

# INDIGENOUS CO-STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

Graton Resort and Casino, Rohnert Park, CA

February 21, 2024



A California Biodiversity Network Initiative  
in Partnership with Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria  
with grants provided by Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation and Resources Legacy Fund

For best practice tribal consultation and co-management guidelines, go to:  
<https://nacri.institute/tribe-gov-partnership>

## AGENDA

9:00-9:15	<b>Conference Welcoming:</b> Gregg Castro ( <i>t'rowt'raahl</i> Salinan/ <i>rumsien-ramaytush</i> Ohlone), Vice-Chair, Native California Research Institute <b>Opening Statements:</b> Lorelle Ross, Tribal Consultant and Citizen, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR), Dr. Ana Alvarez, Steering Committee, California Biodiversity Network, Dr. Beverly R. Ortiz, Chair, Native California Research Institute, and Dr. Don Hankins (Plains Miwok), Co-Lead, Indigenous Stewardship Network
9:15-9:20	<b>Opening Prayer:</b> Melissa Elgin, Tribal Secretary and Citizen, FIGR, and Conrad Silva, Culture Bearer and Citizen, FIGR
9:20-9:25	Introduction of The Honorable Greg Sarris by Gregg Castro
9:25-9:45	<b>FIGR Co-Stewardship and Co-Management</b> by The Honorable Greg Sarris, Chair, FIGR
9:45-9:50	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction of Samuel Kohn by Lorelle Ross
9:50-10:10	<b>Samuel Kohn (Crow), Senior Counselor to Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs</b>
<b><u>CO-STEWARDSHIP NATIONALLY</u></b>	
<b>Co-Stewardship in Present-Day California</b>	
10:10-10:15	Announcements/Introduction by Gregg Castro of Buffy McQuillen (Yokayo Pomo/Yuki/Nomlaki), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, FIGR, who will introduce Craig Kenkel
10:15-10:35	<b>Co-Management at Point Reyes National Seashore</b> by Craig Kenkel, Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore
10:35-10:40	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Buffy McQuillen
10:40-11:00	<b>The Karuk Tribe: Moving from Co-Stewardship to Co-Management</b> by The Honorable Russell (Buster) Attebery, Chairman, Karuk Tribe; and Bill Tripp, Director, Department of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe <b>Model:</b> Suite of Agreements
11:00-11:05	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Buffy McQuillen
11:05-11:25	<b>Tribal Co-Stewardship Agreements Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians</b> by Matthew Hatcher (Konkow Maidu), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California; and Carrie Monohan, Natural Resources Director, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California <b>Model:</b> Formal Agreement with Bureau of Land Management
11:25-11:30	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Buffy McQuillen
11:30-11:50	<b>Expanding Opportunities for Tribal Partnerships with California State Parks</b> by Armando Quintero, Director; and Dr. Leslie Hartzell, Chief, Cultural Resources Division, California Department of Parks and Recreation
11:50-12:45	Lunch Break
<b>Co-Stewardship in Other States</b>	
10:45-12:50	Announcements/Introduction by Gregg Castro of Dr. Patrick Gonzalez, Executive Director, University of California, Berkeley (UCB) Institute for Parks People and Biodiversity, who will introduce Cynthia Wilson and Gavin Noyes
12:50-1:10	<b>Grassroots Strategies at Bears Ears National Monument, Utah</b> by Cynthia Wilson (Diné), Ph.D. Student, UCB; and Gavin Noyes, Arts, Advocacy, and Healing Program Coordinator, INDIGENOUS LED

1:10-1:15	<b>Model:</b> Formal agreement for co-management by Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, and the Pueblo of Zuni and Bears Ears National Monument with these Federal agencies: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Forest Service
1:15-1:35	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Dr. Patrick Gonzalez Virtual Presentation of <b>Co-Stewardship of Grand Portage National Monument, Minnesota</b> by April McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer, Grand Portage Tribal Council, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Heather Boyd (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), Superintendent Grand Portage National Monument; and Tim Cochrane, former Superintendent of Grand Portage National Monument
1:35-1:40	<b>Model:</b> Formal funding agreement between the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the National Park Service, under the Tribal Self Governance Act to include multiple functions at the park
1:40-2:00	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Dr. Patrick Gonzalez <b>Co-Stewardship of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska</b> by Chief Rhonda Pitka, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments; and Jimmy Fox, Manager, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	<b>Model:</b> Formal funding agreement in place since 2004 and still operating between the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b><u>CO-STEWARDSHIP INTERNATIONALLY</u></b>	
<b>Co-Stewardship in Canada</b>	
2:00-2:05	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Gregg Castro of Jonathan B. Jarvis, Chairman of the Board, UCB Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity, who will introduce Nadine Spence and Ernie Gladstone
2:05-2:25	Virtual Presentation of <b>Co-Stewardship of Parks Canada</b> by Nadine Spence, Vice-President, Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Parks Canada; and Ernie Gladstone, Executive Director, Aboriginal Affairs Directorate
	<b>Model:</b> Formal management agreements between First Nations and Parks Canada
2:25-2:35	Break
<b>Co-Stewardship in México</b>	
2:35-2:40	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Gregg Castro of Maite Arce, Chief Executive Officer of Hispanic Access Foundation, who will introduce Juana Iris Sanchez
2:40-3:00	Virtual Presentation of <b>Community-led Conservation: Environmental Governance and Organization in Indigenous and Local Communities, Yucatan Peninsula</b> by Juana Iris Sanchez, Community Forestry Development Specialist for the Selva Maya y Arrecife Mesoamericano (Mayan Jungle and Mesoamerican Reef/The Nature Conservancy, Mexico [Nahuatl])
3:00-3:05	Announcements by Gregg Castro/Introduction by Maite Arce
3:05-3:25	<b>Biocultural Governance, Mayan Region of Puuc</b> by Minneth Medina, Director of Junta Intermunicipal Biocultural del Puuc (Mayan)
<b>Conference Wrap Up</b>	
3:25-3:55	<u>Question and Answer Session:</u> Facilitated by Buffy McQuillen, Dr. Patrick Gonzalez, Jonathan B. Jarvis, and Maite Arce, who will direct audience member index card questions to the appropriate presenters for response
3:55-4:20	<u>Open-Mic Audience Reflections on Key Conference Takeaways:</u> Facilitated by Adina Merenlender, Professor in Cooperative Extension in Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, UCB
4:20-4:30	<u>Closing Remarks:</u> Lorelle Ross, Gregg Castro, Dr. Don Hankins, and Jonathan B. Jarvis

**5:30-7:00**

**Reception Hosted by Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria**

Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served

**CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR)**

Tribal Council Member and  
Matthew Johnson and Robin Meely, Cultural Department Staff and Citizens, FIGR

**Chah-pekwo' Ket'-toh "Stone Lagoon" Visitor Center (Yurok)**

The first tribally operated State Park Visitor Center  
Princess Colegrove, Hupa/Yurok, Kes-e-loh McQuillen, Yurok/Pomo and  
Victor Bjelajac, District Superintendent II

**Pala Tribal Stewardship**  
Chris Nejo, Pala Tribe

**Inter-tribal Bird Singers**  
Wayne Nelson, Pala Citizen

**Onoo Po Strategies**  
Bennae Calac with Mary Belardo  
(Torres Martinez Elders Committee Chairwoman  
and Tribal Chairperson Emeritus)

## **CULTURAL DISPLAY TABLES**

**Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR)**  
Robin Meely

**Art and the Pomo Cultural Landscape**  
Meyo Marrufo and Elaine Quitiquit-Palmer

**Chah-pekwo' Ket'-toh "Stone Lagoon" Visitor Center**  
Princess Colegrove, Hupa/Yurok, Kes-e-loh McQuillen, Yurok/Pomo and  
Victor Bjelajac, District Superintendent II

**Indigenous Stewardship Network**  
Don Hankins, Co-Lead

**Karuk Basketry Demonstration and Cultural Display**  
Dixie Rogers and Claudette Rogers

**Native California Research Institute**  
Featuring cultural foods processing and tasting and the art of Kathleen Rose Smith (1939-2023),  
Bodega Miwok and Goat Rock/Dry Creek Pomo, respected Elder, Culture Bearer, and FIGR Citizen  
Gregg Castro, Laurie Morales, Beverly R. Ortiz, and Sherrie Smith-Ferri

**Pomo Weavers Society**  
<https://www.silvergalletto.com/>  
Silver Galletto, Elaine Quitiquit-Palmer, and Patricia Franklin

## **EVENT PARTNERS**



**Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria**, <https://gratonrancheria.com/>  
A Restored Tribe Serving Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties, the Graton Rancheria community is a federation of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo groups recognized as a tribe by the US Congress. The Miwok of west Marin County have, through the years, been referred to as Marshall Indians, Marin Miwok, Tomales, Tomales Bay, and Hookooeko. The Bodega Miwok (aka, Olamentko) traditionally lived in the area of Bodega Bay. The neighboring Southern Pomo Sebastopol group lived just north and east of the Miwok. The town of Sebastopol is located about one mile midway between the north boundary of Miwok territory and the southern edge of Southern Pomo territory.



**California Biodiversity Network**, <https://cabiodiversitynetwork.org/>  
The California Biodiversity Network brings together key environmental experts and community leaders who are united to conserve California's globally renowned and highly threatened natural heritage. The network is a key partner in the launch and implementation of California's 30x30 conservation initiative. It provides a collaborative forum for diverse conservation organizations and scientific institutions prioritizing biodiversity protection, stewardship, environmental education, and scientific inquiry.



CALIFORNIA  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**  
AGENCY

**California Natural Resources Agency**, <https://resources.ca.gov/>  
The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is one of the California executive branch agencies that reports to the Office of the Governor. The CNRA mission is to restore, protect and manage the state's natural, historical and cultural resources for current and future generations using creative approaches and solutions based on science, collaboration, and respect for all the communities and interests involved.



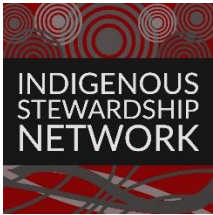
**East Bay Regional Park District, <https://www.ebparcs.org/>**

The East Bay Regional Park District is a system of beautiful parklands in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to the east of San Francisco. The system comprises 73 parks spanning across 126,809 acres; 1,250 miles of trails; 55 miles of shoreline. We manage and preserve natural and cultural resources for all to enjoy and protect. The regional parks are ideal for healthful recreation and environmental education.



**Hispanic Access Foundation, <https://hispanicaccess.org/>**

The Foundation connects Latinos and others with partners and opportunities to improve lives and create an equitable society. One day, every Latino in America will enjoy good physical health and a healthy natural environment, a high-quality education, economic success, and civic engagement in their community with the sum of improving the future of America.



**Indigenous Stewardship Network**

This Native-controlled and led-nonprofit was established to bring people together who are committed to advancing community health and wellbeing, traditions, and cultural values through Indigenous-led stewardship. While gatherings on these important issues have occurred informally, there is a need for an organized and dedicated support system to coordinate efforts more intentionally for Indigenous land stewardship practitioners in what is colonially known as California.



**Native California Research Institute, <https://nacri.institute/>**

This Native-led nonprofit is dedicated to perpetuating the legacies of Native California elders and culture bearers, the California Indian Conference, Native California archives, and culturally important places. NaCRI's programs support building the capacity of indigenous communities and their partners to reintroduce indigenous management for resilient cultural landscapes. They also include the protection of cultural sites at risk from climate change and other activities.



**The Stewardship Network, <https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/>**

The Stewardship Network is an award-winning nonprofit organization with a 20-year history of caring for our natural world. Through shared experiences, knowledge, and resources, we continue to build an ever larger and more impactful network of place-based collectives (TSN Member Communities) from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean doing the most important work of our lifetimes.



**University of California, Berkeley Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity,**

<https://parks.berkeley.edu/>

The Institute advances science and solutions to halt climate change, conserve biodiversity, and improve the experience of nature for all. It conducts new scientific research and helps managers and policymakers apply the results to conservation of ecosystems around the world, especially in national parks and other protected areas.



**30x30 California, <https://www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30>**

In October 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-82-20 which establishes a state goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. The primary 30x30 goal is to help accelerate conservation of the lands and coastal waters of the place now known as California through voluntary, collaborative action with partners across the state, part of a global effort to increase biodiversity conservation.



“A flicker feather band, fragrant bay leaves, clam shell beads, the tan and brown hues of basketry plants—all represented in multiples of the sacred four—express an integration of the spiritual and physical aspects of life. To live in spiritual and physical balance in the same small area for thousands of years without feeling the need to go somewhere else, as my people did, requires restraint, respect, and knowledge of the ways of each animal and plant. As my mother taught me, and she, in turn, was taught, the plants, animals, birds—everything on this earth—they are our relatives, and we had better know how to act around them, or they'll get after us.”

--Kathleen R. Smith (1939-2023), FIGR Citizen, 1993