



Tribal Resilience Action Database

By Scott Hauser, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation (At-Large, R10)

The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) is pleased to alert tribal nations and consortia to the recent release of the Tribal Resilience Action Database (TRAD). Scott Hauser, NTWC At-large (Region 10) member and Executive Director of the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation (www.usrtf.org), led the

project along with a core team from the [Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission](#), [Upper Columbia United Tribes](#), and [Adaptation International](#).

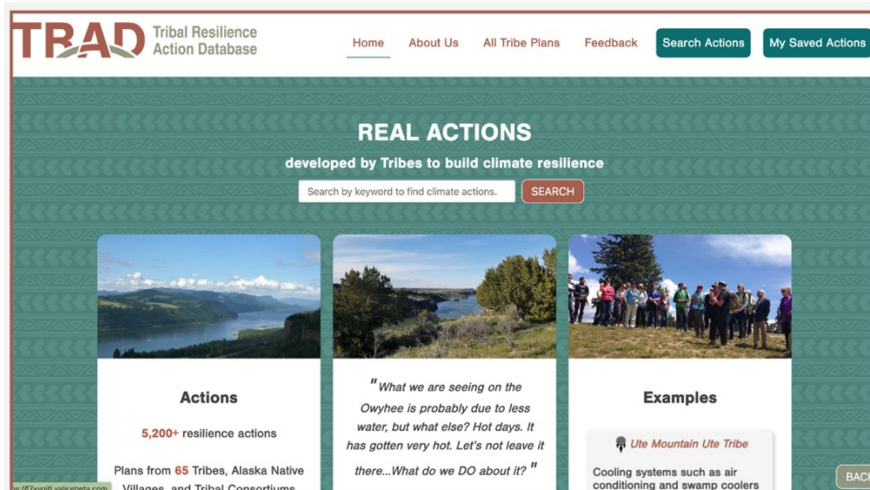
Years in the making, the TRAD incorporates over 5,000 searchable

climate resilience actions derived from 65 tribal and tribal consortia adaptation plans from across the nation that tribes can take to combat climate change. The actions cover a suite of climate threats, habitat-types, and species. For instance, a TRAD query of “water” has identified 457 actions that tribes across

the nation are implementing in the face of a changing climate.

A National Tribal Advisory Group, consisting of 22 representatives from tribal nations and tribal staff in organizations and institutions, participated in four

workshops over 18 months to: 1) help scope and provide input on the database design and tribal outreach/ engagement process; 2) review initial design options and provide guidance on search feature functionality; 3) review the



TRAD is available at <https://tribalresilienceactions.org/>

preliminary web portal; and 4) review the final web portal prior to release. This group was integral to informing the design of the TRAD, web portal, and tribal outreach. To help communicate the areas of action for each item in the database, the core team and advisory group co-developed a set of icons that integrate cultural



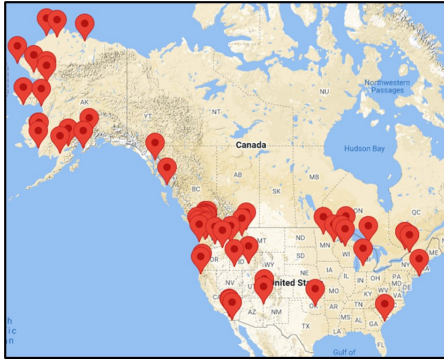
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Tribal Resilience Action Database *(continued)*



Tribal Plans Incorporated in the TRAD

values and indigenous worldviews into the identification of the different categories of action.

The TRAD team recognized the ethical and moral responsibility that came with compiling and amplifying knowledges from already published tribal climate adaptation plans across the U.S. Key issues include the collective custodianship of knowledge and knowledge holders and considerations of the secret, sacred, cultural, and individual privacy potentially associated with these knowledges. Overall, the TRAD follows two key principles through the potential integration and use of the knowledge and data created and owned by tribes: 1) Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and 2) Cause No Harm.



Moving forward, the partnership intends that the TRAD will be regularly updated as new tribal adaptation plans become publicly available. If your tribe or tribal organization has a plan that has not been incorporated into the TRAD and you would like it to be, please fill out a request under the Feedback tab. The TRAD is available at <https://tribalresilienceactions.org/>.

For more information:

- Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation: <https://uppersnakerivertribes.org/>
- Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission: <https://critfc.org/>
- Upper Columbia United Tribes: <https://ucut.org/>
- Adaptation International: <https://adaptationinternational.com/>

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPA Releases Information that States and Tribes Can Use to Protect Local Fish from Toxic Tire Chemicals

On June 10, 2024, the EPA published water quality screening values under the Clean Water Act related to short-term concentrations of 6PPD and 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q). These chemicals have been found in freshwater ecosystems and linked to runoff from automotive tire dust and debris. Once in freshwater, these chemicals are known toxins that can quickly cause fish-kill events. The EPA's non-regulatory and non-binding screening values provide information that Tribes, states, and local governments can use to monitor their waterways and help protect aquatic life from these harmful pollutants.

For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-information-states-and-tribes-can-use-protect-local-fish-toxic-tire>

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$225 million to Improve Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure for Tribes and Alaska Native Villages

On May 22, 2024 the EPA, announced over \$225 million in funding to improve access to safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater services for American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages. Through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, EPA is able to provide one of the largest annual investments in water infrastructure funding to Tribes to help them advance public health and environmental protections, such as identifying and replacing lead service lines, or addressing harmful emerging contaminants in drinking water and wastewater, like PFAS.

Updates & Announcements *(continued)*

For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-225-million-improve-drinking-water-and>

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$30.7 million to Support Water Systems in Small and Rural Communities

On May 21, 2024, the EPA announced its selection of training and technical assistance providers who will have \$30.7 million to support water systems and private well owners in small and rural communities. This grant funding will support water systems with building technical, financial, and managerial capacity and will also assist private well owners with improving water quality, including actions such as testing for PFAS contamination. The selected recipients of this year's funding are **Rural Community Assistance Partnership, University of New Mexico, and National Rural Water Association.**

For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-307-million-support-water-systems-small-and>

EPA Announced Final Water Quality Standards Regulatory Revisions to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights

On April 26, 2024, the EPA Administrator signed a final rule that revises the Water Quality Standards (WQS) regulation at 40 CFR Part 131 to explicitly address how the EPA and states must consider Tribal reserved rights. It is defined in this rule as rights to Clean Water Act-protected aquatic and/or aquatic-dependent resources reserved to Tribes through treaties, statutes, or executive orders in establishing WQS, where Tribes assert these rights for consideration. This rule creates a regulatory framework that will be applied consistently to help ensure that future WQS reflect consideration of and provide protection for applicable Tribal reserved rights, such as the right to fish for subsistence and/or gather wild rice.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/revising-federal-water-quality-standards-regulation-protect-tribal-reserved-rights>

EPA's Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

On April 10, 2024, EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS. EPA finalized a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) establishing legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS in drinking water. PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA as contaminants with individual MCLs, and PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS using a Hazard Index MCL to account for the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS in drinking water. EPA also finalized health-based, non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for these PFAS. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

For more information on PFAS, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>



Have a story, idea, or update to share?

Email us at elaina.doral@nau.edu.





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 **July 31, 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 **August 15, 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: July 22, 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>.

Proposed Restructuring of the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

Deadline: August 9, 2024

EPA has proposed to restructure the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) as a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and to increase the proportion of elected or traditionally appointed Tribal leaders that serve on the group. Learn more about the current NTC, including the current 2012 Charter on the [NTC website](#). Also, learn more about the Federal Advisory Committee Act on [EPA's FACA website](#).

In conjunction with this proposal, EPA is reviewing the characteristics of the NTC to strengthen the operations of the group and increase collaboration with the other EPA Tribal Partnership Groups. These proposed changes will clarify the process by which EPA receives Tribal leadership recommendations on technical programs and budget planning, elevate the NTC as the preeminent group of Tribal representatives that provides advice directly to EPA leadership on items of national significance under EPA's purview, and strengthen EPA's ongoing commitment to collaboration and partnership with Tribes and the government-to-government relationship. This proposal reflects the commitment of the EPA to engage directly with Tribal leaders and ensures that Tribal leaders engage at the highest levels of the Agency on environmental issues that impact Indigenous communities.

Please reach out to Daniel Vaught, AIEO, at vaught.daniel@epa.gov, if you have any questions regarding this Tribal consultation opportunity, would like to request government-to-government consultation with EPA on this matter, or if you would like to provide written input to EPA. The deadline to submit comments is August 9, 2024. Consultation materials are available on EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

EPA Determines that Alaska's Water Quality Standards Need to be Updated Based on More Accurate Fish Consumption Rates to Protect Communities from Toxic Pollution

Deadline: August 09, 2024

On June 5, 2024, the EPA issued an Administrator's Determination that new and revised water quality standards for Alaska are needed to protect the health of Alaska residents. The EPA's Determination is an important step towards ensuring that Alaska's human health criteria are informed by science and reflect the needs of Alaska residents. Though the Determination does not prevent and should not discourage the state of Alaska from adopting and submitting its own rule to address the Determination, the EPA is prepared to put revised standards in place for Alaska if the state does not take sufficient steps to do so. Therefore, the EPA is inviting government-to-government consultation and coordination with federally recognized Tribes in Alaska so that we can fully consider Tribal interests as we prepare to potentially evaluate a state water quality standards submission and/or proceed with a

Tribal Consultation Opportunities *(continued)*

federal rulemaking process. The EPA's action applies only to water bodies under the jurisdiction of the state of Alaska and does not apply to waters that are within Indian Country, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1151. <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/federally-promulgated-water-quality-standards-specific-states-territories-and-tribes>

EVENTS & WEBINARS

ITEP Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, August 12-15, 2024

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) announced the 2024 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum to be held in Eugene, Oregon. This is the 14th annual forum for environmental professionals from Tribes, US EPA, state/local/federal agencies, and community organizations to meet, share knowledge and learn from one another on how to improve management, protection and restoration of Tribal lands. The registration fee is \$175 (in-person) and the deadline to register is July 29, 2024. For more information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/tlef2024/home?authuser=0>

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.

ITEP works with a number of support programs including the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Resilience Program. The NTICC invites relatives from tribal nations and Indigenous Peoples to attend, listen, learn and share the important work conducted to protect tribal cultures, non-human relatives and the environment. For additional information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/nticc2024/2024-save-the-date>

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:

- Backflow Assembly Tester: July 22-27, 2024 (In-person; Tempe, AZ)

To register or to view the 2023/2024 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

- June 25, 2024: Inorganics Treatment for Arsenic and Nitrate
- July 30, 2024: Source Water Quality

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

EPA WaterSense Webinar Series

- June 25, 2024: Workforce Development in the Water Sector

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/webinars>

Events & Webinars *(continued)*

EPA Water Research Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/water-research-webinar-series>

- June 26, 2024: Emerging Environmental Impacts of Tire Wear Particles and Their Chemical Cocktails

EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

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

- June 26, 2024 and July 31, 2024

EPA Water Utility Resilience Trainings

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

- June 26, 2024: Cybersecurity Awareness Training for Tribal Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

- July 17, 2024: Temperature, Precipitation, and Beyond – Introducing Datasets Suitable for Comprehensive Analysis of Local Climate Change Impacts

NTWC MEMBERS

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

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