IEc

# **Tribal Support Services**

# IEc provides consulting services to Tribes on a wide range of environmental and

economic topics. Over the last several decades, we have supported dozens of Tribes on issues related to NRDA, remediation, climate change adaptation, water rights, ecosystem services, and oil development. For this work, we strive to understand and address the unique challenges faced by each Tribe.

## NRDA SUPPORT

IEc provides Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) consulting services with a unique understanding of both the state of the science and the specific challenges Tribes face when conducting NRDA. Over the last 20 years, IEc has worked with dozens of Tribes throughout the United States on hazardous substance releases and oil spills. To assist Tribes in conducting NRDAs, we design, plan, and conduct cultural lost use assessments; develop restoration-based claims for Tribal entities; defend Tribal claims for damages before responsible parties; and successfully recover damages for Tribal trustees. Appreciating that Tribal governments and communities vary considerably in their goals and objectives for, and approaches to, damage assessment, we listen closely to Tribal representatives to understand their specific concerns, issues, and ideas.

# Echas worked with 35 tribes across 13 states.

# IEc's Tribal NRDA Experience

Alaska Native Communities Cherokee Cheyenne River Coeur d'Alene Colville Eastern Shawnee Fond du Lac Grand Ronde Jemez Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Miami Muckleshoot

Nez Perce Onondaga Ottawa Siletz Penobscot Peoria Port Gamble S'Klallam Potawatomi Salish and Kootenai San Ildefonso Santa Clara Seneca-Cayuga Shoshone Bannock Siletz Spokane St. Regis Mohawk Suquamish Tuscarora Umatilla Wampanoag Warm Springs Wyandotte Yakama 1854 Treaty Authority

# **PROJECT EXAMPLE** | IEc has been working with the Natural Resource Trustees at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) site in Los Alamos, New Mexico for the past decade. We have provided a range of technical support in assessment planning and implementation. IEc also works with the three Pueblos that are members of the Trustee Council (Pueblo de San Ildefonso, Jemez Pueblo, and Santa Clara Pueblo) to develop sound approaches to identifying and quantifying potential injuries and losses experienced by the Pueblo communities as a result of hazardous contamination at LANL.

# CONTACT

Gail Fricano gfricano@indecon.com 617.354.0074 www.indecon.com

#### **REMEDIATION SUPPORT**

For the Grand Ronde, Nez Perce, Siletz, Umatilla, and Warm Springs Tribes, IEc provides remediation consulting services on the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. Reviewing and providing comments on technical documents, we inform and communicate client positions on both technical and procedural elements of the remedial process. We also provide briefings and materials for meetings with EPA and partners and deliver briefings to tribal leadership in advance of government-togovernment consultations. Our support on this site has encompassed the Feasibility Study, review by EPA's National Remedy **Review Board and Contaminated** Sediments Technical Advisory Group, the Proposed Plan, and ROD implementation, including baseline sampling and remedial design.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

IEc assisted the Shinnecock Nation with climate change adaptation. For this effort, IEc adapted U.S. National Climate Assessment global sea level rise projections to account for expected local land subsidence, measured historically by regional tide gauges. We mapped areas of inundation and episodic flooding from a 100-year storm event on Tribal lands for several time periods to enable the Nation to plan for climate change. For the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, IEc developed a climate

# **Other Tribal Work**

change adaptation plan for Akwesasne, the Mohawk Nation Territory. The plan outlines current conditions of the Tribe's resources, assets, and community; future anticipated conditions with climate change; and ongoing and planned climate change adaptation actions. The plan is a first step in the Tribe's efforts to develop practical actions to adapt to ongoing and expected climate changes.

# WATER RIGHTS

IEc is providing support to the Secretary of the Interior's Indian Water Rights Office for a study to identify the social, environmental, and economic benefits that occur as a result of the implementation of enacted Indian water rights settlements. IEc is applying a case study method in order to focus on a range of settlements, and to identify changes that have occurred to community health, economic conditions, social and cultural well-being, and the ecosystem, both on and off the reservation as a result of settlement. This effort includes interviews with Tribal representatives to inform our understanding of the timing and detail of settlement actions and associated outcomes.

# ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ANALYSES

For the Umatilla Tribe, IEc evaluated the economic benefits and ecosystem services provided by the Columbia River Water Exchange project designed to restore instream flows in the Walla Walla River to levels suffi-



cient to recover and sustain a viable population of Chinook salmon and other native fish. IEc's analysis monetized ecosystem service benefits where feasible, but also qualitatively addressed religious, cultural, and intrinsic values.

## OIL DEVELOPMENT ANALYSES

For the Mi'gmag First Nations, IEc provided technical review of and comments on TransCanada's application to construct and operate an oil pipeline in New Brunswick, Canada, and BP's application for exploration drilling in the Scotian Basin, Canada. Our reviews included evaluation of the applicants' spill forecasting and modeling, environmental protection plans, and emergency response plans. Our comments focused on potential project impacts on the treatyprotected marine resources of Mi'gmag First Nations and the adequacy of the applicant's analyses and proposed mitigation measures.