

Environmental Support for North American Indigenous Peoples



Abt Associates has more than 20 years of experience working with indigenous peoples across North America on a broad array of environmental topics. Our support has included:

- Natural resource damage assessments (NRDAs)
- Climate change impacts and adaptation planning
- Environmental study design, field sampling, and toxicity testing
- Training in field sampling collection methods, data handling, and interpretation
- Technical support for environmental litigation
- Valuation of Tribal cultural resources
- Characterization of environmental risk
- Technical assistance on energy planning issues
- Capacity building

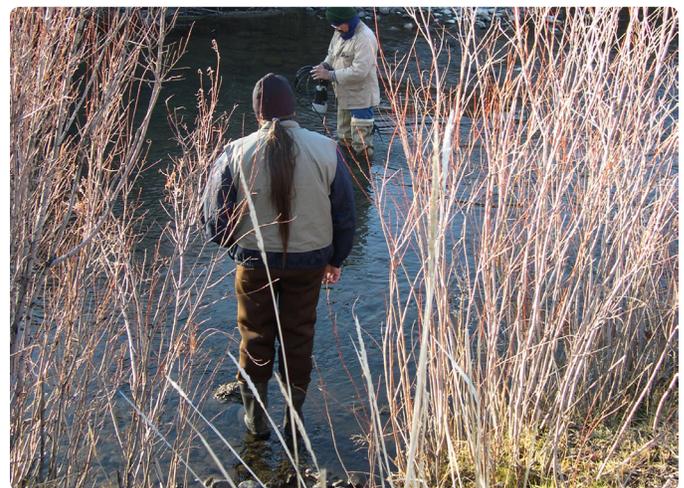
With an established history of working closely with Tribal leaders and members, we tailor our environmental support to the unique issues faced by Native Americans. We understand that each indigenous population has distinct values and uses of natural resources, and we always handle such information in a sensitive and respectful manner.

Selected projects

San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico: Contaminant transport, cultural impacts, and climate change adaptation planning. The Pueblo is immediately downstream of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), a federal nuclear facility in operation for more than 50 years. Examples of how we are supporting the Pueblo include:

- Analyzing and interpreting environmental site data and models to evaluate present and future contaminant pathways from the LANL facility
- Implementing a cultural survey to better understand the impacts of contamination on the Pueblo's cultural uses of natural resources
- Examining the potential impacts of climate change on contaminant transport
- Assisting the Pueblo with climate change adaptation and resiliency planning
- Assisting the Pueblo with various aspects of the ongoing LANL NRDA.

Tar Creek Tribes, Oklahoma: Human health, ecological, and cultural impacts of lead and other metals contamination. Abt is assisting seven northeast Oklahoma Tribes, including the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Wyandotte Nation, to assess the environmental impacts of lead and other metals due to historical mining activities in the Tri-State Mining District. Because of their unique uses of natural resources, Native Americans are often exposed to metals and other contaminants at higher levels than the general public, and we are assisting the Tribes with holistically assessing the impacts of the contamination on their traditional Tribal lifeways. Our work also involves evaluating the impacts of climate change on exposure pathways, metals levels in different media, and the long-term physical and spiritual health of Tribal members and citizens, as well as the natural resources within their jurisdictions.



Water quality sampling with Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation.

Tribes, Nations, Native American communities, and Canadian First Nations for whom we have provided environmental services:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, Wisconsin • Bay Mills Indian Community, Michigan • Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Alaska • Cherokee Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota • Coeur d'Alene Tribe • Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation • Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon • Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon • Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon • Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma • Hopi Tribe of Arizona • Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Michigan • Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan • Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe • Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation • Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin • Miami Tribe of Oklahoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navaho Nation, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah • Nez Perce Tribe • Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Michigan • Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin • Onondaga Nation • Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma • Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma • Pueblo of San Ildefonso, New Mexico • Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico • Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan • Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe • Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Michigan • Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Nevada • Soda Creek Indian Band of the Xat'sull First Nation, BC • Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation • Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona • Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California • Williams Lake Band of the Tsilhqot'in National Government, BC • Wyandotte Nation • Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony & Campbell Ranch, Nevada • Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Williams Lake Band of the Tsilhqot'in, British Columbia:

Potential environmental impacts of the proposed Prosperity Mine. We provided expertise in hydrology, hydrogeology, geochemistry, and aquatic toxicology to evaluate the proposed Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project in Williams Lake, British Columbia. Our team:

- Reviewed environmental impact documents and testified in an administrative hearing at Williams Lake
- Provided evidence that mine rock leachate tests were not conducted properly, resulting in misleading conclusions about the potential for generating acid and metals contamination
- Identified potential flaws in water and contaminant transport models
- Presented evidence of the likelihood of contaminant releases from such a proposed mine, and described the potential impact to salmon in the Taseko River.

Due to this work, the Canadian federal government rejected the mine permit because the environmental risks were too great.

Contact

For additional information, contact Abt Associates:

Kaylene Ritter, PhD

kaylene_ritter@abtassoc.com

1881 9th Street, Suite 201, Boulder, CO 80302

303.381.8000

Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 60 countries.

