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Box 10: Tribal Forestry – Maidu Summit Consortium at Tásmam Kojóm (or Humbug Valley)
Courtesy of the Maidu Summit Consortium

Tribal non-profit stewards large restorative forest landscape, by way of a unique and exciting new management scenario.

In the increasingly threatened mixed-conifer forests of Plumas County, along the picturesque high-montane meadow that most Californians now call Humbug Valley, an important and monumental restoration project is well underway. After a land grant recommendation by Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council was made in 2013, the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) is now poised to reclaim this culturally and spiritually significant site, so that it may be restored.

Tásmam Kojóm will be carefully managed based upon the Maidu cultural and philosophic perspectives as expressed through traditional ecology. Tásmam Kojóm is an important place for the demonstration of how Maidu traditional ecology and contemporary ecological science can be woven together for the benefit of the land. It also is essential to the perpetuation of the unique culture from which our traditional ecology was derived.

For our basic survival, our People knew of the complexity and importance of maintaining resilient and productive forests. Until not so long ago, our daily lives included the human workings required of the active stewardship of healthy and balanced forest communities, the very means of our existence. When it comes to conservation of natural resources, this work held meaning near and far when considering the extent and distribution of Tribal People across what is now the State of California.



Long-term, large landscape-level projects such as ours will demonstrate how much potential California forests hold for producing more of the highest-quality fresh water found here, critical evermore to the survival of modern people living elsewhere in our state. We also feel that slowing the devastating effects of air pollution is done by better managing forest growth cycling and

transpiration over much longer periods of time. Smart forest carbon planning is our path forward.



It is also extremely important to note the rural development investment potential work like ours provides to economically stressed communities in the Sierra.

MSC have contracted with Ascent Environmental to help guide ongoing planning work, which is presently supported by the Stewardship Council, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and the Lannan Foundation. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will also be partners in co-managing certain aspects of the project.

Learn more at:
<http://www.maidusummit.org/current-projects.html>