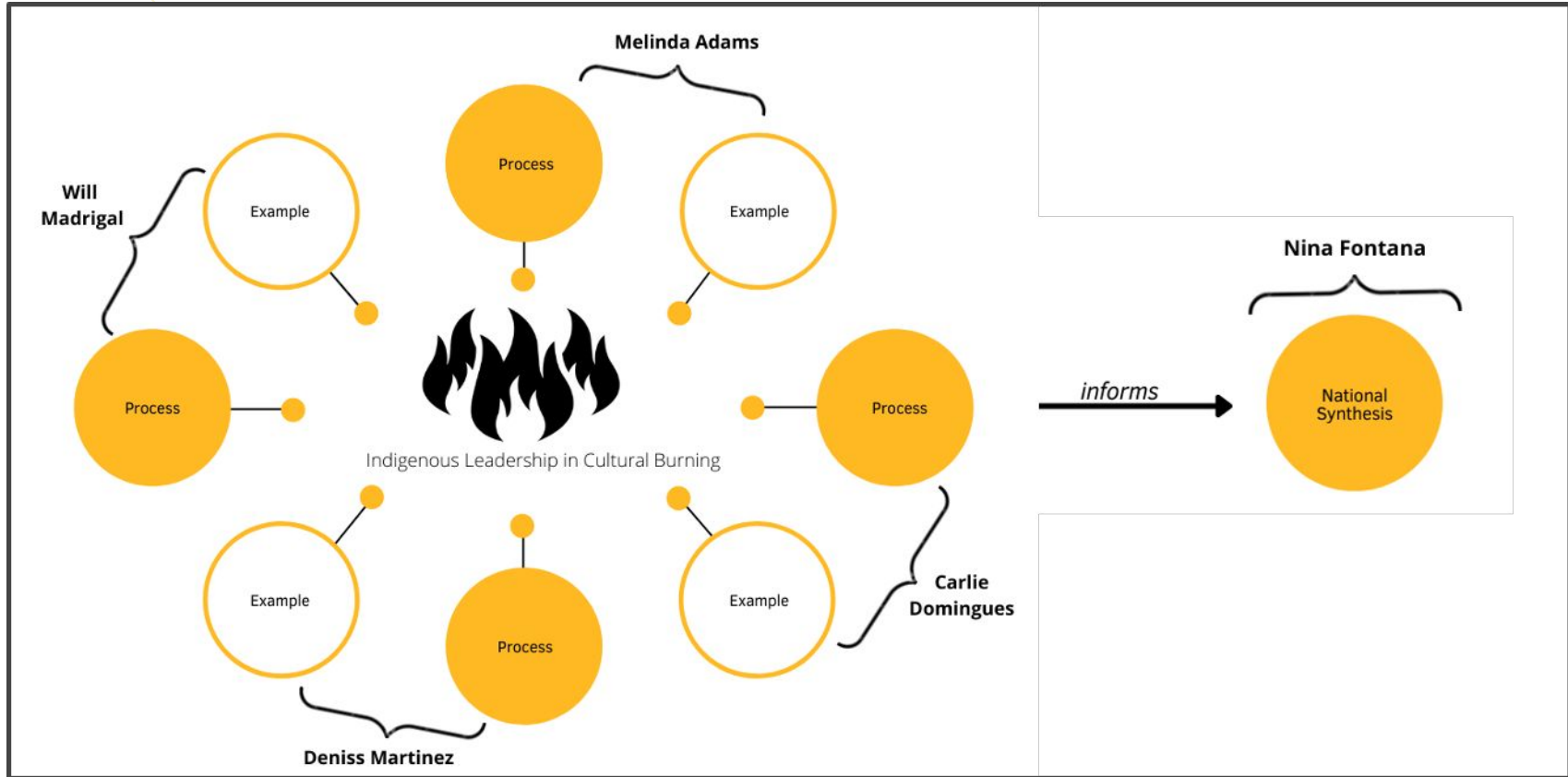


Emerging Indigenous Leaders Panel:
Cultural Fire

Southwest Adaptation Forum
October 2022



Panel Introduction & Framework



Eco-cultural Restoration of Cultural Fire in Northern California

Melinda Adams PhD Candidate
UC Davis
SWAF October 11, 2022

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Southwest Adaptation Forum 2022
October 10 - 12
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Hosted by Southwest CASC, South Central CASC, USDA, Southwest Climate Hub, and Southwest Decision Resources

1st CalFire Cultural Fire Training

☰ **CNN** **US** Crime + Justice Energy + Environment More

Firefighters will learn directly from tribal leaders about "the tradition of fire and its importance to Tribal culture," Len Nielson, Cal Fire's staff chief for prescribed fire and tribal liaison, told CNN in a statement.



Native American fire practitioners teach members of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection how to conduct a prescribed burn at the Tending and Gathering Garden in Woodland, California.



Tule reemergence the day following and two weeks after cultural fire.

Photo: [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)



| <u>Eco-cultural monitoring</u> | <u>Stakeholders</u> | <u>Time to monitor</u> | <u>Outcomes</u> |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Photomonitoring | Basketweavers, cultural burners, conservancy staff | First year every year | Visual reference for gathering activities |
| Plant response | Basketweavers, cultural burners, conservancy staff, academics | Interval, every year | Materials, heterogeneity, resiliency |
| Soil response | Basketweavers, cultural burners, conservancy staff, academics | Interval, every year | Plant growth, soil health, water capacity, erosion |
| Basketry materials | Basketweavers, cultural burners, conservancy staff | First year every year | Cultural sovereignty, sustainable harvest material |





Good fire

Carbon
sink

Increased
nutrients

Water
holding
capacity



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Doctoral Scholar

Native American Studies

UC Davis



Intentional Fire Podcast: Listen Today



Fire treatment Climate impacts Fire management Social Science for Climate Res... "Intentional Fire" Pod



Our partner, Vikki Preston, with podcast interviewees: Chook Chook Hillman, Wilverna Reece, Adrian Gilkison, and Kathy McCovey. Vikki is a Karuk, Yurok, Paiute, and Pit River Indigenous woman raised along the Klamath River in Karuk Aboriginal Territory. She works as a Cultural Resource Technician with the Karuk DNR and is Humboldt State University masters student. Her contributions to these episodes have been essential from recruiting interview participants to conducting interviews to the editing process.

Intentional Fire: Karuk Tribe/SWCS
Intentional Fire: Karuk Tribe/South-West Climate Adaptation Science Center

NATURAL SCIENCES

The Intentional Fire podcast is a collaborative effort between the Karuk Tribe, Department of Natural Resources and the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center. The podcast records stories and perspectives. [MORE](#)

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Episodes

SATURDAY
Decolonizing Fire with Chook-Chook Hillman (Season 1 Episode 4)
(Season 1 Episode 4) On this episode, host's Vikki and Anna interview Chook-Chook Hillman. Chook wears a lot of hats; he is a Cultural Practitioner, Ceremonial Leader, Direct Action Organizer, Father of 5 and traditional house builder to name a few. Currently he works at a local school "doing Indian thing s" as he puts it. He has helped plan a lot of the Wester... 39 min

SEPTEMBER 23
A Family Tradition With Fire: Adrian Gilkison (Season 1, Episode 3)
"It's part of your daily chores, to not let everything shrink in around you" Joining Vikki Preston (Karuk Department of Natural Resources) and Anna Malka Murviet (University of Arizona/Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center) is Adrian Gilkison a Karuk tribal member from Orleans, Ca who tells us the importance of family traditions for her culture, fire... 35 min

SEPTEMBER 16
The Land, Fire, and Community Are Moving Together: Managing Fire Since Time Immemorial: Kathy McCovey (Season 1, Episode 2)
"People were here for thousands of generations and in 120 years non-native people who came over were able to change the environment because they stopped using fire." Joining Vikki Preston (Karuk Department of Natural Resources) and An... 41 min

SEPTEMBER 9
A Basket Weaver's Story: Verna Reece (Season 1, Episode 1)
Join Vikki Preston (Karuk Department of Natural Resources) and Anna Malka Murviet (University of Arizona/Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center) as they interview Karuk master basket weaver Verna Reece. Verna is a gracious and powerful basket weaver, teacher, and advocate for Indigenous led burning practices. Listen in on an Indigenous weaver's s... 30 min

Native American and Indigenous Studies Methodology and Theory in Interdisciplinary Science Collaborations

- Indigenous Research Agenda from Tuhiwai Smith, Linda. (2012) . *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. Zed Books.
- Archibald, Jo-ann | A'um Q'um Xiem. Indigenous Storywork: Educating the heart, mind, body and spirit. Vancouver: UCB Press, 2008.
- Indigenous Futurity - in both academic and community scholarship.
 - Laura Harjo from *Spiral to the Stars: MVSKOKE Tools of Futurity* “My operating definition of *futurity* is the enactment of these theories and practices that activate our ancestors’ unrealized possibilities, the act of living out the futures we wish for in a contemporary moment, and the creation of the conditions of the futures. This is futurity: it operates in service of our ancestors, contemporary relatives, future relatives”
 - A settler futurity, in the context of fire, might create a burn plan that would burn fuels because they are fuels
 - An Indigenous futurity, creates a burn plan that burns specific plants so that these plants themselves or other plants can thrive, and, for example basketweavers can use these plants for basketry or humans can collect healthier acorns for food because the tan oak or coast live oak understory has been cared for via burning.
- Cycles of Renewal - New project to revitalize practices of good fire in Chumash homelands and homewaters, including Chumash practitioners abilities to document our stories as data by data collection tools deemed relevant by us, i.e. stories, Storymap, speaking, etc.



Deniss J. Martinez
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We Shape the Land: Fire Governance and Indigenous Climate Justice

Dissertation Research

Focusing on Indigenous cultural fire practitioners in California my dissertation...

1. Conducts interviews with Cultural Fire Practitioners and their collaborators to understand best practices and barriers.
2. Seeks to understand the negotiation of power within collaborations
3. Aims to move toward a relational form of fire governance.



Why Governance?

- Every management decision is a values statement
- Equitable decision making and governance must have Environmental Justice at the center
- Collaboration is a constant negotiation of power
- A just climate future can only be achieved with the leadership of Indigenous stewards



How do we engage in governance that builds a future that is beyond avoiding crisis and brings us to a just future?

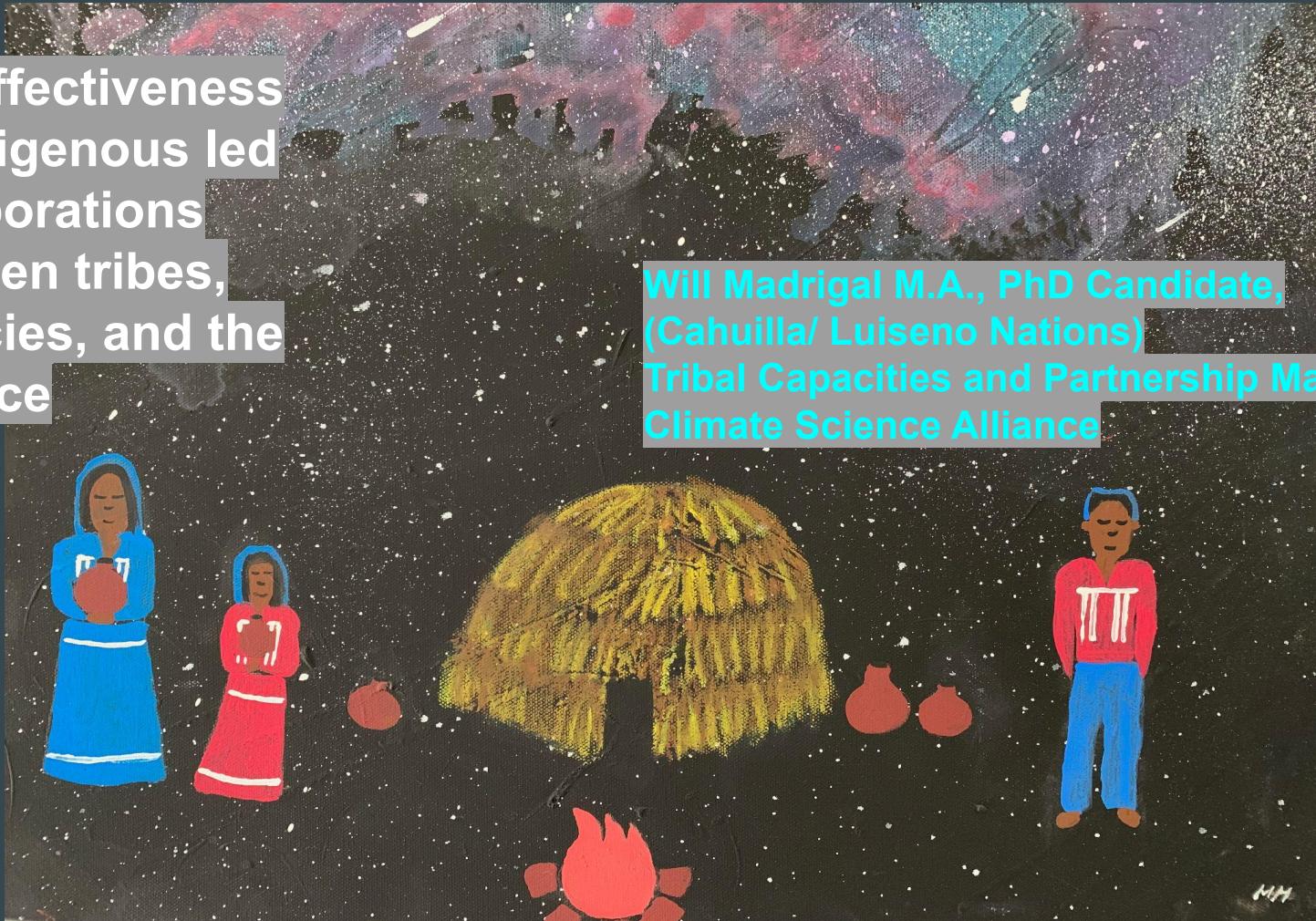
- Recognizing the inherent interdependencies between social and ecological systems helps us to build a prioritization system that builds justice, and climate resiliency

Framework Components:

- Partnership Building
- Long-term commitment to Place
- Building Local Capacity
- Mobilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge

The effectiveness
of Indigenous led
collaborations
between tribes,
agencies, and the
Alliance

Will Madrigal M.A., PhD Candidate,
(Cahuilla/ Luiseno Nations)
Tribal Capacities and Partnership Manager,
Climate Science Alliance



Our Mission

The mission of the Climate Science Alliance is to safeguard natural and human communities in the face of a changing climate. We do this through leading activities and creating partnerships which increase awareness of climate change impacts, promote solutions, and facilitate action.

360+ diverse partnering organizations



Climate Science Alliance

www.ClimateScienceAlliance.org

OUR MODEL IN ACTION

Tribal Working Group

Through the use of education, environmental programs, and traditional ecological knowledge, and a focus on community priorities, local ecosystems, and holistic management, we collaborate to safeguard the lands and cultures of southern California's Indian tribes from the threat of climate change.

- **30** Tribal nations
- **70+** individuals



CSA/ Pala Tribe Wildlands Fire & Forest Management Training 2022



CSA Native Wildlands Fire Training 2022



Wildland Fire/Good Fire
collaborations and goals realized

**So, How is your Fire
burning today?
How can you
cultivate Good Fire
on Native
Homelands on and
off reservations?**



Will Madrigal, contact @ wmadrigal@climatesciencealliance.org

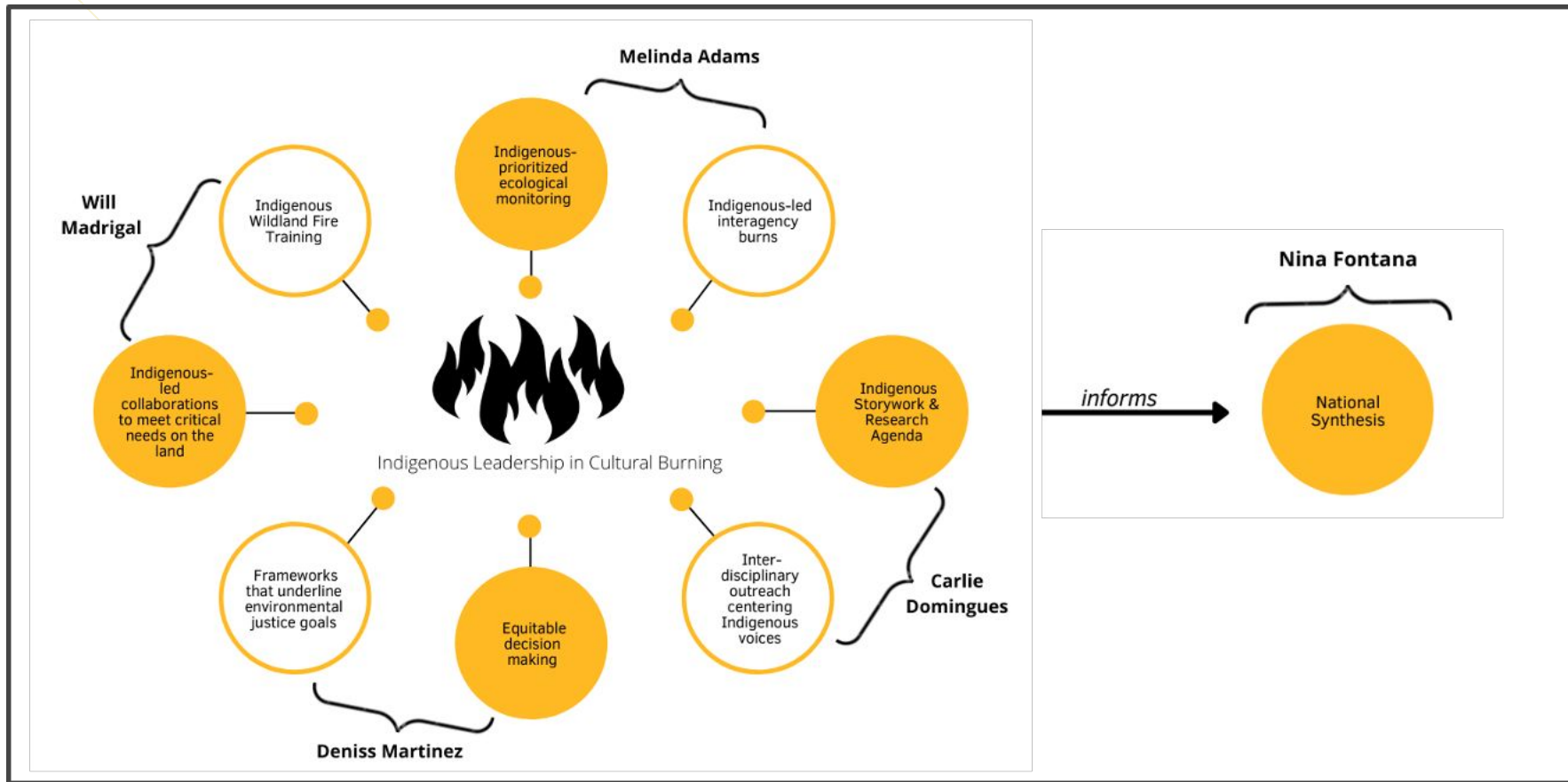


Cultural Burning: Stewarding the Future of Fire

Opportunities & Barriers

Nina Fontana
Climate Adaptation Postdoctoral Fellow
USGS Southwest Climate Adaptation Center
University of California, Davis

Panel Introduction & Framework



Why does this matter?

- Informs research, science and initiatives at a national level



How are the **sociocultural** and biophysical contexts for **fire stewardship** being **affected by climate change**?

- Regional case studies synthesize the gradient of intentional fire use in the US:
 - 1) use and suppression of wildfires (Rockies focus)
 - 2) prescribed burning (SE focus)
 - 3) cultural burning (SW focus)
- Outcome: Tribal decision support tool → culturally and ecologically relevant



Panel Q & A