

“Cultural Fire, Storytelling, and Reclaiming Indigenous Land Stewardship Practices”

Melinda Adams , PhD Candidate
UC Davis
October 16, 2022

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Land Acknowledgement – A starting point, a “noun”

“We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.”

Land Acknowledgement – Seek actions, a “verb”

- Recognize the institution has disenfranchised Native Peoples and Peoples of Color historically and continues to do so presently.
- Acknowledge the institution is on stolen land and that Native peoples are very much present on campus and even in your classrooms.
- Actively seek collaboration/consultation/consent on project involving or with potential involvement with Native peoples.
- Actively seek ways to support Native students (undergraduate and graduate), centering and uplifting our worldviews and knowledge systems.



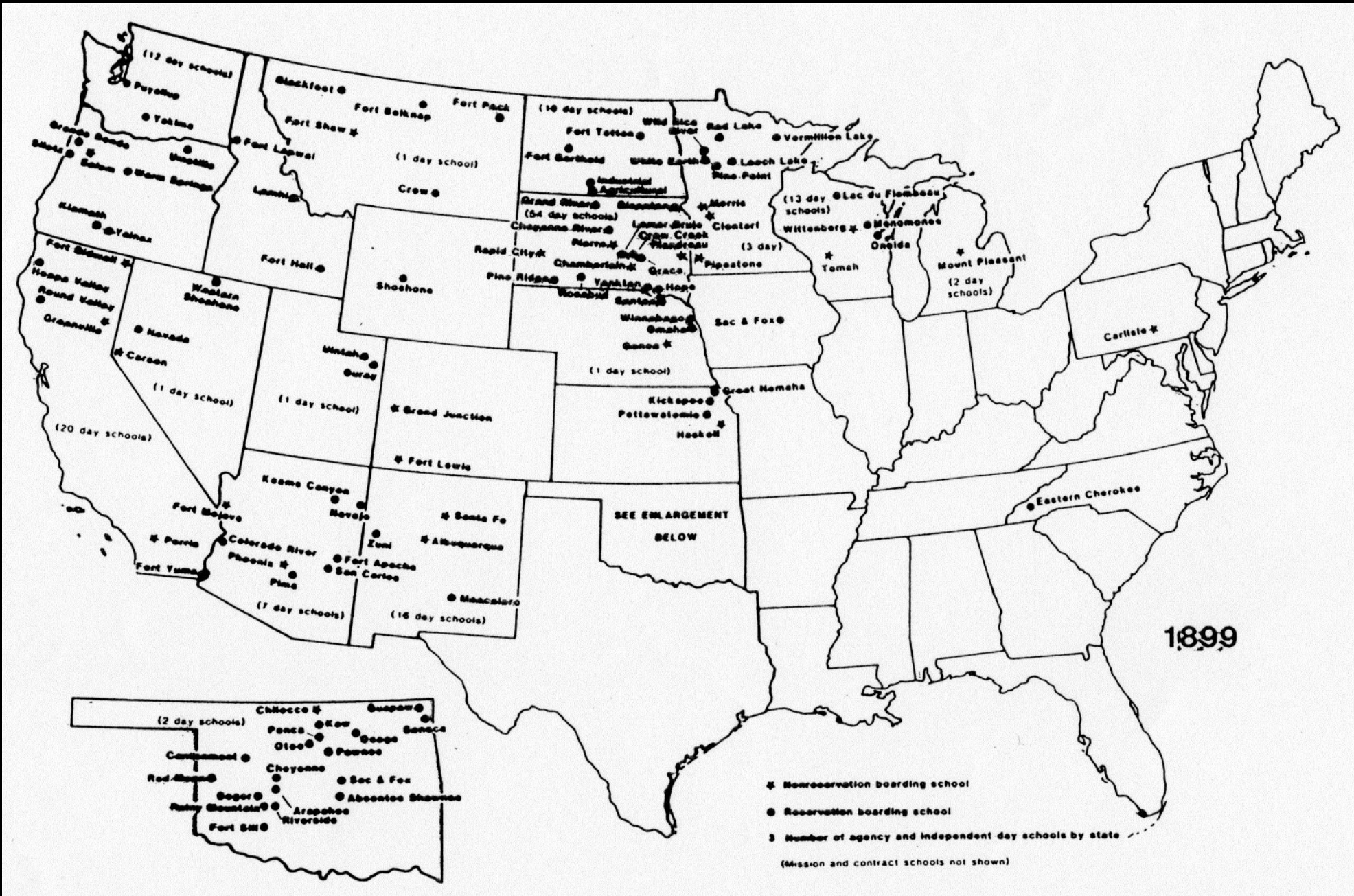
- *N'dee* San Carlos Apache
- B.S., M.S. Environmental Science & Ecology, M.A. Native American Studies
- Faculty/Chair – Environmental Science
Haskell Indian Nations University



- HERS Institute (Haskell Environmental Research Studies) Food, Energy, Water







(17 day schools) Puyallup
 ● Tacoma
 Grande Bend ●
 ● Salem ● Warm Springs
 ● Umatilla
 ● Yamhill
 ● Klamath
 ● Fort Bidwell
 ● Hoopa Valley
 ● Round Valley
 ● Grapenette
 ● Nevada
 ● Carson
 (1 day school)
 ● Western Shoshone
 ● Fort Hall
 ● Shoshone
 ● Rapid City
 ● Pine Ridge
 ● Chamberlain
 ● Yankton
 ● Woonsocket
 ● Santee
 ● Omaha
 ● Winnebago
 ● Sac & Fox
 ● Kikapoo
 ● Pettawatomie
 ● Haskell
 ● Great Nemaha
 ● Fort Belknap
 ● Fort Shaw
 ● Fort Totten
 ● Fort Sisseton
 ● Fort Snare
 ● Fort Union
 ● Fort Verde
 ● Fort Walsh
 ● Fort Wadsworth
 ● Fort Yates
 ● Wild Rice
 ● Bad Lake
 ● Vermillion Lake
 ● Wells
 ● Leach Lake
 ● Pine Point
 ● Industrial Agricultural
 ● Grand River
 ● Chayanna River
 ● Lamar
 ● Crow Creek
 ● Mandan
 ● Clearfork
 ● Pipestone
 ● Morrie
 ● Wittenberg
 ● Lac du Flambeau
 ● Montomonee
 ● Onida
 ● Temah
 ● Mount Pleasant
 ● Carlisle
 ● Eastern Cherokee
 ● Santa Fe
 ● Albuquerque
 ● Zuni
 ● Fort Apache
 ● San Carlos
 ● Moencadero
 ● Keams Canyon
 ● Navajo
 ● Fort Mojave
 ● Parris
 ● Colorado River
 ● Phoenix
 ● Pima
 ● Fort Yuma
 ● Fort Sill
 ● Cherokee
 ● Choctaw
 ● Seminole
 ● Kew
 ● Ponce
 ● Okeechobee
 ● Pensacola
 ● Cheyenne
 ● Sec & Fox
 ● Absentee Shawnee
 ● Sagoy
 ● Red Mountain
 ● Arapahoe
 ● Riverside
 ● Fort Sill



Entrance, Haskell Institute.

Lawrence, Kans. 312.

Pub. by Hoadley's China Store.



CardGow.com

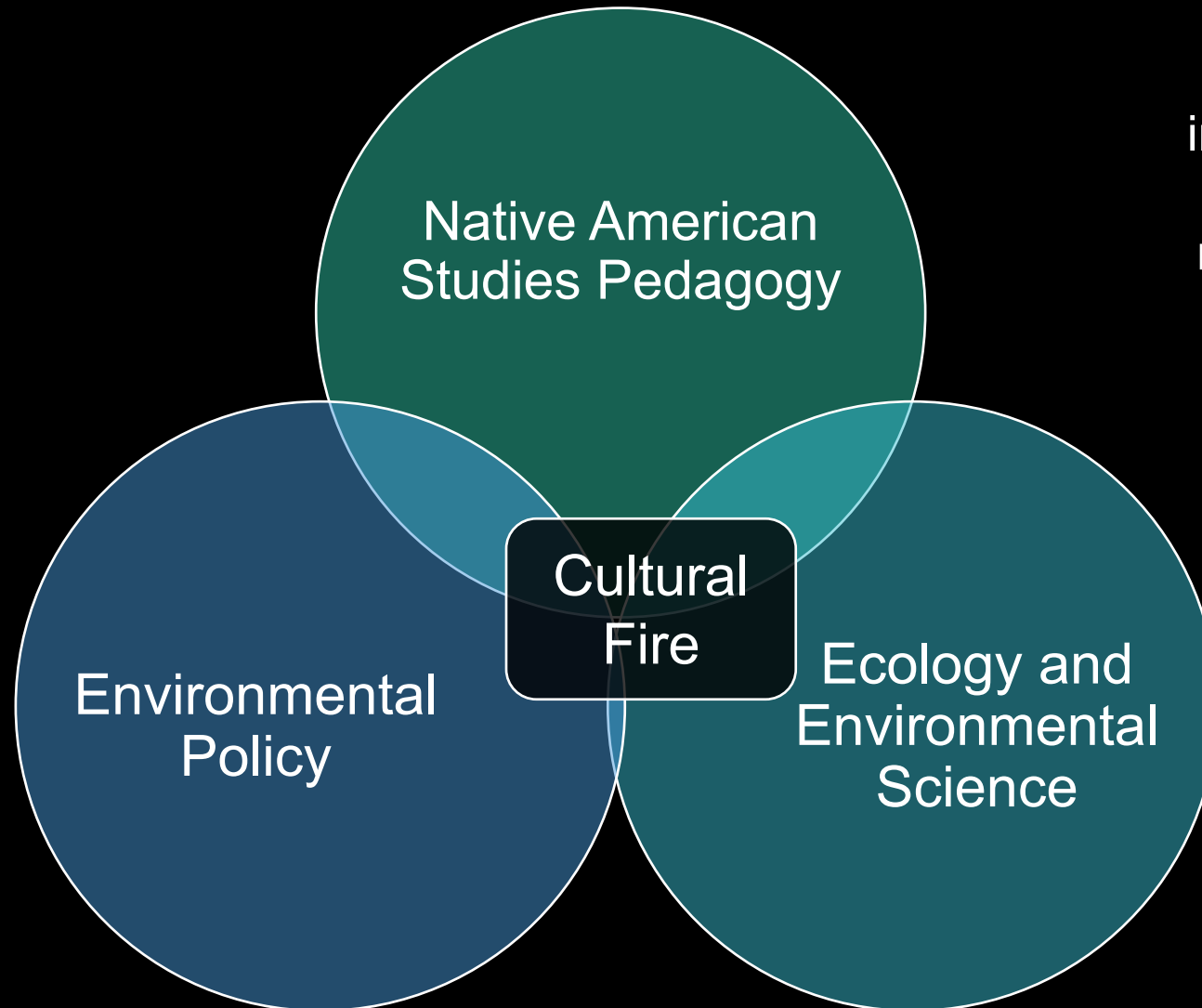


© Joe Bantz

-
- SOI Deb Haaland released a report on the federal Indian boarding school system.
 - Follows May 2021 uncovering of 215 Native children in mass graves in British Columbia.
 - This report identifies the trauma perpetrated by boarding schools.
 - Haaland initiated “The Road to Healing” , for survivors to share their stories, help connect communities with trauma-informed support.

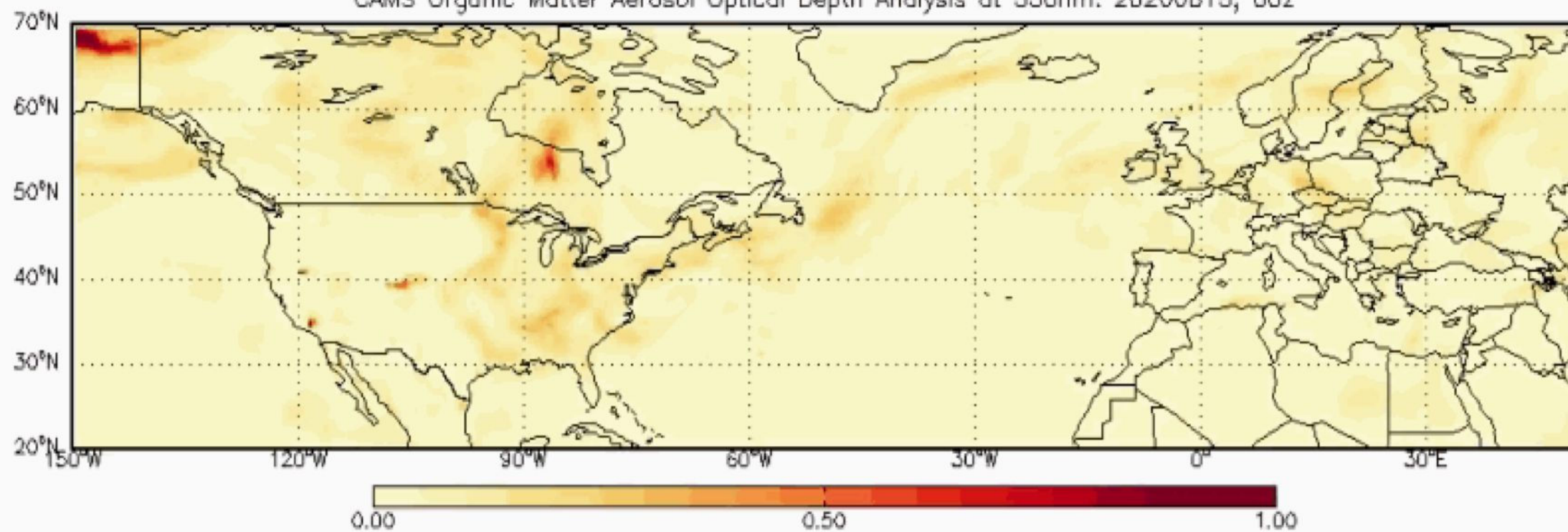


Socio-ecological research approach

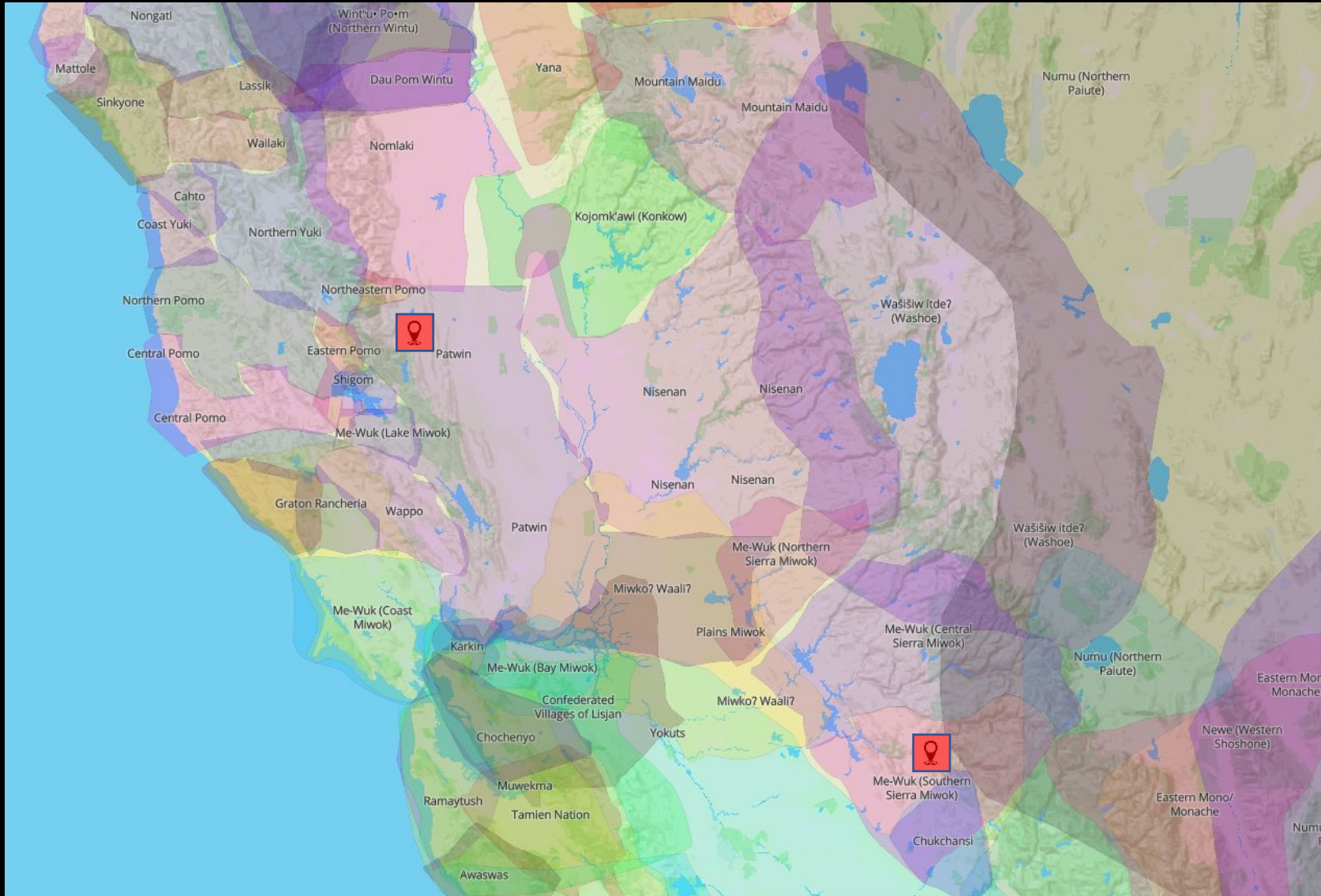


“Small area fires conducted using traditional ecological knowledge. These low temperature burns not only improve the ecosystem, they also provide socio-cultural medicine which strengthens the intergenerational bonds between tribal members*.”

CAMS Organic Matter Aerosol Optical Depth Analysis at 550nm: 20200815, 00z



Cultural burn demonstrations



Diana Almendariz
Tending and Gathering Garden
Wintun, Nisenan, Maidu
Woodland, CA



The Honorable Chairman Ron Goode
Jack Kirk Estate
North Fork Mono Tribe
Mariposa, CA

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

Map: Native Land Digital: /native-land.ca/

Cultural burn demonstrations



Diana Almendariz
Tending and Gathering Garden
Wintun, Nisenan, Maidu
Woodland, CA



The Honorable Chairman Ron Goode
Jack Kirk Estate
North Fork Mono Tribe
Mariposa, CA

Cultural burn demonstrations



Diana Almendariz
Tending and Gathering Garden
Wintun, Nisenan, Maidu
Woodland, CA



The Honorable Chairman Ron Goode
Jack Kirk Estate
North Fork Mono Tribe
Mariposa, CA

california indian



basketweavers'
association



Rematriating Fire

The borders and creation of land as property was done so through gendered violence (Robinson 2015)

Land is not inanimate property, but rather the center of political, social, cultural, and economic life (Goeman 201)

Indigenous female analytic can include stories told in a way that highlights Indigenous women's perspective, voice, and knowledge.

Indigenous women's experience and its telling are valid forms of theorization (Archuleta 2006)



1st CalFire Cultural Fire Training

☰ CNN US Crime + Justice Energy + Environment More

CNN in a statement.



Native American fire practitioners teach members of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection how to conduct a prescribed burn at the Tending and Gathering Garden in Woodland, California.

1st CalFire Cultural Fire Training

☰ CNN US Crime + Justice Energy + Environment More

CNN in a statement.



Native American fire practitioners teach members of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection how to conduct a prescribed burn at the Tending and Gathering Garden in Woodland, California.

Photo: cnn.com



Photo: The Cache Creek Conservancy

Broader Implications


- Emerging CA state policies:
 - SB 332, focuses on lowering high liability standard for cultural burn operations.
 - AB 642, for the first time defines cultural fire practitioner, equating to state-certified burn bosses.
- Tribal fire leadership
 - Cultural Fire Management Council
 - Training Exchanges (TREX)
- University partnership
 - Southwest CASC Intertribal Fire Workshops



“In Indigenous cultures, we dream the world into being. We have been theorizing and using radical imagination since the beginning of time. We dream them, we sing them, we story them into being”.

Cutcha Risling Baldy Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk





“We may not be able to undo what 500 years of forced colonization has attempted to do, but Indigenous knowledges, philosophies, and practices from 500 years ago can shape a vision of the future we want to see 500 years from now”.

Kirisitina Sailiata

The Important Role of Allies

- Support families fighting inequalities.
- Support organizations leading these efforts.
- Show up to events led by advocates.
- Donate, amplify, volunteer.
- Create space for Native voices to be heard.
- Protect Native peoples.





A'shoog, thank you

Select references

Aldern, Jared and Ron Goode. 2014. These Stories Hold Water: Learning and Burning in North Fork Mono Homelands. *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education and Society* 3(3).

Hankins, D. 2018. Ecocultural Equality in the Miwok Waali San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science 16(3).

Lake, F., V. Wright, P. Morgan, M. McFadzen, D. McWethy, C. Stevens-Rumann. 2017. Returning Fire to the Land; Celebrating Traditional Knowledge and Fire. *Journal of Forestry* 115(3) 343-353.

Long, Jonathan. W; Anderson, M. Kat; Quinn-Davidson, Lenya; Goode, Ron W; Lake, Frank K. Skinner, Carlo N. 2016.

Marks-Block, T., Tripp, W. 2021. Facilitating Prescribed Fire in Northern California through Indigenous Governance and Interagency Partnerships. *Fire*, 4(3):37.

Indigenous Fire Workshop



Redbud is burned in 2019 for improved basketry shoots.



Deergrass vigor and flower stalk abundance is greatly improved by cultural burning.



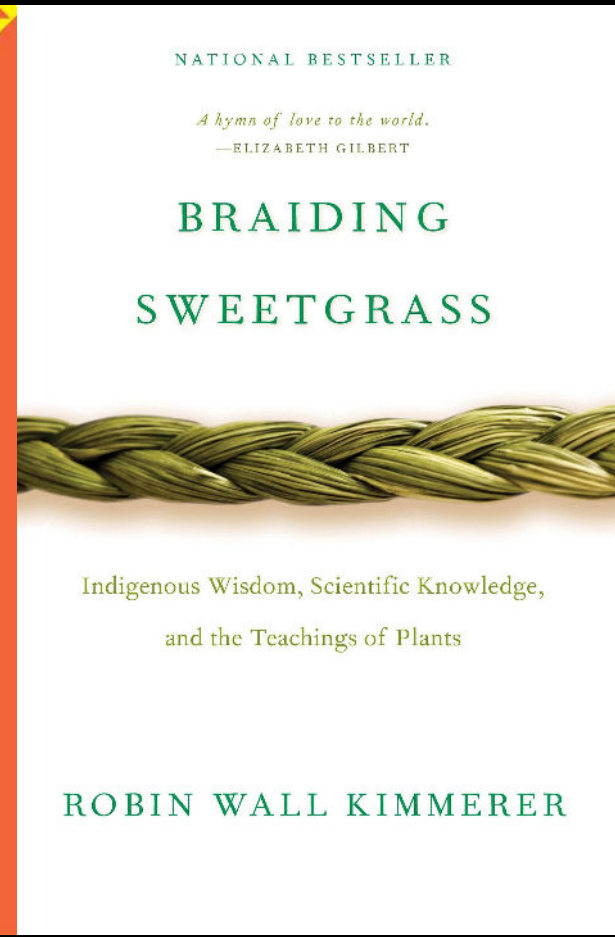
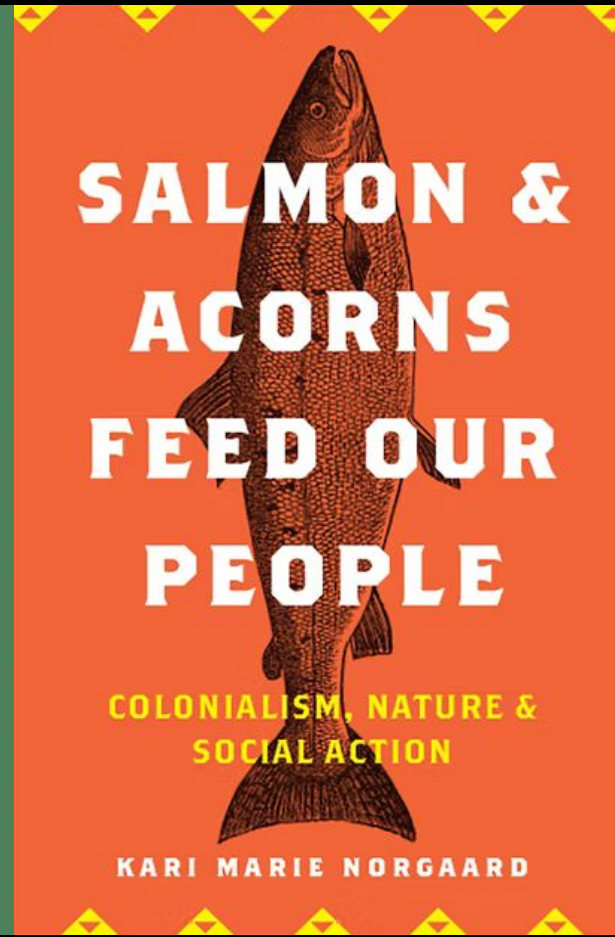
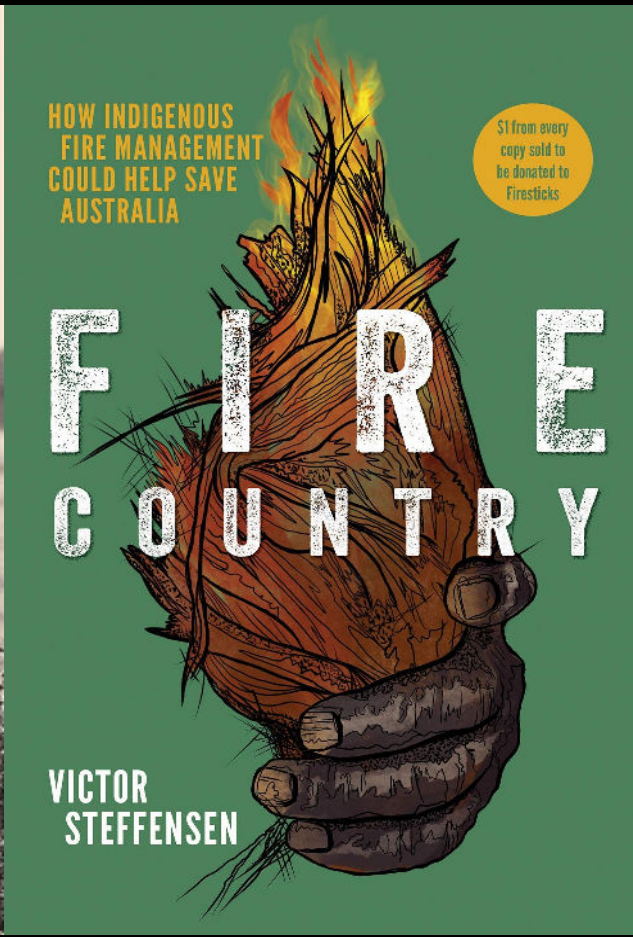
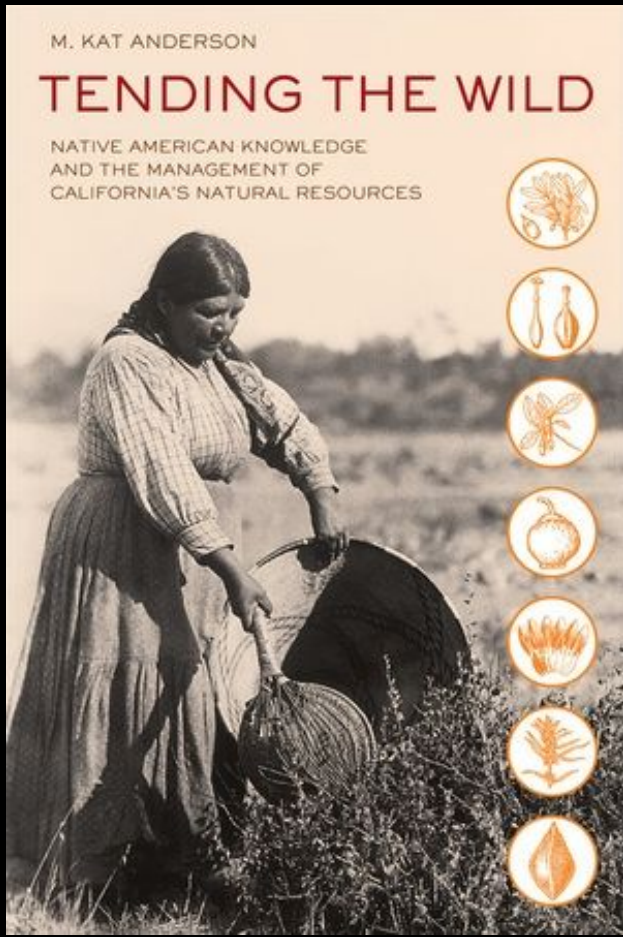
Valley Oak understory is burned to suppress invasive weeds and promote native grasses.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2020

10 AM - 4PM

Join us for the day in the Tending and Gathering Garden (TGG) to observe a cultural burn and learn how fire is essential to the management of culturally significant native plants.

Book Referrals 1



Book Referrals 2

