

Native American Tribal Natural Resource Management: Science, Capacity, and Collaboration
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There is tremendous diversity across the United States in the arena of indigenous resource and land management. Some tribes are well on their way to regaining power over resources that define their culture and economies. Effective exercise of reserved rights as established in the treaties of the 1850s has contributed to gains for tribes in the pacific northwest region of the United States. At the same time, many tribes have yet to regain even a sliver of jurisdiction over their traditional lands and resources. A host of factors contribute to the relative successes of some tribes in the field of natural resource management including; the existence of reserved treaty rights, relationships with the non-Indian community, tribal economic, cultural dependence on specific resources. Of particular interest are variations between individual tribe's capacity to participate in active management of land and resources. An exploration of cases from the pacific northwest and southwest reveals the problematic nature of regaining the ability to manage traditional lands and resources and the implications for working collaboratively. The motivating research question for this paper is how do tribes use science (both western and indigenous) and how does their capacity as land managers inform collaborative efforts? Using case study analysis, tribal capacities to address and participate in natural resource management tribes are compared between the two regions. From this research, I can conclude that political influence, cultural connection with natural resources, and financial backing have all contributed to the development of technical expertise and environmental management capacity of the pacific northwest tribes. These factors have in turn motivated the pacific northwest tribes to manage collaboratively and illustrate the significance of social and political factors in supporting the development of tribal natural resource expertise.