

FY 2024 Request for Applications from Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 Funding Opportunity Number EPA-OW-OWOW-24-01

Selected Project Summaries:

Selections for the New Applicant Set-aside:

Tribe: Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux

Rank: New Tribe Set-Aside 1

Project Title: Tribes will install cattle control fence and conduct water quality sampling at the Manning Lake Wildlife Refuge

Proposed Activities: The Fort Peck Office of Environmental Protection (OEP) is applying for competitive grant funding from the EPA to install exclusion fencing to enforce a rotational grazing plan and develop and 9-element watershed plan for Manning Lake watershed in response to nonpoint source (NPS) pollution resulting from overgrazing on the Manning Lake Tribal Wildlife Refuge. The Tribal Wildlife Refuge (The Refuge), located on the Fort Peck Reservation in northeast Montana is dominated by woody wetland habitat and is designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area as it provides essential habitat for many species of birds, including some listed as endangered, threatened, or species of concern. Traditionally, Refuge lands have been used for hunting, fishing, gathering, grazing, haying and some dryland farming. Though designated a Tribal Wildlife Refuge in 2005, the management goal of the Refuge is one of natural resource stewardship in unison with cultural harvesting practices. Over time fencing on the Refuge has deteriorated and the presence of overgrazing cattle has led to decreased vegetation, soil compaction, water contamination, and the disturbance of primary wildfowl and migrating bird habitat. It is anticipated that the proposed cattle exclusion fence BMP will result in increased vegetation coverage, decreased soil compaction, and decreased surface water runoff leading to reductions in pollutant loadings and sedimentation and improved bird nesting habitat. Development of a 9-element Manning Lake watershed plan will allow OEP staff to employ a whole watershed approach to improving water quality in Manning Lake and surrounding wetlands.

Tribe: Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

Rank: New Tribe Set-Aside 2

Project Title: Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma: Mitigating Nonpoint Source Pollution Through Soil Conservation and Carbon Capture

Proposed Activities: The Pawnee Nation NPS Pollution Reduction Project aims to address the critical issue of agricultural runoff impacting water quality in the Black Bear Creek watershed, situated within Pawnee Nation Reservation. Agricultural activities, particularly conventional tillage, have led to significant soil erosion, sediment discharge, and nutrient pollution in the watershed, adversely affecting the water quality of Black Bear Creek.

Tribe: Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head

Rank: New Tribe Set-Aside 3

Project Title: Mitigate Tribal Housing Authority Drainage Issues

Proposed Activities: The anticipated environmental *outputs* are (1) Surveying points, installation of a water retention device, stabilization of embankment, (2) Staff administration and contractor support towards mitigating drainage issues in Tribal Housing and (3) 1.5 acres of habitat restored.

Tribe: Washoe Tribe of CA and NV

Rank: New Tribe Set-Aside 4

Project Title: Restoration of Carson River on Stewart Ranch Trust Lands: Phase 1

Proposed Activities: Washoe Environmental Protection Department (WEPD) has completed multiple watershed planning efforts which identify the Carson River on Stewart Ranch as a restoration priority that has greater potential for success due to the lack of housing development near the river and the protection of the riparian corridor from livestock. Based on the costs of recent streambank stabilization work near Cradlebaugh Bridge on US 395, the effort to stabilize riverbanks and restore the riparian forest on Stewart Ranch will likely cost about two million dollars. Twenty years ago the WEPD began this effort with limited funding sources and implemented two of six identified projects. Now there are more funding sources available to tribes to implement riverbank stabilization and riparian forest restoration projects. WEPD plans to implement a multiple phase approach over several years with multiple funding partners.

Remaining Selections based on Rank Order:

Applicant: Lummi Tribe

Rank: 1

Project Title: Cavanaugh Phase 2 South Fork Nooksack River Restoration

Proposed Activities: Lummi Nation will restore instream habitat in the South Fork (SF) Nooksack River, in Skagit County, WA. The goal is to restore SF Nooksack early Chinook spawning, rearing and holding habitat to recover self-sustaining runs to harvestable levels by addressing limiting factors of temperature, habitat diversity, and lack of key habitat. This project is needed to address a major pre-spawn mortality of over 2,500 adult SF Chinook due to high water temperatures, poor instream habitat, and low flows in September 2021. The project will use engineered log jams (ELJs) modeled after historical SF log jams to restore geomorphic and habitat-forming processes. Funding will be used to construct 14 ELJs, 4 habitat structures and plant 7.3 riparian acres.

Applicant: San Carlos Apache Tribe

Rank: 2

Project Title: BMPs to reduce sediment loading and replace removed riparian vegetation at three Talkalai Lake beaches

Proposed Activities: Talkalai Lake is the most popular recreational waterbody on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Talkalai Lake has three main beach areas that are accessed by off-road vehicles, often to the edge of the lake shoreline since there are no parking areas, only barren shorelines with removed vegetation. Sediment transport to the lake is hard to measure during intense storms, but is very evident in the ephemeral channels throughout the three beach area sites that lead from the eroded upper riparian area and shoreline into the lake. Another water quality indicator of sediment loading to Talkalai Lake during stormwater runoff is the 100%+ embeddedness in the lake water substrate at each of the three lake beach sites. Although two of the tree beaches have boat ramps, the primarily recreational activities are wading and swimming. The main objectives of this application are to implement stabilizing and restorative low-impact stormwater BMP measures of eliminated vehicle access to lake shorelines through designated parking areas, reduced sediment loading to lake waters during stormwater runoff through replanted native grasses, and lake shoreline stabilization through native riparian tree planting.

Applicant: Nez Perce Tribe

Rank: 3

Project Title: Lapwai Creek and Spring Creek Wetland Restoration Project

Proposed Activities: Several restoration projects have been completed in the greater Lapwai Creek watershed over the past several years by divisions within the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT or Tribe). The NPT Water Resources Division (WRD) is proposing implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) at sites in the HUC 12 Upper Lapwai Creek (ULC) and Lower Lapwai Creek (LLC) watersheds that will complement the watershed scale approach addressed by previous projects. Lapwai Creek, an unnamed perennial tributary, Spring Creek, and adjacent wetlands will be the focus of this project. Livestock fencing (both new and repaired), riparian planting, Large woody debris (LWD) inputs, and beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will be implemented in the effort to reduce macronutrient and bacterial inputs into Lapwai Creek watershed and, thus the Clearwater River. In addition, these efforts within Reservation boundaries aim to increase habitat heterogeneity, decrease stream temperatures, and raise the local water table to benefit all organisms. Specifically crucial to the NPT are culturally important tule (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) that are gathered in wetlands and salmon that spawn and are reared in streams of the Lapwai Creek Watershed.

Applicant: Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (South Fork Band)

Rank: 4

Project Title: FY2025 NPS Competitive Proposal

Proposed Activities: The proposed on-the-ground nonpoint source watershed project has been developed to stabilize an unstable and collapsing streambank along the Lower South Fork Humboldt River and a dirt road crossing of a stream channel of Upper Lee Creek that flows into the South Fork Humboldt River. NPS BMPs proposed to stabilize the collapsing streambank along the Lower South Fork Humboldt River are planting willow cuttings along the streambank, installing livestock exclusion fencing beyond the planted willows, and placing large woody debris in the stream channel. NPS BMPs proposed to stabilize the stream channel crossing of Upper Lee Creek are replanting willow cuttings along the streambank, rock armoring the stream channel

along the area where vehicles cross, and placing large woody debris in the stream channel. These NPS BMPs are anticipated to restore the two stream sites to a stable condition.

Applicant: Penobscot Indian Nation

Rank: 5

Project Title: FY2024 Competitive Grant - NPS Management on Penobscot Lands

Proposed Activities: The Penobscot Nation Water Resources Program (PNWRP) is seeking \$125,000 of FY2024 CWA319 Competitive Grant funds to implement nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control and management activities to reduce NPS from entering and impacting PIN Trust Land and Reservation waters. The work activities in this proposal address high severity NPS pollution threats and waters that are identified in the “Penobscot Indian Nation NPS Assessment Report and Management Plan Feb. 2000 *amended 2/2023*”. The goal of this project is to protect water quality and aquatic life in Penobscot Trustland and Reservation waters. The objective is to control and reduce sediment and nutrient input into the Matagamon Lake and East Branch Penobscot River waters by implementing bank stabilization on Matagamon Lake that will prevent approximately 400 tons/year of soil from entering tribal waters. We propose to stabilize ~400 feet of shoreline bank and restore ~5,000 feet of riparian vegetation. We also propose to install a concrete ramp at the tribal boat launch to prevent vehicles and trailers from eroding the shoreline and disturbing sediment when launching boats.

Applicant: Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Rank: 6

Project Title: Installing boulder/log structural BMPs along 0.5 miles of the Main Stem Meduxnekeag River to address water quality impairment due to hydro-modification

Proposed Activities: This Project: 1) installs log and boulder structural BMPs in 0.5 mile of the Main Branch Meduxnekeag River up stream of 4.5 miles of previously restored river channel and adjacent to 1.0 mile currently planned for 2025 restoration of in-stream structural complexity and long term stability in the channel. It continues an established and long term effort by HBMI to restore aquatic habitat and improve water quality in the Meduxnekeag Watershed by mitigating legacy impacts of logging and dams (hydromodification) in this historical salmon stream. Main project tasks include (1) gathering /acquiring project materials (boulders and trees with root wads), (2) obtaining state/federal permits, (3) installing hydro-modification BMPs (boulder/log structures that create shade, riffles and pools), and (4) photographing and resurveying the channel and channel features to document resulting changes. 2) plans another 2.5 miles of log and boulder structural BMPs in the North Branch of the Meduxnekeag River downstream of 1.5 miles of previously restored river channel and a further 1.0 miles of restoration to be implemented in the summer of 2024.

Applicant: Fort Bidwell Indian Community

Rank: 7

Project Title: NPS Competitive Project for FY2025

Proposed Activities: The proposed watershed project will eliminate NPS impairments of non-tribal livestock trampling and defecation at three springs (Bee Spring, Bear Springs, and Circle

Rock Spring) through livestock exclusion fencing. To further protect these springs, each spring will be designated as a Tribal Preserve through a Tribal ordinance together with three preserve-designation signs as part of education/outreach. Polluted water quality and degraded riparian vegetation associated with each of the three springs are anticipated to improve significantly after these springs are fenced.

Applicant: Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California & Nevada

Rank: 8

Project Title: Implement a NPS Watershed Project

Proposed Activities: The main objective of this application is to propose BMP implementation of removal of off-road vehicle access to beach shorelines using vehicle exclusion barriers, riparian tree planting, education/outreach signs, and development of a NPS ordinance to address NPS-impaired Colorado River shoreline shallows and riparian wetland habitat impairments at three tribal beaches. These three beach sites are experiencing high levels of erosion, sedimentation, and destabilizing vegetation losses because of access roads used by off-road recreational vehicles that drive through the riparian habitat to the Colorado River and back their vehicles into the river shallows. Anticipated outcomes of the proposed project are the restoration and protection of aquatic river shallows and riparian wetland habitat at three beaches.

Applicant: Upper Skagit Indian Tribe of Washington

Rank: 8 (same score as previous so ranked 8 as well)

Project Title: FY24 319 - Coyote Drive Stormwater BMPs

Proposed Activities: This project will install stormwater treatment BMPs on the Upper Skagit Helmick Road Reservation along Coyote Drive and at the intersection of Coyote Drive and Nookwa-Chahbsh Lane. These stormwater retrofits will address legacy stormwater impacts from Coyote Drive's north lane and a portion of Choba-Ahbsh Lane, as well as runoff from a new pedestrian path. These BMPs will reduce water quality impacts to Red Creek and Dairy Tributary and downstream water bodies.

Applicant: Cedarville Rancheria

Rank: 10

Project Title: FY2025 NPS Competitive Proposal

Proposed Activities: The primary objective of the application is to restore and protect the currently NPS-degraded water quality and fishery habitat of Little Pau Pond. Little Pau Pond is impacted by: (1) stormwater runoff transporting sediment and nutrient loads from a dirt road and residential lawns; and (2) nutrient loading from supplemental well water causing highly eutrophic conditions in the lake associated with 100% lake surface-covered algal blooms, extremely low dissolved oxygen levels, fish kills, and reduced water column depth from decaying algal biomass. NPS BMPs to be implemented for Little Pau Pond are: (1) removal of an unimproved road located in the upper watershed that is a source of sediment loading to Little Pau Pond during stormwater runoff events and (2) the creation of a Wetland Sod Filter Strip that removes sediment and nutrients from the inflow water to Little Pau Pond. Anticipated

outcomes after NPS BMP implementations are restored and protected water quality conditions, improved fishery habitat, and maintained water column depth for Little Pau Pond.

Applicant: Havasupai Tribe

Rank: 11

Project Title: FY2025 NPS Competitive

Proposed Activities: The proposed project will address an unstable streambank and an actively-eroding and inundated foot trail section along Havasu Creek. Dry weather base flows in Havasu Creek are typically between 66 and 72 cubic feet per second (cfs). Two destructive flash floods in Havasu Creek in March 2023 (567 cfs and 828 cfs) caused severe streambank erosion on the right bank (looking upstream) of Havasu Creek upstream of the Village of Supai and adjacent to the Havasupai Tribe's foot trail system. During the second flood, the streambank breached and transported flood flows down the foot trail's path for 751 feet to the foot bridge where the foot trail rises to cross the foot bridge. At this point the sediment-laden flows along the foot trail flowed into Havasu Creek. The breached streambank has since been partially restored with rock and local soils. However, 751 feet of foot trail section was severely eroded and incised below the water table during the second March 2023 flood event and the lowering (incising) of the foot trail's elevation has resulted in continued flows along the foot trail, inundated areas of ponded water, and sediment transport into Havasu Creek below the foot trail bridge. NPS BMPs to be implemented involve stabilizing the eroded streambank through additional topsoil placement and riparian planting as well as raising the level of the inundated trail section with locally-available clean sand and gravel then crowning the trail section to divert any future flows into adjacent riparian vegetation.

Applicant: Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Rank: 12

Project Title: Spring Creek Watershed Assessment, Adaptive Management, and Restoration Project

Proposed Activities: The primary objective of this project is to expand the successful outcomes demonstrated at the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Spring Creek III restoration site (completed in 2022/23) via a focused watershed assessment, on-the-ground improvements, and adaptive management. The proposed project will build upon and adaptively manage four other restoration projects that have occurred in Spring Creek and will utilize Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (LTPBR) techniques to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in Spring Creek, a perennial tributary to the Los Piños River/Pine River. The project will aid natural riverine processes in filtering/removing pollutants through the slowing of water flow, aggradation of sediment, raising incised channels, and reconnecting the creek with its historic floodplain. Riparian habitat, used by the endangered New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, will also be expanded. Bank erosion will be mitigated and habitat improved via the removal of invasive species and planting of native vegetation within the riparian corridor. A portion of the project will also fund a watershed assessment to identify and prioritize the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will reduce NPS pollution across the two HUC-12 watersheds containing Spring Creek and tributaries to its confluence with the Pine River. This

project's LTPBR techniques, watershed assessment, and adaptive management practices will provide recovery trajectories with longer lasting impacts than "once-and-done" restoration efforts.

Applicant: Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Rank: 13

Project Title: FY 2025 Catfish Bay North & South Restoration Project

Proposed Activities: The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe will remove invasive Salt Cedar, Giant Cain and Mexican Fan Palm from 12.04 acres of North Catfish Bay and South Catfish Bay. The area will then be replanted with 400 Native willow cuttings. Establishing native vegetation is a critical step in reducing NPS pollution from Tribal washes. Native vegetation greatly reduces the sediment load entering water during storm events due to its superior root structure. Salt Cedar deposits salts into the soil making initial revegetation efforts difficult. The Chemehuevi Environmental Department has learned over our years of NPS project success that returning to previous project sites and replanting native vegetation is critical to reducing NPS pollution and achieving PFC for our riparian Habitats.

Applicant: Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Rank: 14

Project Title: Lame Deer Creek Channel Restoration

Proposed Activities: The Northern Cheyenne Environmental Protection Department is proposing to replace four crushed culverts at the headwaters of Lame Deer Creek with an appropriately sized fish passage friendly eco-arch. Currently, the crushed culverts restrict the South Fork of Lame Deer Creek flow into the mainstem of Lame Deer Creek thereby increasing water temperatures, occurrence of algal blooms and acting as a barrier to fish passage. By replacing the culverts, the main objective is to reestablish connectivity for fish and aquatic species and remove conditions which contribute to non-point-source (NPS) pollution.

Applicant: Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians

Rank: 15

Project Title: Phase 2 of a 3 Phase Project to continue stream restoration on Pierce Drain Extension with the addition of 100' native plant buffers on both stream sides.

Proposed Activities:

This project will continue efforts to address nonpoint source (NPS) water quality impairments on Pierce Drain Extension. This watershed-based implementation project will address the main contaminants listed within the Gun Lake Tribe's NPS Assessment Report (Kieser 2019), NPS Management Program Plan (Kieser 2019), and Rabbit River Watershed Management Plan (Allegan Conservation District 2013) through streambank stabilization through the implementation of two-stage ditch design, riparian buffer restoration and native plantings. Environmental outcomes will include reduction in sediment, nutrient and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) pollution into Pierce Drain Extension and the downstream waters of the Rabbit River and Kalamazoo River. This project will continue the work of Phase 1 of this project by restoring an additional 1,300 feet of failing streambanks with two stage ditch design and restore, regrade,

and plant native buffer at multiple large gully erosion locations over 1,300 lf of 100 ft wide stream buffers on each side of the stream totaling around 16 acres of permanent native stream buffers. Phase 1 utilized competitive 319 funding and started at the upstream reach of Pierce Drain Extension and work is underway to restore 1,300 lf of ditch to two-stage ditch as well as restoring 60 acres of row crops to permanent cover crop. Future phases will work on lands downstream as funding becomes available.

Applicant: Pueblo of Santa Clara

Rank: 15 (same score as previous so ranked 15 as well)

Project Title: Implement projects that will result in significant steps towards solving Non-Point Source (NPS) impairments.

Proposed Activities: The main objective of this application is to support designated uses of water quality by addressing impacts of NPS pollution on the tribal surface waters within the Santa Clara Creek Watershed through implementation of NPS Best Management Practice Structures. BMPS proposed for this project are rock check dams, log barrier dams, log mattresses to reduce sediment loading into the Santa Clara Creek, reduce flows to control erosion and capture debris in the drainages to the creek. In addition to the BMP field projects, the Pueblo will present NPS work at a water training/conference and present on NPS concepts and work to the local elementary school. Information on NPS work will also be written and added to the community newsletter. Anticipated environmental outcomes are reduction of channelization, altering water flow patterns and flow rate to reduce erosion of the tributaries and creek. Non field work outcomes are increased knowledge by the Pueblo community, technical partners and government officials of NPS impacts and BMPs implementation within the Santa Clara Canyon.

Applicant: Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Rank: 15 (same score as previous so ranked 15 as well)

Project Title: 2024 Belcourt Lake Shoreline Restoration Project, Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation.

Proposed Activities: This project will restore roughly 1,610 feet of shoreline at 12 locations on Belcourt Lake. Belcourt Lake is impaired for nutrients (among other pollutants, according to federal standards), and experiences harmful algal blooms. Much of the excess phosphorus pollution that contributes to these blooms has been shown to come from near-shore ungauged runoff and the eroding shoreline. This project has two objectives: 1) stabilize and restore 12 locations around Belcourt Lake using woody fiber logs, biodegradable fiber blankets that facilitate natural vegetation growth, and concrete flex-a-mat, and (2) educate the local residence, and general tribal community, on the importance and benefits of stabilizing the shoreline of Belcourt Lake. The anticipated environmental outcomes include decreased sediment from shoreline erosion and phosphorus delivery into Belcourt Lake, and therefore, lowering the in-lake phosphorus concentrations and decreasing the likelihood of future harmful algal blooms. In addition to this primary environmental outcome, the engagement efforts with local residence and Tribal members will increase awareness of the community about the importance of nonpoint source pollution control.

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation

Rank: 18

Project Title: FY2025 Nonpoint Source Competitive

Proposed Activities: The proposed watershed project will reduce or eliminate NPS impairments at road crossings of Lower Sams Creek, Upper Sams Creek, and East Creek by stabilizing erosive stream channels/road approaches with rock cobbling and stabilizing riparian streambanks through replanting with native seed. These perennial streams support Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, a native fish. Vehicle use in the high country is needed for range/forestry management but causes erosion and sedimentation at the stream crossings. The Tribally-approved Water Quality Standards for the Goshute Reservation list Sams Creek and East Creek as “Unique Waters” because of their Bonneville Cutthroat Trout fishery for which “no changes in natural levels of sedimentation from point or nonpoint sources are allowed” and there can be “No Net Loss of Wetlands for Unique Waters”. These water quality standards are exceeded at the three road crossings of streams. BMPs to be implemented to address NPS impairments include cobbling the road crossings for stability and replanting removed vegetation.

Applicant: Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Rank: 19

Project Title: Solving Gravel Road Maintenance and Design Issues on Shell Lake Trail

Proposed Activities: The redesign/rehabilitation of Shell Lake Trail and the connected gravel drive leading down to the Bass Lake boat access would be a step toward reducing erosion and the resulting sedimentation into Bass Lake, Little Rock Creek, and nearby wetlands. The Little Rock Creek Watershed is identified as part of a priority watershed (as it is within the HUC 10 Puposky Lake-Lower Red Lake Watershed) by the Red Lake Band in the EPA approved 2020 NPS Management Plan; Shell Lake Trail crosses over Little Rock Creek. Stream crossings and development and its impacts are identified as two of three main water quality issues for the tribe in the NPS management plan. EPA funding under this project will cover the cost of a topographic survey, engineering plans for the redesign/rehabilitation of the gravel road and drive leading down to the Bass Lake boat access, as well as the materials and contract work required to complete the project. It is expected that this work will reduce the sediment and nutrient load in the Little Rock Creek watershed, as well as increase the fish, amphibian, and invertebrate biodiversity of the watershed. Outreach will increase NPS knowledge of community members; costs associated with educational outreach will be covered by funding under this project.

Applicant: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Rank: 20

Project Title: LLBO FY24 319 Competitive Grant: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Pug Hole Point Restoration Project

Proposed Activities: The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Water Resource Program intends to reduce erosion and nutrient pollution from runoff entering Cass Lake and Pug Hole Lake. These lakes are within the Leech Lake Reservation and the Mississippi Headwaters HUC8 watershed and are connected by the Turtle River. This work is proposed to take place on a site with great cultural

and archaeological significance to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and which is experiencing shoreline erosion. We propose to pump and decommission three abandoned septic tanks, plant seeds to re-establish ground cover and shoreline vegetation, install erosion control logs and live stakes along the shoreline, and place boulders to prevent vehicle access and erosion from vehicle use and boat launching. Completing this project will revegetate three former home sites and protect cultural and natural resources from additional erosion. Revegetation will also reduce nutrient inputs to these lakes and the Mississippi River Headwaters watershed. Public education and outreach will be performed to encourage restoration of natural shorelines.

Applicant: Quinault Indian Nation

Rank: 21

Project Title: Controlling Invasive Species to Improve Water Quality

Proposed Activities: The one year project has 3 components:

- Follow up treatment of invasive species along the riparian zone of the mainstem of the Quinault River downstream of Lake Quinault;
- Revegetate treated riparian areas to prevent re-establishment of invasive plants and restore ecosystem function and water quality;
- Strategic Planning - implement components of Stewardship Plan (QIN Vegetation Management Plan)

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Rank: 22

Project Title: Road Decommissioning 6.1 miles of streamside adjacent roads on the Berg Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Land that lies within the Columbia River Watershed Unit on the Kartar Valley RMU.

Proposed Activities: The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation request \$125,000 of EPA Section 319 funding to perform nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution control work to improve water quality in the Columbia River watershed, through stream adjacent road decommissioning. Project work will improve water quality by reducing sediment delivery from roads to streams and will restore natural watershed hydrology by removing impediments to natural flow. This proposal also includes support for the Nonpoint Source Management Coordinator to monitor and administer regulation of NPS pollution generating activities across the 1.4 million acre Colville Indian Reservation.

Applicant: Bishop Indian Tribal

Rank: 23

Project Title: FY 2024: Preserving Water Quality Through Nonpoint Source Pollution Projects on the Bishop Paiute Reservation

Proposed Activities: This project is a continuation of the Tribe's longstanding nonpoint source (NPS) management program where each year staff prioritize projects based on the current environmental conditions detected through regular water quality monitoring, habitat assessments, observations, data analysis, and community resource usage. Staff use proven best management practices to address known water quality pollution issues and risks within the

Bishop Creek watershed. Practices used to mitigate and lessen contamination include stream stabilization, erosion control, restricting grazing animal access to waterways, working with community members and stakeholders in the watershed to educate about nonpoint source pollution. Implementing channel meanders and planting riparian vegetation serves to decelerate water flow, thereby reducing erosion. Enhanced grazing practices, along with the use of fencing and manure management, aim to control and restrict animals, minimizing bacteria and nutrient runoff into the creek. Community education plays a crucial role in raising awareness among community members, agricultural grazers, and other stakeholders about the consequences of nonpoint source pollution and emphasizes the importance of mitigating these impacts through the adoption of best management practices. Anticipated outcomes include increased knowledge of trained staff and community members to better manage NPS pollution, increased areas along Bishop Creek that are restored to meet water quality standards, and increased diversity and abundance of various species within Bishop Creek on the Bishop Paiute Tribe's reservation.

Applicant: Walker River Paiute Tribe

Rank: 23 (same score as previous so ranked 23 as well)

Project Title: Walker River Paiute Tribe 2024/2025 Nonpoint Source Program & Project

Proposed Activities: The funding will be for drilling a new stockwater well, and installation of a new solar station. The 2024/2025 weber roundup solar well development project proposal is composed to reflect the needs for water quality planning efforts on the riparian/wetlands sections of the upper walker river. The Tribe proposes to drill a new well, install new solar panel arrays, install solar array protection fence, install concrete pad base & pipe connections for a 12,000+ gallon livestock water trough/tank, install new solar pump with new piping, install new electrical supplies to run equivalent output power source of solar panels and pumping needs for approximately 500 + cattle herd.

Applicant: Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Rank: 25

Project Title: Clean Water Act §319 Nonpoint Source Funding Application to Enhance Water Quality on Tribal Lands January 2024

Proposed Activities: Located within the Everglades Protection Area, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians' Reservation is part of an oligotrophic environment comprised of ridge-and-slough wetlands, sawgrass marshes, wet prairies, and mixed swamp forests. While the Tribe maintains their traditional uses of cultural and natural resources, the environments located within Miccosukee lands are exposed to NPS pollution created by agricultural practices – primarily range grazing. Through the process of obtaining their TAS status and participating in the Clean Water Act §319 programs, the Miccosukee Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) identified and recommended best management practice (BMPs) to prevent further environmental degradation and restore impacted water bodies. The proposed funds will supply flashboards to culverts and restore existing pipes, which will meet the BMPs addressing *Sediment and Erosion Control Measures* and *Nutrient Management*. These actions will result in the output of reduced sediment transfer and lowered nutrient and pathogen contaminants from entering the

waterbody. Through this process, the reduced nutrient input to Tribal waterbodies will bring about improvements to water quality and reducing the harmful impacts from eutrophication and nuisance vegetation conditions. Moreover, these actions, in tandem with past and future actions, will work together to increase the number of NPS-impaired waterbodies to be partially or fully restored to meet the Class III-B standards as established by the Tribe. Over time, the reduction of pollutants entering the pristine Class III-A waters south of the cattle pastures will allow the restoration of impaired habitat.

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Rank: 26

Project Title: Meacham Creek River Mile 10-11

Proposed Activities: 1) administration, improvement, and enforcement of CTUIR water quality standards on-Reservation, and federal, state, local, and tribal laws, codes, and regulations pertaining to land use and water quality off-Reservation;
2) design and installation of on-ground improvements (Best Management Practices, or BMPs) and projects to assist water quality protection, and ecosystem restoration to support water quality improvements;
3) public involvement and education by various means;
4) monitoring of water quality conditions for detection of trends, determination of beneficial impacts due to projects or implementation of Best Management Practices, location of chronic and acute sources of non-point pollution, and compliance with standards and criteria;
5) planned, coordinated efforts with applicable entities to ensure a holistic watershed ecosystem approach and reduce redundancy of efforts; and
6) implementation of CTUIR TMDL on-Reservation, and coordination with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) TMDL off-Reservation.

Applicant: Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Rank: 27

Project Title: Repairing and Replacing Onsite Septic Systems on Prioritized Tributaries with Identified Impairments on Tribal Waters in the Isabella Reservation.

Proposed Activities: The proposed project will repair and replace failing or antiquated septic systems evaluated by the Central Michigan District Health Department, in priority areas degrading tribal waters due to illicit discharge of sewage to local drains, rivers, streams, and other water bodies impacting surface waters of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Isabella Reservation.

Applicant: White Mountain Apache Tribe

Rank: 28

Project Title: Cedar Creek Cattle Association Virtual Fencing Project

Proposed Activities: The proposal includes the utilization of "virtual fencing" on cattle as an exclusion from riparian corridors for riparian/wetland health. Virtual Fencing is a relatively new technology that utilizes a GPS collar to exclude cattle from desired locations such as wetland and streams. Research, both national and international, report high success rates of excluding

livestock from environmentally sensitive areas. Recent studies have expanded the use of virtual fencing to utilized livestock as a tool to decrease fuel loads and to improve rangeland management utilization.

Applicant: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Rank: 29

Project Title: Repair and Restoration of Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation Roads and access points

Proposed Activities: Access roads to Water Quality Program monitoring (WQP) sites are impacted every year in response to precipitation events and Truckee River annual high flows. Sediment resulting from the erosion is transported during intense flows impart water quality degradation to Pyramid Lake, the Truckee River and tributaries. Repairs are needed for the continued monitoring and assessment duties on the reservation for the protection of tribal aquatic resources and the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake ecosystems. Upstream water diversions and subsequent low flows have affected recovery efforts of two Pyramid Lake fish species important to the Tribe's culture and traditional way of life. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Cui-ui are listed as threatened and endangered, respectively, by the USFWS. The Truckee River and Pyramid Lake are important cultural resources to the PLPT and are integral to the Tribe's cultural and economic life, therefore any current or potential future impairment to aquatic life needs to be identified and mitigated.

Applicant: Spokane Tribe of Indians

Rank: 30

Project Title: Chamokane Creek Restoration Plantings

Proposed Activities: Continuing projects with this landowner we will perform a riparian planting, which has been supported by our previous projects. These would include in-channel rock lifts to raise the bed of the creek closer to the surface, and a riparian exclusion fence constructed in partnership with Stevens County Conservation District. These projects have been completed to create better water availability, which would allow us to perform riparian planting with better survival rates.