LEVERAGING BROWNFIELDS TO BUILD TRIBAL RESILIENCE

Kansas State University Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program
In collaboration with Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska, Tohono O’odham Nation, & Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes

Jennifer Clancey, Damon Dunbar, Page Hingst, & Oral Saulters
Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF)
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Leveraging Brownfields to Build Tribal Resilience

1. Resilience, TRIBES Initiative, & Principles of Tribal Resilience
2. Brownfields, Community Revitalization, & Resilience
3. Case Studies: Santee Sioux Nation of NE, Tohono O’odham Nation, Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes
4. TRIBES Initiative Next Steps
What does "resilience" mean to you and tribal community context?
Cultural “Resilience”

“Community or cultural resilience is the capacity of a distinct community or cultural system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to retain key elements of structure and identity that preserve its distinctiveness” – Healy
Indigenous “Resilience”

► *ma too maat soahk si* (don’t give up)
  – Sturart Bear Shield (Blackfeet)

► *wacan tognaka* (strong will)
  – Sherry Red Owl (Lakota)

► *wa nah igh mash jah* (strong mind)
  – Leila Picotte (Ho-Chunk)

► *survivance* (Native active presence)
  – Gerald Vizenor (White Earth Nation)

“Every indigenous language has a word that means resilience”
- Iris HeavyRunner and Kathy Marshall
Transformative Resilience for Indigenous Brownfields & Environmental Sustainability (TRIBES)

**Purpose:**
Contribute to the transformation of brownfields (properties that are or may be contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants, petroleum, or other contaminants)\(^1\) from eyesores into community assets while building tribal resilience. Leveraging brownfields tools, processes, and resources can create benefits for indigenous communities in many capacities and across multiple programs. This collaborative initiative establishes and applies principles, case studies, and conceptual framework that add value in responding to environmental, economic, social, and psychological challenges.

TRIBES Principles

Understand Vision, Assets, and Vulnerabilities

- Collectively imagining, defining, and sharing long-term possibilities and visualizations for reuse of priority and catalyst sites—inventory, mapping, anticipating, and transforming vulnerabilities into assets. Understanding the community vision, as well as the assets and vulnerabilities of the community, will aid in preparedness and recovery.

What do we know as a community? What do we have? What do we love? What do we miss and what can we do about it for past and future generations?
TRIBES Principles

Promote Health and Wellbeing

- Holistic quality of life for individuals, families, and community is a vital foundation (e.g., preventive medicine and health care, employment, housing, food sovereignty). Ensuring the health and wellbeing of all tribal community members is essential for ensuring even the most vulnerable are prepared for and protected from environmental, economic, and social shocks and stressors.
TRIBES Principles

Protect Environmental Quality

• Centering Indigenous expertise using local and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) along with scientific best practices within natural resource stewardship and environmental protection programs and practices.
TRIBES Principles

Strengthen Economy, Infrastructure, and Technology

• Advancing local economic investment and innovation through indigenous capital finance institutions, critical infrastructure, small business entrepreneurship, and community wealth building.
TRIBES Principles

**Enhance Self-Determination, Leadership, and Partnerships**

- Emphasizing strategies for sovereign self-governance leveraging wisdom of elders, youth mentoring, educational opportunities, collaboration with peer networks, succession planning, and capacity building.
TRIBES Principles

Preserve Cultural Heritage

- Honoring and passing on indigenous history and traditions while creating vibrant futures (e.g., language, lifeways, arts, ceremonies, songs, dances, stories, humor, and spirituality). Use of AIAN modalities for changes in environmental setting.
TRIBES Principles

Emphasize Community Engagement

• Facilitating interactive listening, learning, and dialogue toward consensus in planning, actions, and implementation of site reuse, redevelopment, and transformation. Involving stakeholders in decision-making processes encourages participation, diverse voices, and buy-in.
Which principle(s) resonate and speak to you?
What is a Brownfield?

"...real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."  
- Small Business Liability and Brownfields Revitalization Act, Public Law 107-118

- A property with **possible** environmental issues that are limiting re-use of the site
- Goal is to put back into beneficial reuse
- Community Revitalization
- Benefits of brownfields redevelopment:
  - Improves local economy
  - Creates new jobs
  - Often uses exiting infrastructure
  - Preserves undeveloped land
  - Improves & protects the environment
Approaches to Brownfields Redevelopment

**Isolated (single site):**
- Investigate & Cleanup
- Redevelop

**Holistic (community-wide):**
- Vision & Plan
- Redevelop
- Investigate & Cleanup
- Community Revitalization
Redevelopment vs Revitalization

Redevelopment
verb | re·de·vel·op | \ˌrē-diˈvel-əp\ : to develop again; especially: REDESIGN, REBUILD

Revitalize
verb | re·vi·tal·ize | \ˌrē-ˈvī-təl-əz\ : to give new life or vigor to
Visualize your community, considering assets and challenges. Now, identify a particular eyesore (e.g., old gas station, abandoned structure, empty business, dump site). Imagine what it could be. List a few ideas.
3 Step Brownfields Redevelopment Process

1. Vision & Plan
2. Investigate
3. Redevelop

Community Revitalization
Step 1: Vision & Plan

- Identify Brownfields
- Engage the Community
- Set Vision & Redevelopment Goals
Step 2: Investigate

- Phase I ESA
- Phase II ESA
- Cleanup, if necessary
Step 3: Redevelop

- Engage Stakeholders
- Find Partners & Coordinate
- Secure Resources & Funding
# Brownfields-Specific Resources

## KSU Tribal TAB

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<th>TRIBES initiative &amp; consultations</th>
<th>Community Engagement</th>
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<td>Visioning &amp; Planning</td>
<td>Brownfields Inventory Tool (Bit) &amp; TAB EZ</td>
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<td>Grant Proposal reviews</td>
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## Brownfields-Specific Resources

### EPA Brownfields

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBA)</strong></td>
<td>• Phase I &amp; Phase II Assessments</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **128(a) Tribal Response Program (TRP) funding** | • Establishing a TRP  
• Assessments  
• Oversight, Inventory, Community Engagement |
| **Technical Assistance**                      | • Tribal TAB  
• Groundwork USA  
• CDFA                                                   |
| **EPA Brownfields Assessment grants**         | • Planning, Inventory, Community Engagement  
• Assessments & Cleanup Planning |
| **EPA Brownfields Cleanup grants**            | • Site(s) cleanup                                                               |
| **EPA Brownfields Multipurpose grants**       | • Planning, Inventory, Community Engagement  
• Assessments & Cleanup Planning  
• Site(s) cleanup |
| **EPA Job Training & Workforce Development grants** | • Job training                                                               |

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**Notes:**
- EPA = Environmental Protection Agency
- TBA = Targeted Brownfields Assessments
- TRP = Tribal Response Program
**TRIBES Principles**

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Understand Vision, Assets, and Vulnerabilities</td>
<td>• Imagine, inventory, map</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote Health and Wellbeing</td>
<td>• Quality of life for individuals, families, community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect Environmental Quality</td>
<td>• Indigenous expertise and scientific best practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen Economy, Infrastructure, and Technology</td>
<td>• Local investment, innovation, community wealth building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance Self-Determination, Leadership, and Partnerships</td>
<td>• Self-governance, sovereignty, intergenerational, peers, succession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserve Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>• History, traditions, future, modalities of change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasize Community Engagement</td>
<td>• Listening, learning, dialogue, diversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Given the principles and brownfields resources discussed, which specific ones might help transform your eyesore from vision to action? Focus on things you can do or inspire as a local champion.
PAGE HINGST
TRIBAL RESPONSE PROGRAM MANAGER
SANTEE SIOUX NATION OF NEBRASKA
Background

- NE Nebraska
  - ~116,000 acres
  - Santee- Tribal Headquarters

Issues

- Poor Waste Management Practices
  - Burning
  - Uncontrolled dumping at Transfer Station

- Illegal Dumping
  - 2017- 33 illegal dumpsites
  - 2018/2019- 22 illegal dumpsites

- Transfer Station
  - Blight
  - Tipping Fees-$200,000/year
  - Waste Characterization
    - 79% - Recyclable
Future Visioning

- **Transfer Station**
  - Brownfields
  - Phase I & II
  - cleanup
  - Reuse-Maintenance Shed

- **Old Gas Station**
  - Brownfields
  - Possible Reuse/Redevelopment

- **Recycling Center**
  - Plastic, Paper, Cardboard, Food Waste
  - Vermicomposting: Sell worms as bait
TRIBES Principles

- Understand Vision, Assets, and Vulnerabilities
  - Community Vision- Move the transfer station/Recycling Center
  - Assets- Brownfields/location
  - Vulnerability- Funding

- Promote Health and Wellbeing
  - No burning/smoke exposure
  - Lessen/remove risk of contamination of land and water
  - Improve aesthetics of the community

- Protect Environmental Quality
  - Minimal air pollution, land/water pollution
  - Best Management Practices for solid and hazardous waste

- Strengthen Economy, Infrastructure, and Technology
  - Strengthen Economy
    - Service communities that would otherwise have to travel great distances
  - Save Money
    - ~$150,000 in tipping fees
TRIBES Principles (Continued)

- Enhance Self-Determination, Leadership, and Partnerships
  - Create jobs
  - Education through public outreach
  - Partnerships- Hub & Spoke, MOA/MOU’s

- Preserve Cultural Heritage
  - Incorporate native language

- Emphasize Community Engagement
  - Community Events
DAMON DUNBAR, M.S.
ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR
CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO TRIBES
BROWNFIELDS & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Damon Dunbar, M.S.
Main tribal administration is located at Concho, which is approximately 30 miles west of Oklahoma City. Service Area of 10-counties of Western Oklahoma with 7-tribal reserves.

1- Concho Reserve | Canadian
2- Cedar Tree Reserve | Blaine
3- Franklin Reserve | Blaine
4- Canton Reserve | Blaine
5- Colony Reserve | Washita
6- Clinton Reserve | Custer
7- Red Moon Reserve | Custer
Concho Indian Boarding School was a boarding school for members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and later opened to other Native American students. It existed from 1909 to 1983. It was located in central Oklahoma, approximately 1 mile south of Concho, Oklahoma and 4 miles north of El Reno, Oklahoma. The name of the town and school is the Spanish word for "shell" and was named for the Indian agent, Charles E. Shell. (Wikipedia)
1) Concho Boarding School
2) Seger Boarding School
3) Old Canton High School Gym

asbestos is suspected. Similar types of contamination are also expected at the other schools. The abandoned
and run-down condition of these and other potential brownfields properties provides pathways for human
exposure to the contamination. The Pilot will examine the potential sites and target the three considered
most viable for redevelopment.

OBJECTIVES
The objective of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes is to enhance the quality of life of tribal members
residing near the selected brownfields. The Pilot hopes to accomplish this objective by assessing the
potential for exposure to contamination and by planning for redevelopment of these historic lands for
the economic benefit of the tribes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES
Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:
• Soliciting input from the community through quarterly meetings in the 10 tribal districts and
  meetings at senior citizens centers;
• Prioritizing brownfields and selecting three target sites;
• Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments of target sites;
• Developing cleanup plans for target sites; and
• Conducting a redevelopment study for target sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.
CONCHO BOARDING SCHOOL
CONCHO BOARDING SCHOOL
OLD CANTON HIGH SCHOOL GYM
OLD CANTON HIGH SCHOOL GYM
COLONY RESERVE BROWNFIELDS
SEGER BOARDING SCHOOL
DEMOLOISHING PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
CONCHO BROWNFIELDS SITE

The main goal was to protect the health and well being of tribal members who still reside at Concho. The project assisted tribal employees with heavy equipment operator certification, and assisted unemployed tribal members to receive training for employment. The demolishing project began with a meeting with Economic Development, Transportation Department, Employment Training Assistance (ETA) Program, EPA Program, and Community Development to discuss what each program can help with.

Transportation Program – Heavy Equipment Operator 32-hour Certification, use of backhoe & dump truck for project
Economic Development – Current employees to train and assist with project
ETA Program – providing trainees and assistance with salary for the project
EPA Program – technical assistance and oversight for hazardous materials abatement and disposal
Community Development – overall project planning and management, and safety plan
PROJECT PHASES

• Heavy Equipment Operator Training
• 40-hour HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response)
• 10-hour General OSHA Training
• Asbestos and Lead Paint Abatement
• Utility line location and service lines removal
• Project Safety Meetings.
• Hire ETA temp workers.
PARTNERS

• EPA Region 6
• C&A Tax Commission
• Department of Transportation
• Economic Development Program
• Employment & Training Assistance Program
• C&A Tribal EPA Program
• Planning & Development Program
HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRAINING
BY
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON

From L-R: Patrick Bent, Brad Blackcrow, Anthony Pawnee, Patrick Sharp, Gayther Pratt, Instructor Mr. Clow of University of Texas-Arlington (UTA)
Safety Tech Consultant, Todd Martin marking key supporting posts to cut prior to demo to fall inward.
The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have always been resilient to changes in life and ways of living. From relocation of our original homelands to where we currently reside, the Tribes have endured difficult times and became stronger. With creative ideas from our leadership to redevelop our Brownfields sites, which many tribal members enjoy today. Many tribal elders have said, “I remember the fun times I had in that old high school gym”. Leadership ideas that transform sites that will be environmental friendly to keeping the balance between humans and Mother Earth.
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TRIBES Next Steps

► Continue to advance initiative
  • Develop framework
  • Tribal working group
  • National Brownfields Conference

► Tribal TAB consultations to discuss your community
  • Potential sites
  • Partnerships & opportunities
  • Tools & Resources
THANK YOU

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