

## **Including Tribal Perspectives, Treaty Rights, and Knowledge in Restoration**

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Ecosystem restoration practitioners are accustomed to reviewing for Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) impacts when designing projects. The Section 106 process is a required review component to complete in identification of potential impacts to historic properties and cultural resources and avoiding or mitigating those impacts. Section 106 is important and it's the law, but it represents the minimum Tribal engagement that should occur when designing a project.

Tribal communities have much more to offer restoration practitioners than just an accounting of what might be impacted by the project. Environmental engineers typically neglect other equally important aspects of Tribal consultation – indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and Tribal Treaty Trust rights (rights to hunt, fish, and gather on ceded lands). Ample anecdotal evidence supports ecosystem restoration projects designed and implemented collaboratively with Tribal communities and integrating traditional ecological knowledge perform substantially better than those without this insight. Furthermore, early collaboration with Tribes allows for the inclusion of cultural keystone species, gathering spaces, and hunting/harvesting access into the design.

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the benefits of Tribal collaboration in ecosystem restoration projects, how to integrate cultural knowledge and values into the design, and how to approach a Tribal engagement. The presentation may be of interest to Environmental Engineers, Biologists, Planners, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and other State or Federal scientists seeking a proactive rather than reactive relationship with Tribal Nations.

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