



# PNW Tribal Wetlands Working Group (TWIG)

Kelsey Taylor, Water Quality Manager,  
Snoqualmie Tribe



# TWIG Objectives

1. Promote wetland and aquatic resources training opportunities for Tribes.
2. Provide a place for information sharing, transfer of technical expertise regarding restoration, protection, and management strategies for wetlands and aquatic resources, between staff of Pacific NW Tribes.
3. Support development and implementation of wetland and aquatic resource monitoring strategies.
4. Increase awareness and appreciation of the cultural importance of wetlands and aquatic resources.



## Our Mission

The Tribal Wetland Working Group exists to share knowledge in support of the protection and restoration of wetlands and aquatic resources from a tribal perspective.

# Participating Tribes

Coeur d'Alene

Cow Creek

Coquille

Coos

Coeur d'Alene

Colville

Cowlitz

Crooked Creek

Jamestown S'Klallam

Kalispel

Klamath

Kootenai

Lower Elwha Klallam

Lummi

Makah

Native Village of Eklutna

Shoshone-Pauite

Nez Perce

NWIFC

Port Gamble S'Klallam

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

Quinault

Quileute

Shoalwater Bay

Siletz

Sitka

Snoqualmie

Spokane

Suquamish

Tulalip

Umatilla

Yakama

Yakutat Tlingit

Yukon River Intertribal Coalition

Upper Columbia Tribes

Warm Springs

White Mtn.



# Steering Committee Members

Kelsey Taylor, TWIG Lead, Snoqualmie Tribe

Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe

Rue Hewett Hoover, Nez Perce Tribe

Scott O'Daniel, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla

Heather Bartlett, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe

Rudy Salakory, Cowlitz Tribe

Tom Elliot, Yakama Nation

Greg Eide, Quinault Nation

Linda Storm, EPA Region 10



# Funding

TWIG receives funding through an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant administered through the Snoqualmie Tribe



# History

- TWIG started with a conversation in 2009 at EPA training
- Tribal staff wanted to meet more regularly to talk more about Wetland Program Plans
- In 2010, Scott O'Daniel from Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla stepped in as the first TWIG lead
- 2011 was the start of TWIG sponsored trainings, hosted by the Yakima Nation



# History

- End of 2017 Matt Baerwalde from the Snoqualmie Tribe took over from Scott as TWIG lead
- Transition to new Tribe supporting the organization and responsibility for securing funding
- End of 2021 transition TWIG lead, although Snoqualmie Tribe will continue to be the supporting Tribe

# Transition Plans

- Adding committee members, TWIG leads don't do it alone!
- New members added as senior members leave....not so simple in practice



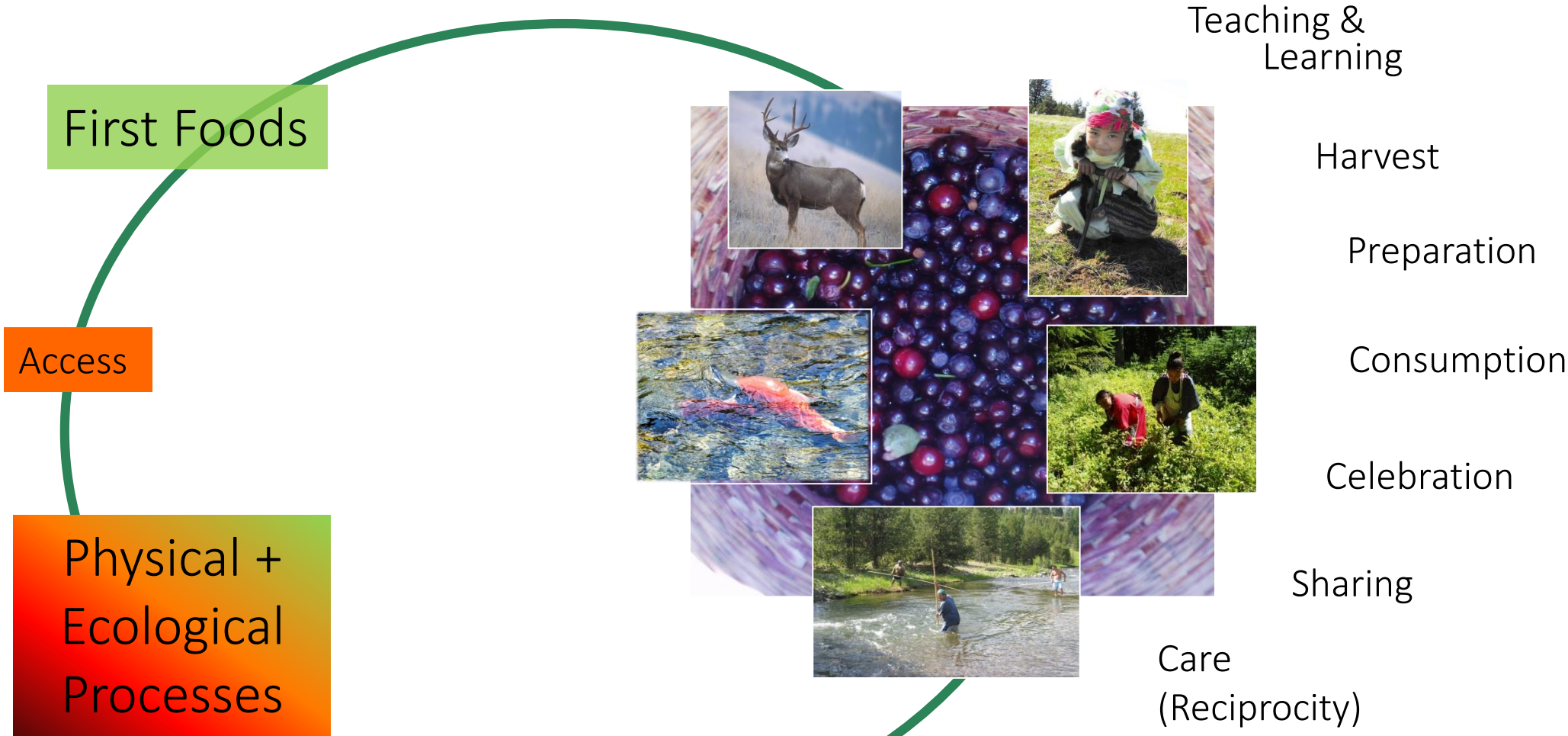


# Values

- Self-governance of the collaboration to focus on the needs of Tribes, without undo influence of other interested parties
- Volunteering for lead and supporting steering committee roles
- Useful content that reflects the needs and interests of tribal staff



# Materials Associated with Culture



Slide credit – Eric Quaempts

# Workshops (Pre-Covid)

Content organized and presented by the hosting Tribes and their collaborators with support from TWIG Lead.

Workshops split between field visits and presentations at Tribal offices.

Occasionally, state and federal partners are invited when they have a unique contribution to a theme.

Emphasis on cultural use of ecological products from water (ex. fish, plants and birds)



Workshop hosted by Yakama Nation in 2012 at Toppenish, WA.

# Workshop Themes

Tailored by the hosting Tribe to their current issues.

Examples from past workshops include:

- Role of wetland in stream temperature regulation
- Climate change influence on high meadows,
- Urban encroachment of floodplain wetlands

Each workshop has started with an elder speaking about important community uses of water and wetlands.



Workshop hosted by Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in 2013 at Warm Springs, OR.

# Workshop Topics

Shared ideas about developing Wetland Program Plans (strong Fisheries influence).

Developing a statement about importance of community values for the EPA Core Elements Framework.

Many Tribes currently participating in TWIG have water quality and wetland programs.



Workshop hosted by Cowlitz Tribe in 2012 at Vancouver, WA.

# Trainings



**Training topics are decided through online polls given to participating tribes**



**Reserved funds to help with travel costs**

Trainings usually last 2-3 days



**Scheduled once/biennium**

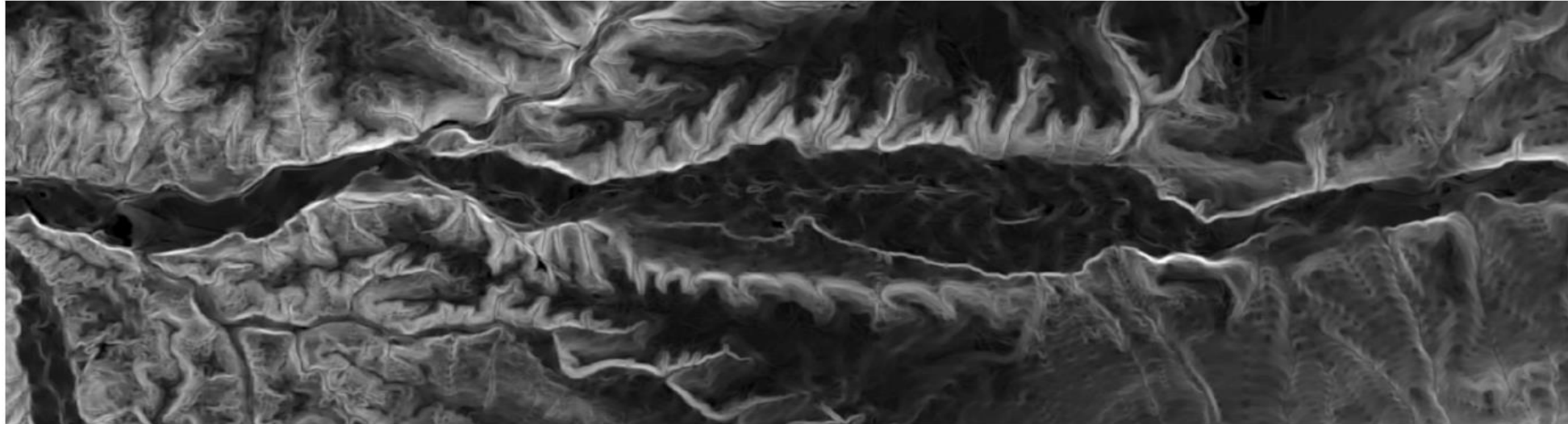
Next one scheduled for this year, but in-person trainings may wait until 2022.



# TWIG Website: <https://pnwtwig.wordpress.com/>

**PNWTWIG** *Values and techniques regarding wetlands and aquatic landscapes*

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [MEETINGS](#) [OPPORTUNITY DIGEST](#) [POSTS](#)



## Home

The PNW TWIG (Pacific North West **T**ribal **W**etlands **W**orking **G**roup), or, just **TWIG**, is a group of Native American Tribes that have common interests in wetlands and aquatic resources. Since 2010, the TWIG has met at workshops or trainings about twice per year to share techniques, approaches and to learn from one another on reservations across the Northwest. These workshops and trainings are open to all PNW Tribes and are aimed at improving Wetland Program Plans and the condition of wetlands in the region.

### WELCOME

Self-governance, tribal heritage, and cultural identity are directly dependent upon high quality water and associated Traditional resources, as guaranteed by treaty.

# TWIG - SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

## TWIG MISSION AND GOALS

The Tribal Wetland Working Group [TWIG] exists to share knowledge in support of the restoration and protection of wetlands and other aquatic resources from a tribal perspective.

1. Promote wetland and aquatic resources training opportunities for Tribes.
2. Provide a venue for information sharing and transfer of technical expertise regarding restoration, protection, and management strategies for wetlands and aquatic resources, between staff of Pacific NW Tribes.
3. Support development and implementation of wetland and aquatic resource monitoring strategies.
4. Increase awareness of cultural importance of wetlands and aquatic resources.

During the past six months much has happened with the TWIG. This newsletter is to keep you aware of the progress, events and upcoming workshops.

### **Meeting with EPA Wetlands staff in Portland, Oregon**

Rudy Salakory and Scott O'Daniel met with Yvonne Vallette, Tracie Nadeau and Michael Szerlog at the EPA Oregon operations office in the fall of 2012. Rudy and Scott delivered a presentation documenting the progress of the TWIG. We discussed the Workshops and the organizational planning effort, as well as the coordination between PNW Tribes and EPA.

---

*“The Makah guys are here – and they brought their coolers.”*

---

## TWIG Newsletter

Issued twice per year.

Covers all events, workshops, and other points of interest during the year.





# Challenges

Running an inter-tribal collaborative organization is not without its challenges.



# Funding

How to keep the \$\$\$ flowing

- TWIG wants to continue to host trainings and workshops, challenging to come up with new items to add to the grant each year to keep it fresh
- Where to apply? National vs Regional
  - This current grant cycle we added work to help facilitate other efforts to build workgroups similar to TWIG in other regions
  - Added tasks that improve the online presence of TWIG and our ability to store video, other media
- Challenge-Tribes must supply match

# Leadership

Need fresh leadership every few years to prevent burnout

Challenging to get staff involved:

- Often staff are juggling a lot of work-limited capacity
- Time and funds are limited
- Long term commitments are difficult to agree to




# Summary


Pacific Northwest Tribal Wetlands Working Group  
(TWIG)

- TWIG supports Region 10 Tribes in protecting wetlands and aquatic resources by sharing knowledge and expertise.
- Meaningful workshops and trainings that help tribal staff grow and share.
- Videos, newsletters, and announcements are available to everyone. We're working to help other regions do what TWIG does.
- TWIG is learning all the time, and we check in with our participating tribes to see what the next step is.

# Thank You



Kelsey Taylor 

(425) 414-6340 

[kelsey.taylor@snoqualmietribe.us](mailto:kelsey.taylor@snoqualmietribe.us) 