

STEWARDSHIP

HOW TO SHOW **RESPECT & RECIPROCITY** ON NATIVE LAND

All elements of the natural world, including humans, are related to one another. We are one large community. One responsibility we have as humans is to support the health of our entire community in order to maintain a biodiverse and balanced ecosystem that sustains us all. To show respect and reciprocity to the communities in which you recreate, consider:

- 1.** Picking up your trash and waste before leaving an outdoor recreation space.
- 2.** Learning about the importance of the indigenous plants and animals in the place where you are recreating. Indigenous plants and animals are not only important to the balance of ecosystems, they are also culturally significant to Native populations, who may rely on them for cultural items, medicines, spiritual practices, or practical purposes.
- 3.** Leaving archeological items untouched and unharmed. You may choose to call a local tribal office to notify them about a discovered item, so that it can be returned or cared for by the tribe itself.
- 4.** Researching the ecological and cultural impact of hydroelectric dams and water engineering projects on the ecosystems and local Native peoples of the place in which you are recreating.
- 5.** Avoiding overfishing, overhunting, or over gathering of any plant or animal species. Take just what you need.
- 6.** Consulting tribes when designing programs and building infrastructure related to outdoor recreation. Do not construct infrastructure on top of, or at, significant cultural sites.
- 7.** Supporting tribes in the place you are recreating financially and politically.
- 8.** Insisting the US government uphold its treaty agreements to tribal nations, which often include access to land, and education and health care support.
- 9.** Inviting Native communities to share their experiences, needs, and perspectives, in spaces where Native voices are not usually included.
- 10.** Educating others about the existence of Native communities in the place in which you are recreating!