



FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS: TRIBAL CONSULTANT

About the Foundation:

The Foundation for America's Public Lands (Foundation) is the official charitable partner of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) via 43 U.S. Code § 1748c. The Foundation has four inaugural programs: Awareness, Recreation, Stewardship & Restoration, and Wild Horses & Burros. More details can be found in the Foundation for America's Public Lands [Strategic Framework](#).

The Colorado River **Drought Resilience Program** sits within Stewardship & Restoration, with the long-term goal to build a suite of resilience practices and partners. The Foundation is managing a portion (approximately \$11 million) of the BLM's congressionally-authorized Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding, authorized in IRA Sections 50221 and 50222. Section 50221 directs the BLM funding to be spent "to carry out projects for the conservation, protection, or resiliency of lands and resources administered by the BLM."

The Foundation has entered into a Cooperative Agreement with BLM for the Foundation to act as a "pass-through entity" to distribute these IRA funds for the purpose of "**enhancing the drought resilience of BLM lands and waters in the Colorado River Basin**", consistent with the purpose in Section 50221. In the Cooperative Agreement, BLM has asked that the Foundation focus on building drought resilience in arid watersheds within the Colorado River Basin. The functions of the Foundation will be to provide a funding plan targeted at projects in the Colorado River Basin, on BLM land, that address drought resilience in arid watersheds.

Project Overview:

The goal of this contract is to provide capacity to Tribal Nations who have expressed interest in advancing seed sovereignty projects to develop plans and prepare project proposals for funding by the Foundation for America's Public Lands' Drought Resilience Program. This endeavor seeks to empower Tribal Nations to reclaim ownership over the identification, collection, cultivation, management, and distribution of sustainable seed and plant sources, deeply rooted in their cultural values and traditions.

The consultant will engage in consistent dialog with Tribal leadership and members to determine what meaningful seed sovereignty looks like for their communities and identify potential initiatives or projects that can advance those goals in alignment with increasing the drought resilience of BLM managed lands and waters.

This process will culminate in the development of a multi-year seed sovereignty plan that contributes to the drought resilience of BLM managed lands and waters and a first-year funding request to the Foundation for America's Public Lands. Grantees will have the opportunity to extend the first-year funding for two additional years, with expansion of project scope and the addition of funding to support the expansion of project scope in FY2025 and FY2026 with the successful completion of project milestones.

Capacity funding will also be available to support Tribal Nation participation and capacity in the scoping and development of the multi-year seed sovereignty plan that contributes to the drought resilience of BLM managed lands and waters.

Consultant Selection and Engagement

The Foundation is seeking a consultant well-versed in similar tribal initiatives and with expertise in native plant programs and seed cultivation, and a willingness to bridge tribal seed sovereignty with enhancing the drought resilience of BLM-managed lands and waters. Preference will be given to consultants who are, themselves, Tribal members.

Timeline

The Foundation would like to begin work immediately (May) to support the development of a seed sovereignty initiative. The nature of this work will be exploratory, and the timeline driven by the interest and capacity of Tribal partners. The Foundation will work with the Tribal Consultant to develop and modify a project timeline to develop the final funding request consistent with the scope of work below.

Scope of Work:*

**Dates are offered as suggestions*

1. Identify Tribal Initiative Opportunities [May – June 2024]

- a. Follow-up on Initial Project Concepts: Follow-up on several opportunities that have already emerged in Colorado and Utah as part of the Foundation's initial scoping of opportunities; initiate dialogue with Tribal Nations and see if there is interest in engaging.
- b. Recommend additional outreach, as needed, with BLM Tribal Liaisons in Colorado and Utah and/or their partners.
- c. Maintain regular communications with Foundation.

2. Collaborative Dialogue Facilitation [June – August 2024]

- a. Dialogue Initiation: Facilitating initial conversations among individual Tribal Nations, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to establish collaboration.
- b. Seed Identification Process: Guiding discussions to identify seeds crucial for ecological restoration and mitigation, including riparian and wetland restoration and post-fire or post-ground disturbance seeding or replanting, and central to tribal sovereignty.

- c. Restoration Need Identification Process: Guiding discussions to identify restoration needs and opportunities on BLM-managed lands and waters that could benefit from tribally-sourced seeds and plants.
 - d. Maintain regular communications with Foundation.
- 3. Development of Planning Document and award of tribal capacity funding [August - November 2024]**
- a. Capacity and Planning Funding Award: Collaborating with tribal stakeholders to craft a tribal capacity funding award to develop and craft a funding proposal to the Foundation.
 - b. Tailored Blueprint for 2024: Collaborating with stakeholders to craft a year-one funding proposal for 2024-2025 aligned with Tribal interests, Tribal sovereignty and cultural connections to seeds and landscapes, and BLM drought-resilience restoration goals.
 - c. Integration with [Seeds of Success](#) (SOS), a national native seed program established in 2001 among federal agencies and multiple partners: Ensuring alignment with SOS mission while maintaining focus on Tribal autonomy and sovereignty.
 - d. Process for planning additional activities in 2025 and 2026: Collaborating with stakeholders to outline a process to build on 2024-funded activities in 2025 and 2026.
 - e. Maintain regular communications with Foundation.
 - f. Collaborate with Foundation on Foundation’s fundraising initiatives to support implementation of proposed tribal seed sovereignty project.
- 4. Prepare Funding Request [November 2024 – March 2025]**
- a. Proposal Development: Collaborating with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive proposal outlining the program's goals, activities, and budget in 2024, for first-year activities to be implemented in 2025.
 - b. Utilization of Planning Grant: Leveraging the initial tribal capacity and planning award from the Foundation in 2024 to support consultant advancement of initial conversations, proposal development for project funding, and process for planning additional activities in 2025 and 2026.
 - c. Maintain regular communications with Foundation.
 - d. Collaborate with Foundation on Foundation’s fundraising initiatives to support implementation of proposed tribal seed sovereignty project.
- 5. Coordination with Foundation Support [ongoing as identified above]**
- a. Participate in regular meetings with Foundation staff and consultants throughout process to ensure alignment between funding request and fund eligibility.

Submitting Proposals

Please submit proposals by May 17th, 2024, to Gina Anstey at gina.anstey@americaslands.org. For any questions regarding proposal development, please reach out to Laura Ziemer at lziemer@culpkelly.law.