role of Cultural Burning and prescribed fire in tending forests and restoring California's fire adapted ecosystems. TEK should inform decisions along with science. Native involvement can be helpful before, during, and after a project for managers and the public to learn about TEK and possible applications.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the President's Office issued a directive supporting TEK as one of the many important bodies of knowledge to promote environmental sustainability and responsible stewardship of natural resources. "Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Federal Decision Making," 11/15/2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/111521-OSTP-CEQ-ITEK-Memo.pdf>

ACTIONS

- ACCG is committed to building personal relationships and trust with Native people to learn and understand TEK for application to programs and projects.
- ACCG is committed to early outreach to Native people for TEK to use in project prescriptions, design criteria, and specifications.
- ACCG supports protection, enhancement, and mitigation of sensitive areas, including sites of cultural value, traditional gathering, and archaeological deposits.

REFERENCES

"Tending the Wild," Anderson, M. Kat, 2013, UC Press.

"Good Fire;" Clark, S.A., Williams, A., Hankins, D.L., 2/17/2021, https://karuktribeclimatechangeprojects.files.wordpress.com/2022/06/karuk-prescribed-fire-rpt_2022_v2-1.pdf

"Traditional Ecological Knowledge," US Fish & Wildlife Service, 2011, <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TEK-Fact-Sheet.pdf>