

RED ALERT!

Saving the Planet with Indigenous Knowledge

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INTRODUCTION

The Climate Is Changing— and, Well, It Should

Would it not be more accurate to say that the North American wants to use reality rather than to know it? In some matters—death, for example—he not only has no desire to understand it, he obviously avoids the very idea.

—Octavio Paz, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*

I get angry when I think about global warming, or global burning, as I prefer to designate this world phenomenon, the reasons for which will become quite clear in chapter 6. I get angry because I know the history of involuntary removals and relocations indigenous peoples throughout the United States and around the world have endured. So when nearly a decade ago I began hearing the reports of what was beginning to manifest itself on the landscapes and seascapes of the circumpolar arctic and banks of the Yukon River in Alaska, I got angry. Angry because I thought, *Here we go again—another removal of indigenous peoples.*

