



September 11, 2025

The Institutional Review Board recognizes the following researcher who has complied with the Research Code and who have been granted a Research/Publication Permit:

Dr. Alyssa Kreikemeier, Assistant Professor, University of Idaho

Book Research Project Titled: *Aerial Empire: Contested Sovereignties and the American West*

Permit Number: IRB-P25-001M

Resolution Number: IRB-R25-005

Research Permit Valid: September 11, 2025 - September 11, 2026

Brief Summary: *Aerial Empire: Contested Sovereignties and the American West* argues the atmosphere became a new site of imperial conquest and Native resistance over the course of the long twentieth century. Federal uses of air disproportionately harmed Native and rural peoples in the Western U.S. Yet, by the 1970's, Tribes exercised environmental sovereignty over aerial management, influencing settler law and using it to restore legal recognition on the heels of termination policy, which sought to eliminate Tribal Nations, even as the militarization of airspace allowed new forms of settler occupation, particularly for the Tohono O'odham Nation lands. This story re-periodizes conventional timelines of settler colonization, links air quality with climate change, and offers new insights through historicizing material properties of natural resources.

The Tohono O'odham Nation's Institutional Review Board (IRB) was established to oversee the Research Code that was enacted and codified as 17 Tohono O'odham Code Chapter 8 by Resolution No. 13-165 effective May 23, 2013.

The Board is comprised of three enrolled Nation's members:

Beth Michel, Interim Chair, Susan Warmack, Vice Chair, Lisa Palacios, Secretary

The IRB welcomes research proposals. Questions regarding the above permitted research or research proposals may be directed to the IRB's email at IRB@tonation-nsn.gov.
