

This is Climate Change: Haley Case-Scott, Klamath Basin

From thisisclimatechange.com

Haley Case-Scott is a research assistant with the Tribal Climate Change Project with a research focus on supporting Tribal governments and communities in asserting their sovereignty through Tribal-led policy and legislation, especially when it comes to climate policy.

A Siletz Tribal member, she grew up in Chiloquin, Ore., on a family-owned ranch, where she developed an understanding of the environmental issues facing rural Oregon. Many of the trees on her family's ranch were logged and Klamath County has experienced a water crisis for much of her life, creating conflicts between various water users.

Case-Scott has always considered her identity to be partly defined by where she grew up, on land where her ancestors once lived. Climate change has affected her connection to that land and the consequent desire to take action and get involved brought her to the Tribal Climate Change Project, located in the University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program.

The Tribal Climate Change Project came into being in 2009 in response to needs of the Tribes to have more information about climate change and ensure that the government-to-government responsibilities between state and Tribal leadership were strong. The project is a way for the Tribes to exchange information and make sure that Tribal voices are heard in the climate policy decision-making process with a weekly newsletter, monthly conference call and online resource guide.

In Case-Scott's experience, Tribes are taking the lead on addressing climate change by contributing an extensive knowledge as to how to take care of the land and being proactive in leveraging resources and using their capacity to understand the issues at stake.

Though Tribes are doing as much as they can to prepare for climate change, including preparing vulnerability assess-



Courtesy photo

Haley Case-Scott

ments and adaptation plans, the Northwest chapter of the National Climate Assessment outlines some of the unique and devastating impacts of climate change on Tribes. Changing climate conditions will threaten first foods, game species and salmon populations, all of which are both culturally significant to Tribes and vitally important as natural resources.

In Case-Scott's experience, scarce water resources in Klamath County have made it more difficult to protect and maintain fish populations, including the Lost River suckerfish, or C'Waam (Klamath translation), as well as the cultural practices that surround them.

For Case-Scott, it's important to highlight that indigenous people are disproportionately impacted by climate change because of deep ties to their land and the histories that are bound up within that relationship. However, it's not a one-way relationship: Because of the specific knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation, Tribes have a unique perspective on climate and environmental changes and are thus uniquely prepared to lead in responding to these changes. Including and centering Tribal perspectives on climate change "allows for everyone to move forward in an equitable way" in mitigating emissions and adapting to a changing world.

This is Climate Change: Samantha Chisholm Hatfield, Willamette Valley

From thisisclimatechangeoregon.com

Samantha Chisholm Hatfield is Cherokee and an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. She works at the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at Oregon State University and focuses her research on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

Hatfield grew up in the Willamette Valley in a traditional household and her father was a traditional hunter and fisherman. Frustrated by multiple instances of Tribal insights and claims being disregarded due to a lack of "evidence" or hard records, Hatfield began to explore why oral and traditional knowledge wasn't being taken seriously, which over time led her to her current role researching what the pairing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western science practices can tell us about climate change.

This focus unintentionally turned into phenology, the study of plant and animal cycles. As the climate has changed, previously reliable seasonal cycles are shifting too: "Springs are earlier, winters are shorter, the seasons aren't as defined as they used to be." Fish species that used to travel down rivers at certain times of year "don't come in or they don't come out, certain species do or don't move."

The deer loss issue that fish and wildlife officials were desperate to solve was caused by an invasive lice species that came in with higher temperatures. Years before officials "found" the problem "it was being articulated by traditional hunters."

These shifting cycles have had real impacts on the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. Changing rain patterns means that the salmon fishing season that used to start in September or October may now begin sometime past Thanksgiving, meaning that past seasonal limits and permits for fishing have become misaligned.

This same problem is impacting traditional hunters: Lack of food and water and temperature changes have shifted some of the migration patterns of deer and elk along with game birds like duck and geese. Longer and more extreme red tide events have impacted some ceremonies



Courtesy photo

Samantha Chisholm Hatfield

that involve gathering seafood, "which can't happen when there's a red tide."

The impacts of climate change on Native cultural systems is a major focus of Hatfield's research and she points to root gathering traditions and ceremonial foods that have become threatened with the changing climate: "If you don't have those foods in the ways that traditional practices dictate, it throws everything off." Even the materials that Tribes gather for baskets and traditional cultural regalia are becoming harder to find, especially not at the right time or in the right season.

Recent years have brought more focus to the impacts of climate change on Oregon, but Hatfield makes it clear that Oregon's Tribes have been dealing with the impacts of climate change for a long time and will continue to do so in the future, moving through the painful process of determining which cultural practices can shift and adapt and which can't.

The holistic approach of Traditional Ecological Knowledge can bring insight when paired with Western scientific research practices, but one thing is always still clear: Climate change is here, and here to stay, for Tribes in Oregon.

For more information about the Siletz Tribe, please visit ctsi.nsn.us.

Election Board Application

Tribal members interested in volunteering to serve on the Election Board are encouraged to fill out this form and return to Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Attn: Executive Secretary to Tribal Council, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549; or fax 541-444-8325.

The Election Board consists of three board members and one alternate board member. Applications for consideration will be accepted through June 14, 2019.

Name: _____ Roll No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: Day () _____ Evening () _____

For additional information regarding responsibilities and duties of the Election Board, please refer to the Tribe's website – ctsi.nsn.us; under the Government Listing Tab select Tribal Ordinances and then select Election Ordinance.

Seeking Judges for Siletz Tribal Court

The Siletz Tribal Court consists of a chief judge and such associate judges as the Tribal Council shall determine are necessary for the efficient operation of the Tribal Court. Associate judges shall include judges for the Siletz Community Law Court, Siletz District Court, Siletz Court of Appeals and Siletz Gaming Court.

The Siletz Tribal Council is considering the reappointment of the chief judge and associate judges, but desires to seek additional individuals who are qualified and interested in an appointment for the courts listed above.

For detailed information on qualifications, responsibilities and duties of the Siletz Tribal Court judges, please refer to the Tribe's website – www.ctsi.nsn.us; under the Government Listings Tab, select Court & Justice, then select Tribal Ordinances, then select Tribal Court Rules of Procedures. Information for Judicial Officers, Qualifications, Terms and Scope of Duties are located beginning at § 3.010.

If interested in possible appointment as a Siletz Tribal Court chief or associate judge, please submit your résumé to Siletz Tribal Council, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, Oregon 97380-0549.

Résumés will be accepted through June 12, 2019.