

Taking Care of Homelands and Culture

Native communities worldwide are working to preserve their local ecosystems, which are deeply tied to their cultures.

Find the communities featured in Roots of Wisdom and a few of the many other stories below.

How are communities near you responding to environmental challenges?

Can you add a story to the map?

Find out more at <http://www.nmai.si.edu/environment/>



Lummi Nation
Educating Youth on Conservation

Members of Lummi Nation are creating culturally congruent programs for youth and community to re-connect with their Schelangen (way of life). "By integrating and respecting Western science and the Schelangen, someday our youth will educate others on the ecological health issues of the past and present and be the Keepers of the Tradition and Protectors of the Circle of Life."



Tulip Tribes
Rediscovering Native Foods



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Saving Streams and Wildlife



Leech Lake Ojibwe
Protecting Wild Rice Habitat

The Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe are taking steps to preserve wild rice, their most important traditional food, for future generations. Much of the wild rice habitat has been lost over the last century due to human activity.



Inuit of Sanikiluaq
Ensuring Traditional Food Sources

Inuit hunters monitor changes in environmental conditions such as in water currents, sea ice, and weather in the Sanikiluaq area. These observations help hunters and Elders to share important information with community members about traveling safely when they hunt and fish.



Akwesasne Mohawk
Conserving Native Trees

Members of the Akwesasne Mohawk community are working to ensure the future survival of black ash trees. Black ash, an important traditional material in Mohawk basketmaking, is facing environmental threats, including an invasive beetle called the emerald ash borer.



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Re-establishing a Native Plant



Campo Kumeyaay Nation
Restoring a Water-Friendly Environment

The Campo Kumeyaay Nation is located where water is a precious resource. Long ago, the Kumeyaay managed their environment to ensure enough water. Today, they are restoring a water supply damaged by cattle grazing and other factors.



Native Hawaiians
Restoring Fish Ponds


