

Why Anchor Forests?

A narrative-based exploration of current and future roles of tribes in collaborative forest management in the western United States



Photo from Intertribal Timber Council

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FoLAGE

Forests, Livelihoods, Institutions, and Governance Research Group

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Transforming Approaches to Forestry
University of British Columbia



About Me

Master's student studying collaborative forest governance and policy at Oregon State University



Land of the Piscataway
(Potomac River, Maryland)



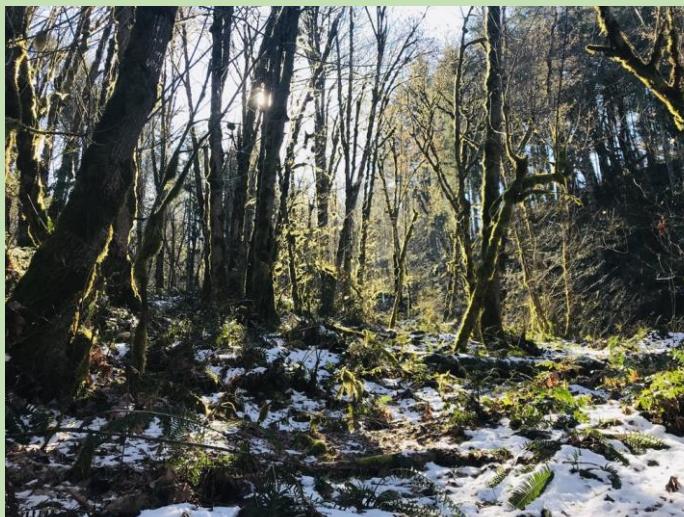
Land of the Coast Ohlone
(Berkeley, California)



Land of the Uyipi Ohlone
(Santa Cruz, California)



Land of the Mountain Maidu
(Plumas County, California)



Land of the Chumash Kalapuya (Corvallis, Oregon)

WHAT IS AN ANCHOR FOREST?

Premise: To address forest restoration challenges, cross-boundary approaches and Indigenous values and knowledges are needed

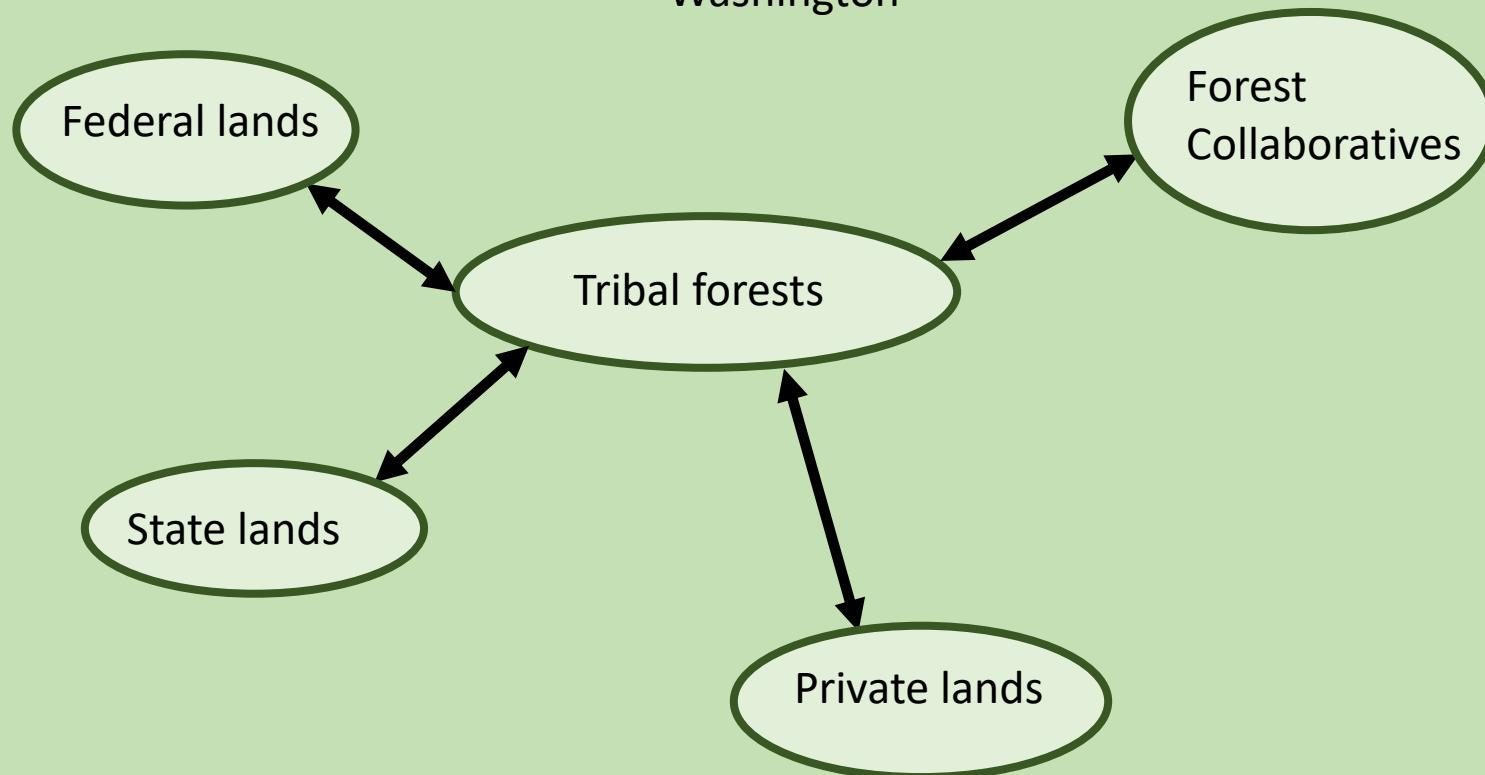


Tribes have both legal leverage and experience as knowledgeable and effective stewards



Intertribal Timber Council

Pilot project and report published in 2016 studying feasibility for communities in eastern and southern Washington

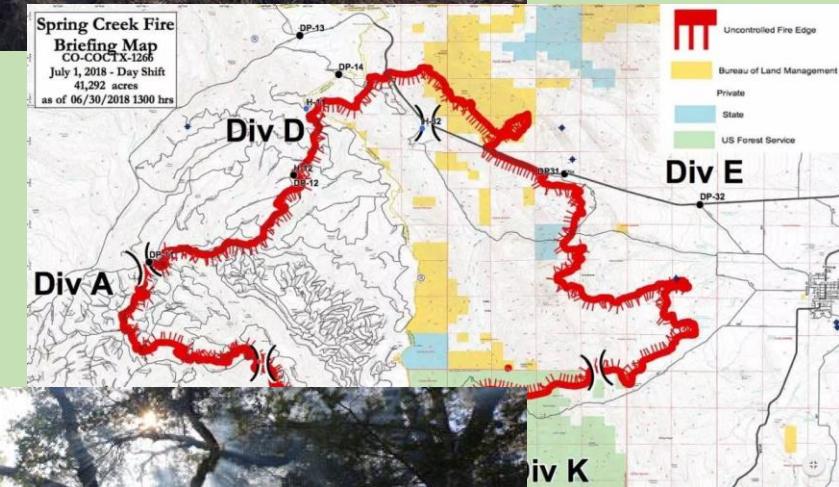


CONTEXT

- Tribal sovereignty through increased land access and economic development
- Co-management arrangements between tribes and federal government
- Cross-boundary approaches to land management and stewardship
- Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with western science



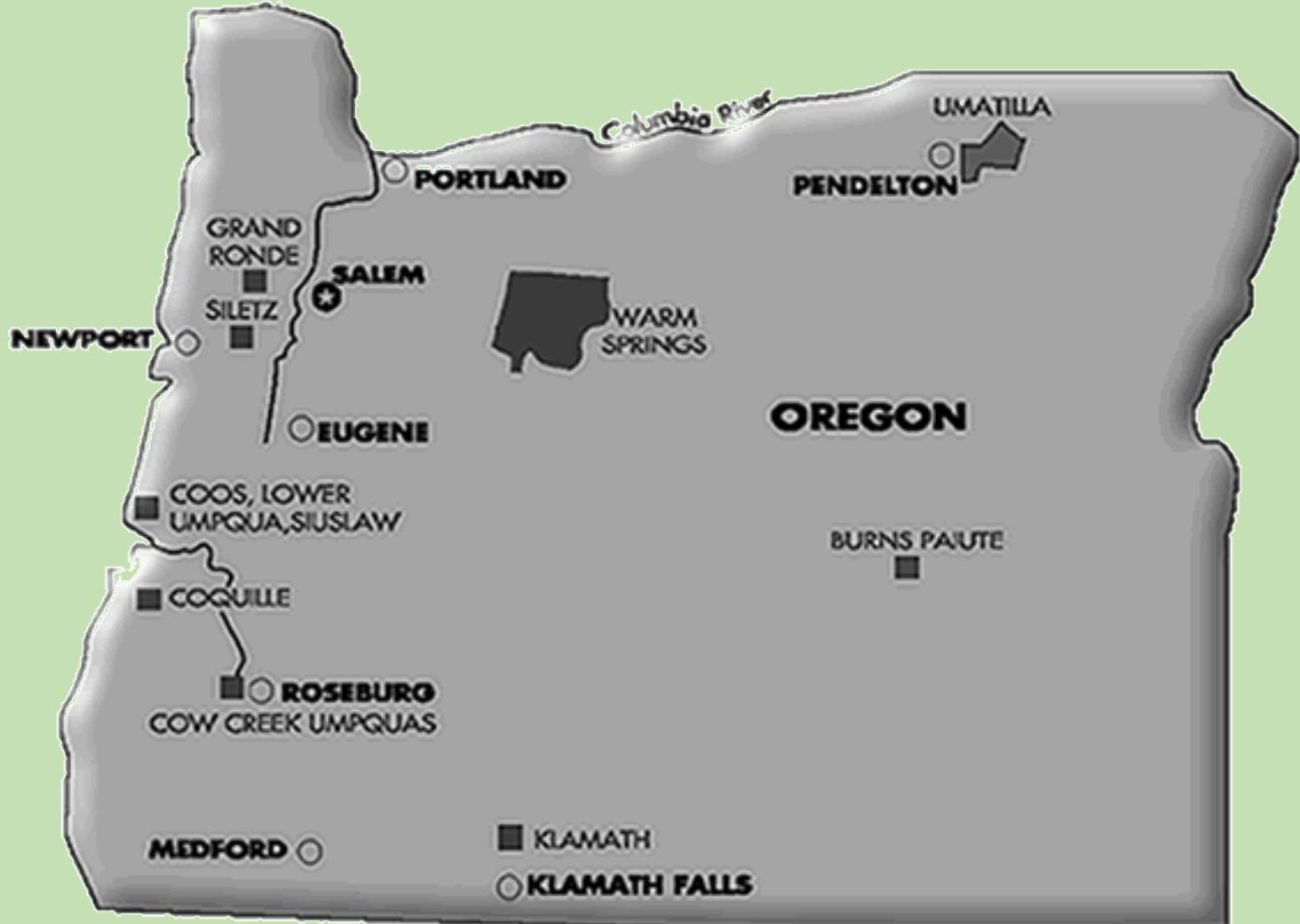
(Yakima Herald)



(Wildfire Today)



(Yes! Magazine)



- Perceptions of tribes affect interpretation of sovereignty
- Need to find common ground to create trust across divides and collaborate
- Anchor Forest idea could be used as a conceptual vision to bridge gaps

(Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board)

Research Question: What narratives and social constructions are associated with the role of tribes in collaborative forest management in the western US?



Method

Qualitative content analysis and comparison of:

Documents and media associated with the Anchor Forest idea

- Reports published by the Intertribal Timber Council
- Informational video series produced by Evergreen Magazine
- Interviews with involved leaders (to be completed)



Recent online media coverage (2009-2019) of tribal forest law and policies, including:

- Tribal Forest Protection Act
- Reserved Treaty Rights Lands
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration
- Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act
- Good Neighbor Authority

*Approximately 40 articles sampled

Oregon tribal restoration bill unanimously passes through Senate

Local News Politics Regional Top Stories U.S. & World December 22, 2017 • Newsroom Staff
Politics, tribal lands, Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act

6/25/2019 Siuslaw News | Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act set to become US law
≡ SIUSLAW NEWS (/)

Tribes can help lead on better forest-management practices



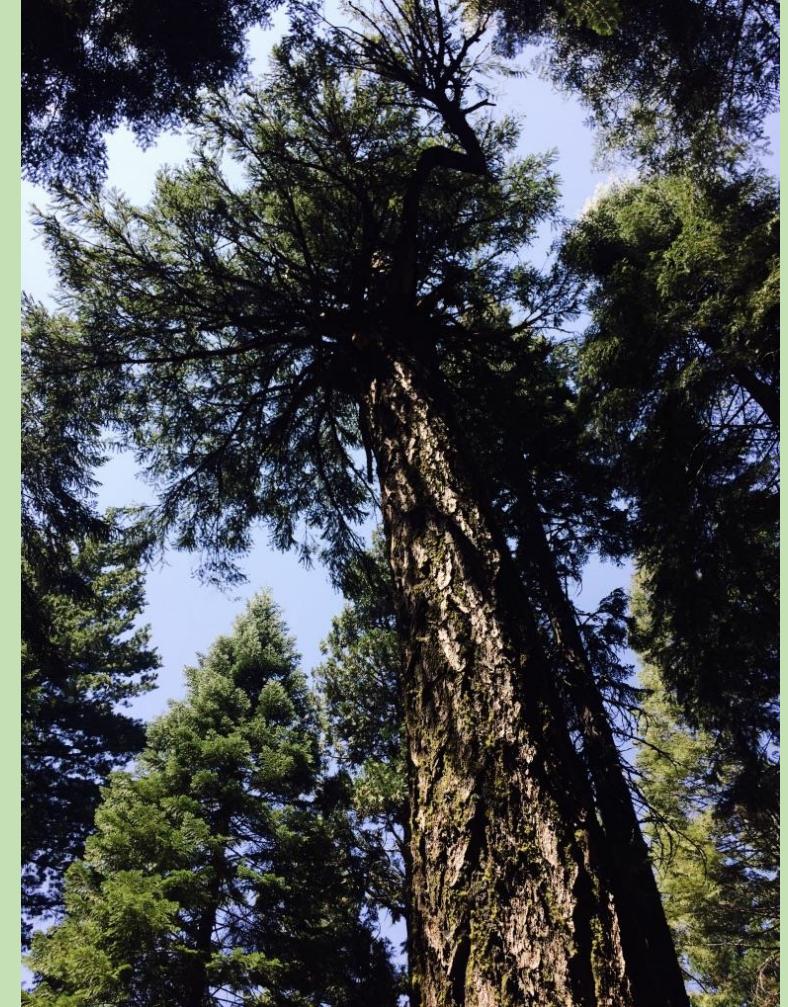
Originally published November 8, 2015 at 4:01 pm | Updated November 12, 2015 at 4:13 pm

Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act set to become US law

Analytical frameworks:

Narrative Policy Framework: policy arguments are essentially stories with a problem, villain, victim, hero, and moral

Social construction and policy design framework: groups that are constructed by society as deserving or legitimate, and/or powerful are more likely to receive policy benefits



Preliminary Results



Problem Villain Tribes' character portrayal Moral of the story



Wildfire

US Forest Service bureaucracy



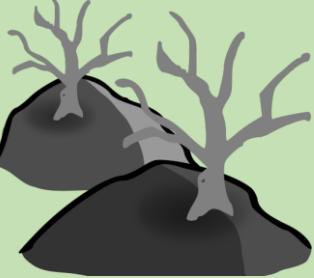
Hero

Deserving of leadership due to demonstrated efficient and effective management
Powerful due to treaty rights, policies, and governance structures



Leverage tribal forest policies and treaty rights and follow tribal leadership in enacting cross-boundary forestry

"Jonathan Brooks, tribal forest manager for the White Mountain Apache Tribe, said forest-management strategies unhindered by environmental litigation and drawn-out federal government processes helped check the wildfire here." (Cronkite News, 2011)

Problem	Villain	Tribes' character portrayal	Moral of the story
 Forest degradation	Cultural values and disconnect from nature	 Hero → <i>Deserving of leadership and benefits due to legacy on the land and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)</i>	Engage in meaningful consultation and partnerships with tribes to integrate TEK and manage for cultural land uses

“Because of our connection to the landscape, we share an interest in protecting the natural resources that support our way of life and this partnership offers additional opportunities to maintain our relationship with this special place.” (Indian Country Today, 2019)

Problem Villain Tribes' character portrayal Moral of the story



Loss of
sovereignty

Colonization
and colonial
legacies

Victim



*Deserving of benefits due
to reliance on the forest
for livelihood and culture*

*Powerless due to
unrecognized treaties, past
injustices, and victimhood of
colonization and land loss*

Give land back,
grant autonomy
and self
determination
through trust
relationships

“While more can and must be done to rectify the injustices that tribes have long faced, passing this bill into law marks an important step forward in recognizing the sovereignty of western Oregon tribes,” Wyden said in part. (NBC, 2017)

Potential Areas of Impact



- Contribute to understanding of the meaning of the Anchor Forest idea within the broader landscape of tribal forest policy and governance
- Identify which Anchor Forest narratives could be most relevant in which contexts, to inform communication and education strategies

Closing Thoughts

- I am an outsider to this work, with much to learn
- Acknowledging the harmful legacy of academia with Indigenous communities
- Partnerships are key: working with the Intertribal Timber Council
- Language and narratives matter



Photo from Intertribal Timber Council

**THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?**

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