

Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Draft Grant Guidelines Summary for Tribal Leaders

Summary: Through last year's Nature-Based Solutions trailer bill, \$70 million dollars was allocated to establish TBNS and fund projects to support tribal programs and activities which advance multi-benefit and nature-based solutions. More information can be found at <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/tribalaffairs>

CNRA is respectfully requesting consultation with tribes on the items below. If you are interested, please contact Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs Geneva E. B. Thompson at Geneva.Thompson@resources.ca.gov or 279-203-7599.

Eligible Projects: must advance multi-benefit nature-based solutions.

Projects can either be (1) Planning, (2) Implementation, or (3) Ancestral Land Return. For Ancestral Land Return projects to be "multi-benefit" the project must have either a planning or implementation component and the property must be purchased for nature-based solutions purposes.

Process for Applying for Funds:

- Step 1: Preliminary project proposal stage where applicants can submit short preliminary project proposals to determine eligibility for the program.
- Step 2: Invited applicants can submit full project proposals.
- Step 3: Site visits and presentations on proposed projects.
- Step 4: Last opportunity to submit additional information, as requested, before final decisions are made.

Planning Project Priorities

- Activities to prepare applicants to apply for and qualify for future implementation funds for nature-based solutions projects.
- Activities to prepare applications for multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects, including securing permitting.
- TEK, scientific studies, monitoring, or other technical analyses.
- Capacity building activities to assist applicants to support the development, management, and implementation of NBS projects.

Implementation Project Priorities

- Shovel ready projects (ie. 25% or less of the requested grant funding will be used for planning, permitting, or administrative costs.)

Ancestral Land Return Priorities

- Purchase of fee property, conservation easements, water rights, or instream flows.
- Within current reservation boundaries and addresses "checkerboarding" issues.
- Directly adjacent to reservation or trust land boundaries.
- If in shared ancestral territories, that will be jointly owned and/or managed by inter-tribal consortium, collaborative, or partnership.
- Directly adjacent to conserved lands or coastal waters and improving habitat connectivity.
- Eligible, seeking, or have secure partial funding from other state, federal, tribal, or private funds and/or
- Contain sacred sites, burial grounds, or ceremonial locations and/or will be used for reburial of ancestors.



Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Draft Associated Materials Summary for Tribal Leaders

Tribal Natural Resources Council: Many tribes expressed support in consultation for the establishment of a Tribal Natural Resources Council or similar entity. CNRA would appreciate the opportunity to consult on the idea of establishing a similar council to support the Program's work.

Technical Expert Criteria: CNRA consulted with tribes on the selection criteria for the technical experts that would help review grant applications and help make determinations on funding. Below is a draft list of expertise Technical Experts should have:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Cultural resources, sacred sites, and cemeteries and burial grounds protection
- Reburial and repatriation of ancestral remains and funerary items
- Tribal and federal Indian law and policy
- Climate resiliency
- Natural working lands management
- Conservation and restoration with a lens of protecting biodiversity
- Property acquisitions
- Coast and ocean law and policy
- Grant administration

Regional Collaboration: Many tribes and non-tribal land conservancies have asked for support to establish a process to encourage regional collaborations. CNRA would appreciate the opportunity to consult on the idea of establishing a "sister land conservancy" program to identify non-tribal land conservancies who would like to volunteer to serve as a partner to tribes looking for support in ancestral land return and/or wishing to establish their own conservancies.

Workshops: CNRA will host online and in-person workshops to go over the grant application process. More information to come soon.



Chairperson Thomas Torte of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and a California Conservation Corp representative planting native plants as part of a restoration project.

For questions or to request for a consultation, contact the California Natural Resources Agency at:

Phone: 279-203-7599

Email: Geneva.Thompson@resources.ca.gov

Website: <https://tribalaffairs.ca.gov/>

