



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Regional Office  
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700  
Nashville, TN 37214

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
Trust Services Natural Resources

NOV 21 2016

Dear Tribal Leaders:

This letter is to inform you about the availability of funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Fisheries, Wildlife, and Parks Programs (FW&P). We expect to provide competitive and non-recurring project funding within four different program areas in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17):

1. Endangered species Program - The enclosed, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Endangered Species Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process, provides guidance for participation in this program.
2. Invasive Species Program - The enclosed, Bureau of Indian Affairs - Invasive Species (IS) Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process, provides guidance for participation in this Program.
3. Tribal Youth Initiative Program - The enclosed, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal youth Initiative (TYI) Program Ranking Criteria and Application Process, provides guidance for participation in this Program.
4. Hatchery Maintenance Program - The enclosed, Bureau of Indian Affairs Fish Hatchery Maintenance Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process, provides guidance for participation in this Program.

Proposals should be supported by a Tribal Resolution or letter from the appropriate Tribal leader endorsing the funding request. The deadline for receipt of the proposal is **January 17, 2017**. If you have any questions concerning this matter or require clarification, please contact Mr. Keith Bluecloud, Natural Resource Specialist, at (615) 564-6836, or email [Keith.Bluecloud@bia.gov](mailto:Keith.Bluecloud@bia.gov).

Sincerely,

Acting

Regional Director  
Eastern Region

Enclosures



# Bureau of Indian Affairs, Endangered Species Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

## **Applicant Eligibility Criteria**

Eligibility is limited to Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (Tribes and inter-tribal organizations authorized under P.L. 93-638).

## **Project Eligibility**

Successful applications will be limited to projects that are directly related to the restoration, management, and/or, economic development, of “tribal trust resources” (see Definitions below).

In addition to the above requirement, only projects meeting at least one of the following two criteria will be considered for funding:

1. Project involves species protected by the Endangered Species Act (as amended 1973) (ESA). This includes ESA Candidate species.
2. Project involves tribally important species and/or habitat(s) where such species or habitat(s) are identified in an official and approved tribal document, management plan, or Tribal Resolution that lists the tribally important species and/or habitat(s) and describes the tribal interest in focusing attention on those species/habitat(s).

The maximum funding request is \$150,000 per application. The funding request cannot include the tribal indirect rate.

An eligible entity can submit multiple applications.

The applicant must agree to annual reporting to the Regional BIA point of contact until the project is completed. Reports will be due by September 1, of each fiscal year. Reporting helps support future appropriations.

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- What objectives were achieved

## **Definitions**

Tribal Trust Resources - Those natural resources, either on or off Indian lands, retained by, or reserved by or for Indian tribes through treaties, statutes, judicial decisions, and executive orders, which are protected by a fiduciary obligation on the part of the U.S.

Required Project – A project that calls for the utilization of tribal trust resources as a source of revenue, and, that is also, REQUIRED to undergo *Section 7 consultation* per requirements of ESA. This includes activities required for compliance with a FWS or NMFS approved HCP designed to meet the mandates of ESA.

### **Ranking Criteria**

Priority consideration will be given to projects involving “tribal trust resources” (see Definition above) **in the context of economic enterprise/economic development, where such project also requires consultation with regulatory agencies per requirements of ESA.**

**Please explain how this project meets the “required” criteria. To receive priority consideration, it is up to the applicant to provide a convincing proposal for meeting “required” status (see definition above).**

Other ranking criteria include:

- The degree of benefit to species protected by the ESA (including ESA Candidate species).
- The degree of benefit to tribally important species and/or habitats that are listed in official and approved tribal documents, management plans, or Tribal Resolution where the tribal prerogative to focus attention on those species/habitats are clearly described.
- The degree of benefit to tribal trust resources (management plans, habitat assessments, habitat restoration, species recovery, etc).
- The degree to which the project meets the goals/objectives/requirements of approved tribal or federal/state planning documents.
- The extent to which a project engages tribal youth in natural resources management (play, learn, work, serve).

### **How to Apply**

Submit your proposal to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional office that services your area. **Proposals are due to your Regional office (address and contact info below) by close of business on January 17, 2017.**

Please submit a proposal in the following format. The proposal should clearly address both the eligibility and ranking criteria listed above and be **limited to six pages maximum (not including letters of support/contributions).**

- I. Introduction/Background – Name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.

- II. Goal/Objectives - What are the goals of the project? List measurable objectives that work towards achieving the project goals.
- III. Methodology – How you plan on accomplishing the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan where you are seeking funding for implementation.
- IV. Outcome/Results - What are the expected work products? What measurable benefits are expected? What is the expected timeline?
- V. Budget - Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- VI. Letters of support/contributions.



# Bureau of Indian Affairs - Invasive Species (IS) Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

## **Applicant Eligibility**

Eligibility is limited to Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (Tribes and inter-tribal organizations authorized under PL 93-638).

## **Project Eligibility**

*Successful applications will focus on the management/control of invasive species on tribal trust lands, individual Indian allotment lands, or in areas managed by tribes through treaties or agreements.*

Instead of focusing on the definition of “*Invasive Species*”, this Program will focus on the damage caused to Tribal Trust Resources and leave it up to the applicant to describe whether the species is “invasive” or represents an instance where a native species is behaving as an invasive species due to altered environmental conditions. This funding can cover all invasive species (plants/animals) outside of agricultural settings.

Invasive wildlife funding will focus on the following three focal areas.

- 1) (Participation) Funding would allow tribes to participate in local/regional/national forum and/or planning efforts where such collaborative efforts have been established, or would allow tribes to initiate a collaborative forum, task force, or management planning effort where none currently exist.
- 2) (Planning) Funding would provide for the development of planning/management documents and procedures to manage existing IS issues, or to develop procedures to prevent IS from impacting tribal trust resources where such species are not already established.
- 3) (Treatment) Funding would assist tribes in implementing management plans or other established protocols aimed at the control, management, or prevention of IS.

Funding requests can range from \$2,500 - \$250,000 per application. Proposals addressing more than one focal area can be combined into one proposal.

An eligible entity can submit multiple applications.

The applicant must agree to annual reporting to the Regional BIA point of contact until the project is completed. Reports will be due by September 1, of each fiscal year. Reporting helps support future appropriations.

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- What objectives were achieved

## Ranking Criteria

All projects should focus on alleviating or preventing IS impacts on tribal natural resources.

Eligible projects will be ranked according to the degree to which they meet the following criteria:

- The extent to which **collaboration** with other partners has been investigated/pursued
- The extent to which a proposal provides the most **cost effective** means of controlling or managing IS;
- The extent to which a project is **self-sustaining**; requiring little if any future funding for operations/ongoing management;
- The extent to which a management plan attempts to **eradicate** the IS, **reduce** the IS to the lowest level possible, or prevent the invasion of IS;
- The degree of **benefit to native species** and other tribal natural resources;
- The degree of **benefit to tribally important species and/or habitats** that are listed in official and approved tribal documents, management plans, or Tribal Resolution;
- The degree to which the project meets the goals/objectives/requirements of approved tribal or federal/state **planning documents**;
- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates an awareness and **ability to achieve environmental compliance** (NEPA, ESA) and other permitting requirements;
- The degree of **cost-sharing and partnerships** (include letter of support);
- The extent to which a project **engages tribal youth** in natural resources management (play, learn, work, serve).

*All projects must focus on the reduction of invasive species populations to the lowest levels practicable. There will be no consideration for maintenance of populations, especially for feral horse and pig populations. BIA will not fund projects with long-term (greater than 30 days) holding, maintaining, or otherwise providing care for feral animals in holding pens or other enclosures.*

*This funding source is non-recurring. Thus, the goals of any proposed project should not rely on future funding.*

## How to Apply

Submit your proposal to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional office that services your area. **Proposals are due to your Regional office (contact info below) by close of business on January 17, 2017.**

Please submit a proposal in the following format. The proposal should clearly address the ranking criteria listed above and be limited to six pages maximum (not including letters of support/contributions).



- I. Introduction/Background – Name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.
- II. Goal/Objectives - What are the goals of the project? List measurable objectives that work towards achieving the project goals.
- III. Methodology – How you plan on accomplishing the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan where you are seeking funding for implementation.
- IV. Outcome/Results - What are the expected work products? What measurable benefits are expected? What is the expected timeline?
- V. Budget - Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- VI. Letters of support/contributions.



## Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Youth Initiative (TYI) Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

### Program Information

Initiative funding will be distributed on a competitive basis to tribes and inter-tribal organizations for the support and development of tribal youth programs focused on science in line with conservation and resource management. The programs will provide opportunities for youth to become engaged in the field of natural resource management and foster their interest in pursuing educational opportunities and a career in natural resources management.

### Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (Tribes and inter-tribal organizations authorized under PL 93-638).

### Project Eligibility

*Successful applications will focus on promoting native youth interest in natural resources management including opportunities for careers in natural resources.*

Funding requests can range from \$2,000 - \$70,000 per application.

The applicant must agree to annual reporting to the Regional BIA point of contact until the project is completed. Reports will be due by September 1, of each fiscal year. Reporting helps support future appropriations.

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- What objectives were achieved

### Ranking Criteria

All projects should focus on providing mechanisms whereby tribal youth (ages up to and including 25) are encouraged to work towards careers in the field of natural resources. Projects are strongly encouraged to provide mentoring for upcoming students or to assist current students in “staying the course”.

Eligible projects will be ranked according to the degree to which they meet the following criteria:

- The extent to which a project **engages tribal youth** in natural resources management (number/age of youth, and the degree to which the material will excite the imagination or otherwise support tribal youth on a career path in natural resources)
  - provides hands-on resource management activities
  - addresses recognized local resource management issues
  - addresses recognized broad-scale resource management issues
  - demonstrates inter-disciplinary approach to resource management
  - accomplishes meaningful resource conservation/management results

- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that participant safety is a priority. The applicant must assume responsibility for working with tribal youth and demonstrate that all participants will be provided a safe learning environment. **This criterion must be addressed in the applicants' proposal.** Describe steps taken to insure a safe environment (ex- mentor/student ratio, supervision, past experience, accreditation).
- The extent to which **collaboration** with other partners has been investigated/pursued so as to maximize resources and partner participation (include letter of support for partnerships)
- The extent to which a proposal provides a **cost effective** means of encouraging tribal youth in careers in natural resources
- Ability to **provide reports** that highlight project successes (Sept. of each year)

### How to Apply

Please submit a proposal in the following format. **The proposal should clearly address the eligibility and ranking criteria listed above and should not exceed six pages maximum** (not including letters of support/contributions).

- I. Introduction/Background – Name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.
- II. Goal/Objectives - What are the goals of the project? List measurable objectives that work towards achieving the project goals.
- III. Methodology – How you plan on accomplishing the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan where you are seeking funding for implementation.
- IV. Outcome/Results - What are the expected work products? What measurable benefits are expected? What is the expected timeline?
- V. Budget - Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- VI. Letters of support/contributions.

Submit your proposal to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional office that services your area. **Proposals are due to your Regional office (contact info below) by close of business on January 16, 2017.**

## Bureau of Indian Affairs – Hatchery Maintenance Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

### Definitions

1. Eligible Fish Hatchery. Any multi-purpose or single-purpose facility, owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or a Federally-recognized tribe, engaged in the spawning, hatching, rearing, holding, caring for, or stocking of fish and/or shellfish. Facilities owned by other federal agencies, states and non-tribal entities are not eligible to receive maintenance funds.
2. Maintenance. Work that is required to prolong the life of a structure, building or other facility component, including: delay of physical deterioration; enhancing original function; applying new technological advances; or replacing or acquiring associated capitalized equipment.

### Ranking Criteria

1. Health, Safety and Security. Project merits in eliminating hazardous working conditions, correcting safety and security problems, and protecting property.
2. Water Quality. Project merits in ensuring compliance with applicable effluent discharge standards.
3. Economic Value. Project merits related to the development of tribal resource management capabilities, creation of jobs for tribal members, generation of tribal income, and development of tribal self-sufficiency and reservation economies. Project merits in assisting tribes to develop their fisheries management expertise and capabilities, and to reduce their dependence on Federal fisheries assistance programs. Project merits in benefiting more than one tribe and relatively many tribal members.
4. Rights Protection. Project merits in protecting the exercise of Indian fishing rights, and in fulfilling tribal resource management responsibilities and commitments resulting from court order, statute, treaty, or other binding instrument.
5. Resource Value. Project merits in restoring, mitigating for, or otherwise enhancing depleted stocks and other stocks or significance, notably, anadromous salmonids, Great Lakes stocks, and species listed as threatened and endangered.
6. Tribal Youth. Project merits in providing summer employment or other positive learning experience to tribal youth (ages up to and including 25). The focus should be on tribal youth interested in careers in natural resources. Youth positions should be viewed as both a source of labor and as an opportunity to mentor tribal youth; maximizing their potential in pursuing an education and/or career in natural resources management. The seasonal hiring of tribal youth will be an allowable expenditure for hatchery maintenance funding.

### Procedures and Products

Bureau-wide application of the definitions and criteria presented will facilitate project priority comparisons between facilities and areas, and allow for the establishment of a meaningful national project ranking system. Two standard forms will be used.

Facility Description. Complete an attached Facility Description form for each eligible facility for which funds are requested.

Maintenance Project Proposal. Utilize the attached Maintenance Project Proposal form and the attached ranking criteria to describe and rank each proposed project. Categorize individual project merits associated with each of the five ranking criteria as high, moderate or low, and provide additional supporting justification in the spaces provided. Use one form for each individual proposed project. Do not combine individual projects for a given hatchery on a single form unless absolutely required because of their interrelated nature. Ensure that all recommended projects adhere to the definition of maintenance established herein. On a separate sheet, provide a summary listing, in priority order, of all maintenance projects/costs recommended for tribes and hatchery facilities in your area.

Facility Description forms, Maintenance Project Proposal forms and respective summary listing of maintenance project rankings should be transmitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional office that services your area (contact info below). **Application materials are due to your Regional office (address provided below) by close of business on January 16, 2017.**

### HATCHERY FACILITY DESCRIPTION FORM

(Respond to each item noting non-applicability or unavailability of information if appropriate. Use additional sheets if necessary).

Hatchery name:

Hatchery location: Reservation: \_\_\_\_\_ State:

Hatchery operator: \_\_\_\_\_ Water source:

Year(s) when constructed: \_\_\_\_\_ Year operations began:

Authorization(s) and funding sources(s) for hatchery construction:

Estimated total investment in all hatchery facilities and equipment:

Current operations funding source(s):

Ownership status of hatchery and land upon which hatchery is situated:

Number of tribes whose members derive benefits from hatchery products:

Non-Indian entities who derive benefits from hatchery products:

Assessment of contributions of hatchery products to Indian and Non-Indian fisheries and economies:

Current fish species worked with:

Hatchery production capacities and current target production levels by species (Note and explain any differences between hatchery capabilities and current target levels):

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

### HATCHERY MAINTENANCE PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Hatchery Name:

Project Description:

Project Cost:

Project Ranking: Number: \_\_\_\_\_ of a total of: \_\_\_\_\_ recommended projects in area

Project Merits vis-à-vis established ranking criteria:

<u>Ranking Criterion</u>	<u>Relative value</u>		
	<u>High</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Low</u>
Health, safety and security	_____	_____	
Water quality	_____	_____	
Economic value	_____	_____	
Rights Protection	_____	_____	
Resource value	_____	_____	

Supporting justification for project and project ranking:

Prepared by: