



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



PEOPLE OF THE  
SACRED LAND

# Justice for Colorado's Tribes



**Richard B. Williams, Leader**  
*People of the Sacred Land*

In 2024, we successfully published the Truth, Restoration, and Education report. This comprehensive, three-part report delves deeply into the history of American Indian people in Colorado after 1851—a period when American Indians experienced unprecedented land loss as settlers, driven by the gold rush, illegally seized their lands. During this time, the federal government entered into treaties with ten tribes within the State of Colorado. This prompts an essential question: why are there only two American Indian Reservations in Colorado when ten tribes have treaty rights and lands within the state?

Our reports uncover the truth about violently stolen lands and the genocide of American Indians in Colorado. At People of the Sacred Land, we believe it is vital for decision-makers and community members to know and understand this truth to advance the rights of American Indians within the state and of those whose homelands were stolen. Accountability begins with truth.

We urgently need our allies to help bring attention to the findings of the Truth, Restoration, and Education Commission and to push for the implementation of its recommendations. Your support amplifies our work and strengthens the fight for justice.

The challenges and adversity American Indians have endured are immeasurable. The Territorial Government of Colorado sought to eradicate us from the state. Yet, despite the daunting and complex obstacles we face, our traditions and strong sense of community continue to inspire hope. We know that the health of our people is inseparably linked to the health of the land and our deep connection to it.

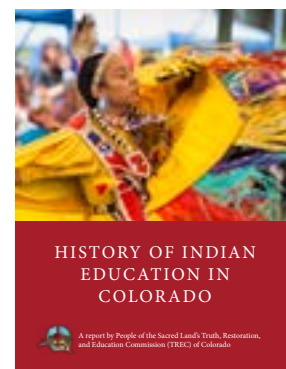
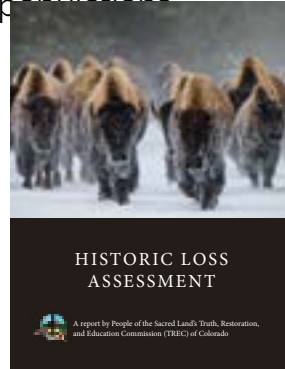
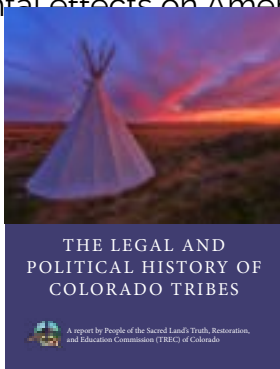
People of the Sacred Land remains committed to advocating for restorative justice for American Indians. In partnership with other organizations, we are working to reveal the root causes of the issues our communities face—genocide, stolen lands, and exclusion from the economy and educational system. We will not stop fighting to make things right. We are fighting for the health and prosperity of our people, our culture, and the land.

Never give up,  
Richard B. Williams

# Truth, Restoration and Education Reports Published in 2024

This year, the [Truth, Restoration, and Education Commission \(TREC\) of Colorado](#), in partnership with People of the Sacred Land (PSL), published comprehensive findings from a three-year investigation into Colorado's untold history, uncovering the causes of widespread land displacement and the genocide of American Indian peoples in the state. The TREC's primary focus is on restoring the status of Tribal Nations in modern-day Colorado, and establishing an environment where American Indian communities in the state can grow and succeed.

The TREC report provides a comprehensive examination of the extensive damage endured by Native peoples due to forced relocation, illegal seizure of land, violations of human rights, acts of violence, warfare, deceptive practices, and other illicit actions perpetrated by the state of Colorado, its citizens, and the US government and federal agents over the past 170 years. The TREC report outlines the processes by which the extermination transpired and pinpoints the entities accountable for implementing harmful policies, agreements, and laws that had detrimental effects on American Indian populations.



## TREC By the Numbers

**20M**  
acres

Unresolved issues with Article 6 of the 1861 Fort Wise Treaty resulted in an illegal land transfer of almost 20 million acres north of the South Platte River.

**19K**  
acres

Loss of life Colorado State University (CSU) retains possession of 19,000 acres from the initial land grant. However, there is no public disclosure regarding the annual revenue generated from these parcels. approximated

**\$546B**

Mineral Extraction: Over \$546.6 billion (in 2018 dollars) since 1858.

**\$1.17T**

Value of Dispossessed Lands: Approximately \$1.17 trillion (market value in 2021).

## What's Next for TREC

Within each tribe's legal and political report, along with data from the Historic Loss Assessment and Education Report, People of the Sacred Land has outlined recommendations that will guide meaningful actions toward restoring sovereignty, addressing historic injustices, and advancing equitable policies. Tribal governments can use this information to advance sovereignty, advocate for policy changes, and drive community restoration. Community members, Tribal members and allies will also play a crucial role in moving efforts forward.

# Bulding Momentum: Successes of the year

In 2024, People of the Sacred Land deepened its impact through meaningful community engagement and advocacy efforts. In addition to publishing the groundbreaking Truth, Restoration, and Education (TREC) reports, we actively worked to support and uplift American Indian communities across Colorado. Through partnerships, events, and education, we fostered cultural resilience, built community connections, and amplified the voices of American Indian leaders and advocates.

Our team participated in over 20 speaking engagements, attended the National Congress of American Indians Conference in Las Vegas, and hosted the Restorative Justice for American Indians Conference, creating spaces for dialogue, collaboration, and progress. We also strengthened our leadership by welcoming Raelene Whiteshield to our board of directors. Whiteshield brings a knowledge and passion for advancing justice to our organization.

As we begin implementing the recommendations from the TREC reports, we celebrate the collective efforts of our partners and allies who have worked tirelessly to uncover the truth and promote restorative justice. Together, we are shaping a future where American Indian rights and traditions are fully recognized and respected.

## Micro-Invest Grants for Community Partners

Our micro-grant program is dedicated to uplifting and supporting the unique needs of American Indians in Colorado. Recently, we funded the construction of a pole barn at Tall Bull Memorial Park to store a tractor and teepee poles, with the project slated for completion in Spring 2025. We also contributed to the Northern Colorado Intertribal Powwow, celebrating culture and community, and awarded a grant to the Spirit Fund, which assists families with funeral expenses. Additionally, we proudly supported the Elders Christmas Dinner at the Denver Indian Center.



## National Congress of American Indians Conference

At the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Conference in Las Vegas, our team had the opportunity to engage directly with tribal leaders, policymakers, and advocates from across the nation. Our tabling efforts provided a platform to share the findings of the Truth, Restoration, and Education (TREC) reports, spark discussions about the lasting impacts of colonization, and emphasize actionable recommendations for advancing justice and restoring Indigenous sovereignty. We were able to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, each passionate about preserving American Indian rights, fostering cultural resilience, and creating positive change for future generations. Through these interactions, we highlighted our organization's work and showcased the importance of collaboration between Tribal Nations and allies. The event also offered a chance to gain insights from other tribal leaders and organizations, further strengthening our knowledge and commitment to our mission. By participating in NCAI, we expanded our network, built meaningful relationships, and positioned ourselves to contribute more effectively to the broader movement for justice and healing in American Indian communities.



## Restorative Justice For American Indians Conference

Our Restorative Justice for American Indians event in Boulder brought together over 80 attendees to explore the themes of sovereignty, healing, and reparation. The gathering fostered open dialogue about the ongoing impacts of colonization and the role of restorative justice in addressing these harms. Through insightful discussions, participants shared ideas and strategies for implementing restorative practices that support American Indian rights and self-determination. This event helped strengthen our collective commitment to justice, healing, and restoring American Indian sovereignty, and it furthered our efforts to build partnerships and move toward meaningful change. It served as a powerful reminder of the importance of solidarity and collective action in advancing restorative justice for American Indian communities.



## Looking Ahead

As we close another year of impactful work, we are energized and focused on the opportunities ahead. In the coming year, People of the Sacred Land is committed to advancing American Indian sovereignty, restorative justice, and community healing.

**Advancing the TREC Recommendations:** Our top priority is to continue the implementation of the recommendations from the Truth, Restoration, and Education (TREC) reports, working with tribal governments, policymakers, and Indigenous communities to create lasting change in land restoration, legal reforms, and cultural revitalization.

**Expanding Outreach and Education:** We aim to broaden our outreach through educational initiatives and speaking engagements that deepen understanding of colonization's ongoing impacts and promote restorative justice.

**Strengthening Collaborations and Partnerships:** By building strong alliances with American Indian leaders, organizations, and allies, we will work together to advocate for policy changes and strengthen our collective impact.

**Healing and Empowerment Programs:** We plan to expand support for healing circles and empowerment programs that foster resilience and self-determination in American Indian communities.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by our partners, supporters, and communities. Together, we will advance justice, honor our shared history, and work toward a future where Indigenous sovereignty and rights are fully realized.



# Hohóú • Né-á'eše • Thank You

## *to Our Supporters*

We extend our deepest gratitude for your generous supporters over the past year. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission to uncover and address the historical injustices endured by Colorado's American Indian Tribes.

With their support, we have made significant strides in our efforts to document and share the true history of these communities, ensuring American Indians voices and experiences are heard and respected. Together, we are shaping a future that acknowledges past wrongs and fosters cultural preservation and community empowerment.

Their commitment to our cause inspires us to continue this vital work.

### **FOUNDATIONS**

Chinkook Fund	Indian Land Tensure Foundation
Colorado Health Foundaiton	LP Brown Foundaiton
The Colorado Trust	NDN Collective
First Nations Development Institute	Rose Community Foundation
Henry Luce Foundation	

### **ORGANIZATIONS**

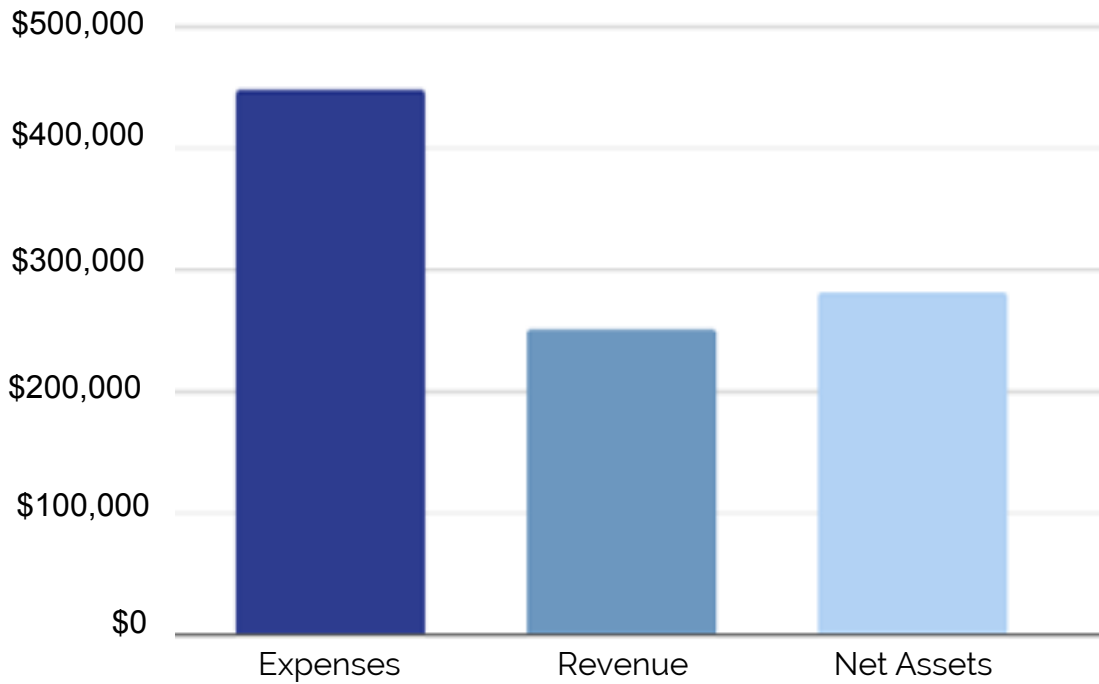
Boulder Meeting of Religous Society of Friends  
Invest in Kids  
St. Ambrose Episcopal Church - Jill Jenkins

### **INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

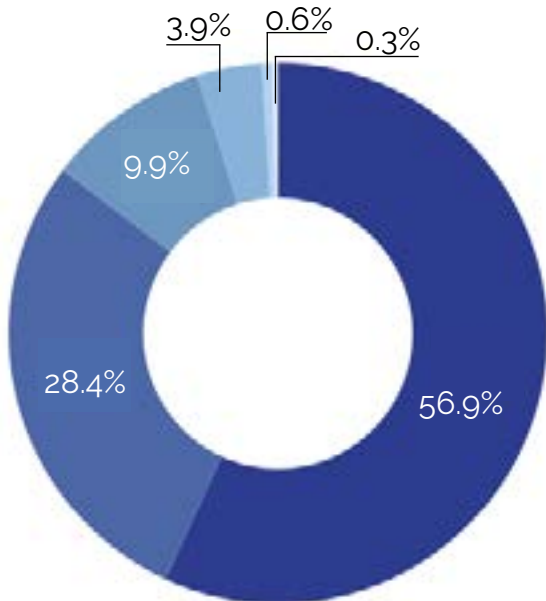
Shelby Bates	Veronika Krahe	Ann Schwab
Rebecca Brown	Amanda Linsenmeyer	George Taylor
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Katherine Dickson	Mary K. Mccormac	Scott Waters
Savanna Hanson	Paula Ruth Palmer	Brian Wood
Philip Jones	Taryn Rex	Cathie Zimmerman
Mathew Kirby	Adam Smith	

# PSL 2024 Financials

If you would like a copy of our 990 or have any questions, please contact us at [info@peopleofthesacredland.org](mailto:info@peopleofthesacredland.org).

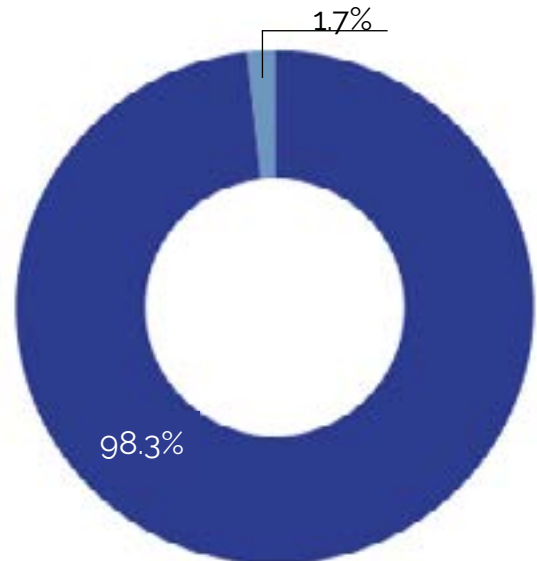


## Expenses



- Professional Services
- Advertising & Marketing
- Programming
- Administrative
- Travel
- Other

## Revenue



- Grants
- Individual Donors