



## Tribal PFAS Working Group's Priorities

The Tribal PFAS Working Group met in February to review their Priorities from the previous year. After some discussion, the work group decided to continue their Priorities to research and provide outreach on PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and its effects on various environmental media. The working group will work on the following six priorities:

- **Identify Tribes and coordinate with Tribes that are currently impacted by PFAS.**

The Tribal PFAS Working Group will continue to invite tribal representatives and researchers during the monthly calls to hear testimonials and presentations on how PFAS have impacted tribal lands and resources. Throughout the year, the working group will follow-up with Tribes that are impacted by PFAS.

- **Develop and identify PFAS tools and resources.**

Develop and identify PFAS tools and resources, such as databases, outreach materials, maps, funding opportunities, fact sheets, tools and resources to characterize PFAS that will support and allow tribal nations to evaluate their exposure to PFAS.

- **Promote the Tribal PFAS Working Group's web page with current publications, presentation videos, research, and resources.** Additionally, the working group will seek and identify treatment applicable technologies and their effectiveness. To access documents and resources, please visit: [www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS)

- **Advocate for rulemaking, research, and education actions, with attention to inclusion of tribal lifeways.**

Advocate for tribal PFAS work across federal and state agencies, including comment responses to proposed policies and rulemaking actions, research funding opportunities, and science education. Ensure appropriate consultation occurs, advocating and ensuring engagement and consultation with Tribes.

- **Develop and host tribal webinars / workshops on PFAS issues.**

Webinar / workshop topics may include introduction to PFAS, testing, assessing impacts, potential treatment and disposal, rulemaking actions, etc. Three webinars / workshops will be held during the year with two held virtually and one in person at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum.

- **Expand the scope of the working group to explore and research emerging contaminants,** such as 6-PPD, microplastics, flame-retardants, and emerging contaminants' impact on various environmental media, including air quality.

Information on the working group is available on the National Tribal Water Council's website at <https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS>. The working group's co-leads are Page Hingst, Tribal Science Council, and Dianne Barton, National Tribal Toxics Council.



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### NEWSLETTER

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<https://nau.edu/ntwc>

# MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

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 employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization.

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.

To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at [elaine.wilson@nau.edu](mailto:elaine.wilson@nau.edu).



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS UNTIL  
THE POSITION IS FILLED.

Review of Applications will begin on  
May 10, 2025.

## AT-LARGE

Tribal water professional within  
Regions 1 through 10.

We are seeking individuals with a  
background in water infrastructure,  
drinking water, wastewater, and  
operations and maintenance.



**SCAN HERE** for the application  
or visit: <https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>

# UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## National Association of Wetland Managers 2025 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting, April 8-11, 2025

The National Association of Wetland Managers will be holding its annual coordination meeting on April 8-11, 2025, in Stevenson, Washington. The purpose of this annual meeting is to support state and Tribal wetland program managers, and other wetland professionals as they respond to challenges in the coming year. A limited number of scholarships are available to U.S. state and Tribal agency staff to assist those in need to cover travel, lodging and/or registration costs. For more information, please visit: <https://nawm.org/2025-annual-state-tribal-federal-coordination-meeting>

## 2025 Tribal Drinking Water Conference, April 21-24, 2025

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are hosting the 2025 Tribal Drinking Water Conference on April 21-25, 2025, in Reno, Nevada. Ensuring both the quality and ample supply of drinking water is a multifaceted duty. Tribal Utilities must possess financial stability, managerial competence, and technical expertise to meet immediate water needs while safeguarding community health sustainably. Join the EPA and RCAC to expand your skills, gain insights, earn contact hours, network, and enjoy engaging activities. For more information, please visit: <https://www.rcac.org/trainings/2025-tribal-drinking-water-conference/>

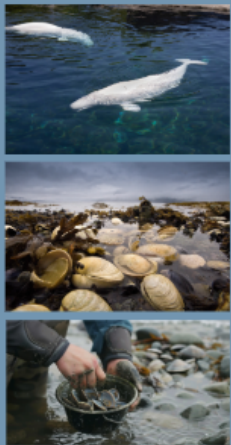
## 2025 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Annual National Conference, May 12-15, 2025

The 2025 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) Annual National Conference will be hosted by the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation, to be held May 12-15, 2025, in Riverton, Wyoming. The NAFWS is accepting abstracts for 30-minute presentations through March 7, 2025. Additionally, the NAFWS can provide travel assistance and the deadline to apply is March 7, 2025. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nafws.org/product/2025-annual-national-conference/>

## EPA Region 9 2025 Tribal Clean Water Act Workshop, May 19-23, 2025

Workshop co-sponsors EPA Region 9 and the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe are inviting Tribal water quality/resource staff to attend the EPA Region 9 2025 Tribal Clean Water Act (CWA) workshop in Fallon, Nevada, also known as “the Oasis of Nevada.” Attendees will gather in-person to share knowledge, resources, and experiences to better implement Tribal CWA programs and to protect Tribal water resources for future generations. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal-pacific-sw/r9-2025-tribal-cwa-workshop>



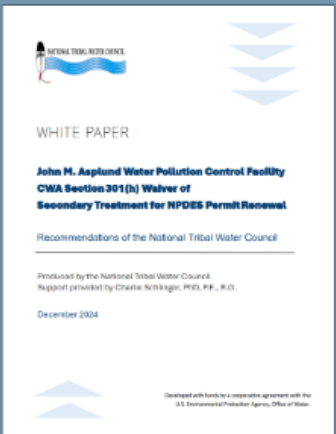


**NOW AVAILABLE**

## NTWC'S WHITE PAPER

The NTWC undertook extensive research and produced a white paper regarding the concerns about the Clean Water Act Section 301(h) Waiver of the Asplund Water Pollution Control Facility in Anchorage, Alaska.

Click [HERE](#) to read the NTWC's white paper.





# TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

## EPA Released Three Draft Chapters of the Water Quality Standard Handbook on Designated Uses, Antidegradation, and WQS Variances

**Deadline: March 12, 2025**

On December 12, 2024, the EPA released three draft chapters of the WQS Handbook on Designated Uses, Antidegradation, and WQS Variances for a 90-day public comment period. The WQS Handbook provides a plain language discussion of the relevant regulatory and statutory requirements and the EPA's recommendations for how states, authorized Tribes and U.S. territories can develop and implement WQS consistent with both. The EPA has updated Chapter 2 on Designated Uses, Chapter 4 on Antidegradation, and developed a new chapter on WQS Variances to include the EPA's most recent WQS programmatic policy and guidance to implement the regulation at 40 CFR Part 131.

All comments must be submitted through the Docket. Visit the EPA's [WQS Handbook webpage](#) to review the three draft chapters and for information on how to provide comments.

## EPA's Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFOA and PFOS

**Deadline Extended: April 16, 2025**

The EPA released the Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) for public comment. The draft risk assessment reflects the agency's latest scientific understanding of the potential risks to human health and the environment posed by the presence of [PFOA and PFOS in sewage sludge](#) that is land applied as a soil conditioner or fertilizer (on agricultural, forested, and other lands), surface disposed (e.g., placed in a sewage sludge-only landfill called a monofill), or incinerated.

The EPA will accept written comments on the draft risk assessment through April 16, 2025, via [Regulations.gov](#) (Docket ID no. EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0504). For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/biosolids/draft-sewage-sludge-risk-assessment-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctane>

## EPA's Draft National Recommended Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health for PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS

**Deadline Extended: April 25, 2025**

The EPA has released draft national recommended health-based levels (human health criteria) for three per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in water bodies. The three PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). Human health criteria are not legally enforceable, rather they are information for local entities to consider when making local decisions about water quality.

The EPA will accept written comments on the draft human health criteria until April 25, 2025. Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) directs the EPA to develop and publish water quality criteria that accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge about the effects of particular pollutants on human health and welfare. The EPA's CWA Section 304(a) human health criteria are recommendations to states and Tribes authorized to establish their own water quality standards under the CWA. Once final, these recommended criteria can be used by states and authorized Tribes to develop their own water quality criteria that help protect people from exposure through consuming water, fish and shellfish from inland and nearshore water bodies that may be contaminated by any of these PFAS. For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/human-health-water-quality-criteria-pfas>

# EVENTS & WEBINARS

## Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) is a national tribal organization established informally during the early 1980s. NAFWS was incorporated in 1983 to develop a national communications network for the exchange of information and management techniques related to self-determined tribal fish and wildlife management. For more information: <https://www.nafws.org/events-training/>

- March 13, 2025: Professional Development Webinar Series – Conference 101

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

- Water Distribution Level 1 (Blended): March 17-28, 2025

To register or to view the 2025 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

## Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information Training & Events

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

- March 6, 2025: Microplastics
- March 25, 2025: PFAS Beyond the Basics – PFAS Human Health, Ecological Effects and Regulations

## EPA Emergency Response Research Webinar Series

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

- March 12, 2025: Drinking Water Decontamination

## EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

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

- March 25, 2025: Disinfection Byproducts – Inorganic Chloramines

## EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

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

- March 19, 2025: Wastewater Treatment Technologies for Difficult Pollutants (e.g., chloride, sulfate, nitrate, etc.)

# GRANT OPPORTUNITY

## The FY25 Exchange Network Grant

### Applications Due: March 24, 2025

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Exchange Network (EN) Grant Program fosters better environmental management and decision-making through increased access to timely, high quality, environmental information. Application guidance tools including optional fillable templates for the cover letter, project narrative (work plan), budget narrative attachment form, and a budget calculation tool are available through the Grants.gov ([EPA-OMS-25-01, Fiscal Year 2025 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program Solicitation Notice](#)) listing and on the [EN website](#). **Applications are due in grants.gov by 11:59 PM Eastern Time, Monday, March 24, 2025.**

The EN Grant Program has a Tribal commitment of at least 20% of total awarded funds and there is no mandatory cost match. The EPA expects to award 30-35 grants of up to \$600,000 each, totaling approximately \$9,500,000 in FY25. EPA anticipates that it will announce selection decisions around July 2025, and tentatively plans to issue awards by October 2025.

For more information, please contact: Erin McGown, EN Grants Program Manager, at [ENGrantProgram@epa.gov](mailto:ENGrantProgram@epa.gov)

# NTWC MEMBERS

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

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This year's World Water Day focuses on glacier preservation. The United Nations has developed a fact sheet, infographic, and other resources that are available at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>