

National Indian Health Board



Blackfeet Nation Environmental Director Receives 2018 Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources



As part of the NIHB [Climate Ready Tribes Initiative](#), NIHB funds three Tribes to conduct local climate health work. One of these Tribes is Blackfeet Nation in northern Montana. Mr. Gerald Wagner, Director of the Blackfeet Environmental Office and pictured right in the image above, was recently an honored recipient of the 2018 Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources Award, in the Tribal Government Category, at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting. This award, established in 2016, recognizes exemplary leadership by individuals, agencies, businesses and other organizations to reduce impacts and advance adaptation of the nation's vital natural resources and the many people who depend on them in a changing world. "This award recognizes the critical contributions

that are made towards safeguarding our Nation's fish and wildlife in a changing climate," stated Virgil Moore, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of Idaho Fish and Game. "This year's awardees have done outstanding work and we are thrilled to recognize these important efforts."

Mr. Wagner received this award for leading the Blackfeet Nation's first-ever climate change adaptation planning initiative, bringing together natural resource managers to complete the Blackfeet Nation Climate Change Adaptation Plan in April 2018. The planning process enhanced Tribal managers' capacity to effectively manage fish, forests, wildlife, water resources, agricultural lands, and range lands, while increasing their knowledge about the effects of climate change. Mr. Wagner's leadership fostered increased cooperation between departments and motivated action to protect fish, wildlife, and plants in a changing climate. Mr. Wagner also created a leading regional communications tool: the [Blackfeet Country and Climate Change website](#) and established Climate Warriors—a climate change internship program for students recently graduated from high school—helping to motivate Native youth to take action on climate change issues.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Mr. Wagner and the other awardees. Click [here](#) to view the press release.