Anyone can do a land acknowledgment, make room

An Indigenous womxn-led nonprofit residing on the sacred homelands of the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Núu-a-gha-tʉvʉ-pʉ (Ute), Tsésthó’e (Cheyenne), hinono’eino’ biito’owu’ (Arapaho), Comanche, and 48+ other tribes, working to empower Native communities.

We must acknowledge with respect (as a non-Native person) that the land on which we stand, live, and learn, is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho Peoples. We also recognize the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado.

We must honor Elders past, present, and future, and those who have stewarded this land throughout generations.

We also recognize that government, academic and cultural institutions, our nation, were founded upon and continue to enact exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples.

May this acknowledgment demonstrate a commitment to working to dismantle ongoing legacies of settler colonialism, oppression, and inequities, and to recognize the hundreds of Indigenous Nations who continue to resist, live, create, and uphold their sacred relations across their lands. We intentionally honor and celebrate the Indigenous communities in our City and express our gratitude for their ongoing contributions. The metropolitan area is historically and currently a major crossroads to Indian Country, and many nonprofits, businesses, and governmental organizations that play a key role in supporting our communities, call our city home.

Find out whose land you reside on at native-land.ca
ENIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Womxn From the Mountain

Co Founders: Renee M. Chacon/ Micaela Iron Shell Dominguez

Womxn from the Mountain Indigenous Non Profit Founded | 2018
Inclusive women’s group open to women of all colors and backgrounds, including those that identify as women. Our goal is to empower our individual, spiritual, physical, emotional, educational, and political needs directly supporting the Denver mixed indigenous community through transformative education, cultural education, and art healing.
We provide cultural enrichment in diverse communities including holding safe spaces for cultural traditions of Danza Azteca de ColorAztlan, cultural representation and education to CO policymaking with the EJ Task Force, and campaigns to address awareness and bring enforceable protections with cultural and trauma sensitivity to issues in the Native communities such as; Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, domestic violence, drug/houselessness/mental health support, support for asylum seekers, and environmental racism in the state of Colorado.
Worked on SB 1266 and SB200 to define and address the needs of disproportionately impacted communities to bring restorative justice to communities suffering cumulative impacts from predatory behaviors.
Worked with Cultivando, International Indigenous Youth Council, and March On, Future Coalition.
www.suncorsundown.org
www.womxnfromthemountain.com
WHY ARE WE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION?

We are not listening to the science. This is continued erasure, colonization, and harm to the biosphere. It's long overdue to culturally educate with trauma sensitivity the human rights and environmental justice connections of indigenous communities and DIC, to influence, reclaim, rename, and control traditional territories to protect communities, educate with ancestral knowledge and skills, and bring long term equity analysis working on the path to restorative justice and conservation locally and all over Turtle Island and the Biosphere.
Predatory Colonization, Capitalism, Behaviors, Practices create cumulative impacts...cultural contexts is everything!!!

- Racist practices such as redlining and housing discrimination, longstanding social and racial inequalities, colonization, Indigenous genocide and removal, and elected officials who are beholden to corporate power all combine to create a system in which the most dangerous impacts of pollution fall most heavily on the most disadvantaged, particularly Black, Brown, Indigenous, and poor communities like where I live in Commerce City.

- In addition to the accumulated negative impact on human health and the environment, fossil fuels depend on and contribute to the legacy of systemic racism in the United States. Oil, gas, and coal activity in the United States takes place on the ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples, making the fossil fuel industry complicit beneficiaries of the forced removal and genocide of Indigenous peoples. We have benzene, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide in our water.

- https://redgreenlabour.org/2021/05/11/fossil-fuel-racism/
“Condemned by Congress, the Sand Creek Massacre marked the plains with blood, sparking warfare from Texas to the Canadian border. On the morning of November 29, 1864, U.S. Army Volunteers attacked a peaceful camp of Cheyenne and Arapaho, mutilated the dead, and looted the village. The massacre left behind about two hundred Cheyenne and Arapaho dead and many more wounded, with women and children comprising two-thirds of the casualties according to articles from the National Park Service.”
"Sovereignty is a state of mind, or should I say a state of heart. It has more to do with how we conduct daily mundane actions than the heroic acts of war. Do we speak to our children in our Native languages? What name leads us to the sacred? What rituals do we use to acknowledge our presence here? Tribal sovereignty is the ability to say who you are and what you are and to think for yourself. It means the ability to run your own schools and move about in the world with dignity, as your own nation." -Joy Harjo

Equity Analysis is respecting and supporting indigenous and DIC self determination to heal our own communities, urban and rural. Implementation (ACTIONS) is called in now for community modeling, monitoring, and enforceable protections recognized in our communities and Biosphere by every state and federal agency.
HOW TO RESPECTFULLY ENGAGE WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

LISTEN.

We are not monolithic. Do not assume you know us or our stories.

Don't assume.

Stay Involved

Advocate for DIC without hijacking their narratives or causes.

Stay Aware

Follow DIC leaders and organizations to stay aware of current happenings.

Acknowledgement is just the beginning.

Learning YOUR history and how DIC is affected in the present day is crucial. Educate to heal, be authentic in how you show up, and show up often!!!
COMMUNITY MONITORING/MODELING/ENFORCEABLE PROTECTIONS

Time to clean and protect from our own self determination.

- Understand where state/federal barriers are in data, education, privilege divides, and learn how to support relocated, disassociated, and mixed indigenous, all BIPOC, and DIC in Boulder on this project.

- Have continued equity analysis outreach and monitoring from communities. to be able to mitigate, regulate, and protect with teeth or water sources of life, and mineral conservation.

- Hold Industries accountable for public endangerment, city councils on protection of community, and support of spaces life the EFATF/CDPHE. Have a strong definition of DIC to not define but eliminate the harms.
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The importance of recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples to use, own, and control their traditional territories and to protect their ancestral knowledge and skills is restorative justice and conservation.
Focus on the power dynamics that has fragmented and excluded BIPOC from narratives, affluence, and equity.

An ally will mostly engage in activism by standing with an individual or group in a marginalized community.

An accomplice will focus more on dismantling the structures that oppress that individual or group—and such work will be directed by the stakeholders in the marginalized group.

Learn and Relearn our spaces void of colonial violence and consider the erasures of education you have been robbed of learning of indigenous identity in the American identity.

Support our roles in our own self determination, do not continue to exploit in tokenism, white saviorism, or using us as window dressing for causes and events. We are not a monolith.
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

Feel free to send in any questions to reneemchacon@gmail.com.

What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice recognizes that all people have a right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, participate freely in decisions that affect their environment, live free of dangerous levels of toxic pollution, experience equal protection of environmental policies, and share the benefits of a prosperous and vibrant pollution-free economy.

- Colorado Environmental Justice Act