



# United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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## USET Resolution No. 2015:022

### **AUTHORIZATION FOR USET TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** USET was established to represent united interests and to promote common welfare and benefits of member Tribes, and for purposes that include reaffirming commitments to the treaties and agreements entered into by Tribes with the Federal government, reciprocity of government-to-government relationships, and protection of Tribal natural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** natural resource programs are of critical importance to USET member Tribes, particularly in program areas that include, but are not limited to, agriculture, climate change adaptation and mitigation, conservation, cultural resource protection, emergency preparedness and response, energy development, human health and environmental protection, and sustainable communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has a trust responsibility to federally recognized Tribes derived from historical relationships, treaties, agreements, and federal Indian law; and
- WHEREAS,** certain federal programs and Congressional appropriations are dedicated to the support of Tribal program capacity development and management of land and natural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** federal agencies endeavor to carry out the trust responsibilities by working directly with Tribal governments as sovereigns, thereby promoting capacity development and Tribal regulatory authority within their jurisdictions, and facilitating greater Tribal control and management of their lands and natural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** funding for Tribal natural resource programs should be treated by federal agencies as necessary to fulfill trust obligations, and therefore should not be considered as discretionary funding; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Natural Resources Committee has identified the following federal agencies and programs that support Tribal natural resource management programs:
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indian Environmental General Assistance Program;
  - EPA Clean Water Act Section Sec. 106, Sec. 319; Clean Air Act Sec. 103 and Sec. 105; and Safe Drinking Water Act;
  - EPA Multimedia Tribal Implementation Grants Program;

- EPA, Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Transportation Programs Supporting Sustainable Communities;
- Health and Human Services (Indian Health Service) Operation and Maintenance Funding for Tribal Public Water Systems;
- Department of Energy: Office of Indian Energy Programs;
- Department of Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs): Natural Resource Management; Water Management, Planning and Pre-Development Programs; and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Programs;
- Department of Agriculture (USDA) Programs Supporting Indian Agriculture, Conservation, Food Security, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, and Sustainable Communities;
- Homeland Security Programs Supporting Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Tribal Disaster Declarations;
- Department of Commerce (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Climate Data and Information Programs; and

**WHEREAS,** the USET Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM) collaborates and partners with other organizations, such as the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Association of Boards of Certification, EPA Tribal Partnership Groups (Tribal Operations Committees and media specific associations, e.g. National Tribal Water Council), Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, National Congress of American Indians, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and Rural Community Assistance Partnership, as a means to further OERM capabilities to provide technical and other services to USET member Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors authorizes USET to pursue federal funding opportunities that support capacity and program development, technical assistance and training, engagement with federal agencies, and member Tribes assuming greater control and management of their lands and natural resources; and be it further

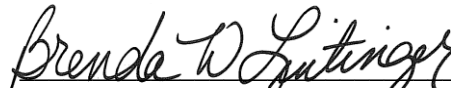
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls for the United States Congress to appropriate adequate funding to fulfill trust obligations and to support Tribal self-determination and greater Tribal control and management of lands and natural resources.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.



Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*