

## List of terms and definitions associated with tribal damage claims

When working on tribal damage claims, NRDAR practitioners may not be familiar with some terminology used. Below is a list of terms which have been developed by a subgroup of DOI's monthly NRDAR tribal call made up of NRDAR tribal practitioners. While not defined in the NRDAR regulations, understanding these terms may be helpful when working with tribes on NRDAR claims. This document is a tool to assist NRDAR practitioners and it is not establishing any requirements, guidelines, or policy. The definitions set forth here have no legal significance.

- **Culture.** Encompasses the lived experiences and all of the material and spiritual relationships that Indigenous peoples have with all of the elements of the natural world. Culture is defined to incorporate practice, which consists of all practices or activities of people in a community on the land that have been passed from generation to generation.<sup>1</sup>
- **Tribal Cultural Resources and Practices.** Traditional uses of natural resources, including, but not limited to the items and activities described below. The items and uses of the items can be both tangible and intangible:

### Tangible:

- Cultural/sacred sites and histories (includes geologic structures)
- Languages
- Ceremonies
- Tribal first foods (e.g., plants, fish, mammals, bivalves, invertebrates)
- Medicine
- Communal events and social activities
- Youth education
- Crafts
- Regalia
- Jewelry
- Ornaments

### Intangible:

- Family/friends time (ex: parent/child – teaching to hunt; quality time together)
  - Family/friends ties (ex: relationship building; intergenerational bonding – family and community)
  - Recreation
  - Transmission of meanings
  - Spiritual/religion
  - Values, manners, and teachings
- **Tribal Economies.** Natural resources that provide food, trade, money, and livelihoods and tribal well-being.
  - **Cultural Service Loss.** Reflects the change in cultural well-being resulting from natural resource injury caused by releases of hazardous substances or discharges of oil and related changes in cultural practices and economies and tribal well-being associated with those injured resources.

---

<sup>1</sup> As part of ORDA's 2015 listening sessions effort, a definition of culture was provided by Dr. Taiaiake Alfred. In subsequent consultation with him, the subgroup modified the definition to the current wording.