



# USET

**Nashville TN Office**  
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Ste. 100  
Nashville TN 37214  
P: (615) 872-7900  
F: (615) 872-7417

**Washington DC Office**  
400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585  
Washington DC 20001  
P: (202) 624-3550  
F: (202) 393-5218

## USET Resolution No. 2017:003

### **AUTHORIZATION 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 Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors adopted a Long-Term Strategic Plan (LTSP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to FY 2021 with an overarching purpose to "uphold, protect, and advance Tribal sovereignty and nation rebuilding through capacity-building, organization/government development, technical assistance, advocacy, partnership, and resource development that improves the quality of life and overall wellbeing of Indian people;" and
- WHEREAS,** USET adopted a "strategic goal to advance Tribal sovereignty and realize self-determination for its Tribal Nations, coupled with the purpose of its programs and services are grounded in Native culture and heritage, and consider the impact to the entire community ecosystem;" and
- WHEREAS,** the USET LTSP articulated a strategic direction defined by three primary programs and services objectives which are Nation Rebuilding; Uphold, Protect, and Advance Sovereignty; and Leadership Development; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET LTSP established a strategic fund development strategy to secure diverse financial resources, support program growth and efficiency, and build networks of partners with resources to achieve USET goals and objectives; and
- WHEREAS,** natural resource programs are of critical importance to USET member Tribal Nations and a programmatic core competency of the organization, particularly in areas that include, but are not limited to, agriculture and food sovereignty, climate change adaptation and mitigation, conservation, cultural resource protection, emergency preparedness and response, energy development, human health and environmental protection, and healthy economies and sustainable communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has a trust responsibility to federally recognized Tribal Nations derived from historical relationships, treaties, agreements, and federal Indian law; and federal agencies endeavor to carry out trust responsibilities and obligations by working directly with Tribal governments and authorized Tribal organizations to support capacity development to assert greater control, management, and protection of Tribal lands and natural resources; and


- WHEREAS,** the USET Natural Resources Committee and USET Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM) have identified the following federal agencies and programs as vital to support Tribal Nations' natural resource management programs:
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indian Environmental General Assistance Program;
  - EPA Clean Water Act Sections 106, 319; Clean Air Act Sections 103, 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,** federal agencies should designate funding for Tribal natural resource programs as mandatory rather than discretionary funding, and treat program funding as essential to fulfill federal trust obligations; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET 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), 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 assistance and training, and other services to USET member Tribal Nations; 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 the USET staff to pursue federal funding opportunities that support capacity and program development, technical assistance and training, engagement with federal agencies, and member Tribal Nations assuming greater control and management of their lands and natural resources; and, be it further

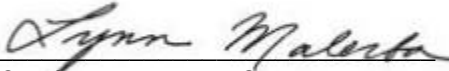
*Because there is Strength in Unity*

**RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors calls upon 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 9, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Kirk Francis, Sr., President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.