

Wiyátunx̣it ku Náx̣ašwít 'Change and Challenge' Project Carbon & Culture Symposium 2025

Regional Gathering to Support Carbon Sequestration within First Foods Management

Carbon sequestration initiatives are being funded in the Pacific Northwest, and our First Foods habitats are being left behind. This symposium will invite Tribal knowledge keepers, cultural practitioners, researcher groups, academics, and land managers to discuss opportunities and options to increase recognition and funding of vegetation and soil carbon sequestration performed by our living ecosystems.



Concept Summary:

Natural lands and functional ecosystems sequester carbon efficiently and effectively, primarily through vegetation growth and soil organic carbon. Lands that perform some economic activity, most often agriculture and forestry, are preferred strategies for carbon removal and storage. If managed appropriately, these lands have the potential to both sequester carbon and provide benefits to First Foods through improved land management and habitat availability.

This symposium will provide an opportunity for Tribal knowledge keepers and practitioners to lead conversations and learning about carbon sequestration science, what options are available, and how we can uplift First Foods as an answer to carbon mitigation.

Carbon and Culture Symposium At-A-Glance:

Who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge Keepers• Academics• Land Managers	<p>Tribal cultural practitioners are invited to share their skills and experiences and learn about carbon options.</p> <p>Researchers and academics are invited to learn from cultural knowledge keepers, and to share their area of focus and teach others.</p> <p>Organizations, academics, and managers are invited to share space with us and learn about Indigenous knowledge practices and potential relationships to, and impacts of carbon sequestration strategies and options available.</p>
What: 3-Day Symposium	<p>Multi-day Symposium and discussion to learn about Indigenous knowledge and stewardship practices, carbon sequestration science and strategies, and opportunities for communities around the Pacific Northwest to collaborate for ecosystem resilience and mitigation.</p>
Where: Cove Ascension School P.O. Box 278 Cove, Oregon	<p>Cove Ascension School, Episcopal Diocese Church In partnership with Naknuwithlama Tiichamna</p> <p>Hosted in beautiful Cove, Oregon, at the Ascension School. Meals & accommodations for at least 100 people, with varying degrees of amenities. Please let us know if you require specific accommodations, and/or if you are willing to bring some of your own supplies and camping gear! Full bathroom access available for those camping.</p>
Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshops• Lectures• Discussion• Report	<p>Hands-on workshops to learn about Tribal cultural practices involved in resilience in stewardship of First Foods.</p> <p>Learning opportunities with traditional lectures with Q&A after.</p> <p>Dedicated discussion spaces for thinking collaboratively about problems and potential solutions that benefit all.</p> <p>Contribute to the summary report on the symposium proceedings</p>
Timeline: Sept 29th - Oct 1st, 2025	<p>Event Schedule: Monday Sept 29th to Wed Oct 1st, 2025</p> <p>Summary Report: Winter 2025</p>

Symposium Background

Carbon is an essential element for life on earth and has also become out of balance with the natural processes of the Earth and Natitayt (people). Natural lands and functional ecosystems sequester (“remove from active circulation”) carbon efficiently and effectively, primarily through vegetation growth and soil organic carbon. Lands that perform some economic activity, most often agriculture and forestry, are the common sites measured and reported about for carbon removal and storage. Ideally, the CTUIR would like to emphasize natural habitats and First Foods for carbon storage in the homelands, which will require partnerships and agreements to bring carbon back into balance.

Research and scientific understanding of the amount of carbon agricultural and forest lands can sequester is poorly documented. There has also been little to no attempt by many agencies and organizations to gain Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) from either Tribal or non-Tribal communities that are affected by carbon management initiatives.

Symposium Goal

This symposium will provide an opportunity for Tribal knowledge keepers and practitioners to lead conversations and learn about carbon sequestration science, what options are available, and how we can uplift First Foods management tools as an answer to carbon mitigation.

Symposium Outcomes

- Compile and synthesize symposium proceedings to be published later as a documentation of the event and the perspectives shared.
- Interviews, testimony, and written feedback of participants on their impressions about the symposium and preferences on carbon management strategies.
- Improve regional understanding of carbon management approaches, contributions of First Foods, and indicate preferences for which strategies the region should be investing.

Symposium Format

Organize and host a multiple day conference and workshop style event with a mix of lectures, hands-on workshops for cultural practices, and an evening creative performance centering climate change and Tribal perspectives.

Symposium Deliverables

- ☐ Multiple day symposium with 100+ participants (contingent on accommodations and venue capacity) at the Cove Ascension School in partnership with Naknuwithlama Tiichamna
- ☐ 2nd night creative performance on climate crisis and Indigenous joy
- ☐ Poster contest for K12/Adult/College participants with prizes for best entry
- ☐ Post-Symposium summary report on proceedings for publication

Seeking Symposium Partners

This Carbon and Culture Symposium is designed to bring together potential partners from diverse disciplines from over the region to build a vision of a carbon sequestration economy, and thus we are looking for partner organizations who would like to work with us on this opportunity.

Partner and Sponsor Options

This event is designed to emphasize the understanding that solutions will need to be found collaboratively and that work for all invested parties in our region. Because of that, we are looking for partners to help us make this symposium happen!

Organizations are invited to be either partners or sponsors, or both.

Partner Options

Partners with this symposium will be responsible for assisting CTUIR facilitate some aspect of the event. This may include:

- Participation on the event planning work group (includes virtual meeting options)
- Expert presenters and workshop leaders to provide information to event sessions
- Native artists and performers willing to collaborate on creative opportunities with event
- Coordination assistance with participating entities to improve engagement with region
- Commitment to share event announcements with network organizations and people
- Being part of the event facilitation team during the event (ex: discussion facilitator, “go for” assistance, note-takers, meal & accommodations coordinators, showing participants where amenities are located etc.)
- Coordinating with students on poster competition entries and student involvement
- Other options we haven’t thought of yet! Let us know if you think you can help.

Sponsor Options

Sponsors with this symposium will be responsible for providing financial assistance to some aspect of the event. This may include:

- Travel assistance to participating entities that will need funding assistance to attend
- Native artists & performers compensation funding or pro-bono contributions
- Providing participation incentives like raffle and award prizes, and event memorabilia
- Additional meal and snack provisions, especially culturally prepared foods
- Other event costs such as supplies and materials for discussions and workshops
- Other opportunities we haven’t thought of! Let us know if you think you can help.

Proposed Symposium Budget

Below is the proposed budget (for internal planning purposes ONLY). Funds to support this event are provided by Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) as part of Oregon’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) development activities.

Cost Category	Vendor	Amount
Venue Rental (includes meal catering)	Cove Ascension School	\$18,000
Workshop Lead (includes at least 3 workshops during event)	Naknuwithlama Tiichamna	\$12,000
Workshop Support Stipends	CTUIR Knowledge Keepers TBD (5-10 teachers)	\$10,000
Native Artist/Performer Stipends	CTUIR Artist/Performer (1-2 people, more if additional sponsors) Soliciting sponsors*	\$1,000
Poster Contest Awards	Prize funds for 3 categories (tiered awards for 3 places)	\$6,000
Shared logo supplies/swag ex: notebooks, pens, swag: to-go tupperware, reusable cutlery, tote bags, bandanas, toiletries, towels etc)	Soliciting sponsors* Event partnership opportunity	
Raffle prizes/donations	Soliciting sponsors* Event partnership opportunity	
Snacks	Soliciting sponsors* Event partnership opportunity	
Total		\$50,000

Preliminary Symposium Timeline

Below is the preliminary timeline and milestones; please note these may change as event planning progresses, and as additional event partners are secured.

Milestone	Timeframe	Roles
Draft IGA with ODEQ	Jan 2025	DNR Director and OED FFPP supporting
Assemble planning workgroup (meet monthly until July, then weekly until event)	Feb 2025	DNR FFPP Partner orgs supporting
Finalize IGA with ODEQ	March 2025	CTUIR OED FFPP supporting
Contract with vendors	June 2025	DNR Admin & Finance FFPP supporting
Announce event, solicit partners & sponsors	April 2025	CTUIR Communications FFPP supporting
Solicit workshop support, presenters, & partners	April - July 2025	FFPP in collaboration with CRPP, other CTUIR
Finalize presenters, workshop support, & sponsors	Aug 2025	DNR Director FFPP supporting
Workgroup final meeting	Sept 28th 2025	FFPP lead Partner orgs supporting
Event	Sept 29th - Oct 1st 2025	FFPP lead Partner orgs & ODEQ supporting
Report Development	Oct - Nov 2025	FFPP lead CTUIR OED & BOT review
Publish Report	Dec 2025	FFPP lead

Please contact CTUIR First Foods Policy Program (FFPP) with any questions or partnership/sponsor opportunities: FirstFoods@CTUIR.org and at (541) 429 - 7247

