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Ecology & Tribal Cultures of North America: Traditional Knowledge & Resource Management

Frank Kanawha Lake, Ph.D
Research Ecologist, USDA-Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Research Station

August 9
2:00-3:00 p.m.
Rose Room,
NMNH

This Ecological Society of America (ESA)-Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) section sponsored event, will emphasize and address tribal TEK regarding the ecology and cultural uses of ecosystems, habitats and valued species among tribes of North America. The presentation will focus on the ecological aspects of plant and animal species harvested and utilized in making historical and contemporary American Indian arts, crafts, artifacts, and regalia. The speaker will address tribal knowledge systems and cultural practices that influenced different ecosystems, shaped habitats and affected different species. Examples will be used that illustrate the complexity of human-environment relationships that are expressed in the material cultures to North American Indigenous peoples. Traditional stories about the relationship of tribal people, plants, animals and the environment will be integrated into the lecture presentation. This lecture is associated with the ESA-TEK section field trip in celebration of ESA's Centennial conference theme - Ecological Science at the Frontier.

BIO: Frank holds a B.Sc (University of California-Davis, 1995) in Integrated Ecology and Culture, and a minor in Native American Studies and a Ph. D. (Oregon State University, Environmental Sciences, 2007). He works for the US Forest Service-Pacific Southwest Research Station, Fire and Fuels Program, on tribal and community forestry & related natural resource issues. His research focuses on restoration ecology and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) related to tribal management and fire ecology of forest, grassland and riparian environments of the southern Pacific Northwest and N.California, specifically the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion. He is studying how tribal TEK can be incorporated in to scientific climate change research to support tribal adaptation and mitigation strategies. He is involved with research to support tribal food security efforts, management of non-timber forest products related to Agroforestry, and Permaculture based on tribal land management practices. Frank is the chair of the TEK section of the Ecological Society of America, and Tribal-Climate Change contact for the Pacific Southwest Research Station. Frank is of mixed American Indian, Mexican and Caucasian ancestry.



This event is FREE & OPEN to the public! Email us at RecoveringVoices@si.edu or call 202-633-5039 to RSVP by August 7th .

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