



# Q&A Information Session: Tribal Nonpoint Source (CWA Section 319) FY 2019 RFA

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

4:00 – 5:30pm Eastern

**Monday, December, 17, 2018**

3:00 – 4:30pm Eastern

**Steve Epting**, US EPA Headquarters



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Active Speakers

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Steven Epting

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Chat (Everyone)

Steven Epting: Welcome to the FY2019 Clean Water Act Section 319 Competitive Grant Information Session Webinar!

Everyone

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FY2019 RFA  
FY2019 Frequently Asked Questions

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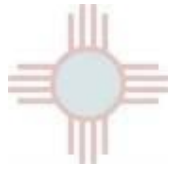
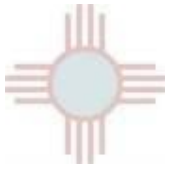
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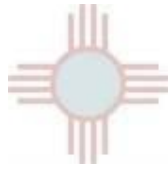
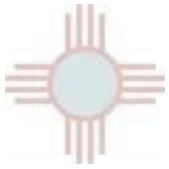
<http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal>

under the “Current Grant Info” tab



# Adobe Connect Webinar Participant Polls





# Webinar Agenda

- **What kind of work is EPA looking to fund?**
- **Who can apply?**
- **FY2019 Request for Proposals (RFA)**
  - How to navigate the RFA
  - What's changed since last year?
  - How are applications evaluated?
  - Important Reminders & Key Dates
- **Question and Answer Segment**
  - Questions may be typed in at any time throughout the webinar



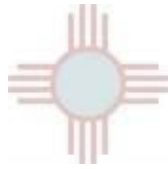
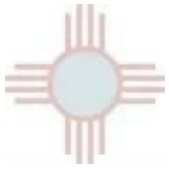


# What kind of work is EPA looking to fund?

Projects that...

- will directly improve/protect water quality by implementing on-the-ground BMPs.
- are strategically targeted in the watershed to address a NPS pollution problem.
- demonstrate a “readiness to proceed.”
  - Reasonable and achievable budget and project schedule.
  - Project team with clearly defined roles/responsibilities.





# Who can apply?

- All tribes eligible to receive FY2019 319 grant funds. i.e., eligible as of 10/12/18 (see [www.epa.gov/nps/tribal](http://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*

**“FY2019” = Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2019**

October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019





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

<b>Year</b>	<b># Proposals Submitted</b>	<b># Proposals Awarded</b>	<b>% Proposals Awarded</b>
<b>2014</b>	44	25	57%
<b>2015</b>	46	31	67%
<b>2016</b>	43	29	67%
<b>2017</b>	43	29	67%
<b>2018</b>	41	29	71%



# Navigating the RFA

\*The RFA looks very similar to last year

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## I. Funding Opportunity Description

- Describes the types of projects EPA is looking to fund
- Language about EPA’s Strategic Plan, outputs and outcomes (see Criterion f)

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## II. Award Information

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

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### III. Eligibility Information

- Who is eligible? CWA Section 319-eligible tribes
- Cost-share/match info (40%, but less if hardship waiver or PPG)
- **Threshold Evaluation Criteria (i.e., what EPA reviews to make sure you submitted a complete, eligible application 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
- Application Due Date! (again, January 24, 2019)
- What to include: \*new mandatory documents
- **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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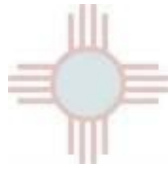
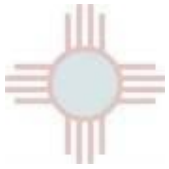
## VII. Agency Contacts

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

## VIII. Other Information

- QA/QC, data sharing

## Appendices A and B



# Change to FY2019 RFA

September 2018: new EPA Grant Policy: “*Full Application Submission with Initial Proposal Submission Requirement.*”

Mandatory documents (**new ones in red**) in your application package:

- a. SF-424 – “Signed Application for Federal Assistance”
- b. **SF-424A – “Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs”**
- c. **SF-424B – “Assurances for Non-Construction Programs”**
- d. **EPA Lobbying Form 6600-06**
- e. **EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54**
- f. **EPA Form 4700-4 – Preaward Compliance Review Report**
- g. Project Narrative (i.e., 15-page proposal + supporting materials)







# Grants.gov Resources



## Support Center available 24/7 (closed on Federal holidays)

- Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)
- Phone: 1-800-518-4726 (toll-free) | 1-606-545-5035 (international)

## Resources

- Workspace Overview:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>
- YouTube Training & Webinar Videos:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GrantsGovUS/featured>
- Online User Guide:  
[https://www.grants.gov/help/html/help/GetStarted/Get\\_Started.htm](https://www.grants.gov/help/html/help/GetStarted/Get_Started.htm)
- FAQs: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html>
- Grants.gov Self-Service Web Portal: <https://grants-portal.psc.gov>
- Blog: <https://blog.grants.gov/>



# The Competitive Grant Process

Applicant questions due to EPA by **January 10, 2019**  
(email [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov))

Proposals must submitted online at Grants.gov by  
**January 24, 2019 (11:59pm EST)**

**Threshold Review:** EPA Regions review applications to ensure they are eligible and meet RFA threshold criteria

**Evaluation Review:** Eligible applications reviewed by National Review committee. Scored out of 100 points.

**EPA Selection Official:** Selected applications for award, based primarily on ranking.

**Awards announced in ~May 2019**



# Difference between Threshold Criteria and Ranking Criteria



## Threshold Criteria (Section III.D)

- EPA Regional review
- Must substantially comply with Section IV.C
- No score

\*Is the proposed work eligible?

\*Does the application include necessary information?

## Ranking Criteria (Section V.A)

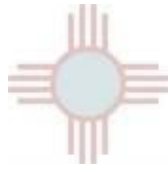
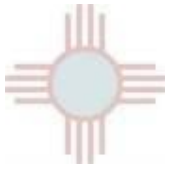
- National Committee review
- Applications evaluated, scored, then ranked
- Maximum score of 100 points





# Nine Ranking Criteria Section V.A. of RFP





# Ranking Criterion (a)

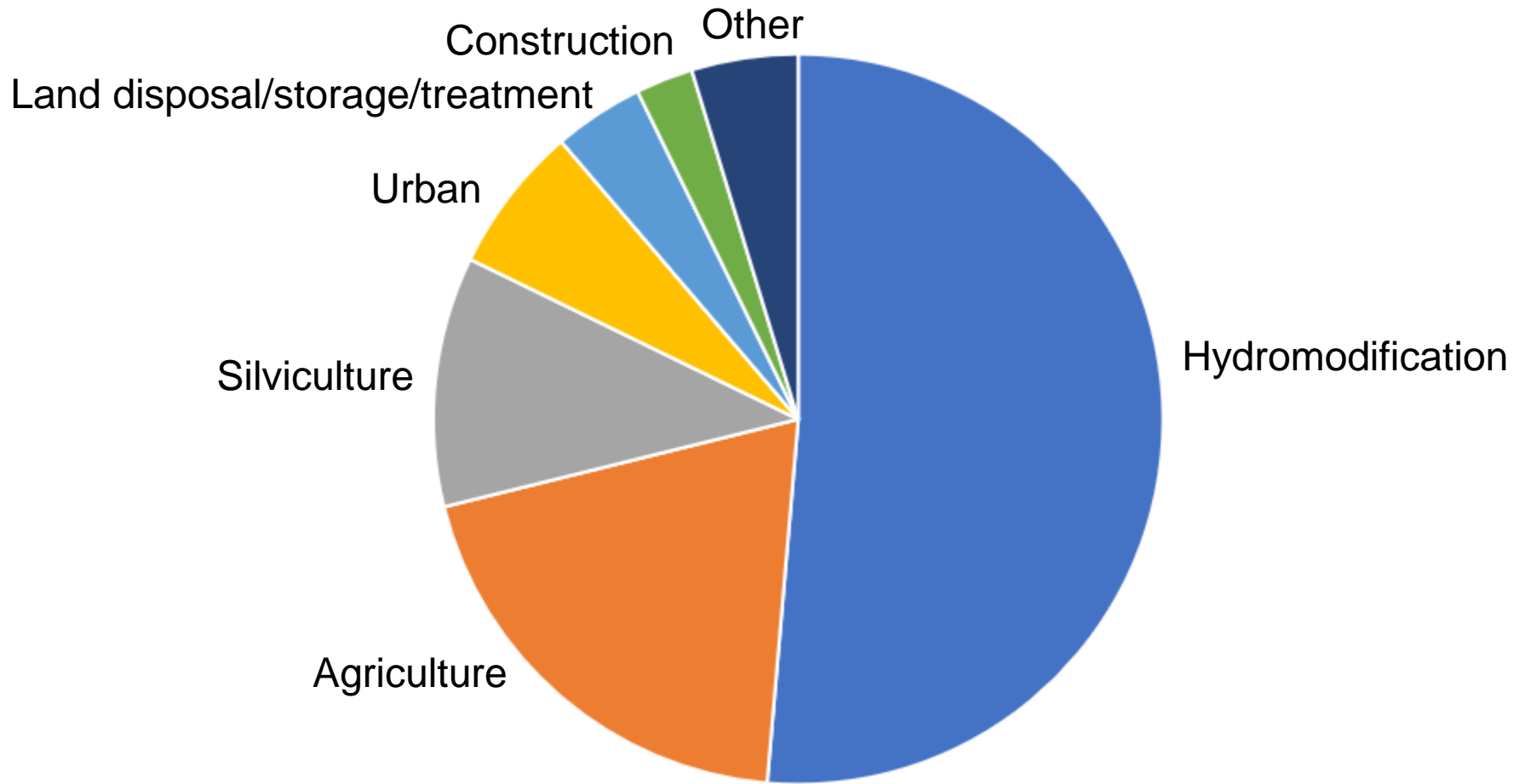
## ***Subcategories of NPS pollution (10 points total)***

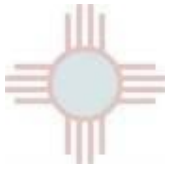
- Identify and describe each subcategory of NPS pollution contributing to water quality problem/threat, and specific subcategories to be addressed through application (5 points)
- Describe extent to which these subcategories are present in the watershed (5 points)

\*See **Appendix B** of RFA for list of example NPS pollution categories/subcategories



# NPS pollution sources addressed by past competitive 319 projects (FY13-18)





# 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.

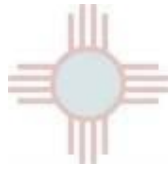
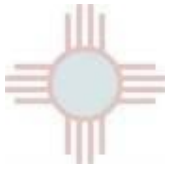


Failing septic system



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:

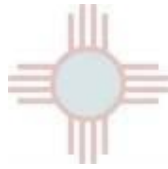
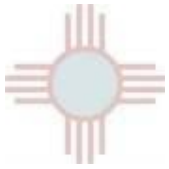
1. Install livestock exclusion fencing
2. Install off-site water supply for livestock

### 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.

**In a nutshell, indicate the following:**

- ✓ Are you developing a watershed plan as part of this proposal?
- ✓ Are you implementing an existing watershed plan?

(if No, your work is still eligible!)



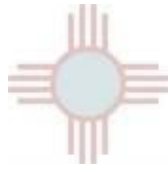
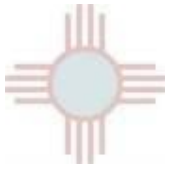


## 10 most common BMPs implemented by competitive 319 projects (FY13-18)



<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b># Projects (FY13-18)</b>
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	69
Wetland Restoration	44
Outreach And Education	40
Erosion and Sediment Control	35
Fencing	34
Riparian Planting/Restoration	30
Invasive Species/Noxious Weed Control	19
Stream Crossing Improvements	18
Riparian Forest Buffer	18
Road Ditch Creation/ Improvements	13



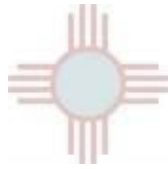
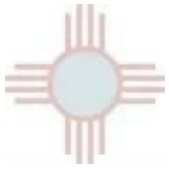


# Ranking Criterion (d)

***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)

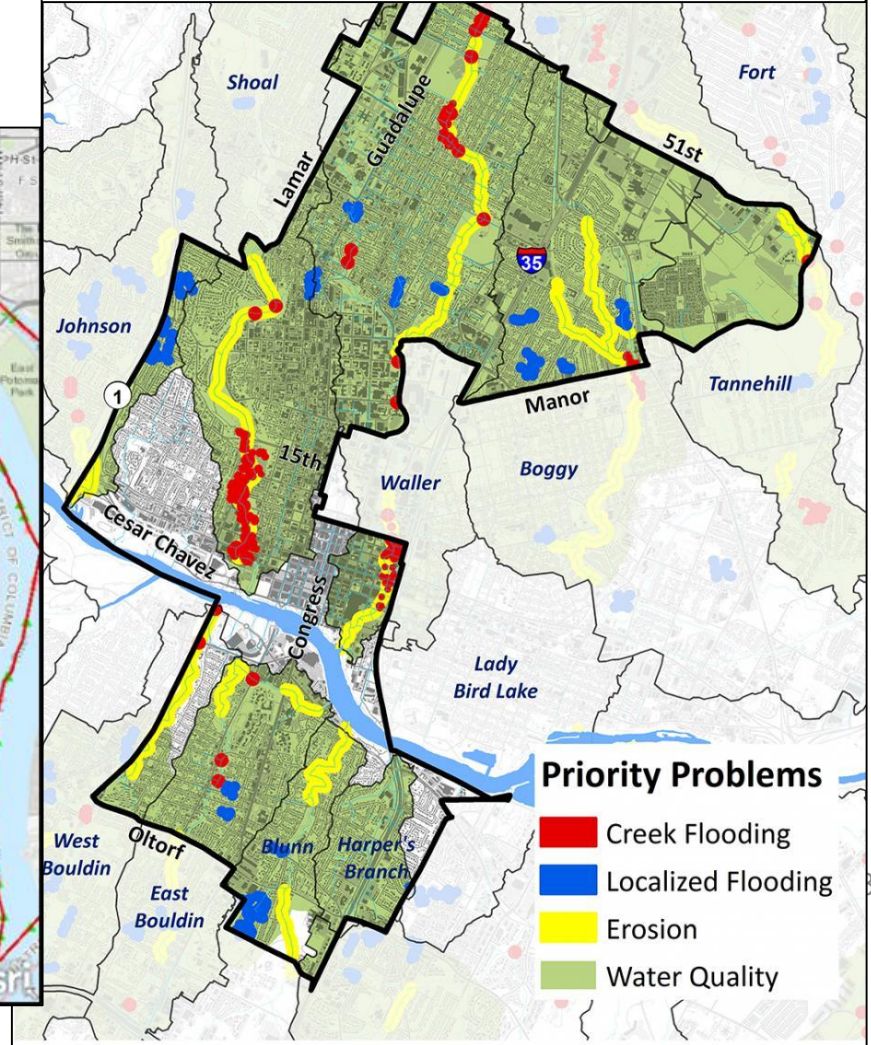
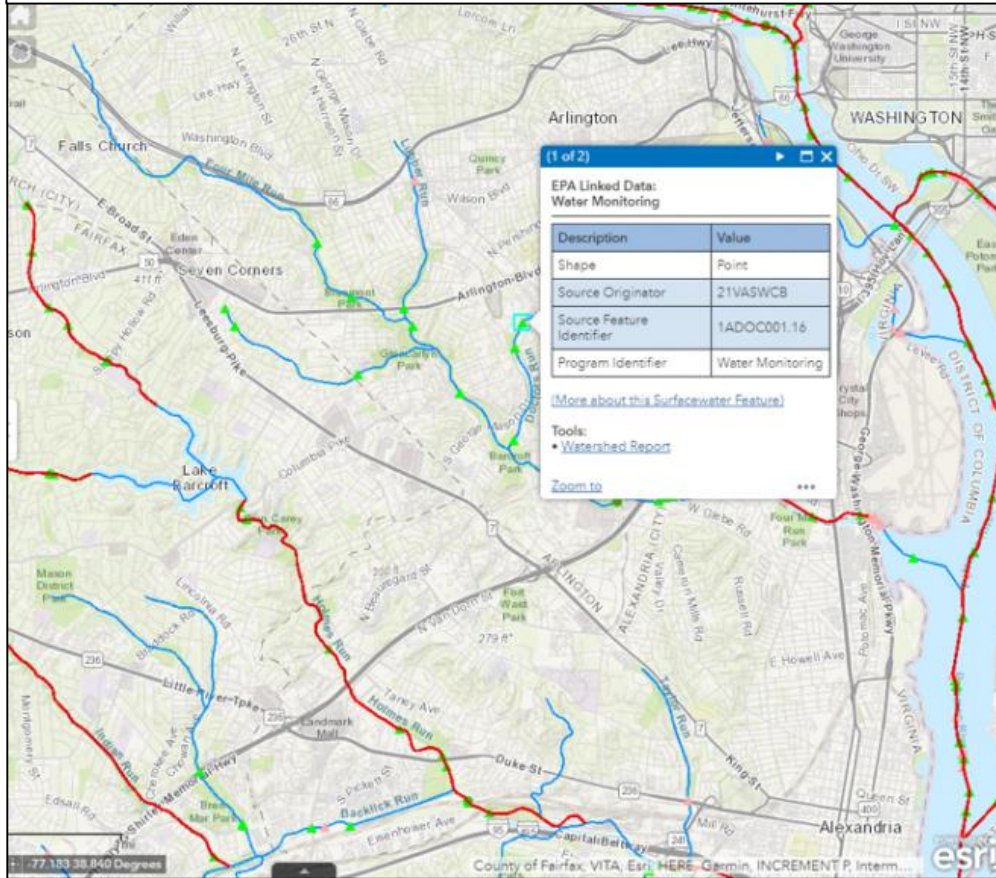
- Demonstrate how a watershed-based approach was adopted in developing proposed project (i.e., why is this proposed work a priority in the watershed?) (5 points)
- Demonstrate how project can be linked to or expanded upon in future. (5 points)



# Examples of demonstrating a “watershed approach”

Prioritization of existing NPS problem areas (e.g., eroding streambanks)

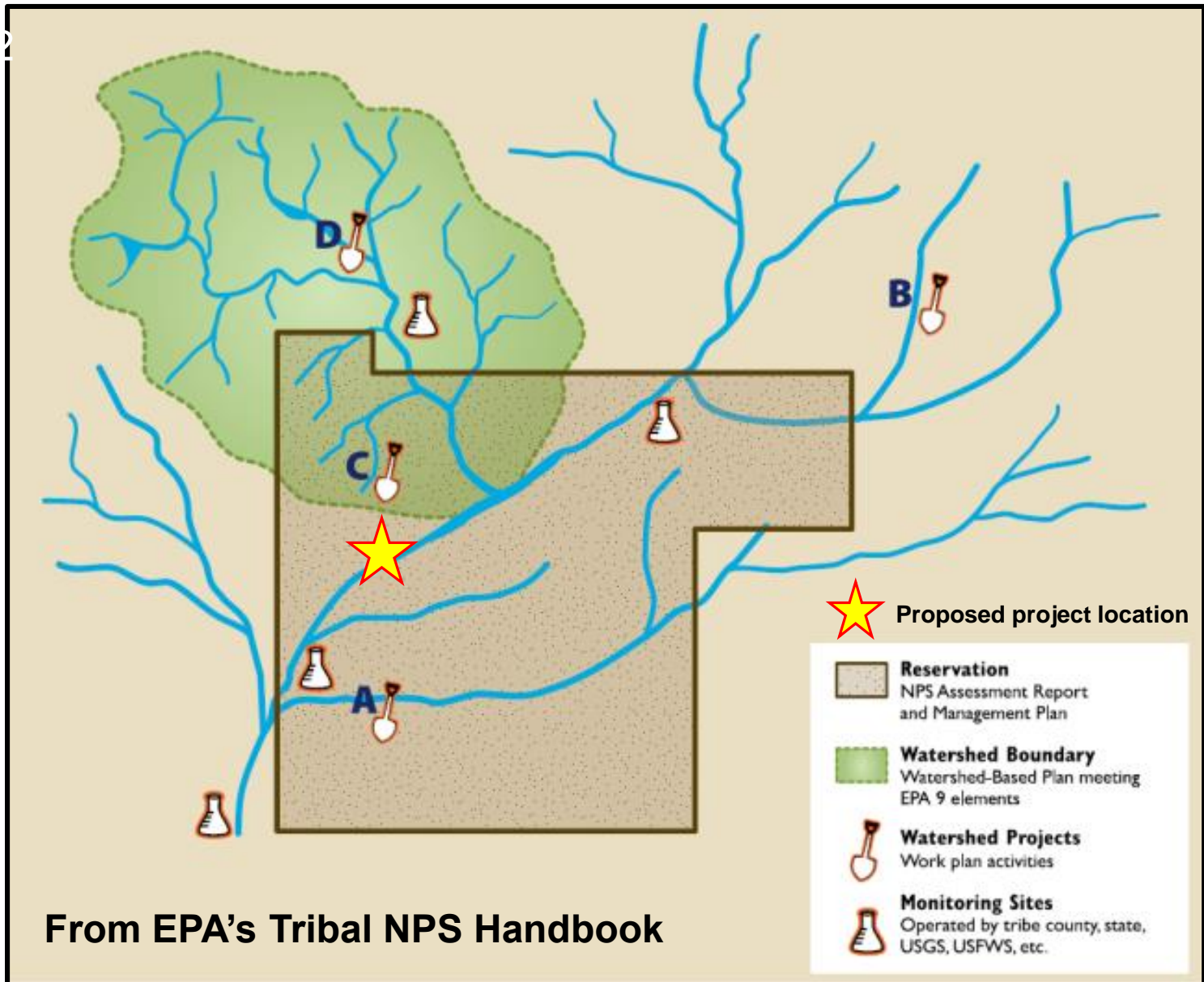
Linking water quality monitoring data to problem and proposed project location.



<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/waters-geoviewer>

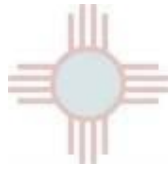
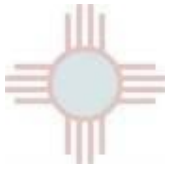
<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/district-9-watershed-profile>

# Watershed Approach



From EPA's Tribal NPS Handbook



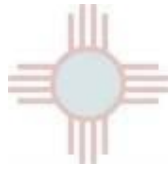
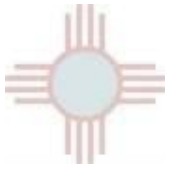


# Ranking Criterion (f)

***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

<b>Goal 1, Objective 1, Management Activities 1 and 2: Remove livestock access, stabilize streambank and restore riparian area along Oak Creek</b>			
<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
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$12,000</b>

# 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

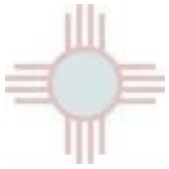
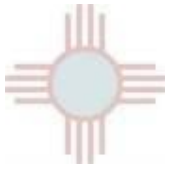
*Example Calculation:*

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

	2019				2020							
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

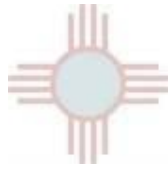
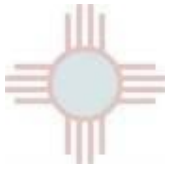
**Task 3:** Install off-site water supply for livestock

**Task 4:** Streambank stabilization design

**Task 5:** Streambank stabilization

**Task 6:** Riparian planting

**Task 7:** Post-project water quality monitoring

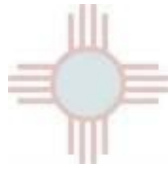
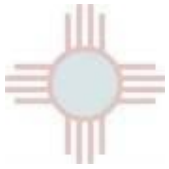


# Ranking Criterion (i)

## ***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 12, 2018:** date by which tribes must have met eligibility requirements (Section III of RFP)
- **January 10, 2019:** Last day to submit questions ([tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov))
- **January 24, 2019:** Submission deadline for proposals
  - Submissions via Grants.gov – by 11:59pm EST
  - Late applications will not be considered for funding





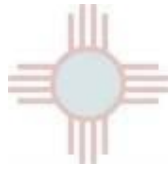
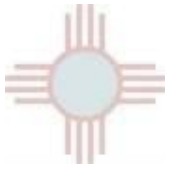


# Important Reminders



- You must submit through Grants.gov.
- Maximum federal request amount: \$100,000
- 15-page (single-spaced) limit on the project narrative
  - Additional pages allowed for Supporting materials (maps, data graphs, site photos, etc.)
- Review committee can only evaluate application based on information provided. They will not have access to your NPS Assessment Report or NPS Management Program Plan





# Questions?

[tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov)

See the “Current Grant Info” tab at  
[www.epa.gov/nps/tribal](http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal)  
for more information about the FY2019  
Competitive Grant.

