

Tribal Nations Climate & Conservation Funding Collaborative



NATIVE AMERICANS
IN PHILANTHROPY





Biodiversity Funders Group (BFG) and Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) launched the Tribal Nations Climate & Conservation Funding Collaborative (The Collaborative) in 2021 to:

- Strengthen the field of climate and biodiversity conservation projects led by Tribal Nations
- Dramatically increase funding to tribal projects
- Catalyze and leverage new sources of funding for these projects from federal, state, and private sources

The Collaborative Includes...

- A funder learning and engagement series
- A pooled fund housed at NAP
- A philanthropic pledge

The Collaborative has created opportunities for direct funding, and also a forum to strategize, learn from Tribal leaders, and share knowledge and resources to support Tribal self-governance and conservation and climate efforts.

\$145.8 Million Unlocked Through America the Beautiful Challenge

Amount leveraged
over three years to
meet the required
cash match

\$4.5M

Amount awarded
directly to Tribes

\$145.8M

Total of Tribally-led
conservation
projects funded

62



*Penobscot Indian Nation's project,
"Prioritizing Habitat Restoration and
Aquatic Connectivity in the Penobscot
River Watershed"
(Source: Penobscot Indian Nation)*

Capacity Building

We are strengthening the capacity of key Tribal and ally organizations to tackle climate and conservation challenges.

- NAP is supporting Native American Rights Fund's development of the Homelands Coalition—a dedicated space for Tribal Nations, nonprofits, grassroots organizations, and individuals to connect, build relationships, and advance land and water protection efforts across Indian Country.
- National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) with NAP is updating and expanding its resources about Tribes and Indigenous issues, including a forthcoming toolkit for states on how to advance critical work with Tribes.
- Multiple grants to USET fueled the Tribal Infrastructure Development Program, empowering Tribes to maximize federal funding opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- Mining - Tribes' have sovereign legal authority to approve mining projects but lack of resources frequently undermines their authority. NAP provides Tribal Nations the support needed to effectively consult in the early stages of proposed mining projects.
- NAP also played a key role in launching DOI's Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP), with two team members transitioning to federal employment to help lead the initiative. As a vital link to the federal government, OSP focuses on conservation, economic development, and cultural preservation.

Tribal Co-Management Projects

Several recent demonstration projects have provided an opportunity for the Collaborative to unlock additional federal investments in Tribal conservation initiatives and gain insights about future investments.

These included projects involving the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, as well as several awards to Tribes under the Gravel-to-Gravel Keystone Initiative, which focuses on salmon restoration in Alaska.





Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Enters Into USWS Agreement For Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges

The agreement and associated funding allowed the Tribe to have direct access and oversight to an area where the Tribe's ancestors lived and hunted for generations

Great Lakes Initiative

Working in the Great Lakes region, NAP has created a database that maps the 44 Great Lakes communities and intertribal consortia, established connection with the Great Lakes Funders, creating a working group of Tribal communities and funders in the region through learning sessions.

One project we support is Ohe·láku (“Among the Cornstalks”), which is made up of Haudenosaunee families relearning how to care for ancestral corn varieties using Traditional Ecological Knowledge methods on 10 acres of Oneida Nation Reservation trust land in Oneida, Wisconsin.





**Gravel-to-Gravel Keystone Initiative
Partners DOI with Alaska Native
Tribes for Salmon Restoration**

Since the initiative was announced, more than \$44M has been committed towards the effort.

Tribal Buffalo Lifeways Collaboration

SUCSESSES

Infrastructure & Grasslands Management:

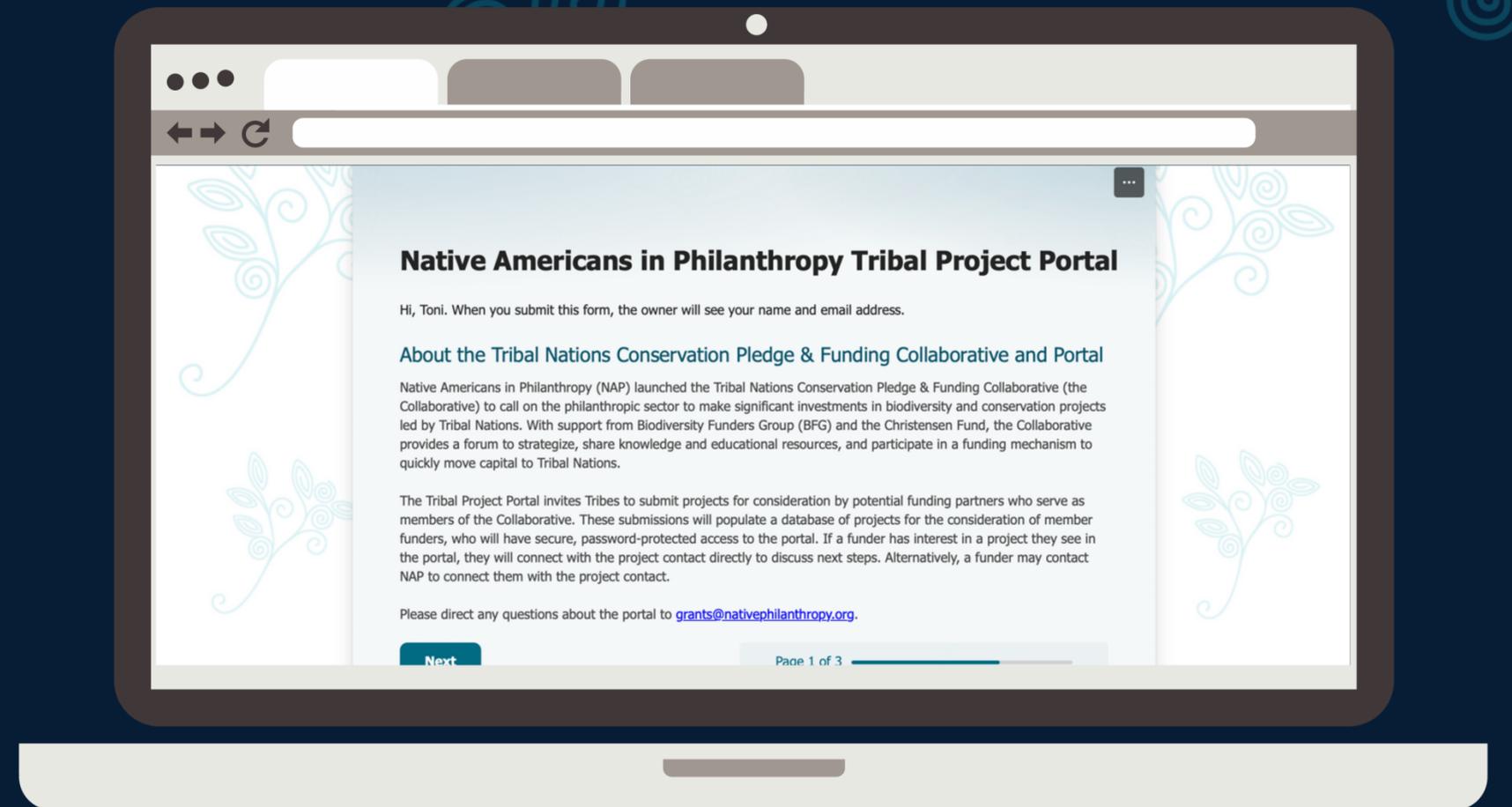
ITBC won more than \$62M from the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program. To our knowledge, this is the largest federal investment ever awarded for Tribal buffalo programs.

Land & Leasing: Under TNC's leadership, the Collaboration purchased the 26,276-acre Dakota Partnership Ranch, which is of great cultural and ecological significance to the Lakota. In the future, the ranch and herd will be transferred to Indigenous leadership for management.



Funder Portal: Connecting Tribes with Funding Opportunities

- First iteration enables Tribes to upload projects seeking funding.
- Future Enhancements: Searchable Funder Repository
- Next phase will include funder details, RFPs, deadlines, and funding areas.
- Building on ATBC: Expanding Tribal Funding Access
- Inspired by the ATBC challenge, the portal bridges Tribes and private funders.



Building a Committed Community of Funders

To date, 27 funders have supported NAP's Climate And Conservation Collaborative.

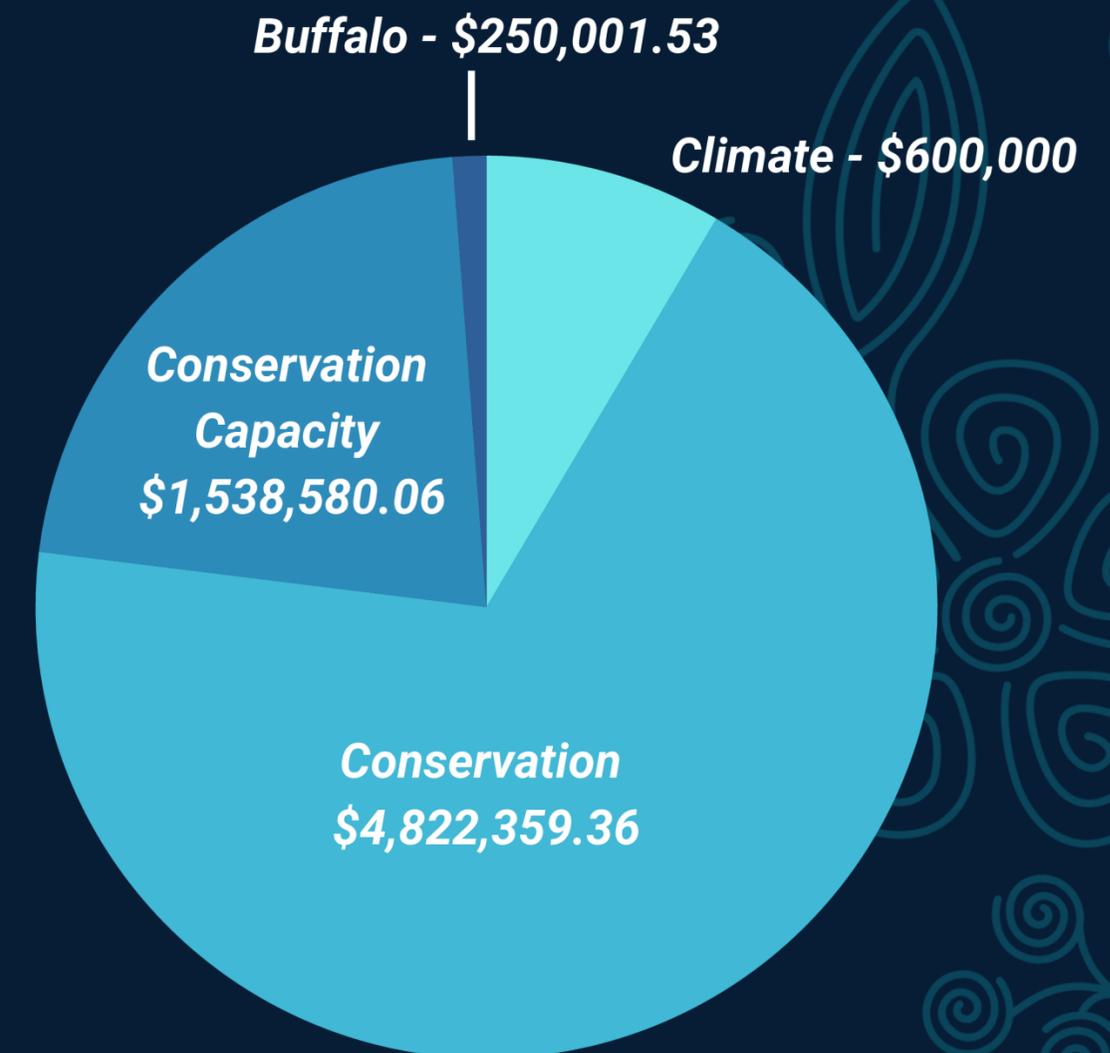
Total Regranting: \$7,210,940.45

Total NAP Capacity: \$3,970,313.51

Total Pooled Fund: \$11,181,253.96

Categories of regranting:

- Climate: \$600,000.00
- Conservation: \$4,822,359.36
- Conservation Capacity: \$1,538,580.06
- Buffalo: \$250,001.03



Building a Committed Community of Funders

In 2023, NAP, BFG, and our funders facilitated a pledge of \$102.5 million in newly committed direct investments from 15 different funders over five years.

Total investments to date from the pledge signatories: \$41,947,000.

Total pledge: \$102,500,000.

Categories of investments to date:

- Increase Access to Federal Resources: \$5,071,000
- Capacity Building Indigenous Non-Profits: \$5,346,000
- Co-Management/Land Back: \$7,665,000
- Capacity Building Tribes: \$3,185,000
- Strengthening the Field: \$515,000
- Direct Conservation Grants: \$20,165,000



What We've Learned

- Public-Private Partnerships = Greater Impact
- Strength through Partnership
- Partner Capacity is Crucial
- Transformation is the Key
- Funder Tours Inform the Field
- NAP as a Bridge



The Way Forward

- Strengthening coordination and expanding technical assistance
- Increasing commitments and catalyzing new funding
- Sustaining and increasing support for tribally-led conservation infrastructure
- Strengthening regional approaches, strategies, and public-private infrastructure



Conclusion

These successes lay a strong foundation.

We recognize that much remains to be done. Now more than ever, NAP is engaging the philanthropic sector to advance Tribes' critical environmental work.

With both existing and new partners committed to sustaining and increasing their contributions, we believe our impact will continue to grow, ensuring that Native communities remain empowered and prepared to lead conservation efforts.



Ahe'hee'
Aho
Kepechihi
Kwatlanushaamash
Miigwech
Mvto
Pinagigi
Shonabish
Tabutne
Thank you
Tlazocamati
Wado
Wokhlew