Great change is underway for the fire-related future of our forests, communities and firefighters. Increasingly, indigenous peoples are recognized for their ability to contribute to solutions for our mounting fire challenges. By providing a supportive framework, the IPBN is uniquely positioned to elevate tribal contributions in this shared journey. The IPBN has grown from a single landscape in 2015—in the combined ancestral territories of the Yurok, Hoopa and Karuk Tribes of Northern California—to include people from pueblos in New Mexico and land managers from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota. The network is also nurturing connections in North Carolina, Oregon and Washington.

Accomplishments include increased controlled burning, through family-led burning and Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX), that provides training for fire practitioners while supporting culturally important natural resources and improving community safety. The network has also supported development of a strategic plan for revitalizing fire culture in one landscape and a cultural exchange between Northern California tribes and the Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico, and has enabled Native American fire practitioners to exchange information about statutes and policies that support increasing controlled burning on lands of interest to tribes.

Indigenous Peoples Burning Network Landscapes

**Northern California** In the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk IPBN landscape, partners used a planning process developed by aboriginal peoples in Australia to craft a Healthy Country Plan laying out a five-year strategic plan. The plan highlights cultural burning and intergenerational learning. This partnership is exploring expansion to encompass as many as 15 tribes in Northern California. This growth will allow the IPBN to support a greater tribal contribution to addressing California’s fire challenges.

**Southwest** With the Rio Grande Water Fund, the IPBN is bringing together land managers from eight New Mexico pueblos to advance forest treatments, including controlled burning. Connecting people with fire training opportunities is a priority, along with facilitating project planning and implementation in priority watersheds.

**Great Lakes** In central Minnesota, the IPBN and Fire Learning Network are supporting collaboration between the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Reservation. Against a backdrop of treaty obligations to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, this collaboration seeks to enable the primary parties to chart a shared path toward forest resilience and vibrant native culture.

**Growing the Network** Federal agencies and local TNC projects are increasing their commitments to equitable partnerships with tribes. For example, IPBN landscapes are funding restoration projects through the Reserved Treaty Rights Lands program and cross-boundary efforts like the Rio Grande Water Fund, and working with Forest Service partnership offices. Word of the IPBN is also spreading across family lines and through traditional trade routes. As a result, there is demand for expanding the IPBN. Building genuine partnerships moves at the speed of trust, though. First steps may include people from one tribe visiting another’s homeland. Others engage through TREX events where cultural connections to fire are integrated into fire training. Rooted in self-determination, the IPBN leadership team is guiding network growth and adapting the network’s structure to welcome new tribal landscapes.