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PROJECT SUMMARY

The Tribal Water Quality Data Roadmap tool helps tribes submit their water quality data to the Water Quality eXchange (WQX). A tribe answers six questions about their existing and future work. Based on their answers, the tool creates a customized guide for a tribe to use to collect and share water quality monitoring data.

PROJECT LEADS

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TRIBAL WATER QUALITY DATA ROADMAP

"Data is Our Legacy"

Accomplishments

The Roadmap project sparked not only the development of the Roadmap tool but also the creation of new, easy-to-understand, WQX training documents and videos. The shared governance model provided tribes and U.S. EPA the opportunity to work together to address a common need. The Roadmap tool was released late 2016 and can be found on the WQX/STORET webpage at www.epa.gov/storet under the "Learn More" tab.

In addition to creating a custom guide to share water quality data with EPA, the tool calculates summary statistics and plots graphs of a tribe's existing data in WQX using web services. This provides a tribe an opportunity to:

- View their previous submissions;
- Be more consistent with reporting water quality results; and
- Identify quality assurance issues in the data to promote quality data submissions.

Goals

1. Recognize that good water quality data is the legacy of any tribal program and assist in helping that data be the basis of better environmental decisions.
2. Create a roadmap for tribes to develop and deliver water quality monitoring data even during times of staff turnover.

Resources

Using a shared governance approach consisting of regional and tribal partners, the team was able to develop a simple spreadsheet tool that could be used by the tribes.