

From Colonialism to Collaboration: A History of U.S. Environmentalism with Indigenous Communities

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Roadmap

Indigenous environmentalism

Colonization

White/U.S. environmentalism

Conflicting beliefs

Collaborative pathway

Future research

Indigenous Environmentalism



- Dynamic practice
- Varies across communities
- Stewardship of natural resources

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large quantity of small, light-colored, oval-shaped grains or seeds. The person is wearing several colorful beaded bracelets on both wrists. The background is slightly blurred, showing a red and white patterned fabric on the left and a striped fabric on the right. The word "Examples" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Examples

First Fish Ceremony

- Welcomes the first fish
- Fish is cooked and consumed
- Remains are given back to river



Prescribed Burning

- Increasingly popular in Western science
- Increases biodiversity
- Changes food source



Eisenberg, Cristina, et al. "Out of the ashes: Ecological resilience to extreme wildfire, prescribed burns, and indigenous burning in ecosystems." *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, vol. 7, 26 Nov. 2019, pp. 1–12, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2019.00436>

Colonization



- Pilgrims exploring North America
- Settler colonialism
- Propaganda of genocide
- 1800s – Colonizers began to move west

Doane, Ashley. "From the 'beginning': Anglo-american settler colonialism in New England." *Genealogy*, vol. 5, no. 4, 8 Nov. 2021, pp. 1–23, <https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy5040097>.

Dobson, Darren. "Manifest Destiny and the Environmental Impacts of Westward Expansion." *Flinders Journal of History and Politics*, vol. 29, 2013, pp. 41–69.

White/U.S. Environmentalism



- Rooted in the colonizer mindset
- Power relations
- Disregards Indigenous lifestyle
- The white way is the only right way

Conflicting Beliefs



Makah Whaling

- Traditional practice
- “...hunted for subsistence and cultural purposes” (Khoury 297)
- Neah Bay Treaty
- Commercialization
- Makah sought permission in the 1990s



Khoury, Monder. "Whaling in Circles: The Makahs, the International Whaling Commission, and Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling." *Hastings Law Journal*, vol. 67, no. 1, December 2015, pp. 293-322.

Stevens, Jeremy. "Of Whaling, Judicial Fiats, Treaties and Indians: The Makah Saga Continues." *American Indian Law Journal*, 1, 2012, pp. 99-126

Great Bear Rainforest



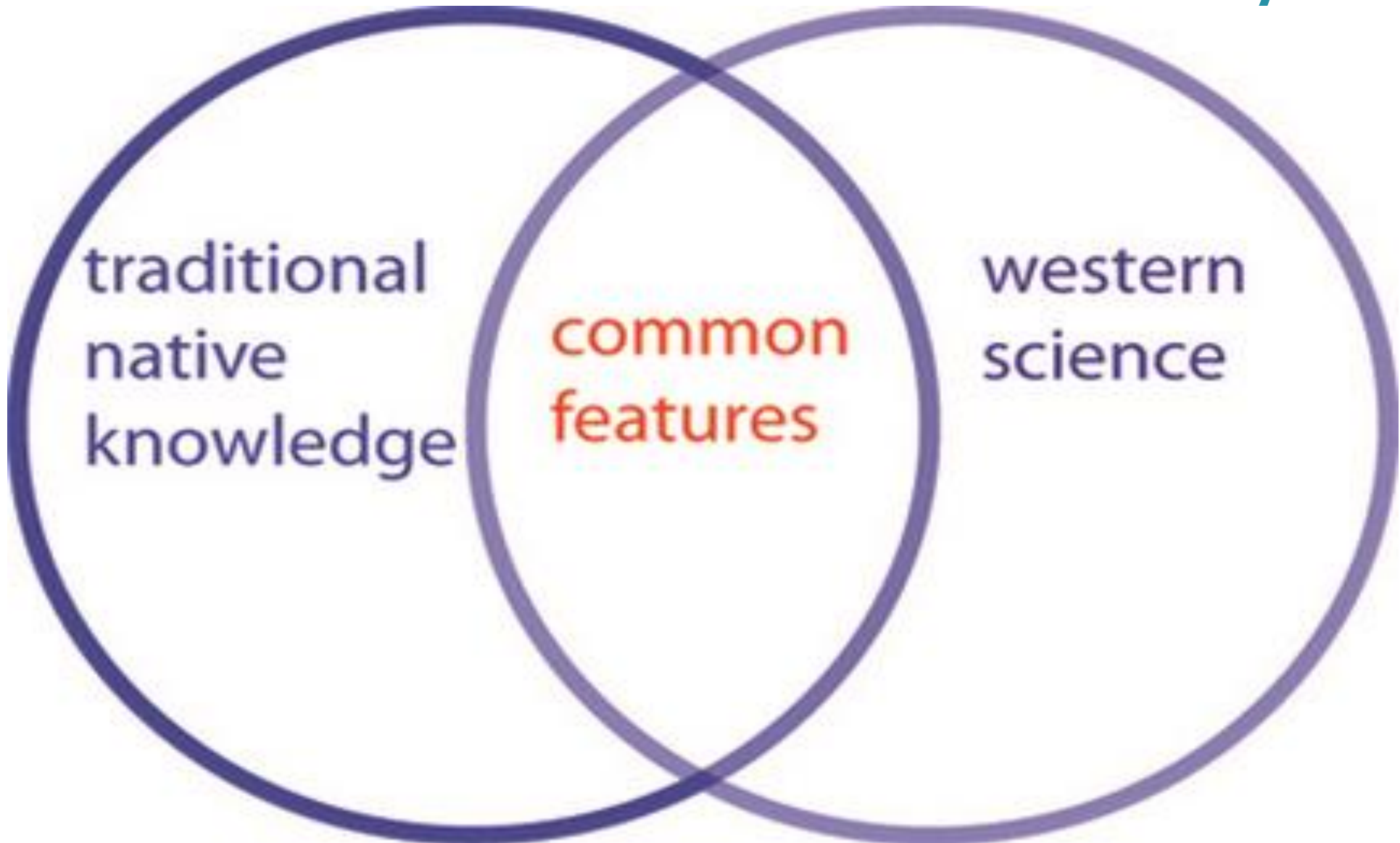
- British Columbia, Canada
- Home to over a dozen First Nations
- “...much of British Columbia is still under claim by First Nations” (Low and Shaw).

Standing Rock



- No Dakota Access Pipeline protest
- Pipeline over Sioux Tribe burial grounds
- Social media aided in protests
- Over 90 Indigenous groups participated

Collaborative Pathway



Further Research

- Indigenous-led efforts for plant-based diets rooted in traditional knowledge
- Impacts of global frameworks on Indigenous food sovereignty and environmental governance



Thank you!