



Nez Perce Tribe Workshop on Wetland and Riparian Restoration: Planning for Change and Cultural Resilience

Executive Summary

The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) Resilience Program, in collaboration with Point Blue Conservation Science (Point Blue), the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' (ATNI) Tribal Liaison at the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC), proposes to provide two workshops to demonstrate the development and use of a toolkit for resilient and culturally relevant wetland and riparian restoration planning. The NPT Resilience Program is developing a Restoration Toolkit for Cultural and Ecological Resilience (RTCER) for the purpose of guiding wetland restoration planning and implementation. This toolkit is based on an original toolkit¹ designed by Point Blue. We are adding cultural values to the toolkit and modifying it to work within the usual and accustomed areas of the Nez Perce people (Nimíipuu). Point Blue has provided workshops that demonstrate the use of their toolkit and planning principles to address shifting climate conditions such as harmful weather patterns and extreme events in planning restoration projects. We are proposing to expand the existing workshop model to include traditional values and cultural uses in restoration planning. The first workshop will be a train-the-trainer workshop that Point Blue will put on with the NPT for a local audience of tribal staff and partners. The second workshop will be offered to a regional audience, and will be delivered by the NPT Resilience Program and ATNI's Tribal Liaison. Expected outcomes are improved environmental resilience and cultural relevance of regional wetland and riparian restoration planning; strengthened partnerships among regional tribes, agencies, and non-profit and private organizations; and increased dialogue about the value of Traditional Knowledge (TK) systems in adaptation planning.

Geographic Area, People Served, & Background Information

The RTCER is being developed for wetlands in the usual and accustomed areas of the Nez Perce Tribe. The proposed workshops will initially be presented to tribes, agencies, and organizations in the Intermountain/Pacific Northwest Region, with the possibility of future expansion to a broader audience.

Nez Perce tribal members (3573 enrolled)² will benefit from the application of the RTCER in their lands resulting in more resilient restoration projects. More specifically, 2420 self-identified American Indians and Alaska Natives live within the current legal boundaries of the Nez Perce Tribe Indian Reservation,³ and 4039 Native Americans live within the 1855 treaty boundaries.⁴ Members of tribes represented at the second workshop (currently an unknown number) will benefit from the transfer of knowledge to their tribal departments and implementation of the toolkit. Potential tribal representation for the

¹ <http://www.pointblue.org/our-science-and-services/conservation-science/habitat-restoration/climate-smart-restorationtoolkit/>.

² Nez Perce Tribe Enrollment Office. (2018, May 9). Personal Communication.

³ U.S. Department of Commerce, C. A. (2016). *Economic Profile System (EPS)*. Retrieved August 1, 2017, from Headwater Economics: headwaterseconomics.org/eps

⁴ ACS Demographic and housing Estimates 2012-2016 American Community 5-year Estimates



second workshop includes (but is not limited to): Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

In general, extreme events and harmful weather patterns impact human and ecological communities in a number of ways. The Tribe is already seeing and experiencing the negative effects of changing weather patterns and increasing extreme events through decreased snowpack, increased flooding and mudslides, increased heat waves, more extreme wildfire and an extended fire season, and prolonged droughts. These and other environmental changes will negatively affect the Tribe as its culture is highly integrated into the ecosystems of its traditional homeland and its economy is heavily dependent on the use of fish, wildlife, and native plants. Though the Tribe's economy is also integrated into the national economy, its cultural identity continues to be deeply rooted in the natural environment. Many tribal members rely on traditional fishing, hunting, and gathering for physical and spiritual health. The gravity of these social, economic, cultural, and ecological impacts to the traditional homelands, life ways, values, and treaty resources of the Nimíipuu is hard to overstate.

Wetlands and riparian areas provide important benefits to human and ecological populations, such as water purification, flood regulation, and water storage.⁵ Additionally, many plants that are culturally significant to the Nez Perce Tribe are found in wetlands and they play an important role in maintaining healthy habitats for other important fish, game, and plant species. The impacts listed above all have the potential to negatively affect wetlands in the traditional homeland of the Nez Perce. Combined with the degradation of wetlands that has already occurred through a variety of human activity (for example, alteration of flood regimes and drainage for conversion to new land uses), wetlands face increased challenges.⁶ Potential impacts that are particularly worrisome are higher average water and air temperatures, increased spread of invasive species, and changing precipitation patterns and local hydrology.^{7,8}

Restoration projects have potential to increase the resilience of ecosystems, wildlife, and plants. Changing landscapes and weather patterns challenge restoration professionals to be intentional and forward thinking in order to develop restoration projects that increase the ability of ecosystems to cope with future disturbances. Wetland and riparian restoration is particularly important to consider due to the vulnerability of wetlands to changes in precipitation and temperature, land use patterns, hydrologic regimes and shifting species distributions. To address these issues, Point Blue's process and toolkit uses a set of principles aimed to help restoration practitioners design and implement projects that address climate uncertainty including extreme events, changes in hydrology, and any other environmental stressor. The toolkit and process is open source and hence can be modified to any place or region.

The Nimíipuu (the Nez Perce people) have traditionally derived much of their food, fiber, and medicines from wetland and riparian plants. In addition, salmon, steelhead, and lamprey— important food sources for the Nimíipuu—depend on wetland habitats for spawning, foraging and rearing. Because of this cultural tie, the NPT Resilience Program is modifying the original toolkit from Point Blue to incorporate

⁵ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (2005). *Ecosystems and human well-being: synthesis*. Island Press, Washington, DC.

⁶ Kingsford, Richard T. (2011). Conservation management of rivers and wetlands under climate change – a synthesis. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 62:217-222.

⁷ Mitsch, William J. and Maria Elizabeth Hernandez. (2013). Landscape and climate change threats to wetlands of North and Central America. *Aquatic Sciences* 75:133-149. DOI 10.1007/s00027-012-0262-7.

⁸ Erwin, Kevin L. (2009). Wetlands and global climate change: the role of wetland restoration in a changing world. *Wetlands Ecology and Management* 17:71-84.

traditional uses and cultural values. The RTCER brings together TK and relevant science to create a unique and useful tool for planning culturally significant and resilient restoration projects which provide a way to evaluate the cultural performance of a planting design and increase awareness of the value of traditional plants to cultural survival and food sovereignty.

Partners and Roles

The NPT Resilience Program is housed in the Water Resources Division. NPT Resilience Program staff have experience in facilitating, organizing, planning, and conducting events, meetings, and trainings. They are currently developing a Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan for the Tribe, and developing the RTCER for use in Tribe-led restoration projects.

NPT Resilience Program staff, supported by the wider tribal organization, will provide project coordination and administrative support for this project. This includes event planning logistics, contract payment and payroll distribution, report writing, reporting to the funding agency, hosting conference calls, etc. The NPT Resilience Program will also collaborate with Point Blue to develop curriculum, materials, and agendas for both workshops. NPT staff will be trained by Point Blue to conduct trainings on the original toolkit design and will co-facilitate the first workshop with Point Blue, then will lead the facilitation of the second workshop.

Point Blue has a long history of conducting conservation and restoration work. Their “mission is to conserve birds, other wildlife and ecosystems through science, partnerships, and outreach.”⁹ They provide trainings on a variety of conservation subjects to a broad audience, and developed the original toolkit that the RTCER is based on. Point Blue have conducted a number of workshops to train partner organizations in utilizing their original toolkit and will bring that expertise and experience to this project.

Point Blue will collaborate in this project as a subcontracted partner. Their main role will be in co-developing workshop materials, curricula, and agendas; training partners from NPT and ATNI; and sharing technical expertise gained from their experience developing and utilizing their toolkit.

The Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) will provide support with outreach to potential participants and promote the second workshop with their networks. ITEP provides training and resources to tribes around the nation on a variety of environmental issues, and has invaluable resources for engaging with their network of tribal environmental professionals for recruitment purposes.¹⁰ They are offering this support in-kind, and do not require budgeted funds from this project.

ATNI’s Tribal Liaison, Dr. Chas Jones, has joined this project as a partner to benefit the work of ATNI and NW CASC on the behalf of area tribes. Dr. Jones is offering support as an in-kind partner, and therefore does not require monetary compensation for participation. He will be working to be trained as facilitator, and will be a co-instructor for second workshop.

⁹ <http://www.pointblue.org/about-pointblue/>

¹⁰ <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main>

Project Description

Proposed start date: January 2019

Workshop #1:

Objectives: NPT and ATNI staff will be sufficiently trained and able to independently conduct future workshops. Provide information and training to NPT staff and partners in use of the RTCER; demonstrate use of the RTCER for wetlands in usual and accustomed areas of the NPT; get feedback from participants to inform revisions of existing toolkit; and get feedback from participants to inform revision of workshop curriculum and materials.

Participants: Approximately 30 NPT tribal staff and leadership, tribal partners from state/federal agencies, and non-profit and private organizations will participate. First priority for attendance support will be given to tribal staff and leadership, then tribal partners.

Description: The one-day first workshop will function as a “train-the-trainers” opportunity. Point Blue and the NPT Resilience Program will co-develop and co-implement the workshop curriculum, basing it on existing workshop models utilized by Point Blue. Partners from ATNI will attend to be trained along with tribal staff.

Planned agenda items include an introduction to the original toolkit concept and its foundational principles, overview of how the original toolkit was customized by NPT staff to include traditional values and cultural uses, guided use of the toolkit through case studies, presentation of best practices for working with holders of traditional knowledges, and group discussion or break out opportunities.

Anticipated workshop materials include PDF versions of presentations, a template toolkit and how-to guide, and handouts related to the foundational principles of Point Blue’s original toolkit and best practices for incorporating TK into restoration projects. Workshop materials will be made available on the NPT website.

To evaluate the success of the initial workshop and gather information about how to improve, pre- and post-questionnaires will be deployed. Based on these evaluative tools, adjustments will be made as necessary to the workshop materials before the second workshop.

Workshop #2:

Objectives: Provide information and training to regional tribes, agencies, and organizations in developing and using their own toolkit; demonstrate use of the RTCER for wetlands in usual and accustomed areas of the NPT; provide best practices regarding the modification of the original toolkit to include TK; get feedback from participants to inform revisions of existing toolkit; and get feedback from participants to inform revision of workshop curriculum and materials.

Participants: Approximately 40 tribal staff and leadership from regional tribes in the Northwest and staff from state/federal agencies, and non-profit and private organizations will attend. First priority for attendance support will be given to tribal staff and leadership, then to agency and private organization representatives.

Description: The one-day second workshop will include the revised curriculum and materials. It will be conducted by NPT staff and partners from ATNI who were trained at the initial workshop.

To reach a broader pool of participants, the workshop will take place in the same location as the 2019 Northwest Climate Conference, either the day after or before the conference. The NPT Resilience Program will leverage relationships with ATNI's Tribal Liaison, ITEP, and other organizations to reach a regional network of potential participants. Efforts will be made to reserve a meeting venue that has the capacity to host remote connection for participants at a distance.

Planned agenda items include an introduction to the original toolkit concept and its foundational principles, overview of how the original toolkit was customized by NPT staff to include traditional values and cultural uses, guided use of the toolkit through case studies, presentation of best practices for working with holders of traditional knowledges, and group discussion or break out opportunities.

Anticipated workshop materials include PDF versions of presentations, a template toolkit and how-to guide, and handouts related to the foundational principles of Point Blue's original toolkit and best practices for incorporating TK into restoration projects. Workshop materials will be made available on the NPT website.

Evaluation will again include pre- and post-questionnaires, as well as reflection among facilitators/instructors.

Deliverables: Two workshops; final workshop report; compilation of participant feedback; workshop notes and minutes; workshop materials to be made available online; quarterly and final reports.

Outcomes: Increased resilience and cultural relevance of wetland and riparian restoration projects in the region; enhanced networking among Tribal restoration programs in the region; strengthened partnerships among regional tribes, agencies, non-profit and private organizations; and increased dialogue about and recognition of the value of Traditional Knowledge systems in adaptation planning.

Reporting

Quarterly:

Quarterly reports will include an update on the financial status of the project. They will also detail tasks completed in preparation for each workshop and progress made on the proposed timeline and include up to date workshop participant lists. After the first workshop, the quarterly report will include minutes and compiled participant feedback.

Final:

Final reporting will include a comprehensive financial report, complete participant lists (including tribal or organization affiliation) for both workshops, minutes and compiled participant feedback from the second workshop, workshop materials, and any pictures, videos, or recordings from each workshop. A final workshop report will also be submitted. This will have information for both workshops, including successes, lessons learned, a summary of conclusions from participant and facilitator feedback (solicited in pre- and post-workshop questionnaires and during workshops). In compliance with BIA policy, all final products and data to be reported will be delivered within 90 days of the end of the project.

Timeline: January 2019 - December 2019

Monthly	Conference call among project partners to coordinate tasks and upcoming deadlines
<i>January</i>	Initial conference call among project partners
<i>February</i>	Facilitation assignments for workshop #1 Begin developing workshop curriculum and materials Begin training NPT staff Reserve venues and blocks of hotel rooms for both workshops
<i>March</i>	Continue curriculum/materials development and training
<i>April</i>	Continue curriculum/materials development and training Reach out to NPT staff and partners to market workshop #1
<i>May</i>	Continue curriculum/materials development and training Continue marketing workshop #1 Order catering for both workshops Open applications for second workshop
<i>June</i>	Continue curriculum/materials development and training Draft agenda for workshop #1 Continue marketing both workshops
<i>July</i>	Final preparations for workshop #1: Finalize agenda, participant list, and workshop materials; Compile results from pre-workshop questionnaire Deploy workshop #1 Send out post-workshop questionnaire Continue marketing for workshop #2
<i>August</i>	Process per diem for workshop #1 participants Compile results and feedback from post-workshop questionnaire Write up notes from workshop #1 Close applications for second workshop Review and approve applications for second workshop; contact approved participants
<i>September</i>	Revise facilitation assignments for workshop #2 Revise curriculum/materials/agenda for workshop #2 based on workshop #1 participant and facilitator feedback
<i>October</i>	Final preparations for workshop #2: Finalize agenda, participant list, and workshop materials; Compile results from pre-workshop questionnaire Deploy workshop #2 Send out post-workshop questionnaire
<i>November</i>	Process per diem for workshop #2 participants Compile results and feedback from post-workshop questionnaire Write up notes from workshop #2
<i>December</i>	Final conference call Compile workshop notes, participant and facilitator feedback into final report