

Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative



IPCI Background and Update



Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative



MISSION

- Empowering Indigenous Communities to conserve, regenerate, and reconnect to their sacred Peyote medicine for Spiritual use for generations to come.

VISION

- IPCI promotes the health, wellbeing, and cultural revitalization of Indigenous communities through reconnection to, sovereign use of, and sustainability of the sacred Peyote and the lands on which it grows.

From IPCI Board and Staff 2018



PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- ❖ IPCI is an indigenous led, land-based, initiative that directly supports the spiritual, ecological, cultural, economic, and sustainability issues related to the sacred plant medicine, Peyote, and its ceremonial uses.



From IPCI Board and Staff 2018



PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- The purpose of IPCI is to engage in diverse biocultural strategies for spiritual reconnection and restoration of Peyote including:
- Peyote conservation,
 - youth education,
 - land access, pilgrimage, and stewardship,
 - a system of harvest and distribution that is spiritually and culturally sound.



From IPCI Board and Staff 2018



PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- **IPCI will conduct programs designed to accomplish its stated purpose for indigenous communities in the United States, Canada and Mexico who can legally possess, use, and transport Peyote in their countries. This includes tribes of indigenous peyote peoples of the Native American Churches and enrolled and/or federally recognized tribes of the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.**



From IPCI Board and Staff 2018



PRP 1 and 2 lead up to IPCI

2016

- ▶ National Council of Native American Churches, NARF, Riverstyx Foundation met with Texas real estate professionals, Texas DPS, peyoteros and others in relation to PRP 1 and 2 results

2017

- ▶ Meeting of National Council of Native American Churches in Laredo to consider purchase of a spiritual home
- ▶ Purchase of the '605' Acre Spiritual Homesite for all Native Peyote Peoples
- ▶ Decision to launch new organization by NCNAC, announcement letter sent to NAC organizations.
- ▶ first prayer on the land hosted by NACNA

2018

- ▶ 2 Pilgrimages Hosted at Spiritual Homesite
- ▶ First steps toward forming Rancher Coop
- ▶ IPCI Bylaws adopted
- ▶ Conservation Manger Job Posting



Long-Term Vision for the IPCI



PILGRIMAGE, EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER



ADDRESS SUPPLY AND DEMAND PRESSURES THROUGH CONSERVATION



Elements of the Texas land-base articulated in 2017:

- ❖ Native land-based spiritual home for holy peyote conservation
 - ❖ Intergenerational/Youth connection to the Gardens and land care
- ❖ Work with existing peyoteros and train new indigenous peyotero(s)
 - ❖ Hub for partnering with/leasing from ranchers
- ❖ Spiritual harvest and training for spiritual harvest
 - ❖ Nursery for research and supply for spiritual gardening
- ❖ Pilgrimage site for resting and Ceremony

From IPCI Board and Staff 2018



CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABLE HARVEST AND ACCESS



- ❑ Native Peyotero – Conservation Manager
- ❑ Incentives for existing peyoteros
- ❑ Land owner education in Spiritual/Ecological Harvest
- ❑ Security from poaching on 605 and elsewhere
- ❑ Develop Conservation Business Model

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATION

- ❑ Pilgrimages, Prayer, Cultural Reconnection
- ❑ Youth activities and programs
- ❑ Spread idea of conservation and the 605:
Website etc.
- ❑ Educate Peyote organizations about
conservation and spiritual offerings
- ❑ Conservation at home for buyers
- ❑ Create Unity, Collaboration and Strategies
within US, Mexico and Canada



CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS



PROPAGATION

- ☐ Seeds Procurement
- ☐ Legal Permissions and Assessment
- ☐ Understand role of propagation in conservation i.e. replanting seedlings with each harvest on Ranches
- ☐ Returning seeds to the gardens from Ceremonies

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS

LAND PRESERVATION

- ☐ Diverse strategies for land preservation across native habitat
- ☐ Model leases
- ☐ Conservation Plans
- ☐ Rancher Coop
- ☐ Identify unleased land



IPCI Leaders and Ranchers meet in Hebbronville



THE '605' SPIRITUAL HOME IN THE MEDICINE GARDENS



THE '605' SPIRITUAL HOME IN THE MEDICINE GARDENS



THE '605' SPIRITUAL HOME IN THE MEDICINE GARDENS



IPCI Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ▶ **Steven Benally** , Azee' Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation, National Council of Native American Churches
- ▶ **Sandor Iron Rope** , Native American Church of South Dakota, National Council of Native American Churches
- ▶ **Andrew Tso**, Native American Church of North America, National Council of Native American Churches
- ▶ **Eugene Black Bear Jr**, Native American Church of Oklahoma, National Council of Native American Churches
- ▶ **Dr. Martin Terry, PhD** , Cactus Conservation Institute
- ▶ **Steve Moore** , Native American Rights Fund
- ▶ **T. Cody Swift, MA.**, Riverstyx Foundation
- ▶ **Armando Loizaga**, Nireika, Mexico



IPCI Leadership

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, STAFF AND ADVISORS

- ▶ **James Botsford**, Legal team
- ▶ **Sandor Iron Rope**, BOD rep
- ▶ **Steve Moore**, Legal team
- ▶ **Refina Smith**, 605 Development
- ▶ **Cody Swift**, BOD rep and funding
- ▶ **Martin Terry**, Cactologist, Ecologist
- ▶ **Miriam Volat**, IPCI Executive Director
- ▶ **Javier Sanchez**, Mexico Conservation, programs



ALLIES AND FUNDERS

- ▶ Dr. Bronner's Soaps
- ▶ Threshold Foundation
- ▶ Limina Foundation
- ▶ Andrew Mason
- ▶ Riverstyx Foundation
- ▶ Native American Rights Fund

For more information contact miriam@riverstyxfoundation.org

