

# Cultivating Tribal Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation

Don Sampson



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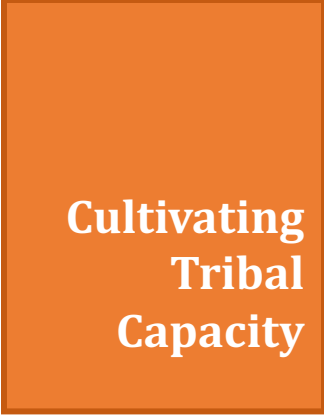
# NW Climate Science Center Tribal Engagement

Cultivating  
Tribal  
Capacity

- Tribal Engagement Plan being developed
- Develop systems that benefit Tribes regionally
- Build tribal capacity across region



# Columbia River Basin Tribes Climate Change Capacity Assessment (2015)



- Tribes: most **climate-sensitive** communities in the PNW
- Climate impacts **harvested foods** (salmon, deer, root plants, & berries)
- **Cultural importance** of first foods for ceremonies, subsistence, commercial, & cultural identity
- Hunting, fishing, and gathering **rights guaranteed** by treaty, executive order, and trust obligations of the federal government



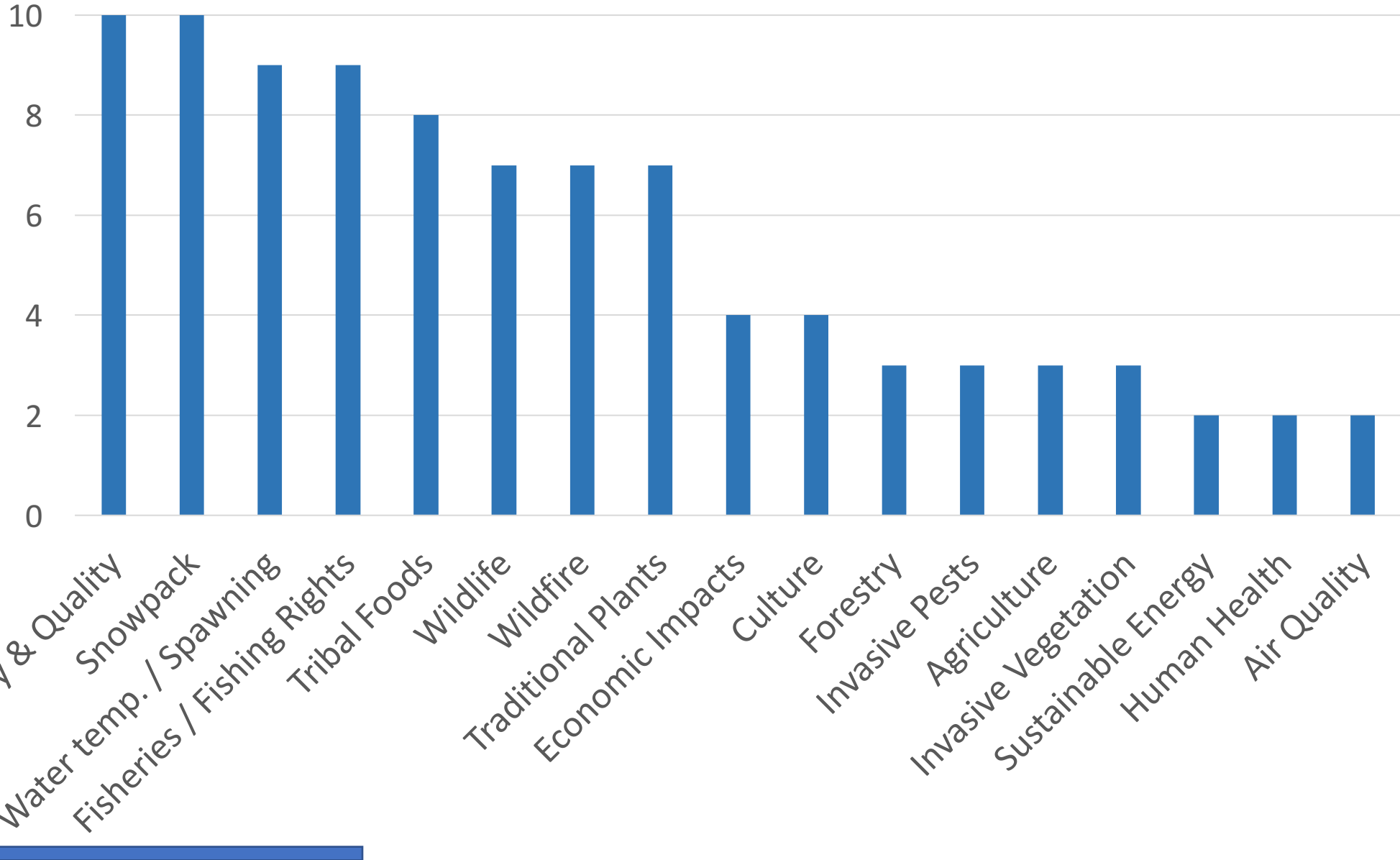
# Columbia River Basin Tribes Climate Change Capacity Assessment (2015)

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- **Tribal resilience is critical** for resources protected by right and important to the cultural identity and economic vitality
- Most **Tribes have limited information, technical capacity, and resources** to plan and adapt to climate impacts
- Assessed tribal capacity and needs

# Major Impacts from Climate Change Identified by Respondents

# Respondants



Cultivating  
Tribal  
Capacity



# Climate Awareness

High

**Lack of dedicated funding and staffing is limiting factor for tribal awareness and engagement**

Cultivating Tribal Capacity

Relative level

Moderate

Low

TRIBAL MEMBER /  
CITIZENS

TRIBAL  
COMMITTEES

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE  
MANAGEMENT

TRIBAL COUNCIL /  
GOVERNING BODY

TRIBAL  
DEPARTMENT  
STAFF

Introduction

Assessing Capacity

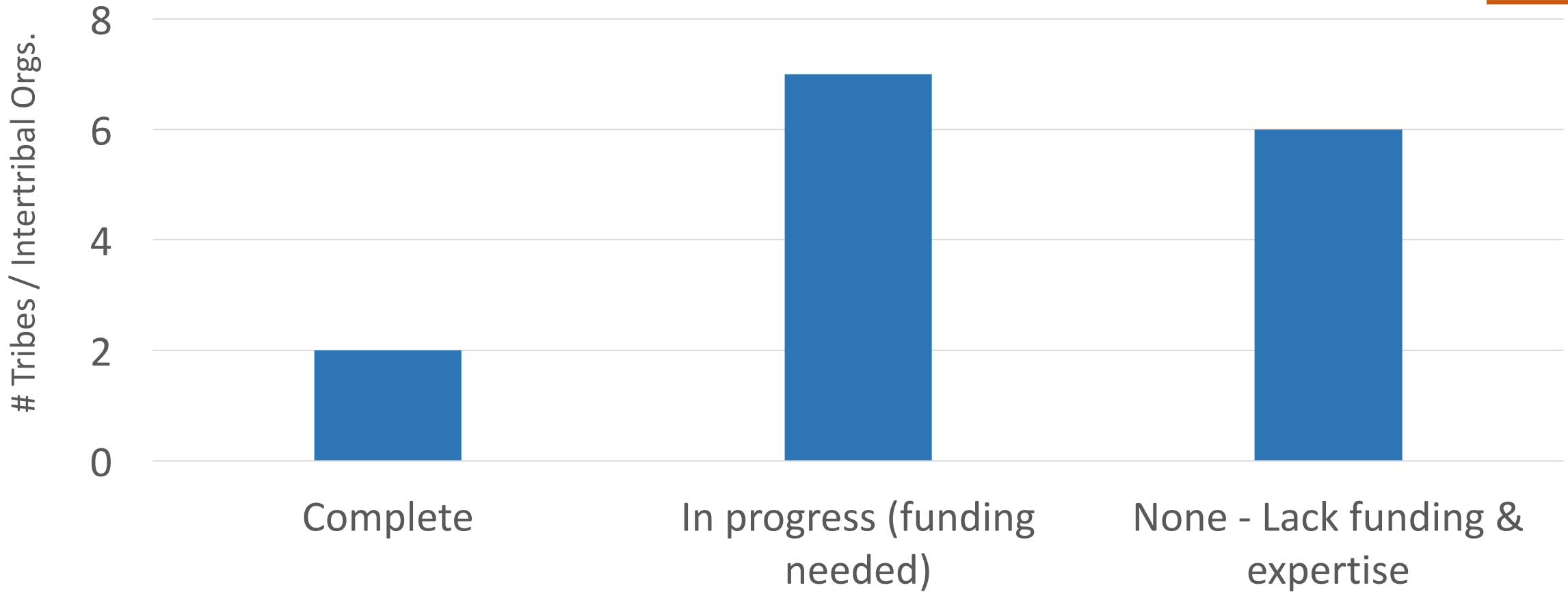
**Results**

Building Capacity

Summary

# Vulnerability Assessment or Adaptation Plan

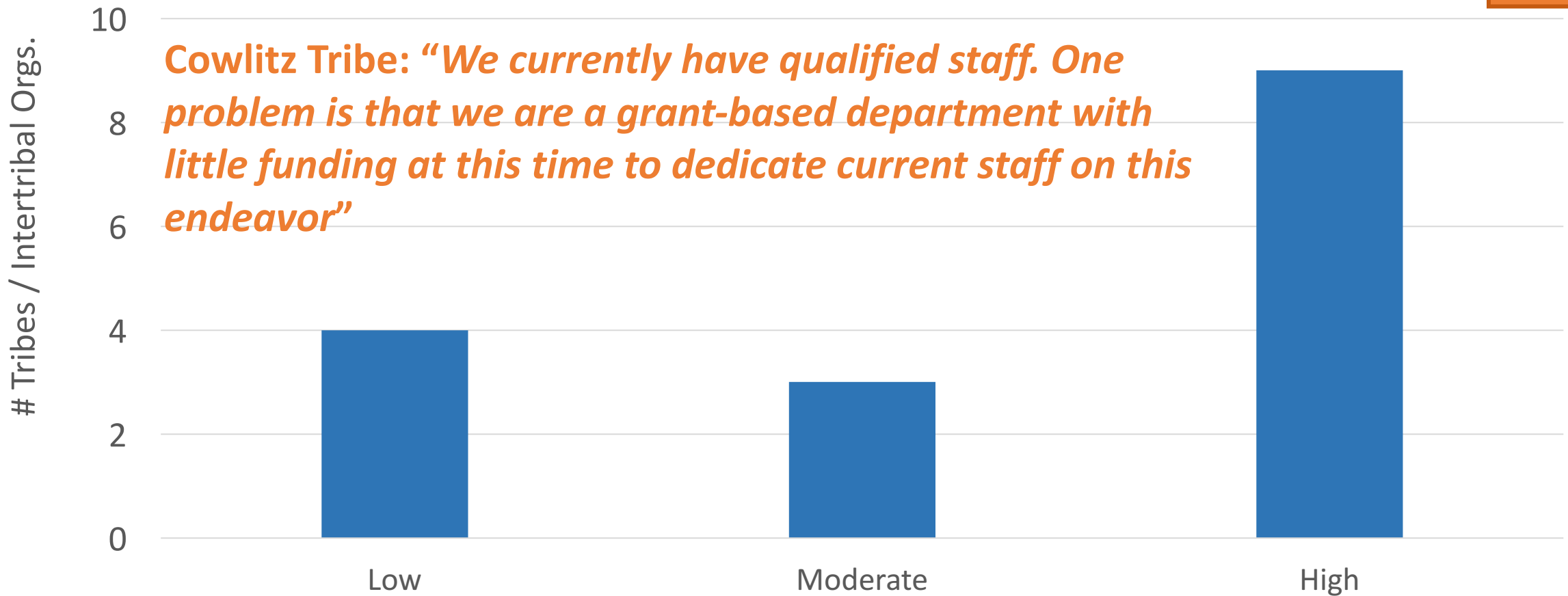
Cultivating  
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# Staff Capacity: Climate Change

(Education, Training, & Experience)

Cultivating  
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*Cowlitz Tribe: "We currently have qualified staff. One problem is that we are a grant-based department with little funding at this time to dedicate current staff on this endeavor"*







# Recommendations & Needs (Sampson 2015)

Cultivating  
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- Vulnerability Assessments & Adaptation Plans
  - Learning from other Tribes
  - Training
  - Documenting and incorporating **Traditional Knowledge and First Foods**
  - Engage tribal leadership
  - Health impacts
- **Outreach** and engagement strategies
  - Tribal youth, leaders, community members, and non-natural resource department managers
- **Science support**
  - Downscaled climate models relevant to **tribal priorities**
- **Funding**
- **NW CSC Tribal Liaison**

& many others

# ATNI – USET Tribal Climate Camp (2016 & 2017)

Purpose: Training for developing tribal plans, policies, and strategies to address climate change

## Collaborative effort:

- ✓ ATNI
- ✓ Nisqually Tribe
- ✓ Institute for Tribal Government - PSU
- ✓ NW Climate Science Center
- ✓ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ✓ University of Idaho
- ✓ Michigan State Univ.
- ✓ University of Washington
- ✓ Woven Strategies, LLC
- ✓ United Nations



# NW Climate Science Center Tribal Engagement

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Develop systems that benefit PNW Tribes

- **Columbia River Basin Tribes Climate Change Capacity Assessment (Sampson 2015)**



# NW Climate Science Center Tribal Engagement Strategy

Cultivating  
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Develop systems that benefit PNW Tribes

- Columbia River Basin Tribes Climate Change Capacity Assessment (Sampson 2015)
- **Building Tribal Capacity for Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment [Meade Krosby: UW Climate Impacts Group; 2016]**
  - **Climate Hotline**
  - **Data Downscaling by tribe**
  - **Adaptation Plan Guidebook**



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- Building Tribal Capacity for Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment [Meade Krosby: UW Climate Impacts Group; 2016]
- **Will Climate Warming Affect Locations or Timing of Availability of Food Sources from Native Northwestern Shrubs? [Connie Harrington: USFS; 2017]**
  - **Incorporates Traditional Knowledge & First Foods**



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- Will Climate Warming Affect Locations or Timing of Availability of Food Sources from Native Northwestern Shrubs? [Connie Harrington: USFS; 2017]
- **NW CSC Tribal Liaison [ATNI hired Chas Jones 2017]**



# Chas Jones

## Recommendations & Needs Science Center

Revised in collaboration with the NW CSC Tribal Liaison (Sampson 2023)

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- **Outreach** and engagement strategies
  - Tribal leaders, community members, and non-natural resource department managers
- **Science support**
  - Downscaled climate models relevant to tribal priorities: **Pair with research**
- **Funding: Coach on strategies & proposal development**
- **NW CSC Tribal Liaison**

& many others



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## Tribal Liaison with the NW Climate Science Center

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