

# Reducing Toxic Exposures And Improving Community Health With University- Tribal Partnerships

December 8, 2020

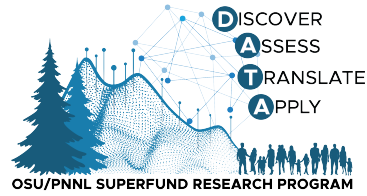
**Molly Kile, ScD and Sydelle Harrison, MPH**

Collaborative on Health and the Environment Webinar  
Improving Health Outcomes at the Community Level:  
Chemical Risk Assessment Methods in Light of  
Lessons Learned with COVID-19



**Oregon State**  
University





# OUTLINE

1. COVID-19 increased national awareness of systemic racial inequities
2. Evolving chemical risk analysis and risk management methodology
3. Partnering to improving community health



1  
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SOCIA  
SOCIA  
CLUB

**COVID-19 increased national awareness of systemic racial inequities**

## Disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous communities highlights longstanding root causes

- Genocidal Policies
  - Forced relocation (Reservations)
  - Land seizures (Termination & Assimilation)
  - Intergenerational trauma (Boarding Schools)
- Structural Racism & Poverty
  - Disproportionate Social Stress
  - Limited resources
  - Geographical isolation & Marginalization

## HOW TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

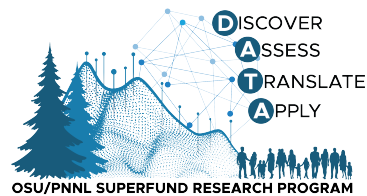
### STEP 2

Put on a mask.

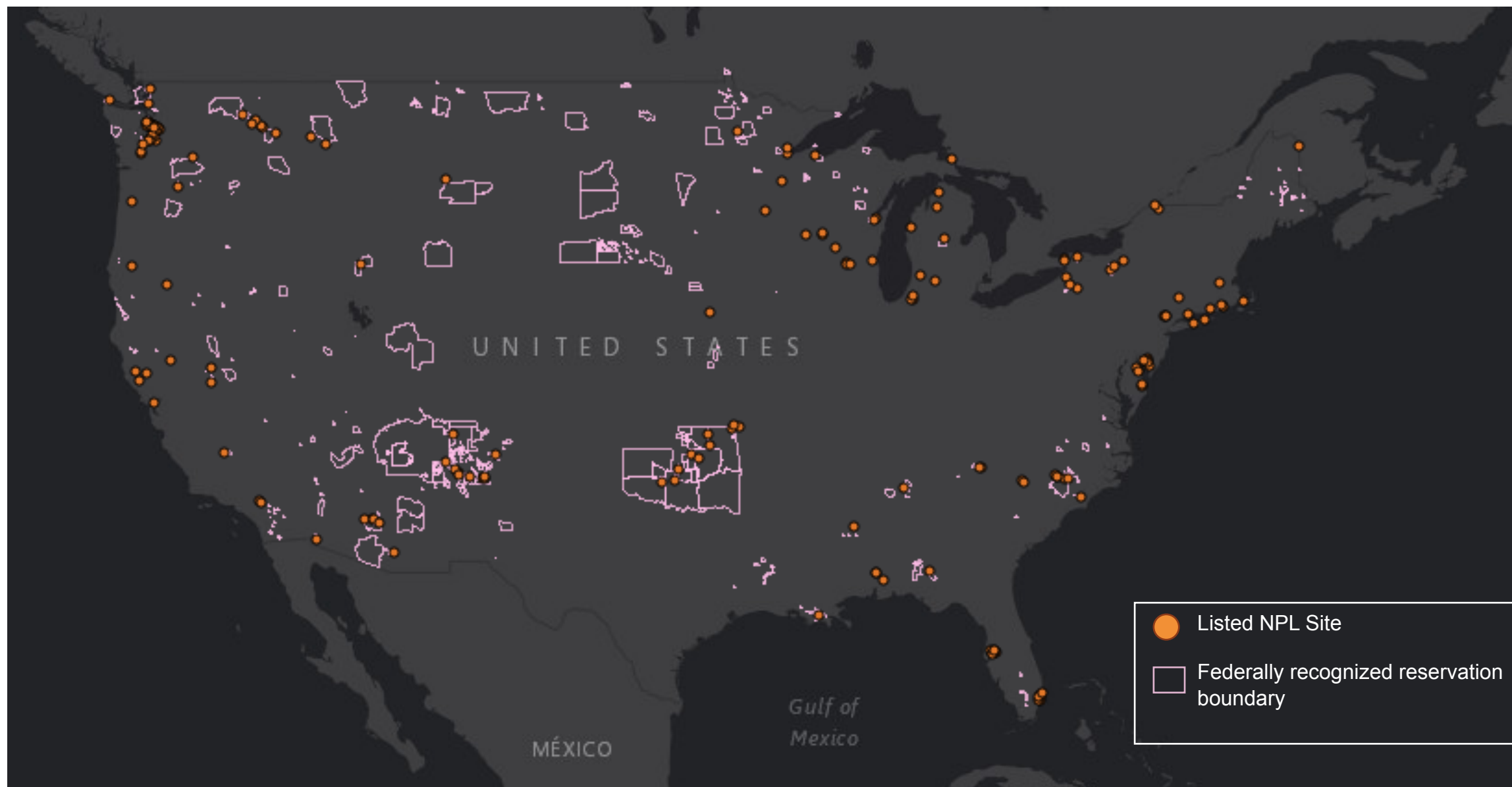
Cover entire nose, mouth, and chin.

No gaps between mask and face.





**Of the 1,344 listed Superfund sites 13% have a Federal Indian Reservation located within 10 miles. This affects 152 Federally-recognized Tribal Nations in the contiguous United States.**



Tristan Campbell Pollution in Indian Country - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/911527fd54c14632a61937ed833999f6>

# Traditional Knowledge

## First Foods Upland Vision



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
 Department of Natural Resources

Bryan A. Endress, Eric J. Quaempts, Shawn Steinmetz

April 2019

**Vision**  
 To ensure healthy, resilient and dynamic upland ecosystems capable of providing First Foods that sustain the continuity of the Tribe's culture.

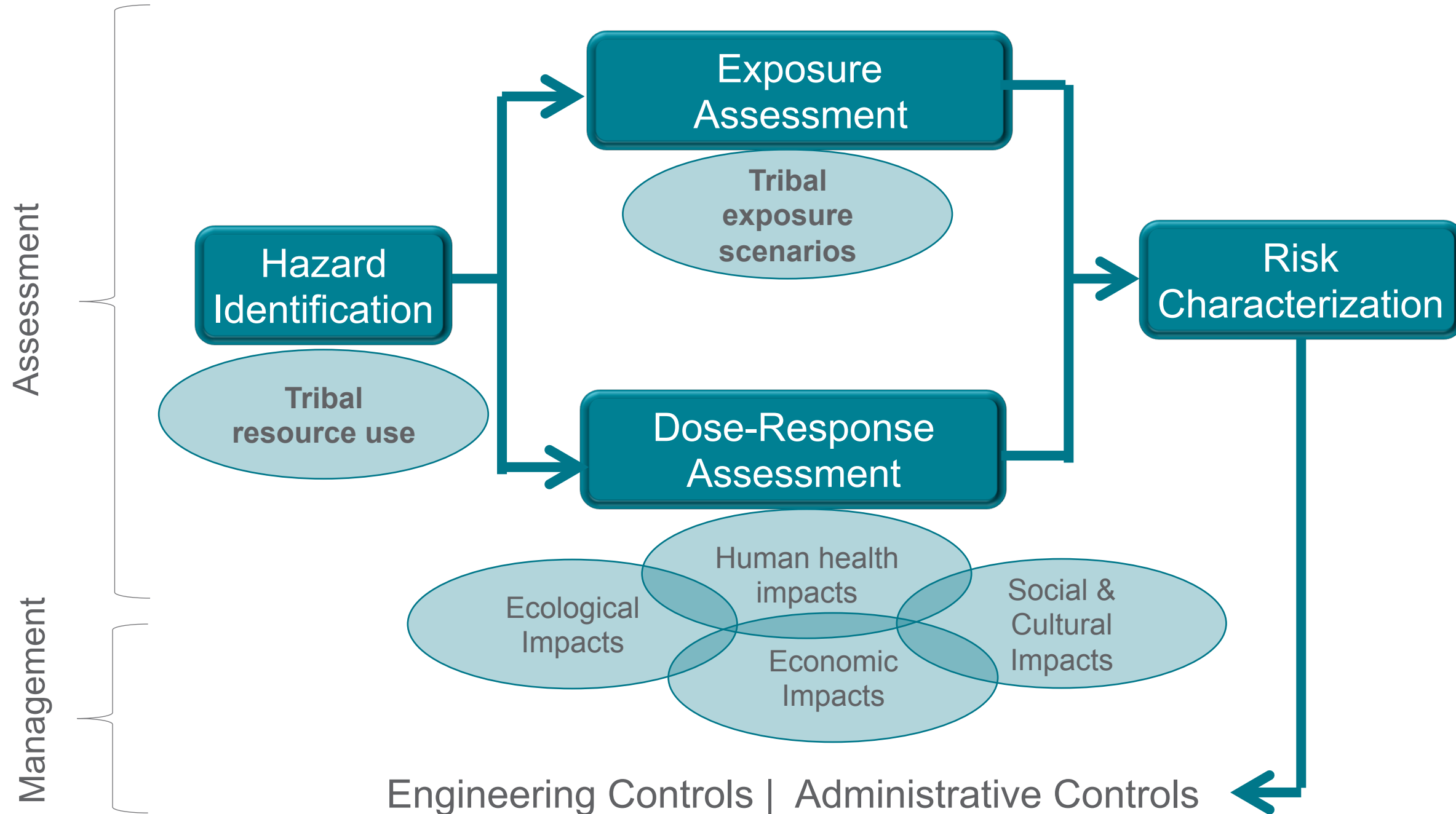




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**Evolving chemical risk analysis and risk management methodology**

# Chemical Risk Assessment and Risk Management





# Points of Culture and Health



Language and Symbolism



Artifacts



Relationships



Ceremonies and Customary Practices



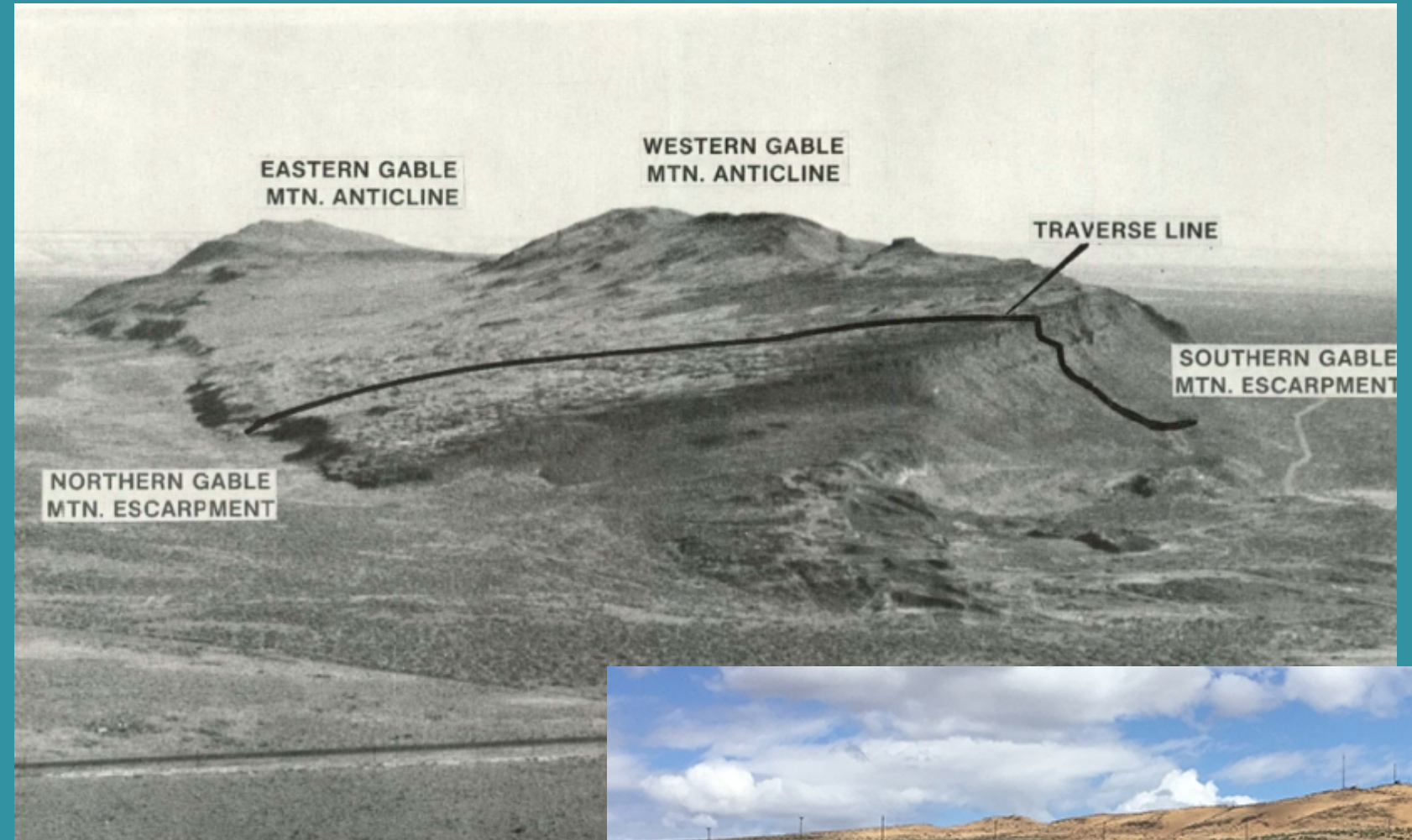
Food and Food Sovereignty



Oral Histories and Folklore/ Epistemology

# Hanford Nuclear Reservation Examples

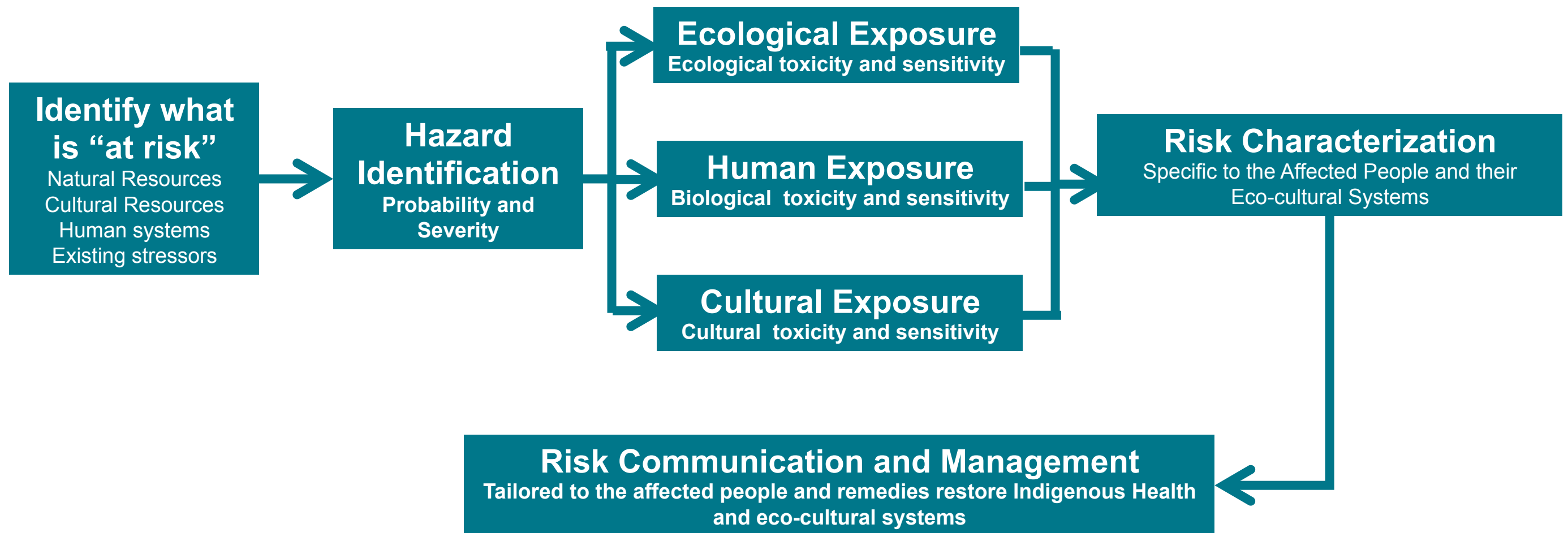
- White Bluffs Fishing Camp
- Gable Mountain and Gable Butte are Traditional Cultural Properties
- 100K Reactor Area was co-located with a Tribal burial area



Reference: Fecht, K.R., (1978). Geology Along Topographic Profile For Near-Surface Test Facility. Rockwell Hanford Operations for the United States Department of Energy. Richland, Washington. Accessed December 7, 2020; <https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/6419986>

# A Systems Approach to Risk Assessment

*"Ability to follow my traditional practices as healthfully as possible in the modern world."*





3

**Partnering to improving community health**

# Cultural Competency and Engagement with Tribal Nations

- Meaningful consultation under Executive Orders 13175 (2000) and 13604 (2012) outline fundamental principles of Agency interaction with Tribal Nations as:

“(b) Our Nation, under the law of the United States, in accordance with treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and judicial decisions, has recognized the right of Indian tribes to self-government. As domestic dependent nations, Indian tribes exercise inherent sovereign powers over their members and territory. The United States continues to work with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis to address issues concerning Indian tribal self-government, tribal trust resources, and Indian tribal treaty and other rights.”



**GATHER**  
THE FIGHT TO REVITALIZE OUR NATIVE FOODWAYS

ILLUMINE AND AGER MEILLIER FILMS WITH FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE PRESENTS GATHER  
PRODUCED BY TANYA AGER MEILLIER EDITED BY ALEXANDER MEILLIER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY REMAN OZTURK  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JENNIFER BUFFETT WENDY SCHMIDT CHRISTINE SCHANTZ BRIAN MENDOZA & JASON MOMOA  
COMPOSER MICHAEL A. LEVINE FEATURING ORIGINAL MUSIC BY RAYE ZARAGOZA DIRECTED BY SANJAY RAIWAL

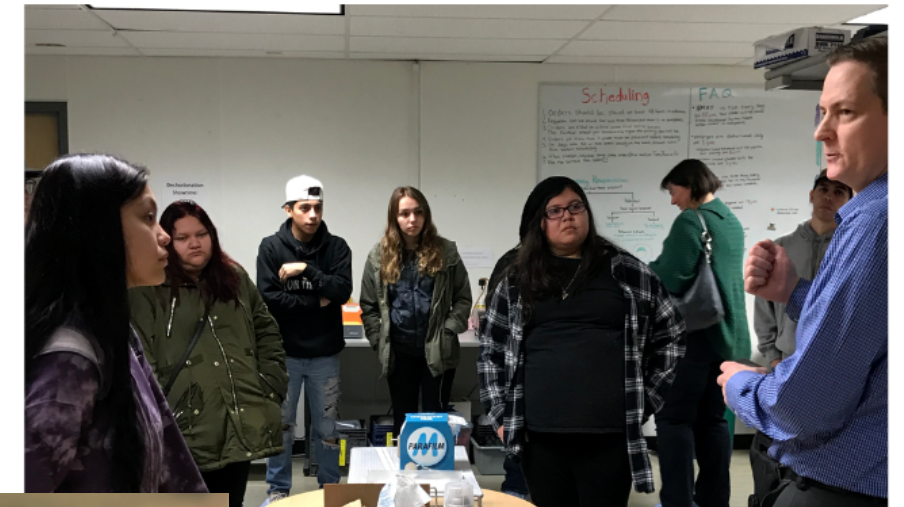
MADE WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

NOVEMBER 24, 2020 | 6-8PM PST

**CTUIR-SRP EXCHANGE SERIES**

Contact Sydelle Harrison to register: [harrisyd@oregonstate.edu](mailto:harrisyd@oregonstate.edu)



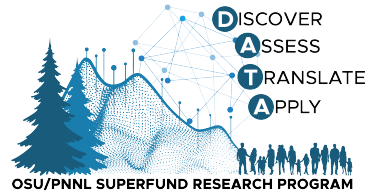


“  
**I think this is so awesome; opening your arms to the younger community.**

Steven Hart - CTUIR Parent

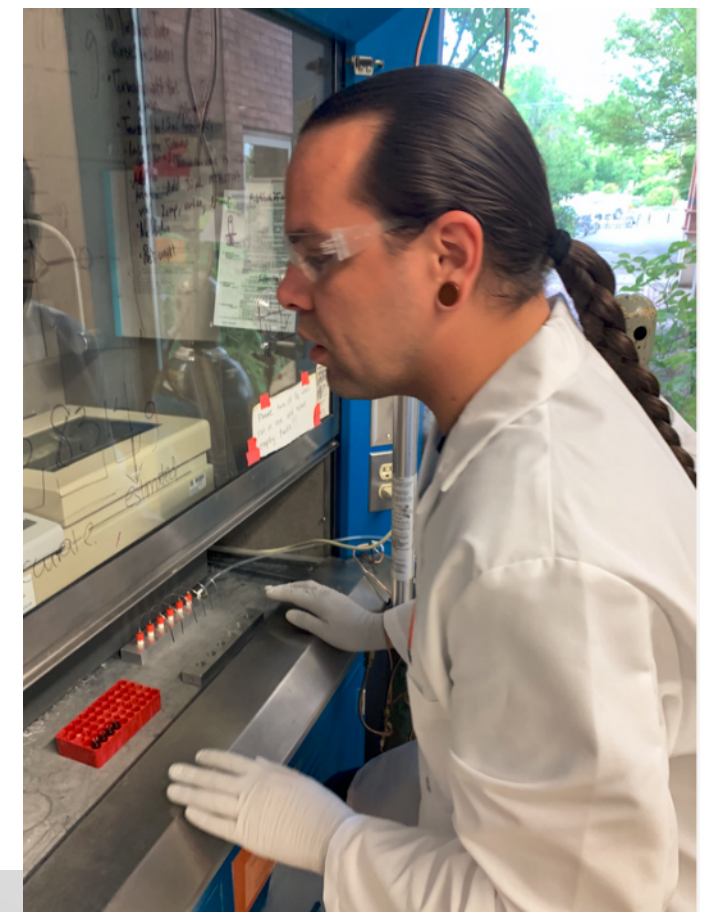
[oregonstate.edu/outreach](http://oregonstate.edu/outreach)

Images: Social Media Posts for the Cultural Exchange and Tribal Youth Tour Program Components



# Empowering Communities and Partnerships

- Increase diversity in knowledge, science, and practice
- Increase awareness of best practices for building and maintaining partnerships
- Steps in the right direction
  - Training administrators on how to create MOUs with Tribes
  - Data sharing agreements between scientists and Tribes
  - Tribal community advisory boards
  - Rewarding interdisciplinary and inter-organizational collaborations
  - Increase representation and break down silos



# Creating Equitable Research Practices

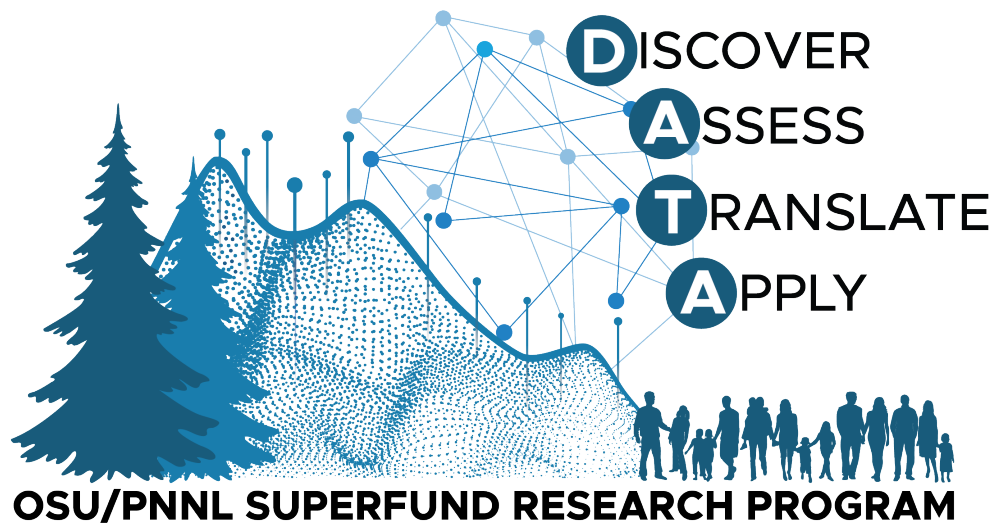
- Sovereign Nation-Specific Community Empowerment
  - Respecting Indian Tribal self-government and sovereignty
  - Honoring treaty and other rights
  - Granting Indian Tribal governments maximum administrative discretion
- Decolonization Methodology
  - Acknowledging the disenfranchised nature of Tribal history
  - Undoing colonial oppression of points of culture
- Community Building
  - Viewing a community with a strengths-based rather than needs-based approach
  - Explore multiple ways of knowing and walking in the world
  - Interdisciplinary team-based research design, project management and policy-making



**Oregon State**  
**University**

# Thank you

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**OSU/PNNL SUPERFUND RESEARCH PROGRAM**

