



LETTER FROM JUDITH LE BLANC

Executive Director of Native Organizers Alliance

For over a decade, Native Organizers Alliance has carried out our ancestral responsibility to organize for sovereignty and justice for all. Guided by our values as Native peoples to honor the natural world and all living beings, we've seen the power of organizing and the strength of our communities.

By providing essential tools and resources for Native communities to organize, NOA has helped elevate Native policy issues to the national political arena, strengthened the federal-Tribal relationship, and successfully defended our rights as sovereign nations.

In 2024, we grew grassroots power in Indian Country by training tribal leaders and organizers to lead ongoing civic engagement in the most pressing issues in their communities.

We saw big wins for sacred sites protection, including the signing of a co-management agreement between five Tribes and federal agencies to ensure the sustainability of Bears Ears National Monument and the cancellation of a pipeline permit in the sacred Pipestone National Monument.

Through our NOA Organizing Fellowship, we put 160 moccasins-on-the-ground in 12 key states during the 2024 election, educating Native communities about the importance of voting and civic engagement. Organizing around elections builds enduring and politically empowered movements.

In 2025, we will continue to work with our partners across Indian Country to protect sacred places, fight for environmental justice, and create opportunities for Tribal leaders and Native organizers to come together and learn from each other. We will continue to form strong connections and strategic alliances for the good of all who live on Turtle Island.

Judoth Le Blanc

Judith Le Blanc (Caddo)

Executive Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- About Native Organizers Alliance
- 2024 by the Numbers
- Native Organizer Training & Capacity Building
- 2024 Natives Vote
- Organizing Fellows: Case Studies
- Policy and Advocacy Campaigns
 - Pipestone National Monument
 - Big Cypress National Preserve
 - Bears Ears National Monument
- Our Partners



Native Organizers Alliance supports Native organizers and elected tribal leaders building the political power of our people, tapping into the wisdom of our ancestors to drive change in Indian County. We provide Native peoples with the training, resources, and connections needed to transform policy, strengthen community, and enhance sovereignty.



OURPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Organizing for a multiracial democracy



For the past several years, we have empowered our communities to organize non-partisan civic engagement, which has sparked growing numbers of Native and non-Native representatives who amplify and support Indian Country's urgent priorities.

Today, we are mobilized and more organized than any other time in history to protect all that is sacred to us as Native peoples and sovereign nations. Together, we will build a more sustainable future, support healthy and thriving communities, and create a democracy that serves everyone regardless of race, class, or gender. And we will do it with our Indigenous values at the center of all we do. We have been on the frontlines of every major movement in America, and our work is not done yet.

Meet the newest members of NOA's team



April Fournier (Diné)
Senior Training and
Voter Engagement
Strategist



Kelly Rickman Bosh (Ojibwe) Director of Development

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

243

Native Organizer
Training participants

160

Organizing Fellows in 12 key states

255,956

email subscribers — One of Indian Country's largest email listserv 388,514

people reached via social media

2,2 BILLION

people reached via media *

* estimated combined reach of online, mobile, broadcast, and print.

7.7 MILLION

letters and petition signatures sent to decision makers

NOA in the News

Six Native American Women Making a Difference in Indian Country

Leonard Peltier: 'I hope I make it to June 10'

The clock is ticking on sacred lands protection

Polls Suggest That Native Americans Voted For Trump. The Truth May Be More Complex. Native Organizations
Announce National Day of
Action and Reflection on
Citizenship Centennial

"We are here to stay and unafraid to fight for our freedom to move, thrive, and determine our collective futures. That is what a multi-racial democracy looks like."

Judith Le Blanc, Executive
 Director of NOA & Greisa Martinez
 Rosasa, Executive Director of United
 We Dream Action

"As Native peoples, we cannot afford to go back. We must build on the progress we have made..."

— Judith Le Blanc, Executive Director of NOA



NATIVE ORGANIZER TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Effective organizing responds to ever-changing political and social conditions. Since NOA's founding in 2010, we have trained community leaders, Tribal Nations, and Native organizers to respond to the dynamic nature of Indian Country by building capacity and developing new skills for on-the-ground and digital organizing. Our trainings build leadership skills and provide tools that allow organizers to mobilize their communities to influence policy and bring change.

In 2024, we hosted national, state, and regional-based trainings with **243 participants**, guided by our Indigenous values.

What's Next?

Through powerful partnerships with Native organizers and tribal leaders, we have made incredible gains over the past several years in the protection of sacred places and Native health and well-being. We've stood together to defend our sovereignty and are well-positioned to face any threats to our ways of life. In 2025, we will shift our approach to more regional-based trainings, focusing our efforts in regions with pressing issues and growing grassroots campaigns. Narrative strategy will be a major component of our 2025 trainings as organizers work to combat discriminatory stereotypes and anti-Native narratives that inform policy.



"Being in a space dedicated to Indigenous leadership and collaboration reaffirmed the power of my voice and the importance of collective action in protecting our space, culture, and future generations."

— Sara Little Bear (Blackfoot), 2024 Native Organizer Training participant





NOA's Organizing Fellowship had a profound impact on non-partisan civic engagement in key states. Our Organizing Fellowship provided training and resources to over 160 fellows with strong relationships in their communities. Together with our partners and other community organizers, our fellows knocked on doors, conducted phone and text banking, listened to their community, and hosted events to increase voter and civic engagement.

Native Grassroots Civic Engagement

4,566

new voter registrations

11,904

voter records updates

>70

voter engagement/ registration events



What's Next?

We are already preparing for broad expansion of non-partisan civic engagement efforts to support tribes and c3 community groups. For the 2026 midterm elections we anticipate having even more moccasins on the ground to mobilize Native voters through non-partisan voter education. We learned a lot from the 2024 Natives Vote Organizing Fellowship and are weaving the lessons learned into our strategy for 2026, including tailoring our "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) plans for each community to better meet people where they are. Simultaneously, we are expanding our education efforts to include information about U.S. political systems, voting rights, and state election laws in partnership with the Native Voting Rights Coalition.





ORGANIZING FELLOWS: CASE STUDIES





Crow Nation (Montana)

We partnered with the Program
Coordinator for The Mighty Few Economic
Development Authority for the Wyola
district on Crow Nation in Montana. The
Fellows Program created capacity for
their small, but mighty, team to help the
community understand the importance
of elections, how elections impact their
everyday lives, and how to get involved.

Our Impact

- 22 fellows working in 6 districts on the Crow Reservation
- > 4,000 interactions with community before election day
- **780** voter registrations
- **348** voter data records collected or revised

North Carolina

Thanks to the efforts led by a returning fellow, we were able to expand voter engagement efforts in North Carolina. This group of fellows created engagement opportunities at already planned community events and executed additional tabling events with friends and family.

Our Impact

fellows working in 26 counties

135 voter registrations

654 voter data records collected or revised

Minnesota

We partnered with the Native American Community Development Institute and participants from their Making Voting a Tradition civic engagement program to engage Native voters in Minnesota. These fellows participated in our in-person training in Chicago, IL, where we reviewed how data collection, voter engagement efforts, and narrative strategy can drive excitement and awareness of how voting and election outcomes directly impact us and our communities.

Our Impact

20 fellows working in **11** counties

3,495 voter registrations

3,000 voter data records collected or revised



POLICY AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

At NOA, we know that the mobilization of Indian Country can transform and influence U.S. policy.

In 2024, we partnered with tribes and other organizations to execute hundreds of advocacy campaigns to protect sacred places and resources, and uphold tribal sovereignty. By activating our email listsery, which is one of largest in Indian Country, we were able to send more than 1.1 million letters and petition signatures to elected officials, federal agencies, and other decision makers including:

92,387

petition signatures in support of Mother Kuskokwim and the opposition to the Donlin Gold Mine.

150,000

petition signatures and letters in support of Leonard Peltier's clemency

71,605

letters sent to Congress in support of the Mount Blue Sky Wilderness Act



What's Next?

We are prepared for continued and increased threats to sacred places as the desire for pipeline development, mining, and other resource extraction practices grows.

We will continue to leverage our collective voice to hold governments accountable to their legally-binding treaties with Tribal Nations and work with our partners to protect our lands, waters, resources, and ways of life.



DEFENDING PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT



The Pipestone National Monument is on the ancestral homelands of several Ojibwe and Oceti Sakowin Tribes, including the Yankton Sioux Tribe, whose inherent rights to "free and unrestricted use of the red pipestone quarry" were affirmed in the 1859 Yankton Treaty with the U.S. government.

In September 2024, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) granted the Magellan Corporation's permit to reroute a fossil fuel pipeline through these treaty-protected lands and waters.

To support the Yankton Sioux Tribe's treaty rights, NOA mobilized 25,192 letters and 23,863 petition signatures to the Minnesota PUC requesting they appeal this decision.





Big Win!

In January 2025, Minnesota PUC rescinded their approval of the permit for the Magellan pipeline following the backlash received by the Tribes, Native organizers, and non-Native allies. This win demonstrates the influence our collective voice can have to protect sacred places and uphold tribal sovereignty.

Now, the Commission is requiring coordination with the Tribes on cultural and archeological surveys of the area, and mandating that future decision-making center the Tribes.

PROTECTING BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

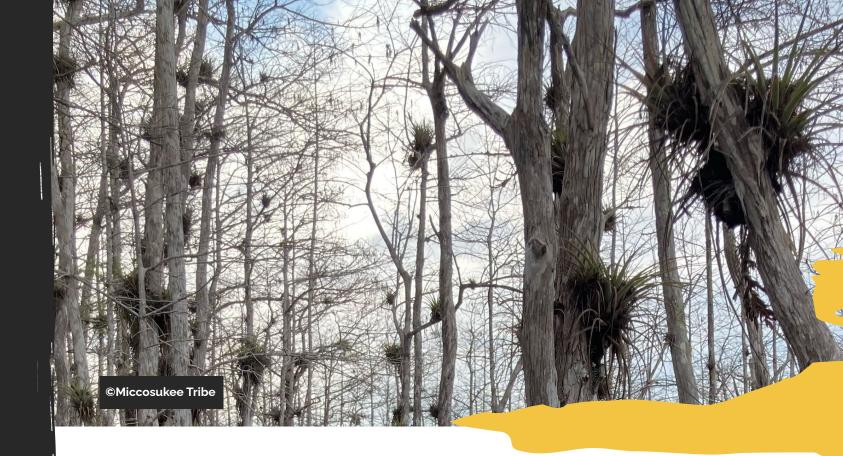


The Miccosukee and Seminole peoples have stewarded the lands and waters of what is now known as the Big Cypress National Preserve for centuries. Their rights to customary and traditional use and access were solidified in the legislation that established Big Cypress as a National Preserve in 1974.

In 2024, the National Park Service announced that it was planning to designate the preserve as a wilderness area. While this designation would intend to increase protection of these lands and waters, it would also significantly limit the Tribes' access to their homelands and sacred cultural sites and end the existence of several functioning and traditional villages, which is a direct violation of their rights.

In support of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, NOA sent **74,425 letters to Congress** advocating for the Tribes' rights and opposition to the wilderness designation.





Big Win!

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians and the Seminole Tribe of Florida's advocacy led to the introduction of H.S. 8206, a House bill to ensure Big Cypress National Preserve may not be designated as a wilderness area or a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and the Burn Pit Elimination Act (S.4627). *

In November 2024, the National Park Service announced its decision to pass on recommending any part of the Big Cypress National Preserve as official wilderness in its Backcountry Access plan.

It is the relationships of people with the land that determines its health. Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and stewardship practices should be considered when determining the protections for the lands and waters that are sacred to Indigenous peoples.

^{*} S.4627 has since been introduced in the 119th Congress as H.R. 1192.

SAFEGUARDING BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT



The Bears Ears National Monument was established as a national monument under the Obama Administration thanks to the advocacy of the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Zuni Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. Following a reduction under the Trump Administration, President Biden expanded the Monument and directed the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to partner with the Bears Ears Commission, which is made up of representatives of the five Tribes, to develop a collaborative resource management plan for the Monument.

In March 2024, these federal agencies and the Bears Ears Commission released a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Monument—marking the **first time a commission of Tribes has collaborated in preparing a resource management plan for a national monument.** This draft RMP not only involved the Tribes as collaborators, it also incorporated Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and time-tested practices into the future management of these sacred lands and resources. The public comment period for the draft RMP also provided opportunities for grassroots community gatherings to share their perspectives and priorities.

In support of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and the Bears Ears Commission, NOA sent **49,786 petition signatures to the Bureau of Land Management** advocating for tribal-informed collaborative management of these sacred lands. Judith also penned an <u>op-ed</u> that ran in ICT calling for co-management of public lands to become the standard.





In January 2025, the Resource Management Plan for Bears Ears National Monument was finalized. This plan, developed in collaboration between the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Commission and federal agencies, is a testament to what is possible when the **federal government recognizes the inherent rights of tribes** to inform the management of public lands.



OUR PARTNERS 3

We cannot do this work alone, Organizing is done in community and in relationship. We are honored to have partnered with Tribal Nations, organizations, coalitions, and allies throughout 2024 to advance tribal sovereignty, advocate for social justice, and protect sacred places.

Our ancestral teachings and experiences guide our organizing strategy to build grassroots power for and with Native communities. As we prepare for the work ahead, we will continue to be guided by our Indigenous values and know that we are stronger when we work together.

Thank you.



- All Our Relations Snake River Campaign
- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition
- Brave Heart Society
- Cheyenne Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma
- Coalition for Outdoor

 Renaming & Education
- Earthjustice
- Greater Chaco Coalition
- Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- · IllumiNative
- Miccosukee Tribe
- Mighty Few Economic Development Authority
- Mother Kuskokwim Tribal Coalition
- Movement Strategy Center
- National Association on Tribal Histoic
 Preservation Officers
- National Congress of American Indians
- National Indian Child Welfare Association
- National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition
- Native American & Indigenous Studies (NAIS) ay UMass Boston

- Native American Rights Fund
- Native American Voting Rights Coalition
- Native American Women's Dialogue on Infant Mortality
- Native Americans in Philanthropy
- Native American Community
 Development Center
- NDN Collective
- Nevada Departmner of Native American Affairs
- Oneida Tribe
- Patagonia
- Pheonix Indian Center
- Protect the Sacred
- Save Our wild Salmon
- · Se'Si'Le
- Sierra Club
- The Wilderness Society
- U.S. Census Adviosry Committee
- United We Dream
- Utah Diné Bikéyah
- We The People
- Yankton Sioux Tribe

LEARN MORE ABOUT

NATIVE ORGANIZERS

ALLIANCE BY SCANNING

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