

# MOUNTAIN ISLANDS AND SAGEBRUSH SEAS

Creating resilient landscapes through an understanding of heritage, culture and conservation.

American Indian  
Alaska Native  
Heritage Month  
November 2018

## Burden Basket

Artist Francine Tohannie, a member of the To-Modak Shoshone Tribe in Nevada, depicts the traditional "Burden Basket," made and used by the Washoe, Paiute and Shoshone people.

"The Burden Basket represents the resilience of the land - what it had offered to our ancestors that we still use and teach today. From sagebrush bark, they made clothing and shoes, houses, rope. From the willow, they made intricate baskets and utensils.

Conservation: our hope for the future is symbolized by the new sprouting sagebrush in the foreground.

Preserve the serene beauty of our vast mountain islands, and the natural vegetation - sea of the sage.

Conservation and preservation are our job: thus, the empty Burden Basket. Pick it up and get to work, it needs to be filled."

