

Q&A Information Session: Tribal Nonpoint Source (CWA Section 319) FY 2018 RFP

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018 & Tuesday, April 10, 2018
3:00 – 4:30pm Eastern**

Steve Epting, US EPA Headquarters



The image shows a screenshot of an EPA meeting interface. The interface includes a top navigation bar with the EPA logo, a 'Meeting' title, and a 'Help' button. On the left side, there is a sidebar with sections for 'Attendees (2)', 'Chat (Everyone)', and 'Poll'. The main content area displays a slide titled 'Tribal Nonpoint Source (TNPS) Grant (319) FY 2018 RFP' with the date 'Wednesday, April 4, 2018' and time '3:00 - 4:30pm Eastern'. The presenter is identified as 'Steve Epting, US EPA Headquarters'. The slide footer features the EPA logo and three decorative icons: a flower, a fish, and a gear. Several yellow callout boxes with black text and green arrows point to specific interface elements: one points to the top right corner with callout text about audio availability; another points to the chat input field with callout text 'Submit a Question'; a third points to the poll section with callout text 'We'll be asking a poll question here'; and a fourth points to the top right corner with callout text 'Maximize size of slides on your screen'.

Remember, audio available via phone:
Call-in #: 202-991-0477,
Participant Code: 4835571

Please mute your lines by pressing *6! Thank you!

Submit a Question

We'll be asking a poll question here

Maximize size of slides on your screen

Attendees (2)
Active Speakers
Hosts (1)
Steven Epting
Presenters (0)
Participants (1)
Guest #1

Share - Steven Epting

Chat (Everyone)
Steven Epting: i have a question

Everyone

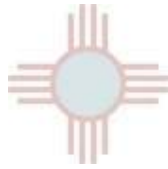
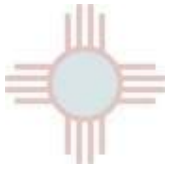
Poll
Hosts/Presenters are yet to set a Poll Question.

Tribal Nonpoint Source (TNPS) Grant (319) FY 2018 RFP
Wednesday, April 4, 2018
3:00 - 4:30pm Eastern
Steve Epting, US EPA Headquarters

EPA

Answers will be addressed either during the webinar and/or posted on the tribal NPS page:
<http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal/nonpoint-source-tribal-current-grant-information>

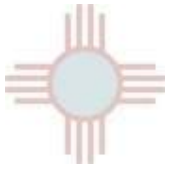
Webinar slides will be posted to the tribal NPS page.



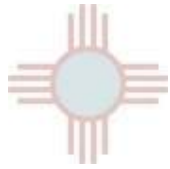
Webinar Agenda

- **Who can apply?**
- **FY 2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)**
 - How to navigate the RFP
 - What's changed since last year?
 - How are proposals evaluated?
 - Important Reminders & Key Dates
- **Question and Answer Segment**
 - Questions may be typed in at any time throughout the webinar





Who can apply?



- All tribes eligible to receive FY2018 319 grant funds (see www.epa.gov/nps/tribal)
- Tribes may apply for both base & competitive 319 funds in the same year

Proposed projects:

- ✓ Should primarily focus on BMP implementation
- ✓ May include watershed plan development, WQ monitoring, etc.
- ✓ Should demonstrate a *Watershed Approach*



If you have a good idea, (Re)apply!

Year	# Proposals Submitted	# Proposals Awarded	% Proposals Awarded	Competitive Project Cap
2005	41	31	76%	\$150,000
2006	50	28	56%	\$150,000
2007	52	25	48%	\$150,000
2008	50	32	64%	\$150,000
2009	62	26	42%	\$150,000
2010	57	26	46%	\$150,000
2011	51	24	47%	\$150,000
2012	54	20	37%	\$150,000
2013	43	17	40%	\$150,000
2014	44	25	57%	\$100,000
2015	46	31	67%	\$100,000
2016	43	29	67%	\$100,000
2017	43	29	67%	\$100,000



Navigating the RFP

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

- Generally, what types of projects is EPA looking to fund?
- Explicitly state how your project links to EPA's Strategic Plan, and include outputs and outcomes.

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II. Award Information

- How much funding is available for competition?
(max \$100K/project)
- Funding is for grants and cooperative agreements

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III. Eligibility Information

- 319-eligible tribes may apply
- 40% cost-share/match (though less if hardship waiver or PPG)
- **Threshold Evaluation Criteria (i.e., what EPA reviews to make sure you submitted a complete, eligible proposal before sending to the review committee)**
- Funding restrictions on watershed planning, Admin costs, WQ monitoring, intertribal consortia
- PPG info

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IV. Application and Submission Information

- Must apply through Grants.gov “Workspace”, a few limited exceptions
- Proposal Due Date! (again, May 2, 2018)
- What to include: SF-424, proposal work plan, optional supporting materials
- **How to format your proposal (Section IV.C.2) and what to include to address each ranking criterion.**

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V. Application Review Information

- **Ranking Criteria (Section V.A):** point values, how each criterion will be evaluated.
- How EPA will review and select proposals

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VI. Award Administration Information

- When EPA will notify applicants after **threshold** and **evaluation** reviews.
- What you'll need to include in final work plan, if selected
- Reporting requirements during grant period
- Additional requirements (e.g., Satisfactory Progress, O&M)
- Filing a dispute

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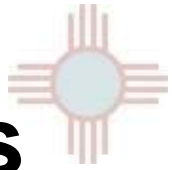
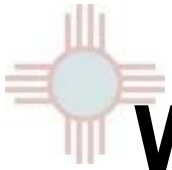
VII. Agency Contacts

- Who to contact at EPA (in most cases, tribal319grants@epa.gov)

VIII. Other Information

- QA/QC, data sharing

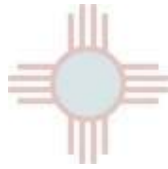
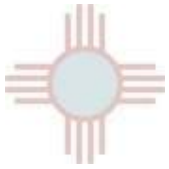
Appendices A and B



What has changed from last year's (FY 2017) RFP?

- See FY2018 FAQs for full list of changes:
<https://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-tribal-current-grant-information>

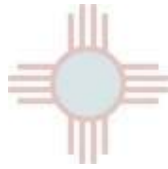
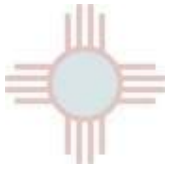




Changes to FY2018 RFP

- *Watershed Approach*: edits to clarify expectations.
- Proposals should focus primarily on **NPS BMP implementation** (i.e., activities that will directly lead to water quality results). May also include other eligible activities that support BMP work (e.g., monitoring).
- If any proposed work occurring off-reservation, must have obtained necessary access agreements from land owner by the time proposal is submitted.
- Must submit proposal through Grants.gov 'Workspace' feature
- Carefully read through Section IV.C.2 (Proposal Work Plan) and Section V.A (Ranking Criteria). Some changes throughout.





Changes to FY2018 RFP

Criterion (a): NPS pollution categories/subcategories

- Specify both: (1) sources contributing to problem/threat, and (2) sources to be addressed by project.

Criterion (c): Project Goals, Work Plan Components, etc.

- *Now 30 points (was 20)
- Include info about watershed plan development, if applicable
- ID project type (i, ii, iii, iv)

Criterion (e): Watershed Approach

- Formerly 'Watershed Context', edits to clarify expectations

Criteria (h) Milestone Schedule AND (i) Roles & Responsibilities

- *Each now 5 points (were 10 each)



The RFP Process

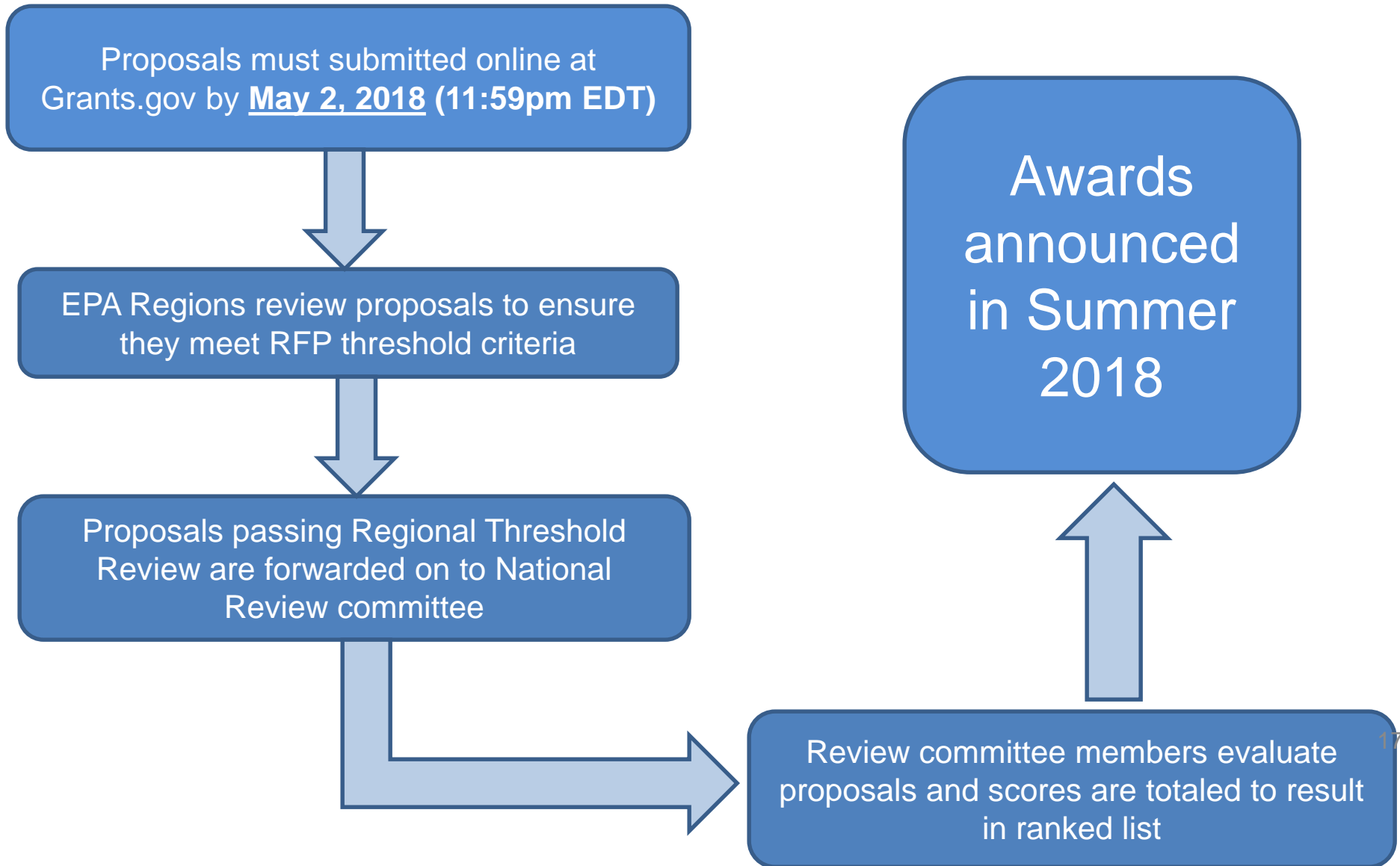
Proposals must be submitted online at Grants.gov by May 2, 2018 (11:59pm EDT)

EPA Regions review proposals to ensure they meet RFP threshold criteria

Proposals passing Regional Threshold Review are forwarded on to National Review committee

Review committee members evaluate proposals and scores are totaled to result in ranked list

Awards announced in Summer 2018





Difference between Threshold Criteria and Ranking Criteria



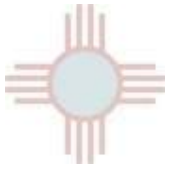
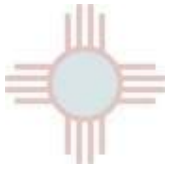
Threshold Criteria (Section III.D)

- EPA Regional review
- Signed Standard Form (SF) 424 – Application for Federal Assistance
- Proposal workplan
- Must substantially comply with Section IV.C
- No score

Ranking Criteria (Section V.A)

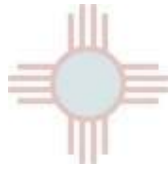
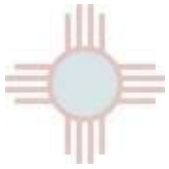
- National Committee review
- Proposals are evaluated, scored, then ranked
- Maximum score of 100 points





Nine Ranking Criteria Section V.A. of RFP





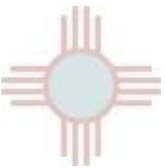
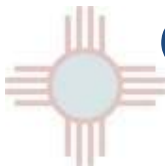
Ranking Criterion (a)

Subcategories of NPS pollution (10 points total)

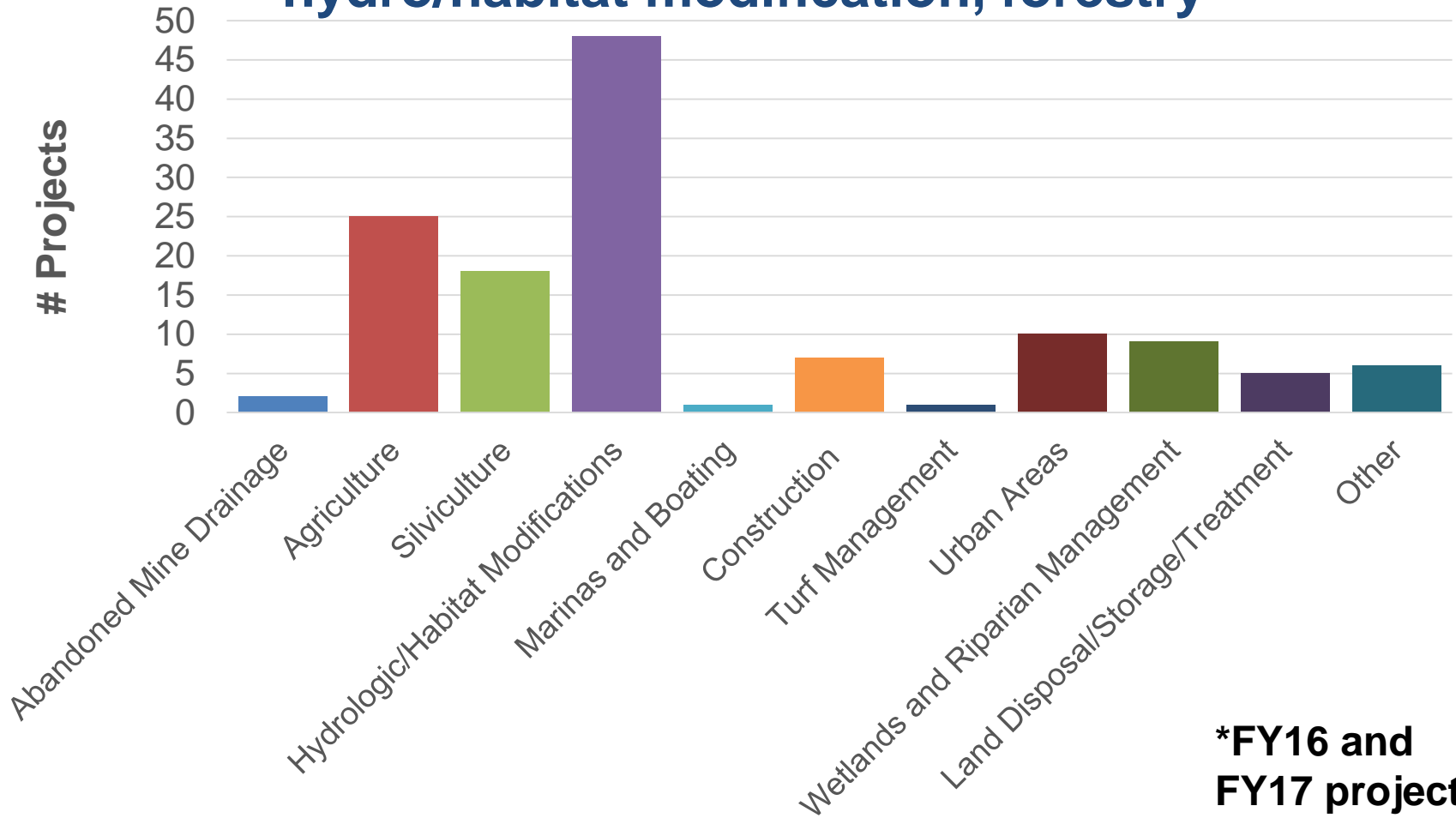
- Identify and describe each subcategory of NPS pollution contributing to water quality problem/threat, and specific subcategories to be addressed through proposal (5 points)
- Extent to which these subcategories are present in the watershed (5 points)

***See Appendix B of RFP for list of NPS pollution categories/subcategories**



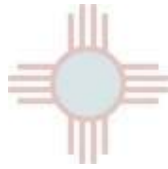
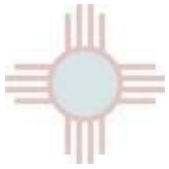


Over the last couple years, most competitive tribal 319 projects addressing NPS from agriculture, hydro/habitat modification, forestry



***FY16 and
FY17 projects**





Ranking Criterion (b)

Water Quality Problem/Threat (10 points)

- Describe water quality problem(s) or threat(s) to be addressed caused by the subcategories of NPS pollution identified in the work plan
- Incorporate specific descriptions of water quality problems or threats, for example, in relation to impairments to water quality standards or other parameters that indicate waterbody health (e.g., decreases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).



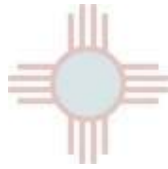
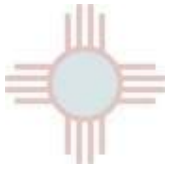
Show the water quality threat or problem.



Failing septic system



Eroding streambank



Ranking Criterion (c)

Project goals and objectives, work plan components, specific NPS BMPs and eligible project activities to be implemented, project location (30 points total)

- The goal(s) and objective(s) of the project (3 points)
- The work plan components, which includes an outline of all activities to be implemented (11 points)
- The level of detail provided in relation to specific NPS BMPs and eligible project activities to be implemented (11 points)
- Specificity in identifying where NPS project will take place in relation to waterbody affected by NPS pollutants (5 points)



Example Goals, Objectives, and Proposed Activities

Goal 1:

Decrease sediment and bacteria loading to meet water quality targets to support designated beneficial uses in Oak Creek.

Objective 1:

Remove livestock access to Oak Creek.

Management Actions:

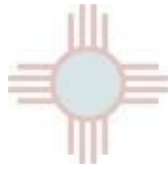
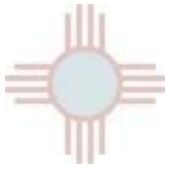
1. Install livestock exclusion fencing
2. Install off-site water supply for livestock

Objective 2:

Stabilize eroding streambank and restore riparian area at former livestock access point.

Management Actions:

1. Stabilize 100 ft. of streambank
2. Riparian planting on 0.25 acres



Ranking Criterion (c) - *continued*

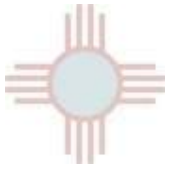
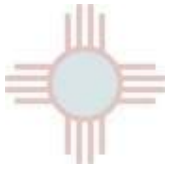
Project goals and objectives, work plan components, specific NPS BMPs and eligible project activities to be implemented, project location (30 points total)

CHOOSE ONE:

(WBP = watershed-based plan)

- (i) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a WBP
- (ii) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a watershed project (that does not implement a WBP)
- (iii) Implement a WBP.
- (iv) Implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.



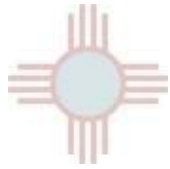
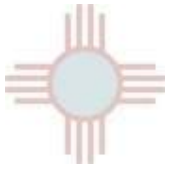


Ranking Criterion (d)

Link between work plan components and NPS pollution subcategories; Water quality benefits (10 points total)

- How proposed work will address NPS pollution subcategories contributing to problem/threat (5 points)
- Water quality benefits that will be achieved (may included quantitative or narrative descriptions) (5 points)





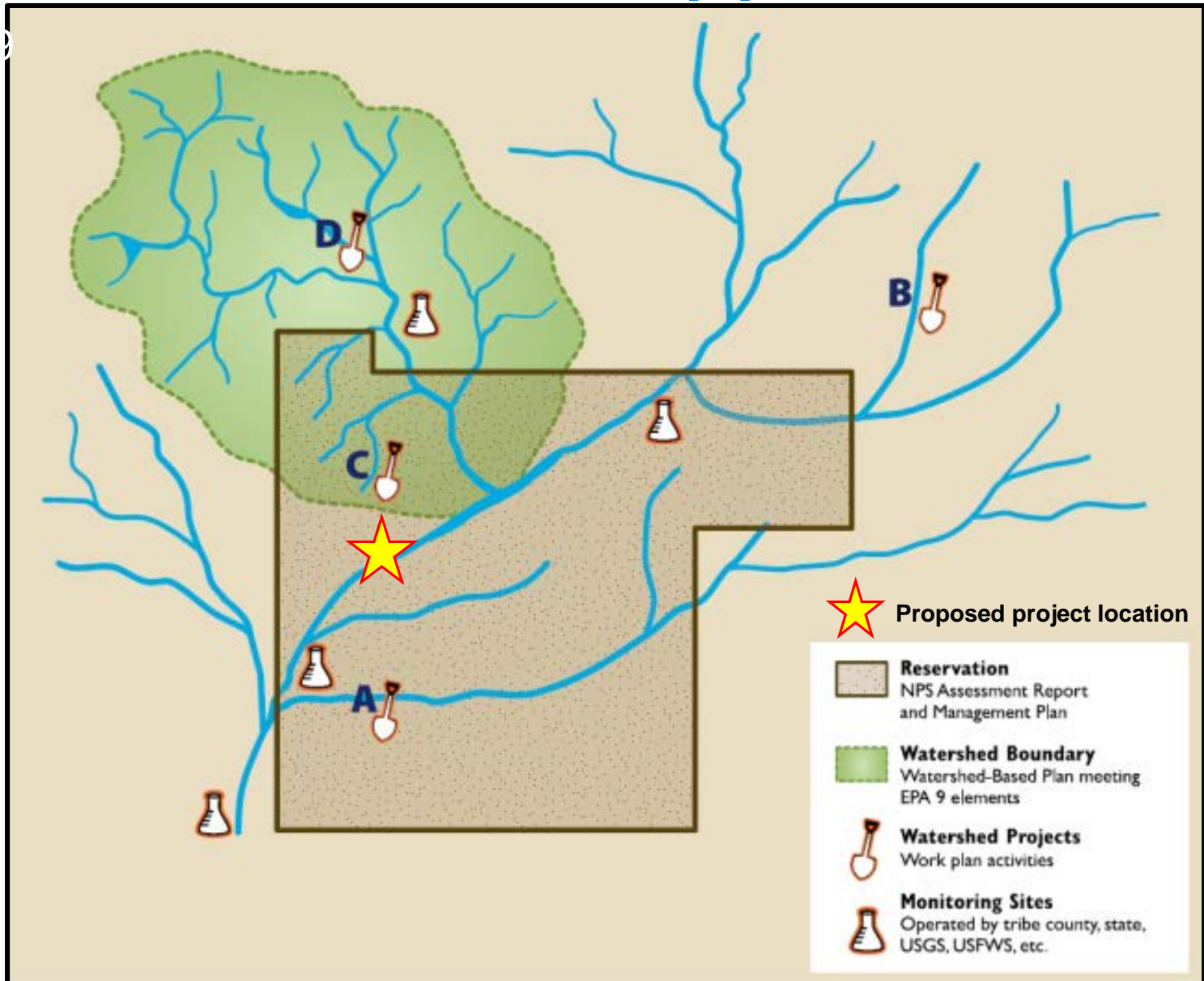
Ranking Criterion (e)

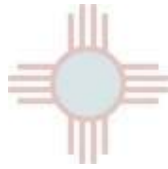
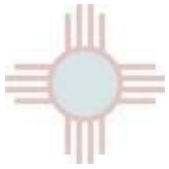
Watershed Approach (10 points total)

- Demonstrate how a watershed-based approach was adopted in developing proposed project (i.e., why is this proposed work a priority in the watershed?) (5 points)
- Demonstrate how project can be linked to or expanded upon in future. (5 points)



Watershed Approach



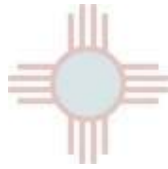
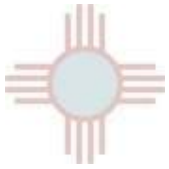


Ranking Criterion (f)

The extent and quality to which the proposal meets each of the following sub-criteria: (10 points total)

- Demonstrates potential environmental results, outputs and outcomes, and linked to EPA's Strategic Plan (3 points)
- Demonstrates a sound plan for measuring and tracking progress (3 points)
- Past (last 3 years) performance under the federally funded assistance agreements. (4 points)





Ranking Criterion (g)

Budget (10 points total)

- Reasonable and allowable budget with detailed estimated funding amounts for each work plan component/task. Total project costs must include both federal and the required cost share/match (non-federal) components. (8 points)
- Approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner (2 points)



Example project budget table

Goal 1, Objective 1, Management Activities 1 and 2: Remove livestock access, stabilize streambank and restore riparian area along Oak Creek			
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fencing materials	0.5 miles	\$400/mile	\$200
Work crew to complete fencing and restoration	60 hours	\$80/hr	\$4,800
Livestock off-site watering structures	2 units	\$1,500 per unit	\$3,000
Bank stabilization materials	100 ft	\$20/ft	\$2,000
Native riparian plants	50 plantings	\$30/planting	\$1,500
Native grass seed mix	50 lbs	\$10/lb	\$500
Total			\$12,000

Calculating the Match

Federal Share	Non-Federal Match Percent	Federal Share Percent	Non-Federal Match	Total Project Cost
\$100,000	40%	60%	\$66,667	\$166,667
\$100,000	10%	90%	\$11,111	\$111,111
\$100,000	5%	95%	\$5,263	\$105,263

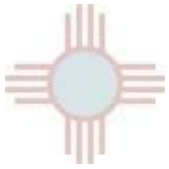
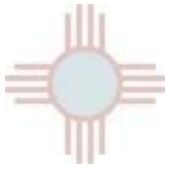
Example Calculation:

If you know the total project costs:

- (1) Multiply the total project costs by the cost share/match % needed.**
- (2) The total is your cost share/ match amount.**

For example: If your total project cost = \$166,667 and you need 40% cost share/match, then $\$166,667 \times .40 = \$66,667$ (Cost Share/Match).





Ranking Criterion (h)

Milestone Schedule (5 points)

- Detailed schedule with timeframes and major milestones to complete significant project tasks
- May include: a specific “start” and “end” date for each work plan component and task or activity; an estimate of the specific work years for each work plan component



Example Project Schedule

	2018				2019							
Task	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
Final Report												

Task 1: Pre-project water quality monitoring

Task 2: Install livestock exclusion fencing

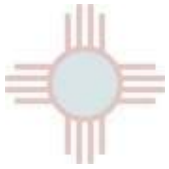
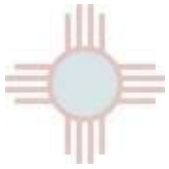
Task 3: Install off-site water supply for livestock

Task 4: Streambank stabilization design

Task 5: Streambank stabilization

Task 6: Riparian planting

Task 7: Post-project water quality monitoring

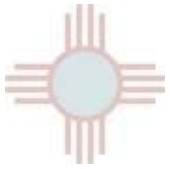


Ranking Criterion (i)

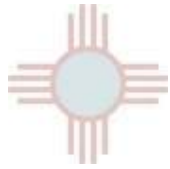
Roles and Responsibilities (5 points)

- **Roles and responsibilities of each responsible party in relation to each work plan component, including:**
 - Specific level of effort for each responsible party
 - Lead party for carrying out work plan component
 - Other programs, parties, and agencies that will provide additional technical and/or financial assistance.





Key Dates



- **October 13, 2017:** date by which tribes must have met eligibility requirements (Section III of RFP)
- **April 20, 2018:** Last day to submit questions (tribal319grants@epa.gov)
- **May 2, 2018: Submission deadline for proposals**
 - Submissions via Grants.gov – by 11:59pm EDT
 - Late proposals will not be considered for funding



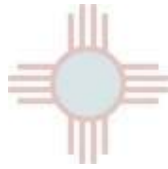
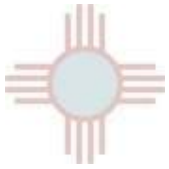


Important Reminders



- **All submissions must be done through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) unless a waiver is obtained. If this is your first time, start process NOW.**
- Maximum federal request amount: \$100,000
- Page limit!
 - 15-page (single-spaced) limit on the proposal narrative
 - Additional pages are allowed for Supporting materials (maps, data graphs, site photos, etc.)
- RFP Appendix A: nine elements of watershed-based plan
- RFP Appendix B: Categories and Subcategories of NPS pollution

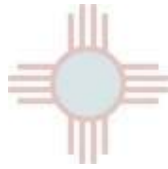
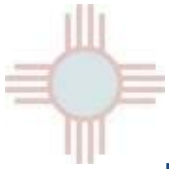




Getting Started

1. Set up Grants.gov account
2. Read through the RFP
3. Review your NPS Assessment Report and NPS Program Management Plan
4. Identify a priority project from your NPS Program Management Plan that you want to implement with competitive 319 funding
5. Develop a proposal work plan. Be sure it meets requirements in Section IV.C of RFP

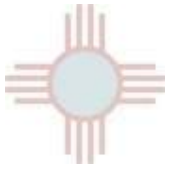




Things to Consider While Working on your Competitive Grant Proposal

- **Review committee can only evaluate proposal based on information provided**
 - Committee does not have access to the Tribe's NPS Assessment Report and Management Program Plan, or Watershed Based Plan
- **Review RFP carefully: Address both threshold criteria and ranking criteria**





Questions?

tribal319grants@epa.gov

FY2018 Competitive Grant Info at:

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-tribal-current-grant-information>

