

Tribal Stewardship Policy—Annotated Bibliography

Books and Articles on California Native American History:

Madley, Benjamin. *An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe 1846 – 1873*. Yale University Press, 2016.

An American Genocide provides a detailed description of the historical wrongs committed against California Native American tribes during the early formations of the State of California. This is a critical read to understand the formation of the State.

Akins, Damon B. and William J. Bauer Jr. *We Are the Land: A History of Native California*. University of California Press, 2022.

Akins and Bauer provide the history of California from a tribal perspective. *We Are the Land* helps readers understand how Native American people navigated policies and actions that sought to harm them.

Field, Les W. *Abalone Tales: Collaborative Explorations of Sovereignty and Identity in Native California*. Duke University Press, 2008.

Abalone Tales is a collaborative ethnography that describes the historic and contemporary significance of abalone from the perspectives of the Ohlone, Pomo, Karuk, Hupa, and Wiyot peoples of California.

Anderson, M. Kat. *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*. University of California Press, 2013.

Tending the Wild provides a detailed understanding of the expertise of tribes in natural resources management in California. Anderson examines how Traditional Ecological Knowledge has been used by California Native American tribes to steward the land since time immemorial, and how historical wrongs outlawing tribal practices has led to environmental challenges Californians are facing today.

Heizer, Robert F. *The Destruction of California Indians*. University of Nebraska Press, 1993.

The *Destruction of California Indians* is a collection of primary sources detailing the role of the United States and California in the attempted destruction of California Native Americans.

Johnston-Dodds, Kimberly. "Early California Laws and Policies Related to California Indians." *California Research Bureau, California State Library*, 2002, https://www.csus.edu/college/education/engagement/internal/documents/indian_early_california_laws_and_policies_related_to_california_indians.pdf.

This research paper was prepared for the California Research Bureau at the request of the California Senate. The paper summarizes the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians, early California apprenticeship and vagrancy laws, California militia and expeditions against Indians, and California's response to federal treaties negotiated with tribes.

The *California Indian History Website*, <https://calindianhistory.org>.

This website features primary sources and educational materials relating to the history of California Native American tribes, including a map of the locations of all the reservations that were negotiated under the 18 unratified treaties as well as annotated timelines accompanied by primary source materials. The website was developed as part of Kimberly Johnston-Dodd's thesis project, using the same research methods and source review process developed during the California State Library's California Indians Historical Resources Project (CIHRP).

"1851-1852 - Eighteen Unratified Treaties between California Indians and the United States." *Digital Commons at Cal State Monterey Bay, US Government Treaties and Reports*, 2016, https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/hornbeck_usa_2_b/5.

A typed copy of the text of each of the original 18 unratified treaties made between 1851 and 1852.

"Governor Peter Burnett's State of the State Address to the California Legislature on January 6, 1851." *California State Library, the Governor's Gallery*, https://governors.library.ca.gov/addresses/s_01-Burnett2.html.

In this Address, Governor Peter Burnett called for the continuation of a "war of extermination" against California Native Americans.

Governor Newsom highlighted this Address in his apology issued to California Native Americans for California's actions ([Executive Order N-15-19](#)).

"Welcome to Indian Country 101." *Conservation Training*,
<https://www.conservationtraining.org/course/view.php?id=309>.

This foundational course overviews Native history throughout the United States, tribal governments today, and discusses identity, citizenship, and culture. The Indian Country tribal engagement series was designed with natural resource practitioners in mind but is also useful for anyone wanting to learn more about engaging with tribes. The training includes videos, readings, and reference guides.

Books and Resources to Support Tribes' Ancestral Land Return Priorities:

Middleton Manning, Beth Rose. *Trust in the Land: New Directions in Tribal Conservation*. University of Arizona Press, 2011).

Trust in the Land includes detailed research on new and innovative ideas concerning Native land conservancies. This book provides research and advice on land trusts, collaborations, and conservation groups.

Risling Baldy, Cutcha, Carrie Tully, and Karley M. Rojas, *California #LandBack Special Report*. Save California Salmon, June 2024,
[d97ff6_872841991d6f4030b2391e466e61c908.pdf](https://californiasalmon.org/d97ff6_872841991d6f4030b2391e466e61c908.pdf) (californiasalmon.org).

This report contains detailed research on the land back successes in California and provides policy recommendations to continue to advance this work, featuring several case studies. Includes special focuses on land return opportunities with higher education institutions and state surplus lands. A 2023 [symposium](#) highlighted this research and [panel recordings](#) have been posted online.

Riley, Kawika, Britnee Nguyen, Miriam Jorgensen, and Monte Mills. "Experts not Obstacles: Indigenous Conservation Excellence and the Trap of Conservation at any Cost." *Harvard Project on Indigenous Governance and Development*, Native Nations Institute, September 2025, <https://ash.harvard.edu/wp->

[content/uploads/2025/10/Experts-Not-Obstacles-Indigenous-Conservation-FINAL-FINAL.pdf](#).

This paper explains how Indigenous-led approaches to environmental stewardship leads to equal or superior outcomes for conservation in a variety of settings, and that prioritizing both Native rights and environmental wellbeing is necessary.

Indigenous Guardians Toolkit, <https://www.indigenousguardianstoolkit.ca/>.

This toolkit is designed to support Indigenous communities in Canada to develop and implement Indigenous Guardian programs, which are programs of Indigenous land stewardship. While designed for Indigenous communities in Canada, there may be helpful tools for California Native American tribes as well.

Droz, PennElys. "LANDBACK: A Toolkit to Restore Our Relations." *NDN Collective*, September 2023, https://ndncollective.sfo3.digitaloceanspaces.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/25155742/NDN_Land-Back_LGTLB_English.pdf

This booklet highlights tools to navigate Indigenous Land Back strategies and issues within Canada and the United States.