



# KARUK TRIBE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2022 IMPACT REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM

**BILL TRIPP**

DIRECTOR

Karuk Tribe Department of  
Natural Resources



Ayukii! Thank you for supporting our work in 2022. From hosting hundreds of fire practitioners from around the world to securing dam removal on the Klamath, it was a landmark year for the Karuk Tribe and its Department of Natural Resources (KDNR). I am so grateful for your partnership in these and our many other efforts. **Your generous support of our Eco-Cultural Revitalization Fund will ensure we can continue our progress into next year and beyond!**

**We need indigenous leadership and management practices in California now more than ever.** Drought, fire and extreme weather prompted the Tribe to

declare a climate emergency in June 2021. This year, wildfire returned yet again to Karuk Lands; three wildfire complexes claimed four lives, destroyed nearly 200 structures and caused the evacuation of thousands of residents. Landslides following the McKinney Fire resulted in a massive fish kill along a 50-mile stretch of the continuously imperiled Klamath River.

**Karuk people remain steadfast in our commitment to the cultural management practices that will reverse these trends.** As we look back on our progress this year, we are grateful for all the allies who are making our movement stronger. Thank you for giving in support of KDNR this year!

Yōotva (Thank You),

**Bill Tripp**

Director,  
Karuk Tribe  
Department of  
Natural Resources



# CULTURAL FIRE: MOVING THE NEEDLE



**Through its leadership and advocacy, KDNR is on the forefront of the movement to restore indigenous fire regimes.** Our accomplishments this year include:

- **Bill Tripp Appointed to Federal Wildfire Commission.** KDNR Director Bill Tripp's nomination as Tribal Government Representative presents an unprecedented opportunity to advocate for indigenous fire management practices at the highest levels of federal government
- **Cultural Burn Demonstrations.** Last year, we successfully advocated for landmark legislation in California that recognized tribal jurisdiction over approving controlled burns. In 2022 we launched a pilot program to demonstrate what tribally-approved cultural burns might look like, burning multiple units for ceremonial area maintenance, resource enhancement and invasive species management.
- **CAL FIRE Director visits KDNR.** In June, KDNR hosted CAL FIRE leadership and over 40 other state agency employees for a Cultural Burning Awareness Training.

# DAM REMOVAL



In November, U.S. regulators approved a plan to remove four dams on the Klamath River, officially kicking off the largest river restoration project in history. This monumental achievement was the direct result of decades of tireless advocacy, protest and scientific research from the Karuk and other Klamath Basin tribes. The journey to bring the salmon home is just beginning, and your support of KDNR will help ensure the Karuk Tribe's continued participation in this unprecedented restoration project.

# KARUK WTREX

In the Fall, **Karuk women hosted nearly 60 participants representing around 40 different Indigenous groups for the first-ever Indigenous Women-in-Fire Training Exchange, the Karuk Women's TREX (KWTRFX).** Unlike other TREX events, this gathering was specifically intended to empower Indigenous women and non-binary people—often under-represented in the fire world—by providing a space to share communal burning practices.

**“Fire is a cultural tool that our women in particular have used since time immemorial to manage our traditional foods, basket materials, and keep our villages and communities safe.”** – KDNR Deputy Director and KWTRFX Planning Committee member, Neva Gibbens (Karuk)



# TISHÁNIK FARM

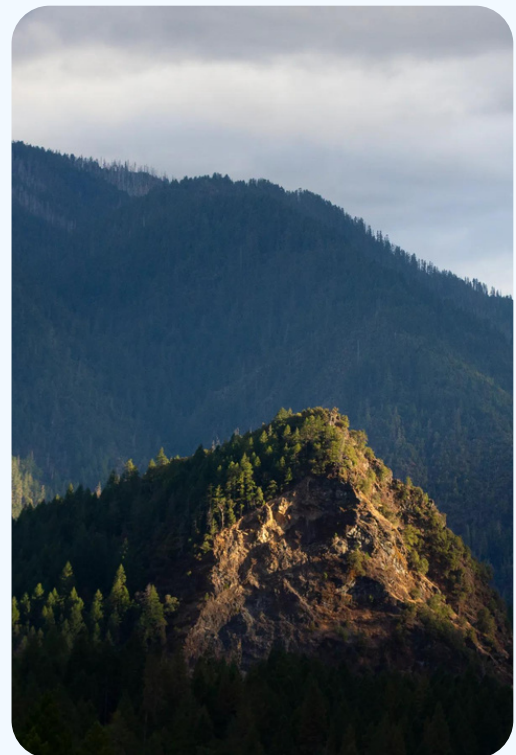


As a means of providing healthy, affordable produce to the Tribal community, the Tishániik Tribal Farm is a key element in the process of building Karuk food sovereignty. **This year we were able to distribute over 8,000 lbs. of produce through biweekly sliding scale farm stands in Orleans.** We also donated produce to Karuk ceremonies and to tribal elders, including during the Yeti Fire evacuations. Support of the Eco-Cultural Fund was vital to maintaining farm operations this year--thank you for helping us provide food to those in need!

## LAND BACK

This year, we had a couple major victories in our efforts to reclaim title to Tribal Lands:

- **Katimiin and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act (KASL).** Last week we celebrated the passage of our KASL bill by the US House of Representatives! The bill will transfer 1,000 acres of sacred landscape to be held in trust for the Tribe, allowing for uninterrupted access to sites that the Karuk have used for ancestral ceremonies since time immemorial.
- **Workforce housing.** As KDNR continues to build its prescribed fire workforce, housing shortages have become an impediment to progress. Giving is on the rise, and support from donors like you allowed us to quickly respond to opportunities to purchase properties in the Orleans area for workforce housing.



# YÔOTVA!



Your generous contribution to KDNR's' [Endowment for Eco-Cultural Revitalization Fund](#) will help ensure a future for these and many more efforts to restore the Karuk eco-cultural management paradigm. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** We look forward to continuing our partnership in 2023!

## **Karuk DNR in the News (2022)**

- [Cultural Burning in California: Key to Prevent Deadly Wildfires](#) – Slate Magazine
- [This one fact will completely change how you think about California wildfires](#) – San Francisco Chronicle
- [California needs to burn. Native women are leading the way.](#) – Washington Post
- [‘Death in the family.’ California tribe anguished as water, sacred fish vanish from rivers](#) – Sacramento Bee
- [The largest dam removal in history is approved](#) – NPR

**Learn more**



**about the Karuk Tribe's climate  
change planning and research  
projects**

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Revitalization Newsletter**

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**and join our movement**



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