

Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Draft Grant Guidelines Summary

Summary: Through last year's budget, \$70 million dollars was allocated to establish the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions program and fund tribal projects to advance multi-benefit and nature-based solutions. More information can be found at <https://resources.ca.gov/initiatives/tribalaffairs>

CNRA is respectfully requesting tribal consultation and public comment on the items below. If you would like to submit a public comment, please contact the California Natural Resources Agency at tribalaffairs@resources.ca.gov.

Eligible Applicants: California Native American tribes and tribally-led entities.

Eligible Projects: must advance multi-benefit nature-based solutions. Projects can either be (1) Planning, (2) Implementation, (3) Ancestral Land Return and Planning Project, or (4) Ancestral Land Return and Implementation Project. For Ancestral Land Return projects to be "multi-benefit" the project must have either a planning or implementation component and must be purchased for nature-based solutions purposes.

Process for Applying for Funds:

- Step 1: Preliminary project proposal stage where applicants can submit short preliminary project proposals to determine eligibility for the program. During this stage, applicants will be asked to provide a project summary and point of contact that will be posted on the TNBS website so tribes and the public can provide feedback, comments, concerns, and/or requests for collaboration.
- Step 2: Invited applicants can submit full project proposals.
- Step 3: Site visits and presentations on proposed projects.
- Step 4: Last opportunity to submit additional information.

Planning Project Priorities

- Activities to prepare applicants to apply for and qualify for future implementation funds for nature-based solutions projects.
- Activities to prepare applications for multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects, including securing permitting.
- TEK, scientific studies, baseline studies, monitoring, or other technical analyses.
- Capacity building activities to assist applicants to support the development, management, and implementation of NBS projects.

Implementation Project Priorities

- "Shovel ready" projects which have already undergone scoping and significant design, or which can be completed within two years of the of grant award.

Ancestral Land Return Priorities

- Purchase of property rights, cultural and/or conservation easements, water rights, or instream flows.
- Within current reservation boundaries and addresses "checkerboarding" issues.
- Directly adjacent to reservation or trust land boundaries.
- If in shared ancestral territories, that will be jointly owned and/or managed by inter-tribal consortium, collaborative, or partnership.
- Directly adjacent to conserved lands or coastal waters and improving habitat connectivity.
- Eligible, seeking, or have secure partial funding from other state, federal, tribal, or private funds and/or
- Contain sacred sites, burial grounds, or ceremonial locations and/or will be used for reburial of ancestors.
- If applicants are landless tribes or tribes with minimal lands (20 acres or less) in reacquiring ancestral lands for the very first time
- Returns or restores access to and cultivation of culturally significant natural resources and traditional foods to tribes and their members



Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Draft Associated Materials Summary

Tribal Natural Resources Council: Many tribes expressed support in consultation for the establishment of a Tribal Natural Resources Council or similar entity. CNRA would appreciate tribal consultation and public comment on the idea of establishing a similar council to support the Program's work.

Technical Expert Criteria: CNRA consulted with tribes on the selection criteria for the technical experts that would help review grant applications and help make determinations on funding. Below is a draft list of expertise Technical Experts should have:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Cultural resources, sacred sites, and cemeteries and burial grounds protection
- Reburial and repatriation of ancestral remains and funerary items
- Tribal and federal Indian law and policy
- Climate resiliency
- Natural working lands management
- Conservation and restoration with a lens of protecting biodiversity
- Property acquisitions
- Coast and ocean law and policy
- Grant administration

Public Listening Session: The California Natural Resources Agency will conduct online public listening session. More information can be found on our website at

<https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/tribalaffairs>.



Chairperson Thomas Torte of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and a California Conservation Corp representative planting native plants as part of a restoration project.

For questions or to request for a consultation, contact the California Natural Resources Agency at:

Email: tribalaffairs@resources.ca.gov

Website:

<https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/tribalaffairs>

