

First Steps to understanding the intersection of land conservation with Wabanaki priorities *for the Conservation Community*

Wabanaki have been on this land for thousands of years. Here are some resources on their history:

- [Tribal history](#) (Wabanaki Alliance)
- [History of the Wabanaki Confederacy](#) (Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- [Brief timeline of Wabanaki history and current livelihoods](#) (Four Directions Development Corporation)
- [Map of Wabanaki ancestral homelands](#), and a map of [current tribal lands](#)
- As non-natives, First Light has chosen to honor existing systems of recognition. Here are the federally recognized Tribal websites:
 - [Aroostook Band of Micmacs](#)
 - [Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians](#)
 - [Penobscot Indian Nation](#)
 - [Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township](#)
 - [Passamaquoddy at Sipayik](#)
- There are other Indigenous communities around Maine, including:
 - [Wabanaki/Abenaki village Narantsouak](#)

Conservation will be strengthened by respecting and elevating Indigenous perspectives.

- [Indigenous Plant Knowledge: A conversation with Suzanne Greenlaw](#) (Suzanne Greenlaw)
- [Returning land to Tribes is a step towards justice and sustainability, say Wabanaki and environmental activists](#) (Emily Weyrauch, with quotes from Wabanaki organizers)

Reconciling history is long and complex work and must be done with care.

- [The Danger of Social and Political Symbolism in the Advancement of Indigenous Rights](#) (Sherri Mitchell)
- [Shifting to a Culture of Decolonization in Conservation Communities](#) (Erica Buswell)

Example of a recent project in Maine to restore Wabanaki land stewardship:

- [A significant return of land stewardship to the Penobscot Nation](#) celebrates their history and cultural resilience and serves to inspire similar land returns.

Some work that is happening at the intersection of land conservation and Indigenous people:

- [“About” First Light](#), an effort to build bridges between Wabanaki and conservation.
- [First Light’s Conservation Community Delegation](#) and the [Wabanaki Commission](#)
- [Wabanaki Alliance](#), formed in June 2020 to help secure sovereignty of the tribes in Maine.
- [Wabanaki REACH](#) offers workshops for conservation organizations on Decolonizing Conservation Communities.
- Conservationists and Indigenous people are working together in [California](#), [Alaska](#), and [nationally](#).