

# TRIBAL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION OF PREVIOUSLY MINED LANDS APPLICATION PROCESS

## CONTENTS

1)	Description .....	2
a)	Objective .....	2
b)	Purpose and Priorities .....	3
a)	Authority .....	3
2)	Award Information .....	3
a)	Funding Availability .....	3
b)	Project Award Period .....	3
c)	Type of Funding Instrument .....	3
3)	Eligibility Information .....	4
a)	Eligible Applicants .....	4
4)	Application and Submission Information .....	4
a)	Requesting Application Package Assistance .....	4
b)	Content and Form of Application .....	4
	Content Requirement 1: Cover Page .....	4
	Content Requirement 2: Tribal Resolution or Cover Letter with Signature .....	5
	Content Requirement 3: Proposal Describing the Proposed Project(S) .....	5
	Content Requirement 5: A Detailed Budget Table and Budget Narrative .....	6
c)	Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management .....	6
d)	Submission Dates and Times .....	6
e)	Funding Restrictions .....	7
f)	Other Submission Requirements .....	7
5)	Application Review Information .....	7
a)	Evaluation Criteria For Merit Review .....	7
b)	Review and Selection Process .....	9
	Administrative Review .....	9
	Technical Review By Panel .....	9
	Final Selection .....	9
c)	Secondary Selection Factors .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

d)	Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates.....	10
6)	Award Administration Information .....	10
a)	Award Notices .....	10
b)	Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	10
c)	Reporting.....	10
7)	Agency Contacts .....	11
8)	Other Information .....	12
a)	Permits and Approvals .....	12
b)	Writing a Competitive Proposal .....	13
c)	Public Signage.....	14
d)	Highlighting Events.....	14

## 1) DESCRIPTION

### A) OBJECTIVE

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Trust Services (OTS) is pleased to announce the availability of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to address environmental degradation posed by legacy mining activities. Under this opportunity BIA seeks applications for projects that support eligible revegetation or hazard mitigation efforts on previously mined lands. This opportunity is available for both planning and implementation projects as follows:

- Planning funding supports tribal participation in local, regional, and national forums for planning, capacity building, and training that foster reclamation of land and water areas adversely affected by past mining activities.
- Implementation funding supports tribes in implementing management or other established protocols, decreasing erosion and sedimentation, improving offsite water quality, establishing vegetation, and improving wildlife habitat.

Previously mined lands present serious threats to human health and the environment. Previously mined lands pose health risks due to sediment contamination and water and air pollution, and they can put wildlife at risk from entrapment or loss of habitat. Abandoned mining machinery and infrastructure can also pose dangers to community members and recreationalists. While previously mined lands can be dangerous and unwelcoming, through restoration, this land can find a new purpose.

This one-time funding is available for revegetation of lands that have been previously mined and Mitigation or removal of environmental hazards on previously mined lands. Examples of projects include removal of abandoned machinery, installation of bat-friendly mine opening gates, management of old settling ponds, or regrading and replanting native plants to minimize sediments reaching nearby streams and riparian habitats.

**Note:** Applicants must be actively registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) and have a valid unique entity identifier (UEI). Allow a minimum of two weeks to complete the SAM registration prior to application submission. See Section 4.C for more details.

## B) PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES

These funds are intended to restore native vegetation and mitigate environmental hazards on mined land on Federal and non-Federal land.

1. **Engage and empower tribal communities** in the restoration process, fostering ownership and stewardship of their lands.
2. **Integrate Indigenous Knowledge** and practices into restoration efforts, preserving cultural heritage.
3. **Promote sustainable land use** and management practices that benefit both the environment and the community.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria in Section 5.A. Successful proposals will address some or all the following priorities:

- 1) Native plant species revegetation restoration on disturbed landscapes on previously mined areas
- 2) Decreasing sedimentation and erosion
- 3) Improving offsite water quality and wildlife habitat improvement.
- 4) Protecting public health and safety on tribal trust lands, individual Indian allotment lands, or in areas managed by tribes through treaties or agreements

## C) AUTHORITY

This funding is authorized by Section 40804(b)(8) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Pub. L. 117-58 (August 16, 2022).

## 2) AWARD INFORMATION

### A) FUNDING AVAILABILITY

BIA anticipates approximately \$6 million in funding will be available under this notice. BIA will not accept proposals less than \$250,000 or greater than \$2,000,000.

BIA is not responsible for direct costs of application preparation. Publication of this notice does not oblige BIA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. The number of awards made as a result of this notice is estimated between 3 and 12. The actual number of awards will depend on the number of eligible applications received, the amount of funds requested, and the ranking and selection of the applications as described in Section 5.

### B) PROJECT AWARD PERIOD

This funding opportunity will be awarded to projects to be conducted for up to a 5-year period, with an anticipated start date occurring no later than June 1, 2026.

### C) TYPE OF FUNDING INSTRUMENT

Awards will be funded via a self-governance compact, or self-determination contract as described by the Indian Self-Determination and Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA), meaning that BIA will not be substantially involved in carrying out the activities contemplated by the award.

### 3) ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

#### A) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations, as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) (25 U.S.C. 5304), including Tribal Consortia.

### 4) APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

#### A) REQUESTING APPLICATION PACKAGE ASSISTANCE

Information regarding application package requirements is shown in Section 4.B. For questions or assistance with application materials, please visit [Branch of Agriculture and Rangeland Development | Indian Affairs \(bia.gov\)](#) or contact BIA through the contacts listed in Section 7.

#### B) CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION

A complete application package is comprised of the following four components:

- 1) Cover Page
- 2) Tribal Resolution or Cover Letter
- 3) Project(s) Proposal
- 4) Detailed Budget and Budget Narrative

Each component should be submitted digitally in a format compatible with Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat (PDF), or Microsoft Excel with pages composed in at least 10-point font with 1-inch margins. Please use descriptive file names to ensure the BIA quickly locates specific components of the application. You are encouraged to review Section 8.B. Writing a Competitive Proposal.

The application should address the evaluation criteria in Section 5.A to receive a consistent review against competing applications. Consideration will only be given to material that is physically included in an application. Information provided via an internet link will not be considered nor will it influence the application evaluation.

Content requirements are described in further detail below.

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#### CONTENT REQUIREMENT 1: COVER PAGE

Include the following information in the cover page:

- 1) **Applicant Name** - The full name of the proposing tribe
- 2) **Applicant's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**- The official identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government and provided when registering with the System for Award Management (SAM) at SAM.gov. Please see Section 4.C for more detail.

- 3) **Title** - A succinct but descriptive project title that will distinguish it from other proposals and indicate project purpose (400-character limit, including spaces). Please do not call your project “Previously Mined Lands” or “Mined Lands Proposal”.
- 4) **Summary Description** - A concise summary to be made public if awarded. The summary should focus on what the project will accomplish including the benefits and impacts and should be two sentences long in most cases. The first sentence should clearly state the main activity being used to address the specific need. The second sentence should state the expected outcome from the investment and relevance to ecosystem restoration. The summary should use clear, straightforward language that can be easily understood by a diverse audience. Please refrain from using pronouns such as I, we, our, etc. (1,000-character limit, including spaces)
- 5) **Abstract** - Should be three to four sentences and derived from the Summary Description. Provide a more detailed description of your project including location, purpose, major activities, target species, outcomes (deliverables at the end of the project) and partners. Please refrain from using pronouns such as I, we, our, etc. (2,000-character limit, including spaces)
- 6) **Requested amount** - The total amount of funding requested in the proposal, not including any amounts requested for sources outside of this opportunity. Requests should not include indirect rates/Contract Support Costs. The Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate Centralized account. If selected for funding, awardees should request indirect rate funding at the time the budget is developed with BIA. Note: Applications requesting less than the minimum (\$250,000) or more than the maximum (\$2,000,000) as amount stated in section 2.A will not be considered for review.
- 7) **Point of Contact** - Provide the name, title, office address, mailing address, phone, and e-mail address for the point of contact responsible for the application.

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#### CONTENT REQUIREMENT 2: TRIBAL RESOLUTION OR COVER LETTER WITH SIGNATURE

Tribal resolutions are required to enter into ISDEAA contracts if the proposal is selected for award. Signed tribal resolutions must summarize interest and intent. Self-governance (compact) tribes should submit a cover letter summarizing interest and leadership support but do not need to submit a resolution. Resolutions will be required from all participating tribes for joint proposals.

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#### CONTENT REQUIREMENT 3: PROPOSAL DESCRIBING THE PROPOSED PROJECT(S)

Your proposal shall be clear and concise and should not exceed six (6) pages in length. Pages exceeding the 6-page limit will not be taken into consideration when reviewing the application. Tribal resolutions, cover letters, budget tables, and budget narratives are part of the application but not subject to the proposal length limit. Supplemental materials such as letters of support, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, graphics, planning documents, and other relevant information may be included in an appendix and do not count against the six-page project proposal limit.

The proposal should be a descriptive document. If proposing more than one project within the application, project descriptions must describe the anticipated outcomes for each project. You are encouraged to review Section 8.B Writing a Competitive Proposal.

**Your proposal must describe:**

1. Reasoning for the proposed work, describing what restoration or hazard mitigation of mined lands needs are being addressed, in line with the purpose and priorities outlined in Section 1.B.
2. Anticipated measurable outcomes, benefits, impacts, and those who are expected to benefit, and how you intend to measure those outcomes, benefits, and impacts.
3. Evidence to support the feasibility of the proposed project and address whether the project is technically sound and safe.
4. Proposed project timeline, including commencement, major milestones, and completion (note that, per section 2.B above, projects must have an anticipated start date occurring no later than June 1, 2026, to be conducted for up to a 5-year period).
5. Any portion of the project (the four priorities specified in Section 1. B) that has already commenced, the existing efforts and status to date.
  - a. If detailed project plans are already completed, you should disclose such and attach project planning documents as an appendix.
6. The status of project permitting and anticipated permitting requirements.
7. Any other funding dedicated to the project.
8. If the project is dependent on any other funding sources or entities for the completion of the project.
9. Future management, beyond the award period, including mechanisms to protect, maintain, or sustain the proposed project(s).
10. How the proposed project provides adaptation to potential climate change impacts.

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#### CONTENT REQUIREMENT 4.A DETAILED BUDGET TABLE AND BUDGET NARRATIVE

Budgets should identify funds requested for the work with a detailed line-item expenditure breakdown. You should:

- 1) Attach the budget table in a spreadsheet as a separate attachment. Each item in the budget table should have an accompanying budget narrative describing the budget item and its role in the overall project.
- 2) Ensure the requested amount indicated on the cover sheet (Sec. 4.B.1) accurately reflects the requested amount summarized in the budget table and within the minimum (\$250,000) and maximum (\$2,000,000) allowable award levels. Note: Total amounts should only include those requested from this opportunity and should not include tribal match, in-kind, or leveraged funds from other agencies or organizations. Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate account and should be requested at the time you develop the budget with BIA, contracting officials (if selected for funding).

#### C) UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT

You should be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) before applying. Your valid unique entity identifier (UEI) should be supplied on your application (on the cover sheet described in Section 4.B.1), and you should always maintain an active SAM registration with current information during which you have an active federal award or an application under consideration by a federal awarding agency. BIA may not make an award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time BIA is ready to make an award, BIA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for declining to make an award. You should allow a minimum of two weeks to complete the SAM registration which is required only once but must be periodically renewed.

#### D) SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

The application deadline is 90 days after program funds are announced. Applications must be submitted by the deadline and late applications will not be accepted or considered.

#### E) FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

This funding is part of a multi-faceted approach to ecosystem restoration on previously mined lands. Projects should focus on revegetation, restoration and hazard reduction. Full reclamation opportunities exist under other Federal programs and should not be considered through this opportunity.

Work must be conducted on previously mined lands that are not planned for any continued mining actions. Previously mined lands are broadly defined to include hard rock, mineral, and gravel or sand mines and include surface or underground mining. Other activities such as those that directly protect, restore, or conserve habitats not on mine lands are not covered under this opportunity.

Revegetation must be performed using native plants suitable for the specified end land use. The use of non-native plants is prohibited.

#### F) OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Your complete application package should be submitted via email to BIA Regional Point of Contact no later than the due date specified in section 4.d. Attached files should be labeled clearly, saved without passwords, and each email must be less than 25 megabytes in size. Files larger than 25 megabytes can be split into smaller sizes and transmitted via multiple emails. After email submission of the application, you will receive an acknowledgment of receipt.

### 5) APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

#### A) EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR MERIT REVIEW

Reviewers will assign scores to applications ranging from 0-100 points based on the following evaluation criteria.

Category	Points	Criteria
Promote Sustainable Land Use by Establishment of Native Vegetation and/or Reduction of Hazards on Previously Mined Lands	25	<p>Extent to which the proposal for planning or implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly demonstrates establishment of native vegetation Or reduced hazards on previously mined lands               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clearly demonstrates the selection and intent to use only native plant materials suitable for the specific landscape according to local climate potential, site conditions, and local historic climax plant community</li> <li>And/or</li> <li>○ Clearly articulates the existing hazards and how this project will mitigate or reduce that hazard</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clearly demonstrates that project actions will occur on or around lands that have been previously mined and are not subject to future mining.</li> </ul>

Category	Points	Criteria
Application of Best Practices and Follow-on Monitoring	25	<p>Extent to which the proposal for planning or implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the specific actions to be undertaken and how they improve or restore the ecosystem</li> <li>Details how the project will use well-established best-practices for the given restoration action. Examples could include using temporary practices during earth moving efforts to reduce runoff; how revegetation efforts will occur during wet seasons to maximize effective root growth and replanting survival; ensuring mine closure gates are appropriately sized to support native bats.</li> <li>Uses Indigenous Knowledge, Nature Based Solutions, and natural processes to ensure long term sustainability of restoration (e.g., restores natural riparian vegetation and beaver dam analogs to collect sediment vs. Hard-engineered approaches)</li> <li>Has a plan in place to conduct implementation monitoring (e.g., did the revegetation survive one year after planting?) and outcomes monitoring (e.g., are their noticeable reductions in sediment being delivered to downstream rivers?)</li> </ul>
Improved Community Health and Safety on Tribal Trust Lands, Individual Indian Allotment Lands, or In Areas Managed by Tribes Through Treaties or Agreements	15	<p>Extent to which the proposal for planning or implementation will improve community health and safety, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community outreach efforts and planning to inform Tribal communities on Invasive Noxious Weeds on previous disturbed mined sites and the re-establishment of Native species and seeds for revegetation efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential opportunities to develop Integrated Weed Management Plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community outreach and planning for the dangers of sediment erosion and non-point source pollution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential opportunities for Well-Head Protection planning</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mitigation or removal of garbage, environmental hazards on previously mined lands. Examples include removal of abandoned machinery, management of old settling ponds, regrading and replanting native plants and trees to minimize sediments reaching nearby streams and riparian areas.</li> </ul>
Improved Wildlife Habitat	15	<p>Extent to which the proposal for planning or implementation improves the potential for wildlife by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishing diverse native vegetation types that avoid monocultures</li> <li>including and holding water in the restored area landscape or otherwise improving access to surface water</li> <li>increasing edge effect, travel corridors, and diverse landforms and mosaics</li> <li>reducing other hazards to wildlife from entrapment or exposure to toxics or other dangerous substances</li> </ul>



Category	Points	Criteria
Environmental Compliance	10	Extent to which the proposal for planning or implementation demonstrates an awareness and ability to achieve compliance with environmental and permitting regulations such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Partnerships	10	Extent to which the proposal for planning or implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engages with the community</li> <li>• promotes collaboration with stakeholders</li> <li>• leverages matched funding</li> <li>• collaborates with non-government organizations (NGOs) or consortiums.</li> </ul>

**B) REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

Applications will undergo an initial administrative screening to determine if the packages are eligible and complete. BIA, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for applications with non-substantive issues that may be easily rectified or cured. Applications are screened to ensure that they were received by the deadline date, that the applicant is eligible to apply, and that the application includes the required components outlined in Section 4.B.

**TECHNICAL REVIEW BY PANEL**

Applications that satisfy the administrative review will advance for a technical review. Eligible applications will undergo a technical review to determine how well they meet the priorities and evaluation criteria of this opportunity. Applications will be independently evaluated by BIA Regional technical reviewers based on the evaluation criteria listed in Section 5.A. The reviewer(s)' ratings will determine the final technical score for each application and produce a rank order of the proposals. Technical reviewers will be required to certify that they do not have a conflict of interest and that they will maintain confidentiality of the applications. After BIA Regions have provided final rankings, the ranked ordered proposals will be submitted to BIA Office Trust Services, Division of Natural Resources for a final panel review and selection of awards.

**FINAL SELECTION**

After the proposals have been evaluated, the BIA, Office of Trust Services, Division of Natural Resources will perform the final selection. The Division Director or designee will review the funding recommendations and comments from the Technical Review and determine the applications to be funded. In making the final selections, the Division Director will recommend awarding in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one of the selection factors below:

1. Availability of funding
2. Objectives and priorities identified in Sections 1.A. and 1.B.
3. The distribution of awards by:
  - a. Benefiting tribe(s)

- b. Geographical location
- 4. Applicant's prior award performance
- 5. Secondary selection factors, listed below

#### C) C) ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT AND AWARD DATES

Successful applicants will be notified by email and letter through the U.S. mail. Notifications of selection are expected to begin in March 2025.

### 6) AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

#### A) AWARD NOTICES

Upon completion of the review and selection process, successful applicants will receive notification from a BIA representative. This notification is not an authorization to begin project operations and is not a guarantee of funding.

After selection notification, you will be expected to prepare and submit all documentation required per ISDEAA within 90 days. The official award document, signed by a BIA or Office of Self Governance (OSG) Awarding Official and the designated tribal official, is the authorizing document that allows a project to begin. Projects should not be initiated in expectation of federal funding. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not recommended for funding or was not reviewed because it did not meet the minimum requirements described in section 4.B.

Applicants may be asked to modify proposal components, objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final selection to address technical review or panel review comments, and to conform to priorities (as stated in Section 1.B) or requirements. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the project duration, and specific requirements of each project will be determined through negotiations with BIA regional Self-Determination or OSG staff as part of the awarding process. Award documents may contain special award conditions for activities outlined within the proposal.

#### B) ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

The recipient and any sub-recipients must, in addition to the assurances made as part of the application, must comply and require each of its contractors and subcontractors employed in the completion of the project to comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, Executive Orders, etc.

#### C) REPORTING

You will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports. Financial and performance reports are to be submitted electronically via email. All financial reports should be submitted directly to the Awarding Official's Technical Representative (AOTR) identified at the time of award.

Reporting requirements will be determined by the Awarding Official and AOTR with input from the awardee. Reporting dates will be established by the AOTR and written into the agreement once the award has been made but will coincide with the federal fiscal year calendar. Awarded projects are expected to furnish biannual reporting to share and demonstrate success on planning, development, and project implementation.

You will deliver all products and data generated under the project to BIA’s technical contact(s) within 120 days of project completion or award expiration as required by the signed agreement. You may withhold sensitive information (e.g., proprietary tribal data or IK) that may be redacted at the tribal government’s discretion. Information in the possession of the BIA or submitted to the BIA throughout the process, including final work product, constitute government records and may be subject to the disclosure to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, and the Department of the Interior’s FOIA regulations at 43 CFR part 2, unless a FOIA exemption or exception applies or other provisions of law protect the information. The final report shall serve as an overall evaluation of your success in achieving the goals and objectives of the approved project, specifically describing the work that was performed and its resulting benefit. The level of detail should allow for BIA’s assessment of the overall success of the project.

## 7) AGENCY CONTACTS

If you have questions, please contact the following individuals:

<b>BIA Region</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Email Address and Phone Number</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>
Great Plains	Diane Mann-Klager, Natural Resource Officer	diane.mann-klager@bia.gov (605) 252-6763	BIA Great Plains Region Division of Natural Resources, MC 301 115 4th Ave. SE, Suite 400 Aberdeen, SD 57401
Southern Plains	David Anderson, Environmental Scientist	david.anderson@bia.gov (405) 247-1532	BIA Southern Plains Region P.O. Box 368 Anadarko, OK 73005
Eastern	Jerry Page, Natural Resource Officer	jerry.page@bia.gov (615) 917-0969	BIA Eastern Region 545 Marriott Dr. Suite 700 Nashville TN 37214
Midwest	Patricia Olby, Deputy Regional Director Trust Services	patricia.olby@bia.gov (612) 725-4503	BIA Midwest Region 5600 W. American Blvd, Suite 500 Bloomington, MN 55437
Eastern Oklahoma	Justin Morgan, Soil Conservationist	justin.morgan@bia.gov (918) 781-4653	BIA Eastern Oklahoma Region 3100 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee, OK 74401

<b>BIA Region</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Email Address and Phone Number</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>
Rocky Mountain	David Hopkins, Rangeland Management Specialist	david.hopkins@bia.gov (406) 247-7926	BIA Rocky Mountain Region Division of Natural Resources 2021 4th Ave. North Billings, MT 59101
Navajo	Peter Lefebvre, Range Management Specialist	peter.lefebvre@bia.gov (406) 231-5879	BIA Navajo Region 301 W. Hill St., PO Box 1060 Gallup, NM 87305
Southwest	Novik Begay, Rangeland Management Specialist	novik.begay@bia.gov (505) 563-3552	BIA Southwest Region 1001 Indian School Road, NW Albuquerque, NM 87104
Western	Kenneth Gishi, Rangeland Management Specialist	kenneth.gishi@bia.gov (480) 744-5568	BIA Western Region 2600 N. Central Ave, 4th Floor Mailroom, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Pacific	Douglas Garcia, Water Right Specialist	douglas.garcia@bia.gov (916) 978-6052	BIA Pacific Region 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825
Northwest	Robert Compton, Rangeland Management Specialist	robert.compton@bia.gov (602) 379-6789	BIA Northwest Region 911 NE 11th Avenue Portland, OR 97232
Alaska	Joshua Neuffer, Natural Resources Manager	joshua.neuffer@bia.gov (907) 419-1295	BIA Alaska Region P.O. Box 21647 Juneau, AK 99802

## 8) OTHER INFORMATION

### A) PERMITS AND APPROVALS

You are required to obtain any necessary permits on projects funded under this announcement. This includes, but is not limited to, any necessary permits or consultations required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA),

the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## B) WRITING A COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL

BIA believes in supporting projects that are transparent, accountable, and demonstrate measurable impact. We strongly encourage you to incorporate data, performance, and storytelling elements into your proposal. This information helps BIA understand the need, potential impact, and effectiveness of your project, as well as providing BIA the ability to demonstrate unmet tribal needs when justifying any potential future funding opportunities. Incorporating these elements increases your chances of receiving an award and provides you with a roadmap to execute your project, ultimately resulting in a more successful project.

### Data:

- **Quantify the problem:** Use relevant data and statistics to clearly define the issue your project addresses and the community that is impacted. Use available statistics, reports, research findings, or local data to illustrate the need.
  - Example: Instead of stating "The abandoned mine site needs restoration," use data like "According to a 2023 environmental assessment, the [Mine Site Name] has resulted in a [percentage] decline in local biodiversity and soil quality, impacting surrounding ecosystems and community health."
  - Note: We recognize that complete data sets regarding specific needs to your community may not always be available. Proposals will not be penalized for data gaps beyond your control. Our focus is on identifying strong proposals that demonstrate a clear understanding of the problem you aim to address, even if comprehensive data isn't available. We encourage you to identify known data gaps in your proposal and if feasible, propose solutions for future data collection.
- **Plan for data collection:** Outline your plan for gathering relevant data throughout the duration of your project. The plan should include the types of data, how you will collect it, frequency of collection, how you will ensure its quality, and any planned data analysis.
  - Example: Explain how you will gather data on soil contamination levels, vegetation recovery rates, and wildlife presence through regular monitoring, soil sampling, and collaborating with environmental agencies. Ensure data accuracy through established protocols and procedures.
- **Leverage data for decision-making:** Describe how you will use data to inform key project decisions and track progress towards your goals.
  - Example: Describe how you will use data on soil health, plant growth, and species diversity to identify critical restoration needs, selecting appropriate interventions and adjusting them as needed. Track progress with metrics like improved soil quality, increased plant cover, and higher wildlife sightings.

### Performance:

- **Set "SMART" goals:** SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound. Establish clear SMART goals aligned with the objectives (as stated in Section 1a) and supported by data.
  - Example: Set a SMART objective like "Increase native plant cover on the [Mine Site Name] by 30% within three years, as measured by annual vegetation surveys conducted by local ecologists."
- **Track progress with key performance indicators (KPIs):** Develop a performance measurement plan with KPIs to monitor your progress towards objectives. Your KPIs should align with the goals and objectives of your project. Clearly define the metrics you will use to assess progress and ensure the metrics are feasible

given your data collection plan. Regularly tracking KPIs will provide valuable insights throughout implementation of your project and allow you to make data-driven decisions to optimize impact.

- Example: Identify KPIs like the reduction in soil contaminants, the number of native species reintroduced, and the increase in wildlife sightings. Outline how you will collect and analyze this data regularly in collaboration with stakeholders.
- **Adapt and improve:** Explain how you will use performance data to adapt your project activities and ensure optimal effectiveness. We understand that challenges and opportunities may arise throughout your project, and therefore encourage you to demonstrate a commitment to continuous learning and improvement through evidence-building.
  - Example: Explain how you will analyze data to identify challenges in plant establishment or soil recovery and adapt restoration strategies accordingly. This could involve modifying planting techniques, exploring alternative species, or collaborating with local conservation groups to share best practices.

#### Storytelling:

- **Sharing a compelling narrative:** Explain how you will share stories that describes your project, its goals, and the positive impact it has or will have on the community. This is an opportunity to get creative and integrate culturally relevant and meaningful mediums to showcase the real-life impact of your project.
  - Example: Media such as blog posts, podcasts, videos, photo essays, and infographics along with data such as those collected from surveys, focus groups, and interviews are great methods to demonstrate project impacts. These types of activities demonstrate project importance while resonating with the audience.
- **Focus on the human element:** Highlight the individuals and communities who will benefit from your work, adding a personal touch to your proposal. Meaningful data is not only limited to numbers and statistics. Incorporating information that speaks to how your project has impacted or improved the lives of people is important.
  - Examples: Feature quotes and testimonials from tribal members expressing their concerns about the decline of salmon, and their hope for the project's success in restoring these vital resources.
- **Integrate data and performance metrics:** Use data and evidence to support your narrative and make it more impactful and convincing.
  - Example: Weave data points like percentage decrease in soil contamination or the economic benefits for local communities into your narrative to demonstrate the project's tangible impact.

#### C) PUBLIC SIGNAGE

Recipients of funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are encouraged to use public signage to make visible to the public the effectiveness of Government efforts to invest in our nation. Providing common and prominent signage on projects is consistent with the Government's commitment to transparency and accountability to the American public. Therefore, if your project is expected to have a minimum duration of six months of on the ground activity, you are encouraged to publicly display signage with the official Investing in America emblem, tribal logo(s), and the BIA logo. BIA will provide general guidelines and design specifications for applying the emblem and logos. Your objection to displaying signage will not affect your eligibility for award nor is it a consideration in the review and selection process.

#### D) HIGHLIGHTING EVENTS

Effectively showcasing the success of this one-time funding opportunity is crucial, especially for projects that fulfill the administration's Investing in America agenda. To elevate such narrative, you are encouraged to work with BIA to identify potential opportunities for agency officials to participate in on the ground events, such as

ground-breaking ceremonies or project completion ribbon cuttings. Additionally, you are encouraged to support the development of promotional materials by providing pictures and narratives that help us craft impactful stories that resonate with stakeholders, including Congress, the media, and most importantly, the communities we serve.

These stories bring to life the real-world impact of this funding opportunity through the voices of our beneficiaries, showcasing how funding opportunities like this could improve lives and inspire continued investments. When possible, tribes are encouraged to provide notice to BIA at least two months prior to major milestones such as ground-breaking and project completion so agency personnel can coordinate visitation to project sites and involvement in activities as appropriate. Your objection to participating in elevation your project's narrative will not affect your eligibility for award.