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# Overall Project Summary and Approach

This implementation application has been developed by the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) as a part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. The Upper Columbia United Tribes is an organization consisting of five Tribes in the upper Columbia River basin that generally share common goals and values. UCUT provides a common voice for the region through the collaboration of the following Tribes:

* the Coeur d'Alene Tribe,
* the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation,
* the Kalispel Tribe of Indians,
* the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and
* the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

Formed in 1982, the Tribes came together to ensure a healthy future for the traditional territorial lands of their ancestors. Consequently, UCUT’s member Tribes collaborate to communicate and resolve common issues and concerns, and UCUT has developed and implemented hundreds of projects to further these goals over the years. The natural resources managed by the member Tribes yield millions of dollars annually to the fishing, hunting, sustainable forestry, and recreation economies of North Idaho and Eastern Washington, directly providing hundreds of jobs. Overall, the member Tribes take a proactive, collaborative, and science-based approach to promoting fish, water, wildlife, diverse habitats, and Indian culture in the Northwest.

# GHG Reduction Measures

This section lists all the selected Priority GHG Reduction Measures and relevant details for UCUT. The sectors that these measures address include but may not be limited to transportation, commercial/residential buildings, natural/working lands, and waste/materials management.

## Implementation Capacity Building

To implement large, novel projects effectively, many Tribes require further support with resourcing and staffing. Despite the generous funding becoming available, there is a lack of funding specifically for capacity building within the Tribes. This is why UCUT is planning to request funding for a full-time climate project manager position within each of the member Tribes and an additional half a full-time equivalent specifically for UCUT to manage and implement these programs. These costs will be based on fair market rates in the area for such a position and will incorporate indirect rates from each of the Tribes.

UCUT sees this measure as necessary to ensure that there is tribal staff focused on reducing GHG emissions, incorporating strategies that address climate change into various projects and programs, and increasing discourse about the subject within the Tribes. Without providing the member Tribes with extra capacity, it is unlikely the UCUT member Tribes would be capable of implementing the selected measures. This strategy will also provide jobs to tribal and community members with the intent of maintaining these as long-term positions through various potential revenue sources that may include carbon offsets or other revenue generated from implementing climate pollution reduction projects. The largest outstanding risk to the implementation of this measure is the inability to find and hire qualified candidates for the position. However, a rigorous effort will begin immediately upon a finalized award for the search for these candidates and we will leverage a large professional network to find candidates.

**Implementation Schedule:**

Implementing this measure should be a relatively routine process for each of the member Tribes, as they regularly hire new positions and have processes and policies in place to do so. New positions and updates to the organizational chart are authorized through their respective Tribal Councils and will be the first steps upon any capacity building funding awarded. All hiring processes will adhere to their tribal employee hiring standards and applicable grant regulations requirements.

## Tribal Residence Decarbonization Program

Tribal residences represent approximately 25,361 MT CO2e of emissions per year throughout the UCUT member Tribes. This measure will provide capital to reduce emissions from residences, this will include installing energy-efficient heat-pumps, and improved equipment such as replacements to wood stoves, propane, and electric resistance heat in tribal residences throughout each of the UCUT member Tribes. Heating and cooling homes is quite energy intensive, and in most U.S. homes space heating is the largest consumer of energy, with water heating typically being the second. Heat-pumps are a more efficient heating and cooling system for regulating the air and water temperature in homes. There are also substantial added economic benefits for homeowners, and this program will significantly contribute to the overall goal of improving tribal members’ lives. It is worth noting that this program will be optional for tribal members, as it is acknowledged that there are significant cultural and aesthetic values associated with wood stoves, despite their potentially harmful emissions.

The installation of heat pumps and other more efficient systems will result in many co-benefits in addition to a reduction in GHGs. Co benefits include reduced energy consumption, reduced heating/cooling costs for tribal members, an improvement in air quality, and the addition of air conditioning in homes that didn’t have any. Many tribal homes currently utilize wood stoves for heating that pose a health risk regarding indoor and outdoor air quality. We anticipate that homeowners in each of the member Tribes will reduce their costs by ~$800 to $1,300 per year.

There are a few risks that could delay or hinder the implementation of this measure. The largest hurdle is the rate of adoption for the heat pump/wood stove equipment and skepticism around the benefits of the upgrades themselves. That is why part of the implementation funds within this measure will go towards a concerted effort to market the benefits of the equipment and the program overall to get buy-in from tribal members. One of the strategies is to have some of the ‘first adopters’ of a new air sourced heat pump be the tribal members who are in the apprenticeship program and are going to be installing the equipment in tribal members’ homes. This creates a powerful program ally and someone who can speak firsthand to the benefits of these upgrades as a peer rather than authority figure. The program implementation schedule assumes limited initial adoption, so a component of the first 24 months of the program will be marketing the benefits of it.

**Implementation Schedule:**

The implementation of this measure will involve direct participation from each of the Tribe’s planning/housing departments and staff. Many of the staff members in these departments are aware of strategies for implementing effective energy efficiency/decarbonization programs. However, these funds may also be used to contract subject matter experts, allow staff time to review protocols for these programs from the EPA and other sources, and receive technical assistance. Implementation authority will be coordinated with tribal households who qualify and sign up for the program. All contracting and procurement activities will adhere to tribal fiscal management policies and all applicable grant regulation requirements.

## Carbon Smart Transportation

The GHG inventory for the UCUT member Tribes revealed that if you don’t include the forestry sector, around 50% of total emissions were a result of transportation, especially employees commuting to workplaces such as tribal headquarters or casinos. Therefore, this measure will serve to reduce emissions caused by commutes by incorporating a variety of programs including a tribally funded rideshare program with a preference towards utilizing hybrid or electric vehicles (EVs) such as vans or buses. UCUT also intends to fund the replacement of appropriate tribal fleet vehicles with hybrid or EVs and install EV charging infrastructure for workplace, home, fleet, and public charging throughout tribal lands. Additionally, a “complete streets” program will also be included in this measure. This will focus on enhancing existing streets for non-motorized travel to improve safety and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and subsequently GHG emissions. The implementation of this measure will also include education of staff, integration of carbon smart bus routes, and engagement programs to increase knowledge and ridership.

These funding for this measure will be used to cover the costs of electric vehicles for tribal fleets, rideshare vehicles, and for all the associated costs of installing EV chargers including the chargers themselves, siting, permitting, construction, electrical work, etc. The purchase of these vehicles will be pursued in a cost-effective manner, leveraging bulk fleet purchasing programs and utilizing funding such as supplemental grants, tax rebates, and incentives where applicable. Additional funding will be used to pay for complete streets infrastructure, including but not limited to bike lanes, walking paths, sidewalks, improved street lighting, highway crossings, and stormwater drainage.

Additional benefits associated with this program will include reduced fuel/operational costs and improved air quality. These benefits will directly improve the air that community members breathe and will lead to a reduction in the negative health effects associated with poor air quality. The reduction in fuel and maintenance costs (e.g., less frequent oil and air filter changes) will also provide economic benefits to tribal government/enterprises, tribal members, and the overall community. Complete streets also provide additional benefits, including reduced fatal and serious crashes for all road users and improved accessibility and health due to an increase in non-motorized transportation.

Potential risks to this program include lower adoption rates for any enhanced public transit and fleet electrification.

**Implementation Schedule:**

The tribal departments and enterprises that would likely oversee the implementation of this measure would include fleet management, transit services, public works, development, and planning. Because many of the relevant tribal staff don’t have extensive knowledge of electric vehicles and the corresponding infrastructure, we plan to augment their participation with experienced electricians and subject matter experts. This may include providing training to tribal/community members so that they can independently maintain and implement any new infrastructure and programs. Therefore, the burden on the Tribes to develop their workforce is expected to be minimal unless there is a tribal preference to do so.

## Commercial and Industrial Decarbonization

According to UCUT’s GHG inventory, commercial buildings and industry represent approximately 18,279 MT CO2e of emissions. Therefore, the need for efficient and updated infrastructure throughout the reservations of UCUT member Tribes is significant. Currently, many buildings have outdated building systems and envelopes to the point where significant retrofits are needed to lower operational costs and provide occupant comfort. This decarbonization strategy will implement an energy efficiency program for all tribally owned commercial and industrial operations through energy audits, retro-commissioning, and retrofits/replacements.

Significant benefits beyond reducing climate pollution will be contributable to this measure as energy-efficient buildings will save money on utility bills, require less maintenance/operating costs, and aside from cost savings, will generally provide more comfortable and healthier spaces for occupants. The capital costs for this program will entail paying for energy audits and retro-commissioning to be performed by qualified engineers/experts to ensure the right changes are being implemented. This also includes paying for the recommended retrofits or replacements of outdated or inefficient lighting, HVAC, irrigation, insulation, windows, doors, etc. This program will be supplemented with other available state and federal funding such as rebates/incentives for replacing or retrofitting building equipment.

**Implementation Schedule:**

This program, like the vehicle electrification measure, may entail much of the work to be carried out by third party contractors that are experts in decarbonization or energy efficiency. The member Tribes that do have staff with relevant subject matter expertise are in high demand for other tribal priorities and may not have the capacity to focus solely on this measure. However, once again it will be up to each of the member Tribes how much they want to build up their workforce to take on implementation themselves.

## Waste Reduction Programs

This measure will include composting and recycling programs to reduce waste that leads to more GHG production and methane emissions from landfills. The focus of this program will be on diverting organic waste due to the methane emissions associated with the breakdown of organic materials and other factors.

Additional benefits include cost savings due to reduced disposal costs, and the conservation of resources that improves overall sustainability upstream and downstream. Additionally, the implementation of this measure may lead to a reduction in litter, which not only creates less of an eye sore, but also reduces environmental degradation. Many of the sources of food waste throughout the reservations, including tribal casinos, do not have existing composting infrastructure nearby. Therefore, some of the funding for this measure will go towards the design and capital costs to create organics management sites that allow for the Tribes to compost.

The primary equipment and infrastructure upgrades will be the purchase and installation of modular in-vessel composting units, such as the Earth Flow Intermodal (EFI) or similar systems. Modular in-vessel systems are more cost-effective than a standard system due to the speed of composting, a smaller footprint, and minimized labor required for operation. These systems generate high-quality compost and allow for full control of the composting process, and since it is a fully automated and enclosed steel vessel it limits pest and odor issues. These systems will require excavation, leveling, and the pouring of a concrete pad on a pre-determined site to give the systems a home. This pre-determined site will require utilities such as water and electricity, sufficient land for the pad as well as additional storage for excess material and equipment. Other considerations for equipment and infrastructure include the need for a grinder and screener for each of the separate composting operations.

One component of this measure will be to establish tracking and education to reduce both waste diversion rates and upstream sourcing of food waste as well. This will include funding to develop an integrated solid waste management plan (ISWMP), tracking waste via technology or other means, conducting waste audits, and establishing best practices by facilitating educational events and posting signage. Organics source reductions also result in over 3 MT of CO2e reduction for every 1 MT of organics, according to EPA’s WARM tool.

**Implementation Schedule:**

Each of the member Tribes has different strategies for managing waste, for some, there are dedicated departments such as public works and facilities, and for others, it is a hodge podge of municipal trash pick-up and other activities. It is anticipated that each of the member Tribes will have the authority to implement these programs to a certain scale, and third parties will be contracted where appropriate. Contracts need to be identified at the tribal staff level following their tribal fiscal management policies and all applicable grant procurement and contracting regulation requirements.

## Green Construction Standards

Green building standards help reduce negative impacts on the natural environment by using less water, energy, and other natural resources; employing renewable energy sources and eco-friendly materials; and reducing emissions and other waste. Therefore, the UCUT will support the development of a culturally focused community guidebook for new construction standards. This will include recommendations for building controls, envelopes, lighting, materials, heating/cooling, roads, pathways, safety implementation, and more with a focus on embodied carbon, energy efficiency, culturally valued resources, and resource use. Beyond the ability to significantly reduceGHG emissions, these practices can lead to improved indoor air quality, a reduction in waste, reduced utility bills, reduced water consumption, and buildings with minimal carbon footprints overall. These benefits are anticipated to be long-lasting due to the implementation of these practices in new construction and the fact that many of these recommendations will last for the life of a building.

The costs associated with this program will include compensating staff for research and development (R&D) time, contracting subject matter experts to ensure the appropriate practices are incorporated in the standards, and covering the costs of outreach to disseminate this information.

**Implementation Schedule:**

UCUT has established implementation authority to develop this type of program and can take the lead on distributing these standards to each of the member Tribes and beyond. Each Tribe’s project management, forestry, environmental, planning, cultural, and/or natural resources teams will be involved in efforts to develop this plan. Following their own fiscal management policy and all applicable grant agency procurement and contracting policies, UCUT will oversee hiring of subject matter experts to coordinate the effort and develop the plan.

## Unified Forest Management Plan

Sustainable forestry is a vital part of the fight against climate change, and therefore it was determined that this is an important measure to include. It is also particularly important to UCUT due to the native cultural values and the extremely large percentage of member Tribes’ emissions associated with forestry. This measure will fund the development of a unified forest management plan that incorporates Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and modern forest management practices to reduce the incidence of megafires, enhance carbon sinks, and maintain healthy forests.

Benefits associated with the many activities that may be included in the plan include improving the ecosystem, diversity, and resilience of forest systems which subsequently improves wildlife habitat, reduced erosion, improves water quality, improves drought resilience, and enhances biodiversity. There are also economic benefits associated with sustainable forestry including the potential revenue that can be generated from carbon offsets. Additionally, where carbon offsets aren’t offered the increased productivity and sustainability of the forests can increase the resource availability and lead to increased revenue over a longer period.Finally, this plan will also ensure that future generations can enjoy all the non-quantifiable benefits that forests and wildlife bring.

Potential risks to this plan’s implementation are mainly a lack of tribal support and different forest management departments whose buy-in is needed however that is why we have identified the plan creation, instead of the implementation of GHG reducing activities as the most appropriate next step.

**Implementation Schedule:**

Following their own fiscal management policies and applicable funding agency procurement and contracting regulations, UCUT will oversee all contracting for this collaborative effort between the UCUT members. This effort would bring the member Tribes’ forestry managers to the table to collaborate and work with their respective tribal Council’s and staff as needed during planning stages. UCUT has expertise and established implementation authority to develop and distribute this plan to each of the member Tribes and beyond.

# Demonstration of Funding Need

There is a significant need for CPRG funding for UCUT and its member Tribes to implement the measures included in this application. While there is federal and state funding that is applicable to some of these measures, it is a common theme that more capacity is required within the Tribes themselves to simply apply for, much less manage awards from multiple funding sources. This is the primary reason for including FTEs for a climate project manager within each of the Tribes in this application. Without such a position it would be extremely difficult if not impossible for each of the Tribes to manage and implement these projects and programs.

All things considered, UCUT will still be leveraging other funding sources to supplement the funding provided through CPRG implementation funds if awarded. The included measures were designed for cost-effectiveness and will utilize funding from sources such as supplemental grant programs, tax rebates, and incentives where applicable. Some of the funding sources that the individual member Tribes or UCUT have investigated and will be more capable of pursuing if awarded include the following:

* U.S. DoE Clean Energy Tax Credits
* Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program
* Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
* Energy Star energy-efficient Appliance upgrades
* Washington Electric Vehicle Charging Program (WAEVCP)
* Zero-emission Vehicle Infrastructure Partnerships (ZEVIP) Grant
* Zero-emissions Access Program Grants
* National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program
* New/Used Clean Vehicle Credits
* Volkswagen Clean Transportation Projects
* Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants
* Active Transportation Program (ATP)
* Relight Washington Program (LED)
* Complete Streets Award (CS)
* Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program
* Tribal Clean Energy Grants
* IRA Home Energy Rebates
* Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
* GHG Reduction Fund Solar for All
* IRA Community Change Grants
* Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program
* Waste Reduction and Recycling Education (WRRED) Grants Program
* USDA Solid Waste Management Grants
* Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Program Grants
* Indian Health Service Sanitation Deficiency Funding
* Washington’s Climate Commitment Act (CCA)
* Tribal Carbon Offset Assistance Program

Relevant funding has already been secured by some of the member Tribes from grant programs such as the Washington Electric Vehicle Charging Program (WAEVCP) that will fund the installation of some electric vehicle charging stations. The adoption of fully electric and hybrid vehicles can be significantly hindered by a lack of EV charging infrastructure and high up-front costs to replace old vehicles. This has been a concern expressed by multiple member Tribes, and WAEVCP funds are helping to begin laying the groundwork for fleet vehicle replacements/upgrades to EVs.

Other funding sources have limitations that make it difficult if not impossible for UCUT or the member Tribes to reasonably apply for. For example, the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) and the home energy rebate programs are largely for low-income households. Therefore, some of the member Tribes have decided not to apply for these programs as many of the tribal member’s residences that are low income have already taken advantage of similar programs. Subsequently the juice isn’t worth the squeeze for the administrative lift to apply for and manage a program that would only be applicable to a small number of tribal residences within the communities. Admittedly, this is a good problem to have, however, it doesn’t change the fact that efficiency and decarbonization upgrades will not take place if funding isn’t secured elsewhere.

Another factor influencing the need for funding is the introduction of Initiative 2117 in Washington state. This initiative could eliminate the funding that is being provided by Washington’s CCA carbon offsets market which includes multiple funding sources listed above such as the tribal carbon offset assistance program. The repeal of this law and the associated sources of funding would only exacerbate the need for CPRG funding for UCUT to actually implement the measures.

# Transformative Impact

The implementation of the identified measures is anticipated to have an immediate positive impact on the lives of tribal members and the communities of the Inland Northwest. The projects and programs put forth through this plan will not only lower emissions to combat climate change but will also highlight the positive economic gains that can be achieved through carbon smart practices. Often the most substantial barrier to these practices' adoption is the financial concerns associated with implementing new technologies or policies. Therefore, connecting the environmental benefits with the potential for positive returns on investment can help sway even the most skeptical parties involved. This can lead to more direct investment in projects that reduce GHG emissions and improve overall sustainability. For example, initiatives like installing more efficient heat pumps can save homeowners hundreds or even thousands of dollars on their yearly utility bills.

These programs will also increase the number of jobs available in these historically disadvantaged communities, which will serve to enhance the local economy not only in the immediate future but for generations to come. The new programs and technologies such as electric vehicle chargers, energy efficiency systems, new forest management practices, waste reduction programs, and more will require the formation of new jobs that are crucial to maintaining technology and overseeing/participating in these programs. The UCUT member Tribes will focus on the education and professional development of tribal and local community members to ensure these opportunities are benefiting their communities directly. These educational programs will also serve to disseminate more information about climate change and hopefully lead to more lasting positive change.

# Impact of GHG Reduction Measures

The GHG reduction measures in this application are expected to have a total of 89,033 MT CO2e of reductions between 2025 – 2030, and 316,866 MT CO2e reductions between 2025 – 2050. There is an emphasis on measures that have a significant transformative impact, are readily achievable with available technologies, and will result in both immediate and permanent GHG reductions.

All the GHG reductions are calculated to be as a direct result of CPRG funds, and not assumed to include other supplementary funding.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Cost** | **Short Term MT CO2e Reductions (2025-2030)** | **Cost Effectiveness of Short Term (2025-2030) GHG Reductions** | **Long Term MT CO2e Reductions (2025-2050)** |
| Capacity | $3,998,302 | \*Included Below\* | | |
| Residential Decarbonization | $20,570,000 | 27,390 | $751/MT CO2e | 152,166 |
| Carbon Smart Transportation | $9,234,705 | 19,452 | $475/MT CO2e | 33,109 |
| Commercial and Industrial Building Decarbonization | $8,846,000 | 24,430 | $362/MT CO2e | 72,387 |
| Residential & Commercial Compost Program | $5,351,034 | 17,761 | $301/MT CO2e | 59,204 |
| Green Building Codes & Unified Forest Management Plan | $1,000,000 | Plan development required in order to know GHG reductions and cost effectiveness. | | |
| **Total** | **$49,000,042** | **89,033 MT CO2e** | **$550/MT CO2e** | **316,866 MT CO2e** |

## Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025-2030

These measures, once implemented, are expected to reduce 89,033 MT CO2e between 2025 – 2030. This value accounts for each measure having to “scale-up” to its full GHG reduction potential. A full breakdown of the annual scaling by measure is included in the GHG emission reduction calculation spreadsheet.

## Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025-2050

These measures, once implemented, are expected to reduce 316,866 MT CO2e between 2025 – 2050. This represents a conservative estimate for both the period of performance and permanence of reductions. Because of the significant focus on capacity and program building, UCUT expects (but does not presume in this application) that these reductions will continue long after persistence of savings period.

## Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions

The above measures have varying levels of cost effectiveness but are all believed to be aligned with general program performance of similar programs but are still tailored and unique to UCUT implementing them.

## Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions

Estimates for GHG reductions associated with the measures in the application were completed using a combination of methodologies and tools and were careful to not overestimate GHG reduction potential. Overall program costs and GHG emissions reductions were checked for accuracy using comparable programs run by California Climate Investments (CCI) and their program history.

Background assumptions:

* There were no emissions projections or forecasts done in the PCAP. Therefore, all GHG reduction estimates are directly from the 2022 GHG inventory baseline.
* The 2022 GHG inventory baseline was developed using the EPA’s Tribal Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool.
* GHG reduction projects will prioritize the known and tribally prioritized projects that can quickly accomplish CPRG program goals and result in the most immediate GHG reductions.
* All technologies included in these measures are widely used and market-available as UCUT is prioritizing implementation-ready GHG reduction measures.

Residential Decarbonization: GHG Emissions reductions were assumed to come from a % reduction in GHG’s from electricity reductions and reductions in wood fuel consumption. New equipment was assumed to have a rated useful life (and therefore timeframe of GHG reductions) of 15 years. We intend for this program to affect over 2,000 tribal members’ homes, and result in significant GHG reductions from heat pump installations and wood stove upgrades. California’s Wood Stove Changeout Calculator was used to quantify GHG and CAP/HAP reductions for a program that upgrades or changes out 500 wood stoves. Additional GHG savings would be from the upgrades of baseboard electric heat resulting in significant efficiency gains.

Carbon Smart Transportation: Recognizing that the five individual UCUT tribes all have different needs, we did not estimate emissions reductions with very specific activities such as the exact amount of gasoline or diesel fuel combustion by installing an EV charger or purchasing a new fleet vehicle. Rather, we took a more holistic approach to include the many programs that could be run under the carbon smart transportation umbrella and analyzed their real-world cost effectiveness in the CCI program. We assumed that there would be a combination of a number of different GHG reduction technologies and methods within this sector. We do know that this GRM would go directly towards reducing GHGs in a number of priority sectors such as employee commuting, government fleets, and personal vehicles. Recognizing the significant capital costs associated with infrastructure upgrades or development, we assumed that only a small portion of these funds would go towards that.

Commercial and Industrial Building Decarbonization: Similar to the transportation measure, we did not take an overly prescriptive approach to estimating the exact activities throughout the reservations that would be reducing GHG emissions. Rather, we used estimates on similar program costs & an average of a 4-year payback period to estimate the amount of GHG reductions that could be achieved with a given dollar amount. This allows for an achievable goal for emissions reductions while allowing each UCUT member tribe to determine the most impact *and* best fit commercial decarbonization projects.

Residential & Commercial Compost Program: Since there is limited existing organics management infrastructure throughout the UCUT member tribes’ reservations, a significant portion of the capital costs for this program are for the creation or improvement upon composting facilities. Once those composting sites are created, UCUT can take a targeted approach to both composting food waste and reducing source organics. For this measure we used the EPA’s WARM tool to calculate both a GHG emissions baseline and estimated reductions from a program that will result in a 35% source reduction , 35% diversion to composting, and 30% remaining still going to the landfill. This would be targeted to tribal casinos and restaurants, as these are the largest food waste sources on the reservations, and represent conservative estimates on both source reduction and diversion to composting, which makes these GHG reductions very acheivable for UCUT with these funds.

{See the Technical Appendix for further details}

# Expected Outputs and Outcomes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Measure* | *Outputs* | *Outcomes* |
| *Implementation Capacity Building* | Providing high quality jobs within each of the member Tribes | Increased capacity within UCUT and the member Tribes to allow them to implement all the measures below |
| *Tribal Residence Decarbonization Program* | Auditing and upgrading up to 2,000 tribal residences | -Improved energy efficiency in homes  -Reduction of GHG emissions and co-pollutants such as black carbon  -Reduction in reliance on fossil fuels  -Cost savings  -Air quality improvements |
| *Carbon Smart Transportation* | -Fleet vehicle replacements  -Rideshare programs  -Installation of EV charging infrastructure  -Implementing “complete streets” | -Reduction in gasoline/diesel bills, GHG emissions, co-pollutants, hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) such as benzene, reliance on fossil fuels, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and vehicle related injuries  -Cost savings  -Air quality improvements |
| *Commercial and Industrial Decarbonization* | -Energy audits and retro commissioning of tribally owned buildings  -Upgrading inefficient/outdated building systems | -Improved energy efficiency and air quality for buildings  -Reduction of GHG emissions, co-pollutants, and reliance on fossil fuels  -Cost savings  -Comfortability improvements for building tenants/staff |
| *Waste Reduction Programs* | The implementation of composting and recycling programs focused on diversion of waste | -Reduction in methane emissions  -Cost savings associated with reduced disposal costs  -Reduced environmental degradation |
| *Green Construction Standards* | The creation of green construction standards applicable to all member tribes | If implemented:  -Improved air quality, energy efficiency, and safety  -Reductions in natural resource usage, waste materials, and embodied carbon  -New buildings with minimal carbon footprints overall |
| *Unified Forest Management Plan* | The creation of a unified forest management plan applicable to all member tribes | If implemented:  -Reduction in mega fires, erosion, GHG emissions, and other co-pollutants such as black carbon or particle pollution  -Unquantifiable benefits associated with outdoor recreation  -Improved air quality, water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, drought resilience, and overall forest health  -Enhanced carbon sinks  -Potential revenue generation through carbon offsets or increased resource availability |

# Performance Measures and Plan

During and after the implementation of the listed measures it will be extremely important that senior management, the tribal communities, and all affected parties stay directly engaged in this plan. This is due to the importance of maintaining involvement to ensure proper implementation authority, workforce development, and tracking of performance metrics. Some of the metrics used to track each of the measures are included within each section for the individual measures in the PCAP, and significant efforts will be made to ensure accurate tracking of progress. This will include data gathering, studies, surveys, community feedback, data analysis, and other similar methods. Specific performance measures to be tracked are as follows:

* The number of heat pumps installed in tribal residences
* Number of audits and RCx performed
* Number of fleet vehicles electrified
* Number of EV charging stations installed
* Number of tribal members/staffs trained
* Number of high-quality jobs created

The next step for participation in the planning phase of the PCRG program will be the delivery of a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). This plan will build off the processes and measures defined in the PCAP, including expanding on the engagement activities, the GHG emissions projections and targets, workforce planning, and other topics that warrant additional elaboration. Going forward UCUT will continue to collaborate with member Tribes and partners to ensure proper preparation and engagement for the implementation of these measures.

# Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones

The five Tribes of the Upper Columbia River came together to form the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) in 1982 to provide a common voice for their region. UCUT’s role is to administer their collaboration and implement the Tribe’s plans to ensure they reach their goals of protecting and enhancing natural resources and ensuring a healthy future for their people.

UCUT has 7 staff members who work with the 5 Tribes, and they are overseen by a Commission of Tribal Council members delegated by each Tribe’s Council. UCUT has been given the authority to apply for funding, manage and develop projects, and assist each Tribe in implementing projects through fund management and contract procurement. UCUT is currently overseeing the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for the Tribes by working with the delegated environmental representatives from each Tribe to develop the Climate Action Plans required by the grant. Should the CPRG Implementation Grant be awarded to UCUT, they will also manage the distribution of funding and work with each Tribe to implement the projects applied for. UCUT will oversee the execution of all CPRG meetings, goals, and grant reporting. UCUT has received and successfully implemented many federal awards over the years and has full implementation authority following its approved policies and procedures.

Implementation: Each Tribe will oversee the hiring of its own Climate Project Manager. Departments within each of the member Tribes will likely be involved in the implementation of measures. These departments and the potential associated activities may include but will not be limited to the following:

* Planning Departments: Will facilitate community engagement activities and outreach.
* Environmental/Natural Resources/Forestry Departments: Will assist in the development and implementation of the Unified Forest Management Plan.
* Tribal Social Services Departments: Work to implement the decarbonization measures in tribal homes.
* Housing Departments: Work with other departments to identify tribal member homes for Tribal Residence Decarbonization.
* Facilities Maintenance Departments: Work with other departments and contractors to implement building electrification audits, fleet vehicle replacements, EV charging station installation, and workforce training.
* Administration: Provide oversight of all Council approval processes, hiring activities, financial tracking, and reporting requirements.

**Coeur D’Alene Tribe (Reserved in 1873)**

Government: The Coeur D’Alene Tribe was federally recognized in 1949 and is governed by a 7-member elected Tribal Council. The Council reports directly to the general membership, or General Council, made up of the currently enrolled 2,600 tribal members. The tribal government has created its own codes and laws to govern their 345k acres of lands and has full authority to create and implement those codes and laws. The tribal government has established its own fiscal management policies to adhere to generally accepted accounting principles and is more than capable of managing federal awards and adhering to the grant requirements set by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Hiring: The Tribe oversees all hiring of their own staff utilizing a Human Resources Department.

Workforce Development: Coeur D’Alene has established their own Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) which will assist in development of climate related skills training and collaboration with local educational institutions. Their goal is to ensure fair employment of Indians on or near their reservation and prevent discrimination against their people in any employment practices by employers on or near their reservation.

**The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Reserved in 1872)**

The Confederated Colville Tribes were federally recognized in 1938. As a federally recognized sovereign government, the Colville Business Council has full authority to create and implement policies on their land. Made up of 14 elected tribal members, the Colville Business Council is representative of four legislative districts: Omak, Nespelem, Keller, and Inchelium. Having adopted their own codes and policies, including financial management policies, the tribal government has full capability and authority to manage funding and implement projects planned as a part of the CPRG.

Hiring: Utilizing their Human Resources Department, the Colville Tribe has full implementation authority to hire required staff to complete CPRG projects.

Workforce Development: The Tribe has an award winning TERO that will ensure that skills trainings are available to Colville Tribal members as they become available and can coordinate with any efforts from local educational institutions in connecting them with members in need of workforce training. The TERO will also ensure that members of the Tribe are employed first, upon any new contract work on the reservation.

**Kalispel Tribe (Reserved in 1875)**

Kalispel Tribe was federally recognized as a sovereign government on March 23, 1941. Present day, they have a Tribal Council made up of 7 members of the Tribe who report to the general membership, or General Council. The Tribal Council is given full authority to implement the Tribe’s sovereign rights over their lands held in fee and in trust. Having adopted their own fiscal management policies, the Tribal Council also has the full capability to accept and manage federal funding, adhering to all applicable grant regulations.

Hiring: Utilizing their Human Resources Department and any pre-approved grant funded capacity budgets, the Kalispel Tribe has full implementation authority to hire required staff to complete CPRG projects.

Workforce Development: Kalispel provides quality jobs and training to all its employees and will work with any educational institutes to assist in CPRG training development. The Tribe will be supported by the agreements made with UCUT for workforce skills education and development.

**Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (Reserved in 1974)**

The Kootenai Tribe is a sovereign nation governed by a 9 member Tribal Council elected by the enrolled members of the Tribe. The Kootenai Tribal Council is authorized through the Tribe’s Constitution to develop and implement codes and laws for their members and has full authority over all lands owned by the Kootenai people.

Hiring: The Kootenai Tribe has a human resources head that will handle all hiring needs within the CPRG project implementation.

Workforce Development: Kootenai provides quality jobs and training to all their employees and will work with any educational institutes to assist in CPRG training development. The Tribe will be supported by the agreements made with UCUT for workforce skills education and development.

**Spokane Tribe of Indians (Reserved in 1881)**

Spokane Tribe of Indians is a sovereign government body, federally recognized in 1951, led by the 5-member elected Spokane Tribal Business Council which ultimately reports to the General Membership, also called the General Council, of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The Spokane Tribal Council and Administration have full implementation authority over all Spokane Tribal owned lands and works well with the local fisheries, land managers, and government agencies in project development and management.

Hiring: Spokane Tribal Government has a Human Resources Department that will handle all hiring needs for the CPRG project implementation.

Workforce Development: Spokane Tribal TERO is dedicated to lifting their members up into quality jobs and has the resources to assist in any workforce training coordination efforts.

In addition to the current staffing/capacity within UCUT and each of the member tribes, including their organizations and departments, it will also be necessary to work with contractors who have subject matter expertise to implement some of these measures. For example, contractors such as electricians and engineers may be required for energy efficiency, weatherization, electric vehicle charger installation, and other related activities. It is intended that contracts will include workforce development activities and require that contractors are not performing all the necessary steps for implementation, but also training tribal members and staff so that they can eventually lead implementation without the need for contractors.

**Capacity Building Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 1** | * Review and approve job descriptions * Create space for new employees and procure office equipment * Post job and hire new employees * The onboarding process for new employees will include orientation, a tour of departments, introduction to workforce development partners, and training applicable to projects hired to implement * Begin collaboration with applicable departments to implement CPRG projects |

**Residence Decarbonization Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 1** | * Receive distribution of funding from UCUT * Begin gathering data from Housing Departments to determine residential outreach strategy * Design project based on how many houses per Tribe * Create RFP with UCUT for residential housing auditor * Begin engagement outreach to enlist residences that would like to participate in the program |
| **Year 2-5** | * Begin procurement of equipment needed for retrofitting each home * Retrofit homes * Track equipment purchases and installs to calculate emissions reductions in final report |

**Carbon Smart Transportation Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 1** | * Receive distribution of funding from UCUT * Begin gathering data from all tribal departments to determine how many vehicles are eligible for upgrade/replacement * Work with Tribal Council and Enterprises to identify key locations for installation of EV charging stations and types of chargers needed * Create strategy for the implementation of the transition * Create RFP with UCUT for EV charging installation * Hire EV contractor to install charging stations |
| **Year 2** | * Begin procurement of equipment needed for EV installation * Install EV charging stations |
| **Year 3-5** | * Begin the procurement process to replace eligible vehicles * Track vehicles replaced and purchased to calculate emissions reductions in the final report |

**Building Decarbonization Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 1** | * Receive distribution of funding from UCUT * Begin gathering data from all departments and Tribal Council to determine eligible buildings for energy upgrades * Prioritize buildings based on energy efficiency and emissions * Finalize project strategy with building managers and facilities * Create RFP with UCUT for energy auditor (if this work out to be the same as the residential auditor, that will eliminate this step) * Provide a strategic plan to Tribal Council for consensus |
| **Year 2-5** | * Begin procurement of equipment needed for retrofitting each building * Retrofit buildings per the strategic plan * Track equipment purchases and installs to calculate emissions reductions in the final report |

**Waste Reduction Program Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 1** | * Receive distribution of funding from UCUT * Gather data for waste expenditures and weight/tonnage * Prepare RFP with UCUT to hire a contractor for infrastructure design and engineering |
| **Year 2-5** | * Implement equipment and infrastructure for organics collection * Track all equipment purchased and installations * Gather data each year to compare costs and weight reductions |

**Green Construction Standards Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 1** | * Receive distribution of funding from UCUT * Analyze current building standards applicable to the Tribe * Create scope and define the need for contracted experts with UCUT * Post RFP and hire a contractor * Identify key personnel to include on a building committee, including the applicable UCUT team members |
| **Year 2** | * Hire contractor to create strategy and host regular meetings * Analyze building standards * Research climate impacts * Research cultural values of each Tribe |
| **Year 3** | * Create draft building standards * Submit final draft building standards to each UCUT Council’s for review and approval |
| **Year 4 and beyond** | * Begin implementation of new green building standards for all new construction |

**Forest Management Plan Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 2** | * Receive distribution of funding from UCUT * Design scope of work for RFP with UCUT * Post RFP * Hire a contractor to oversee the development of the Unified Forest Management Plan |
| **Year 3** | * Research history of forestry in UCUT U&A * Analyze current forest management plans from all UCUT member Tribes * Develop strategy and host regular meetings * Research climate impacts * Research cultural values of each Tribe |
| **Year 4** | * Develop draft UFMP * Submit final draft to each UCUT Council for review and resubmit with any requested changes * Approve UFMP |
| **Year 4 and beyond** | * Each Tribe’s Forestry Department or delegated department to begin implementation of the UFMP |

# Community Benefits

The implementation of the identified measures would have a significant positive impact on low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC). We expect to see the most substantial benefits within each of the UCUT member Tribes’ reservations and the communities within and surrounding the following census tracts:

* 53047940200 (Colville Reservation)
* 53047940100 (Colville Reservation)
* 53019940000 (Colville Reservation)
* 53065941000 (Spokane Reservation)
* 53051970200 (Encompasses the Kalispel Reservation)
* 16055940000 (Coeur d’Alene Reservation)
* 16009940000 (Coeur d’Alene Reservation)
* 16021970100 (Encompasses the Kootenai Reservation/Trust Land)
* 16021970200 (Encompasses the Kootenai Reservation/Trust Land)

These census tracts make up the entirety of member Tribes’ reservations or encompass them. Every single one of these census tracts are identified as disadvantaged and meet the criteria for being designated as low income. Other disparities identified in these tracts include the following:

* Level of inhalable particles (PM2.5) in the air
* Higher instances of heart disease, asthma, and diabetes
* Expected population/building loss rate
* Projected wildfire risk
* Projected flood risk
* Lack of indoor plumbing
* Energy cost
* Legacy pollution from formerly used defense sites and proximity to superfund sites
* Transportation barriers (average of relative cost and time spent on transportation)
* Low rates of high school education
* High rates of unemployment

The implementation of the selected measures will lead to meaningful positive change within these communities and beyond. As a matter of fact, implementation would directly affect many if not all the disparities identified above. Some examples include the decreased negative health effects associated with poor forest management as this can directly lead to wildfire risk, increased amount of PM 2.5, asthma, and other related health conditions. Additionally, multiple measures will serve to improve energy efficiency and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels that will not only lead to a reduction in GHG emissions and improvements in air quality, but also considerable cost-savings due to reductions in utility bills for tribal residences and tribally owned buildings.

Another significant benefit to the community will be the creation of new high-quality jobs and workforce training opportunities. A concerted focus while developing UCUT’s climate action plan was on workforce development and increasing capacity within the Tribes and their communities. Implementation will entail developing a workforce development program for tribal members to develop necessary skills for the installation and maintenance of the new technology that is deployed on tribal land and in tribal homes. UCUT has already begun to initiate partnerships with organizations that have experience in workforce development and can assist in these activities. The workforce development partners that have submitted a letter of support for this application include the Gonzaga, Spokane Community College, UW School of Public Health’s Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. An example of how this program and these partnerships will provide benefits includes the training of tribal members in the upkeep of electric vehicles (EVs) and EV chargers. In fact, Spokane Community College has recently added EV maintenance and repair training to its automotive technology program and may potentially offer this to tribal members at low to no cost due to other supplemental grant funding!

Potential disbenefits or hurdles affecting the implementation of the selected measures may include issues regarding electrifying fleet vehicles in remote areas with very cold winters. There have been some concerns surrounding the adoption of fully electric vehicles (EVs) due to the current lack of charging infrastructure in tribal communities and the effects of cold weather on EV batteries. While we acknowledge this as a legitimate concern, especially in rural/remote areas where staff needs to frequently travel long distances, we believe these issues can be easily resolved. The plan to mitigate these concerns is to spend a significant amount of time in the first year or so of implementation socializing these ideas and further educating the community on this new technology. Additionally, the plan for the transportation measure is to separate implementation into multiple phases. This will start with socialization and installation of the charging infrastructure over the first year or so, then adopting EVs and replacing fleet vehicles after the infrastructure is more robust and can support fleet vehicle charging needs.

# Community Engagement

The community engagement plan that is supplemental to this application highlights an overall goal of identifying and engaging the individuals and organizations impacted by the UCUT member Tribes’ climate planning efforts. All the Census tracts within the UCUT territories have been deems as disadvantaged communities. We have had several community members on staff from the Tribal Governments Environmental, Natural Resources, Forestry, and Planning Departments working with us in developing the Priority Climate Action Plan and they are ready to continue working on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. The four key priorities for engagement are:

* To communicate and provide awareness of the climate planning process through utilization of the web, social media, outreach at local events, media outlets, and newsletters.
* To identify and provide contributors and partners meaningful opportunities to engage in the decision-making process for climate action planning by creating and overseeing surveying of the communities, hosting virtual and in-person events, and utilizing local collaborative meetings with community partners.
* To facilitate Tribes’ understanding of the co-benefits of their climate plans by ramping up the collaborative efforts through CPRG plan development such as a unified forest management plan.
* To assist member Tribes in prioritizing climate action activities such as community dinners, outreach tables with surveys, and storytelling.

Community Engagement has been carried out in phases starting with the initial engagement, implementation plan development, then solicitation of initial community feedback, and next, through reporting to the communities and continued engagement throughout the CCAP.

The process to date:

1. Identifying partners and contributors with each member Tribe through a mapping activity which assists in determining the level and type of communication and engagement for each type of partner and contributor.
2. Conducting surveys of staff to identify key priorities and current environmental and climate-related programs to ensure added value and eliminate duplicate efforts.
3. Finalizing the engagement plan to include strategies to reach each tribal community utilizing their respective Tribes’ resources and best practices.

Next steps:

1. Reporting on engagement activity results to the CCAP development team.
2. Regular reporting on engagement activities for quarterly grant reports.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated The purpose of this process is to ensure the right type of communication and engagement opportunities are offered to each Tribe’s partners and contributors. A highly detailed engagement plan has been developed for each Tribe and for UCUT and can be found in the attached documents to this application but here are the planned activities to date, specific to UCUT’s CCAP development and engagement activities.

Each Tribe has developed their own version of engagement with their communities that is in direct alignment with UCUT’s and will be hosting at least 2 community outreach events to include at least 1 meal, if feasible, and planning activities.

* Coeur D’Alene Tribe has over 2,190 members and manages 345k acres of land. The Coeur D’Alene Tribe will be hosting an in-person outreach event in the Spring and again in the Spring of 2025. They will utilize their social media platforms to educate and disseminate information to their community with a focus on reducing hostility toward climate change. In naming partners and contributors to their climate projects, they focused a lot of attention to those who have legal rights of way to roads connecting to their project locations, educators for workforce development, and Marimn, their top-of-the-line healthcare center.
* Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are spread out across four legislative districts: Omak, Nespelem, Keller, and Inchelium which encompasses ~1.4 million acres of land and serves 9,290 members. Staff are planning to provide updates to the CPRG project at least bi-monthly at each district’s regular meetings. Tribal staff are planning to attend already scheduled events in their communities to perform outreach activities. Currently they are aiming at hosting an outreach station at the Earth Day Expo but as backup, they will look at the Sunflower Festival. Staff will create mailers to include CPRG educational flyers, surveys, QR codes, prize entries, and Colville’s specific project updates. In the Spring of 2025, staff will host a traditional dinner and present the CCAP to their members, opening the event with a traditional storyteller, if possible.
* Kalispel Tribe has already begun community engagement with a survey in January 2024 and utilized that information as input toward their PCAP projects. With 400 members and managing ~5k acres of land, the Kalispel Tribal staff are planning to perform community outreach at several locations throughout their CCAP development, such as basketball games, elder’s meals and meetings, and plan to revive 2 events they felt were great sources of community engagement; the tenant bingo event and the youth workshops. They will host a community outreach dinner in the Spring of 2025 to present the projects focused on in the CCAP and gather community input. Future partners they are focused on are their utility company, the Camas Learning Center for workforce development, and their enterprises.
* With a small membership of 150 and approximately 2,200 acres of land, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho will provide an online community outreach event in the Spring of 2024 and distribute CCAP project information to the community using email, bulletins, social media, and for partners, the KVRI meetings. Texting is also an option with their close-knit community. They will also plan to do another outreach event in Spring of 2025 but will utilize their experience with the 2024 event to decide whether an online event or in person event might work. Partners include the City of Bonners Ferry and Boundary County; both members of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative.
* The Spokane Tribe has 2,700 members and manages 159,000 acres of land. They will host community outreach through multiple venues such as basketball games and elder’s meetings that will include surveys and direct contact with community members. They plan to participate in a social media drip campaign to educate their community on climate impacts and provide updates to the work they are doing. The drip campaign will also be able to inform the community through their local newsletter, the Raw Hyde Press. They will host a community meal in Spring of 2025 to share their CCAP work and gather community input.

# Job Quality

UCUT has garnered the support of multiple education institutes, such as Gonzaga, Spokane Community College, UW School of Public Health’s Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, which you will find letters of support from attached to this grant application. These entities are poised to assist through collaboration to develop and provide quality skills training to the UCUT members. One example of an idea developed through initial partnering conversations was facilitating training workshops at locations within tribal communities and they may even have the resources to supply electric vehicle engines for training purposes.

In addition to the partnerships being fostered outside of the Tribes, UCUT member Tribes have Tribal Employment Rights Offices (TEROs) devoted to assisting tribal members in connecting with skills training and jobs under approved ordinances. They regularly ensure that contract work occurring on their reservations adheres to TERO regulations which require all contractors to find labor within the TERO skills pools first. Furthermore, UCUT has received support from the University of WA’s Northwest School of Public Health to assist with any safety training for CPRG workforce development and the Clean Energy Technical Advisory Council for further quality and equitable workforce development resources.

As conversations unfold, a tribal workforce coalition is being discussed as a new transformative impact goal specific to tribal CPRG projects. This coalition could create a strategic plan to train tribal members in their local areas to develop skills related to the maintenance of charging stations, building upgrades, implementation of forest management practices, and any other skills related to the implementation of the selected measures.

# Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

The organizational structure of UCUT consists of a commission with members representing each of the member Tribes including commission alternates/delegates. The commission appoints a chair, vice-chair(s), and a secretary/treasurer to lead the commission and establish clear authority. The next level of authority consists of senior managers and the executive director, who facilitate the implementation of the many projects that UCUT is responsible for. The rest of the organization is made up of individuals and committees with specific responsibilities encompassing varying responsibilities and programs such as wildlife, fisheries, forestry, cultural resources, and data management. This clearly defined organizational structure allows UCUT to operate in an efficient and effective way that is conducive to managing large grant awards.

## Past Performance

UCUT has been the recipient of several major funding awards from federal sources, and UCUT has been able to successfully complete and manage these agreements by fulfilling all the associated deliverables and reporting requirements. Below are some examples, but please note this is not a comprehensive list:

**Title:** UCUT- Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant

**Assistance Number:** 66.046

**Listing Number:** EPA-R-OAR-CPRG-23-1

**Brief Description:** The agreement provides funding under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to the Upper

Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) to develop a comprehensive, economy-wide climate mitigation plan or update an existing plan that will support actions to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and harmful air pollutants. UCUT will lead the climate mitigation efforts of the member tribes, including the Spokane Tribe of Indians, Colville Confederated Tribes, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Coeur d’Alene Tribe.

**Contact:** Andrea Bennett

**Title:** Upper Columbia United Tribes FY24 EPA GAP

**Assistance Number:** 66.926

**Listing Number:** EPA-CEP-02

**Brief Description:** Support UCUT member Tribes to implement General Assistance Program (GAP) and

associated EPA Tribal Environmental Plan priorities. Increase Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) member's capacity as it relates to their knowledge base and advance their capabilities to implement their priorities.

**Contact:** David Herrick

**Title:** Upper Columbia United Tribes – Toxics Reduction Lead

**Assistance Number:** 66.962

**Listing Number:** EPA-I-R10-OW-CRBRP-2023-01

**Brief Description:** UCUT intends to build on the foundation laid by the EPA, Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan. We propose to develop and facilitate a portfolio of on-the-ground projects addressing pathways that source and transfer toxins into and through the Upper Columbia River Basin.

## Reporting Requirements

The UCUT has a stellar track record on delivering adequate and timely reports on our progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements. UCUT has successfully submitted acceptable final technical reports under our agreements without missing any deadlines or requirements. Some of UCUT’s previously funded projects have been reauthorized for over 15 years and continue to receive clean annual audits that demonstrate the ability to meet funding obligations.

UCUT’s agreements cited have not resulted in journal publications or author manuscripts. UCUT has produced associated underlying scientific research data and metadata, resulting from those agreements and that information has all been made publicly accessible, unless it contained culturally sensitive data. UCUT will include examples in the attached documents of past reports related to these funds. If the EPA would like more to review, as some of them are large files, please let us know and we will be happy to provide them.

## Staff Expertise

UCUT has an exceptional team with a strong record of delivering results and is well prepared to achieve the objectives of the proposed activities. UCUT is also supported by incredible teams within the member Tribes’ organizations that are recognized leaders in protecting the natural resources of the region. The UCUT Environmental Committee has led the CPRG process for the organization, facilitating information gathering and dissemination to the entities impacted by this process and the resulting decisions. UCUT staff are exceptionally well qualified and have the expertise to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed activities.

**DR Michel, UCUT Executive Director**: DR has acted as the UCUT ED for 15 years. DR previously served for several years on the Colville BusinessCouncil-Inchelium District. DR was appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the Natural Resource Committee. He has provided leadership in the Teck Cominco litigation, FCRPS Biological Opinion for the Columbia River, Harvest Agreement between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Colville Confederated Tribes (Non-treaty harvest allocation), and the mid-Columbia Habitat Conservation Plans. DR has lived and worked in the Upper Columbia Basin his entire life and he has built strong partnerships. DR is recognized throughout the basin as a strong leader who understands the complexities of the issues our region faces and is committed to meaningful advances in natural resource protections for the benefit of all.

**Marc Gauthier, UCUT Wildlife Program Manager, and Environment Working Group Lead**: Marc has extensive experience in implementing projects and programs. He manages and continues to implement a large-scale monitoring and evaluation program which includes 44 survey sites per year on all 5 UCUT member Tribes lands and he has been an integral part of several wildlife restoration efforts which include the return of Bighorn Sheep, Pronghorn, and Canada Lynx to the UCUT territory. He also oversees contractors that assist with data collection and annual report delivery. Marc has worked to ensure the monitoring and evaluation program provides maximum benefit to member Tribes and helped to create a model for the region. In addition, Marc has worked on several water quality related efforts and projects including a UCUT fish tissue testing project, initiating, and hosting the ongoing UCUT Transboundary Mining Conference, and the completion of a 5-year aerial herbicide study. Marc has also completed the EPA Water Quality Standards Academy for Tribes.

**Laura Robinson, UCUT Policy Analyst**: Laura brings a wealth of expertise to the UCUT team. She has extensive experience in natural resources policy development and analysis, project management, strategic planning and building partnerships. Laura manages a $3.5 million program budget, including developing contracts, and interviewing, selecting, and managing contractors. In recent years, Laura has written four grant proposals and sought four cost-share opportunities resulting in acquisition of 100% of requested funds, bringing in over $4 million new funds for UCUT’s 2020-2023 fiscal year budgets.

**Cody Thomas, UCUT Timber, Fish, and Wildlife Policy Coordinator/Analyst**: Cody has valuable experience and expertise to support timely and successful achievement of our objectives. Cody works with member Tribes as well as other caucuses and stakeholders to analyze research, develop policy proposals, and solve problems in the Adaptive Management Program. He manages the Timber Fish and Wildlife Program and associated budget for UCUT. Cody has built strong partnerships and has a proven track record of bringing people together to advance the program's priorities.

**Lori Rothrock, UCUT Office Manager**: Lori brings over two decades of service at UCUT and extensive experience in fiscal oversight and budget management. Lori has been instrumental in helping UCUT maintain compliance with any applicable reporting requirements and has ensured that UCUT received clean audits for several years in a row.

**Caroline Keever, UCUT Environmental Manager:** Caroline was born and raised in Manhattan Beach, California, but has spent the last eight years living in Spokane. She recently earned her Law degree (J.D.) from Gonzaga University, focusing on conservation and water issues. Caroline comes to UCUT with experience working with the Forest Service as a Hydrology Technician in the Colville National Forest, Earth Law Center on Snake River litigation, and Spokane Riverkeeper on Clean Water Defense. In her free time, Caroline enjoys hiking, playing beach volleyball, and continuing to learn the craft of fly fishing.

**Ronald Jerome White Jr, Environmental Coordinator:** Jerry has had a passion for Rivers and fish since he was taught to fish for salmon in the Willamette River with his grandfather. Jerry went on to be Executive Director for the Spokane Riverkeeper, where he worked for a decade to protect the Spokane River, collaborate with the Upper Columbia Tribes, and advocate for the larger community. Jerry has lived with his wife for 25 years a stone’s throw from the waters and trout of the Spokane River and regularly boats, swims, and fishes the River.

The team strives to understand and accommodate climate-related priorities from key partners and contributors. Therefore, the team is collaborating with utilities, tribal enterprises, and other organizations that will be impacted by any implementation projects. This will allow for efficient collaboration and ensures there are no surprises that directly impact the operations of affected organizations.