

Access to heritage lands contributes to vitality of heritage languages and can be facilitated by building relationships with outdoor organizations.

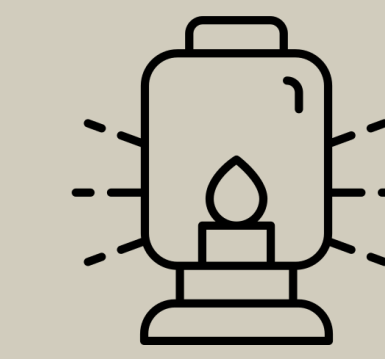


“Philmont and the Jicarilla Apache have a common interest. Preserve the land, preserve the beauty, preserve what it is.” – Bette Velarde



A large body of research has demonstrated that connection to land leads to increased overall wellness and increased language vitality in indigenous communities.

But what options exist to foster that relationship and relearn language from the land when colonizer legal structures deny those communities' claims on their land?



The approach taken by the Jicarilla Apache tribe has been to build relationships with the organization that currently has stewardship of their heritage lands: Philmont Scout Ranch

The interests of many non-profits and outdoor organizations, including the BSA, overlap with those of the indigenous communities whose land they hold. The relationship between the Jicarilla and PSR opens the door to similar relationships with other BSA and non-profit entities.



Lee Ferrin
Brigham Young University

BYU
BRIGHAM YOUNG
UNIVERSITY