

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 P.L. 93-638).

Successful applicants **must commit to provide annual reporting to the Regional BIA point-of- contact (listed below) by September 1 of each year until the project completion.**

Reports should include:

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- Objectives achieved

Additionally, please submit a final report to your Regional Bureau contact (listed below) 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.**
- **The proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. *Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate account and should be requested at the time you develop the budget with BIA, contracting officials (if selected for funding).***
- **Proposals calling for the capture, holding, or removal of feral or wild animals must be approved by Tribal Resolution**
 - **All other proposals must be signed (at a minimum) by the equivalent of the Director of Natural Resources. This is to help ensure the Tribe is aware of the project.**

Project Eligibility

- Encourage 638 contract - this facilitates reporting and support of FW&R program funding.

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 to the discretion of the applicant to describe whether the species is “invasive” or represents an instance in which 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 noxious weeds in agricultural settings.

Invasive wildlife funding will focus on the following three areas.

- 1) **Planning** funding would allow tribes to participate in local/regional/national forums and/or planning efforts by which 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) **Prevention** funding would provide for the development of planning/management documents and or develop/implement procedures to prevent IS from impacting tribal trust resources where such species are not already established.
- 3) **Implementation** 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 focus area may be combined into one proposal.

An eligible entity can submit multiple applications.

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 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 Resolutions;
- 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);
- Ability to **provide reports** that highlight project successes (by Sept. 1st of 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 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 to for reimbursement of travel costs (per diem) by BIA.

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 swine 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 Regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, **Proposals are due (contact info below) by close of business on January 13, 2023.**

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

Please submit a proposal in the following format:

- 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 in 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.

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