

**Project Timeline:** Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016      **Funding Requested:** \$73,105.01

**Contacts:**

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**I. Project Title: Climate Adaptation Planning Category 2. Research Internship**

The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) is in the planning stages for developing a Natural Resources Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP). Climate change is becoming more relevant as a component that will eventually be incorporated into each division. Staff in the Water Resources Division authored the Clearwater River Sub basin Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) in 2011 (Clark & Harris, 2011) and this Division has taken the primary lead in climate change adaptation planning for the Tribe. In an effort to plan for implementing the detailed adaptation strategies recommended in the CCAP, additional research is needed to thoroughly understand the timeline of changes on the reservation landscape.

The Water Resources Division facilitates many projects that gain research pertaining to the Tribe's waterways but is only in the infant stages of developing a more comprehensive understanding of how water quality is affected. This is true for most of the Natural Resources as capacity vastly increased with many programs contributing toward the improvement of the ecology's current state with each succeeding year. This project requires a higher level of research with federal, local and state agencies as well as Tribal programs to bring together existing information that will contribute toward a more robust outcome of gathering information. Interns will work with all Tribal programs to gain a perspective of the Tribal climate change timeline ranging from time immemorial to today.

In 2011, staff from the Water Resources Division wrote the Clearwater River Sub basin Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Clark & Harris). This CCAP focused primarily on the effects of a changing climate on water, forests, and economic resources in the Clearwater River Sub basin. The Tribe would like to expand this document to be more comprehensive, by adding sections addressing the effects of a changing climate on wildlife, cultural resources, and other protected treaty resources both on the tribal reservation and within the larger usual and accustomed areas. Coordination with stakeholders in the region will be an essential component to updating this document as a useful guide for the Nez Perce Tribe to anticipate and adapt to the climatic changes that are certainly coming. Some of the benefits of the internship research can contribute to understanding about traditional foods, natural hazards, and planning for the Tribe to protect resources.

**Need for Internship:**

A strong foundation has been created to understand the localized impacts of climate change on the Nez Perces. However, a focused, holistic plan protecting treaty-reserved, subsistence, cultural, economic, and social resources must be instituted. We are seeking 3 internships with skilled college students that are able to use local media, communicate effectively, and provide viable reports. These internships will add the perspective of climate change to the Tribe by providing research.

Deliverable Products for 3 internships:

- 1) Research to be separated into providing three levels of research:
  - 1) Socio Economic Impacts
  - 2) Water Quality Impacts
  - 3) Usual and Accustomed Climate Change impacts beyond the borders of the reservation boundaries on Federal lands.
- 2) Internships will be graduate students and limited to ¾ employment to accommodate attending school.
- 3) Internships will meet quarterly to share all research and to organize reporting research.
- 4) Coordinate with Tribal Natural Resources programs and regional agencies that work with the Tribe.

## **II. Environmental, Public Health and Community Climate Resilience Information about the Affected Community**

The ancestral homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe is located within the mid-Columbia River Basin and covers approximately 25% of the present day state of Idaho. The Columbia River Basin "...is considered a snow-dominant watershed, as most of the precipitation that feeds into the watershed comes from snowmelt"<sup>1</sup>.

The Nez Perce reservation encompasses 770,000 acres with many different jurisdictions ranging from Idaho Department Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife, Counties, Cities, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Many usual and accustomed areas of hunting, gathering roots and berries are recognized within the 1868 Treaty with the Nez Perce in ranges from the Bitter Root Mountain Range to the Cascades. The Nez Perce Tribe is connected to the Tule and the Camus through heritage and the continual practice of cultural gathering for root feasts, sweat houses, shelter, ceremonies, and as an indicator of a healthy wetland habitat. For example, when the meadow is filled with the purple flower of the Camus, the Nez Perce people can understand by the height of the plant and the spacing between them that the habitat is warranted for digging. The Tule carries a wide range of historic uses but has been connected to the shelters of women in their menstrual cycles, which a Tule-use is a constant reminder of the women providing life symbolic of mother earth.

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<sup>1</sup> December 2011: Clearwater River Subbasin Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The reservation landscape is very diverse with equal portions of mountains, forests, range lands, and rich agricultural lands. The primary industries are agriculture and forestry. Communities on the reservation have a wealth of cultural history and diversity; however, the reservation is also an impoverished area with unique environmental and health issues caused by past forestry activities, tillage agriculture and grazing.

The Nez Perce Tribe depends on a cultural sustenance of being able to hunt and fish within the reservation, as do many non-Tribal communities also take part in the hunting and fishing season. Both have enjoyed the recreation of waters and the wildlife lands.

Currently there are minimal outreach resources and few facilities that support climate change research or education in our region. Inadequate information, high cost of environmental programs to travel, and uninformed stakeholders creates a lack of coordination in planning for climate change. There is also minimal policy framework dedicated to climate change as a result of Tribe's Natural Resource Department (NRD) priorities. The NRD has however identified some sensitive areas of the reservation in terms of human health, forestry, salmon and steelhead restoration, wildlife and water quality.

Identified factors contributing to climate change include; the absence of an effective policy framework; the absence of education for individuals gathered from feedback from the communities; and the lack of coordination and communication among local, tribal, state, and federal entities regarding climate change. These gaps indicate the need to increase knowledge, change behaviors, build capacity, and develop a coordinated effort among partners. A concerted effort from the Tribal Water Resources Division is needed to further build upon the Clearwater River Subbasin Climate Change Adaptation Plan in order to increase education and coordination with the Tribe's reservation region stakeholders through acquiring the research and tools for effective planning.

### **III. Travel**

Here are two travel benefits that would enrich the internships with climate change knowledge and provide a perspective of Native American Tribal approaches to development of climate change adaptation plans.

#### ***Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)***

Climate Change Adaptation Planning	
June 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 in Bishop, CA	2016 ?? Location TBD

- The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals established its Tribal Climate Change Program in 2009 to provide support and be responsive to the needs of tribes that are preparing for and currently contending with climate change impacts.
- This program offers training, technical assistance, educational resources, and tools to build capacity of tribes to address climate change impacts. The development of the

United States Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs  
 Climate Change Planning Category 2. Research Internship

program has been guided by a steering committee that includes tribal environmental professionals who are actively working on climate change issues.<sup>2</sup>

***Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI)***

Tribal Leadership Summit on Climate Change	
March 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 in Portland, OR	2016?? Location TBD

- Dedicated to Promoting Tribal Self Determination & Sovereignty
- Provides trainings such as the Climate Boot Camp designed curriculum in Adaptation on Wildland-Urban Interface.<sup>3</sup>
- Working to create a Pacific Northwest Regional Tribal Climate Change Plan

**IV. Budget**

FY 2016 United States Department of the Interior Climate Change Adaptation Planning Internship BUDGET						
<b>1. Salary</b>						
Position Title	Salary Percentage	Hourly Salary	Annual Salary	No Increases	Christmas Bonus	Total Salary
Water Resources Internship #1	55%	\$ 15.00	\$ 17,160.00	\$ 17,160.00		\$ 17,160.00
Water Resources Internship #2	55%	\$ 15.00	\$ 17,160.00	\$ 17,160.00		\$ 17,160.00
Water Resources Internship #3	55%	\$ 15.00	\$ 17,160.00	\$ 17,160.00		\$ 17,160.00
					<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,480.00</b>
<b>2. Training / Travel</b>						
	Plane	Per Diem avg. 4 days		Hotel avg. 3 day		
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals	\$ 600.00	17.75 X 14 = \$248.50		110x3= 330	\$ 1,178.50	
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians	\$ 500.00	17.75 X 14 = \$248.50		110x3= 330	\$ 1,078.50	
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$ 2,257.00</b>	
				(x3 Interns)	<b>\$ 6,771.00</b>	
<b>3. Indirect</b>						<b>\$14,854.01</b>
<b>4. Direct Costs, Total Budget</b>						<b>\$73,105.01</b>
*Travel prices were averaged out to the northwest Seattle area						
*Hourly wage is based upon providing a highly skilled researcher and averaged to accommodate school schedule						

**V. Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee has been empowered to act for and in behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe, pursuant to the Revised Constitution and By-Laws, adopted by the General Council of the Nez Perce Tribe, on May 6, 1961, and approved by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs on June 27, 1961; and

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC) approves the grant proposal to the United States Department of Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide research from internships funding for the Water Resources Director; and

<sup>2</sup> ITEP Information retrieved April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from: <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/>

<sup>3</sup> ATNI Information retrieved April 8, 2015 from: <http://www.atntribes.org/>

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Division has funding to develop capacity building toward climate change adaptation; and

WHEREAS, the funds for this work will be paid through the DOI, in an amount not to exceed \$73,105.01.

WHEREAS, the DOI requires Tribe to provide this resolution from the NPTEC to approve the grant application for Fiscal Year 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NPTEC hereby approves the application from the Department of Natural Resources Division of Water Resources to request Internships for research funds from the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, to develop research toward climate change planning.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NPTEC Chairman and Secretary shall be authorized to execute any documents and correspondence relating to the contract and the NPTEC Treasurer shall be authorized to disburse the funds accordingly based upon the executed contract.

#### C E R T I F I C A T I O N

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee meeting in Regular Session July X, 2015 in the Richard A. Halfmoon Council Chambers, Lapwai, Idaho, a quorum of its members being present and voting.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Jane Miles, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Anthony D. Johnson, Chairman

#### References

Clark, K., & Harris, J. (2011). *Clearwater River Subbasin (ID) Climate Change Adaptation Plan*. Sagle, ID: Model Forestry Policy Program.