



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 29, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader,

We invite you to join a consultation on August 29 at 1:00 PM Eastern / 10:00 AM Pacific with NOAA regarding Round 3 of Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants and the potential to set aside up to 15% of the available funds for tribes. This competitive funding opportunity is administered by NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation.

NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation, under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), is providing technical assistance and funding for four different funding competitions, including Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants. Combined, these competitions support a broad range of habitat restoration work.

Already, in rounds 1 and 2 of these four grant programs, NOAA expects to award \$223 million to tribal nations. This includes \$53 million in 2023 in round 1, and more than \$150 million in round 2 so far. Later this summer, we will announce decisions on a final grant program that contains a tribal set aside of \$20 million.

We value the input we have received to date from tribes regarding our BIL and IRA work. While tribes have competed very successfully in open competitions so far, NOAA would like to explore the benefits of creating a specific set aside in the Transformational Habitat grant program. We now request a consultation on a tribal set aside of up to 15% of the \$100 million remaining in the Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants. This would be for direct awards or subawards to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations representing tribes through formal legal agreements. We would appreciate any input you would like to provide and specifically input on whether a tribal set aside in this competition would help support your tribal priorities.

We invite you to join us for a virtual consultation session.

Thursday, August 29, 2024 1:00 PM Eastern Time / 10:00 AM Pacific Time

Webinar Link: <https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/weblink/register/rbb95b22c5316a8c42f48a61106378541>

Join by phone: +1-415-527-5035

Participant Passcode: 2818 941 4720

*session will be recorded

THE ADMINISTRATOR



In addition to the virtual consultation session, we welcome written comments. Written comments will be most useful to decision makers if received by October 3, 2024, to infrastructure.tribal@noaa.gov. We plan to release the final round of BIL habitat restoration funding opportunities shortly after the comment period ends.

We look forward to your participation at the webinar, if possible, and to receiving any written comments you might have as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Becky Lizama at becky.lizama@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Spinrad", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator