



Thursday, September 30, 2021

- 5:00 – 5:30 pm **Welcome & Acknowledging The First Peoples**
- Opening Poetry Reading by Dr. Heather Cahoon**, award-winning poet and Director of the University of Montana American Indian Governance & Policy Institute
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm **Opening Keynote Address by Danna Jackson**, Senior Counselor to the Director, Bureau of Land Management at the U.S. Department of Interior
- 6:30 – 7:30 pm **Virtual Networking Reception**



Friday, October 1, 2021

8:15 – 8:30 am **Welcome**

8:30 – 10:00 am **Knowledge: Centering Tribes in Resource Management**

Tribal natural resource management is central to tribal sovereignty. Since time immemorial, indigenous peoples' physical and cultural identities have been deeply connected to place. Each tribe holds distinct customs and laws that govern its relationship to the lands and resources under its care. Yet more than a century of federal Indian and natural resource policy has denied tribes a meaningful voice in resource governance in the West. Over the past forty years, tribes are increasingly exercising their rights to manage these vast lands and resources in ways that better align with tribal customs and laws—and in so doing, building a more resilient community and landscape for future generations. This panel of tribal and federal lands practitioners will focus on strategies and barriers to decolonizing resource management both within reservation boundaries and beyond into the public lands realm.

Panelists:

- **Jason Baldes**, Tribal Buffalo Program Manager at the National Wildlife Federation
- **Kendall Edmo**, Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Deputy Officer & National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow
- **John Murray**, Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- **Danna Jackson**, Senior Counselor to the Director at the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Moderator: **Professor Monte Mills**, University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law



Photo by Kirsten Gerbatsch

10:00 – 10:15 am Break

10:15 – 11:45 am **Life: Defending the Right to Water**

While many of us take access to abundant and clean water for granted, for many, this access—whether for drinking water, subsistence fishing, or ceremonial or cultural use—is not guaranteed. From contaminated water supply systems serving marginalized communities in the Deep South, to oil pipelines that threaten tribal water supplies in the Midwest, to the lack of running water for many tribal members in the American Southwest, it is clear more work is needed to address and ensure equity in the law and practices that secure clean, reliable water. That work demands a reexamination of the rules and values that undergird our water management regimes, deepening the legal protections for water as a source of life and perhaps, as some advocate, endowing water with its own legal status. This panel features water practitioners who will share the stories of communities facing water access challenges as well as those engaged in reimagining water law.

Panelists:

- **Bidtah Becker**, Associate Attorney at the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
- **Jason Anthony Robison**, Professor of Law at the University of Wyoming College of Law
- **Dylan Hedden-Nicely**, Associate Professor of Law & Director of the Native American Law Program at the University of Idaho College of Law

Moderator: **Professor Kekek Jason Stark**, University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law

11:45 – 12:00 pm Break



Photo by Kirsten Gerbatsch

12:00 – 1:00 pm **Midday Address presented by Dr. Len Necefer, Founder of Natives Outdoors**

1:00 – 1:15 pm Break

1:15 – 2:45 pm **Voices: Amplifying the Next Generation of Environmental Advocacy**

In the eyes of many, our existing leaders and legal systems have struggled to respond to the global climate crisis with appropriate urgency. Our nation today still lacks federal climate legislation, causing legal efforts to spill into the court systems and the state and local policy arenas. Young people have stepped into this space, leading efforts on the streets, in the halls of Congress and state legislatures, in the courts, and in the private sector. Youth advocates bring an energy and urgency previously unseen in the climate movement, asking those in power to listen and fully face this moment. This panel highlights the experiences and strategies of youth activists, policy makers, and the attorneys serving at the forefront of these efforts.

Panelists:

- **Nate Bellinger**, Senior Staff Attorney at Our Children's Trust
- **Grace Gibson-Snyder**, Plaintiff in *Held v. State of Montana*
- **Jasilyn Charger**, Land Protector, Earth Guardians
- **Randall Abate**, Professor & Rechnitz Family Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy at Monmouth University

Moderator: **Professor Michelle Bryan**, University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law

2:45 – 3:45 pm **Closing Address & Performance offered by Supaman, award-winning Apsáalooke hip hop artist and fancy dancer**

