

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FY 2025 Tribal Wildlife Grants Awards Summaries
(Assistance Listings Number (formerly called Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance):
15.639 / Funding Opportunity Number: F25AS00265)

***Below = Tribes that have not received TWG funds in the past (1 funded in First Tier, 2 funded in Second Tier and 6 funded in the Third Tier Process).**

ALASKA:

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District (\$200,000)

Native Village of Tyonek's Subsistence Fishery: Addressing Data Gaps, Protecting Habitat, and Restoring Salmon Populations

The primary goal of this project is to strategically and aggressively mitigate factors known to limit the productivity of Tyonek's subsistence Pacific salmon populations while building a robust database of harvest demographics, salmon population data, and temperature trends, providing fishery and land managers with the best information to enable the protection and continuation of this vital resource.

Native Village of Nanwalek (\$198,728)

Strengthening Tribal-Led Salmon Monitoring and Habitat Assessment in the English Bay Lakes System

This project will expand the Tribe's existing salmon escapement monitoring efforts using a newly acquired resistance board weir, implement limnological and disease assessments of juvenile sockeye salmon rearing habitat, and further develop the Nanwalek Fishery Working Group as a model for Tribal-State collaboration.

Chilkoot Indian Association (\$196,390)

Building Capacity and Evaluating Impediment-free Salmon Enumeration Methods at the Chilkoot River, Deishú Alaska

In partnership with the Haines-area Alaska Department of Fish & Game biologists, Chilkoot Indian Association will build capacity to support conservation and management of salmonid species through the assessment and evaluation of impediment-free methods for salmon enumeration (sonar, video, eDNA) in comparison to daily weir counts at the Chilkoot River, Deishú, Alaska.

*** Klawock Cooperative Association (\$199,998)**

Baseline Water Quality Monitoring: Assessing Impacts from Historical and Ongoing Uses of the Klawock River Watershed & Estuary

Klawock Cooperative Association will increase their capacity to collect, manage and analyze water quality data by working with Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition to initiate baseline water quality monitoring at four sites in the Klawock River Watershed and Estuary to determine current conditions and assist Tribal managers.

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak (\$194,261)

Nearshore Surveys of Northern Sea Otters and Marine Birds of Subsistence Priority in the Northern Kodiak Archipelago, Alaska

This two-year project to conduct sea otter surveys will be an essential component in better evaluating and understanding population demographics, assessing toxins and pathogens potentially present in these critical subsistence and indicator species, engaging the public, and sharing data with scientists, agency biologists, and hunters continuing their traditional ways-of-life. It will resume a scientifically rigorous nearshore survey and monitoring program in the northern Kodiak Archipelago to collect data that will inform best management practices to balance conservation needs, subsistence harvest, and economic and food security.

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska (\$200,000)

Continued Investigation of Blue Mussel Habitat in Unalaska

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska seeks to continue and strengthen blue mussel restoration efforts, while also exploring the use of environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring as a tool for detecting *A. catenella*, a species responsible for harmful algal blooms (HAB) and paralytic shellfish poisoning. This project will assess both the effectiveness of restoration strategies and the feasibility of eDNA monitoring, with the goal of restoring mussel populations, building local capacity to respond to HAB threats, protecting public health and food security, and creating a replicable model for other communities facing similar challenges.

***Native Village of Mary's Igloo (\$199,997)**

Water Quality Monitoring to Assist in Resource Management Near Teller, Northwest Alaska

Mary's Igloo Traditional Council (MITC) will work with subrecipient Teller Traditional Council (TTC) to initiate baseline water quality monitoring at four sites on the southwestern Seward Peninsula to assess and address threats to aquatic species, including salmon, whitefish, lingcod, pike, and trout, commonly harvested by locals. This project will include capacity development for MITC and TTC staff through training in water quality sampling and data management and analysis.

ARIZONA:

San Carlos Apache Tribe (\$186,781)

The Gila Topminnow Recovery Through Tributary Barrier Creation and Habitat Monitoring Project

The San Carlos Apache Tribe is proposing a comprehensive species conservation project to protect and rehabilitate the endangered Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*) in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife survey recovery priorities. The project implements structural habitat protections, species reintroduction, and ecological monitoring to address population threats caused by invasive and predatory fish species, habitat degradation, and water quality fluctuations. This project involves baseline population and habitat surveys to inform site selection of a low head rock armored check dam that is designed to prevent the upstream movement of invasive and predatory fish species while still maintaining the natural flow and fish safe overflow. Once the dam has been installed, Gila topminnow will then be reintroduced into isolated spring habitats to be protected and monitored long-term.

Tohono O'odham Nation (\$200,000)

*Population Monitoring of Sonoran Desert Tortoise *Komchikud* on the Tohono O'odham Nation*

The Nation wishes to establish a baseline for Sonoran Desert tortoise population demographics, distribution, and movement. This will be accomplished by using Very High Frequency (VHF) radio and Global Positioning System (GPS) data loggers to track tortoise populations and by establishing monitoring plots to address knowledge gaps in the southern stretch of their range in the U.S. The long-term goal of this project is to create sustainable practices so that the Nation can manage its land and resources independently.

White Mountain Apache Tribe (\$200,000)

Paradise Creek Barrier Replacement to Conserve Apache Trout

This project will directly support Apache Trout conservation by eliminating nonnative trout impacts to a replicated population of Apache Trout in Paradise Creek. The project will separate an Apache Trout recovery population from a managed sportfish downstream and increase the availability of high-quality, protected, Apache Trout recovery habitat by 6.5 km. Specifically, the project will replace an existing gabion structure which is failing with a barrier designed for a 50-year performance life. This protected habitat would benefit several native fish species including Apache Trout, Speckled Dace, and other native species, including tree frogs and terrestrial garter snakes.

CALIFORNIA:

Yurok Tribe (\$200,000)

Strengthening Condor Persistence: Managing for Increased Flock Resilience Through Expansion in the Pacific Northwest

This project aims to enhance the survivorship and stability of the California condors in northern California by expanding the flock to 31 individuals by January 2027. This will be achieved through four objectives: managing condors via monitoring and intervention, providing clean food and biannual health checks, reintroducing six new condors to boost resilience, and monitoring breeding-age birds and potential nests.

***Buena Vista Rancheria of the Me-Wuk Indians (\$199,993)**

Protecting the Western Pond Turtle: Habitat Restoration, Youth Training, and Cultural Stewardship on the Buena Vista Rancheria Tribal Lands

This project aims to restore and enhance habitat for the Western Pond Turtle, addressing habitat fragmentation and hydrological barriers on Tribal lands. It includes installing wildlife-friendly culverts, constructing nesting terraces, and restoring aquatic vegetation. The project integrates community-based science, seasonal surveys, and long-term telemetry monitoring. It also involves hiring and training Tribal natural resource technicians, educational outreach, and school-based events. The project will increase Tribal capacity for species monitoring, enhance habitat connectivity, and provide a replicable conservation model. Collaboration with State and Federal agencies, regional biologists, and Tribal youth will advance species recovery.

***Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (\$200,000)**

Reconnecting Ranges: Restoring Chis-chu (Roosevelt Elk) Habitat Connectivity in the Upper Smith River

This project aims to restore and enhance Roosevelt elk habitat in northern California, addressing challenges like timber harvesting and wildfires. These issues have confined elk to lower coastal areas, increasing human-wildlife conflicts. The project will restore upland habitat connectivity by collaborating with regional partners, monitoring herd dispersal, surveying 400 acres of Tribal property, and restoring 10 acres of prairie habitat. The Tribe has been working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for over five years to monitor elk populations and movements, aiming to reduce conflicts and encourage natural migration.

COLORADO:

Southern Ute Tribe (\$200,000)

Wetlands Expansion and Endangered Species Habitat Enhancement

In alignment with the Tribe's Natural Resource Management Plan, the Southern Ute Tribe plans to expand the wetland area on Tribal Trust Land. Water flowing through the expanded wetland

will reconnect with existing hydrology, returning to the Pine River within approximately 200 meters. The project will involve constructing riparian wetland shelves, creating pocket wetlands, and revegetating the area with culturally significant plant species. These efforts will enhance habitat diversity, improve water quality, and provide essential nesting habitat for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Additionally, a gravel trail with interpretive signage will be developed to promote educational outreach and community engagement.

FLORIDA:

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (\$200,000)

Tree Island Restoration Project

The goal of this project is to restore and protect critical tree island habitats within the North Grass region of the Miccosukee Reservation to support the recovery of culturally and ecologically important species and to enhance the Tribe's long-term capacity to protect and manage fish, wildlife, and plant conservation priorities during the project period and beyond. This goal supports both ecological function and cultural continuity, reversing habitat loss while restoring access to traditional resources and lifeways.

Seminole Tribe of Florida (\$200,000)

Seminole Tribe of Florida Fiscal Year 2025 Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

The Tribe's primary goal with this application is to obtain funding to assist with the continued implementation and development of the Tribe's Wildlife Conservation Plan (WCP), as approved by USFWS; the WCP helps fulfill the Tribal Council's directive for supporting an informed decision-making process related to sustainable natural resource management. More specifically, the WCP establishes an applied framework for protecting federally listed threatened and endangered species as well as culturally significant species. Furthermore, executing the WCP ensures conformity to Federal policies without placing a disproportionate burden of resource protection measures onto the Tribe. The Tribe continues to utilize the WCP as a robust and effective tool to provide guidance for wildlife management within Seminole Reservations and Tribal Lands.

IDAHO:

***Coeur d'Alene Tribe (\$198,637)**

Fisher Augmentation and Den Site Research in the Idaho Panhandle

The Coeur D'Alene Tribe proposes a comprehensive project to support the recovery and long-term viability of fisher populations in the Idaho Panhandle through targeted augmentation and den site research. Building on previous reintroduction efforts, the Tribe aims to enhance fisher population resilience by identifying and characterizing critical denning habitat, monitoring reproductive success, and evaluating habitat use patterns. The project will employ GPS telemetry, remote cameras, and field surveys to gather data on fisher behavior and habitat

preferences, with a focus on maternal den sites. Outcomes will inform adaptive management strategies and contribute to regional conservation planning, while also strengthening the Tribe's capacity for wildlife research and fostering interagency collaboration.

Nez Perce Tribe (\$190,261)

Nimiipuu Homelands Wolf Monitoring Initiative Project

This multi-year project aims to strengthen the Nez Perce Tribe's leadership in wolf conservation. The project will focus on tracking gray wolves across the Nez Perce Reservation and within the Tribe's usual and accustomed Treaty Territory. The goal of the project is to develop a Tribal-lead wolf monitoring program using a variety of methods such as trail cameras, howling surveys, acoustic recorders and GPS collars, to better understand wolf movements, territories, and survival. To support this work, the Tribe will hire and train student interns. Data will be used to develop a wolf monitoring framework.

KANSAS:

***Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (\$199,958)**

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Fish Conservation and Management Project

The project supports long-term stewardship of culturally and ecologically important aquatic resources by improving access, monitoring, and management of tribal pond and creek systems. Planned infrastructure—low-impact fishing docks and a boat ramp within PBPN Common Lands—will enhance habitat, strengthen fish population monitoring, and promote conservation-based fishing rooted in traditional ecological knowledge. These upgrades address current challenges of limited access, reduced monitoring, and environmental pressures that hinder both subsistence and cultural practices. The new facilities will provide safe platforms for research, traditional harvesting, and habitat assessments, while also enabling regular fish and water quality surveys, youth and elder conservation education, and community-based stewardship. This initiative demonstrates PBPN's commitment to protecting fish and wildlife resources, fostering cultural continuity, and ensuring resilient habitats for future generations, in alignment with PBPN's Strategic Plan goal of safeguarding and developing land for the health and wellbeing of its people.

MAINE:

Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point (\$199,705)

Restoring the Balance: A Passamaquoddy Initiative to Green Crab Removal

This project is a Tribal-led initiative to protect and restore the health of coastal ecosystems by addressing the harmful impacts of invasive European green crabs in Passamaquoddy Bay and along the shores of Sipayik. These invasive crabs have undermined both biodiversity and the cultural lifeways of the Passamaquoddy People. The green crab population will be reduced

through targeted trapping and community-based monitoring, which will allow key habitats to recover.

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (\$199,707)

Implementing Phase IX of an Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program

This is the fourth TWG restoration project implemented on the North Branch of the Meduxnekeag River and will restore ~2.8 contiguous miles of the river. The Band will install logjam and boulder structures to enhance fish habitat quality and restore the natural flow of the river. This will improve opportunities for traditional uses of the Meduxnekeag River with a focus on sustenance fishing.

MICHIGAN:

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (\$200,000)

Restoration of Tributary Atikameg (Lake Whitefish) Feasibility Project

The project goal is to restore Lake Michigan's Lake Whitefish population, a species integral to Odawa identity, through species reintroduction into the Bear River. The recipient plans to encourage natal imprinting and return spawning to the largest tributary of the Little Traverse Bay. As a coastal people, connection to waters and the species within is paramount to the Odawa. In Anishinaabe teachings, fish are connection to water, a reminder of the responsibility to protect all species within creation. Expected deliverables are: four spawning and four nursery grounds identified, up to 150,000 eggs and 15,000 larval whitefish reintroduced, and 100 percent increase in the number of adult whitefish surveyed in Lake Michigan.

***Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomí Indians (\$199,093)**

Wésikan gdë-zhegémén (Building Animal Space)

The Wésikan gdë-zhegémén (Building Animal Space) project will create a wildlife management Wildlife Action Plan for the Gun Lake Tribe to enhance hunting and gathering opportunities for the Tribe. This includes wildlife habitat enhancement (native grass, forb, shrub and tree plantings, invasive species control and food plots) on 69 acres of Tribal land. The Tribe will develop and implement a wildlife survey to obtain baseline population data (as the Tribe has never surveyed or managed the land specifically for wildlife). Outreach and education with the Tribal community on hunting and low impact recreation opportunities will be delivered.

MINNESOTA:

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (\$199,841)

Rehabilitation Evaluation and Tribal Youth Education of Lake Sturgeon (Acipenser fulvescens) in the Headwaters of the Largest Tributary to the Red River of the North in the United States

Lake Sturgeon was extirpated from the entire Red River of the North Watershed by the 1950s, but recent efforts have been made to restore this once abundant species. Archeological surveys on Red Lake Reservation suggest that sturgeon were culturally and traditionally very important to the Red Lake people. Red Lake received TWG grants in 2006, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2019 to begin and successfully continue restoring sturgeon. To fully recover this species, it will likely take 20 to 30 years. This grant will continue to assist the Band in the recovery of this species through stocking 10,000 sturgeon and inserting PIT tags into sturgeon to assess the progress of recovery effort, and education of our Tribal youth. It is our hope that upon full recovery, Tribal members will have sturgeon to use and protect into the future.

NEVADA:

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (\$200,000)

Washoe Environmental Protection Department's Land Stewardship and Wildlife Resiliency Project

This project aims to enhance resiliency of wildlife and culturally significant plant species on Washoe Tribal Lands by restoring habitats, collecting data, engaging the community, and boosting conservation planning. It focuses on species like the Pinyon Pine, Pinyon Jay, and local pollinators. Key activities include project management, hiring seasonal staff, providing training, conducting camera trap surveys, improving garden structures, ongoing planting efforts, and community engagement through workshops and volunteer events.

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe (\$92,640)

Summit Lake Monarch and Butterfly Inventory Project

The Tribe's natural resources department will inventory butterfly diversity, focusing on the monarch butterfly, in northwestern Nevada. This project aims to fill knowledge gaps and support conservation efforts. Partnering with the Xerces Society, the Tribe will conduct surveys from June to September 2026 and 2027, focusing on milkweed and other butterfly species. The data collected will aid in habitat restoration and future monitoring, contributing to the Tribe's multi-species conservation plan and improving distribution data for sensitive butterflies in Nevada's Great Basin Desert.

NEW MEXICO:

Pueblo of Santa Ana (\$199,980)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow Flycatcher Monitoring Using Autonomous Recording Units of the Pueblo of Santa Ana, Sandoval County, New Mexico

The project integrates Autonomous Recording Units (ARU) into the Pueblo's cuckoo and flycatcher monitoring strategy which has been ongoing for nearly 25 years. The project will not only further advance the Pueblo's monitoring efforts of these two species, but it will also generate a locally derived bioacoustics dataset that can be shared with other researchers employing the same monitoring strategy along the Rio Grande to help improve the efficiency and accuracy of ARU data analyses.

Pueblo of Cochiti (\$199,632)

The Bighorn Sheep Post-Fire Habitat Restoration and Population Monitoring Project

This project supports the Pueblo of Cochiti's effort to protect and restore critical habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*) through population monitoring, post-fire habitat restoration, erosion and habitat degradation prevention, wildfire prevention, and capacity building. Field surveys and wildlife cameras are used to track Desert Bighorn Sheep activity and to identify herds impacted by Mexican screw worms. Restoration efforts focus on erosion control and the replanting of native, fire-resistant foraging vegetation in vulnerable burned areas, selected using ecological and traditional knowledge.

***Pueblo of Zuni (\$180,069)**

The Fire Resiliency and Future Planning for Eagle Rehabilitation Facility

The Pueblo of Zuni Fish and Wildlife Department's project focuses on increasing fire resiliency and exploring future rehabilitation capacity for the Zuni Eagle Aviary, which currently houses culturally significant Bald and Golden Eagles. This project improves the facility's protection from wildfire threats and begins a formal assessment for feasibility of a rehabilitation and release program onside in the future. Through this project, a wildfire risk assessment of the aviary's structure and surrounding landscape is conducted, and the findings are used to implement wildlife protections best management practices, including defensible space clearing, fire preparedness training, and the installation of safety systems and equipment.

OREGON:

The Klamath Tribes (\$198,048)

Monitoring Tribal Subsistence and Culturally Important Wildlife Species During Forest Restoration in South-Central Oregon

This project aims to protect and restore habitats and identify limiting factors for wildlife crucial to Tribal culture, food security, and treaty rights in south-central Oregon. The Tribes will expand their wildlife camera study to understand the effects of forest changes on species like mule deer and elk. The project will monitor species abundance, habitat preference, and trends, assessing the

impact of forest treatments. Partnering with environmental consultants, the Tribes will develop a system to analyze camera data, aiding wildlife trend analysis and decision-making. AI will help sort images, saving time and improving species identification.

UTAH:

***Northwestern Band of Shoshone (\$200,000)**

Battle Creek and Bear River Streamflow, Water Quality, Weather, Fisheries and Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation is leading a multi-phase ecological restoration of the Wuda Ogwa site, the historic location of the 1863 Bear River Massacre. This culturally significant area, once rich in native vegetation and wildlife, has suffered severe ecological degradation due to agricultural development, invasive species, and stream channelization. Since acquiring the site in 2018, the Tribe has removed invasive plants, restored wetlands, and begun reshaping Battle Creek to reestablish natural stream functions. The project aims to improve water quality, restore riparian and aquatic habitats, and support cultural revitalization. This grant will support ongoing monitoring of streamflow, water quality, weather, fisheries, and macroinvertebrates to evaluate restoration outcomes and quantify sediment and nutrient loads entering the Bear River—a key contributor to the Great Salt Lake. The data will guide adaptive management and ensure long-term ecological and cultural benefits.

WASHINGTON:

Lummi Nation (\$200,000)

Filing Data Gaps: An Assessment of Intertidal Shellfish Within Lummi Nations' Usual and Accustomed Fishing Areas

The objectives of the Lummi Nation's project are centered on enhancing the sustainability of intertidal ecosystems and reinforcing Tribal sovereignty in natural resource governance. The project aims to develop and implement a comprehensive intertidal shellfish survey methodology focused on key native and nonnative species, including littleneck clams, butter clams, oysters, and ghost shrimp. Surveys will be conducted across six beaches within the Nation's Usual and Accustomed areas, covering approximately 600 acres over two years. The collected data will be analyzed to assess species abundance and richness, with results mapped and shared with co-managers and the community. These insights will inform annual management plans, support sustainable harvest practices, and help reconnect Tribal members with traditional harvest grounds. The project also seeks to foster stronger collaboration between the Lummi Nation, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other Tribal co-managers.

Nisqually Indian Tribe (\$197,269)

Investigating Processes Affecting Dungeness Crab Recruitment in the Southern Puget Sound Using Oceanographic Modeling and Collaborative Monitoring

The Nisqually Indian Tribe’s FY 2025 Tribal Wildlife Grant” addresses the alarming collapse of Dungeness crab populations in the Tribe’s traditional fishing areas. This culturally and economically vital species has not recovered despite long-term fishery closures, suggesting deeper issues with larval recruitment, dispersal, or habitat conditions. The project will combine regional larval monitoring, oceanographic modeling, and environmental analysis to identify recruitment bottlenecks and source areas. Key outcomes include a tailored larval dispersal model, new datasets, and a comprehensive recovery and monitoring plan. The initiative will benefit the Nisqually Tribe and other Puget Sound Treaty Tribes, while also supporting broader ecological and fisheries management efforts through collaboration with academic and research partners.

Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation (\$200,000)

Young's Wetland Design and Assessment

In partnership with the Columbia Land Trust, this project will assess site conditions and design restoration actions to reestablish natural hydrology, remove invasive species, and improve habitat on an 82.33-acre parcel owned by the Land Trust. This property is located within the Yakama Nation Reservation in south-central Washington. The site features rare wet meadow and forest habitats, including seeps, shallow pools, and sensitive wetland species. This effort supports shared conservation goals, integrates indigenous knowledge, and will provide a permit-ready design plan to guide future restoration.

***Spokane Tribe of Indians (\$49,717)**

Bat Detection and White-nose Syndrome Monitoring Program

This project would establish a bat species monitoring program and a white-nose syndrome surveillance initiative on the Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation in northeast Washington. Field surveys and radiotelemetry will be used to locate bat roosting sites and hibernacula. Environmental and biological samples will be collected from identified sites. Data will be used to develop a comprehensive inventory of bat species on the reservation, geospatial mapping of key roosting areas, annual white-nose syndrome testing, and a framework for early disease response.