

RESIST & BUILD

INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY & LAND BACK

How do we resist the extraction and desecration of sacred sites, while returning land and sovereignty to Indigenous peoples?



**IN THIS SERIES,
YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:**

**Precedents to the #LandBack
movement**

**Examples of communities
successfully organizing for
land return**

LAND BACK LEGACY



The legacy of Indigenous resistance through direct action to reclaim land and stop desecration of sacred sites is centuries old, from the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 in New Mexico to the take back of Alacatraz in 1969, and countless more examples.

LAND BACK LEGACY

“Our people have been fighting for land back and to reclaim lands since colonization... this work has been happening for generations and generations and it’s something that’s simply being handed down to us.”

– Krystal Two Bulls, Director of NDN Collective’s land back campaign



From Oceti Sakowin water protectors stopping the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016 to the 2020 protests to defend He Sapa and return the land to its original stewards — fierce resistance by land and water protectors in recent years has amplified the generations-long call for Land Back.

LAND BACK IN ACTION: SOGOREA TE'

In 2011 a coalition of Native people and their allies took back Sogorea Te, a Karkin Ohlone sacred site, for 109 days of ceremony to stop a proposed development. This occupation was built on decades of work to protect and preserve sacred sites of the Bay Area and led to the creation of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust.



IMAGE: Sogorea Te' Land Trust

LAND BACK IN ACTION: SOGOREA TE'



Now as an urban Indigenous women-led land trust, STL is stewarding small plots of land for cultural revitalization work including growing ancestral foods and medicines, holding traditional ceremony, and building community resilience centers.

RECENT EXAMPLES OF LAND RETURN



Lumber company returns waterfront property to Native American tribe in Washington state at no cost *Dec. 25, 2021*

“The obvious thing to do was simply give it back.”



The Yurok Tribe · Apr 21, 2021

Nearly 2,500 Acres of Land Returned to the Yurok Tribe

UPDATED: DEC 23, 2020 · ORIGINAL: DEC 23, 2020

Leech Lake homelands returned

Redwood Forest in California Is Returned to Native Tribes

Ownership of more than 500 acres of a forest in Mendocino was returned to 10 sovereign tribes who will serve as to “protect and heal” the land.

DOI returns more than 18k acres of land to Native American tribes

The National Bison Range was transferred to tribal leadership.

By Alexandra Kelley | June 23, 2021

November 2, 2020

Quimby family's foundation returns 735 acres of northern Maine land to Penobscot Nation

LAND BACK IN ACTION: TULUWAT ISLAND

City Returns a Stolen Island to a Native Tribe

The Wiyot Tribe was driven from California's Duluwat Island in 1860. After decades of lobbying by the tribe, the Eureka City Council returned it.

By [Sarah Holder](#)

November 5, 2019, 9:29 AM PST



In 2019, the Wiyot tribe in Northern California won the return of the 280-acre Tuluwat Island, which is the spiritual and cultural center of the Wiyot universe. The return of the island was the culmination of decades of resistance and organizing.

LAND BACK IN ACTION: TULUWAT ISLAND

“We are creating an Indigenous community land trust, in partnership with non-Indigenous folks, to completely recreate our social and economic reality, reindiginize, and heal our relationship to the land.”

– Michelle Vassel, Wiyot Tribal Administrator



The Wiyot Tribal Council is creating Dishgamu Humboldt, an Indigenous-led community land trust to finance regenerative economic development, affordable housing, and restoration ecology jobs.

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