



Sqigwts

Coupling the Indigenous and Scientific to Address Climate Change

This “proof-in-concept,” interactive 3-D Landscape project, was developed through an interdisciplinary collaboration between the *Schitsu’umsh* of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, and faculty and staff of the University of Idaho, in 2015.

Objectives:

1. authentically describe the *Schitsu’umsh* knowledge, termed *hnhkwelkhwlnet* (“our ways of life in the world”) associated with sqigwts (*Sagittaria latifolia*), a traditional root food, and render that knowledge accessible to USGS climate scientists.
2. in consort with scientific knowledge, demonstrate the relevance of indigenous knowledge in addressing issues associated with climate change.
3. provide a means to effectively integrate seeming “mutually exclusive” ways of knowing.

Challenges:

hnhkwelkhwlnet does not conform to established definitions of knowledge: not predicated on Cartesian Dualism – the unequivocal separation of thought and material, not on Material Reductionism – the causal primacy of what is empirically physical, not through literacy-based communications – writing. Given its unique structural and dynamic attributes, how is *hnhkwelkhwlnet* to be rendered accessible and applicable to climate scientists, researchers and students?

Resolutions:

1. aligned with a newly articulated and authentic definition of *hnhkwelkhwlnet* and taking a cue from ‘me’y’mi’y’m storytelling techniques, an innovative means of conveying indigenous knowledge through an **interactive 3-D Landscape** was developed, using virtual world technology.
2. embedded in *hnhkwelkhwlnet* and encapsulated in the terms *snukwnkhwtshwts’mi’ls l stsee’nidmsh* “empathetic adaptability” and *uchnek’we’* “we are all relatives,” are insights into addressing climate change and how to bridge the perceived “mutual exclusivity” between the indigenous and scientific.

Next Steps:

Join us as we use “best practices” research protocols to engage Tribal Communities and address Climate Change.

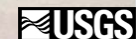
Engage the 3-D *Schitsu’umsh* Landscape at:
<https://www.sqigwts.org/>

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Partners and Funders

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