



A COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVOR FOR THE FUTURE INTER-TRIBAL LONG-TERM SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH NETWORK

Four Montana Tribal communities have teamed with the Smithsonian to create North America's first Inter-Tribal Socio-Ecological Research Network—a landmark effort combining traditional knowledge and scientific study to enhance environmental and community health.

OUR VISION

- Strengthen connections between individuals and their environment, reinforcing a bond to heritage and a sense of place.
- Ensure the long-term vitality of grasslands, its rich biodiversity, and the iconic American bison amidst the challenges of climate shifts and human-influenced land alterations.

THE ESSENCE OF LONG-TERM SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH (LTSER):

LTSER is a crucial ecological knowledge hub, informing future generations about our deep connection with nature. Amidst rising climate concerns, these networks supply essential data for policy and management, and act as centers for practical education and developing environmental experts.

EMBRACING PLACE-BASED CONSERVATION:

The Inter-Tribal LTSER staunchly adheres to the ethos of place-based conservation. This ground-up strategy emphasizes safeguarding the natural resources of specific locales while acknowledging the role of local communities in championing these causes. Such initiatives address various objectives, from landscape stewardship and climate change adaptation to regional tourism planning and community growth. Emphasizing the unique attributes and relationships tied to specific regions ensures locals are at the forefront of conservation efforts.

Working together is key to this effort, involving students, bison restoration programs, and natural resource agencies. The LTSER Network encompasses Northern Great Plains Tribal communities, and their colleges, promoting socio-ecological research. Through this work, the Network provides educational opportunities to foster the growth and training of future natural science educators, land/resource managers, and scientists within communities. These experiences will strengthen relationships between students, community members, and bison programs across the Northern Great Plains region. Part of the Network mission is to facilitate the sharing and disseminating of knowledge between communities and colleges, leveraging cross-community expertise to enhance long-term resiliency. The work entails documenting and monitoring the effects of local and regional changes on socio-ecological systems, examining their impact on the overall well-being of people and the environment, particularly in the face of climate change. The Network will offer science-based recommendations and support for addressing current and future environmental challenges.

EMBRACE OUR SHARED FUTURE

The Smithsonian Institution is committed to advancing and inspiring global engagement and environmental stewardship. In 2022, we introduced “Life on a Sustainable Planet,” a pivotal initiative that fosters dialogue between scientists, students, policymakers, and the public on today's most pressing challenges. Renowned for our historical museums, the Smithsonian is equally vibrant in scientific discovery and education. With over 800 esteemed scientists conducting research on Earth and beyond, we tackle questions as broad as the cosmos' mysteries and as complex as ecosystem resilience. Our collaborative efforts are shaping the future as we work to preserve biodiversity, champion sustainable practices, and offer solutions to climate change. **Join us in this crucial conversation for a sustainable tomorrow.**