



## PRESS RELEASE

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### California Native American Tribal GIS Summit 2026

The second California Native American Tribal GIS Summit will be held on May 21 and 22, 2026 at University of Redlands (Redlands, California). The co-hosts for this summit: California Tribal GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and University of Redlands – Native Student Programs. Technical Advisors are ESRI – Federal and Native Nations Support and University of Redlands – the Institute for Geospatial Impact.

#### Summit's Theme

**Mapping Resilience: GIS for Climate, Culture, and Community**

#### Core Topic Categories for the Summit 2026

- Tribal Data Governance, Sovereignty, and Ethical Practices
- Cultural Preservation, Indigenous Knowledge, and Land Stewardship
- Environmental, Natural Resource, and Public Health Applications
- GIS Technology, Tools, and Technical Skills Development
- Partnerships, Collaboration, and Cross-Agency Engagement
- Organizational Capacity Building, Leadership, and Governance

In California, many California Native American Tribes (both federally and non-federally recognized) are involved with land back, repatriation, ground-truthing, conservation, protection of cultural landscapes, cultural burns – good fire, natural resources management, and environmental justice. Mapping technology uses and knowledge building is required by Tribes to help with planning, communicating, monitoring, managing, and reporting. GIS related technologies used by Tribes include but are not limited to: GPS (global position system), LiDAR, remote sensory, GIS software, remote / field data collection (i.e., iPads, Cell phones, GPS), GPR (ground penetrating radar), and drones. This summit promotes the sharing of Tribal challenges, solutions, recommendations, and knowledge build with other Tribes, Tribal partners, public entities, academics, non-profits, and Tribal youth.

The 1<sup>st</sup> CA Native American Tribal GIS summit had 90 CA Tribes represented and 650 participants. For this 2<sup>nd</sup> CA Native American Tribal GIS summit, estimated participation could reach 700. For more information about this summit – visit this web site: <https://catribalgis.org/gis-summit-1>

All press representatives are welcome to contact summit co-hosts at [info@catribalgis.org](mailto:info@catribalgis.org) and attend this summit.



Photos from 2025 CA Native American GIS Summit