

AppLCC Conservation/Management Community

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TRIBAL

Native American Tribes

There are four federally recognized tribes in the Appalachian LCC boundary area that currently manage lands and natural resources across the Appalachians region. The AppLCC has made contact with Tribal representatives and is attempting to engage with them in this early stage of development of the partnership. In April of 2012, the AppLCC Coordinator organized LCC staff speakers to attend a national meeting of Tribal Natural Resource Managers in Cherokee, NC and discuss Tribal views and priorities regarding threats to important natural resources, including climate change influences. For Tribal members, cultural and natural resource conservation are inter-woven, and as these are both priorities for the Appalachian LCC, our hope is that we may find many common goals as this LCC matures and our discussions continue. To date, we have identified two fish species of joint interest: Eastern brook trout and Redhorse sicklefin.

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- **The Appalachian Nation Cherokees and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians** is the only Tribal group currently (2012) represented on the Appalachian LCC Steering Committee. The Appalachian Nation Cherokees are one of the largest Indian tribes in the United States. More than 18,000 tribal members reside in the states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, New Jersey, Ohio, Kentucky, California and Canada. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are actively engaged with the AppLCC and serve on its Interim Steering Committee.
- The **National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC)** was formed in 1991 with seven tribes and input from several intertribal organizations, including the Council of Energy Resource Tribes and the Native American Rights Fund, as a membership organization dedicated to working with and assisting tribes in the protection and preservation of tribal environments. NTEC's membership is open to any federally-recognized tribe throughout the United States, and currently has 186 member tribes. It is organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Currently, the Eastern Band Cherokee and Catawba are both members. Tribes have been witness to continuous and accelerated degradation of the land and resources surrounding their homelands. Our challenge is to integrate timeless traditional teachings and values into modern day practices. While strength exists in the great diversity of tribal cultures and governments, a united approach that respects tribal differences and works towards cleaner tribal environments is also critical. Thus, NTEC's mission is to enhance each tribe's ability to protect, preserve and promote the wise management of air, land and water for the benefit of current and future generations (<http://www.ntec.org/about-us/history-and-mission.html>).
- Native Americans have a long, rich, and complex history in the Appalachian Region, summarized in *Appalachian American Indians—A Timeline of the Historic Period* (<http://www.aaiwv-ani.org/page2.html>). We estimate that over 90 Tribes spent some portion of their history in the Appalachian Region, and though few of these now own land, there are significant Tribal interests that should be respected and conserved.