



UCUT Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity Request for Proposals Non-Governmental Organizations September 3-30th 2024

UCUT is requesting proposals from nonprofit organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to provide the service of implementing toxic reduction projects in the Upper Columbia Basin. Proposals will be evaluated and scored for quality and appropriate fit. Subawards will be made to selected entities based on an evaluation score. The sub-awarded projects will aid in reducing toxic pollution to the ecosystems, communities, and waterways of the Upper Columbia Basin.

How to Apply

Proposals are due by 5:00 pm on Monday September 30, 2024. Submittals should be sent to Lori Rothrock, UCUT Office Manager, at 25 W Main St. Suite 434, Spokane, WA 99201 or via email at lori@ucut-nsn.org. Please state "Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity Proposal" on the outside of the package and/or on the email subject line.

Key Information:

- Contact: Lori Rothrock, Office Manager
- Phone: 509.838-1057
- Email: lori@ucut-nsn.org
- Opening date: SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2024
- Closing date: SEPTEMBER 30th, 2024
- Criteria for eligible entities is described [HERE](#)

UCUT is requesting proposals. Please Submit a proposal that includes:

- The Entity's legal name, IRS Tax ID #, address, and telephone number;
- The principal(s) including experience and qualifications;
- The experience and qualifications of the staff to be assigned to the project;
- Brief description of firm's prior experience, including any similar projects;
- For each subaward: A paragraph that provides a very *general description of the way you might propose to meet the deliverables*;
- Describe the timelines that you intend to use (Example lead fishing gear exchange - 2026-2028) Define what you hope the ends of the performance periods (working period) to be;
- Describe the benchmarks you intend to hit to determine progress and gauge success;
- Provide a rough budget for engaging in the project;
- Provide an idea as to *which subawards* you would be supported by, or you are in a formal collaboration with UCUT Member Tribes to achieve deliverables;
- Partial funding is available or may be awarded
- Provide a brief description of the benefits to the community engaged, including whether the project benefits or engages the Plateau Tribal communities or underserved communities; and
- Provide three references.
- If an NGO or non-Tribal entity submits a proposal, at least one letter of support from a UCUT member Tribe (from UCUT Tribal Staff or leadership) needs to accompany the proposal to be given preference.

- Provide an idea as to *which subawards* you would be supported by, or you are in a formal collaboration with UCUT Member Tribes to achieve deliverables;
- **Rolling RFP opens annually in September, between 2024-2026 or until all subawards are awarded**
- No Matching Requirements
- Work *Performance* deliverable window - September 3, 2029 (all deliverables completed)
- Evaluation [Scoring Criteria](#)
- **Questions regarding RFP:**
 - Caroline Keever, Environment Project Manager
 - Email: caroline@ucut-nsn.org
 - Phone: (509) 564-5475
 - Jerry White, Jr, Environment Project Coordinator
 - Email jerry@ucut-nsn.org
 - Phone: (509) 475-1228

Background and Introduction:

The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity (CRTRLE) project is in place to provide further support in leveraging the [Columbia Basin Restoration Program](#) and further efforts in cleaning waterways and supporting the cultural connections to landscapes, fisheries and foods.

In 2016, Congress amended the CWA to include Section 123, requiring the EPA to establish the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program. In 2021, the BILL infused \$79 million to the program. Of the \$79 million, \$56 million went towards Toxics Reduction. Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) was awarded \$5,597,772 to disperse for subawarded projects over the course of five years.

The mission of the UCUT Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity (CRTRLE) project is to reduce the toxic chemicals and pollution from entering the waterways, and ecosystems of the Upper Columbia Basin Watershed. Reducing toxic pollution reestablishes the ability for communities to connect to landscapes through traditional foods, recreation, fisheries recovery and other activities. *The CRTRLE works for the benefit of tribal communities, and all residents and communities living in the upper Watershed. CRTRLE envisions that efforts to prevent toxic pollution from polluting the upper Columbia Watershed are unified and coordinated between the five UCUT Tribes and involve surrounding communities in durable, long lasting, unified efforts. CRTRLE envisions healthy, clean ecosystems that support traditional and cultural access and use of landscapes and Riverways for the coming generations.*¹

UCUT’s CRTRLE project is structured to distribute funding in five project “bins,” or categories. It includes two of the five projects that are dedicated exclusively to tribal participation:

- Creation of a Toxic Reduction Strategic Plan and contribution to a UCUT plan that encompasses all Upper Columbia Watersheds in the United States.
- Regional mining inventories

And three that are open to both NGO and tribal participation:

- Outreach and education on toxics reduction and prevention
- Agricultural Best Management Practices and (toxic reduction/prevention) outreach efforts

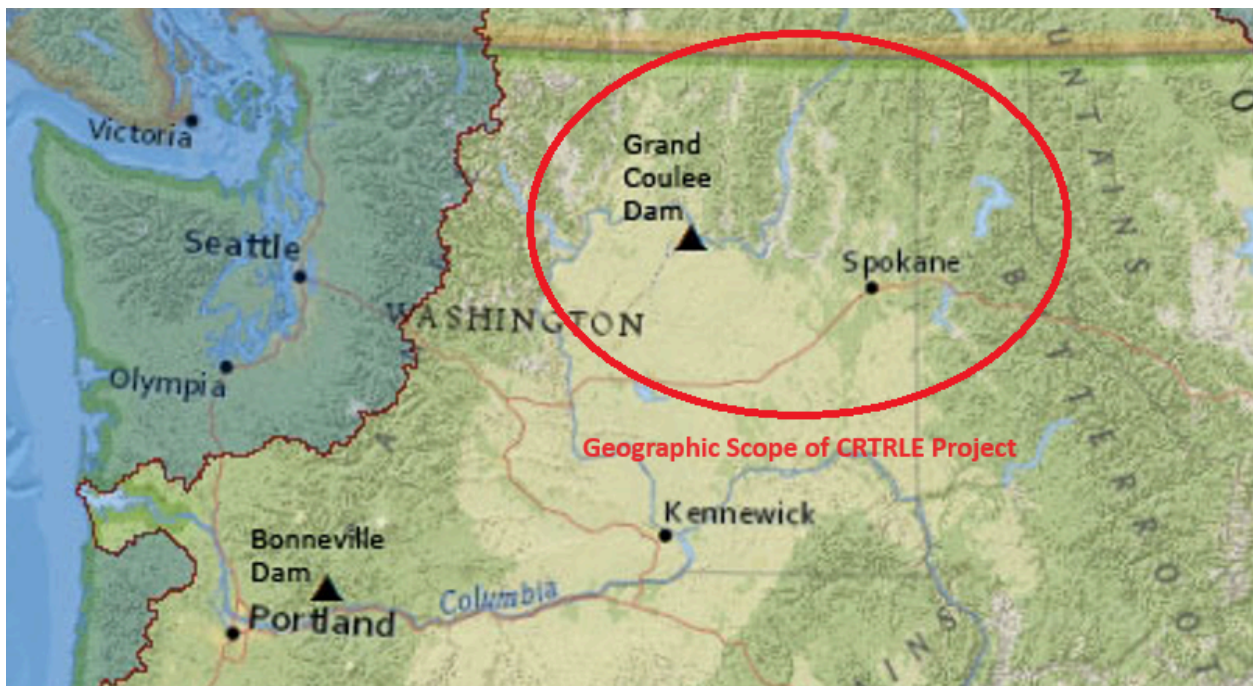
¹ See Strategic Plan for UCUT

- Lead fishing gear buy back, trade-out, and/or exchange

For NGOs the three subawards will occur inside of a rolling RFP that will open in September of 2024, 2025, and 2026. Agricultural BMPs/Buffers, Education and Outreach Package, and the lead fishing gear buy back/exchange. NGOs which have tribal letters of support will be given preference and NGOs will be advised to create collaborations with member tribal staff that further tribal priorities in the basin.

Geographic Focus Area:

CRRLE funding is available for projects that take place within the Upper Columbia River Watershed whose terminal boundary is defined by Chief Joseph Dam. Additionally, projects taking place in the Columbia Basin tributaries that are aboriginal territories of any one of the five member tribes, and that can demonstrate clear toxics reduction benefits, and are [eligible](#). Work that does not physically take place on Columbia Basin waterways or adjacent watersheds are ineligible for funding.



General Project Area

Program Contacts:

UCUT Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity staff are available to answer questions about eligibility, project subaward scope, and/or the application process.

Caroline Keever, Environment Project Manager
Email: caroline@ucut-nsn.org
Phone: (509) 564-5475

Jerry White, Jr., Environment Project Coordinator
Email: jerry@ucut-nsn.org

Phone: (509) 475-1228

Secondary Contact:

Lori Rothrock
UCUT Office Manager
Email: lori@ucut-nsn.org
Phone: (509) 209-2420

Overview

About UCUT

UCUT is a consortium of the Five Upper Columbia Plateau Tribes. Collectively known as UCUT, the Upper Columbia United Tribes for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Treaty/Executive Order Rights, Sovereignty, Culture, Fish, Water, Wildlife, Habitat and other interests and issues of common concern in our respective territories through a structured process of cooperation and coordination for the benefit of all people.

UCUT and its five member tribes ensure a healthy future for the benefit of all by protecting and enhancing the traditional territorial lands of our ancestors. UCUT embraces this vision and continually works towards good land stewardship for the generations to come.

The Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity is an extension of the values held by UCUT Tribes, and the work that is underway on salmon and sturgeon recovery as well as fish and wildlife protection. Toxic pollution remains a barrier to both fish recovery and healthy use of traditional foods by tribal members and communities.

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity - Overview

UCUT's CRTRLE exists to coordinate efforts among the five tribes and regional stakeholders to further understand the sources, pathways, fate, and transport of toxic pollution in the upper Columbia Basin. This project is designed to address the needs of communities and Tribes in the Basin and extends the reach of the EPA's Columbia Basin Restoration Program.

The project will help understand toxic pollution, prevent pollution from entering the waterways, and protect Basin residents by reducing exposure to these toxics. The CRTRLE seeks to help reconnect indigenous communities to the first foods, fish, wildlife and waterways that have been a cornerstone of physical life, spiritual life and tribal sovereignty for many thousands of years. This effort will have the additional benefit of protecting all residents of the Upper Columbia Basin.

Project Types or Categories eligible for non-profit organizations

Partial Funding is Available or May be Awarded

1. **Lead Trade-Out (2 subawards are available at \$37,000 each)** This program works to reduce the amount of lead entering waterways from fishing gear. In some cases, the project may even

remove lead fishing gear from deposits in reservoir sections of the upper Columbia Basin. The outcome is to reduce exposure of fish, wildlife and people to lead and specifically to prevent wildlife from succumbing to the effects of ingesting lead fishing gear. [Scope of Work here.](#)

The project will focus on providing lead-free fishing gear, education, and trade-out events and data collection to quantify the amount of lead traded or tracked.

2. **Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) (1 subaward available at \$100,00)** This project is designed to develop and implement Agricultural Riparian Buffers and Agricultural BMPs on the landscape to prevent toxic pollution from running off of the surrounding landscape and enter waterways as “nonpoint source” pollution.
 - a. It will entail the development and implementation of Agricultural BMPs on the landscape. It will also fund associated education materials as well as support programs to protect riparian areas, enhance existing BMPs, and raise awareness as to the connection between agriculture, clean water and healthy fish populations. [Scope of Work here.](#)
1. **Education and Outreach (2 subawards are available at \$75,000 each)** Community education is a direct way of influencing behaviors that can aid in preventing toxins from getting into our waterways, wildlife and protecting communities. It is also a way to prevent people from exposing themselves to toxics that already exist in the environment. [Scope of Work Here.](#)

The project will focus on public education and outreach primarily in, and on communities most impacted by highest concentrations of chemicals of concern. The result will be informed by the Strategic document and create an increased awareness of toxics in the watershed and the ways in which impacted communities can take action themselves and participate in reducing inputs of those toxic pollution and reduce their exposure to pollution sources.

Process-oriented expectations and “Tasks” inside of subaward Project participation

Requirements of Participation

The services requested will support implementation of the CRTRLE over the next one to five years (2024-2029). This will be accomplished in three basic ways: 1) project management and implementation of CRTRLE activities; 2) actively engaging with UCUT project managers and other subawardee participants in partial participation in the CRTRLE Working Group to support implementation of the CRTRLE; and 3) management of CRTRLE subaward budgets for the UCUT organization. UCUT Project Manager and Project Coordinator will be working with sub awardees to facilitate the successful management and implementation of the projects. UCUT staff will be a permanent resource and support for sub awardees. Additionally, UCUT has contract funds that will be held centrally to help in the independent project execution by UCUT staff contracting help in this effort.

For each of the Projects or categories, the following (process) tasks need to be undertaken:

Task 1: Project management of CRTRLE activities:

1. Project planning and initiation

- **Developing a comprehensive project plan including timelines, milestones, and resource requirements** (incorporating ongoing activities as needed) for the specific CRTRLE project and its component parts. UCUT consultant will aid in this.
- Negotiating, establishing, and confirming clear objectives, deliverables, and success criteria for CRTRLE projects. This will be codified in a CRTRLE “subaward agreement” and a Project Work Plan.
- Identifying and engaging key stakeholders including project team members, UCUT member Tribes, and external partners.

2. Project execution and coordination

- Managing day to day operations of implementing multiple projects under the CRTRLE umbrella including management of subcontractors.
- Coordinating project teams and co-coordinating implementation and management of projects with UCUT staff - CRTRLE Project Manager and Project Coordinator, a UCUT Contractor, Tribal contractors (when appropriate).
- *Participating in CRT “Working Group” meetings* to workshop management and implementation-activities, provide status updates, and progress reviews. UCUT Staff will facilitate a workgroup and assist in all aspects of meetings.
- Work with UCUT staff and/or Contractors to execute tasks/deliverables.²
- Arrange for, set up, manage and run potential formal collaborations with Tribal and/or other NGOs. The CRTRLE or CRT Working Group can be a forum for a portion of the management of formal collaborations.

3. Risk management and issue resolution (inside the CRTRLE or CRT Workgroups)

- Proactively identifying and mitigating potential risks and challenges.
- Developing and implementing contingency plans to address unforeseen issues.
- Elevating and resolving project-related problems in a timely manner.

4. Stakeholder management and communication

- Maintaining clear and consistent communication with team members, UCUT Tribes, contractors, and external partners.
- Provide regular updates on project progress, challenges, and milestones (inside the CRTRLE or CRT workgroup).

5. Closure and lessons learned.

- Ensuring successful completion of **milestones** and project components.
- Conducting an **annual review** of completed project components and documenting lessons learned and best practices (and submitting to UCUT for EPA grant/award deliverables).
- Developing recommendations for future process improvements and organizational learning both with your organization and stakeholders.

Task 2: Subaward administration requirements

- Collaborating with UCUT staff, contractors, and the CRTRLE Working Group to gather necessary information and data for grant tracking - including reporting.
- Tracking and reporting on grant application progress.
- Ensuring compliance with all grant requirements and deadlines.

² See EPA contract for amount of UCUT contract funding

- Collaborating with UCUT staff when/where appropriate and potentially the CRTLE Working Group to gather necessary information and data for grant submissions.
- Ensuring compliance with all grant requirements and deadlines.

Task 3: Management of CRTRLE subaward budgets (with UCUT staff) for the CRTRLE project

- Tracking and managing individual CRTRLE subaward project budgets and ensuring alignment of budgets with identified scopes of work and deliverables.
- Providing UCUT staff (& EPA) with access to accurate, up-to-date financial information.
- CRTRLE financial reporting, as needed.
- Supporting ongoing communication and engagement with the UCUT CRTRLE team to address any budget-related issues or changes quickly and effectively.
- Ensuring compliance with UCUT internal procurement policies guiding purchases, etc. Requested services will not include the disbursement of funds, legal advice, fiscal audits, or assistance with activities not related to the CRTRLE.

Task 4:

- Writing up brief semi-annual reports on subaward project progress, milestones, and outcomes and submitting to UCUT.
 - Provide some documentation - photos, etc
- Writing up a final report on the project at the conclusion of the project and submitting this to UCUT for passing along to EPA Grant Officers.

Project Administrative Considerations

Applicant eligibility

Non-profit organizations, Tribal governments, and universities are all eligible to receive CRTRLE subawards at different times. Non Profit Organizations–Non-governmental Organizations/Universities–must have 501(c)(3) designation. If an organization does not meet this eligibility requirement, UCUT will not consider applications from federal or state agencies, local governments, individuals, or for-profit organizations.

- NGOs or non-tribal entities who apply should have at least one letter of support from a UCUT member tribe (from UCUT Member Tribal Staff or leadership) that states how the project will further specific tribal goals in toxics reduction and/or further tribal natural resources/ecosystem protection and recovery priorities. A letter of support will give the NGOs proposal preference in the competitive RFP evaluation.

Preferences:

The member Tribes of UCUT will receive preference in the distribution of subawards.

Proposals from NGOs in the competitive process that further the priorities of member Tribes and are accompanied by a letter of support will be given automatic priority and preference.

Several of the subawards are well suited to Intra-UCUT partnerships or joint efforts. These partnerships or joint efforts allow for a holistic approach to an effort encompassing the entire watershed in scope. The UCUT CRTRLE welcomes collaborative proposals and encourages Tribes and NGOs to communicate and create collaborations where and when appropriate.

Project timing

Proposed project periods may be up to 5 years long. The RFP will be a “rolling” request for proposals. Sept 3-- Sept. 30th will be the window for proposal submissions. The “performance period” will be October, 2024, to September 02, 2029.

All activities directly supported by CRTRLE must occur within the performance period. If project completion cannot confidently occur within the period specified above, please contact the UCUT well in advance of the application deadline to discuss.

The Use of Contractors

Contractors will be engaged by UCUT staff (in house) with EPA funds that are outside of subaward funds and contracts used by subawardees. The uses are to support the sub awarded entities meet deliverables in the following areas:

- Developing QAPPs for monitoring and sample analysis.
- Graphics packages for education and outreach subaward.

Contractors can also be engaged by Tribal staff using sub awarded funds to execute (or contribute to the execution of) deliverables.

Award Size

There is not an official minimum or maximum award amount for the CRTRLE program. Successful proposals vary widely in budget size. Please refer to the Project subaward pages to see award amounts.

SUBAWARD FUNDING OVERLAP

There are not limitations on overlap of CRTRLE subawarded project funds.

- A single organization may reapply to CRTRLE within the window of the CRTRLE Project - 2024-2026.
- A single subaward project, as defined by its location, goals, and objectives, may be accompanied by multiple subawards.
- A partial subaward may be made if deemed necessary or advantageous.

Independently operating chapters of a national or regional organization are recognized as distinct organizations for the purpose of applying to CRTRLE.

Environmental Compliance

Subawardees are subject to environmental compliance and this work is to be budgeted for and included in the application. This includes, but is not limited to, NEPA decisions and categorical exclusions, NHPA archaeological clearances, and any other mandatory Tribal, federal, state, or local clearances.

Covenants against kickbacks

All conditions regarding covenants against kickbacks under 48 CFR 52.203-7 shall apply.

Failure to abide by the provisions of this section may, without further notice, result in the immediate termination of any contract awarded.

Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Long-Term Benefit

Through CRTRLE, UCUT continues to expand its environmental and conservation work acknowledging that the five member Tribes of UCUT and many underserved communities³ have historically disproportionately been burdened with the costs and impacts of industrialization and agriculture without receiving the benefits of these activities. Toxic fish, damaged landscapes, and impaired waterways have often served to disconnect indigenous communities from the waterways that are at the center of traditional lifeways for the Tribes. The selection committee will prioritize projects that aim to create opportunities to advance equitability and the diversity of beneficiaries, and promote the work and involvement of the five Upper Columbia Plateau tribes and their members. whether during the CRTRLE funded performance period and/or into the future. Projects that are part of a long-term strategy to create or inspire connection to traditional waterways will also receive priority. **Proposals should include a description of the benefits to the community engaged, including whether the project benefits or engages the Plateau Tribal communities or underserved communities.**

Non-Discrimination

Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in administration of its programs or activities, and, Upper Columbia United Tribes does not intimidate or retaliate against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights to participate in actions protected, or oppose action prohibited, by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, or for the purpose of interfering with such rights.

Caroline Keever (Environmental Manager/Appointed Non-Discrimination Coordinator) is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7 (Non-discrimination in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency), including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (hereinafter referred to collectively as the federal non-discrimination laws).

If you have any questions about this notice or any of UCUT's non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures, you may contact:

Caroline Keever
Environmental Manager/Appointed Non-Discrimination Coordinator
Upper Columbia United Tribes, 25 W Main Ave Ste 434, Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 564-5475
caroline@ucut-nsn.org

³ **Definitions:**

Underserved Communities: Populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. Equity: The consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Proposal Review Process

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

NGO submissions:

A committee will review applications, evaluate and score proposals, and then make the funding awards. The review process is usually complete within one month of the application deadline.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

[\(See Evaluation Form\)](#) Note that the criteria are weighted towards UCUT Tribal Membership.

Pertinent Policies and Documents

Policies:

EPA Terms and Conditions:

Subaward recipients are subject to the same requirements as those that apply to the pass-through entity's EPA award as required by 2 CFR 200.332(a)(2). In doing so, subaward recipients shall familiarize themselves with the EPA General Terms & Conditions.

Awards:

Round 1 of NGO Awards are expected to be issued in mid to late October, 2024

Additional Questions and Program Contacts:

UCUT staff are available to answer questions about eligibility, project scope, or the application process. If you have read through the resources listed above and have additional questions regarding UCUT or the CRTRLE grant application process, you are encouraged to reach out to UCUT staff for guidance.

Requesting and receiving help will not affect an organization's competitiveness for the program.

Caroline Kever,
Environment Project Manager
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Jerry White, Jr
CRTRLE Environment Project Coordinator
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Phone (509) 475-1228

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity (CRTRLE)

Scope of Work: Agricultural Best Practices and Buffers to reduce toxic pesticide pollution into surface waters.

(One subaward is available at \$100,000)

Summary of RFP - Background

The mission of the CRTRLE is to eliminate [toxic chemical](#) pollution in the fish, waters, and wildlife of the Upper Columbia Basin Watershed. The primary goal is to recover and provide healthy ecosystems, and healthy, traditional food sources that support tribal communities and harvest traditions.

Agricultural pollution to the Nations waters is a well known and well established source of toxic pollution. The EPA states that *“agricultural nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the leading source of water quality impacts on surveyed rivers and streams, the third largest source for lakes, the second largest source of impairments to wetlands, and a major contributor to contamination of surveyed estuaries and ground water.”*⁴ The Columbia Basin is no different. This pollution, while commonly found in the form of excessive nutrients and temperature, can also involve toxic chemicals, chemicals of concern and persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals.

The transport of these toxics from roads, work areas, and/or lands that are under production, are One way to prevent releases from land under production that are frequently non-point sources is the use of Best Management Practices.

This subaward is designed to reduce the transport of toxics to waterways 1) by promoting **Best Management Practices** (BMPs) to 2) promote the recovery of “buffer” zones in the riparian areas of waterways, and finally 3) to raise awareness around the importance and use of these BMPs through outreach and education on their benefits to water and fish.

➤ **Agricultural BMP implementation subaward:**

- To install agricultural BMPs that may inhibit the transport of toxic chemicals. For example, these may include:
 - Sediment traps
 - No-Till tillage systems
 - Livestock exclusion systems
 - Buffer protection or retention

➤ **Outcomes for the outreach portion of the subaward:**

Outreach subawards:

- **To raise awareness and promote the installation of agricultural BMPs in order to stop toxic pollution.**

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<https://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-agriculture#:~:text=The%20National%20Water%20Quality%20>

- **To raise awareness and educate communities about multiple benefits that ag BMPs can have for clean (toxics-free) water and healthy ecosystems.**
- To educate local tribal communities and other Columbia Basin communities about the agricultural pathways, transport and ultimate fate of toxic chemicals entering the Upper Columbia Basin Waterways.
- To educate community leaders and decision makers as to which agricultural Chemicals of Concern (CoCs) and Bioaccumulative Toxics (BATs) are the priority for each subawardees in their Project areas, as well as the entire Basin. These are often pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- To disseminate accurate, reliable, easily accessible information on Agricultural BMPs that is current and relevant for Upper Columbia Basin Tribal Members, Basin community members, local businesses, and grass-top leaders and decision makers.
- To communicate the impacts of agricultural toxic pollution and agricultural sources on the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and the food sources that are commonly consumed in the Basin and in traditional fishing, hunting and gathering areas.
- To provide information that allows residents of the Upper Columbia Basin to actively engage in preventing toxics from entering the waterways, to become active in helping make community and tribal decisions about agricultural practices that prevent toxic pollution in the Upper Columbia Basin.

➤ **Guiding Principles:**

- Agricultural operations should be undertaken and run in a way that protects natural ecosystems, new and traditional cultural systems and traditions that are tied to healthy and vibrant ecosystems.
- The agricultural BMP subaward is designed to balance agricultural values with ecological values that benefit and sustain cultural traditions of hunting, fishing, and gathering on landscape in a way that do not damage the health and wellbeing of people and their cultural traditions.
- The agricultural BMP subaward is designed to create, recover, and/or protect riparian areas that act as filters to prevent dangerous toxic agrichemicals from depriving communities the ability to hunt, gather, fish, recreate, and live in ways that are culturally connected to waterways and landscapes.
- The agricultural BMP subaward is designed to respect and enhance the role of sustainable agriculture as an economic life-way in the Upper Columbia Basin

➤ **Subaward - Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) - \$100,000**

➤ **Deliverables:**

- **Deliverable #1:**
 - *Identify a project area or an “area of emphasis” relevant to the subaward. This will be an area to take the lead in focusing strategic efforts. It should be defined in narrative form and could be outlined in a map form.*

- **Deliverable #2**
 - *Identify* desired agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) for a project area that are sanctioned by tribal governments, federal or state governments and designed to be protective of Water Quality Standards.
 - Provide the proper documentation that the desired Agricultural BMP has value and a proven track record of reducing nonpoint source pollution, and/or associated toxic pollution in situations analogous to the project location (Example: See [Natural Resources Conservation District Practices](#)).
 - Provide a simple justification for pairing or combining agricultural BMPs in a project area to reduce toxic pollution:
 - For example: modification of tillage to reduce the STIR value and installation of a riparian buffer in a project area are a combination that could provide benefits.

- **Deliverable #3**
 - *Installation* of desired Best Management Practice to reduce toxic nonpoint source pollution from lands to waterways (ie: pesticides).
 - Example: Buffer restoration and plantings to enhance riparian areas that provide a buffer from toxic runoff.
 - Example: Livestock exclusion fences (to prevent pathways for toxics) coupled with amenities to replace the values of (in stream) watering or thermal cover.

- **Deliverable #4**
 - Develop two outreach tools and accompanying top line messages that raise awareness of water quality connections to agricultural best practices.
 - Raise awareness and educate landowners, producers, community leaders and/or the public about multiple benefits that agricultural BMPs can have for clean (toxics-free) water and healthy ecosystems.

Background resources:

Toxic chemicals are frequently released into landscapes and waterways due to agricultural applications or fugitive releases from stored areas. These toxic chemicals are contained in pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, that are stored on farms, and then widely distributed on the landscape.

One of the most common and effective BMPs to prevent the transport of pollution from agricultural lands are features called “buffers”. Agricultural buffers are areas of land that border waterways that retain uncultivated vegetation. In some cases, when allowed to recover to “natural conditions, these buffers also provide a multitude of values to wildlife for habitat. Riparian zones are frequently used as “buffer” areas to protect waterways from exposure to agricultural lands and the transport of pollution from them.

Toxic chemicals have the following effects when released into landscapes and waterways due to agricultural applications and/or fugitive releases from stored areas. The EPA puts their effects in the following ways.⁵

- The effects of chemicals on human health and other ecological receptors through environmental exposure can be acute and very toxic, subtle, and cumulative over time (chronic), or nonexistent.
- Chemicals can be of concern because of their pervasiveness, potential to accumulate, possibilities of interaction, and often long-term unknown effects on people and the environment (e.g., cancer, mercury in fish).
- Humans and wildlife may be affected by certain chemicals through direct exposure, including accidental ingestion or inhalation, accumulation and uptake through the food chain, or dermal contact.
- Similarly, ecosystems and environmental processes may be compromised or contaminated through the migration and accumulation of chemicals (e.g., via uptake by plants, fugitive dust and volatilization, and migration to water supplies). For example, excessive nutrient loading from over-fertilization can result in runoff that causes adverse effects in aquatic ecosystems. [2](#)
- Widespread exposure to, or misuse of, pesticides can harm non-targeted plants and animals (including humans), as well as lead to development of pesticide-resistant pest species.

One way to prevent releases from land under production that are frequently non point sources is the use of Best Management Practices.

One of the most common and effective BMPs to prevent the transport of pollution from agricultural lands are features called “buffers”. Agricultural buffers are areas of land that border waterways that retain uncultivated vegetation. In some cases, when allowed to recover to “natural conditions, these buffers also provide a multitude of values to wildlife for habitat. Riparian zones are frequently used as “buffer” areas to protect waterways from exposure to agricultural lands and the transport of pollution from them.

Livestock operations can also have an indirect means of exacerbating toxic pollution

- https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-agriculture_.html
- <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/chemicals-used-land>
- Washington State Voluntary Clean Water Guidance [LINK](#)

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/chemicals-used-land#use>

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity
Scope of Work - Lead Fishing Gear Buy-Back and Replacement Program
(2 subawards are available at \$37,000 each)

The mission of the CRTRLE is to eliminate toxic chemical pollution in the fish, waters, and wildlife of the Upper Columbia Basin Watershed. The primary goal is to recover and provide healthy ecosystems, and healthy, traditional food sources that support tribal communities and harvest traditions.

The specific lead fishing tackle buy-back/replacement program goals (of the CRTRLE) are as follows:

- Create opportunities for angling public to become educated as to the negative impacts of lead fishing gear on fish and wildlife of the Columbia Basin
- Create opportunities for anglers to actively use and promote non-toxic alternatives to lead fishing gear
- To reduce the amount of lead fishing gear that enters the waterways in the Columbia Basin
- To prevent and eliminate lead poisoning in fish, wildlife, and people in the upper Columbia Basin.

The lead buy-back/exchange Program description:

This program will use several methods to achieve its goals. The outputs and outcomes of this project are more general while the actual, specific benchmarks can be customized with in collaboration the subawardees and UCUT staff. This ensures that the lead-free fishing tackle subaward is appropriate and relevant to specific communities that sub-awardees engage with on a daily basis.

Deliverable #1:

- a) **Sub-awardees will *create outreach efforts* to reach local watershed communities** with key messages.
 - **Benchmarks:**
 - (1) Develop at least two top-tier or key messages (on lead fishing tackle impacts)
 - (2) Develop materials and or electronic media content relevant to local communities and watersheds that build awareness around project goals, to include:
 - (a) Describes the transport of lead fishing gear into Columbia Basin waters.
 - (b) Describes the impacts of lead on fish and wildlife
 - (c) Describes what is available for lead alternatives to lead gear and where to get those alternatives
 - **Examples:**
 - (1) Describe lead impacts on raptors such as golden eagles, bald eagles, and ospreys
 - (2) Describe Lead impacts on tundra swans, diving and dabbling ducks
 - (3) Describe the problem: amounts of lead distributed into rivers and the need to develop lead free alternatives
 - (4) Promote lead free tackle options and businesses

Deliverable #2

- a) **Sub awardee will create a lead fishing tackle buy-back, exchange and/or lead free fishing tackle give-away program.** These will include the following benchmarks:
- **Benchmarks:**
 - (1) Purchase lead free fishing gear and create opportunities to exchange, give away lead-free fishing gear at stations, in the field, or at events
 - (2) Attendance at least three events or gatherings to promote buy-backs/OR giveaways, or exchanges - track recipients of outreach messaging
 - (3) (Option) Include tribal fisheries programs in lead free trade out program for fisheries program lead gear
 - **Examples:**
 - (1) Conduct boat-ramp tabling and/or lead gear exchanges at boat ramps, and/or fishing events, and/or invasive weed check-station distribution of outreach materials and/or lead-free fishing gear
 - (2) During fishing seasons, run a circuit of active boat launches or bank fishing sites to conduct lead gear exchanges or lead free gear giveaways
 - (3) Distribute information on lead-free tackle options in mailings, partner with orgs/agencies that are already distributing materials to anglers.
 - (4) Build a web page and/or social media presence around key messages

Deliverable #3:

- b) **Sub-awardee will collect lead fishing gear for disposal - measured by the piece and/or by the pound**
- **Benchmarks:**
 - (1) Subawardee collects public, lead fishing tackle - measures/counts lead pieces and documents removal
 - (2) (option) Creates (Tribal Fisheries Program) lead-free trade out program for fisheries program lead gear - collects tribal program lead
 - (3) Sub awardee could collect lead associated with monofilament or build and maintain monofilament and lead recycle stations
 - (4) Recycling and disposal options are explored and shared

Deliverable #4

- Writing up brief semi-annual reports on subaward project progress, milestones, and outcomes and submitting to UCUT
- Provide some documentation - photos, etc
- Writing up a final report on project at the conclusion of the project and submitting this to UCUT

Program Background:

Background on toxic lead:

Lead is found throughout the upper Columbia Basin as a legacy pollutant and a toxin that is actively being distributed to waterways, poisoning fish, wildlife and people in the Columbia Basin⁶.

Sources of lead continue to be mining waste entering waterways either from airborne pathways from refining or smelting, or ground and surface water pathways via exposed mine tailings that leach lead into surface water. Lead in household products like older paints and sporting goods like shot shells and bullets are also a source.

Simultaneously, lead fishing tackle continues to be a source of lead into waterways⁷ delivering verifiable, but poorly understood impacts to wildlife and people across the upper Columbia Basin.

Recently our understanding of lead toxicity and the danger it poses to people, fish, and wildlife is evolving and revealing that lead has a far greater impact than previously understood with profound lethal, and sublethal effects at low levels. Over time, levels of concern have changed regarding the blood lead level in children. For example, in 2021 the CDC guidance shifted to just 3.5 micrograms per deciliter.⁸

Danger to Humans:

Blood levels as low as 2 mg/dl have been linked to higher rates of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in the U.S. Children (Braun et al 2006). Excessive lead can cause anemia, neurological impairment, and immune system impairment⁹. There really is no safe threshold for lead. Any amount in the bloodstream is a potential hazard, particularly to a developing child (Brody, 2006)(reference) .

The dangers of lead fishing gear to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife:

Sentinel and charismatic species such as tundra swans, eagles, and common loons have long raised concerns over spent lead ammunition. However, lost and derelict fishing gear in many instances can pose similar threats to these and other species. Aquatic reptiles such as pond turtles have been known to be poisoned through lead ingestion. In Washington, at least three turtles have been found and subsequently shown to have expired due to lead poisoning. In particular, raptors are vulnerable as they consume fish and birds that contain lost lead gear, while common loons, swans, wood ducks, trumpeter swans, and other waterfowl who graze and dabble, mis-identify derelict lead gear as food, eat it, thereby poisoning themselves. Across the range of common loon habitat in North America, lead poisoning accounts for between 11-49% of all mortality.

“WDFW reported that there were 32 species of wild birds that occur in Washington and have examples of individuals who have died from lead poisoning in North America. For five of those

⁶ Washington State Chemical Action Plan <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0907008.pdf>

⁷ <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/00037/wdfw00037.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/docs/lead-levels-in-children-fact-sheet-508.pdf>

⁹ <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/effects-of-lead-ammunition-and-sinkers-on-wildlife.html>

species there are documented deaths due to lead poisoning in Washington (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 2001).¹⁰

Lead is a primary component in many types of terminal fishing tackle because of its density. It is used to sink a bait, line or lure. Uncoated lead is toxic and found in split shot, sinkers, lures and Jigs, trolling weights and leaded lines¹¹.

In Canada, it is estimated that some 500 tons of lost or discarded fishing weights and jigs are deposited into the environment each year.¹² This represents up to 14% of all non-recoverable lead releases in Canada. In the United States, it has been estimated that over “4,000 tons of lead sinkers are purchased in the US each year.” Washington does not have a not have a specific number that is deposited into waterways each year, but “[assume] a high percentage.” And studies of shoreline activity can show a range from no lead fishing tackle to 100.¹³

Lead fishing gear is transmitted to the environment in several ways. Under acidic water conditions lead breaks down and becomes soluble in surface and groundwater thereby posing a risk to benign uptaken through gills in aquatic life. Additionally, when fish are hooked and then lost with lead gear attached, one of several hazards to wildlife exists. First, the fish itself can become poisoned, second a predator can eat the fish and be poisoned, and third, the lead gear is ultimately lost to the waterway and becomes a secondary risk of being consumed, poisoning wildlife at a later date. Examples abound of common loons consuming lead jig heads (lure) from shallow waters as they are mistaken for prey and consumed. The outcome of this is the killing or crippling the loon.

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity (CRTRLE)

Scope of Work - Comprehensive Toxics Outreach and Education Plan Subaward (2 subawards are available at \$75,000 each)

The mission of the CRTRLE is to eliminate [toxic chemical](#) pollution in the fish, waters, and wildlife of the Upper Columbia Basin Watershed. The primary goal is to recover and provide healthy ecosystems, and healthy, traditional food sources that support tribal communities and harvest traditions.

➤ Outcomes for the Comprehensive Outreach and Education Plans:

- To educate local tribal communities and other Basin communities as to the pathways, transport and ultimate fate of toxic chemicals entering the Upper Columbia Basin Waterways.

¹⁰ <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/00037/wdfw00037.pdf>

¹¹ Schroeder, R.R. 2010. Lead fishing tackle: The case for regulation in Washington State. MS Thesis. Olympia, WA: Evergreen State College.

¹² https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/migration/hc-sc/ewh-semt/alt_formats/pdf/pubs/contaminants/prms_lead-psgr_plomb/prms_lead-psgr_plomb-eng.pdf

¹³ Id.

- To educate community leaders and decision makers as to which CoCs are the priority for each subawardees in their Project areas, as well as the entire Basin. To identify and communicate the trends for BAT/CoCs (Bioaccumulative Toxics and Chemicals of Concern) in Upper Columbia Basin Waterways.
- To disseminate accurate, reliable, easily accessible information that is up to date and relevant for Upper Columbia Basin Tribal Members, Basin community members, local Businesses, and grass-top leaders and decision makers.
- To communicate the impacts of toxic pollution on the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and the food sources that are commonly consumed in the Basin and in traditional fishing, hunting and gathering areas.
- To provide information that allow residents of the Upper Columbia Basin to actively engage in preventing toxics from entering the waterways, to become active in helping make community and tribal decisions about preventing and/or remediating toxic pollution in the Upper Columbia Basin.

➤ **Guiding Principles:**

- The Comprehensive Toxics outreach and education plan results in a living document that at once: 1) present toxics and BAT/CoC reduction as a basin wide, collaborative endeavor with shared priorities (that agrees with the Toxics Reduction Strategic Plan), and 2) presents a set of communication priorities that are localized to the subawardee project universes.
- The outreach and education plan will adapt and change with time and new information, and is intended to be modified as new understandings of the issues, new information becomes available, and our knowledge of toxics expands.
- The document is intended to be integrated with the Strategic Toxic Reduction Plan and actions in the Upper Columbia Basin (priority toxics, global patterns, and priorities).
- The document is intended to facilitate transparency, cooperation, collaboration, and substantive, integrated outreach and education plans and actions in the Upper Columbia Basin.
- The outreach planning and actions are responsive to the needs, perspectives, and efforts of indigenous communities and sovereign tribes in the Upper Columbia Basin.
- The CTRSP addresses the Environmental Justice issues as related to toxic water pollution within the Upper Columbia Basin.

➤ **The Comprehensive Outreach and Education Plan description:**

Outreach and education is a tool to reduce toxic pollution in the Upper Columbia Basin and protect ecosystem health and human health. This program will use several methods to achieve its goals. The outputs and outcomes of this project will be crafted to ensure that the comprehensive outreach and education strategy subawards are appropriate and relevant to unique watersheds, diverse ecosystems, hydrologic regimes, and distinct communities and cultures that sub-awardees at once belong to, and engage with on a daily basis. This outreach and education planning effort also needs to be integrated between the 1) the five tribes of the Upper Columbia Plateau, 2) efforts of agencies running the [Columbia River Basin Restoration Program](#) and linked to relevant state and federal agencies. Additionally, the plan needs to be tied to local communities and their efforts to understand and connect with the issues surrounding toxic pollution.

The strategy will 1) create an outreach plan *that identifies target audiences*, develops and *prioritizes key messages* (human health protection, toxic pollution prevention, policy action outreach and/or leadership outreach), 3) builds a strategy and actions to reach key target audiences with key messages 4) develops and utilizes outreach tools and media 5) collaborates with the Toxics Reduction Strategic Planning effort and receives relevant information in a form that can be transferred to inform an outreach package.

Inside of these will be the following deliverables:

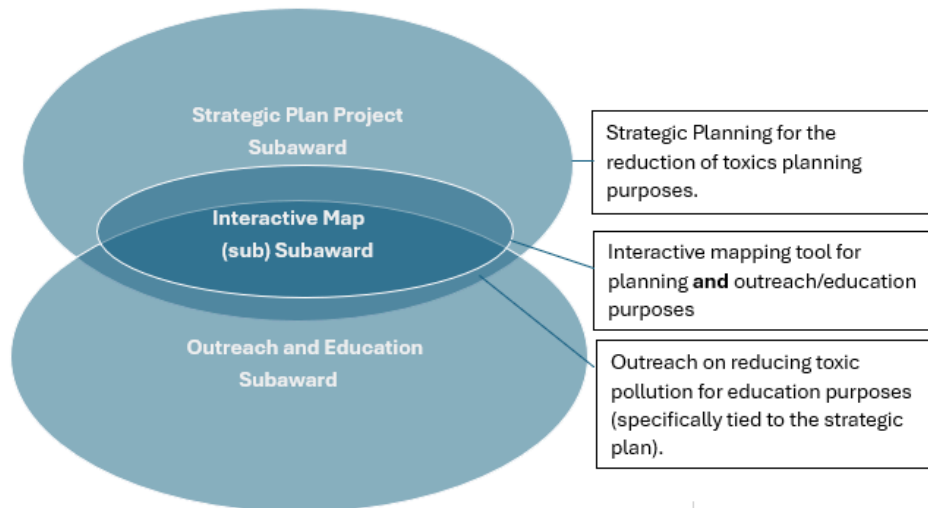
- **Deliverable #1:**

- **Develop a comprehensive Outreach and Education Plan :**

- Sub-awardees will meet the following Benchmarks:
 - Identify the project area or “universe” or boundaries that are relevant to the subawardee. This will be in narrative form and provided in map form to the nearest watershed boundary. Watersheds, aboriginal areas of hunting and fishing, gathering as well as administrative boundaries can be considered to produce:
 - A culturally significant area that is defined by one of the five tribes of the Upper Columbia Basin.
 - *An area defined* (by subawardee) that is geographically significant to the overall effort to reduce toxic pollution within the Upper Columbia Basin.
 - Identify the ***purpose(s)*** for conducting outreach and education:
 - Protecting human health - toxic exposure prevention:
 - *Human health goals: work with tribes and local communities to construct culturally relevant messages regarding the consumption of fish and first foods harvested in significant places inside watersheds and traditional places of gathering*
 - *Understand (and inform) the ways that user groups interact with waterways that might provide a mechanism for exposure to those communities.*
 - *Other (Eg: lead paint, etc)*
 - Protecting waterways and dependant ecosystems:
 - Understand the vulnerabilities of ecosystems, and/or cornerstone species are exposed to toxics (ie: loons and tundra swans consumption of lead)
 - Preventing toxics and CoCs from entering the environment:
 - *List and promote a set of **toxic prevention strategies** that allow residents to take action to prevent toxics from entering and polluting the upper Columbia Waterways?*

- Educating and empowering regional/community leadership so as to help those leaders make informed pollution prevention/remediation decision-making that contributes to a reduction in toxic pollution.
 - Identifying basic themes and creating a public literacy on toxic pollution - CoCs and the current trends for that pollution:
 - Are waterways more or less polluted? What are the trends?
 - Are fish safe to eat?
 - What are major sources?
 - What are primary pathways?
 - What is the (environmental) fate of various pollutants that enter our waterways?
 - Identify and communicate a set of policy objectives that revolve around the priority - Focus Group - of toxics and educate the public around the policy realities and actions with regards to reducing those toxics.
- Identify **Target Audiences** for outreach and education:
 - community members/residents (Tribal/non tribal)
 - Members who fish, hunt and gather in the Columbia Basin.
 - Members who recreate and live in Columbia Basin
 - Community leadership (political leadership - Tribal, state, federal, agency leadership , NGO leadership, community leadership)
 - Tourists and visitors to C. Basin and focus, project area
 - Identify specific **key messages** for the project area:
 - These are related to purpose above:
 - Human health protection:
 - Toxic environmental fate & transport awareness
 - Ecosystem health protection:
 - Toxic environmental fate & transport awareness
 - Toxic transport prevention/remediation
 - Leadership awareness and empowerment
 - Policy outcomes and connections to the above purposes
 - Identifies specific communication, **outreach tools** for reaching target audiences:
 - Web-based information sharing - websites
 - Social media information sharing
 - Reproducible literature for sharing - trifold, calendars, coloring books, etc
 - Event presentations, event tabling
 - Advertising, media campaigns
 - Targeted presentations - to schools, city councils, county commissions, etc

- Leadership education
- Press education



- **Deliverable #5**

- Writing up brief semi-annual reports on subaward project progress, milestones, and outcomes and submitting to UCUT
- Provide some documentation - photos, etc
- Writing up a final report on project at the conclusion of the project and submitting this to UCUT

Background:

Columbia River Restoration Program

<https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/chemicals-emerging-concern-columbia-river>

Columbia River Basin Restoration Work Group

<https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-working-group>

2009 State of the River Report for Toxics

[2009 State of the River Report for Toxics](#)

Evaluation Criteria for NGO Submissions

Proposal _____ Date _____

Entity name _____

Proposal _____ Date _____

NOTE: Proposals from NGOs in the competitive process that are further the priorities of member Tribes, benefit their work, and are accompanied by a letter of support establishing this benefit, will be given *automatic priority and preference*.

Criteria	Criteria Description	Strength of Proposal* Weak Proposal = 1 Acceptable Proposal = 5 Strong Proposal = 10 100 possible points	Notes
1	Project Proposal includes a Plan to collaborate and/or further the goals of a UCUT Member Tribe.		
2	Includes outline of effective strategies to accomplish project goals.		
3	Proposal includes a project description and the ways in which required deliverables (outlined in the SOW). Defines the scope of the subaward project including milestones.		
4	Contains goals and objectives Goals and objectives intersect with tribal issues or goals of UCUT member Tribe.		
5	Contains estimates of resources needed to accomplish the deliverables and Tasks agreed to and the process objectives outlined in the RFP.		
6	Contains a clear assignment of roles and responsibilities (both Tribal, entity staff and UCUT staff, contractors).		

7	Contains estimates of costs and a project budget(s) by focus area project.		
8	Contains a schedule to complete the project(s) – this includes timelines to meet the deliverables.		
9	Contains a brief assessment of risks and challenges, constraints, and operating assumptions.		
10	Contains an explanation of how the project addresses increasing community access to healthy ecosystems, waterways, and traditional foods.		
FINAL SCORE 100 possible			

Evaluator:

Date: