



# *Notes from Youth Session: Contamination of Plants and Sites*

October 12, 2011

## Concerns Included:

- Non-native species (plants & animals)
  - Pine beetle, moths in cedars
- Air traffic pollution leaks fuel
- Herbicides – when are they used? Public Knowledge? Is there a tracking system?
- ATVs, Dirt bikes, Snow mobiles in mountains/streams
- Forest management practices can spread invasive species, diseases, seeds, etc.
- All species connected. If ducks eat contaminated vegetation, they become contaminated...
- EPA needs tribes to document people using foods and medicines in order to clean-up areas – Need dialogue. “Tribes need to document lifeways that are still used today”. White cap to white cap – we need to be better at documenting.
- Suquamish is documenting where people harvest. Culturally protected details not included but information will help protect land access. The navy is very close.
- Biggest needs are:
  - Bringing back knowledge/sharing knowledge
  - Having the time (need to bring cultural teachings INTO schools or have time off to gather, etc.)
  - Willingness/interest of youth
- It's important to be in a good place when harvesting
  - What you feel or hold becomes a part of your food and medicine – you give this to people.  
Spiritual and mental contaminants
- Respecting the spiritual world. The land holds stories, experiences both healing and disturbed. Respect for sacred areas.