



Snoqualmie Indian Tribe's Water is Alive ArcGIS Hub

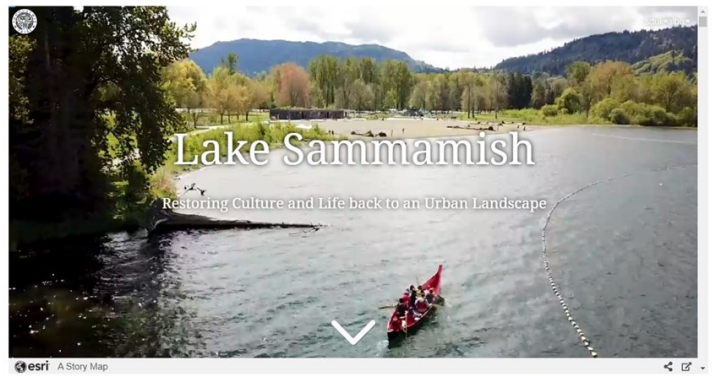
By Kelsey Payne, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Water Quality Manager

The *ʔəshəliʔ ti qʷuʔ* (Water is Alive) ArcGIS Hub is a desktop digital collaborative educational platform for the Snoqualmie Tribe and external organizations. It provides a space to engage the community, share geographic information on water quality, and tribal projects centered around environmental stewardship. Collaborators include Snoqualmie Tribe staff from the Environmental and Natural Resources Department, the Communications Department, and the Government Affairs and Special Projects Department.

At the start of the project, the idea for the hub came from a collaboration between the Snoqualmie Tribe and Bellevue College. The Tribe worked with professors from Bellevue College Chemistry Department to design a new curriculum to include a citizen science project collecting water samples in and around Lake Sammamish, a culturally significant site for the Snoqualmie people. To ensure students understood the importance of this work to the Snoqualmie Tribe, and the cultural importance of clean water for both wildlife and people, the Tribe created the *ʔəshəliʔ ti qʷuʔ* Hub.

Lake Sammamish - Restoring Culture to an Urban Landscape

This StoryMap gives an overview of the Snoqualmie Tribe's presence and history in the region. The Snoqualmie Tribe has maintained Snoqualmie life-ways that are in connection with the land's natural balance. At the center of this story is the Tribe's connection to Lake Sammamish and the ongoing work that is being done to restore the lake's natural habitat.



Water is Alive ArcGIS Hub

The hub is designed as an interactive website where students can learn about the Snoqualmie Tribe and explore different facets of what water means to the Tribe. Sections include Water is Alive, Culture, Projects & Research, Habitat Restoration, Water Protectors, Tribal Governance, and Community Resources. Subjects are designed to take you down deeper and deeper rabbit holes of learning, and end with a call to action for readers. The hub incorporates imbedded story maps and page links to encourage the reader to



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NEWSLETTER

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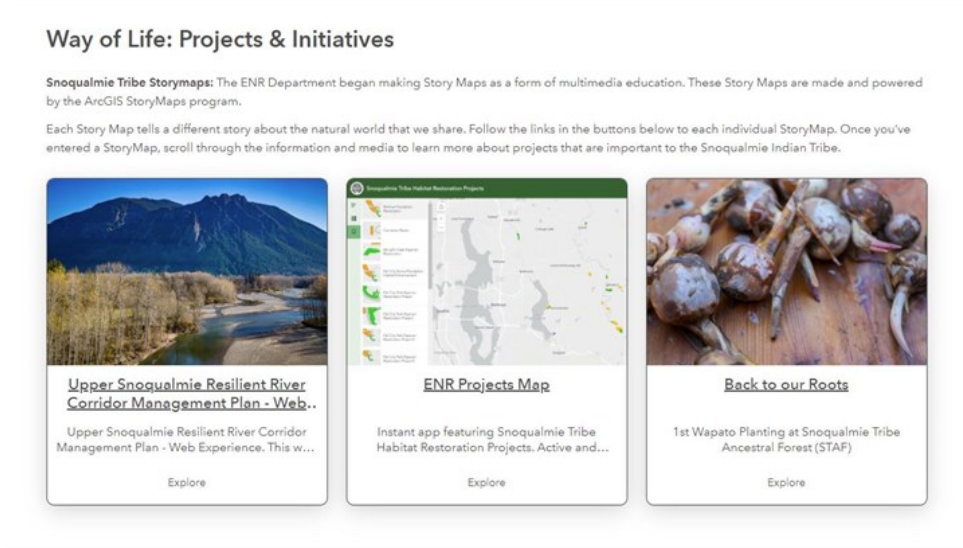


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Water is Alive ArcGIS Hub *(continued)*

interact with the material and foster curiosity and learning.

While originally designed for the chemistry students at Bellevue College, staff quickly realized that this was a resource that needed to be shared broadly to other student groups, partner organizations, and the public. Please check out the [ʔəshəliʔ ti qʷuʔ Hub](#) to learn how water is alive.



Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Environmental and Natural Resources website: <https://enr.snoqualmieltribe.us/>

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPA Releases the Clean Water Act Section 106 Tribal Guidance Supplemental Documents
In July 2024, EPA released two Clean Water Act Section 106 Supplemental Guidances: Developing a Tribal Water Quality Program Monitoring Strategy and Tribal Data Management for WQX Submission.

The guidance *Developing a Tribal Water Program Monitoring Strategy* provides additional information on how to address the ten elements of a monitoring strategy. The guidance *Tribal Data Management for WQX Submission* provides suggestions and examples for Tribes on how to establish a data management system that reflects tribal water quality goals.

To access the guidance and supplemental guidances, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-pollution-control-section-106-grants/clean-water-act-section-106-tribal-guidance>

EPA Releases Fact Sheet and Templates for Notification of Known or Potential Service Line Containing Lead

EPA has developed templates to assist water systems to provide notifications to persons served by known or potential service lines containing lead. According to the EPA 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), these notifications are required 30 days after completion of the initial service line inventory, and annually thereafter. The EPA has also created a fact sheet summarizing these requirements. Please refer to this link to explore these tools: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule-implementation-tools>

Updates & Announcements *(continued)*

EPA Releases New Science-Based Recommendations to Help More States, Tribes, and Territories Reduce Exposure to PFAS in Fish

On July 11, 2024, the EPA published updated recommendations for contaminants that Tribal, state, and territorial fish advisory programs should consider monitoring in locally caught fish to protect public health. The EPA's latest recommendations consist of two lists of fish tissue contaminants, both of which include several per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS). Please see the [press release](#) and [view the lists of contaminants to monitor](#) on the EPA's website.

ITEP's National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference, September 9-12, 2024

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) announced the 2024 Biennial National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) to be held in Anchorage, Alaska. For additional information, please visit: https://sites.google.com/view/nticc2024/home_1?authuser=0

21st Annual EPA Drinking Water Workshop, September 17-19, 2024

The EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water in partnership with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) is hosting the 21st Annual EPA Drinking Water Workshop on September 17-19, 2024, in Cincinnati, OH. The workshop will focus on PFAS and lead (Pb) topics. It is being designed for government agencies responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting. For this year, the workshop will only be open to Tribal, state, and territory agencies (within the United States) responsible for public water systems to optimize networking, increase engagement, and promote a shared learning experience. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/21st-annual-epa-drinking-water-workshop-small-system-challenges-and-solutions#About>

2024 Tribal Exchange Network Conference, October 16-17, 2024

The Tribal Exchange Network will be hosting its conference titled "Tribal Data: Sharing Stories, Supporting the Future" on October 16-17, 2024, in Spokane, Washington. The [TENC24](#) aims to expand Tribal capacity for environmental data sharing, management, and analysis through informational, interactive sessions that foster connection and collaboration opportunities, and strengthen Tribal participation in the Exchange Network.

The [Tribal Exchange Network Group \(TXG\)](#) and the [Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals \(ITEP\)](#) host this FREE event for Tribal staff and other partners working with environmental data, particularly those seeking to leverage information technology solutions to streamline their work and enhance data management capacity. Others who may benefit from attending include those serving in Tribal leadership roles, Tribal staff developing and/or supporting information technology (IT) tools or systems, and other collaborators.

Sessions will be conducted in-person and online through Zoom Events. For more information contact NEIEN@nau.edu.

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society 2024 Alaska Regional Conference, October 16, 2024

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society is hosting an Alaska Regional Conference on October 16, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska. NAFWS is providing travel scholarships to assist with travel, hotel and per diem. Priority is given to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribal students with a focus on Alaska Natives and Alaska residents. Registration is free for members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nafws.org/product/2024-alaska-regional-conference/>



Membership Recruitment for Region 6 and Region 7 Representatives

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water. The Council is currently accepting applications from tribal water professionals to fill two open positions.

Region 6 Representative

Applications accepted until filled; Review of application will start on September 3, 2024

This position is open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization from Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas).

Region 7 Representative

Applications accepted until filled; Review of application will start on September 3, 2024

This position is open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization from Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska).

Member duties include, but not limited, to:

- Participating in monthly virtual calls;
- Attending semi-annual in-person meetings; and
- Creating and participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rulemaking actions.

We are seeking individuals that are passionate and vocal about tribal water issues. Interested applicants must submit the following: application form, letter of interest, and professional resumé. Please refer to the Council's [membership application information packet](#) for additional details.

To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at elaine.wilson@nau.edu.



TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Implementation of the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program

Deadline: August 30, 2024

EPA initiated consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes to inform implementation of the new Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program. The Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program will fund projects on reservations that serve federally recognized Indian Tribes, with 50% of the available funds required for use for projects in the Upper Missouri River Basin, Upper Rio Grande River Basin, Columbia River Basin, Lower Colorado River Basin, and Arkansas-White River Basin. Projects for this program are to focus on improving water quality, water pressure, water services, sanitation, or wastewater services on Indian reservations. The deadline to submit a comment is July 22, 2024. Consultation materials are available on EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

WHCNAA Tribal Leader Consultation on Improving Mining on Public Lands

Deadline: August 31, 2024

In February 2021, President Biden announced an Executive Order on securing America's supply chains - including critical minerals - to further the nation's national security and climate goals including a transition net zero emissions economy by 2050. Critical minerals are the building blocks of this energy transition and the Biden-Harris Administration (the "Administration") is pursuing a whole-of-government approach to increase the reliability of the critical minerals supply chain, including strengthening recycling, researching critical minerals replacements, assessing standards, pursuing international engagements, and increasing responsible domestic mining.

In response to several Tribal inquiries about the Administration's actions on critical minerals, the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) created a Critical Minerals Working Group.

The WHCNAA Critical Minerals Working Group is seeking your input on the September 2023 Recommendations to Improve Mining on Public Lands report. The Working Group is also seeking your feedback to prioritize and implement recommendations from the report that will benefit Tribes.

The Working Group created a Draft National Tribal Critical Minerals Initiative to improve Tribal consultation and engagement in domestic critical minerals supply chain. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure Tribal interests are meaningfully considered early and often in the pursuit of a domestic critical minerals supply chain, including environmental and human health protection, Tribal and cultural resources protection, and economic development or other benefits sharing. The Working Group is also seeking your feedback on the Draft National Tribal Critical Minerals Initiative.

Your feedback will inform the steps that the Administration will take in the future in pursuit of a responsible domestic critical minerals supply chain. The Administration is in the process of planning forums that convene Tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and industry for discussions later this year. Informational sessions were held and the final session for Alaska Native Villages will be held on August 20, 2024 (10 AM AT).

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-consultations/national-tribal-critical-minerals-initiative>



Have a story, idea, or update to share?

Email us at elaina.doral@nau.edu.



EVENTS & WEBINARS

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing online, in-person, and blended trainings.

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Wastewater Math: September 17-26, 2024 (Virtual)
- Wastewater Lagoons: October 8-18, 2024 (Blended)

To register or to view the 2024 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Events & Training

- August 20, 2024: How to Integrate Wildlife Concerns into the Transportation Process

To register: <https://www.nafws.org/events-training/>

USGS Friday Findings – Webinar Series

- August 23, 2024: Indigenous Knowledge – Providing Insight into Climate Change

To register: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/webinar-series-fridays-findings>

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

- August 27, 2024: Consolidation, Restructuring, Partnerships, and Regionalization

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-drinking-water-systems-webinar-series>

EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

- August 28, 2024 (2:30 PM ET)

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples#webinars>

Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information Training & Events

- August 26, 2024: PFAS Management Strategies in the U.S., European Union, and Australia
- October 22, 2024: ITRC – Contaminants of Emerging Concern Identification Framework

To register: <https://clu-in.org/training/>

EPA Water Utility Resilience Trainings

- September 4, 2024: Cybersecurity 102 Training

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/register-epa-water-utility-resilience-trainings>

EPA Emergency Response Research Webinar Series

- September 11, 2024: Premise Plumbing & Wildfires

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response-research/webinar-series>

EPA Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Nutrients Research Webinar Series

- September 25, 2024: Coastal Dissolved Oxygen Dynamics and a Brief Introduction to the Hypoxia Task Force

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/harmful-algal-blooms-hypoxia-and-nutrients-research-webinar-series>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Tribal Wetland Program Development Grant - Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Wetland Program Development Grants

Deadline for Applications: October 1, 2024, by 11:59 PM ET

Under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) WPDGs provide Tribes and Intertribal Consortia an opportunity to develop and/or refine comprehensive Tribal wetland programs. This funding opportunity is meant to:

- Develop the capacity of Tribes to increase the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland condition.
- Use one or more of the "Core Elements" from the [Tribal, State, Territory Wetlands Program Core Element Framework](#) to achieve this goal.

The EPA anticipates approximately \$3,800,000 in federal funding to be available for assistance agreements that will have one to four year project periods. A full application can be found at [EPA-OW-OWOW-24-04](#) and [Tribal Wetland Program Development Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity | US EPA](#). If you have any questions, please contact Myra Price at price.myra@epa.gov or WPDG-RFA@epa.gov.

NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

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