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***Native American Tribal Participation in Collaborative Watershed Management:
A Comparison Between the Southwest and Pacific Northwest, United States***

Over the past decade, there has been a fundamental shift away from top-down, bureaucratic planning towards collaborative decision-making for natural resource management. One form of cooperative decision-making is manifested in thousands of small watershed planning initiatives nation wide. Much has been written about the pitfalls, and successes of collaborative watershed initiatives. However, fewer attempts have been made to examine the stakeholders, actual or potential as the case may be. The participation of Native American tribes is less common, who in many cases have considerable stake in the watersheds on the table. The success of collaborative planning groups relies on representative stakeholder participation, yet watershed collaboratives may be at a loss as to how to include Native American tribes. Leaving people out of the process necessarily limits accomplishments. Using case study methodology, our research compares Native American tribal participation in collaborative watershed management in the Pacific Northwest and the Southwest.