



# Tribal Water Media Fellowship 2023

A Reporter's Notebook

RMPBS, KSUT & Four Corners Water Center at FLC bring focus to water issues in the inaugural program of Tribal Water Media Fellowship 2023

By: Juliya Valdez



# SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION 2023

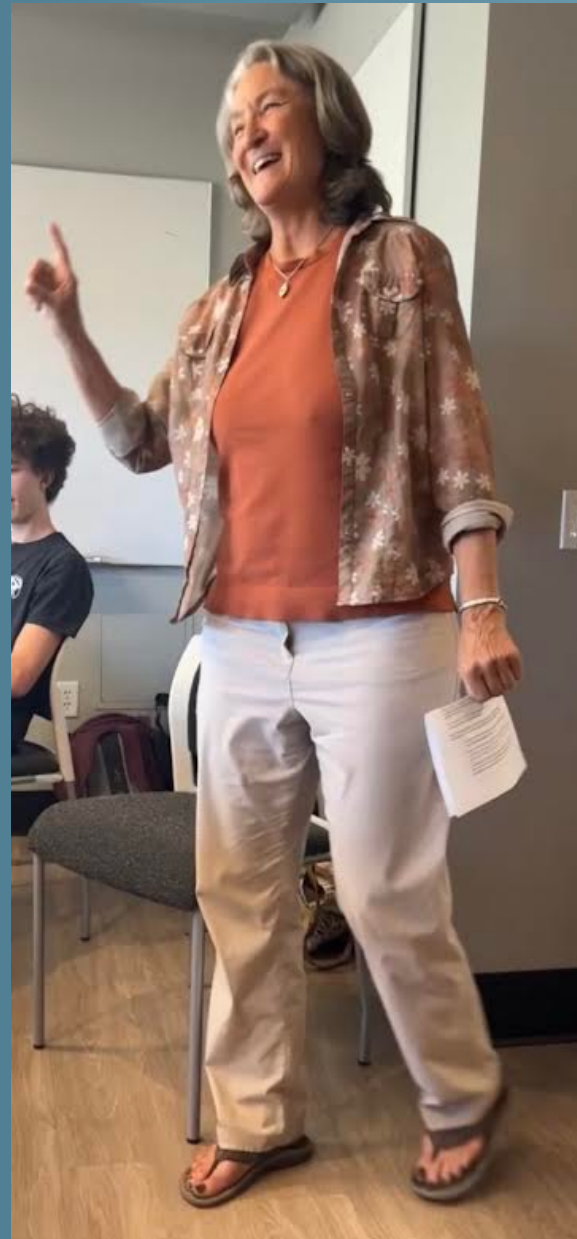
The Tribal Water Media Fellowship started out almost one week after FLC Students completed their 2023 school year. This program was offered to current students and post-graduates. Pictured here are twelve Fellows gathered for an informal meet and greet with professors, media instructors, mentors, and social influencers. During this time fellows were told that the fellowship would be broken down in two intensive parts: Summer/Fall intensives.



After introducing ourselves, we started the first of two main intensive parts of the fellowship. The Summer Intensive took place May 8-17 on the FLC campus, nearby field sites, and the San Juan River FLOW (Fort Lewis On the Water) rafting trip.

## SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION 2023

So began the start of the intensive program. On our first day, after the initial meet and greet, we arrived and started the first of many educational presentations about Tribal water laws and policy. We then headed to KSUT Radio Station in Ignacio, CO. We were introduced to staff and given a rundown on the operations of the station and a tour of the facility. Next, we had a catered lunch by by a local Indigenous-owned restaurant (Mi Hito's) and immediately dove into our afternoon session with KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham and filmmaker Carol Fleisher. We learned techniques of how to interview successfully. After a very busy afternoon of learning, we headed back to campus and finished out the day with story planning and process preparations. Day 2 concludes.



### **KSUT Visit**

Tami Graham (left) and Carol Fleisher (above) help students with audio techniques and interview processes. KSUT studios (right)





## SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION 2023



**Above**, Fellows at Navajo Dam. **Below left**, Dr. Kaitlin Mattos, Dr. Crystal Tulley-Cordova speak on water issues. **Below right**, Fellows take pics at Navajo Dam.



Day 3, we began the start of our Navajo Nation field trips and the FLOW rafting trip. As it turns out this day would be one of the highlights of the trip for me. We visited the Navajo Dam infrastructure/ reservoir and Navajo Agriculture Products Industry- NAPI. We got to hear Dr. Crystal Tulley-Cordova, Principal Hydrologist- NNDWR, speak on water issues and how the upper Colorado Basin impacts Navajo Lake and Lower Basin water ways. We then took a tour at NAPI and got to see the inside of the control panel area where water gates are electronically opened and closed and where water flow can be released. This was an amazing opportunity for us to see how large the river basin is and all the regions/states it directly affects. That really opened my eyes about the impacts of the water in this area. On our way out, we stopped by the NAPI store and picked up some goodies (frybread mix, cornmeal mix etc.) and headed off to San Juan River to start our rafting trip.





## NAPI TOUR-

Left, Navajo Agriculture Products Industry - NAPI Bi-products.  
Below, Fellows



**SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION 2023**





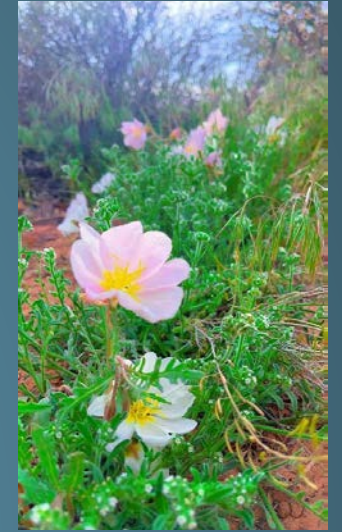
After a few hours of bus travel, we finally arrived at Sand Island. We would be spending the night here. But first, we got to meet our river guides and choose our camping spot for the night. I chose a nice little shaded area under a tree. In my trip planning, I chose comfort over convenience and even brought a tent cot – that I regretted. Once my overly-complex tent set up was complete, we got ready for dinner and finally, time to feast. After dinner and a change into warmer clothing, we gathered by the fire as a group and went over the next day's game plan.

## SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION 2023



**Sand Island – Above top**, Charlotte Smart and Clara Bertany setup their tent. **Above**, Evening Group Picture. **Right**, Campfire, Dinner,





## Sand Island-

Clockwise from left, cot tent setup, Sand Island put in, trail flowers, Dr. Crystal Tulley-Cordova and myself, breakfast!



**SUMMER INTENSIVE**  
**SESSION 2023**







From our launch, days 4-7 were all about rafting and visiting cultural sites, brainstorming projects, learning water science and management thru group talks. During our downtime, we continued practicing our audio/photo journaling and interview skills.

One evening, we also had a presentation from Expert-In-Residence, Colten Ashley – providing an opportunity to share the Fellows’ insights on how we all view identity, culture and respect from different individualized perspectives. It also gave us insight on how these all play an integral role in how we view the world today. During this time, we were also given a four-picture project to do. This project entailed taking four pictures of whatever we wanted and incorporated them into storytelling. I chose to do a poem. I took as many pictures as I could before my phone battery died. The rest are saved via brain memory. We would then raft 26 river miles thru beautiful winding scenery to our take-out location at Mexican Hat.





SUMMER INTENSIVE  
SESSION 2023

FLOW Rafting Highlights



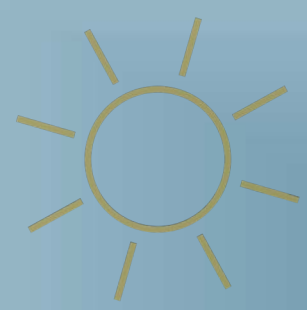


## SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION 2023



FLOW Rafting Highlights





# SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION 2023

On the last day of the summer intensive, I was able to gift my fellows with Tribal Fair t-shirts. We would finish out the day with our project pitches and everyone was off to start their summer. We would reconvene in the fall for Fall Intensive.







One evening in the fall, I was finally able to arrange a brief interview with one of my fellows- Lucero Dayzie. My recorder battery was dead so I had to write the interview down, as I went. Here is the transcribed version:

JV: JULIYA VALDEZ (Myself)  
LD: LUCERO DAYZIE

# Fellow Interview:

## Lucero Dayzie

JV: Good Evening, thank you for taking the time out of your evening to conduct this interview with me.

LD: Oh ya, no problem.

JV: Ok, lets get started. First question - how did you find out about this fellowship?

LD: My instructor/advisor mentioned it in my Public Health class.

JV: What piqued your interest to follow thru with this fellowship?

LD: The opportunity to gain knowledge about water issues.... And the rafting, never been so it looks like fun

JV: During the fellowship, what presentation most interested you?

LD: Hmmmm, I think the presentation at NAPI about the Indigenous foods. That is what sparked my project idea.

JV: And what project idea was that?

LD: I am going to present my project on the Red Sumac Berry and how water affects it.

JV: Very cool. I look forward to seeing your presentation and thank you for your time.

Lucero Dayzie - Red Sumac Berry Presenter









Four Picture River  
Project:

# Sunrise, Sunrise

By: Juliya Valdez



*As a child, I was always  
told to rise with you*

*As an adult, I rise with you*

*U bring the sun and the  
sunrays*

*Thank you, Creator for  
allowing me another tavay  
- day!*

*Toghoyaqh- Thank you*



Photo Credit: FLOW Instructor



# THANK YOU!!

Walton Family  
Foundation

Colorado Plateau  
Foundation

Southwestern Water  
Conservation District

SWCA

RMPBS

Lisa Yellow Eagle

Pete Nylander

Kino Benally

Jim Mimigia

Amorina Martinez

Cat Jaffee

Teal Lehto

Kirbie Bennett

Pauly Denetclaw

Keana Kaleikini

Dr. Kaity Mattos

Colten Ashley

Adar Higgs

Tami Graham

Carol Fleisher

Dr. Crystal Tulley-Cordova

Bruce Saxman

Lucero Dayzie

And all the Fellows who  
participated –  
 from Fellows to Friends