

Post-Conference Report
ACES 2017 Town Hall
Tuesday, December 6, 2016 | 5:15pm – 6:45pm

Title: *Nexus of Indigenous Knowledge and Ecosystem Services*

Organizer: Jon Waterhouse

As efforts to effectively apply ecosystems services globally are expanded, it is imperative that we recognize the boundless advantages available to researchers who opt to collaborate or partner with the Indigenous cultures residing in the regions of their research. The benefits of engaging local people who know the natural environment of their region most intimately are immeasurable. Yet when a researcher is ill-prepared to capably engage with a culture, this blunder can lead not only to their own failure, but will often create insurmountable barriers for future researchers working in that area. In this Town Hall, the opportunities to better understand a specific place or component of that place, by building relationships with the people who inhabit it were highlighted, and common mistakes by previous researchers were re-enacted, discussed and countered. Approximately 60 attendees represented federal agencies, the private sector, academia, NGOs and tribes.

Points shared and discussed:

- understanding Indigenous science in a global context with regard to climate change and ecosystems services.
- the reasons we must include and engage Indigenous cultures
- the value of linking contemporary and Indigenous sciences
- how to effectively become a collaborator with an Indigenous culture

Panel participants:

Dr. Paige West, Claire Tow Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University. Paige has worked with the indigenous peoples of New Guinea for the past twenty years and is the co-founder of the Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research and the founder of the journal *Environment and Society: Advances in Research*.

Jim Powell, Assistant Professor of Public Administration School of Management at the University of Alaska Southeast. Jim has spent most of his life in Alaska with over three decades working on environmental and natural resource policy and management, and local governance issues. His research includes community and institutional adaptive capacity in response to climate change, sustainability, and local decision-making. Jim balances his teaching with serving on several state and local nonprofit boards. He also lectures and consults on sustainability planning. He is a member of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources, and Ecological Society of America.

Jon Waterhouse, Indigenous Peoples Scholar, Oregon Health and Science University. Native American Jon Waterhouse works alongside his wife, Mary Marshall, in partnering with Indigenous cultures within some of the most remote rivers on the planet. From the Yukon to Siberia and the Amazonian Basin, he has logged thousands of miles on rivers while building a global network of Indigenous cultures and contemporary scientists focused on water health.

Utilizing the latest data collection technology blended with historical knowledge shared by the cultures with whom he collaborates, a more detailed and complete picture of the health of our natural world emerges. As a result, shared challenges and common goals are identified and act as a catalyst for global community action with regard to climate shifts.

Waterhouse is a retired US NAVY Chief and 20-year military veteran, a National Geographic Explorer, Grantee, and Education Fellow Emeritus, an Ecotrust Indigenous Leader Awardee, and Presidential Appointee of Pres. Barack Obama.