

Science and American Indians Information Distribution

National EPA–Tribal Science Council • Volume 3 • March 2011



Welcome to the National EPA–Tribal Science Council (TSC) newsletter. I serve as the Tribal Co-chair and I am a member of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. For the past 16 years, I have worked as the Tribe's Environmental Area Manager.

As a manager of environmental programs and professional staff,

I have seen firsthand the growth of quality, science-based programming that is taking place across the country. Tribes have the local knowledge and the sovereign right, and they are developing the science to best manage and protect our resources.

In January, the TSC initiated a tribally driven 6-month effort to identify Tribal Science Priorities of national significance. We have developed objectives and criteria to narrow and prioritize potential priorities. During the month of March, we will be visiting Regional Tribal Operations Committees (RTOCs) to further expand our dialogue on the identification of national Tribal Science Priorities. The result will be a list of Tribal Science Priorities, identified with input from all the RTOCs, supported and approved by EPA and the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC), and that will include implementation plans and evaluation measures.

Thank you for your participation in this national priority setting process.

Jeffrey M. Mears, MPA
Tribal Co-chair of the National EPA– Tribal Science Council

Tribal Science Priorities Key Dates

January 2011

- Tribal Science Priorities launch date.

March 2011

- March 9, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. EST: Webinar on Tribal Science Priorities process and timeline.
- March 10, 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. EST: Webinar on Tribal Science Priorities process and timeline.
- The TSC engages with stakeholders during the 60-day review and input period.

April 2011

- April 1: Tribal Science Priority templates due.

June 2011

- Selection of Tribal Science Priorities.

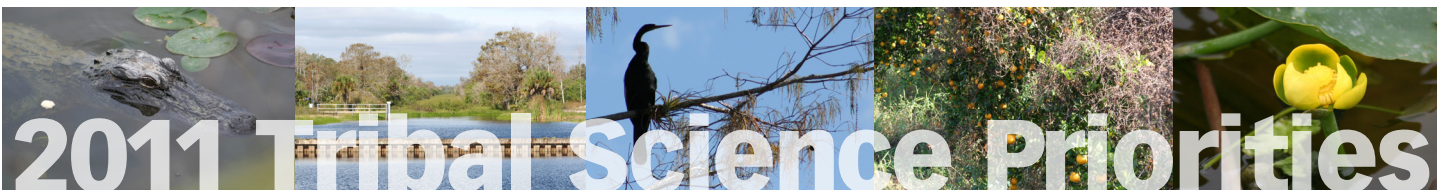
July 2011

- Roll out of Tribal Science Priorities at annual NTOC meeting.



Inside the 2011 Tribal Science Priorities Process

To obtain the complete Tribal Science Priorities Framework package, visit the American Indian Tribal Portal and Science in Indian Country Web sites found at: <http://www.epa.gov/tribalportal/> and <http://www.epa.gov/osp/tribes/tribes.htm>.



Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Objectives for selecting Tribal Science Priorities should accomplish at least one of the following:

- Contribute to science that is Tribal and Alaska Native specific and advances the field of Tribal environmental research.
- Provide methods to understand and address Tribal and Alaska Native environmental issues, inclusive of smaller populations.
- Foster a new generation of Tribal and Alaska Native researchers and scientists.

Criteria for selecting Tribal Science Priorities should address:

- Does the potential priority have national or regional implications?
- What is its impact on Tribal and Alaska Native sovereign rights?
- How will the Tribal Science Priority assist Tribal and Alaska Native populations, including sensitive populations? How can the Tribal Science Priority be tangibly implemented in Tribal and Alaska Native communities?
- How can the Tribal Science Priority be measured in terms of products and outcomes?
- Does the Tribal Science Priority provide opportunities to create and form partnerships and/or increase Tribal and Alaska Native capacity?

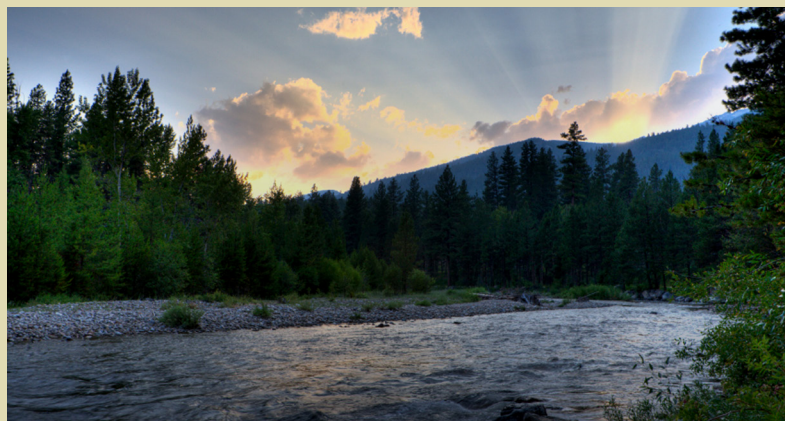
Join Us for the Tribal Science Priorities Webinars

The TSC will host two Tribal Science Priorities Webinars in early March. The purpose of these Webinars is to introduce the Tribes to the new process for identifying Tribal Science Priorities in Indian country and assist them with the completion and submittal of their Tribal Science Priorities template.

Each Webinar will be 90 minutes long. The first 30 minutes will be spent discussing the process, the timeline, and how to complete and submit the electronic template. The remaining 60 minutes will be reserved for questions and answers from our Tribal partners and stakeholders. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about the process, the ranking and selection of priorities, and submittal of the electronic Tribal Science Priorities template. A small group of TSC members will be available to participate in both Webinars to answer your questions.

Wednesday, March 9, 2011, from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. EST
Webinar link: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/177951251>
Call in number 866-299-3188/Conference ID# 2025648322#.

Thursday, March 10, 2011, 2:00–3:30 p.m. EST
Webinar link: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/383246682>
Call in number 866-299-3188/Conference ID# 2025648322#.



Submitting Tribal Science Priorities Template

Step 1: Apply Tribal Science Priority goals, objectives, and evaluation and selection criteria.

Step 2: Complete the electronic Tribal Science Priority template (contact your TSC Tribal representative if you need assistance).

Step 3: Submit completed Tribal Science Priority template by **April 1, 2011**.