

NEPA Next 50: Reflections on the National Environmental Policy Act

Intergovernmental Relations in NEPA Processes: Tools, Resources, and Considerations for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples Working with Federal Agencies

Panelist Biographies

Cody Desautel, Executive Director, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation



Cody Desautel is a member of the Colville Tribe, where he has lived his entire life with the exception of his years spent away at college. He graduated from Inchelium High School in 1995 and, from there, earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and later a master's degree in Indian Law.

Over the next 20 years, he would work on the Colville Reservation for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribe as an Inventory Forester, Natural Resource Officer, Forester, and Fuels Planner. He was the Natural Resource Division Director from April of 2014 through June of 2022, where he oversaw approximately 15 programs and 500-600 staff. His responsibilities included forest management, fire suppression and fuels management, cultural resources, oversight of the Tribe's 450,000 acres carbon project, and the reintroduction of important fish and wildlife species (bighorn sheep, pronghorn, lynx, and salmon into the blocked area above Chief Joseph dam).

In addition to his regular duties, he serves as the President for the Intertribal Timber Council. He is a member of the Forest Practice Board, Wildland Fire Advisory Committee, and Forest Health Advisory Committee in Washington State.

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Kimberly Merryman, Environmental Assessment Officer, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Kim Merryman is a Choctaw tribal member and an Environmental Assessment Officer for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Environmental Protection Service. Kim supports Choctaw Nations' work in conducting environmental assessments within the Choctaw Nation's lands. During her career, Kim has worked for federal agencies and various tribal governments in the fields of her career, including Forestry, Air Quality, Water Quality, GIS, Climate Adaptation, NEPA, and other due diligence.



She received her degree through Eastern Oklahoma State College and Stephen F. Austin State University and

Hillary Hoffmann, Managing Director of Public Land Management and Intergovernmental Relations, Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition



Hillary Hoffmann supervises the intergovernmental land management planning effort for the advancement and realization of the collaborative management relationship at the Bears Ears National Monument, as well as oversees implementation of the Bears Ears Commission's Land Management Plan. Additionally, she manages the Coalition's external relationships with nongovernmental entity allies and partners. She also conducts the review, analysis, and research on legislation and policy to assess the implications and effects to issues pertinent to Bears Ears and its Tribal affiliates.

For over a decade prior, Hillary was a law professor and consultant on several indigenous environmental governance projects and initiatives involving tribal lands, tribal resources, and federal and state public lands. She published a book on cultural resource protection: *A Third Way: Decolonizing the Laws of Indigenous Cultural Protection* (Cambridge U. Press, 2020) (with Monte Mills) and serves as a commissioner on a state Native American Affairs Commission. Prior to her academic career, Hillary was an attorney in private practice in Salt Lake City, where she focused on natural resources and public lands management. Hillary received her B.A. from Middlebury College and her J.D. from the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. She is a member of the American Law Institute.

Kelly Fanizzo, Deputy General Counsel for Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACH)



Kelly Fanizzo is the deputy general counsel for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Kelly joined the ACHP in February 2006. She was a program analyst in the Office of Federal Agency Programs before moving to the Office of General Counsel in 2013. Kelly has a law degree from American University, Washington College of Law, and an LL.M. in legal education from Temple University, Beasley School of Law. She received her B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College and also holds a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from The George Washington University. Prior to her current position with the ACHP, Kelly taught legal research and writing and land use planning at the Beasley School of Law, and practiced environmental law for the Navy's Office of General Counsel in Washington, D.C.