

On behalf of the Symposium on Climate Change in Maine's Mountains and the Symposium Planning Committee I'd like to offer this acknowledgement of Indigenous land and waters. I'd also like to acknowledge the Abbe Museum's land acknowledgement on which this one is based.

We are in the homeland of the Wabanaki, the People of the Dawn. We extend our respect and gratitude to the many Indigenous people and their ancestors whose rich histories and vibrant communities include the Abenaki, Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot Nations and all of the Native communities who have lived here for thousands of generations in what is known today as Maine, New England, and the Canadian Maritimes. We recognize that the rivers that flow from these mountains including the Androscoggin, the Kennebec, and the Penobscot have been and continue to be the travel ways, sources of sustenance and identity to the Wabanaki People. We make this acknowledgement aware of continual violations of water, territorial rights, and sacred sites in the Wabanaki homeland.

A land acknowledgement by itself is not sufficient, it should be a step toward knowledge, understanding, and action toward justice.

One step we can take is educating ourselves and our organizations. A good resource to start with is the First Light Learning Journey website which is posted in the comments section:

<https://firstlightlearningjourney.net/>

The First Light Learning Journey is a process by which the predominantly white conservation community is doing deep learning and working to build trust with the goal of sharing access to resources with the Wabanaki Tribes in Maine. The motto is "repairing, returning, at the speed of trust."

We encourage colleagues who work in this region to go to the First Light website "resources" section for many articles and links about the Tribes and issues related to land loss, conservation and sharing of resources.

Also, there are Wabanaki organizations in Maine doing important work today that you can support, and they are listed here in the comments section.

There are three that you can start with:

<https://wabanakialliance.com/>

<http://wabanakipublichealth.org/>

<http://www.mainewabanakireach.org/>

Thank you.

Bryan Wentzell

Executive Director

Maine Mountain Collaborative

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