



EasyGrantsID: 84503

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – America’s Ecosystem Restoration Initiative: America the Beautiful Challenge 2024, Pre-Proposal

Title: Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Conservation and Wildlife Management Initiative

Organization: Colorado River Indian Tribes Fish and Game

Grant Request Information

Title of Project

Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Conservation and Wildlife Management Initiative

Project Description

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) seeks funding for the Conservation and Wildlife Management Initiative, a four-year program focusing on wildlife management and habitat restoration. By establishing a Conservation Corps of young tribal members, the project aims to rehabilitate critical habitats, starting with the 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, and to provide career-oriented training in environmental roles. Concurrently, a specialized team will develop a comprehensive wildlife management plan and update fishing and game codes to align with ecological and cultural contemporary needs.

It also aims to offer a pathway to meaningful careers in conservation to tribal youth. . Integral to the initiative's success are partnerships with local and federal agencies, encapsulating a collaborative spirit essential for sustainable conservation outcomes on the CRIT Reservation.

Abstract

This initiative will consist of a Conservation Corps of tribal youth to restore habitats, specifically targeting areas impacted by invasive species. A team led by a biologist will develop a detailed wildlife management plan and revise fishing game codes, merging traditional practices with modern conservation standards.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) hopes that the Conservation and Wildlife Management Initiative will address profound gaps in environmental stewardship and land management capacity. CRIT's Fish and Game Department grapples with outdated fish and game codes, a concerning dearth of wildlife studies, and the absence of a robust game management plan. Revenue from hunting, pivotal for the tribe's economy, has seen a decline, paralleling the alarming decrease in game species. This initiative will empower CRIT with the data, resources, and trained personnel needed to reverse these declines, and exercise greater sovereignty over their lands and natural resources . The proposed plan also aims to build internal capacity by cultivating a workforce from within the community, especially targeting the youth, to manage their own lands . Moreover, the initiative seeks to bolster CRIT's commitment to both cultural traditions and ecological integrity, ultimately leading to enhanced management of wildlife populations, increased access to traditional foods, and a resurgence of traditional and recreational game species

Project Location Description

Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, California and Arizona

Total Amount Requested

\$1,923,151.00

Matching Contributions Proposed

\$500,000.00



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Proposed Grant Period

08/05/2024 - 04/03/2028

Organization

Colorado River Indian Tribes Fish and Game

Organization Type

Tribal Government

City, State, Country

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Primary Contact

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Position/Title

Phone and E-mail

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Additional Contacts

Role	Name



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Matching Contributions

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$500,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Pledged
Source:	Americorps
Source Type:	Federal
Description:	Americorps crews come with a 25% match on all work completed

Total Amount of Matching Contributions:	\$500,000.00
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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 Pre Proposal Narrative Template 2024	Pre_Proposal_Narrative_Template_ATBC 2024+formatfix (2).docx	Small, Elijah	04/04/2024
Other Documents	CRIT Abstract.docx	Small, Elijah	04/04/2024

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.



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2024 America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative: America the Beautiful Challenge – Pre-Proposal Project Narrative

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed four (4) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

Grant Category: Choose an item.

1. What are the primary project outcomes (the intended result of the project) and why is this project needed?

The primary outcomes of the CRIT Conservation and Wildlife Management Initiative are the revitalization of tribal lands through the restoration of habitats and the introduction of modern wildlife management strategies. The need for this project stems from the significant challenges faced by CRIT's underfunded natural resource departments, which hinder the tribes' ability to sustainably manage and protect their ecological heritage. The existing fish and game code is outdated, and there has been a lack of comprehensive wildlife studies to inform management decisions. Consequently, a sophisticated game management plan is desperately needed to reverse the declining trends in game species and associated hunting revenue, which is crucial for the tribe's economy. This project is essential to equip CRIT with the necessary resources and knowledge to preserve the tribe's autonomy over its natural resources, sustain its economic vitality through hunting and other land uses, and uphold its cultural practices connected to the land and wildlife.

2. What are the major project activities that will lead to the outcomes provided above (project actions and timeline/workplan)?

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal:

Conduct targeted removal of invasive species and reforestation with native plants within the 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve and other designated areas.

Timeline: Commence within the first six months and continue throughout the project duration, with periodic evaluations.

Wildlife Surveys and Data Collection:

Perform comprehensive wildlife surveys to gather data on local fauna, focusing on key species that are of cultural and economic importance to the tribes.

Timeline: Start in the first year, with preliminary surveys and continue with annual follow-ups for trend analysis.

Development of a Wildlife Management Plan:

Synthesize data from surveys to create a robust wildlife management plan, which includes strategies for species preservation, habitat improvement, and sustainable hunting practices.

Timeline: Drafting to begin in the second year, with revisions and finalization expected by the end of the third year.

Revision of Fish and Game Codes:

Update and refine the fishing game codes to reflect the latest conservation practices and cultural traditions.

Timeline: Conduct reviews and propose revisions in tandem with wildlife management planning.

Education and Training Programs:

Offer training in conservation techniques, safety protocols, and ecological principles to Conservation Corps members and junior game wardens.



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3. Select which Program Priorities listed in the RFP will be addressed by the project?

Program priorities are “bolded.”

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefit At-Risk Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Engage Local Communities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand Habitat Connectivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver Conservation and Restoration Across Jurisdictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to Local or Tribal Economies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a Range of Ecosystem Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to Workforce Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen Ecosystem and Community Resilience | <input type="checkbox"/> Advance the Restoration and Resiliency Framework and Keystone Initiatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand Public and Community Access to Nature | |

4. How will the project outcomes or activities contribute to the priorities selected above?

Benefit At-Risk Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species:

Through habitat restoration and invasive species removal, this project directly benefits species at risk by enhancing their habitats, thus promoting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Expand Habitat Connectivity:

The initiative aims to establish wildlife corridors, reconnecting fragmented landscapes to allow for the free movement of species, which is vital for genetic diversity and resilience.

Deliver Conservation and Restoration Across Jurisdictions:

the initiative orchestrates cross-jurisdictional restoration efforts that span the reservation's lands in both Arizona and California

Provide a Range of Ecosystem Services:

The restoration activities will bolster services such as pollination, water purification, and carbon sequestration, enhancing the overall functionality of ecosystems.

Strengthen Ecosystem and Community Resilience:

The program supports resilience by restoring native vegetation, which can better withstand extreme weather and changing climate conditions, while also reinforcing the community's cultural and economic vitality.

Engage Local Communities:

Local communities, especially the youth, are engaged through educational programs and community events, which encourage stewardship and a deeper connection to the land.

Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities:

The project is designed around CRIT's own conservation and restoration priorities, ensuring that tribal sovereignty is respected and tribal goals are met.

Contribute to Local or Tribal Economies:

By revitalizing ecosystems and enhancing game species populations, the project aims to stabilize and grow revenue from sustainable hunting and other nature-based economic activities.

Contribute to Workforce Development:

With targeted training programs and the establishment of career pathways in conservation, the initiative is a springboard for workforce development, equipping tribal members with valuable skills and qualifications for the future.

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

The project will address established plans for habitat and species restoration by integrating with the ongoing efforts at the 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, which already has a foundation of restoration plans in place. By building on these pre-existing plans, the initiative will ensure continuity and enhancement of the strategies already recognized as valuable by the community. Indigenous Knowledge will be a cornerstone of the project, incorporating traditional ecological understanding into modern conservation practices to fill any gaps in current planning needs. This integration respects and utilizes the deep-rooted connection between the tribes and their land, ensuring that restoration efforts are culturally relevant and ecologically effective.

6. Who are the partners working on this project and what is their contribution to the project? (e.g., organizations, agencies, landowners, community groups)

CRIT Fish and Game Department: Serves as the primary management and oversight body, providing local expertise, personnel, and land access for project activities.

'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve: Offers existing restoration plans, knowledge of local ecosystems, and a platform for educational programs.

Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC): Contribute through workforce development, providing training and manpower for conservation efforts.

Tribal Council: Involved in decision-making, ensuring that project actions respect tribal sovereignty and land rights

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

This project was developed with the assistance of Sungila Consulting.

8. What is the demographic information of the engaged community(ies)? 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(ies)	Race/Ethnicity %	Poverty Rate	Low Income %	Annualized Unemployment Rate
Colorado River Indian Tribes	Native American/100%	20.02	24.7	4.4%

9. Is this project connected to another ATBC 2024 proposal? If yes, please provide the 5-digit Easygrants ID number.

NO

10. Did you apply to any other currently open NFWF RFP with this project? If yes, please provide the program name and a 5-digit Easygrants ID number.

NO



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11. Did you include additional uploads (e.g., letters of support, photos)? If yes, please list them. Include an optional cover page for your uploads to provide more information. *Check the Tip Sheet for upload size limits and file type requirements.*

I included a one page abstract

12. Anything else we should know?

Project Description

Title: Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Conservation and Wildlife Management Initiative

Duration: 4 Years (2025 - 2028)

Background

The CRIT Reservation is an ecological treasure with a diverse array of habitats, each with its unique flora and fauna. Recognizing the need for active management to preserve and enhance these resources, CRIT has envisioned a multi-layered initiative that not only restores natural ecosystems but also empowers the Tribal community, especially its youth.

Project Objectives

Conservation Corps Creation: Establish a Conservation Corps comprising young Tribal members to engage in vital habitat restoration projects.

Wildlife Management Planning: Develop and implement a comprehensive wildlife management plan that reflects modern ecological standards and traditional ecological knowledge.

Regulatory Review and Revitalization: Update and refine the fishing game codes in line with contemporary conservation needs and cultural practices.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building: Provide education, training, and job opportunities to Tribal youth, instilling them with the skills and knowledge to steward their natural resources effectively.

Strategies and Activities

Conservation Corps Program:

Conduct targeted removal of invasive species and reforestation with native species in the 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

Offer specialized training programs in first aid, chainsaw operation, desert survival, and more.

Establish career pathways for Corps members in federal and Tribal environmental roles.

Biological Assessment and Management:

Hire and support a team led by a biologist to conduct field studies and data analysis.

Rewrite fishing game codes to better protect wildlife while supporting traditional and recreational fishing activities.

Engage in the junior game wardens' program, providing mentorship and hands-on experience in wildlife management.

Individual Placement Program:

Oversee the propagation of culturally significant plant species for restoration needs at the Tribal nursery.

Assist in the day-to-day operations of CRIT Fish and Game, supporting both junior game wardens and broader wildlife survey efforts.

Expected Outcomes

A significant increase in the health and biodiversity of local ecosystems, particularly in areas degraded by invasive species.

A detailed wildlife management plan that provides a roadmap for sustainable wildlife population and habitat management over the next decade.

A revitalized set of fishing and game codes that are culturally sensitive and ecologically sound. A cadre of trained and experienced young professionals ready to continue the work of preserving CRIT's natural heritage.

Budget and Funding

Funds are requested to cover the salaries of the biologist and the team, training materials, equipment, and other administrative costs.

A rigorous monitoring and reporting system will be implemented to track progress and ensure adaptive management.

Environmental compliance with NEPA, ESA, and NHPA will be maintained throughout the project.

Partnerships

Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), CRIT Fish and Game, CRIT 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Arizona Conservation Corps.