

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).

Successful applicants **must commit to providing an annual report to the Regional BIA point-of- contact (listed below) by September 1st of each year until the project is completed.**

Reports should include:

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- Objective achievement

A final report to your Regional Bureau contact (listed below) is required within 90 days of project completion. Reporting helps support future appropriations.

Proposal Eligibility

- **Proposals must provide the contact information for the Tribal project manager overseeing the project. Failure to provide this information will result in disqualification.**
- **Proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. Tribal indirect rate is drawn from a separate account and should be requested at budget development meetings with BIA contracting officials (if selected for funding).**
- **All proposals must be signed (at a minimum) by the equivalent of the Director of Natural Resources to signify that the Tribe is aware of the funding and program requirements.**

Project Eligibility

- Participants are encouraged to utilize the 638 contract in order to facilitate reporting and support of FW&R program funding.
- 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 those projects that meet at least one of the following two criteria will be considered for funding:

1. Projects involving species protected by the Endangered Species Act (as amended 1973) (ESA). This includes ESA Candidate species.
2. Projects involving 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).

3. The maximum funding request is \$120,000 per application. The funding request cannot include the tribal indirect rate.
4. An eligible entity may submit multiple applications.

Definitions

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

Required Project – a project that calls for the utilization of tribal trust resources, and is also REQUIRED to undergo *Section 7 consultation* per requirements of ESA. This includes activities required for compliance with a FWS or NMFS approved Habitat Conservation Plan designed to comply with 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.**

Applicants must explain how their project meets the “required” criteria. To receive priority consideration applicants must submit 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.
- Ability to **provide reports** that highlight project successes by September 1 each year.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society: BIA encourages tribal membership in the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS). For more than 35 years, the NAFWS has addressed the needs of its member tribes, through conferences, training, youth education, and assisting tribal efforts to build capacity and services. The NAFWS enriches tribes through its mission: Assisting Native American and Alaska Native tribes with conserving, protecting, and enhancing their fish, wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources. **Membership in the NAFWS is an allowable budget item** (one membership for a two-year period. See www.nafws.org). Further, successful applicants who are confirmed speakers at NAFWS events may be eligible for reimbursement of travel costs (per diem) by BIA.

How to Apply

Proposals should be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional office (**address and contact info below**) by **close of business on January 13, 2023**.

Proposals should be submitted in the format detailed below and should clearly address both the eligibility and ranking criteria listed above. Proposals are **limited to six pages (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 to accomplish the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan by which 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 – Need a detailed line item expenditure breakdown. Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- VI. Letters of support/contributions.

Kimberly Bouchard, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214