"Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College's Food and Water Sovereignty Initiatives"



Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities for Managing Drought on Tribal Lands in the Upper Columbia and Missouri Basins

September 26, 2023

Polson, MT

Ruth Plenty Sweetgrass-She Kills, PhD (Hidatsa, Nueta, Nakota, Dakota)

The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people lived in earthlodges along the river. The floodplains provided fertile soil for their large gardens of squash, beans, corn, sunflowers, and melons.

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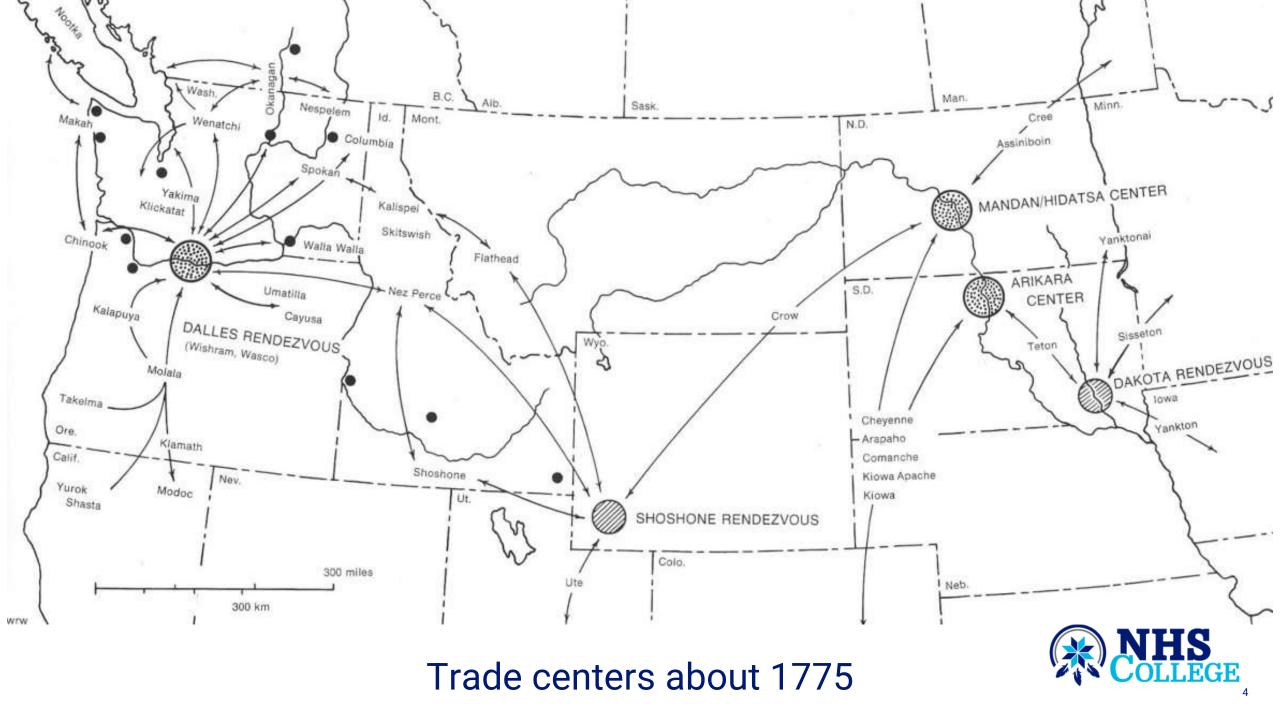
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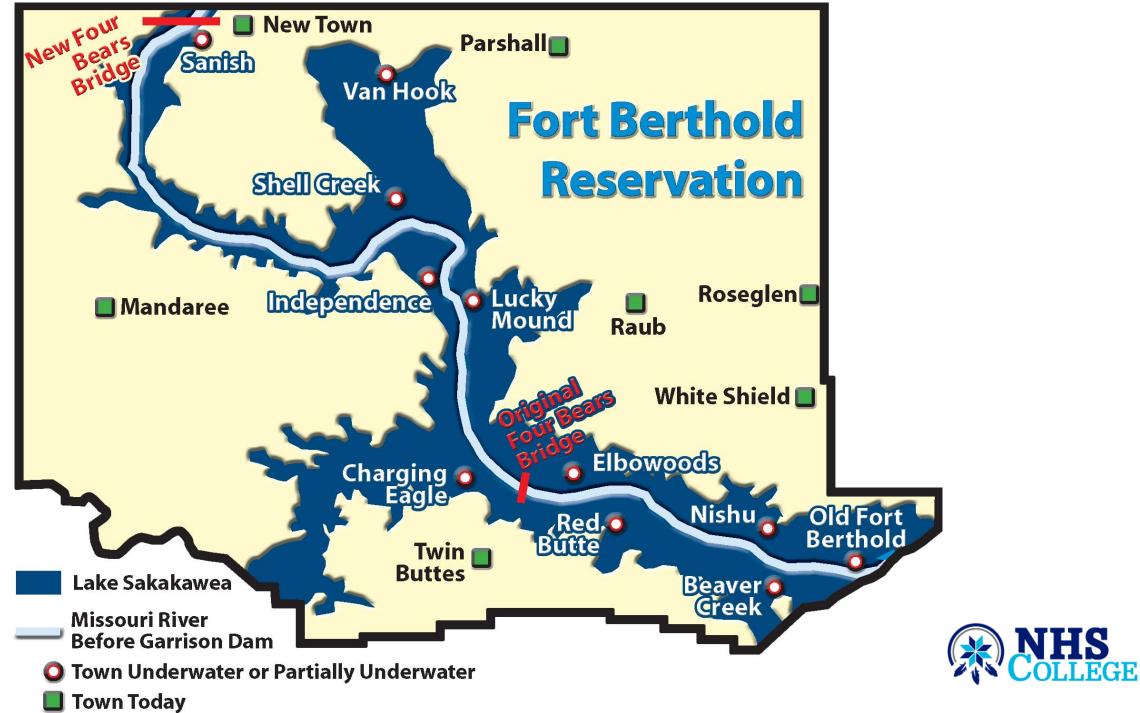
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"The single most destructive act perpetrated against an Indian tribe by the United States," Michael Lawson in **Dammed Indians**

















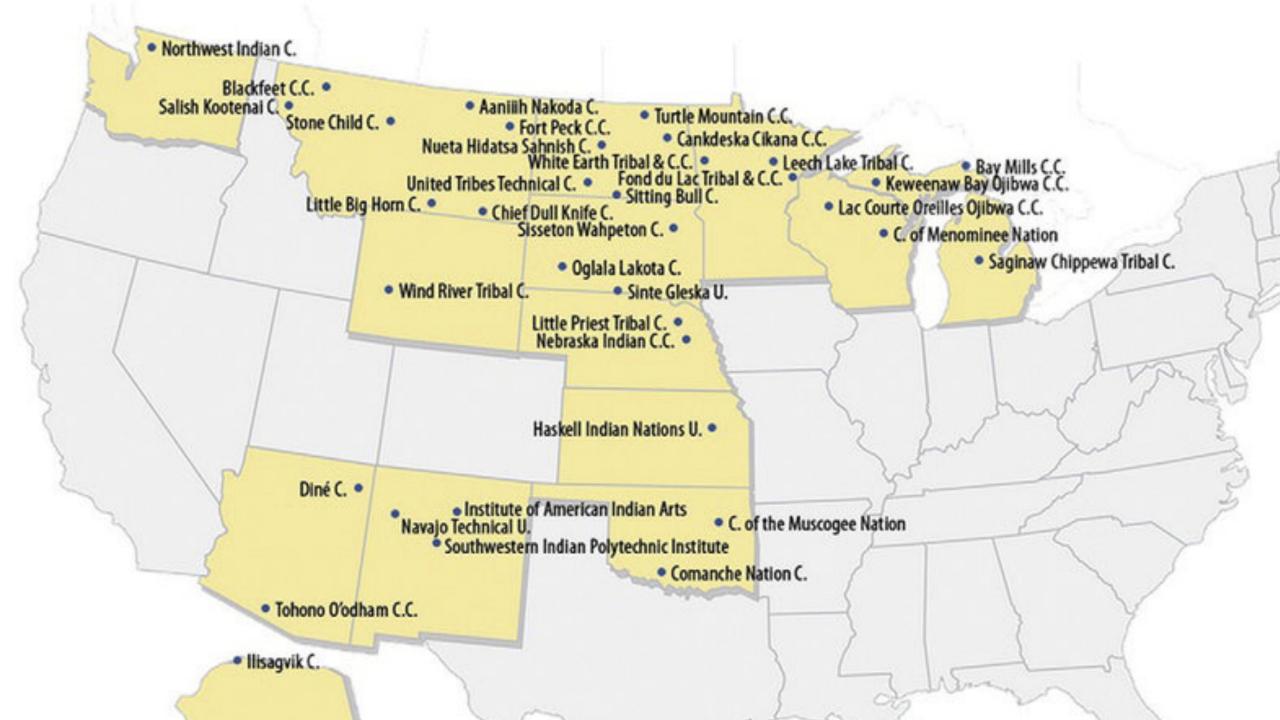


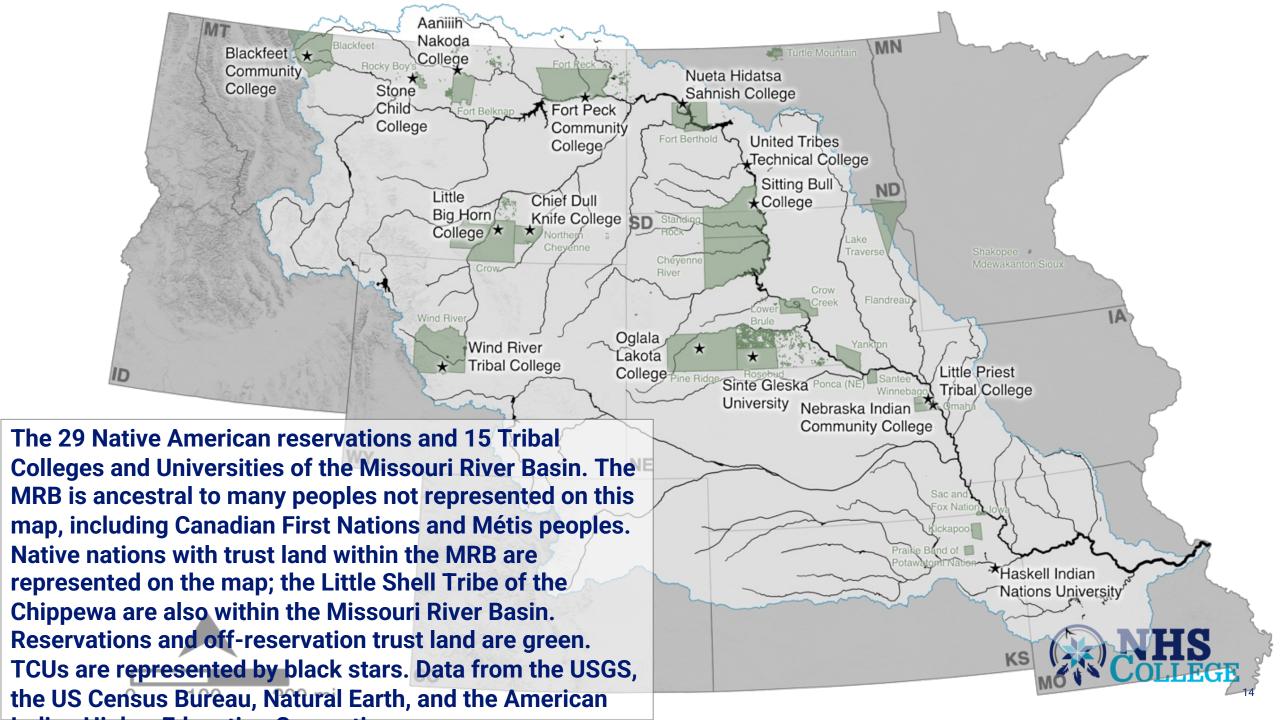












Indigenous Data

Data, information and knowledge, in any format, that impacts Indigenous Peoples, Nations, and communities at the collective and individual levels

Our land, water, soil, plants, animals, traditional and cultural information, archives, oral histories, ancestral knowledge, stories

NHS COLLEGE

USINDIGENOUSDATA.ORG

Indigenous Data Sovereignty

The right of Indigenous Peoples and Nations to govern the collection, ownership, and application of their own data



Comment

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Applying the 'CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance' to ecology and biodiversity research

Lydia Jennings, Talia Anderson, Andrew Martinez, Rogena Sterling, Dominique David Chavez, Ibrahim Garba, Maui Hudson, Nanibaa' A. Garrison & Stephanie Russo Carroll

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Indigenous Peoples are increasingly being sought out for research partnerships that incorporate Indigenous Knowledges into ecology research. In such research partnerships, it is essential that Indigenous data are cared for ethically and responsibly. Here we outline how the 'CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance' can sow community ethics into disciplines that are inundated with extractive helicopter research practices, and we provide standardized practices for evolving data and research landscapes.

Since time immemorial and across intergenerational time scales, Indigenous Peoples have been land stewards. Today, Indigenous Peoples govern about 40% of the most biodiverse terrestrial lands globally¹. Indigenous rights and title to land – paired with place-based knowledges – make Indigenous governance critical to the stewardship of global biodiversity and ecosystem services².

Indigenous Peoples have tracked climate change, changes inspecies composition and ecosystems for millennia, and are increasingly being sought out for research partnerships that incorporate Indigenous Knowledges (such as Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Traditional Knowledges and Indigenous Ecological Knowledges). However, settler colonial research and data collection methods often extract, distort and apply Indigenous Knowledges inappropriately, without meaningful recognition of Indigenous rights and responsibilities in relation to Indigenous data⁴. This can result in poor-quality data, restricted access to data and the inability to make evidence-supported decisions.

This Comment advocates for applying Indigenous stewardship methods over traditional and contemporary knowledges. The concepts described in this Comment inform practitioners of ecological disciplines about the data rights of Indigenous Peoples in digital environments. These recommendations support inherent sovereignty and reaffirm the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'.

Increase in demand for Indigenous Knowledges

Although engagement with data from Indigenous Knowledges has increased, most scientific training neglects the data rights, data relationships and ethics protocols that Indigenous communities have regarding their knowledge systems. Researchers will benefit from recognizing that Indigenous Data Sovereignty can be exercised only by Indigenous Peoples as rights holders through the retention and control of their data⁶. Indigenous Data Sovereignty expands Indigenous jurisdiction to non-geographically bound relational contexts, including digital environments. Indigenous Data Sovereignty can be implemented through Indigenous Data Governance, which harnesses the values, applications, traditions and roles that communities have for the care and use of their knowledges⁶. Here we offer guidance for researchers, academic institutions, industry and data repositories on how Indigenous Data Governance into mainstream data infrastructures, policies and practices within the fields of biodiversity and ecology.

Concerns in the era of open science. With increasing calls for open science, the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) Principles aim to increase data usability and accessibility', Applications of FAIR Principles have the potential to neglect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their protocols for cultural, spiritual and ecological information⁸. Extractive data collection methods' and open data practices²⁰ can create tensions regarding sensitive Indigenous Knowledges¹¹.

Legal rights to reproduce or publish information raise questions about who the principal stewards and beneficiaries of Indigenous Knowledges are within databases, especially as large regional and global datasets merge multiple data sources – often losing the local intentionality of the data". As Indigenous Peoples continually seek methods to protect and control their knowledges (including data that are stewarded by nontribal entities such as governments, nonprofit organizations, universities and researchers), the question emerges of how scientists can embed the rights, interests, expectations and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples into the creation of information infrastructures to enhance Indigenous governance of Indigenous data.

CAREprinciples

To address open science concerns and limited opportunities for Indigenous control, scholars developed the 'CARE [collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics] Principles for Indigenous Data Governance". The CARE principles (Fig. 1) guide data actors to include Indigenous Peoples in data governance to increase their access to, use of and benefit from data¹⁰.

The CARE principles shift the focus of data governance from consultative to values-based relationships and have enriched the discussion of collective rights that Indigenous Peoples assert in data¹².



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GRATITUDE + RECIPROCITY = INTELLECTUAL HUMILITY (HEARTWORK) Dr. Michelle Montgomery, 2023