



EasyGrantsID: 79566

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – America the Beautiful Challenge 2023, Full Proposal

Title: Planning Eco-Cultural Regeneration for the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School

National Historic Landmark, White Mountain Apache Tribe Lands

Organization: White Mountain Apache Tribe

Grant Information

Title of Project

Planning Eco-Cultural Regeneration for the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark, White Mountain Apache Tribe Lands

Total Amount Requested	\$ 333,788.90
Matching Contributions Proposed	\$32,200.00
Proposed Grant Period	01/08/ 2024 - 01/31/ 2025

Project Description

The White Mountain Apache Tribe has diverse lands, waters, and interdependent human and biotic communities. We are expert stewards of wetlands, grasslands, woodlands, forests, wildlife, and cultural heritage. What we need is a geographical focus, partners, and operational funds to reverse bio-physical-cultural harms emanating from 150 years of colonialist-extractive resource management by the US. We propose to create a detailed, technically superb, culturally apt, and “shovel-ready” Master Plan for re-Indigenizing the 300 acres of rivers, farmlands, grasslands, and woodlands at Fort Apache. Reclaiming Apache stewardship for and sovereignty over the place at the root of the Apache colonial experience will halt further harms and guide healing. Programmatic re-emplacement of Apache ways of planning and implementing eco-cultural regeneration at Fort Apache will liberate Apache lands, minds, and futures from pernicious colonial legacies and enable regeneration across our Territory.

Project Abstract

Planning eco-cultural regeneration entails 3 integrated steps:

- 1-Mobilize a Core Team of Apache Traditional Knowledge (ATK) specialists and scientists to walk Fort Apache lands; identify needs; envision desired futures; build team consensus and capacity; refine the regeneration goals, partners and schedule.
- 2-Study comparable eco-cultural regeneration initiatives in the US Southwest. Core Team visits to other lands undergoing regeneration will enable learning and partnering about what can and must be rehabilitated at Fort Apache. Thus informed and inspired, our Core Team will refine the request for proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from planning consultants with pertinent expertise.
- 3-Select and guide consultants: The Core Team will review RFP responses, interview top respondents at Fort Apache, and negotiate with the best respondents the terms of engagement and Master Plan deliverables. Our Core Team will provide consultants with pertinent documentary and graphical assets, including high-resolution aerial imagery, historical photographs, and existing plans. Minimally, the Master Plan will specify ways, means and additional partners to (a) re-establish top soils, (b) curb erosion, (c) exclude invasive species, (d) reduce fuel loads, (e) improve habitat for “cultural keystone” plant and animal species, (f) reestablish irrigated farms and orchards, (g) remove industrial refuse, (h) enhance educational and recreational opportunities, (i) enable climate change adaptation.

Organization and Primary Contact Information

Organization	White Mountain Apache Tribe
Organization Type	



NFWF

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Organization: White Mountain Apache Tribe

City, State, Country

„

Region (if international)

Primary Contact

John R. Welch

Position/Title

Phone and E-mail

x ; JWelch@archaeologysouthwest.org

Additional Contacts

Role	Name
Principal	Cheryl Pailzote



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Project Location Information

Project Location Description	Fort Apache sits 4 miles south of the Tribe's capital, at the confluence of rivers, grasslands, woodlands, and farmlands. As an army post repurposed as a boarding school, Fort Apache is a place of ongoing encounters among histories, worldviews and desired futures. Its lands cry for and deserve help.
Project Country(ies)	North America - United States
Project State(s)	Arizona
Project Congressional District(s)	District 2 (AZ)

Permits and Approvals

Permits/Approvals Description:	Only one formal approval is required. As a National Historic Landmark, the Fort Apache and TR School Property requires specialized review and consideration to assure all actions, including planning, conform with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Preservation. We have thus solicited and received concurrence in a No Adverse Effect determination from the White Mountain Apache Tribe historic preservation officer (THPO), as indicated in Mr. Altaha's uploaded letter of support.
Permits/Approvals Status:	Completed
Permits/Approvals Agency-Contact Person:	Mark Altaha
Permits/Approvals Submittal-Approval Date:	07/18/2023



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Activities and Outcomes

Funding Strategy: Habitat Management
Metric: ATBC - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management on tribal lands
Required: Recommended
Description: Enter the number of acres under improved management and indicate the types of practices in the NOTES section. Only count an acre once, even if multiple activities or treatments will occur on that acre during the project.

Starting Value 20.00 Acres under improved management on tribal lands
Target value 300.00 Acres under improved management on tribal lands

Note: Planning attention focused on the roughly 280 acres located beyond the Fort Apache "campus" of historic buildings will, in itself, initiate improved respect for and treatment of these forsaken lands and waters. The 20 campus acres under current management by the Foundation encompass all of the historic buildings and associated plantings, sidewalks, and other landscape features. The planning work proposed here will bring all of Fort Apache's remaining 280 acres into active and upgraded management, principally for ecological restoration and adaptive reuse in accord with ATK and community interests and values. Biophysical treatments will await Master Plan completion and review, but the benefits of respectful consideration will commence in and through the processes of Master Plan creation and community and Territory engagement.

Funding Strategy: Planning, Research, Monitoring
Metric: ATBC - Management or Governance Planning - # plan activities implemented
Required: Recommended
Description: Enter the number of management plan activities being implemented

Starting Value 0.00 # plan activities implemented
Target value 20.00 # plan activities implemented

Note: ~8 Core Team meetings;
6 site/field visits to other project areas;
6 focus groups/ workshops (farmers, cattle association members, neighbors, TR Students, and 2 TBA).
These 20 planning activities will be attended by the Core Team, and the consultants will also participate in later meetings and the 6 focus groups/ workshops.
These activities will add form, content, and connectivity to planning process and the Master Plan. These activities will boost Fort Apache's management, governance, and community integration. Engagement with Fort Apache neighbors and with prospective users of the upgraded Fort Apache will build trust, transparency, and relationships among the Core Team, partners, and stakeholders. Eco-cultural regeneration planning promises to



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at boost the the number of local people who know about, care about, and contribute to the Master Plan well into the hundreds. Core Team and planning consultant activities and communications throughout the planning work—including local radio (KNNB Apache Radio), newspaper (Fort Apache SCOUT and White Mountain INDEPENDENT), and social media (especially Facebook)—will educate the Tribe’s leaders and members and improve chances for Master Plan reception and success.

Funding Strategy: Planning, Research, Monitoring

Metric: ATBC - Restoration planning/design/permitting - # E&D plans developed

Required: Recommended

Description: Enter the number of Engineering and Design plans developed. Generally there will be 1 plan per project to be constructed.

Starting Value	0.00 # E&D plans developed
Target value	1.00 # E&D plans developed

Note: This proposal's most important metric is the production of a Master Plan that is technically proficient, culturally appropriate, context-sensitive, "shovel-ready," and "do-able." The Master Plan will address serious current problems that prevent Apache, visitor, and wildlife use and enjoyment of Fort Apache, including topsoil losses and erosion, invasive plant incursions, dangerous and ineffective fences, garbage dumping, incoherent and difficult to maintain trails, and abandoned sewage lagoons and other industrial intrusions.

Funding Strategy: Capacity, Outreach, Incentives

Metric: ATBC - Volunteer participation - # of volunteer hours

Required: Recommended

Description: Enter the # of volunteer hours in this project, who will be engaged, and what activities they will complete.

Starting Value	0.00 # of volunteer hours
Target value	400.00 # of volunteer hours

Note: Key members of the Core Team will be compensated by their employers for their participation in Master Plan creation. Apache elders and cultural specialists will receive honoraria. The following contributors (and others TBA) will volunteer their time: Joe Kalt, Jonathan Long, Rafael Payan, John Welch.



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I. PERSONNEL	\$20,409.86
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Staff Name	Position	Annual Salary	Project Hours	Hourly Rate	LOE (%)	Project Salary	% Fringe	\$ Fringe	Total Personnel
Cheryl Pailzote	Core Team Tech Co-Lead (hydro)	\$69,600.00	300.00	\$33.46	14	\$10,038.46	11.00	\$1,104.23	\$11,142.69
TBA	Core Team Tech Co-Lead (Bio)	\$57,885.00	300.00	\$27.83	14	\$8,348.80	11.00	\$918.37	\$9,267.17

Totals						\$18,387.26		\$2,022.60	\$20,409.86
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II. TRAVEL	\$9,090.00
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Domestic Airfare – Per Flight

Purpose/Destination	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost

SubTotal	\$0.00
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International Airfare – Per Flight

Purpose/Destination	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost

SubTotal	\$0.00
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Train – Per Ticket

Purpose/Destination	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost



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SubTotal **\$0.00**

Rental Car – Per Day

Purpose/Destination	Days/Duration	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost

SubTotal **\$0.00**

Taxis – Per Trip

Purpose/Destination	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost

SubTotal **\$0.00**

Mileage – Per Mile

Purpose/Destination	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Core Team Travel To/From Fort Apache	\$0.65	6600	\$4,290.00

SubTotal **\$4,290.00**

Gasoline – Per Gallon

Purpose/Destination	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost

SubTotal **\$0.00**

Per Diem (M&IE) – Per Day

Purpose/Destination	Days/Duration	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
6 Core Team Site/ Field Visits	04	\$70.00	06	\$1,680.00



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SubTotal **\$1,680.00**

Lodging – Per Night

Purpose/Destination	Days/Duration	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
6 Core Team Site/ Field Visits	04	\$130.00	06	\$3,120.00

SubTotal **\$3,120.00**

Meals (no M&IE) – Per Meal

Purpose/Destination	Days/Duration	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost

SubTotal **\$0.00**

III. EQUIPMENT **\$0.00**

Item Name	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost

IV. MATERIALS & SUPPLIES **\$600.00**

Type	Purpose	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Miscellaneous Core Team materials and supplies.	Fill gaps in Core Team needs		\$600.00	1	\$600.00

V. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES **\$250,000.00**

Subcontract/Contract – Per Agreement

Contractor Name	Description	Total Cost
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TBD-Technical planning consultant.	Selected firm will visit FtA, work with Core Team	\$250,000.00
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SubTotal **\$250,000.00**

Subgrant – Per Agreement

Subrecipient	Description	Total Cost

SubTotal **\$0.00**

VI. OTHER DIRECT COSTS **\$10,000.00**

Type	Purpose	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Personnel	Honoraria for Apache Traditional Knowledge Holders	. Half day rate (\$200 for full-day).	\$100.00	100	\$10,000.00

VII. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS **\$290,099.86**

VIII. INDIRECT COSTS **\$43,689.04**

Explanation of Modified Total Direct Cost Base(MTDC)	Rate Type	NICRA Expiration	\$MTDC	Rate(%)	Total Cost
WMA Tribe NICRA negotiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center, per authorities contained in applicable regulations dated. The Tribe's NICRA is currently being renegotiated. Big change is not anticipated.	Fixed	4/30/2023	\$290,099.86	15.06	\$43,689.04

IX. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS **\$333,788.90**



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Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

1. Personnel

Personnel - Partial salary deferrals for the two Core Team co-leaders: Cheryl Pailzote, the Tribe's hydrologist, and one of the biologists employed by the Game and Fish Division. The co-leaders will provide quality control and assurance for all planning stages and will serve as primary contacts for the Core Team and the consultants retained to prepare the Master Plan. Salary funding will assure that the Master Plan remains a top priority for the co-leaders.

2. Travel

Domestic Airfare - Per Flight -	
International Airfare - Per Flight -	
Train - Per Ticket -	
Rental Car - Per Day -	
Taxis - Per Trip -	
Mileage - Per Mile -	Mileage per the current Federal Government rate is necessary to support Core Team travel to and from Fort Apache (some Core Team members live almost 200 miles away) and to the six site visits, which remain TB but are expected to be an average of about 150 miles from Fort Apache (~300-mile round trip).
Gasoline - Per Gallon -	
Per Diem (M&IE) - Per Day -	Meals and incidental expenses for the 10-person Core Team (with at least one elder and cultural specialist) to make visits of up

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to four days in duration (including travel days) to sites undergoing restoration/ regeneration treatments. Some sites to visit have been identified; other will be nominated for visitation by the Core Team and our network. \$70 is the Tribe's current per diem rate.

Lodging - Per Night -	Lodging is necessary to accommodate up to 10 members of the Core Team during the six site visits of up to four days in duration. Some of these visits may occur after the consultants are selected, but the consultants would be expected to cover their own travel costs.
Meals (No M&IE) - Per Meal -	

3. Equipment

Equipment -

4. Materials and Supplies

Materials and Supplies -	Nominal amount included to cover materials and supplies incidental to Master Plan creation: Digital storage devices, first aid kits, items to make elders comfortable, like folding field chairs, etc.
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5. Contractual Services

Subcontract/Contract - Per Agreement -	Initial discussions with colleagues in planning and design fields, along with NFWF feedback on our pre-proposal, led us to this significant and tidy estimate for the cost of an excellent, high-resolution plan for integrating Apache and Western scientific knowledge to enable the full recovery and functionality of Fort Apache's riparian, farm, grass, and woodlands.
Subgrant - Per Agreement -	



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6. Other Direct Costs

Other Direct Costs -

Apache culture requires modest cash recognitions for time, attention, and prayer dedicated to people and places outside of one's family. The availability of 50 full-day honoraria will enable the Core Team to enlist assistance from elders and cultural specialists in meetings, workshops, and other planning activities. Such individuals may also accompany the Core Team on visits to sites away from Fort Apache that are undergoing restoration.

7. Indirect Costs

Indirect Costs -

See the WMA Tribe NICRA. Indirect costs for this work include processing travel reimbursement claims from members of the Core Team, processing consultant invoices, grant accounting, and overhead for the Tribe's personnel who participate in the project but do not have salary costs covered in this budget.



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Matching Contributions

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$2,000.00
Type:	Cash
Status:	Pledged
Source:	Fort Apache Heritage Fndtn. rent income account
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Incidentals and refreshments for Core Team and community meetings

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$6,200.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Pledged
Source:	White Mountain Apache Tribe Watershed & Hydrology
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Technical, personnel, and administrative support beyond that provided for by salary expenses and indirect costs.

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$4,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Pledged
Source:	Fort Apache Heritage Foundation & Staff
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Technical support and meeting spaces for Core Team, consultant, and community engagements. 20 meetings @ \$200 each.

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$20,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Pledged
Source:	Fort Apache Foundation Board Members + Volunteers
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Three Board members + one volunteer Core Team member (J. Long): 4 x 100 hours @ \$50 per hour.



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Total Amount of Matching Contributions:	\$32,200.00
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NFWF

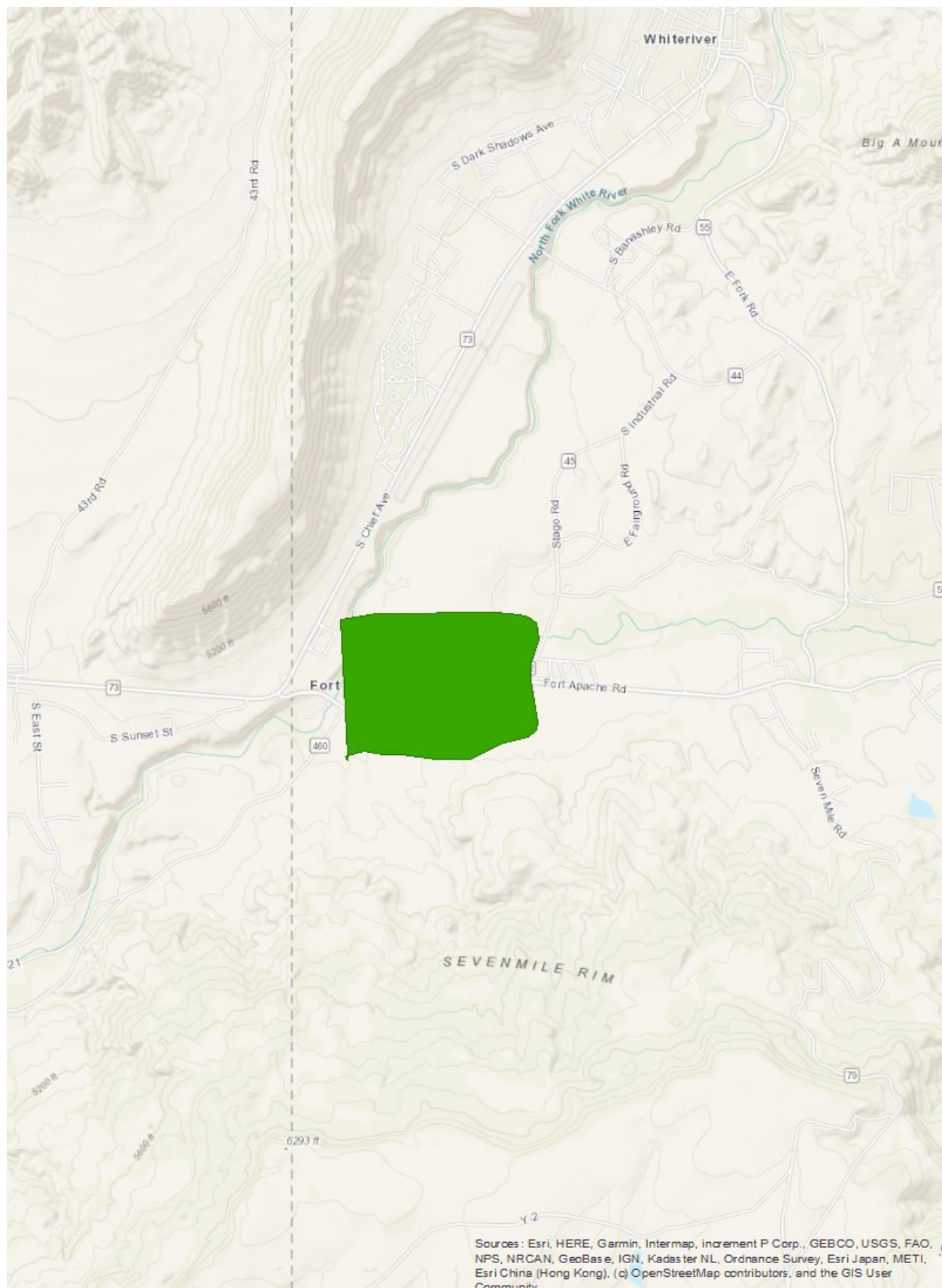
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The following pages contain the uploaded documents, in the order shown below, as provided by the applicant:

Upload Type	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
ATBC Full Proposal Narrative 2023	WMATribe_Proposal_Narrative_ATBC2023.pdf	Welch, John	07/19/2023
Letters of Support	230711 Support Letter From Ariz SHPO KLeonard.pdf	Welch, John	07/16/2023
Letters of Support	230713_Swaback_Support-Letter.pdf	Welch, John	07/16/2023
Letters of Support	230713_Foundation-CEO-Beazley_Support-Letter.pdf	Welch, John	07/16/2023
Letters of Support	230718_WMA-THPO_NAE Determination and Support-Letter.pdf	Welch, John	07/16/2023
Project Map	FtA_Cadastral Map with Project Boundary.pdf	Welch, John	07/16/2023
Statement of Litigation	Documents-NOT-Required.pdf	Welch, John	07/17/2023
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent	Documents-NOT-Required.pdf	Welch, John	07/17/2023
Applicant Controls Questionnaire	230714_NFWF_WMATribe Capability Form.pdf	Welch, John	07/16/2023

The following uploads do not have the same headers and footers as the previous sections of this document in order to preserve the integrity of the actual files uploaded.



2023 America the Beautiful Challenge – Full Proposal Project Narrative

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative. You may use single spacing, but font should not be smaller than 10 pt. The final narrative should not exceed eight (8) pages; do not delete the text provided below.

Project Type: Please select the ATBC grant category for the proposed project.

☐ - Implementation Grants

XXX - Planning Grant: *Planning Eco-Cultural Regeneration for the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark, White Mountain Apache Tribe Lands*

☐ - Sentinel Landscape Grants

☐ - National Forest Grants

☐ - Private Forests, Rangeland and Farmland Grants

1. **Which Program Priorities listed in the RFP will be addressed by the project? And how (i.e., how will project outcomes or activities contribute to the Program Priorities)?**

Eight of the 10 ATBC Program Priorities are addressed by *Planning Eco-Cultural Regeneration for the Fort Apache and TR School*:

- ✓ Intensive, place-focused planning will **Benefit At-Risk Fish and Plant Species**: Fort Apache is home to an endangered fish (loach minnow) and multiple Apache cultural keystone species, including *tlak'hagai* (white reed), Fort Apache's namesake, and multiple medicinal and utilitarian plants that community members require for cultural arts, crafts, ceremony.
- ✓ The proposed Master Plan will embrace measures to **Expand Habitat Connectivity**: Fort Apache's location at the confluence of the East Fork and North Fork of the White River makes it a natural corridor and habitat for diverse plants and animals. Close engagement with leaders of the Tribe's Game and Fish, Water Resources, and Environmental Protection departments will optimize Master Plan complementarity with existing resource management and species recovery plans and implementations.
- ✓ Master Plan processes and results will **Strengthen Ecosystem and Community Resilience** by structuring and accelerating conversations and actions designed to conserve tightly linked social and ecological systems centered on Fort Apache. Fort Apache will emerge as **the** place for mobilizing communal mitigation and recovery from wildfires, droughts, floods. The envisioned Master Plan will harness Apache Traditional Knowledge in framing and pursuing integrated eco-communal resilience.
- ✓ Through a holistic, community-driven approach supported by the Tribe's leaders, the Master Plan will **Expand Public and Community Access to Nature**: As the only protected area in the vicinity, Fort Apache is already a popular locus for accessible encounters with nature. The Master Plan will boost hiking, birding, fishing, biking, and outdoor education at Fort Apache.
- ✓ The Master Plan process is grounded in deep efforts to **Engage Local Communities**: The planning effort will build upon Tribe and Foundation successes in fostering trust and positive community interest in Fort Apache. The addition of eco-cultural regeneration programming is a "natural" next step in the community engagement and partnerships that have distinguished Fort Apache as the primary contributor to historic preservation, cultural perpetuation, and economic development for the Tribe. Personal participation by elders, cultural specialists, and staff representatives of the Tribe's diverse offices and agencies is the surest and most meaningful pathway to full and sustained engagement in the White Mountain Apache community.
- ✓ Detailed planning will **Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities**: The Master Plans and its programs will optimize uses of Apache Traditional Knowledge, cultural values, community preferences, and the Tribe's established priorities.
- ✓ Project process and outcomes will **Contribute to the Tribal Economy** by enhancing and expanding the "restoration economy" and enabling ***infinitely scalable regeneration of connections to Apache lands and waters***. The *proximate* goal of the Master Plan is eco-cultural restoration at Fort Apache; the ultimate goal is reconciliation between the Apache Nation and our Territory.
- ✓ The Master Plan must **Contribute to Workforce Development**—the single most pressing issue facing the Tribe—by laying out and enabling diverse, accessible career paths for the next generations of Apache conservation and regeneration professionals.

2. What are the primary project outcomes (the intended result of the project)?

Two “Big Picture” Objectives: The ultimate objectives of the proposed 13-month planning effort are:

- (I) Build a “Core Team”** of Tribe and Foundation professionals and partners, predominantly Apaches, who possess the knowledge, technical capacities and collaborative commitments to guide eco-cultural regeneration of White Mountain Apache Tribe Territory. By starting at Fort Apache and with the creation of a professional, technically proficient, high-resolution, and culturally appropriate Master Plan, we will enable growth and refinement of a regeneration cadre; and
- (II) Create the Master Plan** for Fort Apache Eco-Cultural Regeneration (May 2024–January 2025), a detailed, “shovel-ready,” state-of-the-art blueprint for restoring and re-Indigenizing the rivers, farmlands, grasslands, and woodlands that constitute the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark.

Integrated pursuit of these twin objectives will advance mandates to reclaim Apache stewardship for and sovereignty over the place at the root of the Tribe’s colonial experience. The planning and implementation of the Master Plan for Fort Apache Eco-Cultural Regeneration will halt further historical trauma and facilitate healing across White Mountain Apache communities and Territory. The work will explicitly address topsoil losses and erosion, invasive species, incoherent fencing and trails, and other issues preventing full use of the Fort Apache protected area. Master Plan creation will harness, be inspired by, and add value to (a) Apache Territory—our diverse lands, waters, and interdependent human and biotic communities—and (b) existing staff expertise in wetland, woodland, forest, and wildlife and cultural heritage stewardship. The Tribe requires leadership/ partnership incentives and technical guidance to reverse the biophysical and cultural harms perpetrated by 150 years of colonialist-industrial-extractive resource management. By emplacing (at Fort Apache) Apache ways of learning, knowing, and doing in planning and implementing regeneration, we will liberate Apache lands, minds, and futures from pernicious colonial legacies and open limitless opportunities to mobilize lessons learned and capacities built at Fort Apache across Apache Territory, and beyond.

Five Subsidiary Project Outcomes That Will Contribute to the Two Major Objectives:

Outcome I. Enhance and expand ongoing decolonization centered at Fort Apache. The White Mountain Apache Tribe chartered the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation (Foundation) in 1997 to support the preservation and adaptive reuse of the 300-acre Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark as a community asset. The Foundation has played pivotal roles in reclaiming sovereignty usurped by the US through Fort Apache. In 2007, following the Tribe’s Supreme Court victory over the US (Welch and Brauchli 2007), the Tribe set Fort Apache aside as a protected area and designated the Foundation as the entity responsible for investing litigation settlement funds to address backlogged preservation needs for the 23 historic buildings transferred to the Tribe from the US Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 2015, the Tribal Council endorsed Foundation plans to move beyond preservation and to redevelop Fort Apache as a community center with a four-prong mission: (a) Intergenerational and intercultural education; (b) Apache cultural perpetuation; (c) Communal health; (d) Economic development. This mission—complex and essential— requires the Foundation to apply the decolonization principles used in the rehabilitation of the historic buildings as bases for planning and acting to reverse US Government’s impacts to Fort Apache’s rivers, farmlands, grasslands, and woodlands.

Outcome II. Mobilize the unique, inspiring, and place-based ecological and practical knowledge of Western Apache cultural specialists, herbalists, farmers, and ranchers. Traumatic triple doses—of colonization, extractive-consumptive land use, and climate change—continues to decimate and desiccate the forests, woodlands, grasslands, farmlands, and wetlands that Western Apaches have, since Time Immemorial, relied upon for material, communal, and spiritual vitality (Gauer et al. 2021). The lands and rivers at the colonial epicenter of Fort Apache have been especially degraded and mistreated—overgrazed, overcut, eroded, de-watered, polluted, then abandoned by the US Army and BIA, left as valueless to remind the Tribe of US fiduciary failures. Apaches have the cultural and technical skills to fix these problems but need financial support to create the detailed plan that will then be used to attract major implementation funding.



Apache cultural experts say that what matters most in history is not **when** things happen, but **where**. Because Fort Apache once served non-Apache interests and inflicted biophysical and social trauma that still ravage Apache Land and People, the place is uniquely (perhaps even exclusively) situated to undo and remediate these harms, first locally then expanding across Apache Territory. Today's Apache elders are the last to have lived intimately with their birthrights of culturally ingrained values, stewardship ethics, and traditional knowledge of farming, grazing, hunting, and sustainable harvests of wild plant foods, fibers, and medicines. These elders are thus uniquely qualified to guide application of these birthrights by reclaiming Fort Apache and by repurposing it in accord with Apache ways of learning, knowing, caring, and doing. The culture and language experts on the Core Team will set terms of reference, introduce and adapt traditional management models and methods, expand community involvements, and produce bilingual assets centrally relevant to all efforts to reclaim Apache dominion over Apache People and Territory.

Outcome III. Deploy, integrate, and expand local, tribal-member bench-strength in biological, forest, water, and geological sciences. Unwavering previous and ongoing support from the Tribal Council and Foundation Board will allow our Core Team to expand and thrive through project collaborations. Personnel from the Tribe's Water Resources, Forestry, Game and Fish, Transportation, People's Farm, and Land Operations divisions are eager to participate. The Core Team members identified in our proposal possess vast training, immersive local experience, and regional and national networks in biology, hydrology, anthropology, resource economics, and watershed management. The Team is further endowed with expertise in ecological restoration and commitments to learning from the land and from Apache elders and cultural specialists. The Team will guide the selected consultants in the preparation and presentation of the Master Plan, then expand our partnership, seek major additional financial investments, and implement that Master Plan.

Outcome IV. Optimize collaborations with non-Apache researchers and external partners. One benefit of Fort Apache's remote location is that non-Apaches don't stay for long unless they adopt local community values and find ways to collaborate and contribute. Our Tribe's resource management programs have benefitted from long associations with respected professionals, including non-Apache members of the Core Team. For this project, non-Apaches will (a) fill gaps in local expertise, (b) continue established commitments to building local capacities, (c) help assure optimal performance by the consultants selected by the Core Team to prepare the Master Plan for Eco-Cultural Restoration at Fort Apache, and (d) enhance current relationships enable future and further partnerships, especially via grant seeking.

Outcome V. Set terms of engagement and standards for ecological restoration across the 15 million-acre Western Apache Territory. The Core Team will use the degraded lands and river corridors at Fort Apache as the learning context and proving ground for harmonizing Apache TK and Western knowledge systems through eco-cultural regeneration. The Team will master key terms and concepts in Apache ecology and study options for curbing erosion, rebuilding topsoils, reducing woodland fuel loads, and reinvigorating farms and orchards. The Master Plan will integrate Apache TK and Western science in its goals, treatment and monitoring plans, and indicator frameworks for each of Fort Apache's habitat types or other management units. On the basis of application, testing, and refinement at Fort Apache, these can then be mobilized through Territory-scale eco-cultural regeneration, with Fort Apache as the probable headquarters.

3. **What are the major project activities that will lead to the outcomes provided above (project actions and tasks)?**

Planning eco-cultural regeneration will require 3 integrated efforts:

I. Mobilizing a Core Team of Apache Traditional Knowledge (ATK) specialists and scientists (Months 1–3): The Core Team and elders will refine the 5 Project Outcomes, mobilize partners, and establish the schedule. We will then issue a request for proposals (RFP) to prepare the Eco-Cultural Master Plan, then select the consultants to create the Master Plan. Walking Fort Apache's diverse lands and envisioning the future will foster respect, learning, teamwork, success.

II. Learning from comparable eco-cultural regeneration initiatives (Months 2–7): The Core Team will visit 6 other areas in the US Southwest undergoing regeneration. Visits will likely include Cibecue Creek (Long et al. 2020), Burro Cienega (Cole 2023), McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, and Mount Trumbull project areas, with others to be determined on the basis of partner and consultant suggestions. We will learn from those lands and the lands’ allies and stewards about what can and must be improved upon at Fort Apache, the challenges and opportunities. Thus inspired, the Core Team will distribute the RFP (**Month 3**): to solicit proposals from technically savvy and culturally sensitive experts.

III. Selecting and guiding consultants (Months 3–13): Core Team will review RFP responses, interview top respondents at Fort Apache, and negotiate the terms of consultant engagement and Master Plan deliverables. The Core Team will provide consultant(s) with documentary and graphical assets, including high-resolution aerial imagery, historical photographs, and pertinent planning documents. At a minimum, the Master Plan will specify ways and means to (a) re-establish topsoils, (b) curb erosion, (c) exclude invasive species, (d) reduce fuel loads, (e) improve habitat for “cultural keystone” plant and animal species, (f) reestablish trails, fences, and irrigated farms and orchards, (g) remove industrial refuse, and (h) enhance tribal member education and recreation opportunities, especially though improvements to existing play areas, to trails within the Fort Apache NHL, and to links to other community and regional trails.

4. How will project metrics be monitored/measured? How will challenges or limitations with tracking be addressed?

Progress can only be meaningfully tracked within the planning process itself—that is, by assessing the types and levels of involvement and benefit realized through crafting a detailed, “shovel-ready” Plan. Master Plan implementation (starting in 2025) will be tracked by metrics linked to Fort Apache lands and waters. In the meantime, **four ATBC metrics are readily applicable to this planning process**, as listed below and described in the pertinent application form:

- I. **Improved management practices - Acres under improved management on tribal lands:** The 280 acres of the Fort Apache NHL not currently under active management are disabled by previous overgrazing and by erosion, invasive species, and industrial intrusions. Planning will deliver respectful attention to these lands and waters.
- II. **Management or Governance Planning - # plan activities implemented:** Core Group activities to create a Master Plan will include deliberations and visioning to improve management and governance both during and after the planning processes. The proposed planning effort is one outcome from dozens of recent meetings with community members and groups. No further “open forum” community meetings are required at this time.
- III. **Restoration planning/design/permitting - # E&D plans developed:** The Master Plan for Eco-cultural Regeneration, a detailed, fully informed, and “shovel-ready” guide to rehabilitating Fort Apache lands.
- IV. **Volunteer participation - # of volunteer hours:** All parties will contribute beyond contractual obligations and four members of the Core Team will contribute at least 100 each to Master Plan creation.

In addition to these 4 ATBC metrics, the process for creating the Master Plan will be monitored and assessed in accord with the number of organizations contributing to project Outcomes in general and Master Plan completion in particular. Since chartered by the Tribe in 1997 the Foundation’s unique mission (preserve Fort Apache buildings) and geographical separation from other Tribal offices has obliged it to operate without systematic or programmatic local partnerships. This planning project will expand operational and organizational engagements on the part of the Foundation to embrace the project partners and facilitate farming, land and river restoration, and access to trails and other recreation and cultural activities and opportunities. The planning led by the Core Team and consultants will ensure and enhance direct and continuing collaborations with the Tribe’s Public Works, Land Operations, Ndée Bikíyaa (People’s Farm), Division of Game and Fish, and Departments of Forestry, Environmental Protection, Hydrology and Water Resources. Partnerships are expected to emerge, and to then strengthen and multiply in the course of planning collaborations. Additional

partnerships will form and deepen through Master Plan implementation. We anticipate the number of organizations directly involved in stewardship of the Fort Apache NHL to grow from 1 to 8, and probably more in due course.

5. **How will the project address established plans (e.g., management, conservation, species recovery, Indigenous Knowledge) or an identified conservation or restoration planning need?**

Preparation of the *Master Plan for Fort Apache Eco-Cultural Regeneration* is the essential next step in the Tribe's overall plans and intentions for Fort Apache, which call for transforming this National Historic Landmark into a dynamic, community-defined place of pride, prosperity, learning, health, and cultural perpetuation/ re-Indigenization. The proposed planning project advances the WM Apache Tribe Loach Minnow Management Plan, WM Apache Tribe Native Fish Management Plan, the US Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire and Fuels Management Plan for the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, the WM Apache Tribe Woodland Management Plan, and plans for beneficial use, at Fort Apache, of the WM Apache Tribe's water rights pursuant to the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010. In addition to these operational documents, the 2005 agreement between the Tribe and the United States to settle the Tribe's lawsuit against the U.S. for failing to care for the Fort Apache and TR School Property designates the Foundation as the entity directly responsible for caring for Fort Apache, its 26 historic buildings, and the surrounding ~300 acres.

6. **Who are project partners and what are their roles? (e.g., agencies, landowners, community groups)**

Four primary partners will contribute Core Team members to represent community, cultural, and technical interests.

- **The Tribe** is represented by five departments with delegated responsibilities for sustaining healthy and balanced social-environmental relationships: The Game and Fish, Water Resources, Ndée Bikiyaa (People's Farm), Heritage (THPO), and Forestry departments will collaborate in providing quality controls and assuring benefits.
- **Fort Apache Heritage Foundation** will host Core Team/ community engagements, provide planning assets, and donate all available technical and financial support to assure thoughtfully integrated planning.
- **Theodore Roosevelt (TR) School**: The on-site constellation of students and educators have proved to be superb sources of insights into community and youth interests and will be engaged in all planning phases.
- **Trusted Friends**: The Tribe and Foundation have sustained valuable relationships with talented professionals.

7. **Who are key individuals and what are their relevant qualifications for project implementation?**

1. **Cheryl Pailzote** (White Mountain Apache), hydrologist and director of the Tribe's Water Resources Department: Cheryl is natural leader and will create partnerships within the Tribe's government and beyond.
2. **Krista Beazley** (WM Apache), CEO: Krista is a seasoned planner, able to coordinate admin. and logistical support.
4. **Cline Griggs** (WM Apache), Foundation and past TR School Board Member: Cline is an educator and cultural practitioner. He will serve as liaison to TR School and insist on balanced attention to land and human healing.
5. **Larold Dazen-Pinal** (WM Apache), Manager of the Tribe's Ndée Bikiyaa (People's Farm) and cultural leader: Larold will liaise with the region's agricultural communities and champion youth-engaged farm and orchard restoration.
6. **Joe Kalt**, PhD, Foundation Board member, resource economist, rancher: Joe will position the project to contribute to the Tribe's economic development and to optimize attraction of external funds (especially from Ford Foundation).
7. **Jonathan Long**, PhD, ecological restoration specialist: Jonathan will apply his vast experience in collaborations with Indigenous communities, especially stewardship for wetlands in upland Arizona. He will provide technical oversight for wetlands restoration and facilitate academic partnerships with specialists in adaptive management.
8. **Ramon Riley** (WM Apache), White Mountain Apache Tribe Cultural Resources Director and fourth-generation Tłóghagai (Fort Apache) resident: Ramon will serve as liaison to the Tribe's Museum and Elders Advisory Group.
9. **John R. Welch**, PhD, Foundation Board member and founding director; Simon Fraser University Professor of Resource Management and Archaeology: John will support Cheryl in project coordination and oversight.

8. Who was or will be engaged in project development and implementation (beyond the project partners)? (e.g., communities, user groups, affected constituencies and stakeholders) And how will they be engaged?

The individuals and organizations listed in 6 & 7, above are sufficient to assure project engagement and success. The Partners' and Core Team's vast networks, coupled with the selected planning consultant's technical and experiential attributes, will enable adaptive management of in-progress needs to recruit additional participants in planning activities. As noted, the planning work proposed here is one outcome from intensive recent community engagement; "What shall we do at and with Fort Apache?" consultation with community, student, and political leaders is not required right now.

9. What is the demographic information of the engaged community? Use table below, only one factor needed per community) (i.e., you do not need to provide Race/Ethnicity, poverty rate, low income %, and annualized unemployment rate for every community, rather you only need to provide ONE of any of the factors listed below).

Community	Race/Ethnicity	Poverty Rate	Low Income %	Annualized Unemployment Rate
White Mountain Apache Tribe ~18,000 people	Native American	~30% Source: Percentage People living in poverty. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 ACS, 5-year estimates. https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/acs-percentage-poverty-2015-2019.html	~50% ~100% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches	~27% Source: The 10-20-30 Provision: Defining Persistent Poverty Counties. Congressional Research Service. February 24, 2021. https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45100

10. How will long term project sustainability be ensured (i.e., beyond the grant period) and what are the plans for ongoing monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship?

The rationale and purpose for the Eco-cultural Regeneration Master Plan is to achieve community-level sustainability, starting with the Fort Apache Property and expanding outward. Since 1870, Fort Apache has been the main gateway between Ndee (Apache) and non-Apache worlds. Through that portal—for five decades as an active US Army post and for a century as the Theodore Roosevelt School—the US Government brought colonial policies and practices that proved disastrous for Apache families, communities, cultures, practical knowledge systems, lands, and waters. What US soldiers, teachers, and bureaucrats could not grasp—blinded and deafened as they were by White supremacy—was that they had been tasked to oppress precisely what humanity needs right now to sustain the world: detailed ecological knowledge, sophisticated stewardship ethics, adroit applications of integrated TK and Western science, and deeply institutionalized capacities and commitments for adaptation through social, not just technological, innovation.

Apache communities have curated these assets, secure in convictions that their language and culture are keys to just, resilient, and broadly beneficial lands, lives, and futures. The processes and results of master planning for Fort Apache's eco-cultural regeneration will respectfully harness and mobilize these long-suppressed and under-valued assets to guide carefully sequenced investments in the resiliency and ecosystem service productivity of the Fort Apache and TR School NHL protected area. The Master Plan will specify technical details for spatially explicit, culturally appropriate, ecologically attuned treatment plans to be implemented and monitored by and for Apaches. Treatments prescribed in the Master Plan will reverse topsoil losses, curb erosion, eliminate invasive plants and industrial intrusions, rehabilitate trail, irrigation, and field systems (put "culture" back into agriculture!), and expand habitats for cultural keystone species, like white reed, Tłóghagai, Fort Apache's namesake. Most importantly, the proposed planning effort will re-enable and mobilize Apaches' world-renowned capacities for innovation and perseverance. Inter-disciplinary and inter-generational engagements will catalyze youth stewardship for Apache land and language. Core Team outreach and partnerships will proliferate and become institutionalized in community resilience, pride, health, and hope.



By committing to major regeneration investments at **the** place that made these investments necessary, and by making explicit our intentions to use Fort Apache as **the** hub for expansive, Territory-scale regeneration treatments, the proposed project will awaken Apaches' culturally ingrained stewardship ethics and enable a self-sustaining, effectively endless cycles of reclaiming Territory and all it holds for people, culture, and the salvation of arid America.

Our proposed eco-cultural regeneration effort is centered on a pivotal design principle: **process** takes precedence over **product**. The flows of eco-cultural regeneration planning and doing are far more important than any specific outcome. Defined project Outcomes remain integral, but the pivotal idea of harnessing Apache elders, youth, culture, language, ATK, values, and problem solving to reclaim Fort Apache is transcendent. There is wisdom in empowering young Apaches, at precisely this moment in history, to innovate in ways their elders and professors may not be equipped to. Young hearts, fresh eyes, and strong backs will overcome these and all other challenges.

11. **Is this project connected to another ATBC 2023 proposal? If yes, please provide the 5-digit Easygrants ID number.**
No.

12. **Did you apply to any other current NFWF RFP with this project? If yes, please provide the Easygrants ID number.**
No.

13. **Are you submitting this project as a full proposal to another program? Yes ☐ If yes, which program?**
No.

14. **Did you include additional uploads (e.g., budget narrative, letters of support, photos)? If yes, please list them.**
Yes, a **map** of the Fort Apache Property and **four support letters**, including the THPO no adverse effect determination.

15. **Anything else we should know?**

Internal and external funding have proved elusive for eco-cultural regeneration planning. This proposal is the only current funding application for this essential project. The Tribe and Foundation have previously received more than 30 external grants in support of designing and implementing "bricks and mortar" preservation projects, community engagement, and cultural, museum, and educational programming within the Fort Apache and TR School National Historic Landmark. The Master Plan proposed here is the all-important basis for seeking substantial external funding, hopefully beginning by 2024, to implement Fort Apache Eco-Cultural Regeneration. The Master Plan will lay communal, cultural, practical, technical, and organizational foundations to enable restoration project expansions for Western Apaches to reclaim, through loving stewardship, the remainder of their 15,000,000-acre Homeland.

It also bears mention that the US policy goals pursued through Fort Apache ultimately failed: Apaches won the battle for Fort Apache (a story Hollywood has yet to memorialize)! The White Mountain Apache Tribe and People have reclaimed legal and administrative controls over Fort Apache. What remains is to reclaim the full and mutually beneficial relationship between Territory and People that Fort Apache attempted to sever. This must begin by closing the biophysical, cultural, and historical wounds made by and through Fort Apache. The proposed re-indigenization of Fort Apache lands and waters embraces and integrates technical-tangible treatments to heal these biophysical wounds through a synergistic co-evolution of intangibles: social justice, heritage stewardship, spiritual reorientation to eco-community.

For Apaches, **good things come in fours**. Planning eco-cultural regeneration will create and harmonize benefits on communal, practical, technical, and organizational levels. **Here's what Master Plan completion will make happen:**

1. Communal Benefits: White Mountain Apaches (~14,000 member-citizens, about 2/3 of whom live with 10 miles of Fort Apache) collectively support eco-cultural regeneration and its contributions to employment, language revitalization, and Apache self-healing, self-governance, and self-sufficiency. Core Team members and

cultural and elected leaders identify and use Fort Apache as **the** "go to place" for work, for help with land stewardship, and for insights on mobilization of Apache values, traditional knowledge, language teaching, and management ethics. Apaches will point with deserved pride to Fort Apache as a communal accomplishment.

2. Practical Benefits: Fort Apache is buzzing for decades with Master Plan implementation. Crews of young Apaches move in and out of the former cavalry stables, recently rehabilitated for use as Eco-Cultural Regeneration headquarters. Fort Apache is increasingly free of hazards, invasive plants, English-only signs, needless fencing, and other intrusive clutter. Redundant roads and erosion scars are being re-contoured and reseeded with Native grasses and shrubs. Once-abandoned water systems and irrigation ditches serve heirloom plantings of corn, beans, squashes, and melons. Crews are planting sets of apple, apricot, peach, and pear trees in orchards atop rehabilitated sewage lagoons.

3. Technical Benefits: The project seamlessly integrates Apache and Western science methods and recommended practices, enlisting the sacred elements—Earth, Wind, Fire and Water—as allies. The ever-adapting Core Team supervises systematic monitoring of woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands using the Master Plan's baseline condition assessments and progress indicator frameworks. Bilingual (Apache-English) signs, webpages, and social media communicate project progress, advertise employment opportunities, and solicit visitor support. The Tribe's Higher Education Department funnels young Apaches into university programs to fill the need for qualified personnel to apply to other parts of the Tribe's Territory what works at Fort Apache. Teams from other Tribes visit Fort Apache to obtain knowledge, Native seed stock, and inspiration.

4. Organizational Benefits: Respected Apache culture- and knowledge-bearers supervise and (re)prioritize work by listening to the land. Tribal Council and Foundation support proliferates through new partnerships. The Core Team expands, diversifies, and thrives through trust-based relationships with TR School staff and students, and expanded collaborations with the Tribe's Water Resources, Forestry, Game and Fish, Transportation, People's Farm, and Land Operations divisions. The eco-cultural regeneration project's academic partners recruit Apache students to lead the next phases of regeneration planning, assessment, and expanding application. The community celebrates major milestones reached, new staff hires and promotions, and new investments from additional partners. Prayers from diverse spiritual leaders assure integrity, altruism, and multi-level satisfaction.

References Cited in this Proposal

- Cole, A. Thomas (2023) *Restoring the Pitchfork Ranch: How Healing a Southwest Oasis Holds Promise for Our Endangered Land*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
- Gauer, Viviane H., David M. Schaepe, and John R. Welch (2021) Supporting Indigenous adaptation in a changing climate. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*. doi:10.1525/elementa.2020.00164
- Long, J.W.; Lake, F.K.; Goode, R.W.; Burnette, B.M. (2020) How traditional tribal perspectives influence ecosystem restoration. *Ecopsychology*. doi:10.1089/eco.2019.0055
- Welch, J.R., and Robert C. Brauchli (2010) "Subject to the Right of the Secretary of the Interior": The White Mountain Apache Reclamation of the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School Historic District, *Wicazo Sa Review* 25(1):47–73. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40891309>
- Welch, J.R., and Ramon Riley (2001) Reclaiming Land and Spirit in the Western Apache Homeland. *American Indian Quarterly* 25(1):5–12.

Would you like to opt out of consideration for other funding opportunities (w/in NFWF, other ATBC partners)? Yes ☐

No.



Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director



July 11, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: White Mountain Apache Tribe America The Beautiful Challenge Funding Request

It is my pleasure to endorse the White Mountain Apache Tribes' request for funding for the project identified as *"Planning Eco-Cultural Regeneration for the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark, White Mountain Apache Tribe Land."*

Arizona State Parks and the State Historic Preservation Office has been a long-term supporter of the Tribe's decades long effort to acquire, stabilize and rehabilitate Fort Apache and activate it for use as a community hub for affordable housing, small business incubation and heritage center for the Apache people. Since 1993, the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund has invested nearly \$1.5 million in preservation treatments for the buildings that comprise the core of this tribally owned and managed National Historic Landmark.

I personally visited Fort Apache last month to inspect progress on the Tribe's most recent grant of funds for the rehabilitation of the historic Fort's boy's dormitory into the "House of Harmony," a mixed used housing, workforce development and small business incubator project that will be prominently located within the Landmark. In touring the Landmark and seeing all of the good work accomplished over the years to activate heritage assets for tribal benefit, I am proud of SHPO and State Parks partnership with the Tribe, Fort Apache Heritage Foundation, and their partners to assist them in fulfilling their vision of adaptive reuse of the Landmark that enhances its cultural and economic value. As I write this, the Tribe and the Foundation have ensured that 26 of the Landmark's historic buildings are now well preserved, and all but a few are playing vital new roles—as residences, businesses, and government and non-profit offices—for the Tribe and its member-citizens.

The historic buildings that occupy about 15 acres are certainly the most visible and thus well-known part of the National Historic Landmark. However, the more than 300 acres that surround the buildings similarly require documentation, evaluation and treatment to ensure their continued preservation as critical landscape components of the Landmark. The Tribe's proposal to synthesize Apache and Western science to create treatment protocols for the soils, waters, and plants within this protected area will provide the much-needed work to ensure that the entirety of the Landmark is preserved for the Tribe's benefit. The America the Beautiful Challenge's emphasis on bringing traditional ecological knowledge to the foreground to preserve and restore watershed, habitat and landscape resources provides an excellent

complement to the decades of work the Tribe has already accomplished to preserve this site. I encourage the America the Beautiful program partners to fund this important project. If you have any further questions or if I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at 602-542-4009 or by email at KLeonard@azstateparks.gov.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn Leonard". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Leonard".

Kathryn Leonard
State Historic Preservation Officer
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office



Vernon D. Swaback FAIA, FAICP

John E. Sather AIA, AICP

Jon C. Bernhard AIA

Michael D. Wetzel AIA

Jeffrey M. Denzak ASLA, APA

July 13, 2023

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL Grant Reviewers

RE: SWABACK Support for the White Mountain Apache Tribe Eco-Cultural Proposal

Dear AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL Grants Reviewers,

Regarding this application, our Firm unequivocally supports and stands ready and able to assist the Tribe with planning Fort Apache's "Eco-Cultural Regeneration":

- SWABACK will assist in the coordination and review of the planning documents produced by the proposed project to assure contribution to the greater Community Vision for Fort Apache.
- SWABACK is available to continue to facilitate access to and use of the high-resolution digital elevation imagery available for the 400-acre Fort Apache property.
- SWABACK has the asset of being a highly experienced firm in all aspects of Visioning, Planning, Placemaking, and working with communities to realize their strengths and uniqueness and creating a community that celebrates those.

SWABACK highly values our sustained relationship with the White Mountain Apache Tribe and its Fort Apache Heritage Foundation. Our collaborations have yielded prior planning documents for Fort Apache buildings, the district-wide infrastructure assessment, and plans for the rehabilitation of the former Boy's Dormitory. We see community-grounded design for landscape-scale ecological regeneration and interpretation as an essential next priority.

We have utmost confidence that the proposed effort will set further and firmer foundations for restoring Fort Apache to its rightful place in the Apache community and regional ecosystem.

Sincerely,
SWABACK, pllc Architects + Planners

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Sather", followed by a period. The signature is stylized with large, fluid loops.

John E. Sather, AIA, AICP
Managing Partner



Fort Apache Heritage Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 507 Fort Apache, AZ 85926

July 13, 2023

National Fish and Wildlife Federation, Via Internet Upload
Re: Planning Eco-Cultural Regeneration for Fort Apache

Dear NFWF/ ATBc Grant Proposal Review Team:

Thank you for your kind attention to the proposal submitted by the White Mountain Apache Tribe in collaboration with our small, tribally chartered, place-based nonprofit to expand on three prior decades of planning to embrace the more than 300 acres of lands and waters constituting the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark.

Among the sad truths of our Tribe's history is that, for the 10 decades prior to the era of Tribal self determination, the US Bureau of Indian Affairs effectively forced us to witness the dismantling of our Territory and land-based culture. Starting in 1992, our Tribe made a commitment to preserve Fort Apache and TR School as a reminder both of how things got to be the way they are and of Apache resilience and determination to reclaim and optimize our sovereignty and the Territorial and communal health it rests upon.

Making good on this commitment meant raising and investing over \$15 M in essential stabilization and rehabilitation treatments for the 23 U.S. Army and BIA historic buildings that our Foundation manages on behalf of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. The time is now ripe to do for Fort Apache's stream-, chaparral-, and wood-lands what we have the adobe, masonry, and wood frame structures: reclaim and revitalize these in support of Apache community!

Proposed here is the essential next phase of community-driven / expert-facilitated planning. With our Tribe's elders and scientists at the forefront, we propose to plan for the program of treatment and monitoring required to rebuild topsoils, remove invasive plants, expand habitats for culturally valued species, and return all of Fort Apache to serving Apache people and families.

Please give this proposal every consideration, including confidence that the Foundation will take do all in its power, including the in-kind contributions to assure success. *Ahi'yeh* (thanks)!

Krista M. Beazley
Chief Executive Officer



White Mountain Apache Tribe

Office of Historic Preservation

PO Box 1032

Fort Apache, AZ 85926

Ph: (928) 338-3033 Fax: (928) 338-6055

18 July 2023

Dear "America The Beautiful" Grant Reviewers:

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Historic Preservation Office is duly designated by the Tribal Council to protect and assist in the culturally appropriate use of cultural and historical resources for the benefit of the Apache People and Tribe.

With our mission foremost, THPO strongly supports the proposal submitted by the Tribe and the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation to the NFWF ATBc competition. The proposed work will establish essential, community-grounded planning foundations for restoring and returning the diverse lands surrounding the Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark (NHL) to productive use for our Apache community and international visitors.

As the White Mountain Apache Tribe Historic Preservation Officer, it is my duty and honor to participate in the proposed Project. I commit to direct involvement in planning and design meetings and to assisting with the selection of the planning consultant-contractor. I also commit to the formal review of specific plans pursuant to the regulations implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (36CFR Part 800), and other applicable authorities. At this time, I am in **concurrence with the No Adverse Effect Determination** proposed by the Tribe and Foundation for the Eco-Regeneration Plan effort. Our office will work in and with the core team to inspect all areas that may be disturbed or could threaten archaeological or other cultural resources.

I have every confidence in the project team being assembled for this all-important next step in the Tribe's reclamation of the Fort Apache NHL for use as a vital hub for education, economic development, community wellness, and Apache cultural perpetuation. Dr. Welch, the Foundation's Board secretary and the Tribe's former THPO, has vast experience in overseeing multi-partner, grant-funded projects, including at least a dozen such projects at Fort Apache.

Please accept these brief comments as my unconditional endorsement for the proposed work and my request that you give this proposal favorable consideration. I am available to provide more information via telephone (928-338-3033) or email MarkAltaha@wmat.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Altaha".

Mark Altaha – THPO
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Historic Preservation Office



- Fe_Boundary
- Residential Commercial
- Impervious
- High Use Recreational Area
- Barren
- Grassy Open
- Open Field
- Dark Wood
- Light Wood
- Water
- Wetlands



Google Earth

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
33°47'49.64" N 109°58'47.03" W elev 5039 ft eye alt 12791 ft



Statement of Litigation

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete. The final narrative should not exceed two (2) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

Litigation: In the space provided below, state any litigation (including bankruptcies) involving your organization and either a federal, state, or local government agency as parties. This includes anticipated litigation, pending litigation, or litigation completed within the past twelve months. Federal, state, and local government applicants are not required to complete this section. If your organization is not involved in any litigation, please state below.

Documents not required for the application submitted by the White Mountain Apache Tribe:

- **Statement of Litigation**
- **Roster of the board of trustees or directors**
- **GAAP audited financial statements**
- **IRS Form 990**
- **Single Audit (Formerly A-133 Audit)**
- **Indirect Rate Agreement**



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APPLICANT CONTROLS AND CAPABILITIES QUESTIONNAIRE



INSTRUCTIONS: The Applicant Controls Questionnaire (Questionnaire) is required with the submission of a NFWF full proposal. An authorized representative with adequate knowledge of your organization's capability, competence, resources, policies, and procedures should complete and sign the Questionnaire and submit it along with your organization's most recent Single Audit Report (if applicable). Please do not include copies of policies and procedures unless requested.

NFWF utilizes this Questionnaire to perform a risk assessment and determine an organization's eligibility and capacity to manage a NFWF award. Negative responses do not mean an organization is not eligible for an award. Depending on the type of award and the responses herein, NFWF may require additional documentation and/or reporting requirements to raise an organization's capacity and mitigate any potential compliance, audit, financial, or programmatic risks.

ORGANIZATION LEGAL NAME: White Mountain Apache Tribe

ORGANIZATION EIN: 86-0092030

Audits and U.S. Federal Funding Experience: the following information provides insight into your organization's experience and performance in administering past awards.

1. Does your organization have a current Single Audit report (within the last two years) on file with the Federal Audit Clearinghouse?

☒ Yes
☐ No

2. If you responded "Yes" above, does your organization's most recent Single Audit report include any audit findings, material weaknesses, and/or significant deficiencies? If yes, please describe whether your organization has implemented the recommended corrective actions to address the findings. If you responded "No" above, select "N/A".

☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

We are in the process of correcting the issues, but have not fully implemented the corrective actions.

3. Has your organization been suspended or debarred from any government contracting process? If yes, please explain if the suspension and debarment is still in effect.

☐ Yes
☒ No

Enter response here.

APPLICANT CONTROLS AND CAPABILITIES QUESTIONNAIRE



4. Has your organization managed a federal award before? If yes, provide a summary of your most recent awards, including period of performance, awarding agency or pass-through entity, federal program, and size of award.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Numerous awards over many years. A major portion of the services are provided through grant funding.

5. In the past three (3) years has your organization, or any unit or office thereof, been audited by an external donor/funder or agent thereof? If yes, please list all such audits and attach copies of final audit reports (if available)

☐ Yes
☒ No

Enter response here.

Billing and Accounts Tracking Capacities: the following questions help NFWF understand your accounting practices to ensure both NFWF and your organization are able to comply with all funding source requirements.

6. Does your organization have a written accounting manual or written policies and procedures that outline the treatment and safeguarding of assets, methods of cost allocation, if applicable, document retention, cost allowability, etc.? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

7. Does your accounting system (or other management system) allow organizational expenses to be tracked: (a) to a specific project on which your organization is working and, (b) to specific cost-type categories (e.g., personnel, supplies, travel, indirect, etc.)? If no, please describe the limits of expense tracking at your organization.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

APPLICANT CONTROLS AND CAPABILITIES QUESTIONNAIRE



8. Is your organization able to perform projects on a cost-reimbursable basis? If no, please note that advance payments are considered on a case-by-case basis and are dependent upon your organization's ability to minimize the time elapsing between the receipt and disbursement of funds.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

9. If your organization is funded by more than one funder, does the organization have procedures to prevent commingling of funds and to ensure costs are allocated fairly and consistently across the various funders? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

10. Does your organization have a fraud prevention policy that enables the organization to detect, investigate, and report any fraudulent activity immediately? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

11. Does your organization have a timekeeping system or documented process that allows staff time (including key personnel) to be tracked to specific funding sources supporting the project? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

Organizational Policies and Procedures: the following questions help NFWF understand additional organizational practices to ensure compliance with varying funding source requirements.

12. Does your organization maintain formal evidence of employment with its employees, and conduct background checks for each employee before they are hired? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

APPLICANT CONTROLS AND CAPABILITIES QUESTIONNAIRE



13. Does your organization maintain general liability insurance? If no, please explain.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

14. I certify that our organization maintains a written policy on conflict-of-interest that meets the requirements of the federal government. I also certify we will notify NFWF **in writing** if our organization finds a **potential** conflict of interest **relative** to a NFWF-funded project. If no, please explain why you do not feel a conflict-of-interest policy is necessary for your organization or the administration of this project.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

15. I certify that our organization maintains a non-discrimination policy, based on which we would report and act on any instances of potential discriminatory action on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender/sex, gender expression/gender identity, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, ancestry, personal appearance, citizen status, pregnancy, child birth or related medical conditions, family responsibilities, matriculation, genetic information, and political or union affiliation, and etc. If not, please explain.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Enter response here.

Questions Specific to Budget Line Items in Your Proposal

16. Does your organization use documented procurement procedures for the acquisition of property or services that ensure full and open competition? If no, please explain. Select "N/A" if your project(s) does not involve the acquisition of property or contractual services.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

Enter response here.

APPLICANT CONTROLS AND CAPABILITIES QUESTIONNAIRE



17. Does your organization have a process for determining the appropriate legal instrument (grant agreement vs. contract for goods/services) and has an appropriate legal/contracting officer confirmed that your organization has the ability to implement the contractual arrangements as envisioned? Select "N/A" if your project(s) does not involve subawards or contractual services.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

Enter response here.

18. Does your organization maintain written policies for property management that include regular inventory audits/verifications? Select "N/A" if your project(s) does not involve equipment or real property.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

Enter response here.

I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the above information is true, complete, and accurate and that I am authorized to submit on behalf of the organization represented above.

SIGNATURE of Authorized Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deron Peaches", is written over a horizontal line.

Date

A handwritten date "7/14/2023" is written in black ink over a horizontal line.

NAME AND TITLE

Deron Peaches, Tribal Treasurer