

## Leaf G. Hillman Biography

Born and raised in the heart of the traditional Karuk homeland, Leaf Hillman has spent his entire career working in one capacity or another to protect, preserve, and restore Klamath River fisheries and Karuk cultural resources. The Karuk have subsisted physically and spiritually on the bounty of the Klamath River and its watershed since time immemorial. To protect and restore these natural resources, Leaf started the Karuk Tribe's Fisheries Department in 1990 and served as its director until 1994. At this point, under Leaf's leadership, the department expanded to become the Department of Natural Resources. Leaf served as Director of Karuk Natural Resources Department until 2003. From 2003 to 2009 Leaf served as the Vice-Chairman of the Karuk Tribal Council. He has now returned to his post as Director of the Karuk Natural Resources Department.

Leaf Hillman is a descendant of a Karuk dance owning family and serves as a ceremonial leader during Piky'avish, the Karuk World Renewal Ceremonies. Over the past twenty years, Hillman has also taught the Karuk language at all levels of public education including adult community classes.

Leaf Hillman is a leading proponent of removing Klamath River dams and played a leading role in developing the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Basin Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement.