



*Yowlumni Hills (Formerly Hershey Ranch), Tulare County*



Welcome to the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions (TNBS)  
Climate Bond 2026 Guidelines Public Webinar!  
We'll get started shortly.



Smith River, Del Norte County

# Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Climate Bond 2026 Grant Guidelines

---

WEBINAR: SESSION 1 & SESSION 2  
FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
CNRA TRIBAL AFFAIRS



# CNRA Tribal Affairs Grant Team

---



**Geneva E.B. Thompson**  
Deputy Secretary of Tribal Affairs



**Elaine Quitiquit-Palmer**  
Tribal Funding Grants Administrator



**Meagan Flier**  
Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs

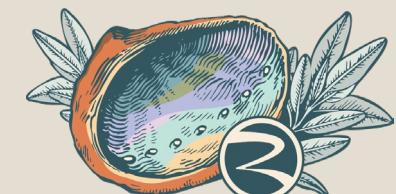


**Anh Diep**  
Tribal Funding Program Manager



# Agenda Overview

- ❖ TNBS Grant Program: Background
- ❖ Funding Availability and Overview
  - ❖ Statutory Requirements
- ❖ Eligible Applicants
- ❖ Highlights:
  - ❖ New Competitive Priorities
  - ❖ New Allowable Activities
- ❖ New Application Process
  - ❖ Step 1 and Step 2 Applications
  - ❖ Escrow Ready Application
  - ❖ How to Submit using RAPTR
- ❖ Solicitation Deadlines and Key Dates



# Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program

- ❖ Executive Order N-82-20: Nature-Based Solutions Executive Order
- ❖ Pathways to 30x30 Strategy
- ❖ Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy
- ❖ Executive Order N-15-19: Governor's Apology to Tribes
- ❖ Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands
- ❖ Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Climate Bond)



# Funding Availability

Approximately \$9.2 million is available for the 2026 TNBS Climate Bond Solicitation cycle to support land acquisition projects with multi-benefit, nature-based solutions activities.

The program anticipates having some funds available for escrow ready projects as well.

Project Types supported → **ACQUISITION  
COMPONENT IS REQUIRED**

- ❖ Ancestral Land Return & Planning
- ❖ Ancestral Land Return & Implementation
- ❖ Ancestral Land Return & Planning & Implementation





# TNBS Grant Funding Overview

*To fulfill Bond obligations and program priorities:*

## **Grant Amounts:**

### Ancestral Land Return grants:

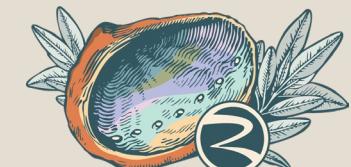
- Minimum award amount is \$1,000,000
- Maximum award amount is total available grant funds

### Escrow-Ready grants:

- No minimum
- Maximum award amount is total available grant funds

## **Budget Limits:**

- 25% cap on non-acquisition associated costs
- 10% cap on contingency
- 20% cap on standard indirect costs/overhead OR federally negotiated rate





# Statutory Requirements of the Program

*To fulfill Bond obligations and program priorities, lands acquired with these grant dollars will require:*

**Public Access** → public access must be reasonable and defined. *However, the defined terms of “public access” shall not restrict or endanger any of the proposed tribal nature-based solutions activities or natural or cultural resources.*

**Deed Restriction** → acquired lands will require permanent conservation in the form of a deed restriction that will encumber the acquired property to reflect the Tribe’s and the TNBS Grant Program priorities, in perpetuity.



# Eligible Applicants

---

## ***California Native American Tribes and Tribally-led Entities located in California.***

❖ Pursuant to the definition provided by the Climate Bond in Resources Code Section 90100, a tribe is defined as “a federally recognized Native American tribe or a non federally recognized Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.”

Non-tribal entities may support and submit an application on behalf of inter-tribal consortiums, tribal conservation districts, or partnerships.



*Tule River Indian Tribe Reservation, Tulare County*

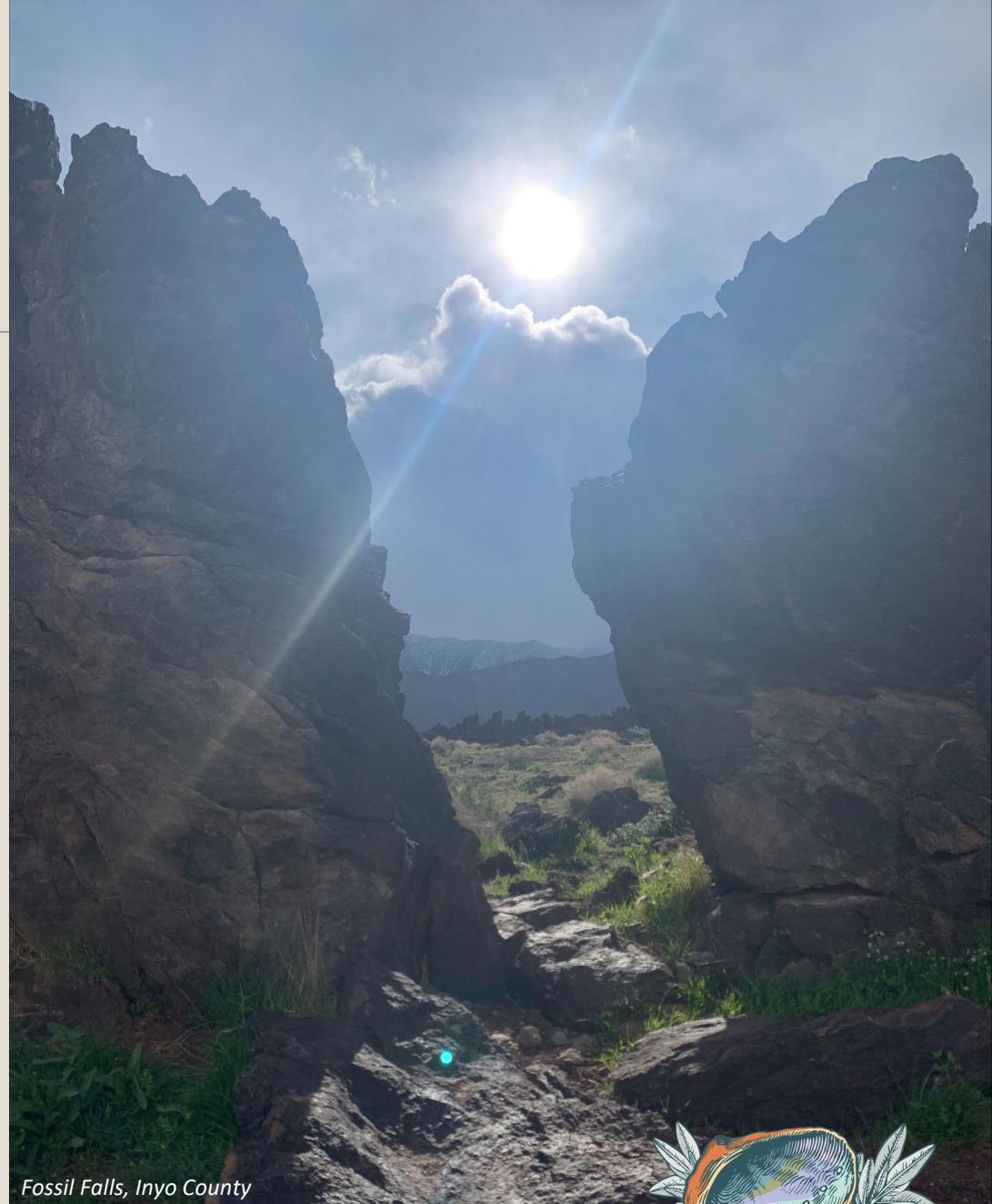


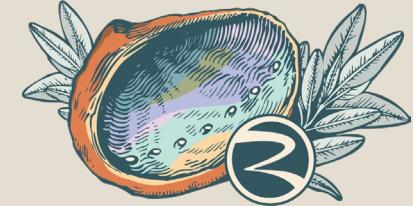
## Development and Housing on Acquired Lands

Grantees may identify future proposed development on acquired properties in their application. Proposed development locations and/or scope:

- Must be identified in the application AND
- Must be consistent with and not impede proposed nature-based solutions projects.

**Development with a clear tie to the proposed nature-based solution goals is allowable and fundable by these grant funds.**





# Highlight: New Competitive Priorities

---

- *Project has an existing management plan, on a property adjacent to the proposed acquisition, and is seeking implementation funding to execute the existing plan.*
- *Projects with secured partial funding that can demonstrate requested TNBS funds will fund whole acquisition at fair market value.*
- *Projects that have economic development and financing planning for multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects. For example, ecotourism to help fund the long-term management of the conserved lands.*
- *Projects that limit their development to no more than 10% of the total property acreage in perpetuity.*

# Competitive Priorities (cont'd)

---



- Projects within current reservation boundaries that address “checkerboarding” issues or are directly adjacent to reservation, trust land, or tribal fee land boundaries.
- If in shared ancestral territories, will be jointly owned and/or managed by inter-tribal consortium, tribal conservation district, or partnership.
- Projects directly adjacent to conserved lands or coastal waters and improving habitat connectivity.
- Applicants are landless tribes or tribes with minimal lands (20 acres or less) in re-acquiring ancestral lands.
- Projects that restore access to tribal cultural resources and traditional foods to tribal members.

# New 2-Step Application

Applicant

## **STEP 1 (PRELIMINARY PROJECT PROPOSAL)**

Project Proposals are reviewed and evaluated for eligibility.

Incomplete or ineligible Project Proposals may be removed from the competitive process.

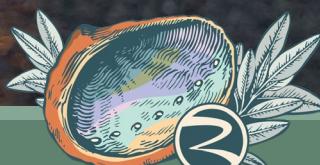
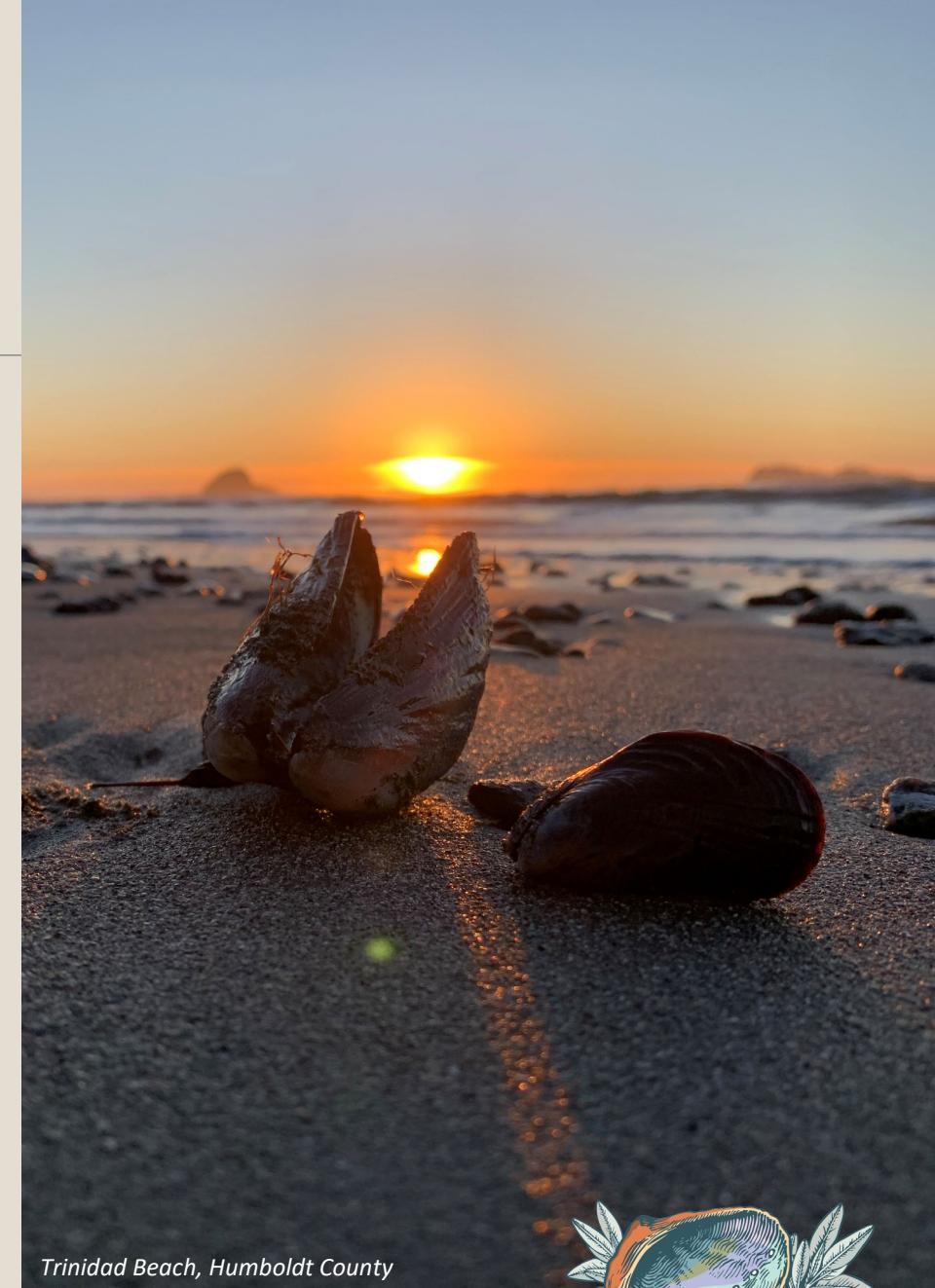
Grant Team

## **STEP 2 (FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL)**

Applicants that meet the Step 1, Preliminary Project Proposal eligibility criteria will be invited to submit Final Project Proposals and meet with TNBS Grant Staff for a project presentation. Step 2 Final Project Proposal materials will be provided to a grant review panel for scoring and review.

## **STEP 3 (EVALUATION: SITE VISITS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS)**

Field visits will be conducted for the most competitive projects at the discretion of CNRA. Applicants may be required to provide additional documentation as requested.



# Escrow Ready Projects

Escrow Ready projects refer to multi-benefit ancestral land return projects that are partially funded and can demonstrate requested grant funds will complete acquisition at Fair Market Value.

The TNBS Grant Program anticipates having some, limited funds to support Escrow Ready Projects.

## Key Deadlines

- ❖ Encumbrance Deadline: March 31, 2027
- ❖ Close of escrow Deadline: July 30, 2027
- ❖ Expenditure Deadline: January 1, 2029
- ❖ All final invoices due: March 31, 2029





# Escrow Ready Applications

*Combined Step 1 & 2*

## APPENDIX B: SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST FOR ESCROW READY PROJECTS (COMBINED STEP 1 & 2)

The following is included in the Escrow Ready Project Proposal:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Notice of Funding Requirements for Step 1 & 2
<b>Appendix C.2</b>	Project Proposal Form
<b>Appendix C.2</b>	Project Description
<b>Step 2</b>	Project Questions
<b>Step 2</b>	Location and Ancestral Lands Map
<b>Appendix F.1</b>	Work Plan and Timeline
<b>Appendix F.2</b>	Cost Estimate/Budget
<b>Appendix K</b>	Willing Seller Letter
<b>Appendix I.1</b>	Certification Letter
<b>Appendix I.2</b>	Eligibility Statement (for Non-Tribal Applicants)
<b>Appendix L</b>	Property Data Sheet
<b>Appendix H</b>	Authorized Resolution
<b>Step 2</b>	Site Plan (Implementation and Ancestral Land Return projects only)
<b>Escrow Ready</b>	Escrow Ready Documents
<b>Step 2</b>	Photographs
<b>Step 2</b>	Supporting Documents

*To meet expedited timelines: Escrow Ready Projects will forgo grant agreement template negotiations. Work Plan, Budget, and Deed Restrictions will be customizable.*



# Step 1

## *Preliminary Project Proposal*

### APPENDIX C.1 – SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST FOR PRELIMINARY PROJECT PROPOSALS: STEP 1 – PRELIMINARY PROJECT PROPOSAL

The following is included in the Step 1 Preliminary Project Proposal:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Notice of Funding Requirements for Step 1 & 2
<b>Appendix C.2</b>	Project Proposal Form
<b>Appendix C.2</b>	Project Description
<b>Appendix F.1</b>	Work Plan and Timeline
<b>Appendix F.2</b>	Cost Estimate/Budget
<b>Appendix K</b>	Willing Seller Letter
<b>Appendix I.1</b>	Certification Letter (for Non-Profit applicants)
<b>Appendix I.2</b>	Eligibility Statement (for Non-Tribal Applicants)
<b>Appendix L</b>	Property Data Sheet
<b>Appendix H*</b>	Signed letter or resolution from the chairperson of the tribe(s) that is/are actively supported by the application.  <i>*Note, a formal resolution from a federally-recognized California Native American tribe is welcome for Step 1 but not required; a letter signed by the Chairperson will also suffice. A formal resolution will be required if applicants are invited to Step 2.</i>

Applicants that meet the Step 1, Preliminary Project Proposal eligibility criteria will be invited to submit Final Project Proposals.



## Step 2 *Final Project Proposal & Presentation*

### APPENDIX D – SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST FOR FINAL PROJECT PROPOSALS (STEP 2)

The following are included in the Step 2 Project Proposal Application:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Notice of Funding Requirements for Step 1 & 2 and Signature Page	
<b>Step 2</b>	Project Questions	
<b>Step 2</b>	Location and Ancestral Lands Map	
<b>Appendix F.1</b>	Work Plan (if updated or changed since Step 1)	
<b>Appendix F.2</b>	Cost Estimate (if updated or changed since Step 1)	
<b>Appendix H.2</b>	Authorized Resolution (if not previously provided)	
<b>Step 2</b>	Site Plan (Implementation and Ancestral land return projects only)	
<b>Step 2</b>	Phase I ESA	
<b>Step 2</b>	Photographs	
<b>Step 2</b>	Supporting Documents	

As part of the Step 2 Proposal, applicants will meet with TNBS Grant Staff for a project presentation.



# Step 3

*(TNBS Staff) Field Visit and Supporting Documents*

## **1. Evaluation and Scoring**

- TNBS Grant Staff will evaluate and score recorded Step 2 Presentation Meeting notes and Step 2 Application materials.

## **2. Conduct Site Visits as necessary to inform final award decisions.**

## **3. Request Supporting and/or Additional Documents as necessary to inform final award decisions.**



# Where and How to Submit an Application

---

TNBS Grant Applicants will use **RAPTR** (Resources Agency Proposal Tracking and Reporting System) to submit their applications to the Standard Grant Process (Step 1 & 2) or Escrow Ready Process.

On RAPTR, applicants will be able to:

- Upload their completed Application Form
- Upload individual Appendices/Forms (as part of the application package)
- Track submission

RAPTR: [www.raptr.resources.ca.gov](http://www.raptr.resources.ca.gov)



## RAPTR User's Guide for Grant Applicants and FAQ

A brief guide to registering and submitting a grant proposal through the Resources Agency Project Tracking and Reporting system.



July 2025

1

# Tips for Navigating RAPTR

All protocols/instructions for RAPTR are found in the User Guide and FAQ.

User Guide and FAQ can be found at:  
[www.raptr.resources.ca.gov](http://www.raptr.resources.ca.gov)

## Tips for Success:

- Make an Account as soon as possible
- Verify your organization is listed/registered within RAPTR
- Read the User Guide and FAQ carefully
- Connect with TNBS Grant Staff for assistance

# Tips for Navigating RAPTR-Cont'd.

Register at: [www.raptr.resources.ca.gov](http://www.raptr.resources.ca.gov)

## Welcome

Welcome to the Resources Agency Project Tracking and Reporting (RAPTR) system. If you are new to RAPTR, please start by clicking 'Register' below. For those already registered, please click on 'Log In'.

[Register](#)   [Log In \(all users\)](#)

**Helpful Information**

- [What's new in the California Natural Resources Agency](#)
- [User's Guide for Grant Applicants and FAQ](#)
- [Questions or Comments?](#)
- [Information for State Employee Users](#)



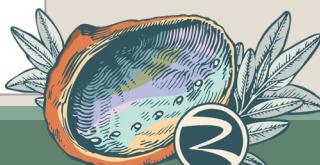


**RAPTR User's Guide for Grant Applicants and FAQ**

A brief guide to registering and submitting a grant proposal through the Resources Agency Project Tracking and Reporting system.

 CALIFORNIA  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
AGENCY

July 2025





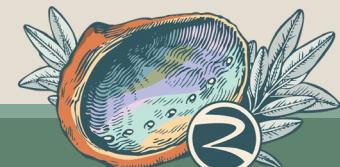
# When Submitting to RAPTR...

---

Please know that **Appendix C.2 of the Step 1 Application Form** requests the **same** information in RAPTR's required entry fields.

TNBS Staff Recommend all Applicants:

1. Read the Step 1 Application Form completely
2. Fill out the Step 1 Application Form, paying special attention to Appendix C.2
3. Copy & Paste text field into RAPTR's Required Fields



# Solicitation Key Dates

HERE

- Feb. 10, 2026: Informational Webinar
- Feb. 13, 2026: Solicitation Opens\*
- April 15, 2026: Step 1 Application and Escrow Ready Application due
- May 29, 2026: Invitation to Step 2
- Aug. 29, 2026: Step 2 Application Due
- Early September through Mid-October 2026: Step 3 Site Visits (if applicable)

*\*This is when RAPTR Submission portal will open and begin accepting application submissions. Applicants are welcome to begin preparing application materials as soon as guidelines are published.*



Redbud Blooms, CNRA HQ, Sacramento





Trinidad Beach, Humboldt County

Thank you for your time!  
Questions?



*Mt. Whitney Mountain Range, Fish Springs, Inyo County*

## ADDITIONAL SLIDES



# The Climate Bond: \$10B in Funding

Purpose	Allocation
Water – Drinking Water, Flood, Drought + Water Resilience	\$ 3,800,000,000
Wildfire + Forest Resilience Programs	\$ 1,500,000,000
Coastal Resilience Programs	\$ 1,200,000,000
Biodiversity Protection + NBS	\$ 1,200,000,000
Clean Air Programs	\$ 850,000,000
Park Creation + Outdoor Access Programs	\$ 700,000,000
Extreme Heat Mitigation	\$ 450,000,000
Climate-smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Farms, Ranches, and Working Lands	\$ 300,000,000
	Total \$ 10,000,000,000
	Allocations/Programs 102
	New Programs 22
	Existing Programs 80

At least 40% of Climate Bond Funds must go towards projects with direct benefits to: vulnerable populations and disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities.



# Eligible Project Activities: PLANNING

---

- ❖ Preparation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents
- ❖ Surveying and/or mapping of proposed project areas
- ❖ Development of site maps and implementation plans
- ❖ Obtaining project permits
- ❖ Preparing and delivering an outreach campaign targeted at adjacent landowners, tribes, community partners, etc.
- ❖ Developing restoration plans that can incorporate cultural activities to increase biodiversity, restore habitats and improve wildfire resiliency, forest health, and/or increase access to traditional foods and materials

*...see complete list in final TNBS Climate Bond Guidelines pg. 11*



# Eligible Project Activities: IMPLEMENTATION

---

- ❖ Construction of shovel-ready multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects will be funded up to the end of the funding expenditure period.
- ❖ These projects may include conservation and restoration initiatives, cultural burns, wildfire resilience, restoration management, or publicly beneficial access development. Please review the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and the Pathways to 30x30 Strategy for more ideas on multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects.
- ❖ Updating and renovating existing structures on acquired property to serve and support multi-benefit, nature-based solutions.
- ❖ Research and monitoring projects
- ❖ Outreach/education/community engagement activities

*...see complete list in final TNBS Climate Bond Guidelines pg. 12*



# Ineligible Project Activities

---

- ❖ Projects that do not serve tribes and/or tribal communities
- ❖ Projects that are not multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects
- ❖ Cash reserves, endowments, or fundraising activities (including applying to alternate grant programs. However, general grant-capacity building is an eligible cost)
- ❖ Purchasing options to purchase property (a purchase option is an eligible cost if the value is applied to the larger sale within the fair market value as part of an overall award)
- ❖ Ancestral land return projects for acquisitions above fair market value, even if the tribe is only seeking fair market value or less from the State

*...for more information see TNBS Climate Bond Guidelines pg. 12*

# New Allowable Activities: Development (cont'd.)

---

Acceptable development should include measures to reduce impacts to the environment, increase restoration and other nature-based solutions, and go above and beyond standard development mitigation measures. Additional examples of acceptable development include:

- Projects providing **workforce housing tied to a nature-based solution** (ex. summer work crews, fire crews, training, summer camps, environmental camps, stewardship activities, community center, etc.).
- Projects to support nature-based solutions **economic development opportunities** (ex. native plant nursery, camping, ecotourism, etc.).
- Projects rebuilding damaged or **retrofitting and enhancement of existing structures or roads/trails to support safe access**, nature-based solutions work, and proposed project activities.
- Projects building upon existing foundations for developments and structures that will support nature-based solutions work and proposed project activities.

*...see pg. 59-60 of the Final TNBS Climate Bond Grant Guidelines for more details*





Strap Ravine, Maidu Museum & Historic Site

# Scoring Rubrics: Step 1 & 2

---



# Step 1 Rubric

Goal of this rubric is to ensure project meets the statutory and programmatic requirements for overall eligibility.

NOT an evaluation of competitiveness.

*Please see final TNBS Grant Guidelines pg.45.*

## APPENDIX E: STEP 1 ELIGIBILITY CHECK & STEP 2 SCORING RUBRIC

### Step 1- Preliminary Project Proposal Eligibility Check

REVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_  
FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
SELECT PROJECT TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_ Acquisition / Planning / Implementation

Eligibility Questions	Circle	Comments or Questions
Is applicant a CA Native American tribe? If applicant is not a tribe, does the applicant provide a signed letter or resolution affirming partnership with a tribe?	Yes No N/A	
Does applicant provide a complete Step 1 Preliminary Project Proposal Application?	Yes No N/A	
Does applicant provide a willing seller letter (Appendix K)?	Yes No N/A	
Is proposed property acquisition located within the Tribe's ancestral territory?	Yes No N/A	
If within reservation or trust boundaries, does the applicant have authority and jurisdiction or support from entity with authority or jurisdiction over the reservation or trust property?	Yes No N/A	
Does the project description address plans for conservation in perpetuity?	Yes No N/A	
Does the project include nature-based solutions that align with Pathways to 30x30 and the Natural Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy?	Yes No N/A	
Does the project have a reasonably defined public access component?	Yes No N/A	
Recommendation to invite to Step 2 for Full Project Proposal Submission?	Yes No N/A	

Additional Comments:

# Step 2 Rubric

This rubric will be used to assess project competitiveness.

Please note scoring key as well as the scoring considerations for Ancestral Land Return, Planning, and Implementation Components.

*Please see final TNBS Grant Guidelines pg. 46-50.*

DRAFT TNBS Grant Guidelines – Tribal Consultation and Public Comment

## Step 2- Full Project Proposal Scoring Sheet

REVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_  
FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
SELECT PROJECT TYPE:      Acquisition / Planning / Implementation

**SELECT PROJECT TYPE:** Record total scored points and calculate percentage

Acquisition and Planning (100 points total) = Total/100 = \_\_\_\_\_ %  
Acquisition and Implementation (125 points total) = Total/120= \_\_\_\_\_ %  
Acquisition and Planning and Implementation= (150 points total) = Total/140= \_\_\_\_\_ %

*Final scoring percentages will be used to compare applications in a standardized approach across project types. CNRA staff will utilize quantified scoring percentages, total scores, and other relevant factors to ensure a fair distribution of funds. These factors include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution of funds, previous grant performance, the likelihood of successful project implementation, and feasibility to accept partial funding.*

**Instructions:** Reviewers are to award whole points. No half or partial points will be accepted.

### SCORING KEY

**Highly Satisfactory:** The applicant organization explicitly addresses criteria by providing comprehensive descriptions, thorough details, and examples. Relevant examples and data are included to support the information presented. The applicant organization demonstrates a strong understanding of the topic, and the level of detail reinforces each response clearly and how the project will be implemented.

**Satisfactory:** The applicant organization provides adequate descriptions and relevant details in addressing the criteria, but the response is not fully comprehensive. The applicant organization demonstrates a sound understanding of the topic and includes pertinent examples. It is possible to specify what makes the response better than acceptable but not up to the standards of outstanding.

**Moderately Satisfactory:** The applicant organization provides a basic response to the criteria but does not include enough detail or pertinent examples. Key descriptions, details, and examples are limited. The applicant organization does not effectively translate the requirements of the Guidelines into practice.

**Minimally Satisfactory:** The applicant organization provides minimal details and insufficient descriptions that do not completely address the criteria. Limited information is presented, or the applicant merely repeats information included in the Guidelines. The applicant may address part of the criteria but miss a key point or there are major gaps in the information presented.