

# INHABITANTS

## Discussion Questions

### Hopi Dryland Farming

*“We’ve been doing this for millennia, no other conservation concept is that old. We know how to manage natural resources. We need to talk about it.”*

*-Michael Kotutuwa Johnson, Hopi*

In the first scene Michael tells us that in Hopi culture the corn are seen as children and that the seeds/plants need biodiversity to adapt to climate change.

- What does dryland farming mean? Are you aware of other communities in your region that are doing dryland farming?
  - Answers: Dryland farming means no irrigation, relying on rain, relying on winter moisture, seeds are planted deep in the ground.

### Karuk Prescribed Fire:

*“Humans have excluded fire from this natural system and have created unnatural conditions as a result. Fire is our relation and we need to work with fire.”*

*-Leaf Hillman, Karuk*

*“Indigenous people in this country, for a very long time they have been using cultural indicators, cultural knowledge, using what they know to manage the land. The more you know about fire, the less fear you have.”*

*Vikki Preston, Karuk*

- What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of “fire”?  
What emotions?
- After watching the film, do you have a better understanding of the role of “prescribed fire”? Why is it important?
  - Answers: Fire is an important tool for reducing fuel load which makes the community safer from wildfires. This also helps other animals and plants in the ecosystems by preserving water and stimulating food plants to grow like berries and nuts.

## **Hawaii Agroforestry**

***“It’s nature in relationship with humans for thousands of years”***

***-Kalani Souza, Hawaiian***

- What are some of the monocrops mentioned in the film that decimated the land in Hawaii?
  - Answer: Pineapple, sugar cane, coffee
- Monocropping – Can you think of other regions where monocropping is practiced and whether these areas are being impacted by climate change?
- What are the benefits of a food forest system mentioned in the film? Are there other benefits that were not mentioned in the film that you can think of?
  - Answer: Capture and hold water; survive in drought, survive extreme storms,

## **Blackfeet Buffalo Restoration**

**“The buffalo were our food, our clothing, our economy. Then they were killed to near extinction. Brining these animals back is a bealing for our culture, our helath and they are good stewards of the land. They belong here just like we do.”**

-Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet

- Were you surprised to learn how strong and resilient buffalo are? What other features do buffalo have that you were not aware of before watching the film?
  - Answer: Thick fur, Ability to go without water for 4 days,
- Are you familiar with any Tribal nations or other non-Tribal organizations and communities that are working on buffalo restoration in your region?

### **Menominee Sustainable Forestry**

**“If you start cutting the trees with the rising sun and work towards the setting sun but only take the mature trees, the sick trees and the trees that have fallen. When you reach the end of the reservation, turn and cut from the setting sun to the rising sun and the trees will last forever.”**

-Chief Oshkosh

Menominee Chief 1827

In the film, there was mention that trees offer more just timber, more than just dollar value.

- What other things do trees offer or provide in terms of sustainable forestry practices?
  - Answer: carbon sequestration, erosion control, clean air, clean water, maintaining a healthy community
- Why is the diversity of tree species important in forest management? And what are the different species of trees within the Menominee forest?
  - Answer: Diversity of tree species is important to combat climate change, to combat pests & disease, and meet the sustained yield of the forest. There are 33 different tree species including Red maple, Hickory tree, Basswood, Beech, Aspen.