



# 2017 TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ANNUAL CONSULTATION CONFERENCE

APRIL 23-27, 2017 | SPOKANE CONVENTION CENTER-SPOKANE, WA  
PROGRESSIVE PARTNERSHIPS: INVESTING IN TRIBAL NATION BUILDING

## Recorder Form

Onsite Contact Jackie Eagle 918-520-6334

Recorder: Jackie Eagle

Date: 4/25/17

Session Title: Environmental Impacts and Managing Natural Resources

Panelists:

Robert Keith, Director, Kawerak, Inc.

Seth Moore, Ph.D, Director, Biology & Environment, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians, Great Lakes Restoration Project

Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Summary of Issues and Items Discussed:

Seth Moore (PowerPoint Presentation): Mr. Moore began with an overview of Tribal Treaty Rights and the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians Reservation. Grand Portages has a wide variety of wildlife and renewable resources on the reservation. The youth are learning about subsistence and how to incorporate that practice into their way of life. He highlighted a few major problems and challenges of advancing self-governance principles. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) began under the Bush Administration and is funded by the EPA. Mr. Moore then discussed the focus areas of the project and an overview of the Self-Governance pilot project that was established within the EPA. It's important that Tribes collect, document, and manage data and then use that in their work with the Federal Government. He presented some of the project's finding and results, including the how changes in environment impact the wildlife of the area, which has resulted in a decline in the moose population. Mr. Moore highlight some of the projects that have been made possible by the GLRI. He discussed the key features of Self-Governance and why those features should be advocated for. Finally, Mr. Moore

Justin Parker: Mr. Parker presented an overview and history of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. Today, everything is predicated on the 5 treaties that were negotiated with the Federal government. A court decision stated that Tribes we to be considered co-managers of their natural resources. Recently have conducted their preseason process with the government and were about to address past issues so that they could move forward in a more constructive way. There is difficulty in forecasting the salmon population each year. The U.S. has an obligation to fulfill their Trust and Fiduciary Responsibilities to Tribes and their treaty resource rights. There is difficulty in managing resources, because the State doesn't have a Trust Responsibility to Tribes. While there was some advancement under the Obama Administrations, the question now is how do we move forward under the new Administration. In the past, collaboration has played a major role and is something they are working to identify under the new Administration. Currently, many aspects rely on the budget and there is concern as to how their funding will be impacted. Hatcheries are another important part of mitigating the loss of fish population; however, if the habitats aren't addressed, the fish from the hatcheries won't be able to thrive. It's not all about the funding, it's about getting the authority for decision making and priority identification on the local level.

Danny Jordan (PowerPoint): Mr. Jordan gave an overview of appropriations and the things we need to look at while discussing environmental issues and Tribal capacity building.

Questions from the Audience:

Seth:

1. How did you work with the state in terms of co-management?
2. Is there any data that shows how far the winter tick population expansion has spread? Yes and it has spread as far as New Hampshire and Maine.

Justin:

1. Can you elaborate on the Columbia River Enhancement Project? That is a huge project. We know we can't slow it down, but we are working to address it.
2. It's important that the Northwest Fisheries Commission visit Interior Alaska and see what they are doing to restore their fish populations. Would you be willing to collaborate? Yes, collaboration is important and would be honored to have those discussions.
3. There are issues that are international issues and it would be good if we could all work together on those issues.

Danny:

1. It's important to remember that we have a responsibility to wildlife, because they are giving their lives for us to survive.

Follow Materials, Documents, Websites for Reference:

Tribal Self-Governance Communication and Education website: [www.tribalselfgov.org](http://www.tribalselfgov.org)