



# Closing Remarks



**Chief Dwaine Perry**  
Ramapo Munsee Lunaape Nation  
*Speaker*





***After generations of colonization, land theft, toxic dumping, unsustainable food and water stewardship, and desecration of our ancestral lands, the Ramapo Munsee Land Alliance (RMLA) was formed to repatriate the land and natural resources of the Ramapo Munsee Lenape Nation's ancestral territories.*** While we have spiritually and culturally maintained our practices amidst attempted genocide of our land and people, RMLA is created to repatriate and deed back our ancestral lands so we may transition them back into our stewardship. RMLA enables our people to protect and steward our ancestral lands, and freely practice our spiritual, cultural, and ecological ways.

### **Returning to Indigenous Stewardship: Land Preservation and Protection**

As a people, we have always had a deep connection with Mother Earth, father sky, and the sacred waters. The Ramapo Munsee Land Alliance is committed to preserving the beauty of our homelands in the Ramapo mountains and protecting ancient sites.



Our first major acquisition has been the return of *Taheetewee*, also known as 'Split Rock' Mountain, for the first time since the Revolutionary War. The deed was returned thanks to a partnership with the Rockland County Sewer District, NJ Land Conservancy, Doris Duke Foundation, and dozens of individual supporters. *Taheetewee* is considered to be the most important archeological site in the northeast.

In 2023-24, we will build on this unprecedented momentum:

1. Launch indigenous land stewardship programs for *Taheetewee* and our region
2. Launch an intergenerational oral history project to share our original stewardship practices amongst tribal members, and, where appropriate, share for external storytelling
3. Expand visitor education programming
4. Continue to strengthen our organizational infrastructure, explore future acquisitions and protect our ancient burial grounds and other sacred sites to our people throughout the Ramapo Mountain area