Tribal Nations & The America the Beautiful Challenge

Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP), for the second year in a row, supported Tribal grant applications for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s (NFWF) America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) by leveraging $1.5 million to satisfy the funding opportunity’s required cash match for each grant awarded.

Through its Tribal Nations Conservative Pledge and Funding Collaborative, NAP provided the required matching contribution for projects awarded to Tribal Nations through ATBC. In total, NFWF funded 74 grants for a total of $141.3 million to support landscape-scale conservation projects across 46 States, three U.S. Territories, and 21 Tribal and Native Nations. Over $50 million was awarded to Tribes.

ATBC Grant Breakdown

Submissions

Applications Submitted by Tribal Nations: 131 out of 456

Total Amount of Funding Requested by Tribal Nations: $330 million out of $885 million in total requests

Awards

Average Award Amount to Tribal Nations:

$141.3 Million Awarded vs. $335 Million Requested

Number of Awards to Tribal Nations: 21 out of 74

Average Award Amount to Tribal Nations: $2 million

Four Tribal Nations Leading the Charge:

Manu Tatene Utkéware: Improving Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Ancestral Lands ($4,807,400 - SC)

Grantee: Catawba Indian Nation

Cocopah Colorado River Limitrophe Restoration ($5,000,000 - AZ)

Grantee: Cocopah Indian Tribe

Northern Plains Bison Range Improvements with the Fort Peck Buffalo Program ($4,999,600 - MT)

Grantee: Fort Pecks Tribes

Prioritizing Habitat Restoration and Aquatic Connectivity in the Penobscot River Watershed ($4,999,400 - ME)

Grantee: Penobscot Indian Nation
From Native Americans in Philanthropy:

Native Americans in Philanthropy is incredibly honored to partner with its closest philanthropic partners and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to move more funding to Tribal Nations leading the charge in the conservation of our sacred land and waterways.

“Indigenous knowledge and leadership is critical if the U.S. hopes to address the climate and biodiversity crisis. I am deeply grateful to our funders and partners at the Tribal Climate and Conservation Funding Collaborative who, for the second year in a row, helped Tribes meet the non-federal match requirement, a historic barrier for many to receiving federal funds.

This year, by leveraging $1.5 million in private dollars, Tribes will be able to access more than $50 million in new public funding to address critical conservation projects.

This is a historic moment for our community.”

— Erik Stegman, CEO, Native Americans in Philanthropy.

About Native Americans in Philanthropy

For over thirty years, Native Americans in Philanthropy has promoted equitable and effective philanthropy in Native communities. NAP does this through leadership development, education, research, and strategic partnerships with funders and philanthropic organizations. The cornerstone of their work is their relatives and their networks. NAP supports several communities that work together to build knowledge, community, priorities, and power in the sector. These networks include Native professionals in philanthropy, elected Tribal leaders, Native youth leaders, Native philanthropic executives and board members, and Native nonprofit leaders.

About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation’s fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Working with federal, corporate, foundation and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of $7.4 billion. Learn more at www.nfwf.org.

About the America the Beautiful Challenge

The America the Beautiful Challenge is a public-private grant program for locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the Biden-Administration’s America the Beautiful Initiative.