

Organizations and Resources

People of the Sacred Land

People of the Sacred Land (PSL) is 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of Native leaders, elders, and concerned citizens who want to learn the truth about the dispossession of their land and why Native people in Colorado were forced from their homelands. How and why did the genocide happen? Who was responsible for the policies, treaties, and laws that harmed Indians? What can be done about the actions of the past, and what are the solutions to resolve the past? The People of the Sacred Land was formed when they began to learn about the lies and untold stories of the history of Colorado. They are seeking the truth, creating equity, education, restoration, and reconciliation for the past.

Truth, Restoration and Education Reports

These final reports present the comprehensive findings of the Truth, Restoration, and Education Commission (TREC) of Colorado, which, over the last two years, in collaboration with the People of the Sacred Land (PSL), has diligently examined the widely untold history of Colorado in order to uncover the causes of widespread land displacement and the genocide of Native peoples in the state. The TREC's primary focus is on restoring the status of Tribal Nations in modern-day Colorado, and establishing an environment where Native communities in the state can grow and succeed. In the wake of irreparable harms, this work is dedicated to the restoration of Indigeneity, relationality, and wellness for the next seven generations.

The TREC report provides a comprehensive examination of the extensive damage endured by Native peoples due to forced relocation, illegal seizure of land, violations of human rights, acts of violence, warfare, deceptive practices, and other illicit actions perpetrated by the state of Colorado, its citizens, and the US government and federal agents over the past 170 years. The TREC report outlines the processes by which the extermination transpired and pinpoints the entities accountable for implementing harmful policies, agreements, and laws that had detrimental effects on American Indian populations.

The Legal and Political History of Colorado Tribes

Introduction; Legal and political history of the Apache of Oklahoma, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, Comanche, Kiowa, Northern Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, Shoshone, Ute Tribe of Utah, Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain Ute.

Historic Loss Assessment

Historic Economic Loss Assessment (HELA) focuses on the quantitative impacts of Euro-American expansion into Colorado (particularly upon the above tribes) including how this theft became the original source of capital that built Colorado.

History of Indian Education in Colorado

A comprehensive overview of the history, evolution and current state of Indian Education in Colorado from K-12 to higher education.

Indigenous Ministries Boarding School Attendees Talking Circle

This Talking Circle was convened at the 2024 General Convention and offers an opportunity to hear from Episcopalians who attended Native American Boarding Schools.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is the first and only national organization whose purpose is to advocate on behalf of Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding school policies. We seek truth through education and research, justice through activism and policy advocacy, and healing through programs and traditional gatherings. You can access information about Boarding Schools in Colorado here.

High Plains Environmental Center (Jim Tolstrup, Executive Director)

A unique model for preserving native biodiversity in the midst of development.

Jim is also the author of *Suburbitat: A Guide to Restoring Nature Where We Live, Work, and Play*.

Denver Parks and Recreation

This City of Denver agency is actively working with Native people in Denver to redesign and improve access to recreation spaces for those living in the city—and those who use part of the extensive Mountain Park System. Check out the September Newsletter to see how the agency was honored for its work with the Tall Bull Memorial Council at Daniels Park.

Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery emerged from the Mennonite Church in 2014. We are a group of people who work together to mobilize Christian church communities to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and follow Indigenous leadership. We proclaim an Anabaptist spirit of discipleship rooted in the call to love of neighbor, seeking right relationship and reconciliation through active non-violence. We believe that it is now the Church's responsibility to undo the Doctrine of Discovery in the name of Christ. Join us!

Learn more on this page about our Coalition structure and how to join a committee or the Repair Network!

Books (No particular order)

The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance, Rebecca Clarren

A powerful look at the entangled histories of the author's Jewish ancestors and the Lakota, melding investigative reporting with personal family stories to reveal the true cost of the settlement of the American West. The author also weaves in how Jewish tradition may guide a personal and/or familial response to the harm caused by one's ancestors.

Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization, Elaine Enns and Ched Myers

A close, detailed description of the oldest and deepest injustices on the North American continent. Writing as, and for, settlers, exploring the places, peoples, and spirits that have formed us and haunt us, examining immigrant travails and trauma, settler unknowing and complicity, and traditions of resilience and conscience. The authors invite us into such exploration, and offer guidance to transform our cultural assumptions and begin to practice restorative solidarity with Indigenous communities today.

The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, by Sarah Augustine

Author Sarah Augustine, a Pueblo (Tewa) descendant, unpacks the harm of the Doctrine of Discovery—a set of laws rooted in the fifteenth century that gave Christian governments the moral and legal right to seize lands they “discovered,” despite those lands already being populated by Indigenous Peoples.

So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis, by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler

Everywhere we look, we see signs that all is not right with our earth. If we want change, the solutions can’t come through the same systems that created these problems. Ecological justice requires us to challenge our assumptions about creation and our relationship to it. These authors offer both a thorough analysis of how both our cultural assumptions and the current economic system must be changed and how the church might lead the way.

Oak Flat: A Fight for Sacred Land in the American West, by Lauren Redness

This book, through deep reporting and haunting artwork, tells the story of a fight that pits one of the poorest communities in the United States (the San Carlos Apache Tribal Nation) against the federal government and two of the world’s largest mining conglomerates. At stake is a serene, high-elevation mesa, a holy place, an ancient burial ground and religious site—sitting atop a recently discovered massive copper reserve. Mining the copper will destroy this site; the final appeal has been submitted to the Supreme Court; it is as yet unknown whether they will take up the case.

Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision, by Randy Woodley

Randy Woodley spent many years as a Christian missionary among First Nations people. In this book, he reflects upon his own research with diverse Native American groups, which identified what he terms the “Harmony Way”—shared common values among group members that “helped them keep life in harmony and balance.” After identifying these values, the author recognized that these values were consistent with the biblical understanding of *shalom*, which includes the concepts of peace, “love, justice, and God’s created intention.”

Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth, by Randy Woodley

These meditations, epigraphs, and ideas for reflection and action help us become rooted in our relationship with creation and Creator.