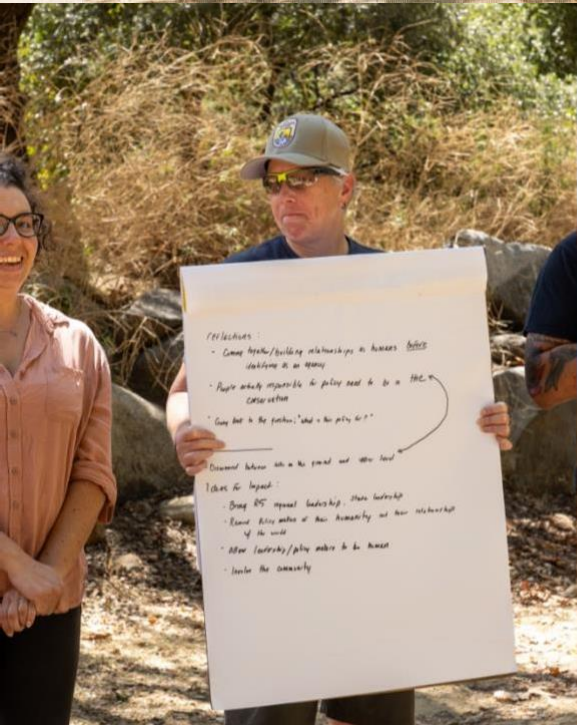


SoCal Oak Woodlands Forest Gathering

Report Appendix

Discussion Notes



Reflections:

- Create specific/facilitating relationships in between *tribes* individuals in an agency
- People already responsible for policy need to be in the conversation
- "Grip hold to the partners," what is the policy for?"

Discussion between tribe in the ground and other level

What to expect:

- Bring 85% regional leadership, share knowledge
- Expand policy makers of their knowledge and their relationships of the world
- Offer leadership/policy makers to be honest
- Involve the community



Hosted by the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians



RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Greater San Diego County



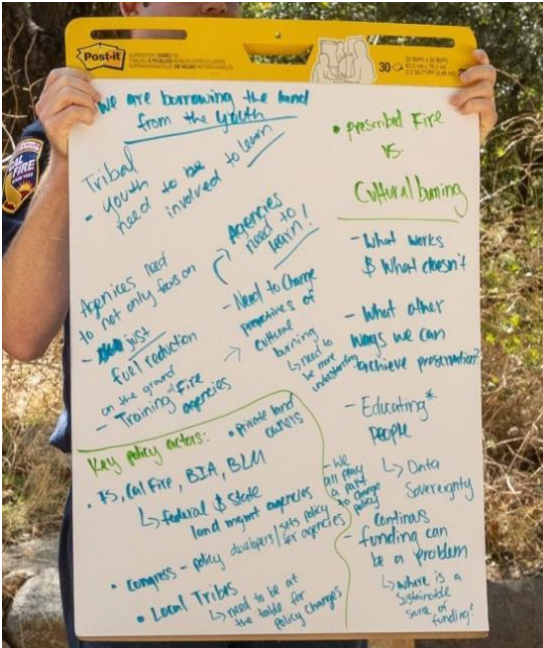
CLIMATE SCIENCE ALLIANCE



FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Wednesday, September 20th

On the final day of the Forest Gathering, the group considered the policy implications of their shared experience in small groups and then shared those with each other. Policy discussions serve to improve future coordination amongst all organizations involved. Below are the outcomes from each small group's discussion.



Discussion Items

Group 1

- We are borrowing the land from our youth
- Tribal youth need to be involved to learn
- Agencies need to not only focus on just fuel reduction
- On-the-ground trainings with fire agencies
- Agencies need to learn; Need to change perspectives on cultural burning; Need to be more understanding

Prescribed Fire vs Cultural Burning

- What works and what does not
- What other ways can we achieve preservation
- Educate individuals on sovereignty
- We all play a part in changing policy
- Continuous funding can be a problem- where is a sustainable source of funding?

Key Policy Actors

- Private land owners
- Forest Service, Cal Fire, BIA, BLM- Federal and State land management agencies
- Congress- policy developers/ set policy for agencies
- Local Tribes- need to be at the table for policy changes



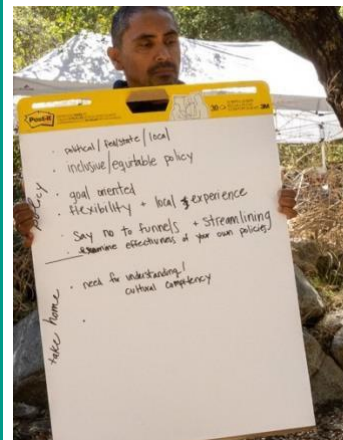
Policy Items

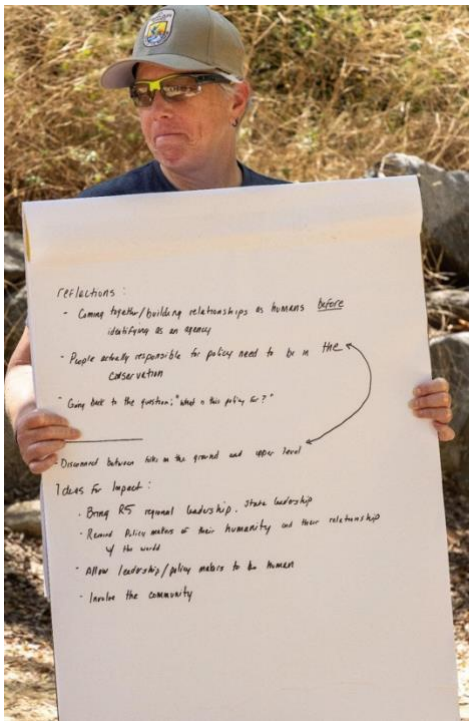
Group 2

- Political/Federal/State/Local
- Inclusive/ equitable policy
- Goal oriented
- Flexibility and local experience
- Say no to funnels and streamlining
- Examine the effectiveness of your own policies

Take Home

- Need for understanding cultural competency





Reflections

Group 3

- Come together/build relationships as humans first before identifying as an agency
- Individuals responsible for policy need to be in the conversation
- Going back to the question: "What is this policy for?"
- Disconnect between folks on the ground and upper level

Ideas for Impact

- Bring Region 5 regional leadership and state leadership
- Remind policymakers of their humanity and their relationship with the world
- Allow leadership policymakers to be human

Reflections

Group 4

- State Parks- now working with Tribal members in the desert and now have new contacts related to fire/ fuel reduction
- Identify how policies prevent tribal members from being fire-certified or allowed to burn. (Difference between Federal recognized tribes and non-recognized): Cal Fire, Forest Service, California State parks, Tribes (some), BIA

Roadblocks

- Federal law
- Fire agency mentality that the fire needs to be "put out"
- Using any methods
- Cultural burns might be suspect
- Have to change the culture within agencies
- Ask People at other agencies why?
- If no one inside your agency can answer "why", then change policy



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the Forest Gathering, members of the Planning Team met to align around a set of recommendations that reflected the learning from the experience that was shared.

1. Honor Tribal expertise by relying on Tribes to define cultural competency, develop and provide trainings, and offer guidance to agencies and organizations. Prioritize cultural competency in staff responsibilities and staff performance evaluations.
2. Develop Air Quality exemptions for cultural and prescribed fire and fuel reduction projects and align exemptions across agencies.
3. Build partnerships and relationships between Tribal Nations and state and federal agencies regarding land use, land access, and gatherings. Strive for agreements like the one between the Yurok Tribe and State Parks on Chah-pekw O' Ket'toh (Stone Lagoon).
4. Create a Tribal access pass that is good on state and federal lands.
5. Increase Tribal involvement, prior to the planning stage. Framing, mission statements, and agency objectives should all include Tribal insight.
6. For land management projects or multi-agency objective agreements where a Tribe is a lead on a project, accept NEPA instead of CEQA, even on state lands.
7. Where the Tribe is the lead on a project, default to "Redbook" qualifications. There is currently a loophole between BIA and Cal Fire that does not meet these qualifications and creates confusion on projects.

