



Nez Perce Tribe Travel Support for Adaptation Planning

Executive Summary

This request for funding is to provide Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) staff and leadership the opportunity to visit regional and national resilience focused meetings and trainings. These opportunities will strengthen partnerships and leadership and provide education for adapting to and mitigating for harmful weather patterns and extreme events. This will build capacity not just within the NPT Resilience Program, but also among tribal leadership and other divisions who deal with areas of tribal jurisdiction and must respond to the impacts of extreme events and harmful weather patterns.

The NPT Resilience Program is producing a collaborative vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan with the help of the following tribal entities: Department of Fisheries Resources Management, the Department of Natural Resources (including Wildlife, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Water Resources, Forestry, and Emergency Management Divisions), Nimípuu Health, Economic Development, the Circle of Elders, and the wider tribal community. In the assessment and planning process, we have identified education and training as a major need. We also have realized a need to provide opportunities to departments that have limited travel funds to participate in regional meetings that address the impacts and risks with which the NPT is coping.

Geographical Service Area and Number Indians Served:

The vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan encompasses the Nez Perce Indian Claims Commission Territory (ICC) which covers approximately 13 million acres in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana. The Nez Perce Reservation covers approximately 770,000 acres of land, of which the tribe owns 16.14 percent. According to American Community Survey Demographic and Housing Estimates from 2012-2016, there were 4,039 self-identified American Indian or Alaska Natives living within the counties overlapping the ICC. There are 3,575 enrolled Nez Perce tribal members globally, 2,420 of whom live on the Nez Perce Reservation.

Background Information

The Nez Perce Tribe is experiencing increasing severity and frequency of wildfires, drought, heatwaves, extreme precipitation, floods, and mudslides. This cycle of extremes has impacted the health, well-being, and lifeways of the Nez Perce People (Nimípuu) in tangible and intangible ways, and has had a wide range of impacts including public health impacts, losses to key subsistence resources (fish, game, wetlands, and native plants), and economic impacts on tribal enterprises and the regional and local economy. Education about these impacts and adaptation solutions are critical needs for our tribal staff and leadership.

A foundational part of the assessment and planning process has been to gather perspectives from and engage with the tribal community at large. In 2017, the Resilience Program conducted a community well-being survey to learn how tribal members are impacted by extreme events and identify their top priorities for adaptive action. Resilience Program staff have also conducted interviews with tribal staff and elders. Through these methods, education, renewable energy, and sustainability have emerged as the most important issues to the community. There is a strong desire by leadership and tribal elders to learn more and to take action to adapt to and mitigate current and future impacts. Tribal staff have communicated that they would value and apply training about adaptation planning to their work. We also have identified a need to increase capacity in subject areas that are critical for developing an adaptation plan with implementable solutions. In particular, we need to learn more about implementing renewable energy and regenerative agriculture.

Tribal staff in various divisions have identified several renewable energy projects that they would like to implement. NPT Economic Development has completed an energy study and is interested in a local solar training program. The NPT does not currently have the capacity to develop workforce training for tribal members to become certified solar installers. Thus, our proposal includes funding for one staff member to attend a solar training program to support tribal efforts toward the development of more affordable, locally produced renewable energy.

In addition to this travel proposal, the NPT Resilience Program is submitting a proposal for a project centered on land management techniques that could help mitigate for some of the extreme events and patterns the tribe is experiencing. To support this, we are including travel to a regenerative agriculture conference to build our capacity, assist us with the development of our adaptation plan, and to support the work of the Nez Perce Tribe Food Coalition.

Proposed Travel:

The following is a list of proposed conferences, trainings, and events, our plans to transfer the knowledge back to local staff, and the role of the participant in the adaptation planning process. The proposed workshops are organized by priority.

2018 ATNI Tribes & First Nations Climate Summit: Date and Location TBD

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) holds an annual Tribes & First Nations Climate Summit. As part of the Nez Perce Tribe's commitment to adaptation planning and mitigation measures, we would like to send one member of leadership and a tribal elder to this meeting, or to one similar if the Summit is not held in 2018. Tribal leadership and elders provide guidance for the adaptation planning process and can speak to the process the NPT has engaged in. Information from the meeting will be disseminated through Managers Meetings, the Resilience Program, the Circle of Elders and the Resilience Task Force.

Regenerate Conference: Nurture Diversity, Build Resilience: Oct 31-Nov 2, 2018; Albuquerque, NM

The Regenerate Conference will bring together a broad audience including students, ranchers, farmers, environmentalists, and others to explore the possibilities of regenerative agriculture. This conference is

relevant to work being done by the Nez Perce Tribe Food Coalition, and to the land management related proposal mentioned above. Funding would be used to send one Resilience Program staff and one member of the Coalition. Information gained will be disseminated through the Food Coalition via presentations at Coalition meetings, e-mails to members, and at an annual food summit. Information gained will also be incorporated into the final adaptation plan. Proposed travelers are working on the food sovereignty portion of the adaptation plan and with the efforts of the Food Coalition.

PV 100 Solar Training Intro to Photovoltaics & PV 200 Solar Training Design and Installation Intensive:
Hopland, CA; Nov 3-9, 2018

Hosted by the Solar Living Institute, PV 100 is an entry level training that provides the basic concepts of solar energy generation. It is a suggested prerequisite to PV 200, which “offers 40 hours of critical knowledge and hands-on practice in the essentials of photovoltaic technology (PV)... Students will learn solar fundamentals: basic electricity, celestial mechanics, energy efficiency, solar markets and applications, system design, system components, construction safety and solar tools. Through hands-on practice, students gain experience in mounting solar panels, racking with roof penetrations, wiring inverters, DC and AC disconnects and load center/service panels.” An important goal for this training would be for the attendee to pass the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners Photovoltaic Associate Exam.¹

Tuition for PV 100: \$350.00

Tuition for PV 200: \$1095.00

These trainings would provide the foundational knowledge necessary to explore the option of developing a green jobs program, specifically a tribal solar installation certification program. A renewable energy jobs program has the potential to build tribal capacity in a number of ways,, including building resilience and sustainability into tribal infrastructure, providing jobs, and cutting costs and local pollution.

The participant would be the Resilience Coordinator, who manages the vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process.

Columbia Basin Partner Forum: Date TBD; Location TBD

The Columbia Basin Partner Forum (CBPF) was formed to bring together regional experts on topics related to wildlife conservation and harmful weather patterns. CBPF is working to provide quality vulnerability assessment for wildlife species that are a priority for many stakeholders, including tribes. This partnership addresses an area of capacity needs for the entire basin; engagement with this network could help all tribes access wildlife experts to bolster vulnerability assessments. The NPT Resilience Program has attended one of their meetings and committed to preparing a vulnerability assessment for bald eagles. This assessment will be included in the NPT assessment document and provided to CBPF. Another CBPF meeting is being planned for later this year. The NPT who travels to this meeting will

¹ <http://www.nabcep.org/>

either be the resilience coordinator or one of her staff. The costs for this forum have been budgeted for Portland, OR, where past CBPF events have been held.

Northwest Climate Conference: October 9-11, 2018; Boise, ID

The NPT Resilience Program presented a poster at the 2017 Northwest Climate Conference (NWC) and will be at the 2018 conference (presenting orally or a poster, and one staff member is on the program committee). The NPT has funding for the staff in the Resilience Program to attend, but there is interest from Fisheries, Wildlife, and Air Quality to attend as well. The conference is located in Boise, Idaho this year, which reduces costs compared to the last few years and increases the amount regionally relevant information presented. Because of these benefits to this year's NWCC location, we would like to send two additional staff members from the Resilience Task Force. Information about this meeting will be disseminated via the Resilience Task Force to their respective Divisions.

Reporting:

Quarterly: Quarterly reports will include the financial status of grant moneys to date, as well as a list of events attended, and by whom.

Final: The final report will include a total financial accounting and complete list of events attended and by whom. It will also have compiled agendas from all the events attended and short write ups of their relevance to the NPT vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process.