

Klamath Tribal Food Security News

Summer 2019



Cooking salmon. Klamath Tribes Food Security photo.

In this issue:

- New Food Security project aims to keep cultural foods resilient in a changing climate
- Study results show that access to native foods is key to Tribal food security
- Karuk - UC Berkeley team learns new skills to expand Karuk Tribal Herbarium

New food security project

Karuk Agroecosystem Resilience Initiative: *xuus nu'éethi* - we are caring for it

Last fall saw the launch of a new collaborative research, outreach and education project between the Karuk Department of Natural Resources' Píkyav Field Institute and UC Berkeley researchers Jennifer Sowerwine, Dan Sama and Megan Mucioki.



Assessing acorns. Ben Saxon photo.

The overall goal of the new USDA-funded 3-year project is to ensure cultural food and fiber plants in Karuk ancestral territory survive and thrive as the planet's climate shifts. The research team will be analyzing changes in the plants' health over time, building digital tools to help landscape managers choose the best ways to care for food and fiber plants, and offering training to Tribal staff and local youth in how to document, locate and preserve important plants for further study.

The project includes developing new K-12 lessons for local schools, and providing workshops in 360 photography and storymapping for local youth. Stay tuned for workshop announcements this fall! Want more information? Email klamathucb@gmail.com and we will keep you posted.

Study results

Restoring access to native foods can reduce Tribal households' food insecurity

Newly released results from a multi-year study, co-designed by the Karuk, Yurok and Klamath Tribes with UC Berkeley and reaching over 1,000 participants, found that greater ability to hunt, fish and gather and preserve their own traditional foods could improve the food security of Tribal households in the region.

"We know our efforts to revitalize and care for our food system through traditional land management are critical to the physical and cultural survival of the humans who are part of it," said Leaf Hillman, director of the Karuk Tribe's Department of Natural Resources. "This study will support our ability to bring that message to the decision-makers who need to hear it."



Field dressing deer at workshop. Karuk Food Security photo.

[Read more.](#)

Spring workshop at the UC-Jepson Herbaria to expand collection skills and the Karuk Herbarium

In March, the UCB-Karuk team met in Berkeley for a two-day intensive workshop to expand our skills in collecting and preserving voucher specimens (plants used for study and education). The workshop, led by experts at the [University & Jepson Herbaria](#), focused on bulky specimens, lichens, fungi, bryophytes (mosses), and algae/seaweeds. We will use our new skills to diversify the Karuk native plant collections beyond culturally important vascular plant foods, fibers, and medicines. Our team thoroughly enjoyed spending time in



Workshop group outside the UC Herbaria. Jennifer Sowerwine photo.

the herbarium as well as with each other.

We are currently expanding the Karuk Herbarium through our latest research collaboration, the Karuk Agroecosystem Resilience Initiative (see story above). Our team has been in the field this spring and summer collecting new voucher specimens associated with our research on abundance, health, and quality of cultural resources under changing climatic conditions in Karuk gathering areas. In the fall we will develop and pilot a lesson to add to the K-12 Karuk curriculum, incorporating skills learned at our training in Berkeley, in order to transfer this knowledge to youth.



Klamath River. Stormy Staats, Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative photo.

In the news

See news stories about the **Karuk - UC Berkeley Collaborative's** ongoing projects [on our website](#).

FOOD SECURITY RESOURCES

MKWC FOODSHEDS WEBSITE

Wondering what, where and when to plant? Visit the Mid Klamath Watershed Council [Foodsheds pages](#) for excellent free online info on the vegetables and fruits that grow best here, along with planting calendars, soil, and disease prevention advice.

MID KLAMATH FOODSHED FACEBOOK PAGE

Keep in touch with us! Find upcoming events, see photos, ask questions, let your neighbors know what's going on in the foodshed! All that and more on the [Foodshed Facebook page](#).

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

Missed an issue? See what your Food Security team has been doing [here](#).

SÍPNUUK DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Karuk Tribe's [Sipnuuk Digital Library, Archives and Museum](#) supports food security and sovereignty with information on our regional food security issues, solutions and knowledge of traditional and contemporary foods and materials. Easy to use and open to all - sign up now!



Eels in smoker. Chris Peters photo.





United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

This work is supported by the AFRI Resilient Agroecosystems in a Changing Climate Challenge Area Grant # 2018-68002-27916 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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