

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Endangered Species Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility is limited to Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (Tribes and inter-tribal organizations authorized under P.L. 93-638).

We request that successful applicants provide an annual report to the Regional BIA point-of- contact (listed below) by September 1st of each year until the project is completed. Reporting helps support future appropriations! Reports might include:

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- Objectives achieved
- Photos / short narratives

Proposal Eligibility

- Proposals must provide the contact information for the Tribal project manager overseeing the project. Failure to provide this information will result in disqualification.
- Proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. Tribal indirect rate is drawn from a separate account and should be requested at budget development meetings with BIA contracting officials (if selected for funding).
- All proposals must be signed (at a minimum) by the equivalent of the Director of Natural Resources to signify that the Tribe is aware of the funding and program requirements.
- The maximum funding request is \$120,000 per application.
- An eligible entity may submit multiple applications.

Project Eligibility

- Successful applications will be limited to projects that are directly related to the restoration, management, and/or economic development of “tribal trust resources” (see definitions below).

In addition to the above requirement, only those projects that meet at least one of the following two criteria will be considered for funding:

1. Projects involving species protected by the Endangered Species Act (as amended 1973) (ESA). This includes ESA Candidate species.
2. Projects involving tribally important species and/or habitat(s) where such species or habitat(s) are identified in an official and approved tribal document, management plan, or Tribal Resolution that lists the tribally important species and/or habitat(s) and describes the tribal interest in focusing attention on those species/habitat(s).

Definitions

Tribal Trust Resources - natural resources, either on or off Indian lands, retained by, or reserved by or for Indian tribes through treaties, statutes, judicial decisions, or executive orders and are protected by a fiduciary obligation of the U.S.

Required Project – a project that calls for the utilization of tribal trust resources and is also REQUIRED to undergo *Section 7 consultation* per requirements of the ESA. This includes activities required for compliance with a FWS or NMFS approved Habitat Conservation Plan or Biological Opinion designed to comply with the ESA.

Ranking Criteria

Priority consideration will be given to projects involving “tribal trust resources” (see definition above) **in the context of economic enterprise/economic development, where such project also requires consultation with regulatory agencies per requirements of the ESA.**

Applicants must explain how their project meets the “required” criteria. To receive priority consideration applicants must submit a convincing proposal for meeting “required” status (see definition above).

Other ranking criteria include:

- The degree of benefit to species protected by the ESA (including ESA Candidate species).
- The degree of benefit to tribally important species and/or habitats that are listed in official and approved tribal documents, management plans, or Tribal Resolution where the tribal prerogative to focus attention on those species/habitats are clearly described.
- The degree of benefit to tribal trust resources (management plans, habitat assessments, habitat restoration, species recovery, etc.).
- The degree to which the project meets the goals/objectives/requirements of approved tribal or federal/state planning documents.
- The extent to which a project engages tribal youth in natural resources management.
- Ability to provide reports that highlight project successes by September 1 each year.

How to Apply

Proposals should be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional office that services the applicant's area **(address and contact info below)** by **close of business on July 1st, 2026**.

Proposals should be submitted in the format detailed below and should clearly address both the eligibility and ranking criteria listed above. Proposals are **limited to six pages (not including letters of support/contributions)**.

- I. Introduction/Background – name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.
- II. Goal/Objectives - what are the goals of the project? List measurable objectives that work towards achieving the project goals.
- III. Methodology – how you plan to accomplish the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan by which you are seeking funding for implementation.
- IV. Outcome/Results - what are the expected work products? What measurable benefits are expected? What is the expected timeline?
- V. Budget – Need a detailed line item expenditure breakdown. Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- VI. Letters of support/contributions.

BIA Regional Contact List for ESA Program

Great Plains	Southern Plains	Eastern	Midwest	Eastern Oklahoma	Rocky Mt.
Todd Hauge, Safety of Dams (605) 226-7621 todd.hauge@bia.gov Address: Great Plains Regional Office, Division of Natural Resources MC 301, 115 4th Ave SE Suite 400, Aberdeen, SD 57401	Robert Codopony, Acting NR Branch Chief (405) 850-6772 robert.codopony@bia.gov Address: Southern Plains Regional Office, Branch of Natural Resources P.O. Box 368, Anadarko, OK 73005	Mikail Kane, Regional NRS (629) 203-2337 mikail.kane@bia.gov & Jerry Page (615) 917-0969 jerry.page@bia.gov Address: 545 Marriott Drive Suite 700, Nashville TN 37214	Chase Meierotto, Acting Fish Wildlife & Parks Branch Chief (715) 519-0742 chase.meierotto@bia.gov Address: 5600 W. American Blvd, suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437	Justin Morgan, Soil Conservationist (918) 315-1465 justin.morgan@bia.gov Address: 3100 W Peak Blvd Muskogee, OK 74401	Frank D. Rollefson, Regional Wildlife Biologist frank.rollefson@bia.gov Address: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Division of Natural Resources, 2021 4th Avenue North, Billings, Montana 59101

Navajo	Southwest	Western	Pacific	Northwest	Alaska
Delores Becenti, Regional Geospatial coordinator (505) 863-8253 delores.becenti@bia.gov Address: Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office 301 W Hill St., PO BOX. 1060, Gallup, NM 87305	D. Chris Kitcheyan - Regional Biologist (505) 563-3408 david.kitcheyan@bia.gov Address: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Regional Office, 1001 Indian School Road, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104	Catherine Wilson, Supervisory Water Rights Specialist catherine.wilson@bia.gov Address: 2600 N. Central Ave, 4th Floor Mailroom, Phoenix, AZ 85004	Peter DeJongh peter.dejongh@bia.gov (916) 718-9770 Address: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825	Robert Compton Rangeland Mgt. Spec. (503) 348-4712 robert.compton@bia.gov Address: BIA, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland Oregon 97232	Rosalie Debenham, Fish & Wildlife Biologist rosalie.debenham@bia.gov (907) 310-9935 Address: BIA, P.O. Box 21647, Juneau, AK 99802