



# BIA-sponsored Fellowship Tribal Natural Resource Leadership Development

## *PSU Executive Seminar in Natural Resources Leadership 2024-2025*

### About ESP

Each year, the Executive Seminar Program (ESP) visits communities throughout the west to connect with local leaders wrestling with their own natural resource challenges. Through presentation, conversation and guided study—and peer-to-peer sharing and teamwork—cohort members deepen their sense of leadership, build networks of support, and witness many different styles and approaches to solving complex leadership challenges. Read more about ESP and this year's program at [www.pdx.edu/cps/esp](http://www.pdx.edu/cps/esp)

### Why

During a time of change and challenge in natural resource and tribal communities, ESP helps participants develop awareness and insight, and supports participants as they innovate and lead within their organizations. The program also connects participants with other natural resource professionals from across the West to share insights, experiences and solutions.

### The Opportunity

The Northwest Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is providing match funding for Tribal natural resource staff to participate in a nine-month professional leadership development program based at Portland State University: the Executive Seminar in Natural Resources Leadership. This is a great opportunity to enhance skills and experience related to leadership, collaboration, cross-agency cooperation, and problem solving.

### How Much?

BIA's Northwest Regional Office will provide \$5,500 toward the total \$10,750 program tuition. The sending organization will provide the matching \$5,250.

## This Year's Programs and Dates

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### Managing fire risk on Oregon's Mt. Hood: New Science, Old Ways, and Engaged Communities

October 21-25, 2024, Mt.Hood, OR

The Labor Day fires of 2020 devastated communities in the Oregon Cascades, resulting in multiple fatalities and causing hundreds of millions of dollars of damage. Even though Highway 26 over Oregon's Mt. Hood was one of the few Cascade passes that did not experience the same loss of life and property, community leaders were motivated to reexamine how they prepare for and think about fire. When the 2,055-acre Camp Creek Fire on the Mt. Hood National Forest ignited in August 2023, those three years of intense collaboration and communication helped shape the response and the result. On the drier eastern side of the mountain, in more traditionally fire-prone areas, communities have been gathering for more than a decade to pursue fire-resilient ecosystems and adapted communities. This collective work earned the Mt. Hood National Forest recent designation as one of 21 Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscapes nationally. In October, ESP will travel to Mt. Hood to hear from landowners, land managers, tribes, homeowners, the fire services, utilities and communities about how they are experimenting with fuels management approaches and other tools—using established and emerging science about fire history and ecology—to be as ready as possible for the next big one.



Portland State  
Center for Public Service



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### **Restructuring the Power of Decision Making: Implementing Metro's Parks and Nature Bond**

*February 24-28, 2025, Portland, Oregon*

In 2019, Portland metropolitan area voters approved a \$475 million parks and nature bond measure to protect clean water, restore habitat and connect people to nature while centering racial equity and climate resilience. A portion of the funding is targeted at protecting and restoring land, and a significant portion will be passed through to local jurisdictions. Metro—the area's regional government—is tasked with implementation, working closely with tribes, neighborhoods, underserved communities and governments throughout the three-county area. Our focus for this week will be to explore what it means to center racial equity and climate resilience when prioritizing and implementing conservation work in the region. We'll hear from policy leaders who shaped the bond measure, regional and local officials, community groups and neighborhood leaders about how they are restructuring the power of decision making to utilize this important funding source, their hoped-for outcomes and the challenges and opportunities of implementation.

### **Mexican Wolf Recovery: Innovation, Partnership and Acceptance in the Southwest**

*May 19-23, 2025, Rural Eastern Arizona*

By 1973, the once wide-ranging Mexican wolf had become functionally extinct in the Southwest with less than 10 individuals believed remaining in remote parts of Arizona, New Mexico and south of the Mexican border. In 1976 the Mexican wolf was listed as endangered and a binational captive breeding program began. By 1998, the first captive wolves were released into their former home range. Today, more than 60 packs have been documented including 26 breeding pairs. This recovery has been marked by uncertainty and turbulence as well as by partnership, and experimentation in a context of significant social and environmental challenges. In late May, we'll travel to rural eastern Arizona and western New Mexico to hear from policy leaders, biologists, land managers, affected communities and the interagency field team responsible for the recovery to hear their insights about leadership, partnership, tolerance and innovation across state and international boundaries.

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## **Next Steps**

**Email or call Program**

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For more information on ESP, visit the program online at [www.pdx.edu/cps/esp](http://www.pdx.edu/cps/esp)

Registration Deadline is August 30