

Statement of Qualifications

Trina Cunningham

I have lived within my ancestral homeland that includes the Upper Feather River watershed since birth. I have learned and practiced Maidu culture from my family and elders. As a land based culture, we learned the intricacies and interconnections between ecosystems, organisms, land, and water. I have been the women's yeponi, the women's ceremonial leader, for our annual Bear Dance for the last 25 years.

I have taught Maidu culture at Roundhouse Council Inc., an Indian Education Center, through Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) and Johnson O'Malley (JOM) programs. I worked as a Community Health Representative for the Greenville Rancheria doing health screenings for Native American clients. This included caring for and listening to ancient stories and wisdom of the elders living at that time. I then worked for the Greenville Rancheria Tribal Environmental Department doing consultation, archeological monitoring, monitoring grant programs, attending Tribal Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 conferences and events. This included collaboration with other tribes throughout California, Nevada, and Arizona about current science, cultural knowledge, and tribal responsibilities.

I was on the Board of Directors of the Feather River Land Trust from 2001-2009, and have continued to integrate Maidu indigenous knowledge in partnerships in conservation planning and implementation. I co-convened a Traditional Ecological Symposium in 2004 in partnership with Maidu elders, Feather River Land Trust and Plumas Audubon focusing on building partnerships and understanding of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Other partners including the Maidu Summit Consortium, United States Forest Service, California State University Chico Department of Anthropology, Northeast Information Center, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and more.

In August 2017, I co-convened the Uplands Water Gathering with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the United States Forest Service. The focus of the event included creating stronger relationships and understanding between urban and uplands water users, upland water issues, and long term partnerships around a common vision, funding, and resources.

Public speaking on cultural history and indigenous knowledge venues include K-12 classrooms, colleges, community organizations, museums, state, and federal agencies.

I attended California State University Chico majoring in Physical Geography and Planning. I believe that understanding the Western approach as well as the deep understanding of a millennia of cultural knowledge can empower and guide us in the decisions we make that impact the integrity and health of the environment that we depend on.