

Speakers for TK Seminar 5/25

Speaker 1: Dr. Teresa Ryan

Talk Title: *spanaxnox sm'hoon*; Indigenous knowledge systems and salmon

Teresa (*Sm'hayetsk*) Ryan is Gitlan, Tsm'syen (Tsimshian). Teresa has a PhD in Resource Management and Environmental Studies, an MSc in Natural Resource Management, and BSc in Biology (Fisheries/Aquatic Ecology). Dr. Ryan examined colonial dispossession of Aboriginal lands and trade for her dissertation and demonstrated how the ecologic and social harmony enjoyed by Aboriginal peoples was dismantled, with enormous costs to them, to the natural resources, and colonial society.

Teresa works with First Nations in coastal BC and participates in the Advisory Committee for Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) - an Assembly of First Nations (Ottawa) Chiefs committee. She also participates in a local Indigenous Technical Analysis Network through the First Nations Fisheries Council, and the First Nations Caucus of the Pacific Salmon Commission. Teresa is appointed to the Pacific Salmon Commission Joint Chinook Technical Committee (Canada). She is also a Senior Policy Advisor to the Native Brotherhood of BC.

Teresa currently holds the position of Indigenous Knowledge and Natural Science Lecturer in the UBC Faculty of Forestry. She has been a Research Associate/Sessional Lecturer in the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences working on the [Mother Tree Project](#) and facilitating Indigenous Knowledge at the forefront of future forest management, and exploring old growth forests in supporting biodiversity. Her research focuses on the intersections of Ancestral Knowledge systems and science in complex adaptive systems. Teresa is currently investigating relationships between salmon and healthy forests and revitalizing traditional Indigenous stewardship in the Salmon Forest Project (funded by Donner Canadian Foundation). Visit [Teresa's TEDxBerkley](#) talk for the inspiration to her journey. She is also a traditional cedar weaver, and photographer.

Questions

Joe Oatman:

Where are First Nations at in trying to develop the fish walls for harvesting once again? That was impressive to see that traditional way of fishing for those areas along coastal rivers. *Answered live*

Murray Ned: Interestingly enough Joe many of our traditional methods such as weirs, netting and other methods were prohibited because they were too effective. Today and ironically, government and the general public want us to go back to traditional methods because of the selectivity options that Teresa spoke about. In the Fraser River, they want to move toward abolishment of gill nets because of the numerous stocks of concern (chinook, sockeye, steelhead, coho etc)

Teresa Ryan: As you saw in the photo the stone wall is there already, and there have been about 300 structures identified by Heiltsuk in their territory. Early colonial management tried to destroy some of them but they are massive structures. Fish abundance declines have prevented their use recently, and many have filled in with sediment. The Skeena River structures were subject to high spring freshets and regulatory interference.

Sanjeev Joshi:

You showed the picture of Nass River in 1880s indicating that currently the river does not hold ice like that. Can you explain a bit about what are the impacts on Salmon of going from snowdominated to rain dominated systems? *Answered live*

Benia:

From Kristen Hayward (PSC) - what do you find the biggest challenge/hurdle is when it comes to partnership between Indigenous knowledge systems & western science in management? what do you find is the largest mistake westernizers make in their approach? *Answered live*

Speaker 2: Eric Quaempts

Talk Title: "Using A System of Ecological Knowledge to Guide First Foods Management."

Professional Experience

Eric Quaempts has served as the Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since 2004. He developed and implemented the First Foods management approach in 2006, and has overseen the implementation of the CTUIR's "River Vision" since 2008. Previously, Eric spent eight years as a Wildlife Biologist in the CTUIR DNR's Wildlife Program and eight years on the Umatilla National Forest where his career development included inter-disciplinary rotations in Forestry, Wildlife, Range, Reforestation, Fisheries, and Fire Management Programs.

As the CTUIR's DNR Director, Eric oversees DNR Administration, Cultural Resources Protection, Water Resources, Fisheries, Wildlife, Range/Ag, Forestry, Energy and Environmental Sciences, and First Foods Policy programs.

Eric served as the Oregon Tribal representative to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board from 2009 – 16, including five as co-chair.

Public Service

Eric currently serves on the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

Education

Eric earned his Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University in 1990.

Colorado State University: Graduate level credits in fire and land management for a fire management professional development series.

Personal

An enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Eric has spent most of his life living on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, where his cultural and personal experiences contributed to the development of the CTUIR's First Foods management approach.

Eric's personal interests include family, fly-fishing, photography, biking, traveling, cooking, and dining, fine or otherwise.

Questions

From Kristen Hayward (PSC) - what do you find the biggest challenge/hurdle is when it comes to partnership between Indigenous knowledge systems & western science in management? what do you find is the largest mistake westernizers make in their approach? *Answered live*

John Field: What distinguishes women's food from men's food, as described by Eric? *Answered live*

Sammy Matsaw: Eric Quempts: can you explain some of the community engagement processes that are occured and are occurring for the First Foods science and management that you presented today to happen within the CTUIR community? What are the support systems in place to get this off the ground and make it sustainable? And great job presenting today! *Answered live.*