

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States
Remote Oversight Hearing - Cisco WebEx
October 26, 2021
12:00 p.m.

**Oversight Hearing on “Strengthening Indigenous Communities
Through Cultural and Environmental Preservation”**

Questions from Rep. Grijalva for Mr. Chase Meierotto, Treaty Natural Resource Administrator, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

1. Can you speak more on the ecological threats that have posed risks to the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa’s cultural and natural resources over the years?
 - a. How has the tribal government worked to overcome these threats?
2. Are you able to speak on any future plans for the Red Cliff Fish Company, or other cultural preservation initiatives like it?

Questions from Rep. Grijalva for Ms. Elizabeth Azzuz, Secretary, Cultural Fire Management Council

1. Can you speak more on the history of California’s Indigenous Peoples utilizing cultural burns to maintain and protect their local ecosystems?
 - a. For the Yurok Tribe, how has engaging in cultural burns supported other cultural practices, like basket weaving?
2. Today, your organization facilitates the practice of cultural burning in partnership with other entities like Cal Fire, the Yurok Tribe, and the Nature Conservancy.
 - a. Can you speak a little more on how your organization was established?
3. In your experience, how has your organization’s family-led burn program impacted tribal youth?
4. The State of California, as well as the conservation community more broadly, has a long history of disparaging Indigenous practices of cultural burning.
 - a. Since your organization was established, what has worked to change this way of thinking?