TEK Coevolution Matters

Collaboration of Partnerships
Kalapuya

– Salem, OR is located within the traditional homelands of the Mary's River or Ampinefu Band of Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 (Kalapuya etc. Treaty), Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to reservations in Western Oregon. Today, living descendants of these people are a part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (https://www.grandronde.org) and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians (https://ctsi.nsn.us).
Thank you Meyer Memorial Trust for allowing us to present and for working so hard to bring us together for the sake of our Mother Earth.
Advanced Pipeline Diversity TK PhD Fellow ABD: Identification of Elk Migration Patterns as connected to Indigenous Women’s Subsistence Gathering: Oregon State University

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Elk Movement
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Restoration: A Different Perspective

Who are the restoration experts?
Termination over and over for 300 years, Tribes not only restore their Nations but also their territory ecosystems using TEK: Through Traditional knowledge, Creation Stories and Oral Histories. Ecosystem services are not seen as crops. Knowledge experienced and lived for thousands of years.
Perspectives in Protocol

- Protocol
  - What is it?
    - Procedure and system of rules
  - Why is it necessary?
    - Tribal Nations are Sovereign Nations
      - Government to Government Relationships
Coevolution Matters: Shared Space is Learned from Nature.

Community Interactions

- Coevolution-Adjustments between members of an ecosystem
- Adaptations-Change that increases chance of survival
- Symbiosis-Two or more species “live together”

Slide by Easter Maud Foster
TEK; Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Coevolution

- TEK: TEK is not anthropocentric. TEK considers the whole. TEK comes from many generations of learned knowledge achieved by living within ecosystems by which each species evolved over many millennia. This included humans. Indigenous humans, connected to ecosystems and their services. The most important piece, in describing the ecosystem evolutionary processes for this continent, missing from western science, is the First People. The people. Genetic connections within ecosystems. The Native people adapted and changed becoming genetically connected within their shared ecosystems’ and human sacred spaces. Science corroborates TEK in that DNA is influenced by adaptations within shared space between species. This shared space can only thrive if each species can adapt to each other’s evolutionary change. Restoring Ecosystems means restoring Indigenous Peoples by including them in managing their traditional territories. Decolonizing the Anthropocene is where ecological healing begins.

- (Conversations with David Perry 2009)
Memorandum of Understanding

- A way to proceed that sets rules and is binding
  - Collaboration and Relationship Building
    - *P*rotections
Vetting
  - Identifies who is representing
  - Why is this important?
  - Why is this necessary?
TEK Deconstructs Colonized Versions of Ecosystem Western Science
For the sake of our next seven generations

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Rights to Genetic Resources and Indigenous Knowledge. Article 31
Reaffirming our spiritual and cultural relationship with all life forms existing in our traditional territories;
Reaffirming our fundamental role and responsibility as the guardians of our territories, lands and natural resources;
Recognizing that we are the guardians of the Indigenous knowledge passed down from our ancestors from generation to generation and we reaffirm our responsibility to protect and perpetuate this knowledge for the benefit of our peoples and our future generations;
Strongly reaffirming our right to self-determination, which is fundamental to our ability to carry out our responsibilities in accordance with our cultural values and our customary laws.
1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions. Concerned by the accelerated elaboration and negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit sharing under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the nation-states who are Parties to the Convention failure, to date, to recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples to control access to, and utilization of, the genetic resources that originate in our territories, lands and waters.

Those who *did not* coevolve within North America’s ecosystems’, First foods, and water, are still making *all* of the decisions to *manage/own* them.
Coevolution and Native Species: Knowledge Protections

- Deep and Long lived or Experienced Relationships
  - How Long?
- Connectivity to Sense of Place and Sacred Space: geographical scale
  - Language: link to culture
  - Generational knowledge
  - Cosmologies: Scheduling management around astral movement
  - Epistemologies: distinguishes Justified knowing from Opinion
  - Known and practiced spatial management in diverse environments
Coevolution Matters:

Animals and plants do not live in isolation, nor do they evolve in isolation. Indeed, much of the pressure toward diversification comes not only from physical factors in the environment but from the presence of other species. The interactions within the complex communities, or ecosystems, in which organisms live can generate powerful evolutionary forces. (National Academy of Sciences, 1998)

This includes Indigenous Peoples. Native People are Native Species.
TEK: The Landscape is the Classroom: Coevolution Matters

- Nature and Uncertainty; Scarcity, Shared Space Communities Connections and Coevolution
- Every Species has Value and Purpose, Especially During Uncertainty and Scarcity.
- Adaptation
- Climate Change

Linear Science = Distancing/Compartmentalizing/Intersectionality
Traditional Ways of Knowing: Protections

- Practice of Enforced Ownership:
  - Assimilation and Acculturation
  - Knowledge stolen and/or manipulated or patented
  - Nonexistent permissions
  - Western views in a Non-Western World
  - Ownership/White Savior Mentality
  - Tokenism
TEK, Science, Scientism, Scientific Ecological Knowledge (SEK), Western Science
Partnerships for the Future

- Trust Relationships (MOU Protections)
  - Government to Government Agreements
  - Exchange of Knowledge
  - Identifying action
  - Agreed Standard of Operating Procedures
  - Partnering not Taking
  - Shared Outcomes and Practices
The Future: TEK Returned to the Landscape  
Tribal Inclusion Must be Vetted

– Mother Earth. Willamette Valley restoration means restoring Indigenous peoples’ relationship with the land. Returning TEK back into the landscape. 

For her sake....
– Because of the long history of institutional exclusion, Tribal inclusion means vetted TEK
– Our history must be told by Indigenous vetted scholars
– Develop TEK Internships working with Tribes (vetted) and Watershed Conservation Groups, hopefully to improve job opportunities for Tribal People.
– Increase Tribal vetted consultation, presentations, published writing, professorships, etc.
– Watershed Ecosystem Restoration project collaborations should include vetted TEK practitioners and scholars
– Vetted Tribal Teachers in all levels of education
Indian Humor

Questions

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