



# Considering Traditional knowledge in climate Change Initiatives

Climate and Traditional Knowledges Workgroup

<https://climatetkw.wordpress.com/>

Recorded Webinar - January 2016

# History: Why Were the Guidelines Developed?

- Growing interest in and evidence of collaborations involving traditional knowledges in climate change initiatives



Image is from Tolowa Dunes State Park / Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation 2012 NPLCC Project.  
Caption: *Left to Right: Pacific Ocean, Lake Talawa, Lake Earl, North View. Photo © F.L. Hiser Jr..*

# History: Who supported the development of the Guidelines?

- ▶ Interest from the Department of Interior Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science (ACCCNRS)
- ▶ Partnerships and support from tribes, scholars, and agencies
- ▶ North Pacific LCC
- ▶ About the Climate and Traditional Knowledges Workgroup

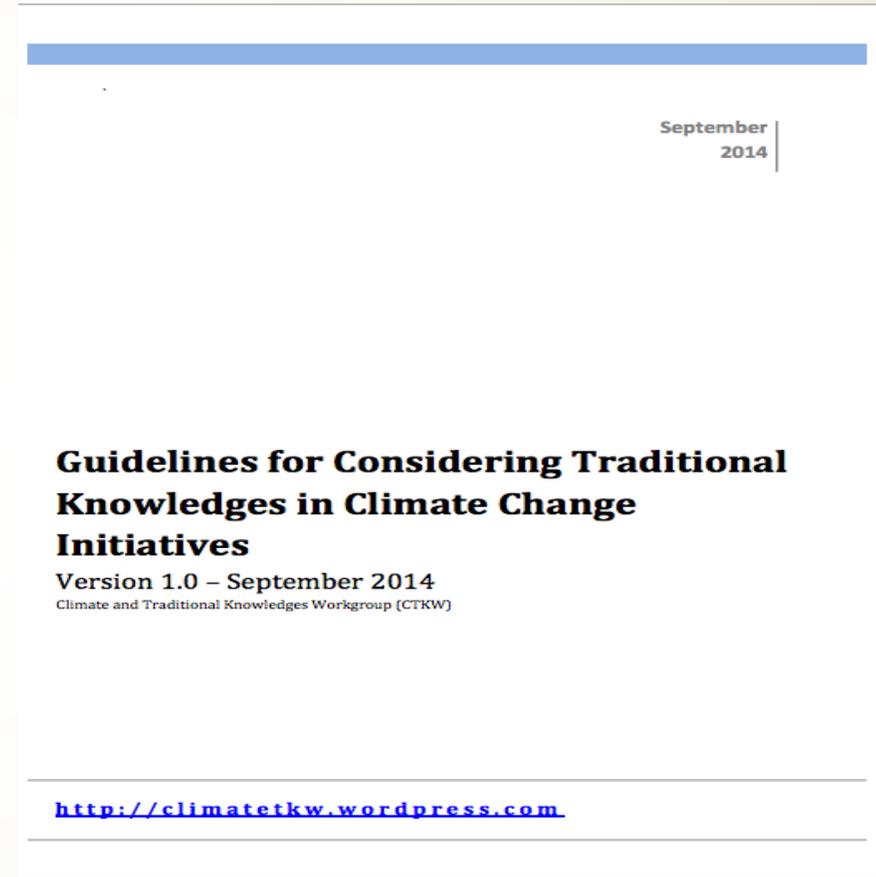


North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative Steering Committee



# Goals of the Guidelines

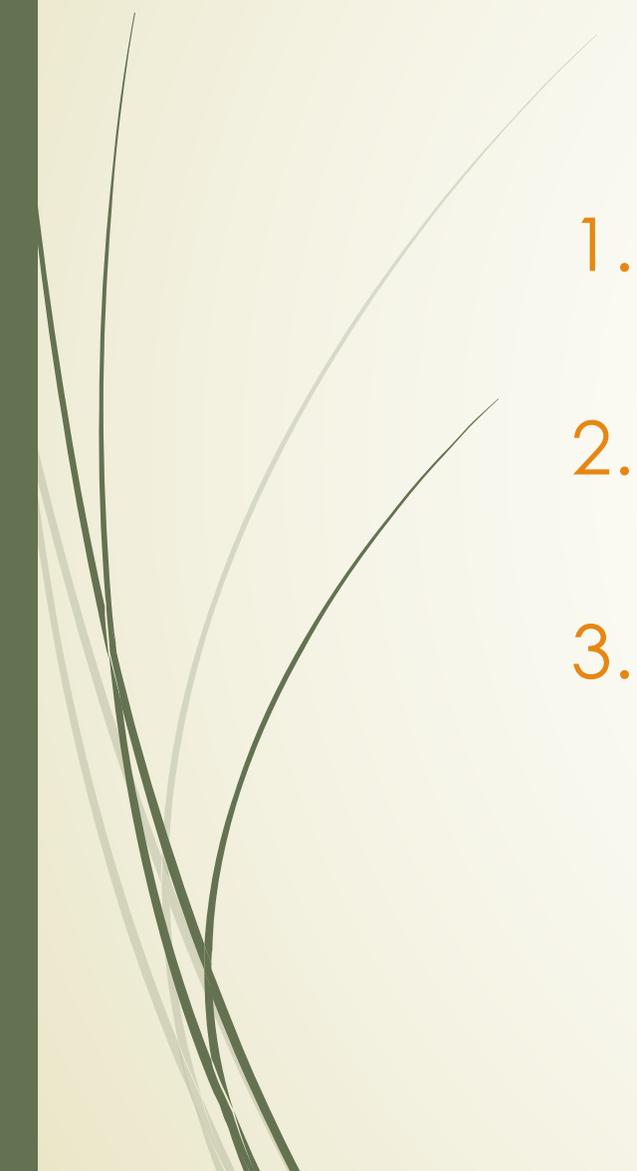
- Informational resource for tribes, agencies, and organizations
- Foster opportunities to bring together traditional knowledges in climate change initiatives in a way that ensures the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous peoples



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# Purpose of the Guidelines

1. Increase understanding of the role of and protections for TKs in climate initiatives.
  2. Provide provisional guidance to those engaging in efforts that encompass TKs.
  3. Increase mutually beneficial and ethical interactions between tribes and non-tribal partners.
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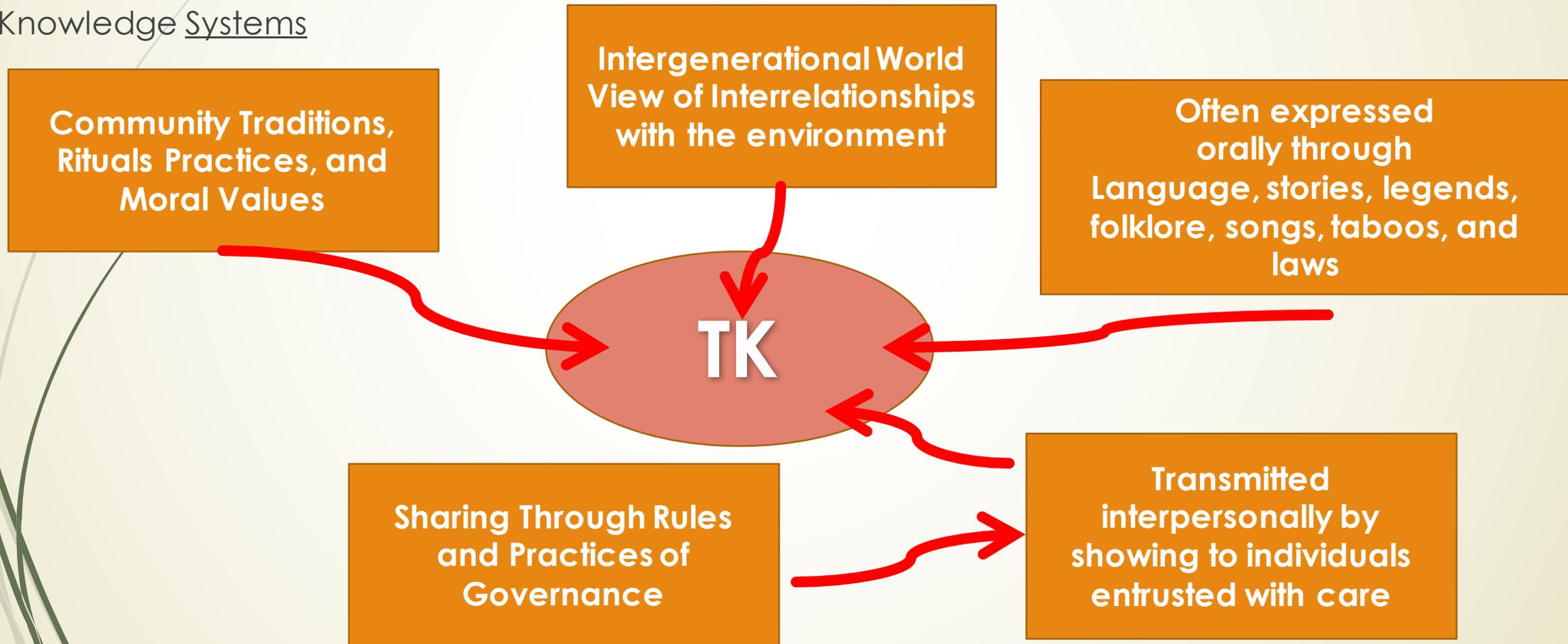


# What Is Traditional Knowledge?

- ▶ No universal definition exists
  - ▶ Commonly used terms:
    - Traditional Ecological Knowledge
    - Indigenous Knowledge
    - Indigenous Environmental Knowledge
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# What are Traditional Knowledges?

- ▶ Knowledge or Knowledges?
- ▶ Knowledge Systems





# Risks of Sharing Traditional Knowledges

- TK can and often does conflict with the agendas of government or industry.
- When TK is co-opted by non-aboriginal researchers and their institutions through transformation and rules of governance, knowledge, information, insights, messages and values are lost.



# Principles for Engagement

- ▶ Cause No Harm
- ▶ Recognize Tribal Sovereignty
- ▶ Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)
  - ▶ Free: un-coerced, unbiased, Freedom of Tribes to set procedures for consent.
  - ▶ Prior: Indigenous people should be involved from beginning in process to obtain consent before it's accessed or changed.
  - ▶ Informed: Ensures substantive fairness in negotiations and emphasizes the need to address costs and benefits, risks and opportunities.
  - ▶ Consent: Give or withhold consent. Right to say "No"
    - ▶ Explain in terms that TK holders can understand. Explain risks and opportunities



# Summary of Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives

- **Guideline 1.** Understand key concepts and definitions related to TKs
- **Guideline 2.** Recognize that indigenous peoples and holders of TKs have a right NOT to participate in federal interactions around TKs
- **Guideline 3.** Understand and communicate risks for indigenous peoples and holders of TKs
- **Guideline 4.** Establish an institutional interface between indigenous peoples, TK holders, and government for clear, transparent and culturally appropriate terms-of-reference, particularly through the development of formal research agreements
- **Guideline 5.** Provide training for federal agency staff working with indigenous peoples on initiatives involving TKs
- **Guideline 6.** Provide specific directions to all agency staff, researchers and non-indigenous entities to ensure that protections for TKs requested by tribes and knowledge holders are upheld
- **Guideline 7.** Recognize the role of multiple knowledge systems
- **Guideline 8.** Develop guidelines for review of grant proposals that recognize the value of TKs, while ensuring protections for TKs, indigenous peoples, and holders of TKs

# Guideline 1: Understand key concepts and definitions related to TKs

1. What are Traditional Knowledges?
2. Who are the holders of TKs?
3. How are TKs relevant to Climate Change?



Photo from Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network, of hanging caribou meat along the Kobuk River, north of Kiana, Alaska, in September 2010. Borrowed from BIA Climate Resilience Toolkit.



**Guideline 2:** Recognize that Indigenous peoples and holders of TKs have a right NOT to participate in federal interactions around TKs.

➤ **Right to protect TKs**

- Right not to participate
- Right to withdraw at any time
- Rights for Individuals and Tribal government



### **Guideline 3:** Understand and Communicate Risks for Indigenous peoples and holders of TKs.

There are few protections for Indigenous people who share TKs with federal partners to ensure that TKs will remain the right and property of the people. Risks include misappropriation and misuse of TKs impacting cultural resources.



**Guideline 4:** Establish an institutional interface between Indigenous peoples, TK Holders, and Government for clear, transparent, and culturally appropriate terms of reference.

**Indigenous peoples must have clear and transparent communication with federal agencies, researchers**

- ▶ Articulate conditions prior to the start of the research, and methods for fairly resolving conflicts are identified once the research has started.
- ▶ Collaborate with project partners to develop pre-determined methods for each step of bringing TK into climate change initiatives.



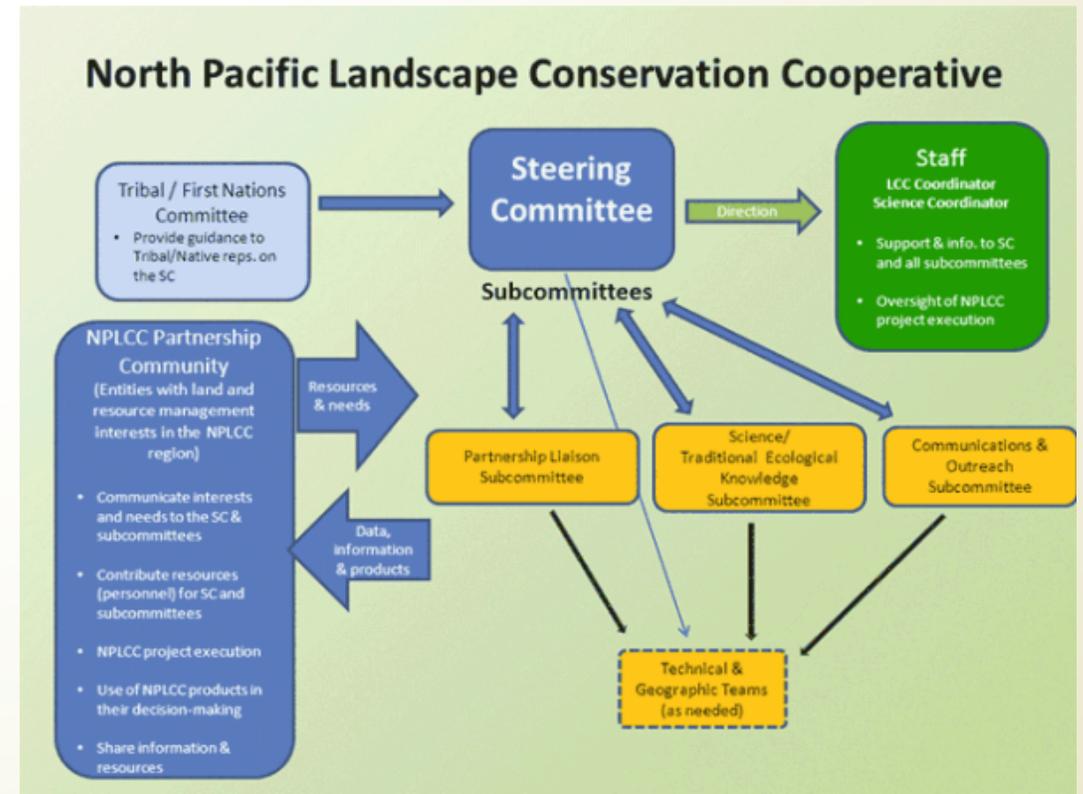
**Guideline 5:** Provide training for federal agency staff working with indigenous peoples on initiatives involving TKs

Ensure that that federal staff working with Tribes are not putting TKs at risk during federal-Tribal collaborations.



**Guideline 6:** Provide directions to agency staff, researchers, and non-indigenous entities to ensure that protections for TKs requested by tribes and knowledge holders are upheld.

If the indigenous government or knowledge holder requests protection for TKs that may be shared, agency staff should not write down or electronically record confidential or sensitive information.



# Guideline 7: Recognize the role of multiple knowledge systems.



Recognize the sovereign rights of indigenous peoples to control access to, and the use of, their traditional knowledge and the right to give or deny access to it based on their right to FPIC according to their own traditions, laws and processes.

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Potluck. Used with Permission from Jamie Donatuto.



**Guideline 8:** Develop guidelines for review of grant proposals that recognize the value of TKs, while ensuring protections for TKs, indigenous peoples, and holders of TKs.

**Federal Agencies and Granting Process should:**

- ▶ Not require that all data collected during the grant period be presumed to be under the ownership of the federal government.
- ▶ Recognize the sovereign rights of indigenous peoples to control access to, and the use of, their traditional knowledge and the right to give or deny access to it based on their right to FPIC according to their own traditions and processes.
- ▶ Reference to a human subjects protocol and approval from the Institutional Review Board.
- ▶ Follow the indigenous research protocols established by individual tribes to guide research involving tribes or knowledge holders.



For more information: Visit the Climate and Traditional Knowledges Workgroup website:

<http://climatetkw.wordpress.com>

**To obtain your copies**

- **PRIMER:**

<http://www4.nau.edu/itep/docs/CC-Primer.pdf>

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- **TK GUIDELINES:**

[https://climatetkw.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/tks\\_guidelines\\_v1.doc](https://climatetkw.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/tks_guidelines_v1.doc)

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The Primer, TK Guidelines, FAQs, and comment forms are available at: <https://climatetkw.wordpress.com/>.