

COURAGE
STRENGTH
VISION

*Since time immemorial,
indigenous leadership
has benefited from
Salmon Nation...*

BUFFETT AWARD
for **INDIGENOUS
LEADERSHIP**



Catherine Cushinway cooking salmon for the feast, Celilo Falls, 1956 (above).
Sea otter design by Dave Hatch. Beadwork by Lisa Brown. Siletz Tribal members
(background).

...and Salmon Nation has benefited from indigenous leadership. Leadership takes many forms – as weavers, educators, biologists, treaty negotiators, foresters, linguists, artists.... Each is celebrated by the Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership – recognizing, honoring, and supporting leaders within the lands and waters of Salmon Nation.

The Award

A direct affirmation of individual leadership by a tribal/First Nation community begins the process—with a nomination. Ultimately, it is the community that benefits from the Award. Nominators gather stories, materials, and letters of support. Ecotrust, under the direction of the Final Jury Panel, works with these communities and nominators through the Award process.

The funding aspect of the Award is admittedly a modest investment, given both the accomplishments of the individuals and the all too familiar landscape of unmet community needs. Each year, the Buffett Award gives \$25,000 to the Awardee, and \$2,500 each to four Finalists.

The Buffett Award also allows recognition to reach a wide audience. Each year, the Award garners significant local, regional, and national media

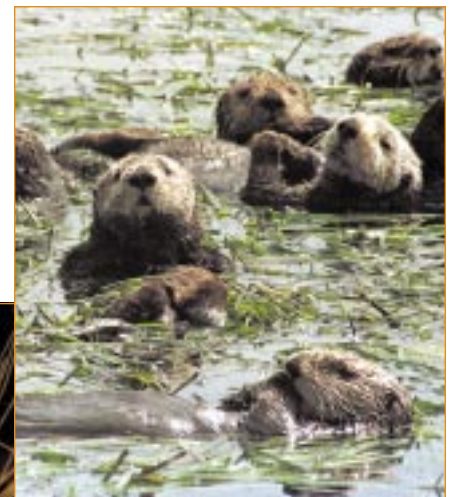
attention, focusing on the incredible work of indigenous leaders as well as their communities. For Ecotrust, the Award provides an opportunity to expand our own knowledge of, and experience with, these communities. The Award also creates avenues to share information, learn, and encourage mutual enrichment between this network of leaders, Ecotrust and its family of affiliated organizations, and the region as a whole.

A Place and a Time to Celebrate

The Buffett Award ties together people and place in a unique way. On December 2, 2003, the Buffett Award Final Jury honored Finalist Billy Frank, Jr. for his lifetime of work on behalf of civil rights, treaty rights, and ecological health within Salmon Nation through the naming of the Ecotrust Conference Center. Since opening three years ago, the Conference Center has held well over 700 significant events

with over 100,000 participants, making it the living room/meeting room of Salmon Nation. It has now been renamed the Billy Frank, Jr. Conference Center, and a formal tribal dedication ceremony will bless this change.

The annual Buffett Award ceremony generally takes place in late fall/early winter in the conference center. Finalists and the Awardee are invited, along with the Buffett families and a community of celebrants to honor each individual's achievement. The Ceremony has become, in many respects, the most important day of the year for Ecotrust.



The families of Howard and Peter Buffett provide the bulk of the financial support for the award. Both Howard and Peter have long-standing interests in indigenous rights and conservation. Working with Ecotrust and Ecotrust Canada, the Buffett brothers assisted the Heiltsuk Nation of British Columbia to repatriate a strategic parcel of land in the spectacular 50,000 acre Koeye River watershed.



Susan Burdick weaving (above). Peter Buffett prepared for dancing by Kelly Brown's family (near right). Howard Buffett speaks at the 2003 award ceremony (far right).



COURAGE · STRENGTH · VISION

Buffett Finalists and Awardees are incredible leaders of merit. The inaugural years of the Award – its initial three-year period from 2001–2003 – not only launched the Award to become what is now an ongoing Ecotrust program, but also yielded a deep sense of understanding about how indigenous leaders in Salmon Nation are creating strong communities through leadership.



Phillip Cash Cash



Susan Burdick



Jeannette Armstrong



Carol Craig



Robert Sam



Kathleen Shaye Hill



Chief Nathan Matthew



Agnes Pilgrim



Hilistis Pauline Waterfall



Kelly Brown



Susan Masten



David Hatch



Dennis Martinez



John Ward

Affirmation of Tribal Values and Knowledge Systems

Awardee **Phillip Cash Cash** (Nez Perce/Cayuse) whose work in native language preservation is a living example of the interconnectedness of indigenous knowledge, and its environment. **Susan Burdick** (Yurok), a Finalist, has spent years working with traditional materials, including basketry, as a means of transferring knowledge, building strength among native women, and restoring community health. Education, ecology, language, culture are woven into the work of Awardee **Jeannette Armstrong** (Okanagan) at the En'owkin Centre located in British Columbia.

Creating New Conversations and Dialogue

Carol Craig (Yakama) inspires youth and educates the public about treaty fishing rights, often with a kind smile that immediately conveys a lifetime of warmth and a wealth of understanding. Storytelling, as practiced by Finalist **Robert Sam** (Tlingit), is an important example of indigenous leadership, especially when used to convey cultural history and as a means to protect cultural resources. **Kathleen Shaye Hill** (Klamath) has used her deep professional background on behalf of Klamath tribal land repatriation within the often-contentious Klamath Basin.

Building Alliances for Understanding and Education

Finalist **Chief Nathan Matthew** (Shuswap) is actively working as an advocate for youth education, local economic development, and long-term strengthening of his community. **Agnes Pilgrim** (Siletz) advises and counsels today's youth on building a strong

connection with the natural world and cultural heritage. Finalist **Hilistis Pauline Waterfall** (Heiltsuk) uses an understanding of the inter-connection between education, community health, and traditional ecological knowledge in developing a higher education curriculum.

Asserting Indigenous Rights to Resources and Resource Conservation

Billy Frank, Jr. (Nisqually) is one of the most important leaders of the twentieth century. Wrongfully arrested dozens of times for exercising treaty-protected fishing rights, Billy has nonetheless continued to assert a voice for environmental policy change and for indigenous rights. Awardee **Kelly Brown** (Heiltsuk) is creatively using a multi-disciplinary approach for rights-protection fusing land use, cultural mapping, and ecosystem conservation. **Susan Masten** (Yurok) has used every tool at her disposal in advocating for human rights and fishing rights over the past few decades.

New Ideas, New Vision

David Hatch (Siletz) sees a future for Oregon's coast with a restored near-shore ecosystem that has the capacity to support elakha (Chinook jargon term for sea otters). Similarly, **Dennis Martinez** (Tohono O'odham/Chicano) is leading the way toward more reliable forestry practices through his work with Native fire and ecological restoration across the West. **John Ward** (Taku River Tlingit) is working at protecting traditional territory and salmon within the Taku River watershed.

HOW & WHO TO NOMINATE

The Buffett Award process encourages as many nominations as possible. The nominator submits one letter and nomination form for each individual nominated. The nomination period is generally from late April through early August.

Nomination Letter

The nomination letter is critical and has the greatest influence in the review selection. We have developed a recommended format that can help nominators in organizing the information. To strengthen the nomination, a demonstration of community support from the nominee's tribe, village, First Nation, or work organization is encouraged and presented in the nomination letter and in letters of support (maximum three).

Eligibility

First Nation, Alaska Native or tribal members, over 35 years of age whose work has furthered the betterment of a specific indigenous community, and/or the regional, national, or international condition of indigenous peoples within Salmon Nation, are eligible to receive the Buffett Award. Ecotrust and the Final Jury Panel take a broad view of community leadership. Indigenous leadership takes many forms.

The Award may be used by the recipient for activities in any combination of the following areas:

- Professional development and/or individual skills enrichment
- Program or organizational development
- Personal research and associated expenses
- Traditional activity or ceremonial participation

The one-year Award fellowship does not represent a grantor-grantee relationship. Rather, it is a relaxed mutual exploration of a topic and activity. Ecotrust and the Awardee and Finalists start the one-year period with an agreement in principle for the fellowship, and statement of expectations of positive outcome. Completion of the fellowship concludes with a one- to three-page written statement by the Awardee/Finalist to Ecotrust describing the use of the funds and explaining how the Award made a difference in the life of the individual and community.

Nomination Forms

Download nomination forms at www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward. Or write, call or email for information:

Buffett Award Information
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buffettinfo@ecotrust.org



The primary value
from my perspective
is knowing that there is
a community of people
with like-minded goals,
both Indian and non-Indian,
who are willing to engage
in environmental protection
within the context of
tribal sovereignty.

KATHLEEN SHAYE HILL
(KLAMATH TRIBES)
BUFFETT AWARD FINALIST 2002



Buffett Award Panel Process

The Reading Panel of three Ecotrust staff and four outside Native readers is assembled from a diverse geography (Alaska to California) and convenes in late summer. They review submitted materials, narrowing the field down to five Finalists for the Final Jury Panel. This Native panel (along with Ecotrust President Spencer B. Beebe) selects the award recipient from these five Finalists. The panel has consisted of (left to right) Dalee Sambo Dorough (Inupiaq), Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson (Haida), Antone Minthorn (Cayuse), Gerald Amos (Haisla), Ecotrust President, Spencer B. Beebe as a non-voting member. Not pictured, Alan Parker (Chippewa-Cree).



ECOTRUST NATIVE PROGRAMS

Across Salmon Nation, tribes, First Nations, and Alaska Natives embody the generous spirit of this place. Although many indigenous peoples remain socially and economically disenfranchised by the legacy of the Euro-American migration to this region, we see positive signs of change.



In the Pacific Northwest, treaty fishing rights remain strong and have been reaffirmed in courts. So-called “terminated” tribes have been reinstated and are growing in influence. Alaska Natives are defining the future of natural resource use and subsistence. Native populations are among the fastest growing in the region. In British Columbia, ongoing treaty negotiations and litigation could dramatically increase the land and resource base under First Nations’ rule.

On many natural resource issues, Native peoples occupy a unique and pivotal position. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have negotiated the return of water to the Umatilla River, welcoming the salmon home after a nearly 70-year absence. Siletz tribal leadership has sponsored a plan for the reintroduction of elakha (sea otters) to the Oregon coast. And, the Klamath Tribes are seeking to implement a “gold standard” forestry strategy on their ancestral land as part of the repatriation process.

Ecotrust recognizes the health of this region is intertwined with issues of critical importance to indigenous communities. We stand poised to assist Native peoples in leveraging their power to demonstrate an indigenous approach to natural systems management and land use policies. We honor the Native leadership that helps to bring the promise of Salmon Nation to fruition.

This map shows Salmon Nation (grey), coastal temperate rainforest (green), and locations of prior Buffett Awardees and Finalists.



The Billy Frank, Jr. Conference Center



is a vibrant event space available for educational programs, celebrations, workshops, lectures, fundraisers and other business and community events. It is located at the award winning Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, 721 NW Ninth Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Visit www.ecotrust.org/ecc/ or call 503.227.6225.

Finalist Billy Frank, Jr.



I am very honored to have been selected for this Award. For me as an indigenous person, and as a language scholar, it tells me that the interdependence of land, people, and language are now at the forefront of our awareness. Our experiences, in particular those ancient experiences articulated through language, will prove to be critical in understanding the true intricate bonds we have with the earth.

PHIL CASH CASH (NEZ PERCE/CAYUSE),
2001 AWARDEE



Building Salmon Nation

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