



Tribal Team Statement of Purpose

The California Landscape Conservation Cooperative's (Ca LCC) vision is to support diverse and thriving ecosystems through lasting cooperative conservation partnerships. As envisioned by the Department of the Interior, a major goal of the LCC network is to “work together, and with other federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts” (Secretarial Order 3289).

The Ca LCC recognizes indigenous peoples' historic connection to and deep knowledge of the California LCC landscape. Such a long term perspective can help shape climate change adaptation strategies to ensure a resilient California landscape into the future. Through engagement with the Ca LCC, California Native American Tribes (Tribes) can improve cooperative landscape conservation. The Tribal Team is a network of tribal members, tribal staff and agency personnel working with Tribes (See Ca LCC Tribal Team Charter for further details). Partnership and coordination with the Tribal Team will help fulfill the Ca LCC's five-year goal of a growing community of resource managers, scientists, conservation practitioners, and others that are successfully collaborating to advance and implement actions that promote resilient and adaptable ecosystems across the landscape in the face of environmental change.

This Statement of Purpose outlines the manner in which the Ca LCC will cooperate with Tribes to identify opportunities and partnerships that incorporate tribal perspectives, adaptive strategies, and indigenous knowledge (including Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)) into management decisions. This Statement of Purpose also describes how Tribal Team discussions and identification of tribal priorities and perspectives will be conveyed to the Ca LCC Steering Committee.

Purpose

The Tribal Team was formed to bring the interests and perspectives of Tribes to the Ca LCC Steering Committee and CA LCC partners ensuring that tribal interests are part of the Ca LCC Steering Committee decision-making process. The Tribal Team works to create opportunities for partnership between and among Tribes and other land managers and contribute to a holistic view of land management that includes tribal cultural heritage and traditional ecological knowledge.

Goals

The Tribal Team serves as a forum for Tribes and those working with Tribes to achieve the following goals:

- Landscape Conservation projects incorporate tribal¹ partnerships, where appropriate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), and other tribal adaptive strategies and resources.
- Tribal Team members participate and attend the Ca LCCs' Annual Affiliate Conference.
- Tribal input and tribal management strategies are included in the development of 'Place-Based' projects and the discussion and identification of resources from 'Ecosystem Processes' are communicated among tribal partners.
- Ca LCC staff and partners attend and host appropriate tribal events to maintain a working knowledge of tribal perspectives and tribal stewardship and management strategies.
- Tribal concerns and priorities are cooperatively incorporated into annual Ca LCC actions.

The following objectives and strategies have been identified by the Tribal Team to meet the above referenced goals:

- Develop recommendations for a representation of tribal perspectives at the Ca LCC Steering Committee meetings, beginning in December 2015.
- Assist Ca LCC Steering Committee members and partners to recognize priorities, strategies, and actions that are important from a tribal perspective.
- Increase tribal participation in Tribal Team and Ca LCC activities
- Improve communication and collaboration between Tribes and Ca LCC partners.
- Identify opportunities for project funding, training, and projects.
- Build the capacity of Tribes and Ca LCC Partners to manage the landscape cooperatively.
- Identify and promote opportunities for partnerships with and between Tribes to inform resource conservation and management actions and build climate change resilient landscapes.
- Assist in providing tools for Tribes and Ca LCC partners to identify climate change impacts on significant natural and cultural resource sites, agriculture and subsistence resources, species and landscapes, economic and built environments, and develop strategies to address those impacts.

The Ca LCC recognizes the culturally sensitive and proprietary nature of TEK and the need for California Native American Tribes to approve the incorporation of TEK and the need to follow identified protocols that recognize the full protection of tribal rights. The sharing of TEK information may be limited or restricted in order to respect those considerations. The Tribal Team supports partnerships with Tribes in order to facilitate the proper incorporation of sensitive TEK in management decisions.

Tribal Team meetings are not a forum for dispute resolution but a means of facilitating collaboration, communication, strategic planning, and coordination of tribal voices to support landscape-scale

¹ Tribal partnerships and participation include incorporating Public Domain Allotments (PDA), Allotments, and aboriginal territories in landscape management discussions.

conservation. The Tribal Team does not represent or speak on behalf of the Tribes whose members or staff are included within its membership.

The Tribal Team is an information sharing forum. This Statement of Purpose and related Tribal Team activities shall not be considered government to government Consultation. State and federal agencies and Tribes have specific guidelines on tribal Consultation that must be followed.

Representation to the Ca LCC Steering Committee

Pursuant to the Tribal Team Charter, the Ca LCC Tribal Team will identify members, a Leadership Team and Representative to sit on the Ca LCC Steering Committee and coordinate activities between the Ca LCC and the Tribal Team.

Effective Date

December 7, 2015².

² Pursuant to the Tribal Team Discussions of November 16, 2015 this Statement of Purpose became final December 7, 2015. Changes to this Statement of Purpose shall be made as determined by the Tribal Team pursuant to the Tribal Team Charter Decision Making procedures with 30 days advanced notice and approval of requested revisions.