



Often asked questions...

We get dozens of great story ideas every day. Why is the story of Anchor Forests and Forestry in Indian Country so important at this time?

Our story is actually many stories in one. There is a great deal to share regarding our Native American efforts to protect and restore our nation's forests. All our forests are under siege from unprecedented wildfires and disease due to management restrictions and changing climate conditions. Something must be done to improve the current state of our forests.

Why should our audience be interested in Anchor Forests and Indian Forestry practices?

Our experience with the news media suggests to that non Native Americans are increasingly interested in Native American history and culture. There is a good deal of national focus on repairing the historical devastation of tribes and tribal lands. In addition, the current decline of our federal forest lands is effecting. Indian Forests are thriving where federal lands are dying directly due to the specific forest practices applied by Native Americans for generations. The Anchor Forest model provides a recognized solution to our federal lands crisis. The Native American culture requires accountability to the previous generations and to the generations yet to come. A practice the non-Indian culture might consider adopting given the current state of federal lands.

Do you have a specific story idea in mind?

Yes. Our forests and sacred lands are at increasing risk due to invasions of insects, diseases, and devastating wildfires that often originate on adjacent and compromised federal lands. Our connection to the land is at the heart of our culture. We believe that the health of the land reflects the health of the people. We consider the land a part of us and with that comes the responsibility to ensure all that comes from the forest - food, clothing, shelter, medicine, livelihood and even spiritual sustenance must be returned in some manner - to care and prepare for future generations. We propose to practice Indian Forestry in a manner that is sustainable and restorative beyond the boundaries of our nations; to save our lands as well as adjacent lands that belong to the American people.

What is this practice called? How will it be implemented?

We call it “Anchor Forestry.” Congress has already granted us the authority to partner with federal land management agencies in activities that restore lands that are at risk. We have taken our approach a step further by inviting all of our neighboring landowners to participate with us implementing more holistic approaches to forest protection and restoration.

Why would Congress grant Native American tribes such an unusual authority?

Tribes are sovereign nations within the entire nation. Treaty agreements between our tribal governments and the U.S. Government obligate the U.S. Government to hold our lands in trust for us. Several federal laws affirm the nature of our relationship. These include the Tribal Forest Protection Act and the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act. We see Anchor Forestry as a way for other landowners to join us in honoring these obligations while protecting forest resources that are important to all Americans, not just Indians.

Is there anything in your “Anchor Forestry” story that connects to climate change, global warming, forest fires or endangered species?

There are many connections. Anchor Forestry is the perfect approach to maintaining the balance of human needs and environmental regeneration. Native Americans are very concerned about the impact climate change is having, not just on our forestlands but on every aspect of tribal life. Our forest practices demonstrate that traditional knowledge, passed down to us by our tribal elders can help us mitigate these impacts, but we cannot be successful unless we work on landscapes that extend far beyond tribal forests.

Is there one particular aspect of the “Anchor Forestry” story that makes it unique and something our audience would find interesting and important?

There are many aspects that make this topic compelling. The Anchor Forest and practice of Anchor Forestry is responsive to many conditions: fire, climate change, management of forestlands, environmental health and restoration, mutually sustainable forests and communities, the history of successful indigenous forest practices going back thousands of years...the list goes on...but the core story most likely lies in the collaborative approaches that are necessary to bring very large groups of stakeholders together. Diverse groups and experts willing to craft management solutions that elegantly balance science and Native American values and practices. We believe this is only possible because all Americans share our concern for restoring the environmental, cultural, and economic values our forests hold.

Are there any particular story ideas you think will interest our audience?

Our people are our best resource. We can provide you with contact information and we can also introduce you to other experts you could interview on a variety of topics.

Gary Morishima is the architect behind Anchor Forestry. He is a founder of the Intertribal Timber Council, a technical advisor to the Quinault Nation, a brilliant mathematician and a frequent witness before House and Senate hearings concerning Indian forestry affairs.

Phil Rigdon is president of our Intertribal Timber Council, a Yale University forestry graduate and a member of the Yakama Nation, home of one of our Anchor Forestry pilot projects.

Cody Desautel, Land Management and Property Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Nation, can brief you on our second Anchor Forestry pilot project.

Jim Erickson is Intertribal Timber Council's Fire Technical Specialist and one of our most passionate spokesman. His on-the-ground knowledge is impressive.

Vincent Corrao, founder and president of Northwest Forest Management in Moscow, Idaho is in charge of the planning and on-the-ground implementation for both of our Anchor Forestry Projects.

If we wanted to do some research on our own, where would we start?

We are constantly updating our content which is primarily lodged with the resources listed below. We can also assist you in finding specific information you may want that is not included in our on-line libraries.

Additional resources are available through:

The Evergreen Foundation www.evergreenmagazine.com

View the four-part video series on Anchor Forests -
<https://vimeo.com/channels/anchorforests>

You will also find an Anchor Forests landing page which contains a wealth of information describing tribal forestry and its spiritual, cultural, economic and treaty underpinnings
<http://www.evergreenmagazine.com/anchor-forests/>

Also explore Evergreen's Library and Archives for additional content on Anchor Forests, Tribal Forestry, and related topics.

Northwest Management <http://www.consulting-foresters.com/>

Anchor Forest description and overview -

<http://anchorforest.org/>

<http://www.thenmiway.com/anchor-forests/>

Anchor Forest Assessment Study -

<http://www.thenmiway.com/anchor-forest-assessment-study/>

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) <http://www.itcnet.org/>

ITC is based in Portland, Oregon, and serves the many legislative interests of Indian tribes in the U.S. that own and manage forests and rangeland.

If we assigned a reporter to your story, who should we contact?

Two Anchor Forestry pilot projects are currently in their developmental stages, both in Washington State; one on lands owned by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the other on lands owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. We can provide you with contacts for both tribes

Can we tour your Anchor Forestry projects?

We would be honored to host you on either reservation. One of our primary contacts from our contact page can assist you in coordinating a visit.

Do you have photographs and film footage available?

We have an extensive and library of transparencies, digital images and video as well as the ability to shoot additional footage should you desire it.

Is there someone we can call today who can help us get started on this story?

Yes. You can contact Jim Petersen at the non-profit Evergreen Foundation.

Jim@evergreenmagazine.com

406.871.1600

Jim has worked with our Intertribal Timber Council for many years. He is a seasoned journalist who knows the Anchor Forestry story very well. He can offer suggestions on how best to approach our story, and put you in contact with tribal members and others who will be valuable resources.



With your help we can share the potential of Anchor Forests with a broader audience