



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Vision Statement

The EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program—through the implementation of Clean Water Act Section 123—will be a catalyst for basin-wide toxics reduction work efforts, enabling communities to access unimpaired watersheds with healthy fish and wildlife and quantifiable toxics reductions in fish, wildlife, and water.



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS OCTOBER 31, 2022 — JANUARY 31, 2023

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed by the President in November 2021, provided the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) \$79 million over a five-year period to implement Clean Water Act Section 123, the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program, through historic funding to fund competitive grants for eligible entities. EPA is currently planning three upcoming Requests for Applications (RFAs) focused on toxics reduction actions: agricultural best practices, **green infrastructure**, pollution prevention, clean-up of small non-CERCLA sites, and community education and involvement. EPA is providing an opportunity for federally recognized Tribes to apply for grant funding from October 31, 2022, through January 31, 2023. EPA plans to make up to \$20 million available and will not require a match.

BACKGROUND

The Columbia River Basin covers 260,000 square miles, federally recognized Tribes, areas of MT, ID, WA, and OR and smaller portions of WY, NV, and UT. Human activities have contributed toxic contaminants to the environment that contribute to human health and ecosystem risks. Throughout the Basin, fish species have accumulated contaminant levels that are harmful to people and wildlife. Toxics in fish are a primary health concern for Columbia River Basin Tribal people and other high fish consumers.

EPA'S COMMITMENT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROTECTION, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program is focused on engaging Tribal and underserved communities in efforts to identify and reduce threats to their environment and community health. Tribal Governments in the Columbia River Basin are working to restore their watersheds and increase fish consumption to honor Tribal heritage and culture and treaty rights. EPA's commitment to reducing toxics in fish and water in the Columbia River Basin is key to EPA's ongoing trust responsibility to Tribal Governments. Toxics reduction will support climate

resilience for the Columbia River Basin ecosystem by reducing aquatic ecosystem and human health stressors in an environment stressed by severe climatic events.

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Columbia River Basin Restoration Act was enacted in December 2016, which directed EPA to provide competitive grants for toxics reduction actions throughout the Basin. In September 2020, using Congressional appropriations, EPA awarded **the first 14 grants** which included 2 grants to Tribal Governments, to implement and develop monitoring, increase agricultural best practices, increase green infrastructure and increase pollution prevention and public engagement and education. In October 2022, EPA awarded 25 grants funded through CWA Section 123 with ongoing Congressional appropriations and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, including seven grants to Tribal Governments throughout the Columbia River Basin.

INFORMATION ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding through these and future Requests for Applications will provide historic funding to Columbia River Basin Tribal Governments and communities through multi-year grants to support long-term tribal program and project development to reduce toxics in Columbia River Basin waters, fish and wildlife.

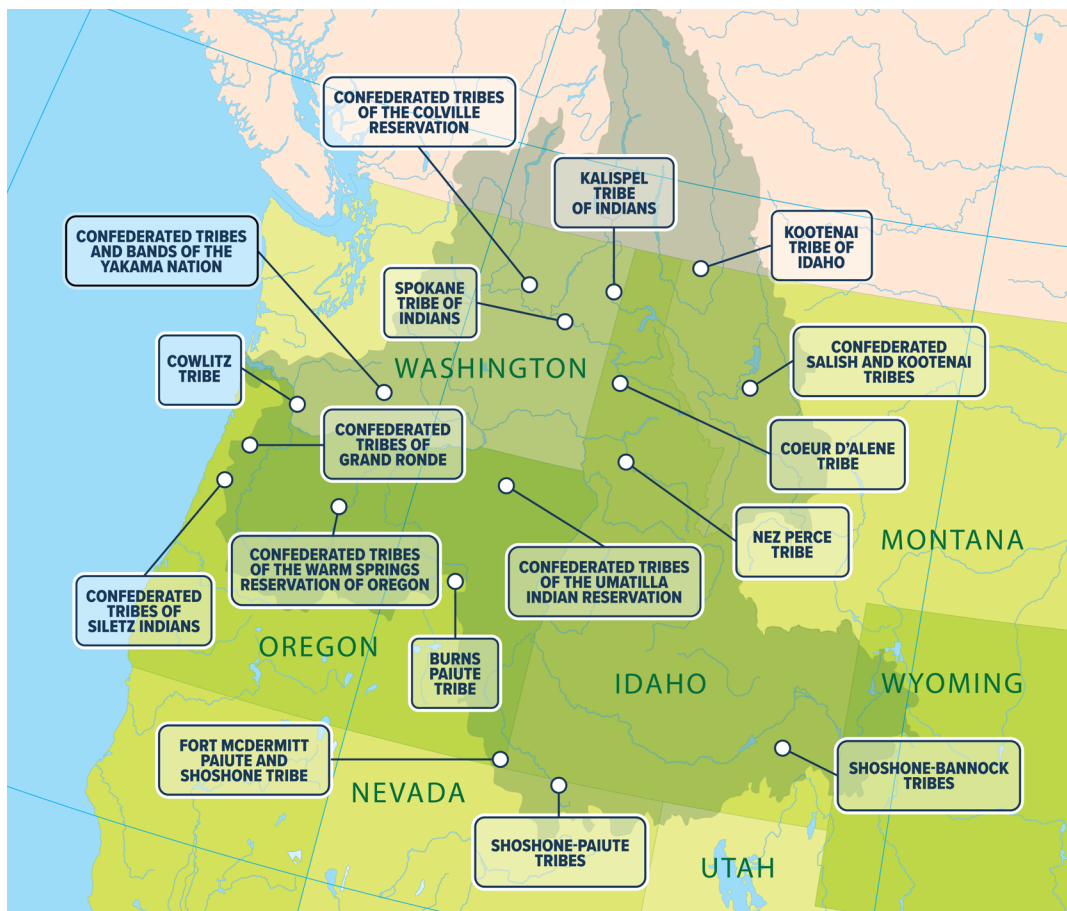
EPA released the Columbia River Basin Tribal Government Request for Applications on October 31, 2022, and final grant applications will be due on January 31, 2023. This RFA will provide an opportunity for Tribal Governments to apply for 4-6 years of funding to plan and develop programs and design and implement toxics reduction projects, and a Tribal Government match will not be required. EPA will not be funding monitoring awards/projects through

Columbia River Basin Tribal Governments

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Cowlitz Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

For More Information

Please contact Lauren McDaid, mcdaid.lauren@epa.gov or (208) 378-5768, if you need further information or have any questions on this RFA. We look forward to working with you and your Tribal Government to provide clean and healthy water and fish for Columbia River Basin Tribal people and people throughout the Basin.



this RFA; however, EPA will be funding grant award effectiveness monitoring to provide accountability and success for toxics reduction actions, similar to the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership model.

All grant applications should be focused on one or more of the following five priorities:

1. Agricultural best practices to reduce toxics
2. Green infrastructure to reduce stormwater and improve water quality
3. Pollution prevention to prevent toxics from entering the environment
4. Small-scale clean-up actions to remove toxics at non-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (also known as Superfund) sites
5. Community education and outreach to help the public take actions to reduce toxics in the Basin

For the latest information and information on the previous two RFAs (including successful applicants from the first round of applications), visit EPA's **Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program webpage**.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINARS

EPA held two informational webinars on September 21st and 27th to share information and provide technical assistance. If you missed the webinars

and want to review the presentation, the webinar recordings are available upon request by emailing mcdaid.lauren@epa.gov. The slides for the webinar can be found **here**.

TRIBAL RFA WEBINARS

Information for this grant opportunity can also be found on our website at: <https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-tribal-government-request-applications>.

EPA will host the same informational webinar on two different dates. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend at least one of these sessions to learn more about the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program and the grant application process. Pre-registration will not be required. Webinar links and dial-in information will be posted on our website: <https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program>.

Webinar dates and times are below:

Monday, Nov. 14, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (Pacific)

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (Pacific)

Applicants may email written questions to ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov. Please type "Tribal RFA Question" in the subject line of your email. All questions submitted via email by 4:00 p.m. PT each Friday during the RFA open period will be answered and posted in the questions and answers document the following week.