Strong interactions between scientists and stakeholders are critical for incorporation and use of new scientific information into decision-making, as end-users must perceive the information to be *salient, credible, and legitimate.* Stakeholders relevant to the ABoVE field campaign include local community members, Indigenous organizations and governments, and other decision-makers such as land and wildlife managers at state, territorial, and federal agencies.

***Early engagement with stakeholders, sustained attention, and appropriate acknowledgement*** are key components of achieving these goals. There are many resources available on guidelines for working with communities, co-production of knowledge, incorporating Indigenous Knowledge, etc. Here we highlight just a few.

* **Understanding the history and legal status/sovereignty of Indigenous peoples**

The history and legal status of Indigenous peoples differs both within and between the US and Canada and are the result of many historical processes. ***Take some time to learn about the history of the Indigenous peoples you are working with, and learn about their sovereignty and governance.*** One place to begin is Native Land: <https://native-land.ca/>

Many ABoVE researchers, generally hailing from the US, may especially not be aware of the status, rights, and history of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Important things to note:

* + Not all tribes in Canada are First Nations. Additionally, the term “Native American” is generally only used in the US. The best way to refer people/tribes broadly is to use the term Indigenous (note that it should be capitalized).
	+ In 2015, the ***Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*** identified 94 Calls to Action to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples. To learn more:

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1400782178444/1529183710887>

<https://nctr.ca/map.php>

* **Best practices for conducting research with Northern communities**

The Arctic Research Commission of the US (ARCUS) has put together a list of resources for conducting research with Northern communities, including specific sections on working with Alaskan and Canadian communities: <https://www.arcus.org/resources/northern-communities>

* **Resources for Research Co-Design and Knowledge Co-Production**

*Thinking about differing levels of engagement between stakeholders and researchers:*



Henze, Jennifer, Barbara Schröter, and Christian Albert. 2018. “Knowing Me, Knowing You—Capturing Different Knowledge Systems for River Landscape Planning and Governance.” *Water* 10 (7): 934. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w10070934>.

A recent special issue in *Nature* “looks at the promise and the pitfalls of research coproduction for the societies, stakeholders and scientists now working shoulder to shoulder.” <https://www.nature.com/collections/nnqkvntryl>. It includes examples, metrics for valuing co-production, and commentary.

**Discussion Questions**

* Who are the relevant stakeholders for your research, both known and hypothesized?
* What are ways that you can and/or are planning to engage with relevant communities?
* Are there other ABoVE projects who have the same or similar stakeholders? Can you work together on engagement to minimize “research fatigue” for these communities?