Tiered Approach to the Protection of TK - Perspectives & Experiences

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ITEP – 567 tribes / Served 86%
229 Alaskan Native Villages
American Indian Reservations

338 tribes

567 tribes = 1.7% of total US pop.
Climate Change Adaptation Plans – TK used for holistic approach

- Each Tribe developing an Adaptation Plan
  - BIA Funding – FOIA (Freedom of Information Act)
  - Secondary CC Adaptation Plans
  - Exclude TKs in public documents

- Federal Agencies Adopting TK Guidelines
  - Department of Interior
  - Environmental Protection Agency

- Tribal Government & Council / Laws
  - Recommend Tribal Council Resolution
    - Legislate to protect TKs
Tribes protecting their TK

- Not a National unified approach on TK
  - 567 tribes
  - National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
  - Regions may work together
- Codes / Businesses
- Developing Tribal Museums
- Developing data base centers
- Elders developing Mentees
Secret / Sacred Knowledge

- Strongest Rights
- Stewards
- Apprenticeship earned - a lifetime learning & practicing
- Usually a passing of sacred items
- Nothing written
- Family / Clans unspoken agreement
Secret / Sacred Knowledge

- Tiered Approach
  - Not widely available
  - Not public domain

- Owners Expectations Rights –
  - Based on Intent
  - With use of their customs and traditions
  - Flexible
  - True Consultation

- Not One Size Fits All
Thank you