

# Step 2 of the Tribal-Nature Based Solutions Competitive Proposal Process Applicants

## TNBS2023-001- FUNDED- TIME SENSITIVE SHOVEL READY

**Contact:** Jaclyn Robinson, Planning Director

Hoop Valley Tribe

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Hoop Valley Tribe

**County:** Humboldt

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning project

**Project Name:** Hoop Valley Acquisition & Planning of 10,395 Acres known as the Pine Creek Tract

**Project Description:** The Hoop Valley Tribe (Tribe) is working to re-acquire a portion of our aboriginal land. In 2022, the Tribe learned that New Forests, an Australia-based forestland manager, was planning to sell a portfolio of lands owned by one of their investors within the Tribe's aboriginal territory. This includes an approximately 10,000-acre parcel that is contiguous to and borders the western boundary of the Tribe's Reservation. The Tribe is pursuing the land acquisition to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to get this large, contiguous block of the Tribe's land back. After purchase the Tribe plans to inventory the natural resources on the land and determine priorities for restoration.

## TNBS2023-002

**Contact:** Bobby Sue Althaus, Director of Operations

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**Applicant/Tribe:** lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

**County:** San Diego

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** lipay Nation Planning Project for Acquisition, Conservancy, & Prosperity of Ancestral Lands

**Project Description:** Biocultural significance is ingrained into the way of life of the lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel (hereafter 'INSY'). In fostering healthy relationships between the INSY's people and ancestral territory, INSY honors tradition, perpetuates culture, & heals the past to create a healthy present & thriving future. Tribal presence promotes biodiversity, optimal ecosystems, & climate benefits through stewardship. Acquisition of ancestral lands strengthens Tribal partnerships among Kumeyaay Tribes, serves neighboring communities, fosters justice equity, & inclusion. The INSY's multi-beneficial nature-based goals are to return ancestral lands to INSY, revise a conservation management plan, implement conservancy, deploy a community outreach/engagement campaign, & foster cultural-economic prosperity. The INSY honors its cultural heritage & sovereignty,

protects health & well-being, provides economic opportunity, employs climate-smart strategies, expands access to nature, & protects biodiversity.

TNBS2023-004

**Contact:** Teri Red Owl, Exec. Director  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Owens Valley Indian Water Commission

**County:** Inyo

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** Hogback Ranch: Ancestral Land Return

**Project Description:** The Owens Valley Indian Water Commission (commission) intends to use the grant funds from Tribal Nature-Based Solutions (TNBS) Program to purchase Hogback Ranch (158 acres) for \$1.75 million and to use the additional \$750,000 for land care and inaugural events. The Commission has raised \$25,000 to assist with the purchase of Hogback Ranch and has commitments for future funding to assist with certain activities on the land. Funding from the TNBS Program will enable the Commission to purchase Hogback Ranch and oversee and coordinate activities at Hogback Ranch, contract with Indigenous stewards who will provide land and structure care, support programming and activities on the land including youth events, knowledge-keeper exchange events, ceremonies, workshops, healing events, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, leadership summits, artist retreats, hosting, and more.

TNBS2023-006

**Contact:** Chief Caleen Sisk, President  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Sawalmem, Inc./Winnemem Wintu

**County:** Shasta

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** Bollibokka ancestral land acquisition – Winnemem Wintu – McCloud River, CA

**Project Description:** The Winnemem Wintu Tribe (Tribe) are in the process of acquiring 3,000 acres of ancestral land from a "willing seller" (Westlands Water District) containing some of its most important sacred sites in the home territory of the Winnemem Waywaket (McCloud River), near Bollibokka Mountain, south of Bullium Puuyuk (Mt. Shasta), for \$40 million, with an anticipated escrow-close date of February 15, 2024. The Tribe's spiritual cosmology, lifeways, and economy are intrinsically connected to the nur (salmon), which once thrived in the McCloud River. Recent co-management agreements with governmental agencies to reintroduce nur are positive steps toward healing our ecosystem. Bollibokka's strategic location along the river is crucial to these efforts and the ideal location for research and fishery facilities that weave together Winnemem Wintu traditional ecological knowledge and western sciences. This acquisition signifies a remarkable journey for the Tribe, fostering partnerships, healing wounds, and decolonizing land and knowledge while building climate resilience with public health, equity, and biodiversity benefits.

TNBS2023-007

**Contact:** Michael Gerace, Director of Planning and Community Development

Yurok Tribe

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Yurok

**County:** Humboldt

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project:** Miners Creek Repatriation & Restoration Project

**Project Description:** The near-immediate purchase from private non-Yurok landowners of several large parcels of land within the Yurok Tribe's Ancestral Territory that have been degraded by overlogging and illegal cannabis cultivation; followed by the implementation of a shovel-ready plan for the natural restoration of these lands with multi-benefit, nature-based, traditional Yurok approaches to land management that include conservation and restoration, cultural burns, wildfire resilience, or publicly beneficial access development. A total of 2,075 acres of land will come under the control and management of the Yurok Tribe under this new, time-sensitive, shovel-ready initiative.

TNBS2023-008

**Contact:** Patricia Garcia, Director of Historic Preservation

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Agua Caliente Tribe

**County:** Riverside

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project:** Palm Canyon Cultural and Natural Resources Survey

**Project Description:** The Palm Canyon Cultural and Natural Resources Survey grant proposal will fund archaeological, ethnohistoric, and biological surveys. The United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) co-manage the land with the Tribe and fully support this project proposal. Palm Canyon and its larger natural setting are within the Indian Canyons special management area. The Tribe is committed to protecting, restoring, and preserving the irreplaceable natural and cultural resources and scenic beauty of the Indian Canyons for future generations to enjoy. The Tribe also wants to share the natural and cultural history of the Indian Canyons with the public while protecting its lands. The proposed project will address the cultural sites and natural resources in Palm Canyon in the context of this larger mission.

TNBS2023-009

**Contact:** Christy Fischer, Director for Trust for Public Land

Bay Area and Central Coast Conservation

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Trust for Public Land

**County:** San Benito County

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Holistic Land Return Planning with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust

**Project Description:** This project will allow the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) to conduct planning and preparation for acquiring culturally important lands, in partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (AMTB) and Trust for Public Land (TPL). Grant funds will support a unique partnership focused on building AMLT's capacity to plan for and pursue priority land acquisitions, conduct cultural assessments, and steward AMLT's newly acquired cultural conservation easement over the 540-acre Nyland property in San Benito County, through creating stewardship plans, e.g., plans for post-burn monitoring, restoration, and Tribal access. AMTB and AMLT's formal partnership with TPL combines their collective strengths, experience, teachings, and staff capacity, to engage in land conservation, demonstrate AMTB cultural restoration practices, and create training opportunities, as an intentional approach to advancing California's Pathways to 30x30 through Indigenous-led conservation and nature-based climate solutions.

TNBS2023-010

**Contact:** Conrad Kramer, Executive Director

Mendocino Land Trust

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Cahto, Potter, Round Valley and Sherwood Valley

**County:** Mendocino

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Folsom Ranch Ancestral Land Return and Planning Project

**Project Description:** The project is part of the acquisition of the 7,037-acre Folsom Ranch located in the Eel River watershed in Mendocino County. In partnership with BLM, TCF, MLT, and four local Tribes (Cahto, Potter Valley, Round Valley, and Sherwood Valley), the proposed project would culminate with the four Tribes holding title to 1,700 acres of the Ranch, MLT holding title to 100 acres to manage as a public trailhead, and BLM holding title and managing the rest for multiple use public access. The planning component would fund restoration plans, increase access to traditional foods and materials and increase tribal conservation workforce capacity to meet the new 1,700 acres management needs.

TNBS2023-011

**Contact:** Desiree Lewis, Tribal Administrator

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Cold Springs Rancheria

**County:** Fresno

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Cold Springs Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Planning

**Project Description:** As the Cold Springs Tribe's lands face drought, flooding, and the threat of severe wildfire, it is critical to the long-term cultural, economic, and environmental health of the Tribe to conserve and restore its land. The Cold Springs Tribal Nature-Based Solutions (TNBS) Planning Project will help the Tribe protect its land and progress towards climate resilience through conservation, restoration and protecting land against damage by severe wildfires. The Tribe and its collaborators will develop a regional TNBS land conservation plan focused on conserving and restoring lands held by the Tribe in Sycamore Valley and Haslett Basin in Fresno County, California. The Tribe will also increase its ownership, management and access to natural lands and cultural resources within and adjacent to its holdings, increase the opportunities for Tribal Members to engage in Traditional and sustenance gathering, hunting, and fishing, and apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge to land management and stewardship.

TNBS2023-012

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Koy'o Land Conservancy

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**Applicant/Tribe:** United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) and Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe (CTVCT)

**County:** Placer

**Type of Application:** Implementation

**Project Name:** Coyote Fire Crew and Land Guardianship Program

**Project Description:** The Coyote Fire Crew and Land Guardianship Program is a multi-partner cooperative capacity-building and implementation project aimed at restoring indigenous stewardship practices to enhance climate and wildfire resilience on the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) and the Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe (CTVCT) ancestral lands. Simultaneously, the project focuses on bolstering tribal capacity, fire protection, community education, and the development of a comprehensive database of tribal information.

The project encompasses the professional training and acquisition of necessary equipment for the Intertribal Coyote Crew – a cultural fire and land stewardship crew of around 40 experienced fire experts' members from the UAIC and CTVCT formed in 2022. UAIC and CTVCT collectively hold over 1,600 acres of land within the ancestral territory of the Sierra Nevada foothills that has been deemed appropriate for cultural fire treatments and ecological restoration and will be the focal point of funding received from the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions (TNBS) program.

TNBS2023-014

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Elk Valley Rancheria

**County:** Del Norte

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Elk Valley Rancheria Restoration and Access Improvement Project

**Project Description:** The project proposes planning for coastal habitat restoration and access improvements on oceanfront fee land owned by the Elk Valley Rancheria. The project also proposes planning, environmental review, permitting, and engineering design for a boardwalk that would provide year-round access to Ender's Beach on the western portion of the property. Task 1 of the project proposes development of a wetland and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) Restoration and Management Plan. Tasks 2-4 propose environmental review and technical studies (Task 2), permitting (Task 3), and engineering design (Task 4) for construction of a boardwalk along an approximately 435-foot-long portion of the property. Task 5 proposes community engagement and Task 6 proposes project management activities by Tribal staff.

TNBS2023-015

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Trust for Public Land

**County:** Monterey

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Esselen Tribe of Monterey County Ancestral Land Return: Palo Escrito Peak

**Project Description:** The Esselen Tribe of Monterey County Ancestral Land Return: Palo Escrito Peak Project protects 9,818-acre Palo Escrito Peak Ranch in Monterey County in the Carmel and Salinas River watersheds through fee title acquisition. Trust for Public Land (TPL) is the applicant and taking the lead on the acquisition. Upon closing, the Ranch will be transferred to the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County (ETMC), a 501 (c)(3), restoring Tribal access to these sacred ancestral lands. The Ranch includes extensive riparian, grassland, and oak woodland habitat. This land return project includes a planning phase to conduct baseline cultural, biological, and hydraulic studies and prepare a Stewardship Plan. It protects rich cultural resources and many sacred sites; provides the ETMC the ability to regain sovereignty over how their native foods, fibers, and medicinal plants are grown, tended, and harvested; and protects over 80 miles of streams, habitat for federally listed species, including steelhead.

TNBS2023-016

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Big Sur Land Trust/Esselen Tribe of Monterey County

**County:** Monterey

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** ETMC and BSLT Basin Ranch Land Assessment

**Project Description:** Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) is working in partnership with the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County (ETMC) on the co-management of Basin Ranch, a 5,105-acre working ranch located in the southern Sierra de Salinas west of Greenfield in Monterey County, CA. Acquisition funding has been secured from the California Wildlife Conservation Board and escrow is in process. BSLT is requesting

funding to, in collaboration with ETMC, conduct ecological and cultural studies and develop a co-management agreement and a long-term land management plan that support the property's functionality and resilience with a particular emphasis on developing tribal-led nature-based solutions, enabling effective stewardship of Basin Ranch.

TNBS2023-017

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Mooretown Rancheria Band of Maidu Indians

**County:** Butte

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Feather Falls Ancestral Land Acquisition Project

**Project Description:** The Tribe seeks to purchase its aboriginal territory surrounding the Tribe's original trust lands. The Tribe has negotiated with certain private landowners that were willing to sell quickly to the Tribe. Although the Tribe sought to protect its homeland on the south fork of the Feather River during colonization, it lost ownership and control over everything except two 80-acre parcels, and then, to add insult to injury, the Tribe was unlawfully terminated in 1979, effectively making the Tribe landless. The Tribe has entered into Co-Stewardship Agreements with both the USFS and BLM managed lands that are adjacent to the property. The Tribe has been conducting fuels reduction on the USFS Feather Falls Trailhead for several years and now the Tribe has entered into an historic Co-Stewardship Agreement with the BLM. In 2023, the Tribe purchased approximately 3000 acres in the Feather Falls area, however, it is currently checkerboarded. This project would fund the planning and acquisition of remaining parcels in the ancestral landscape and provide funding for permitting to restore the land to the status that it was in prior to its dispossession from the Tribe.

TNBS2023-020

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Hoopa Valley Tribe

**County:** Humboldt

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Soctish Creek Levee Setback and Floodplain Design

**Project Description:** Funding for Soctish Creek levee setback and floodplain design aims to create a 100% design plan for the lower 500 meters of this vital anadromous stream on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation (HVIR). This stream supports chinook, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and pacific lamprey. The project involves assessing existing conditions, developing three design alternatives at the 30% stage, and refining one based on community and tribal council feedback. The final design will include native species revegetation, crucial for the ecosystem and cultural significance.

TNBS2023-021

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Hoopa Valley Tribe

**County:** Humboldt

**Type of Application:** Implementation

**Project Name:** Supply Creek Phase III Implementation Project

**Project Description:** Phase III Implementation Project of the Supply Creek Restoration Project would continue downstream restoration of Supply Creek tributary to the Trinity River on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation (HVIR) in Hoopa, CA. A levee and channelization have disconnected the Supply Creek from its former floodplain, restricting salmonid access to key habitat. Additionally, antiquated infrastructure, such as a septic system and leach field, threatens water quality. The primary objectives of Phase III implementation are to enhance habitat conditions by septic tank and leach field removal, and channel lengthening and off channel habitat creation through levee setback, and road setback/reconstruction. New mainstem, off-channel, and floodplain restoration in Phase III would augment what was achieved in Phase I and II expanding of high-quality salmonid habitat on Supply Creek and will support Phase III condition improvements. Creating and promoting a restored fishery is a vital nature-based solution to the Hoopa Valley Tribe's climate resiliency with multi-benefit outcomes of equity, public health, and preserving cultural and economic natural resources.

TNBS2023-023

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**Tribe:** Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

**County:** Mendocino

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Blues Beach Management Project

**Project Description:** Kai Poma, as the transferee tribally chartered non-profit, will be receiving the "Blues Beach property" from Caltrans pursuant to Section 118.9 of Streets and Highway Code (SB 231) authorizing Caltrans to return approximately 136.2 acres to Kai Poma and require future maintenance of the property be undertaken by Kai Poma. SB231 allows for the development of a plan to manage the Blues Beach property which contains numerous critically significant and highly vulnerable cultural and natural resources that have been disturbed or damaged over the many decades due to lack of management and oversight. These resources warrant safeguarding and comprehensive restoration efforts.

Prior to commencing the restoration work ("ready to implement"), Kai Poma is actively seeking funding to facilitate a series of multi-benefit nature-based solutions initiatives called "Blues Beach Management Project" with a one-year timeframe aimed at preserving critical habitat and cultural resources, enhancing climate resilience and coastal diversity and promoting Traditional Ecological Knowledge integration.

TNBS2023-024



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**Tribe:** Kashia Band of Pomo

**County:** Sonoma

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Wolf Creek Ranch Ancestral Land Return and Planning Project

**Project Description:** Wolf Creek Ranch, 1200 acres of land within the ancestral homelands of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, will be purchased and returned to Tribal control. The Tribe will engage in a Planning project to make a detailed survey and assessment of the ecosystem and develop specific plans for conservation, restoration, and management going forward. Native grasses and other habitat restoration, forest health, and attention to the streams on the property that feed the Tribe's primary water source, will all be focal points of this planning process.

TNBS2023-025

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**Tribe:** Maidu Summit Consortium

**County:** Plumas

**Type of Application:** Implementation

**Project Name:** Supporting Climate change Resilient Forest Management Practices on Maidu Ancestral Lands in Plumas County

**Project Description:** Climate resiliency within Maidu ancestral territories and Maidu communities requires ongoing, synergistic investments in ecological, cultural, and human resources. The Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) is an inter-tribal agency in the northeastern Sierra Nevada range managing almost 3000 acres within traditional Maidu ancestral territories, five parcels that were deeded to the Consortium from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) in 2019-2022. During 16 months in 2024-2025, the project will (1) Expand Tribal workforce capacity through recruitment, training, and fieldwork; (2) Procure native culturally significant seeds and transplants for restoration in the land parcels we manage; (3) Provide hands-on Maidu cultural activities on our parcels; and (4) Bring back cultural burning ("good fire") to selected areas within the MSC's parcels.

TNBS2023-026

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**Tribe:** Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria

**County:** Butte

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Mechoopda Tribal Land Acquisition

**Project Description:** This project proposes the opportunity for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria (Mechoopda Tribe) to purchase 658 acres located in Butte County, CA and spanning the

areas adjacent to the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve and the Big Chico Creek Watershed. The three separate landowners acknowledge collaboration with the Mechoopda and are interested in supporting this grant application. Attributing these ancestral lands back to the Mechoopda Tribe will allow for the environmental restoration, disaster mitigation, Tribal access to cultural resources, & the historical preservation of immemorial occupation. A priority of this project is to protect in perpetuity the invaluable cultural and natural resources in Big Chico Creek Canyon with oversight and implementation by the Mechoopda Tribe.

Contingent on acceptance of this preliminary proposal, the Mechoopda Tribe will work with the landowners to contract with a State of CA approved assessor to conduct fair market value appraisals.

TNBS2023-027

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians

**County:** Lake

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** 2023 Middletown Rancheria's Multi-Benefit Land Return Project – Big Canyon

**Project Description:** Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians (Tribe) intends to apply to the TNBS grant opportunity under the Ancestral Land Return and Planning grant project to restore access to culturally significant natural resources, cultivation of traditional plants, and sustenance to the Tribe and its members, including planning for TEK (Tribal Ecological Knowledge) based project and education. Future projects include community outreach, conservation and restoration initiatives, or natural resources education such as cultural burns and wildfire resilience.

The acquisition consists of multiple adjacent parcels identified as important to the Tribe's culture and spiritual heritage. The parcels are in the possession of the same property owner who is a willing seller. The land is located within the Tribe's ancestral territory, an area that has been a traditional source of food and medicine for the Tribe for generations. The Tribe intends to acquire these parcels to restore the relationship they once had with the land, continue their traditional practices, and help protect known cultural and natural resources located in the area.

TNBS2023-028

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Modoc Nation

**County:** Siskiyou

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Modoc Nation Homelands Land Base Expansion and Planning

**Project Description:** Modoc Nation members descend from the Modoc's who were forcefully removed from their Homelands after the Modoc War in 1873. Recently, Modoc Nation purchased approximately 4,000 acres in Siskiyou and Modoc counties and received recognition as a California Tribe. Modoc Nation now seeks to expand its land base and create a management plan. The

Modoc Nation proposes the acquisition of two properties adjacent to Modoc Nation Ranches on the southeast shore of Lower Klamath Lake, a culturally significant site since time immemorial. The acquisition will add more than 1,700 acres to our land holdings and enhance Modoc Nation's ability to continue to restore this habitat and the endangered species it once supported. Alongside the Elected Council's commitment to habitat restoration, this expanded land base will allow Modoc Nation to engage in and contribute to the Tribe's Traditional Homelands more meaningfully. Land management planning will set direction for Homelands staff and inform future investments across Homelands properties.

TNBS2023-029

**Contact:** Cyndie Childress, Tribal Secretary, Administrative Manager

Nor El Muk Wintu Tribe

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Nor El Muk Wintu Tribe

**County:** Trinity

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Nor El Muk Wintu Aboriginal Land Restoration Plan

**Project Description:** The Nor Rel Muk Tribe proposes to create a management plan for a 78-acre parcel of land that will be acquired in late 2023. The management plan will focus on four themes: removal of environmental contaminants and waste caused by cannabis cultivation and other prior uses; re-establishment of native plants including those that have cultural significance to the tribe; forest restoration for fire and climate resilience; development of reliable access to the parcel for tribal members and members of the public.

This project will be carried out as a partnership between the Nor Rel Muk Tribe, Cannabis for Conservation (a 501c3 nonprofit) and Flowra (a California Corporation). The Nor El Muk will administer the grant and oversee the management plan, while Cannabis for Conservation and Flowra will conduct site surveys and write the management plan.

TNBS2023-030

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North Fork Mono Tribe

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**Applicant/Tribe:** North Fork Mono

**County:** Mariposa

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation project

**Project Name:** Tribal Land Back Acquisition to Conserve Cultural and Natural Resources

**Project Description:** North Fork Mono Tribe would utilize funding from the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions grant program to help purchase a 367.5-acre private parcel near Mariposa and ensure continued management of the land for multi-benefit nature-based solutions.

Mono, Miwok, and Yokotch people have been gathering cultural significant resources at the Mariposa property over the last decades. For the past thirty years North Fork Mono Tribe has spearheaded all gatherings, conducting cultural burn training, facilitating archeological studies, and implementing Indigenous stewardship practices to preserve cultural heritage and enhance

productivity of culturally important plants and animals used for foods, medicines, and crafting materials.

The funding for this project will restore land ownership to the Tribe, allowing local Tribes to manage the land to preserve cultural heritage, gather native food and medicinal plants, and utilize traditional knowledge to steward the land. Future plans are to restore and rejuvenate the entire property to enhance and perpetuate the production and use of culturally significant resources.

TNBS2023-031

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**Applicant/Tribe:** North Fork Mono

**County:** Mariposa

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** Cultural Fire & Meadow Restoration Project

**Project Description:** The North Fork Mono Tribe Cultural Fire and Meadow Restoration Program is a multi-partner cooperative capacity-building and implementation project aimed at restoring indigenous stewardship practices to enhance biodiversity and strengthen water and wildfire resilience.

For the past thirty years North Fork Mono Tribe under the seasoned leadership of Chairman Ron Goode has been spearheading Intertribal cultural burn gatherings, meadow restoration projects, archeological studies, and educational training and guidance on Indigenous stewardship practices to preserve cultural heritage, restore natural resources, and enhance productivity of culturally important plants. These projects are not only enhancing biodiversity and building climate resilience but are fostering intertribal and intergenerational knowledge exchange and transfer of vital insights, skills, and wisdom related to cultural fire and land stewardship between tribes and to Tribal youth. Some of these sessions are open to the public and well attended by local community members, non-profit organizations, State and Federal agencies and university students and faculty.

TNBS2023-033

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Big Sur Land Trust/ Costanoan-Esselen Nation

**County:** Monterey

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** OCEN and BSLT Hiss Parcel Land Assessment

**Project Description:** Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) and the Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation (OCEN) are collaborating to conserve an 84-acre property located along Highway 68 in Monterey, CA. BSLT is in a purchase and sale agreement with the property owner, and this fall the State Coastal Conservancy will consider their staff's recommendation to provide BSLT the funding to acquire this property, with closing anticipated in April 2024. BSLT and OCEN are working to ensure OCEN's access and use of

the land, which may include land return or another mechanism that restores OCEN's ties to these ancestral lands. BSLT requests funding to, in collaboration with OCEN, conduct ecological and cultural assessments and develop a land management plan that employs Tribal-led, nature-based stewardship solutions to promote the property's functionality and resilience. Funds would pay for these assessments, OCEN's time to inform the land-management plan, and the restoration of native and culturally relevant plants.

TNBS2023-034

**Contact:** Russell Eleck, Lands Coordinator

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Pit River Tribe

**County:** Shasta

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Smith Camp Land Return Project

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to repatriate 576 acres, including the 40-acre Smith Camp parcel, located in Shasta County off Big Bend Road near Montgomery Creek, CA. The land, currently owned by Shasta Cascade Timberlands (SCT), would be transferred back to the Pit River Tribe via a fee-simple transfer. Smith Camp has been occupied continuously since the mid-1970's by members of the Madesi Band of the Pit River Tribe. Planning costs to prepare all necessary project documents will be covered by grant funds.

This proposal expands the footprint of Smith Camp to include acres of working forest as well as an important section of Hatchet Creek containing the Hatchet Creek Falls (also known as Lion's Head Falls) which according to Madesi tradition has spiritual and ceremonial significance. The proposed transfer of the 576-acre parcel via TNBS grant funding was unanimously supported by the Pit River Tribal Council on September 27, 2023.

TNBS2023-035

**Contact:** Herbert "Lou" Griffin, Executive Director of Cultural Preservation

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Wilton Rancheria

**County:** Sacramento

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Wilton Land back Multi benefit Restoration Project

**Project Description:** The Hanford Sand and gravel pits on Wilton Road present a unique opportunity to restore ownership to the Wilton Rancheria that provides excellent access to the Cosumnes River, protects cultural and natural resources that have been decimated along the river, and has potential for groundwater recharge and peak attenuation of floodwaters on the only undammed river on the western slope of the Sierras. The property is across the Cosumnes River from the Wilton Rancheria's historic and current holdings and would return a small portion of the 25 miles of riverfront land promised by the Treaty of the Forks of the Cosumnes River. A portion of the property was mined for

sand and gravel, while other portions are still in their natural condition with remnant valley oak woodland. The property lies in the floodplain between the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek in an ideal location for habitat and public access while maximizing the potential for flood mitigation and groundwater recharge.

TNBS2023-037

**Contact:** Gregg Young, Environmental Program Director  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Potter Valley Tribe

**County:** Mendocino and Lake

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Potter Valley Forestry Management and Resiliency Project

**Project Description:** For the past 14 years, the Potter Valley Tribe has worked with the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council to conduct environmental studies and a land conservation plan for nearly 900 acres of land in the Potter Valley watershed. In 2014, the Stewardship Council Board of Directors recommended the Tribe to receive approximately 219 acres of land at the Eel River Planning unit located in Mendocino and Lake Counties. In 2019, the Tribe and PG&E finally closed on the donative fee transfer. In the end, the Tribe received 879 acres back of its ancestral lands from PG&E, however the fee title was restricted with a conservation easement (CE) held by Mendocino Land Trust (MLT).

The CE restricts the uses on the property, which was never properly managed and as a result, fire and fuels management work is needed to protect the old growth ecosystem from catastrophic fire. The Tribe proposes to fund the planning and permitting for that work with this TNBS Planning Grant.

TNBS2023-038

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority

**County:** Mendocino

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** Little Bird Creek Ancestral Land Return

**Project Description:** The Little Bird Creek Ancestral Land Return Project is a shovel-ready ancestral land return project that offers restorative healing to mitigate the impacts of historical trauma of the Pomo People through acquisition and revitalization and conservation of culturally significant village sites, resources, medicine, and wildlife. The traditional territories and customary areas of the Tribe runs to the Eastern fork to the Western mouth of the Russian River. The proposed project sites are located within the ancestral territories of the Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians in Redwood Valley and Potter Valley, California (Mendocino County); Potter Valley being a place of familial decedent ties through Chief Dashile of Potter Valley.

TNBS2023-039

**Contact:** Megan Rocha, Executive Director  
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**Tribe:** Resighini Rancheria

**County:** Del Norte

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Ancestral Coastal Land Return at the Mouth of the Klamath River

**Project Description:** The project seeks to return ancestral coastal land at the mouth of the Klamath River to the Resighini Rancheria, a Tribe of Yurok people. The multi-benefit, nature-based solutions project will have several expected immediate and long-term benefits that are focused on addressing climate change, improving public health, increasing equity, and protecting biodiversity. The project aligns with several existing State strategy documents, as well as supports the Tribe's goals for enhancing durable conservation, increasing Tribal stewardship of a very significant culturally and ecologically important place, reconnecting Tribal citizens to coastal spaces, supporting the return of ceremonial activities, and increasing access to traditional foods and materials. This project also aligns with the Tribe's efforts associated with the recent designation of the Yurok-Tolowa Dee-ni' Indigenous Marine Stewardship Area and the Tribal Marine Stewards Network.

TNBS2023-040

**Contact:** Bo Mazzetti, Chairman  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians

**County:** San Diego

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians' Ancestral Land Restoration and Preservation project

**Project Description:** Restoring ancestral lands with purchase of an available 600-acre property (Property) contiguous to the Tribe's Reservation in order to conserve and protect the Property. The Project will: 1) increase equity by returning ancestral lands to the Tribe for its stewardship while remedying checkerboarding of the Tribe's reservation; 2) address biodiversity by protecting wildlife and habit through the Tribe's land management and regulatory frameworks; and 3) increase public health by protecting the watershed feeding the Reservation's aquifer (the Tribe's sole water source) and by creating a greenspace for the community.

TNBS2023-041

**Contact:** James Russ, Tribal Administrator  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Round Valley Indian Tribe

**County:** Mendocino

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** 7Tribes Culture and Traditional Land Conservation Project

**Project Description:** 7Tribes projects is a multi-benefit nature-based solutions project that will include the purchase of acreage/property adjacent to the existing boundaries of the Round Valley Reservation. The property is along the middle fork of the Eel River. Despite the Tribe's ancestral fishing rights and historical subsistence drawn from the Eel River, this purchase will provide the first true unencumbered access to the middle fork of the Eel River. The Tribe intends to increase traditional ecological knowledge, increase subsistence and recreational access to the land and river, and advance ecological connectivity to important ecosystems. The Tribe envisions creating a protected Tribal ecological area that will conserve natural habitats and resources that will be used for future generations 7Tribes Culture and Traditional Land Conservation Project is an important way for the Tribe to participate in the larger strategy of becoming climate smart.

TNBS2023-042

**Contact:** Ivan Randall Senock, Advisor for Tribal Capacity Building

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Scott Valley Indian Community

**County:** Siskiyou

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** Scott Valley Land return and A-su-r'ay (Moffet Creek) Restoration

**Project Description:** The ancestral land return and conservation of the 6020 acres in Gazelle California to the Scott Valley Indian Community. The conservation will seek to restore and enhance Moffett Creek, whose traditional place name A-su-r'ay, in order to improve and restore the Scott River Watershed. The goals of ecological restoration will focus on three goals. First, the creek bank stabilization through sedimentation retention through a variety of nature-based solutions and methods. Second, increase of ground water recharge through holding ponds and natural beaver analogues. Third, is the vegetation restoration through the removal of invasive plants, cultural burns, and increasing native plants through seed bank restoration and strategic plantings. These restoration methods coupled with ancestral land return will improve the Scott River Watershed, reduce the degraded status of a major river tributary, and ensure continual ecological preservation for generations.

TNBS2023-043

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Scotts Valley Band of Pomo

**County:** Lake

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Ye-Ma-Bax – Culture and Traditional Land Use Conservation Project



**Project Description:** The Scott's Valley Band of Pomo Indians (SVBPI) proposes to purchase land from a willing seller that will allow the Tribe to Develop a Tribally Operate Cultural Conservation Area. The Conservation area will specifically be used to restore native plants, create a space to grow food and promote food sovereignty for the Tribe, renewal of Tribal basket materials, develop an Ecological focused Educational Program for Tribal members focusing on youth, create a safe environmental watershed to assist in the conservation and protection of the Clearlake Hitch – a traditional food source of the SVBPI. The Project proposes to include a Planning Project to create an educational component in order for SVBPI to contribute in a meaningful way to a climate smart and ecologically sustainable conservation effort. SVBPI are traditional stewards of the land and as such can contribute greatly to the existing efforts of the conservation community of scientists and experts.

TNBS2023-045

**Contact:** Corrina Gould, Co-Director and Co-Founder  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Sogorea Te' Land Trust

**County:** Alameda

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Rinihmu Pute''ireken Sovereign Fires Project

**Project Description:** The site, known as Rinihm Pute''irenk will be a cultural gathering place and a Native habitat restoration area. The former parking lot and adjacent land of 3.8 acres, is located at 10909 Skyline Blvd. in Joaquin Miller Park, a larger park owned by the City of Oakland. Indigenous stewardship has been returned to this site through a cultural conservation easement. The vision of this project is to recreate a thriving, ceremonial gathering place where Indigenous people can come together, and educate the public about tribal ecological restoration. Prior to the land's return, the site, and the entire park itself, experienced neglect, and in order to be in compliance with the City's Fire Code, a tremendous amount of Fire management and Fuel reduction efforts will need to be facilitated. The project plans to do this through Indigenous Fuel Reduction methods with a Northern California Tribal Forestry Dept. such as Mooretown Rancheria (to be confirmed if the application is approved).

TNBS2023-046

**Contact:** Tara Fouch-Moore, Tribal Secretary and Projects Manager  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

**County:** Mariposa

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Heness Ridge Acquisition and Tribal Stewardship Initiative

**Project Description:** This acquisition project returns land to the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) for the first time in 175 years and funds culturally informed planning activities such as restoration plans,

CEQA compliance, public/tribal outreach, grant writing, and development of a tribal stewardship workforce. The property is 897 acres within SSMN territory, connecting to both Yosemite National Park and Sierra National Forest, with significant biodiversity, forests, meadows, springs, a dwelling and ancient trail network. The project includes permanent protection through a conservation easement with Pacific Forest Trust and achieves goals of Exec Order N-82-20, 30x30, Natural Working lands Climate Smart Strategy, Wildfire & Forest resilience Action Plan. Importantly, this project restores access to unique areas of the SSMN's homelands facilitating healing of reciprocal relations, intergenerational remembering of TEK, and training a tribal workforce to implement nature-based solutions and reclaim the SSMN's role as first stewards.

TNBS2023-047

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Tamien Nation

**County:** Santa Clara

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Tamien Nation Land Return and Tribal Conservancy Project

**Project Description:** The proposed project is a 235-acre Ancestral Land Return with a Planning project for the Tamien Nation – a landless, non-federally recognized California Indian Tribe located in the South San Francisco Bay. The site is in a headwaters tributary to Coyote Creek and has high conservation value related to proposed restoration and beneficial fire management. The project will support the development of a new tribal land conservancy and establish a conservation-based land base for this historically marginalized tribal community. Proposed restoration activities include riparian and native grassland/forb restoration; maintenance with cultural fire; mid-slope wetland restoration (and burning); and environmental education. The project will also allow the Tribe to cooperatively manage important Tamien cultural resources located on adjacent public lands, while also proving buffer and connectivity for those lands.

TNBS2023-048

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Tataviam Land Conservancy/Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

**County:** Los Angeles

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Three Sisters Rock Acquisition and Nature-Based Planning project

**Project Description:** The Tataviam Land Conservancy (TLC), a Tribally operated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI), is seeking ~\$2.2 million in funds to acquire the Three Sisters Rock site in Agua Dulce, California, and enact a partnering nature-based solutions planning project. Having no land base for more than one hundred years, FTBMI Tribal Citizens have made it their utmost priority to locate a site where they can harvest, gather, and pass

on traditional ecological knowledge without restricted access. TLC is hoping that this proposal can do just that and looks forward to working with Theodore Payne, the Tiuvac'a'ai Tribal Conservation Corps, and the FTBMI Education and Cultural Learning Department to preserve, manage, and steward the rich biodiversity present on the site through seed-banking, ethnobotany, and other traditional methods, ensuring habitat connectivity and climate resilience as climate change impacts continue to ravage LA County.

TNBS2023-049

**Contact:** Rachel McCain, Natural Resources Department Director

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

**County:** Del Norte

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Tolowa Ancestral Land Return Transition Planning Project

**Project Description:** The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (Nation) will initiate a transitional planning project to support the eventual return of culturally significant state lands into tribal ownership and management. Specifically, the Nation will hire appropriate staff to complete this planning process over the next five years and will prepare the necessary programmatic and capacity building actions to allow for the indigenous-led stewardship and management of these lands. Yan'-daa-k'vt, the Tolowa Dee-ni' center of the world and place of genesis, and 'Ee-chuu-le', a primary village site, are both currently controlled by California state agencies that are unable to allocate sufficient funds to manage and restore the resources therein. Returning these lands to their original and current stewards, the Tolowa Dee-ni', will promote healing and the return of balance to Taa-laa-waa-dvn (Tolowa aboriginal territory), as well as promote a stronger and more functional partnership between the nation and the State of California.

TNBS2023-051

**Contact:** Robert Gomez, Chairman

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Tübatulabals of Kern Valley

**County:** Kern

**Type of Application:** Planning

**Project Name:** Kwolokam Project

**Project Description:** The Tübatulabals of Kern Valley have acquired 1,241 acres of ancestral land and are developing a plan to manage this conservation easement and protect/preserve the lands biological and cultural resources. Planning objectives include:

- Training tribal workforce on multi-benefit nature-based solutions and Traditional Ecological Knowledge: traditional land use and fire prevention; define and plan funding for tribal caretaker duties.

- Developing restoration plans that incorporate cultural activities/increase biodiversity, restore habitats/improve wildfire resiliency, and increase access to traditional foods/materials: biological resources study/riparian health plan, fire/fuel-reduction plan, cultural resources inventory/preservation plan.
- Planning for hiring consultants, grant writers, and legal counsel; and
- Conducting outreach/education/community engagement: conduct traditional ceremonies and gathering; offer activities fostering land stewardship/Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

TNBS2023-052

**Contact:** Dr. Roselynn Lwenya, Natural Resources Director

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**Applicant/Tribe:** The Tule River Indian Tribe of California (Yokut/ Tubatulabal)

**County:** Tulare

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Hershey Ranch Land Acquisition Project

**Project Description:** The Hershey Ranch Land Acquisition Project will acquire and transfer 14,672 acres of land to the Tule River Indian Tribe. This land is part of the Yokuts and Tubatulabal People's pre-colonial homeland, two of the multiple Tribes that comprise the Tule River Reservation. Hershey Ranch is in the Deer Creek watershed of Tulare County, is adjacent to the Tule River Reservation and other conserved lands and will become the property of the Tule River Tribe. The planning component of the grant will consist of a biological and cultural survey with recommendations for restoration and management of biological resources, and the creation of a natural resource management plan focused on riparian area restoration, water protection, range management, and species conservation.

TNBS2023-053

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

**County:** Tuolumne

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation Project

**Project Name:** Ancestral Land Return to facilitate traditional ecological land practices.

**Project Description:** The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians has implemented a multi-faceted approach to combat climate change. By acquiring additional land, the Tribe ensures the preservation of their cultural heritage and natural resources. Furthermore, the Tribe actively engages in environmental restoration and stewardship projects to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Tribe takes pride in preserving their cultural heritage and addressing climate change. By combining their ancestral wisdom with modern strategies, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians not only safeguards their cultural identity but also contributes to the global fight against climate change. Lastly, the Tribe strengthens coordination among governments, utilizing their cultural department and

planning and development strategies to foster collaboration and sustainable practices. The Tribe will address three key initiatives to achieve the 30 x 30.

TNBS2023-055

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Wishtoyo Foundation

**County:** Ventura

**Type of Application:** Implementation

**Project Name:** Wishtoyo Conservancy

**Project Description:** Wishtoyo Foundation, a native-led 501c3 nonprofit, seeks to establish the Wishtoyo Conservancy ("Conservancy") a multi-benefit, nature-based implementation project on a 100-acre site that Wishtoyo has acquired in Santa Paula, CA (traditional Chumash Territory). The proposed shovel-ready project will serve the Chumash community, First Nations representatives, and the public at large, regenerating and protecting natural and cultural landscapes; providing nature-based education, outreach, community engagement and advocacy; utilizing traditional ecological knowledge to address climate change; and enhancing the well-being of Native Peoples and the general public at large. As a result of the proposed project, Wishtoyo will re-establish its regenerative relationship with the land, protect biodiversity, restore natural and cultural abundance, and ultimately heal the land and all people as one.

TNBS2023-056

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Wiyot Tribe

**County:** Humboldt

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Samoa Dunes Land Transfer Property Planning Project

**Project Description:**

An acquisition and planning grant would enable the Wiyot Tribe to work with our three partners to acquire and create preliminary management plans for the parcels. Friends of the Dunes (FOTD) is partnering with the Tribe to return two parcels. The Manila Community Services District (MCSD) is partnering with the Tribe to return around 206-acres of land in Manila. These lands along Shou'r (Pacific Ocean) and Wigi (Humboldt Bay) are culturally vital to Wiyot peoples, and the connection to these lands has been lost due to colonization. Because of this disconnection, the Tribe has not been able to use this space for cultural purposes, manage its healthy Native species, or remove invasives. Samoa and Manila also have homeless populations that tend to camp out in 'vacant' or un-managed lands. This becomes an issue in terms of garbage being left behind and creates a safety issue for people who are utilizing these spaces for recreational purposes.

TNBS2023-057

**Contact:** Carrie Tully, Dishgamu CLT Director  
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**Applicant/Tribe:** Wiyot Tribe

**County:** Humboldt

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning Project

**Project Name:** Wiya't (Eel River) Riparian Acquisition

**Project Description:** The Wiyot Tribe and the City of Fortuna propose to acquire four parcels comprising approximately 244 acres of riparian habitat in the lower Eel River in Humboldt County immediately west of Fortuna, CA. Approximately 7 acres of the site is within the City of Fortuna and is proposed for a Riverfront Park. This area will be funded by the City of Fortuna and a River Parkways Grant administered by the Natural Resources Agency. The remaining 237 acres will be owned by the Wiyot Tribe and will be used to preserve habitat, to implement restoration of riparian gallery forest, and to improve in channel habitat for rearing, migration and cultural purposes by the Wiyot Tribe. The Tribe is requesting acquisition funds and planning funds to complete a baseline study and ecocultural restoration plan as well as using funding for staff interim site management patrols/site visits to reduce site degradation and illegal dumping during the planning process.

TNBS2023-059

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Yolo County Resource Conservation District/Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

**County:** Yolo

**Type of Application:** Implementation

**Project Name:** Cache Creek Riparian Restoration Project

**Project Description:** The Yolo County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD), in partnership with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (YDWN or Tribe), proposes to continue its successful work on the "Putah-Cache Watershed Arundo Eradication Program", through the Cache Creek Riparian Restoration Project, which will expand restoration efforts on tribal lands. In this project, we propose to start the challenging work of Arundo and tamarisk removal in the Capay Valley section of Cache Creek. These aggressively invasive plants outcompete native plants and provide no to very-low quality habitat for wildlife. A major component of this project is to restore native plants on streambanks on Tribal lands, including native plants that are culturally important to the YDWN. This project's work will be matched by concurrent Arundo and tamarisk removal and native plant revegetation in the watershed on ancestral Tribal territory. The YDWN will provide an additional cost share of \$220,000 in support of the project.

TNBS2023-060

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**Applicant/Tribe:** Ytt Northern Chumash Nonprofit

**County:** San Luis Obispo

**Type of Application:** Ancestral Land Return with a Planning project

**Project Name:** yat Spasini yak Tspu Conservancy

**Project Description:** The proposed project yat Spasini yak Tspu Conservancy includes a tribal ancestral land return and an economic development project in partnership with Harmony Aquaculture Institute and The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo. The project will entail two phases. Phase I: the negotiation of a real estate option agreement and the development of a Conservation and Economic Development plan. Phase II: land acquisition and the establishment of sustainable tribal led economic enterprises focused on aquaculture and land conservation.