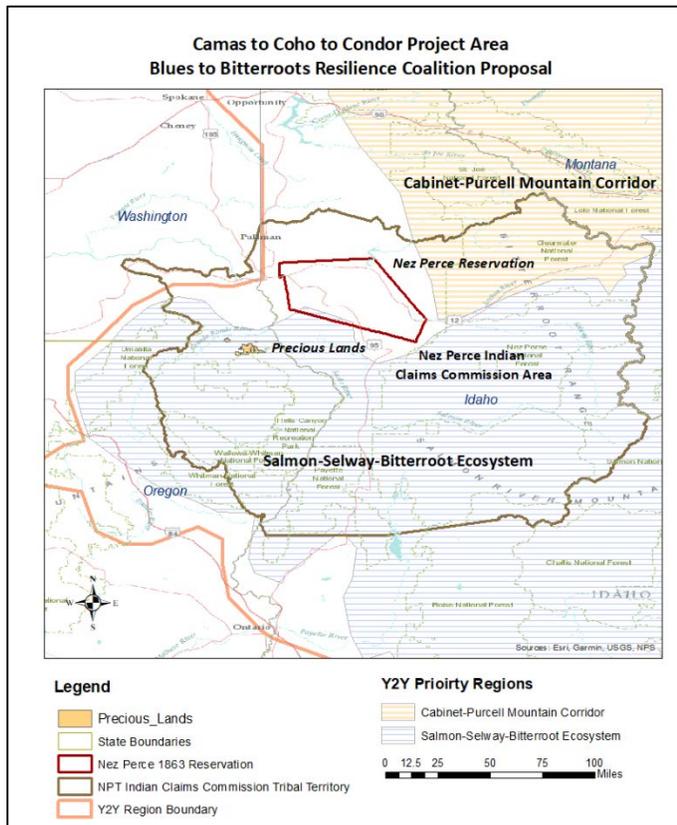




PARTNERSHIP PLANNING FOR REGIONAL WILDLIFE AND PLANT ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PROJECTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nez Perce Tribe Resilience Program proposes to create a regional initiative to vision, plan, study, restore, and protect culturally significant species, ecosystems, and land uses. This is in corollary to our vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process, and our toolkit and data development efforts. Through gathering data and collaborating with local and regional groups for the vulnerability assessment, which will be completed by early fall of 2019, we have realized that the rapidity and scale with which extreme events are harming treaty resources is so great that *landscape level* awareness, education, and planning is critical. To adequately address the environmental crisis at the scale needed, the Tribe must marshal a broad collaborative of skill sets, community interests, stories, knowledge bases, expertise, and funding pursuits. We are proposing a partnership called the Blues to Bitterroots Resilience Initiative to increase our capacity to plan and implement a regional landscape resilience effort initially called the Camas to Coho to Condors Adaptation Project. This project involves collaboratively planning partnership meetings, preparing outreach materials including a website with a story map, and drafting a plan with action steps that identifies initial projects. Both western science and Traditional Knowledge are instrumental to this project.



GEOGRAPHIC EXTENT

This project will take place in the Nez Perce Indian Claims Commission Territory (ICC) of the Nez Perce Tribe, which covers approximately 13 million acres in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana. This project is focused in the Clearwater, Lower Snake, and the Salmon Subbasins. Our initiative's regional planning efforts overlap the Selway-Salmon-Bitterroot Region of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (See Project Area Map to the left).

PEOPLE SERVED

This project will serve over 10,000 Native people including 2,420 enrolled Nez Perce members living on the Nez Perce Reservation. It will also serve Nez Perce Descendants, approximately 7,600 Nez Perce Tribal members of mixed ancestry, the majority of which currently reside within the Colville, Coeur d'Alene, and Umatilla Reservations.

PARTNERSHIPS: THE BLUES TO BITTERROOTS INITIATIVE

Partners collaborating for initial proposals include the Wildlife Division and Water Resources Division of the Nez Perce Tribe, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y), Greater Hells Canyon Council (GHCC), David Mildrexler of Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands, and Lela Brown of Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment. Additional stakeholders (tribal and non-tribal) have been initially contacted to share the idea and gauge their interest in participation. Positive responses have encouraged us to seek funding to formalize a broader partnership.

DESCRIPTION OF NEED AND SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION

The Nez Perce Tribe's Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation planning effort over the last two years has revealed an urgent need for culturally-smart restoration and resilience planning with multiple partners at a regional scale. Tribal members hunt, fish, and gather wild plants across the entire ICC, and usual and accustomed areas far beyond the boundaries of the reservation. Treaty resources, which are integral to cultural survival, are threatened by extreme events and harmful weather patterns. In addition, we have identified a funding gap in resources allocated to protecting plants, gathering, and women's foods.

Increasingly severe cycles of drought, wildfire, heat waves, extreme precipitation, and erosion have led to massive fish kills, closed fishing seasons, tick outbreaks, and emerging diseases in wild game, and changes in wild gathered foods and medicines. These changes represent an existential threat to the spiritual life and cultural survival of the Nimiipuu, the Nez Perce people.

By the end of this century, temperatures are projected to rise 7 to 10 degrees in all of the habitats in the ICC, and habitats and species are expected to shift upslope and north, shrink, or disappear altogether. Montane precipitation regimes will change from snow dominate to rain/snow mix and rain dominate, summer soil moisture will decrease, snow melt and run-off will change in volume and timing while base flows are expected to decrease. Heat waves are expected to be longer and more extreme, and wildfires are projected to increase in severity and size. As a result, water (timing and abundance) is one of the Tribe's greatest concerns.

In addition, culturally important wild plants (berries, roots, foods, and medicines) are changing in quality, timing, abundance, and size. Unlike fisheries, population level data are not consistently gathered for native plants, and the available data on future shifts of gathered foods is inadequate. The U.S. Forest Service has modeled future distributions of a limited number of shrubs, such as chokecherry and huckleberries, and camas meadow restoration projects are underway. However, other roots, berries, and medicines of cultural importance have not received similar attention; resulting in knowledge and management prescription gaps. Little work has been done at scales necessary, for example, to protect women's food resources (gathered plants) in the Tribe's treaty territory.

Proposed adaptation strategies include protecting and restoring refugia, protecting and expanding wildlife corridors, restoring wetlands and hydrology, changing land cover or cropping practices to stabilize soil and transport water underground, riparian and channel restoration, beaver reintroduction, and beaver dam analogues to cool stream temperatures, restoring healthy fire (not clear cutting) to overgrown forest patches, seed saving, climate smart agriculture practices, and experimenting with assisted migration of wild gathered plants. None

of these can be accomplished without regional collaboration. This is especially true because, despite the desire and/or directive to consult with tribes and protect treaty resources, few of the regional conservation groups or federal land managers are equipped to adequately consider cultural values, knowledge, and practices of native peoples in a meaningful way.

Current paradigms, management structures, and capacity are simply inadequate to address these issues at the scale and within the time needed. We realize that in light of the extent and rapidity of the changes, the only way to build capacity is to collaborate with other stakeholders in a new way. This project collates our other efforts into a concerted push to get adequate implementation funding as soon as possible to start on the most critical needs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND FRAMEWORK

The objective of this project is to develop a plan and vision for the Tribe and regional collaborators to work on landscape level planning efforts that focus on connectivity for wildlife, and on habitats that support traditionally harvested plant foods. This planning effort is a first step towards garnering support and obtaining adequate funding for meaningful restoration and mitigation efforts as part of the wildlife and gathering part of the adaptation plan. The vulnerability assessment will be completed by the end of 2019, the adaptation plan will be completed in 2020, and we are putting the pieces in place for implementation for the areas where capacity is needed the most now.

To achieve this, we gathered an initial group of partners with the necessary skills, resources, and willingness to focus efforts on community resilience, along with culturally-centered and traditional knowledge informed restoration. Our vision includes whole-landscape function (including hydrology and ecological connectivity), however initial efforts will be focused on critical linkages. These include the Nez Perce Precious Lands and its watershed, and three keystone symbolic species: camas (*Camassia quamash*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

WHY CAMAS TO COHO TO CONDORS

These three focal species honor native sovereignty and lifeways. Camas represents primary producers, gathered plants and hydrology (seasonal wetlands); condors represent a member of our community, a recycler, who has been lost from these lands, is critically endangered, and whose recovery challenges us to stop poisoning ourselves, the land, and other animals; and Coho, the long-distance traveler, represents healthy water, is threatened by the increasing water temperatures and extreme events, and is a member of our community who has very recently been reunited with the waters of eastern Oregon. These species are cultural keystone species that serve as umbrella representatives of the ecosystems that the Nez Perce people have depended upon since time immemorial. They also represent the ecosystem processes that allowed wild foods to be plentiful and timely to sustain humans on this landscape. Restoration work on behalf of these species will improve the overall resilience of the landscape while building on decades of NPT-led efforts to bring essential pieces and processes of the landscape--from primary producers to obligate recyclers--back together.

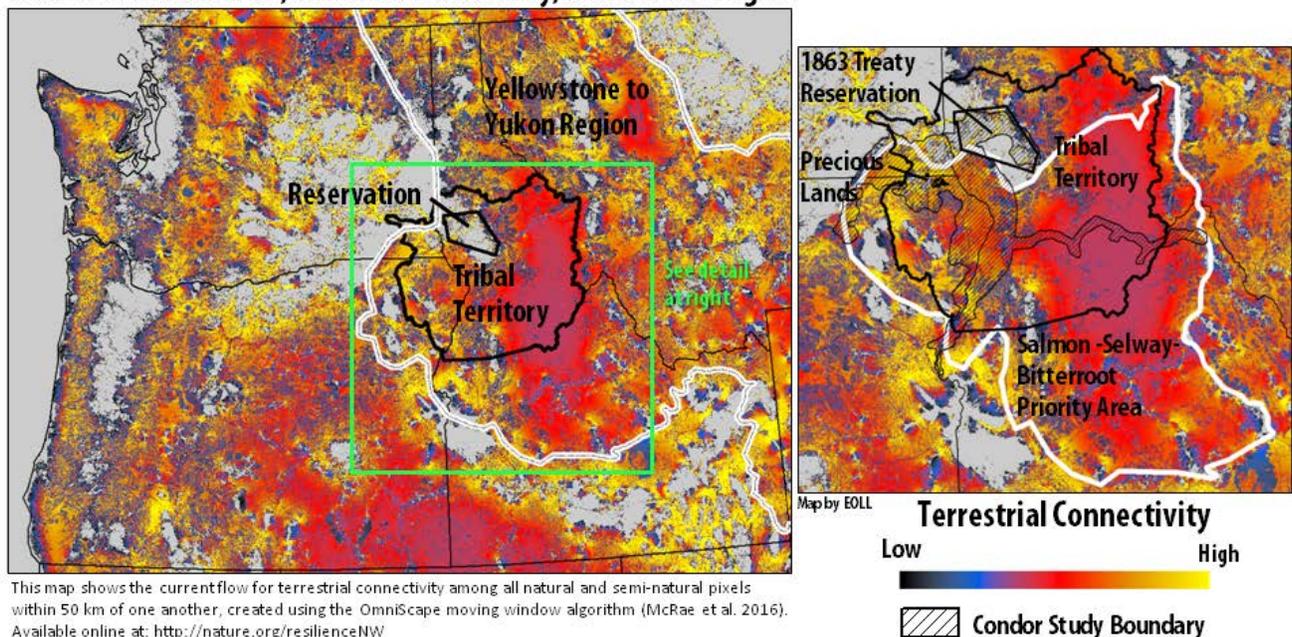
The Wildlife Division is completing a feasibility assessment for reintroducing California condor into Hells Canyon that was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and has applied for additional funds to work on California condor restoration. This is a priority wildlife project for the Tribe, as was the reintroduction of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) and Coho salmon. The Wildlife Division has applied for funding to continue this project via a non-lead hunting awareness campaign. Should they receive those funds, they would qualify as matching funds.

WHY THE PRECIOUS LANDS

Since the late 1990s, the Nez Perce tribe has acquired 16,286 acres (66 km²) in the Joseph Creek watershed (Lower Snake Subbasin) for wildlife conservation. The lands currently provide habitat for two federally listed threatened species, Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) and the Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and may provide habitat for the threatened lynx, Townsend's big-eared bat, and mountain quail. Over sixteen rare plant species are also known to exist on the project area. Non-threatened species include bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, blue grouse, gray wolves, pileated woodpeckers, golden eagles, and red-tailed hawks.

The precious lands and the Nez Perce Tribe's reservation are critical linkages within this landscape for connectivity for wildlife in this region. They are also centrally located, and representative of cultural values on the land. The following map depicts the ICC (Tribal Territory outlined in black), reservation (also outlined in black), the Y2Y region (white boundary), and the California condor study boundary (black hatched boundary). The colored background shows landscape connectivity. The yellow areas have high connectivity, and demonstrate that there is a gap between northeastern Oregon (the Blue Mountains) and northern Idaho (the Bitterroot Mountains). The Precious Lands are an important site within this matrix, as is the Reservation. In addition, the precious lands are owned by the tribe and provide a discrete and concrete site for

NezPerce Tribal Lands, wildlife connectivity, and the Y2Y region



which to plan initial actions, much like the Bees to Bears Climate Adaptation Project in northern Idaho (<https://idfg.idaho.gov/bees2bears>).

MILESTONES, PROJECT TASKS, DELIVERABLES

The milestones are identified below in a table with corresponding project tasks and associated deliverables. The primary deliverables will be a formalized regional partnership, regional restoration plan, presentation, story map, final report, and at least two regional meetings. This project is anticipated to start in January 2020 and to be completed by December of 2020.

Task List	2020 Timeline (FY 20 and 21)	Deliverables/Milestones
Project Set up; subcontracting, etc. First Conference Call	January	Contracts Completed; Shared Project Calendar Set-Up: Filing System Organized: Budget Set up
Schedule first meeting, reserve space, order catering for refreshments, send out invites	February	Venue reserved, Invitations formalized, meeting plan initiated
Prepare Initial GIS database, maps, and workshop materials, set up ArcPro online	February - April	GIS files, Maps, Workshop Presentations and Materials, Sharable Data
Create shared table of grants and funding sources with deadlines for implementation funding & update it	February - December	Funding Table
Draft Outline, introductory text, methods draft, create workshop survey	April- May	Draft Text for final document, workshop survey
First regional meeting	late April	First face to face meeting completed: Meeting Materials prepared.
Workshop follow up	May	Emails to participants, survey feedback reviewed
Document drafting and proposal framework for funding applications	June - September	Draft document, Start drafting framework for proposals
Follow up meeting with Partners	early September	Feedback from partners, next steps, and document and materials editing
Story Map drafting and set up	July - October	Story Map Draft
Final edits revisions	November - December	Final Action Plan, Graphics, Story Map, Funding Plan

TRANSFER OF RESULTS

The project results will be summarized in a final report, story map, action plan and funding plan. The story map will be added to the Nez Perce Tribe’s Water Resources Website after approval of the Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee (NPTEC). Importantly, we will follow the proper Tribal

procedures to ensure that private information is not published. Databases, maps, and models will be housed within the Tribe, and instructions will be provided to Tribal Staff to help them utilize this information. We plan to submit for oral or poster presentations to tribally relevant meetings such as the NW Climate Conference. We also plan to directly share this through our partnership network with a project brochure with links to the website with the story map.

REPORTING

The Tribe will provide quarterly project progress updates, and a final written report that demonstrates completion of tasks outlined in this proposal. Quarterly reports will include status updates, a list of expenditures, the budget remaining.

MATCHING FUNDS

We currently have a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to build a Restoration Toolkit for Ecological and Cultural Resilience. The toolkit provides a way to help partners include cultural performance in their restoration evaluation projects. GHCC applied for the Network for Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund in April, 2019, and we are waiting to hear back on this grant. GHCC is providing in-kind support through staff time for one full-time employee. Lela Brown with Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment is providing volunteer labor in exchange for travel costs. Lela is an ethnobotanist who lived for an entire year wild foraging in Hells Canyon. She also has a permaculture and environmental education background, and is already helping Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment with their projects.

IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

The Tribe and our collaborators intend to pursue funding for implementation programs from funders such as the Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Bonneville Power Mitigation Funds, and Private Foundation Funding for implementation dollars to protect, connect, and restore critical wildlife corridors and gathering areas for the Nez Perce Tribe. Part of this project is to develop a funding plan and garner support. In addition, we are partnering with Y2Y because they have the ability to connect smaller, disparate projects into a cohesive whole, and this has helped their partners pursue funding.

CAPACITY BUILDING

This project is, by design, meant to increase the capacity of the Tribe to fund and implement projects that protect culturally relevant species and landscapes. We hope to also increase the capacity of regional stakeholders and partners to include tribal concerns in their work in a meaningful way. We are pursuing this framework in order to increase our ability to obtain funding for underfunded areas for which specific vulnerabilities have been identified but tribal programs are not currently addressing in a concerted and adequate manner. In addition, we want to be able to pursue large enough funding sources to have a meaningful restoration economy that employs tribal members to do ecological work. The rural economy in which the Tribe is based offers few of these opportunities. This is central to the goals of the Tribe and the vision of tribal resilience.

Budget:

<i>Budget Item</i>	<i>Proposed Budget</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>In Kind or matching funds</i>
Salaries	\$49,917.81	Includes: 24 weeks' pay (approx. 50% of annual salary), Professional 1, grade 17, step 1, +3% COLA, for climate change specialist position, and 24 weeks pay (Pro III, grade 20, step 1) for project coordination. Approximately 4 weeks pay for Professional II, grade 19, step 3, +3% COLA for GIS Database Administrator. Employee time will be spent on project and partner coordination, meeting planning, writing a plan, creating a story map, and meeting with regional partners.	EPA Tribal Wetlands Grant for Restoration Toolkit Development (FY 2020 = \$26,691.00 – see attached proposal). In-Kind Donation of Volunteer Labor by Lela Brown in exchange for travel funds and accommodation.
Fringe Benefits	\$31,856.94	~fringe including family medical rate for one Pro I and 1 Pro 3: the primary planners; Fringe for other participants not included.	
Training/Travel	\$18,000.00	Two local workshops with Y2Y and regional partners (\$6,000 each); and \$6,000 funds for travel support for partners	
Supplies	\$2,650.00	Education, Outreach (\$300), and Office Supplies (\$400.00) Honoraria for Elders \$2,250.00 (\$250 * 10)	
Subtotal	\$102,424.76		
Indirect 27.5	\$28,832.57		
Nez Perce Tribe Total	\$131,257.33		
Subcontract	\$11,200.00	Greater Hells Canyon Council	\$23,000: see budget below.
Subcontract	\$7,500.00	David Mildrexler with Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands	
<i>Total Costs:</i>	<i>\$149,957.33</i>		

*Additional funding has been applied for from the Catalyst Fund (\$25,000) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We are awaiting notification to see if these applications were successful.

Camas to Coho to Condors: Blues to Bitterroots Resilience Initiative

Greater Hells Canyon Council Preliminary Budget, BIA Tribal Resilience Grant

Name of Landscape Conservation Partnership:	Camas to Condors: Blues to Bitterroots Resilience Initiative			
--	--	--	--	--

NOTE: This spreadsheet includes both requested funding and anticipated in-kind match from GHCC

	BIA Resilience Grant Funding		Match Funding		Notes: (optional) <i>Please limit each note to one line or less</i>
	Year 1	(Year 2)	Anticipated Direct Funding	Anticipated In-Kind	
Personnel (Staff and Consultants)					
Christina deVillier; GHCC	\$8,000			\$7,000	\$7k = approx 17% annual salary
Other Direct Costs					
a. Travel: quarterly meetings	\$1,000			\$440	Lapwai ID to/from Joseph OR: 218 mi. rnd trip x 4 @ .535/mi. x 2 vehicles for partners
b. Field travel: volunteer restoration / reconnaissance work	\$600			\$460	Approx 4 trips 200 mi. tot. @ .535/mi. with volunteers x 2 vehicles
d. Field supplies: maps, materials, etc.	\$300			\$200	Volunteer field outings: food, water, maps, etc.
Indirect Costs (i.e. overhead; no more than 12% of total)	\$1,300			\$1,300	Total Catalyst = 5.2% to GHCC overhead: phone, internet, rent; grant admin/pymt. processing, etc.
Total	\$11,200	\$0	\$0	\$9,400	Note: budget numbers are preliminary

Total Grant Request: \$11,200					
Additional Funding Source	Amount	Status			
GHCC will match a portion of funds from "general support"					\$9,900

Nez Perce Tribal Resilience Adaptation Planning Grant: Camas, Coho, Condors Project Subcontract Budget for David Mildrexler		
Income		
(Jan 2020 - Dec 2020)	Amount	
BIA Tribal Resilience Adaptation Planning Grant	\$7,500	
Total		\$7,500
Expenses		
(July 2020 - Dec 2020)	Amount	
Conference calls - monthly	\$500	
Research and acquire datasets, develop project workflow	\$500	
GIS analysis	\$4,000	
Develop project materials (statistics, images, maps, presentation figures, text)	\$1,500	
Bi-annual workshops	\$1,000	
Total		\$7,500