U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FY 2023 Tribal Wildlife Grants Awards Summaries

ALASKA:

Hoonah Indian Association ($156,485)
Increasing the Efficiency of Determining Anadromous Fish Habitat Quality

The Hoonah Native Forest Partnership (HNFP) has utilized LiDAR data since 2015 to create a myriad of products for resource managers and the community. One area the HNFP has focused on is the development of stream networks and fish habitat. This body of work includes creating, for the first time, a provisional habitat intrinsic potential (IP) model for Coho salmon. These results can decrease the effort required to document anadromous fish on the landscape and identify opportunities for stream restoration and areas of habitat importance for conservation protection. Our proposal would finalize 5 years of work in LiDAR-linked anadromous work by fully validating a Coho IP model for the Hoonah area and establishing an end of anadromy model rigorous enough to be utilized by management. Our project will make results accessible to any community with a LiDAR dataset that would like to model the results for their own communities.

Native Village of Tazlina ($199,600)
Wolf Pack Monitoring and Population Estimates of Ahtna's Eastern Territory

This program aims to conduct a comprehensive research study on wolf pack monitoring, range, distribution, and diet within the Eastern portion of the Ahtna Territory. The lack of recent information on wolves in the region, persistent low population size of the Mentasta Caribou Herd, and the recent crash of the Nelchina Caribou Herd has made it crucial that this research be conducted. By updating the knowledge base with current data using advanced GPS collars and analysis techniques, the project seeks to enhance understanding of wolf packs in an area that hasn’t been studied for over 30 years.

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe ($199,999)
Yakutat Forelands Aquatic Habitat and Coho Salmon Monitoring and Assessment

Anadromous fish are vital to the culture, traditions, and livelihoods of the Yakutat Tlingit people. At present, there are limited data available to assess the health of local streams and anadromous fish in the watersheds of the Yakutat Forelands. Through this Tribal Wildlife Grant, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) seeks to increase their capacity to collect, manage and analyze data to support managers of not only YTT but also City, State and Federal agencies. YTT has selected the Situk River and Ophir Creek for water quality monitoring as well as eDNA sampling for Coho salmon presence and biomass as they are most likely to have been potentially impacted by human uses, including road crossings and high numbers of anglers. At least four aquatic habitat assessments will be carried out on the two rivers, following established U.S. Forest Service stream surveying protocols. Data will inform recommendations for next steps in monitoring and fisheries management and identify any potential sites for future stream restoration activities.

Chickaloon Native Village ($200,000)
Matanuska Watershed Adult Salmon Research Project

This project proposes to describe the run timing, enumeration, and species composition of adult Alaska salmon in Moose Creek using biweekly foot surveys, collect baseline water quality data on Moose Creek and other tributaries of the Matanuska River, determine the presence of historic salmon populations in Moose Creek using eDNA, collect genetic information from sockeye salmon in Old Man Lake, and build program capacity for additional fisheries projects in the future. This project will benefit several anadromous species, including culturally significant Alaskan Chinook, coho, chum, and sockeye salmon.

Cheesh'na Traditional Council ($197,400)
Mentasta Caribou Herd Tribal Monitoring

Through this Tribal Wildlife Grant, the Cheesh'na Tribal Council will work with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission to supplement current monitoring of the Mentasta Caribou Herd (MECH) being conducted by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. An increased number of deployed GPS collars will contribute to more accurate management decisions, specifically regarding new and existing Federal subsistence caribou hunts, and bolster the data needed for revisions of the MECH Cooperative Management Plan. This partnership will allow tribal organizations to expand research that seeks to better understand factors currently responsible for maintaining low population size of the MECH. Research results will inform an evaluation of potential strategies for enabling future MECH growth by identifying the limitations currently within the population, while providing the appropriate amount of data needed for any future Federal subsistence hunting opportunities via actions that are consistent with NPS management policies.

Native Village of Eyak ($200,000)
Copper River Chinook Salmon In-river Abundance Estimate and Eshamy Salmon Weir Program

This project will inform fisheries regulatory decisions at both the state and federal level and provide necessary data for sustainable fisheries management. The primary objectives of the project are to estimate the 2024 and 2025 in-river abundance of Copper River Chinook salmon, enumerate primarily sockeye salmon to determine whether sockeye Biological Escapement Goal (BEG; 13,000-28,000) is achieved in the Eshamy District through operation of the Eshamy Creek weir, ensure that fishing opportunity is provided on any available surplus, and collect age and sex composition and mean length of each age class in the sockeye salmon run passing the weir.

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak ($195,613)
Functional Eradication of Invasive Signal Crayfish in the Buskin Watershed, Kodiak, Alaska, Through Community Support and Management Goals

For nearly the past decade, the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak has been gravely concerned about the presence of signal crayfish in the Buskin Watershed of Kodiak Island, particularly how this invasive species will impact the wild salmon stocks vital to the subsistence culture and lifestyle of Sun'aq Tribal Citizens as well as non-Tribal members of the Kodiak community. This two-year project will enable further direct eradication efforts, enhanced monitoring, and especially community involvement with research and

eradication to maximize our positive efforts. Furthermore, during the course of our work we will continue to better understand fundamental population dynamics of the signal crayfish in the Buskin Watershed.

ARIZONA:

Cocopah Indian Tribe ($200,000)
Cocopah Colorado River Limatrophe Restoration Project

The Cocopah Colorado River Limitrophe Restoration Project will restore 390 acres of severely degraded riparian habitat with native vegetation on the Tribe's West Reservation in southwestern Arizona (32.565861, -114.812383; see Figure 1 on page 9). This application requests support to design and build the water conveyance structure that is necessary to deliver the water that will sustain the proposed site. The restoration site is located in the floodplain of the Colorado River, just below Morelos Dam (the furthest downstream dam on the river) in the limitrophe, the river reach that forms the border between the US and Mexico, and marks the transition into the river's delta region The Tribe intends to develop a portion of its' unused Colorado River water rights[1] to implement and sustain the planned restoration, but currently lacks infrastructure to allow the water to reach the site.

Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians ($195,360)
Wildlife Resource Management

The proposed project is needed to restore, maintain, and enhance the habitat for culturally significant wildlife species within the Kaibab Indian Reservation. The project addresses the need to restore burned areas and replant native vegetation to ensure the long-term sustainability of important species; develop a Land Management Plan based on field observations and population monitoring data to guide effective land management practices. This project will upgrade and maintain six (6) existing wildlife watering troughs and establish two (2) new watering trough and monitoring sites for Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBHS).

CALIFORNIA:

Yurok Tribe ($200,000)
Restoring a Reciprocal Relationship with our Ecological Community Members of the Land, Air, and Waters of the Klamath Basin

This project will invest in educational resources and staff capacity to help induce realignment of current Yurok ecosystem management practices with traditional stewardship practices. The project will focus on restoring the regions' relationship with cultural keystone and umbrella species, benefits for which have the potential to give rise to benefits for a diversity of species. Representative focal species will include anadromous fish, the black bear, and California condor to support the ecology of the river, lands, and air.

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians ($199,846)
Santa Ynez Chumash FY23 TWG Application

This project will support an update, enhancement, and finalization of the Chumash Wildlands Management Plan, in addition to performing habitat surveys and restoration activities. The CWMP was drafted in 2011 and 2012, and while it was never finalized, much of the surveys and documentation that went into the plan have led to invasive species removal projects and habitat restoration efforts on the lower reservation. The development of this plan will include assessments aimed to identify habitat restoration opportunities and monitoring activities throughout Tribal lands. The overarching objective of this plan is to improve wildlife health by developing a roadmap that can be used to restore habitats that support threatened, endangered and culturally important animal species.

Morongo Band of Mission Indians ($192,280)
Funding to Support the Development of the Morongo Tribal Wildlife Preserve Management Plan

This project aims to assess the suitability and to develop a management plan for a Tribal wildlife preserve. The Morongo Reservation is experiencing an increase of environmental threats including elevated temperatures, wildfires, floods and drought. These threats are anticipated to increase through climate change effects to the region and will continue to stress wildlife and habitats on the Reservation. The goal of the project is to strengthen the resiliency of the diverse wildlife and habitats found on Morongo Reservation by identifying an optimal location for a wildlife preserve and developing a structured roadmap to protect species that are of cultural significance.

FLORIDA:

Seminole Tribe of Florida ($200,000)
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Wildlife Grant Program

Funding will allow for continuing engagement of the Tribal community by implementing outreach and education regarding natural resource management and incorporating sustainable wildlife management practices. Additionally, Tribal staff will continue to monitor T&E species that occur across reservations, including the northern crested caracara, Florida bonneted bat, Florida panther, Florida black bear, Eastern indigo snake, wood stork, bald eagle, Everglades snail kite, migratory bird species, red-cockaded woodpecker, reptiles and amphibians, and panther prey species. These monitoring efforts will allow Tribal wildlife staff to update longterm conservation management strategies and make informed decisions to best support the sensitive habitats, culturally significant species, and T&E species across reservations. The Tribe will continue to maintain a GIS wildlife geodatabase and advance its' web-based data platform to review species distribution and ecological connectivity more efficiently for the employment of sustainable conservation measures.

IDAHO:

Coeur d'Alene Tribe ($192,286)
Waterfowl Management on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has hunted, gathered and lived along the waterways of northern Idaho, eastern Washington and western Montana since time immemorial. Waterfowl populations in this region face a suite of habitat-related threats such as the reduction in wetlands from agricultural practices, development around the shoreline of Lake Coeur d'Alene, and heavy metal laden sediments in the Coeur d'Alene River floodplain. An expansion of Tribal capacity is needed for the Tribe to increase its role in regional waterfowl monitoring projects. Tribal staff have been conducting annual monitoring of waterfowl during the spring migration since 2005. Annual capture and banding of birds would provide additional data and allow the Tribe to begin to take a more independent role in waterfowl management. These data will lead to the development of a management plan that will guide restoration actions primarily to improve waterfowl habitat and productivity.

LOUISIANA:

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana ($159,637)
Tunica-Biloxi Rivercane Restoration

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana is seeking funding to restore rivercane (Arundinaria tecta) on the tribal reservation. The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe is based in Marksville, Louisiana in Avoyelles Parish (a rural community). The Tunica-Biloxi Indian Reservation is located just south of Marksville in east-central Louisiana with approximately 1,717 acres of Trust and Fee property in Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes. The reintroduction of rivercane (Arundinaria tecta) will play a crucial role in restoring and enhancing habitat for various species, including local whitetail deer, birds, mammals like the native black bear, and butterfly larvae. Rivercane will provide food and cover, contributing to the overall well-being of these wildlife populations. By doing so, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe can conserve and manage habitats in a manner that respects and promotes our cultural traditions. Alongside the rivercane restoration efforts, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe seeks to plant longleaf pine trees (Pinus palustris), another traditionally significant plant. These trees will provide essential food sources for native birds and nesting habitats for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

MAINE:

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians ($199,234)
Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program: Phase VII - Continuing Instream Restoration

This project is Phase VII of a multi-year aquatic habitat restoration program and is the second Tribal Wildlife Grant restoration project on the North Branch of the Meduxnekeag River. The objectives are to improve fish habitat along a 1-mile stretch of river and to enhance habitat along a 0.5-mile stretch of river downstream that was previously restored as an adaptive management measure to increase resilience to ice flows in winter. The Tribe will install long-jam and boulder structures to restore fish habitat quality by improving in-stream habitat complexity and long-term stability. They will also add

boulders and wood to the downstream stretch to improve survivability/sustainability of previously installed structures based on a better understanding of ice processes.

MICHIGAN:

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians ($200,000)
LTBB American Marten Field Study

Currently there is a lack of information pertaining to the population status and abundance of marten in the Ceded Territory, and more specifically, on the LTBB reservation. A study is needed to assess the status and stability of the American Marten with the 1836 Ceded Territory both in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan and on the LTBB Reservation. This project seeks to document the presence/absence of martens in order to define the current marten population distribution, create a population estimate, define possible habitats, develop forest management best practices, and assist with the dispersal and re-establishment in the region. Types of investigation include camera trap surveys, visual evidence collection, live trap collection, GPS collars, movement mapping, bio-sampling, scat collection, hair snares, genetic analysis, and analysis of relatedness, species and diet.

MONTANA:

Chippewa Cree Tribes Chippewa ($51,762)
Cree Elk Conservation & Management Plan Project

The comprehensive 10-year elk conservation and management plan will provide the framework for the conservation and management of elk on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation. The plan will be reviewed yearly to identify issues the species face, ensure sustainable population and management goals, and prescribe strategies needed to achieve these goals.

Crow Tribe of Indians ($199,704)
Black-footed Ferret Recovery in Crow Country

This project will improve and enhance black-footed ferret presence on the Crow reservation. The objectives are to increase the number of breeding pairs from 6 to 10 and hire a biologist, technician, and an intern.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai ($143,572)
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes-Investigating Patterns of Bison Herbivory and Interactions

This project will examine the role of the bison herd at CSKT Bison Range and their relationship to the plant community dynamics, annual invasive grasses, and soil carbon storage. Long term monitoring of the spatiotemporal patterns of bison herbivory will be studied. They will quantify the occurrence of annual invasive plants using spatial ecological models.

NEVADA:

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe ($196,633)
Integrated Population Monitoring of Recovering Bighorn Sheep

This project will concentrate on the preservation and recovery of the recently reintroduced, and highly vulnerable, California bighorn sheep in the Lake Range. This includes developing and implementing public outreach opportunities; monitoring reintroduced ungulate dispersal, density, and health; including population estimates and population sustainability status; developing specific population targets; providing educational opportunities for youth and sharing project results with interested tribes.

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe ($38,870)
Summit Lake Paiute Reptile and Amphibian Inventory Project

This project will implement a reptile and amphibian species inventory project on the Summit Lake Indian Reservation, something that has not yet been done. This project will fill in knowledge gaps and create a foundation for future Tribal natural resource conservation efforts and create a baseline dataset that evaluates current reptile and amphibian species' distributions and will facilitate future species monitoring efforts.

NEW MEXICO:

Sandia Pueblo ($199,575)
Pueblo of Sandia Phase 2 of Grassland Rehabilitation

The project proposed in this application is a follow-on to a similar project funded by the Tribal Wildlife Grant program in 2022, to treat a monoculture of cholla cactus on the Pueblo of Sandia trust lands. The initial project (Phase 1) treated 340 acres and was completed in April 2023. Phase 2 will rehabilitate an additional 285 acres of grassland that is overgrown with *Cylindropuntia imbricata*, the cane cholla (*aka* walking stick cholla, tree cholla, and chainlink cactus).

Pueblo of Acoma ($142,692)
Distribution and Resource Use of Large Predators on the Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico

Acoma Pueblo Will implement the following two (2) wildlife management projects: 1. Mountain Lion (Puma concolor) Distribution, Resource Use, and Prey Interactions Study and 2. Black Bear (Ursus americanus) Distribution and Resource Use Study for a much more accurate population estimate. The overall resource use and movement data of black bears will shed light on a species that we know little about on Acoma.

NEW YORK:

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe ($199,950)
Native Plant Nursery Capacity Development

This project seeks to further the Tribe's capacity in native plant propagation and restoration by expanding their native plant nursery capacity and engaging in restoration of degraded sites to improve fish and wildlife habitat. There is an urgent demand for native plant materials for ongoing and planned restoration work in and around the Mohawk territory of Akwesasne. Planned restoration work and plantings will improve fish and wildlife habitats by reducing shoreline erosion, improving invasive plant management, increasing greenspace, increasing pollinator protective species, and reducing runoff and nutrient loading into local waterways. In addition to ecological benefits, the improved plant nursery capacity will address cultural values by focusing on culturally important species for the Tribe.

OKLAHOMA:

Quapaw Nation ($199,991)
Quapaw Tribal Wildlife Grant

The goal of this project will be to establish an official conservation service that will primarily focus on the establishment of fish and wildlife regulations throughout the entire QNJA. The Quapaw Nation estimates it will take two years to accomplish this goal. They have identified four specific objectives to achieve the goal. They are: 1) by the end of month six, convert the existing Forestry Department into a full-service Conservation Department; 2) by the end of month 18, develop a *Quapaw Fish and Wildlife Conservation Plan*; and 3) by the end of month 24, develop and adopt policies and procedures based on the Plan that will establish and enforce a perpetual conservation program within the new Conservation Department.

Osage Nation ($197,814)
Osage Nation Restoration of Native Grasses on the Tallgrass Prairies

The Osage Nation Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to aid in the conservation and recovery of the native tallgrass prairie habitat within the Osage Reservation in north central Oklahoma. The Tallgrass Prairie is important to the Osage members from both a traditional ecological and cultural aspect. Historically, tribal members as well as large mammals provided disturbances to the prairie's ecosystem. These disturbances limited the amount of tree encroachment and the creation of healthy soil, wide-spread seed dispersal, and native plant germination.

Chickasaw Nation ($139,034)
The Chickasaw Nation Kullihoma Waterfowl Habitat Management Project

The purpose of the Chickasaw Nation Kullihoma Reservation Waterfowl Habitat Management Project is to identify, enhance and protect vital waterfowl habitats on the Kullihoma Reservation. For decades the Chickasaw Nation has acted as a steward of the lands within their treaty territory, and this grant provides the Nation with an opportunity to continue this commitment. In addition, this project will benefit many other native species within this area (including the aforementioned wading birds, reptiles,

amphibians and aquatic furbearers). This project will enhance waterfowl habitats through the installation of duck nesting boxes. Crop planting will also be completed to provide nutrition and sanctuary for local waterfowl, both of which are essential to their survival. Finally, this project will provide protection and preservation for surrounding wetlands and other crucial waterfowl habitats for generations to come.

OREGON:

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation ($194,593)
Mid-Columbia Freshwater Mussel eDNA Distribution Surveys

Freshwater mussels are a First Food of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and harvest of mussels remains a reserved right for tribal members under the Treaty of 1855. Until the early 1900's, Ttribal members consumed freshwater mussels primarily during winter months and used the shell material for tools and ornamentation. Because populations are so depleted, harvest is not currently possible in most traditional use areas. CTUIR's Freshwater Mussel Research and Restoration Project (Mussel Project) was started in 2002 with a goal of restoring self-sustaining mussel populations to areas traditionally used in the Mid-Columbia Basin. One factor limiting research and restoration application is the lack of distribution information for western mussel species, especially for the Western Ridged Mussel (*Gonidea angulata*). This study proposes using eDNA sampling to determine the presence and absence of mussels, with a focus on *G. angulata*, in ceded areas of the CTUIR and the Yakama Nation. A portion of sites testing positive for mussels will then be ground tested using snorkeling surveys. Population demographics will be assessed to determine if the population can be used as broodstock for restoration-focused propagation efforts. Expected outcomes of this project include improved and expanding distribution information for the three genera of mussels present in the Mid-Columbia region, basic demographic information about populations of *G. angulata* in the Mid-Columbia region, and monitoring of select *G. angulata* populations identified during sampling.

VIRGINIA:

Rappahannock Tribe ($199,954)
Rappahannock Tribe Herring and Oyster Restoration Project

The objective of this project is to build a mobile aquaculture unit to propagate River Herring and Rappahannock River Oysters. Oysters and herring have been a cultural food source for the Rappahannock people for thousands of years, but declining herring and oyster populations combined with the Tribe being pushed further away from the river have eliminated the Tribal citizens' access to these fisheries. The Tribe will use the mobile aquaculture unit to propagate and restore declining populations of both species and provide job opportunities for Tribal citizens. The goal of the mobile aquaculture unit is to lower overhead construction costs, prevent permanent construction that would damage natural resources, and to allow access to water supply without disturbing critical riparian buffer zones. The first year of the project will involve a research study to characterize the genetic stock structure of herring by sampling fish across multiple streams within the watershed. Year two will involve the construction of the aquaculture unit and herring and oyster propagation.

WASHINGTON:

Makah Tribe ($200,000)
Evaluating Sampling Methods for Estimating Black-tailed Deer Populations, Selecting Long-term Monitoring Strategies, and Providing Science-driven Management Recommendations

The Makah Tribe is dependent on black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) to help meet cultural and subsistence needs within the community. Black-tailed deer populations have been challenging to estimate accurately because of the dense cover in coastal temperate rainforests. Researchers over the past several years have been developing and refining more accurate and cost-effective methods to collect and analyze data on black-tailed deer populations. Our proposed project will compare several methods to determine the best options and to calibrate models being developed from camera trapping methods. The Tribe will collar and monitor 24 deer using GPS technology, estimating annual population parameters such as survival and home range use, and implementing deer fecal pellet collection transects for DNA mark-recapture estimates of abundance within our study area. Results from the project will increase the Tribe's capacity to determine impacts of predation, hunting, and land management activities on deer populations to better inform management recommendations; provide opportunities to engage members of the Tribal community; contribute to the Makah Tribe's research on wildlife interactions; inform Makah wildlife and forest management plans; and improve co-management capacity by evaluating current and potential methods for long term deer monitoring strategies applicable to wildlife managers on the Olympic Peninsula.

Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation ($183,887)
Kalispel Tribe Waterfowl Project

The Kalispel Tribe's Natural Resources Department (KNRD) plans to initiate a waterfowl banding program to help evaluate population dynamics and waterfowl of wetlands on tribally owned properties in the northeast section of Washington State within the Pacific Flyway. Waterfowl are an important cultural species to the Kalispel Tribe and are a federally managed international treaty resource. With minimum banding efforts occurring at the state and federal level, little is known about this section of the flyway and how waterfowl utilize the area. The Tribe owns and manages 6,000 acres and has completed over 1,000 acres of wetland restoration. This effort will increase the understanding of waterfowl use of wetlands within the project area as well as wetland use throughout the flyway. Valuable information will be garnered about waterfowl migrations and wetland use, along with birds that are residents to this area. Banding waterfowl in this area will add to a long-term data set of band returns at the flyway level used to estimate waterfowl survival, harvest rates, demographic distribution of harvest, and patterns of migration. This project will inform the KNRD's Wetland Management Plan currently being used to guide wetland restoration within tribally owned properties. This project will also help to inform managers on future restoration project developments geared at waterfowl productivity, population increases, and harvest management.

Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe ($186,834)
Western Snowy Plover and Streaked Horned Lark Habitat Management Plan

The Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe Natural Resources Department's (SBDNR) goal is to improve the lives of the Shoalwater community and improve the conservation status of the Western Snowy Plover and Streaked Horned Lark. The Shoalwater's coastal beaches and dunes are one of only three sites in Washington that provide successful nesting and fledgling habitat for these species. This project has three main components: 1) to implement conservation management actions to remove invasive and nonnative species from coastal dunes, outer beaches, intertidal wetlands, and inner shorelines; 2) to replant and restore target areas in a manner that both increases the habitat quantity and quality available for plovers and larks while also increasing the availability of traditional plants, shellfish, and fish resources for Tribal members; and 3) to restore target areas to increase the resilience of the coastal dune and shoreline habitats to climate driven conditions such as erosion, flooding, and invasive species proliferation. SBDNR's goal is to improve the conservation status of the Western Snowy Plover and Streaked Horned Lark.

Samish Indian Nation ($200,000)
Oregon Spotted Frog Habitat Study: Mill's Creek, Samish River, Washington

The Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF) is a species of cultural importance to the Samish Indian Nation. OSF habitat also provides a healthy environment for other culturally significant and traditional use plant and animal species. In 2018, the Samish Indian Nation received a Tribal Wildlife Grant to implement an OSF habitat restoration project including Emergent Pre-vegetated Mats (EVMS), installing a meteorological tower, and monitoring OSF egg masses. This project seeks to continue and build on previous work at this site by: 1) increasing and maintaining high quality OSF breeding and rearing habitat, 2) collecting additional microclimate and hydrological data relevant to OSF spawning, 3) producing outreach materials on OSF to be shared with Samish River landowners, and 4) conducting OSF surveys during breeding season. The proposed project will contribute to the body of scientific knowledge and inform future state and federal management practices. With OSF habitat management, outreach to adjacent landowners, and the continued ability to work with project partners, this project has the potential to make a substantial and positive impact on OSF populations within the Samish river watershed.

WISCONSIN:

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa ($110,510)
Lac Courte Oreilles Ma'iingan Relationship Plan

The Ojibwe word for grey wolf (*Canis Lupis*) is Ma'iingan. Ma'iingan are currently listed as a Federally Endangered Species and are protected, but that is not a permanent status, and as a culturally important species, stewardship is paramount. To properly steward this species a new management plan is needed to replace the 2013 Lac Courte Oreilles Ma'iingan (Wolf) Management Plan with an updated Ma'iingan (Wolf) Relationship Plan that better reflects the tribe's values by using Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK), as well as contemporary ecological, biological, and social science. Culturally the Ma'iingan-Ojibwe union is a spiritual relationship, a brotherhood. Since the creation of man, the Ojibwe have understood that all creatures have a role to play in a healthy ecosystem. The absence of

any one plant or animal impacts, everything else, resulting in sickness and any number of maladies. This Traditional Knowledge merits stewardship and a contemporary management plan. As co-managers of natural resources in Ceded Territories it is the Tribe's duty and right to care for beings (plant and animal) of this region. In plans created by non-natives there is a lack of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), direct environmental observations passed down from generation to generation.

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin ($177,190)
Menominee Tribal Wildlife Kokanee Salmon Project

The Menominee Indian Tribe requests funds to support the development and implementation of programs for the benefit wildlife and their habitats and species of Tribal Culture or Traditional importance. Very few landlocked lakes in North America that get warm in the summer have an established naturally reproducing kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) population. One of those lakes is Upper Bass Lake located on the Northwest corner of Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW) reservation. Other than knowing there is an established kokanee salmon population, staff don't have much other information regarding this salmon population. The Environmental Services Department (ESD) is requesting funding to learn more about this salmon population, especially as tribal members use these salmon as healthy and culturally relevant subsistence. The funding will also allow staff to determine when and where these salmon are spawning in Upper Bass Lake and how they are affecting the rest of the lake's ecosystem, especially the native Brook trout population.