NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Tribal and Indigenous Partnerships Enhancement Strategy (TIPES)

Annual Report

JANUARY 2025

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Letter From Vice President, Daisy Purdy

Greetings Federation Family and Indigenous Partners!

Conservation knowledge founded in relationship between Indigenous Peoples and places represent the most comprehensive longitudinal and peer reviewed ecological studies in the world. Indigenous Peoples' conservation leadership significantly pre-dates the establishment of NWF. The breadth and depth of conservation knowledge of Tribes' Natural Resource Departments and Indigenous-led conservation organizations also surpasses that of the federation. NWF appreciates Tribal Advisory Council's guidance of policy and on-the-ground conservation priorities. We are slow, but willing to learn.

Many thanks for working with our TIPES team on a collective journey to enhance partnerships that further Indigenous conservation priorities. We appreciate efforts to engage the process beyond words, through action, by advancing the three core priorities of TIPES: water protection, food sovereignty, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. NWF appreciates your patience and humbly requests your constructive criticisms as we continue to improve our understanding and respect for the legal and fundamental values of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC); Tribal Sovereignty; and Self-Determination.

Respecting Tribal Advisory Council's collective experience situates NWF to address the climate crisis and mass extinction more holistically. Once NWF's funding commitment to TIPES is fully realized, our federation will be modeling a precedent-setting level of support for Indigenous conservation. We invite our network of large conservation organizations to join us in learning from our successes as well as our mistakes.

Tribal Advisory Council and TIPES Implementation Team's solutions-oriented, active approach amplifies the impact of our small (but mighty!) TIPES core team. Our efforts are magnified by support from the Board, Executive Leadership Team, affiliates, staff, and most of all, Indigenous partners. Y'all turn our "may" into "must"!

Some highlights from the last year include:

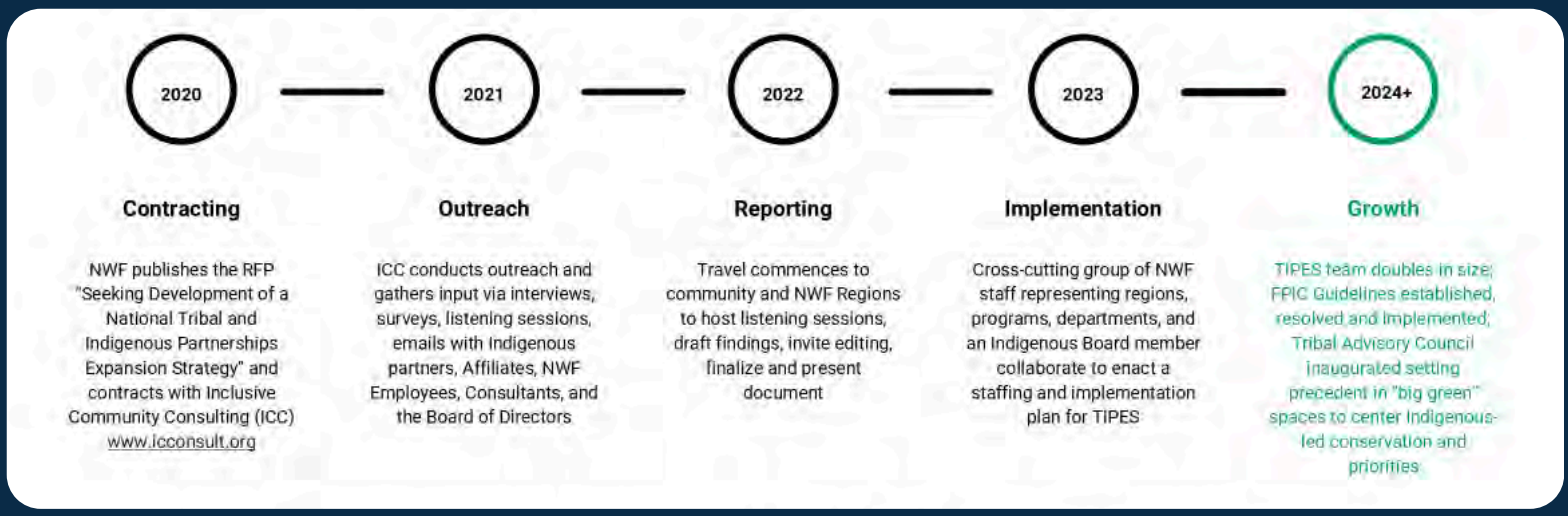
- Affiliate passage of the FPIC Resolution
- Formation of the Tribal Advisory Council
- Doubling staff size within TIPES core team
- Being present with community at 24 convenings in six NWF regions
- Establishing a substantive frontline fund

Kindly review this report to celebrate accomplishments, and please continue the journey we collectively create.

Daisy Purdy

PHOTO: ALEJANDRO HIGUERA

Origin & History



NWF has long recognized the shared stake that Tribal and Indigenous Nations have in conservation issues. Sensing the need for greater coordination across programs and affiliates, in September 2020, NWF published an RFP “Seeking Development of a National Tribal and Indigenous partnerships Expansion Strategy.” In December 2020, Inclusive Community Consulting (ICC) and NWF agreed to collaborate on developing a national Tribal and Indigenous Partners Strategy that could inform the Federation’s work across regions. From 2021 through 2022, ICC worked on surveys, listening sessions, and interviews to build the TIPES report based on comprehensive input from across the organization and our Tribal partnerships. Out of these efforts, the Tribal and Indigenous Partnerships Enhancement Strategy (TIPES) was created in order to complement NWF’s 2020 Equity and Justice Strategic Plan and advance NWF’s work to support the environmental justice movement.

Since 2024, we have been hard at work implementing TIPES across programmatic areas and regions. At the 2024 NWF Annual Staff Meeting, affiliates passed the FPIC Resolution, reaffirming our commitment to form deeper partnerships, enhance the sustainability of our projects, and align with international standards and best practices in our work with Indigenous Peoples. We offer our inaugural report to share the accomplishments our team has made thus far and the journey we continue to embark on with all of you. We would like to thank you for working with us and sharing this space. We recognize it is essential to actively engage with the process in order to fully implement this work in our daily lives. We want to thank the staff, board members, affiliates, and partners who have helped to guide this work thus far.

TIPES is an evolving strategy responsive to Indigenous-led conservation priorities and engaged through Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). TIPES is a strategy, not a program. The TIPES Core Team is here to help guide the TIPES process and track federation wide progress. It is an honor to be a part of the shared responsibility with NWF staff, Affiliates, and Board Members to implement TIPES.

Meet the Team

Mira Barney
Sr. Strategy Coordinator

Vic Hogg
Sr. Coordinator, FPIC

Luna Martinez
Tribal Law Director

Jon Naranjo
Manager, FPIC

Daisy Purdy
Vice President

Gloria Tom
Sr. Strategic and
Special Policy Advisor

Garrit Voggesser
Sr. Director, Tribal
Partnerships and Policy

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

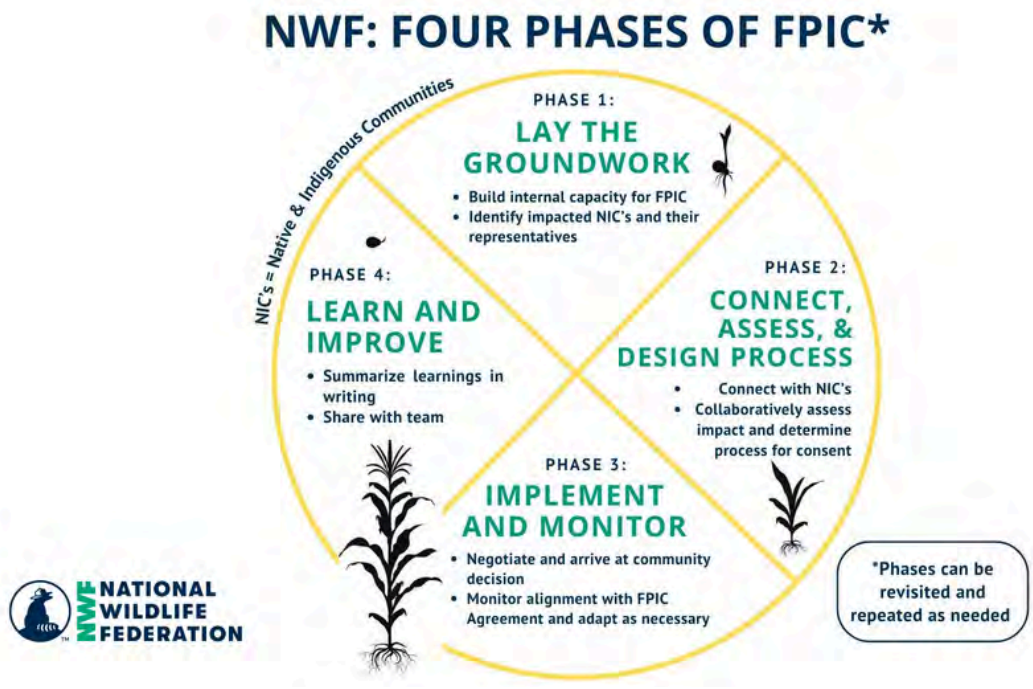
To be authentic partners means that we follow the principles of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and use our power to uplift Indigenous voices and leaders paving the way for future conservation initiatives. These policies respect Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination and enable staff to appropriately and intentionally engage with Tribes, Indigenous-led NGOs, and community members. Where there is a history of white-led environmental organizations contributing to institutionalized racism and the erasure of marginalized communities through co-opting culturally significant lands and failing to involve communities in conservation. FPIC provides a path forward as illustrated in the four phases below.

FPIC Resolution

At the 2024 NWF Annual Meeting, the affiliates passed the FPIC Resolution, reaffirming our commitment to form deeper partnerships, enhance the sustainability of our projects, and align with international standards and best practices.

FPIC Guidelines

In August 2024, the first version of the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent Guidelines was published for staff, board, and affiliates. The Engagement template was published alongside the FPIC Guidelines, to help NWF staff audit their existing programs and practices and to guide future decision-making.



DESIGN CREDIT: VIC HOGG

Fiscal Year 24 Impact

Conservation Assistance

In FY24, TIPES collaborated with nine community initiatives to provide over **$61,000 USD** to assisting Indigenous-led organizations and initiatives, please consider donating.

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COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) - Annual Conference sponsor
- Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute - Adobe Cultural Center formation sponsor
- Conservation Council for Hawaii - Manu-o-Kū Festival sponsor
- Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) - sponsored Indigenous athletes to promote awareness at events
- Honor Water - supported Regulated water infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation
- Earth Law Center - Supported rematriation and cultural education projects
- Apache Stronghold - Prayer to Supreme Court to protect Oak Flat sponsor
- Earthkeepers 360 - Caja del Rio sacred site protection

Increased Capacity

In FY24, the TIPES core team doubled in size from three to six team members. The Sr. FPIC Coordinator position is shared between TIPES and the Northeast Regional Center (NERC). The FPIC Manager position is shared between TIPES and Rocky Mountain Regional Center.

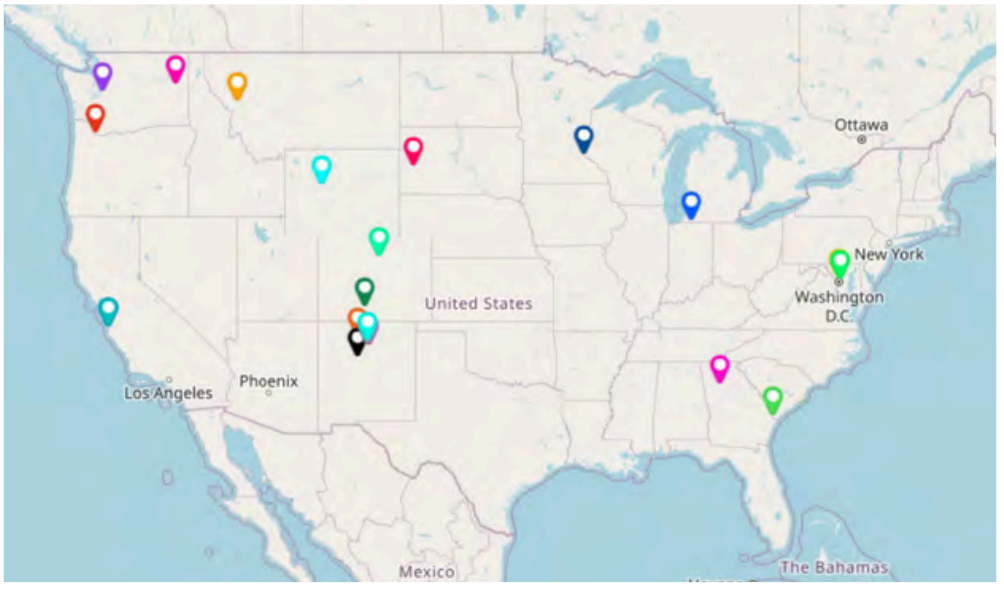
Communications

Six Communication blogs on NWF site written by Elvia Maya Canonizado:

- Intergenerational Knowledge: Weaving the past with the present
- Food Sovereignty: The combined powers of food & community
- Water protection: Securing the source of all life
- Protect Oak Flat: Understanding What's at Stake
- Protect Oak Flat: How to Help
- The Future of Conservation

On-The-Ground Presence

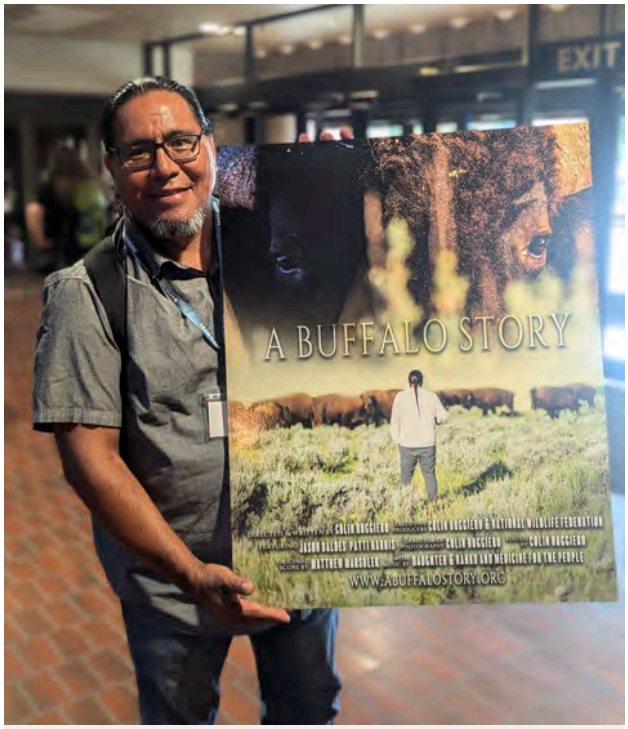
In FY24, the TIPES core team traveled for on-the-ground work and relationship building in community, engaging in **24 events** across 14 states and two countries.



Mapping indicates on-the-ground events in FY24 in the contiguous United States. Events outside of lower 48 (Hawai'i and Columbia) not pictured in above map.

- People of the Global Majority Retreat, DC (Hosted Happy Hour)
- Honor Water, Catena Foundation, Dine' Native Plants site visits*
- Indigenous Conservation Summit
- Festival of Birds, Hawai'i (Volunteered)
- International Indigeneity Conservation gathering, Columbia*
- Monterey Institute for International Studies *
- Affiliate, Chief, Executive Meeting*
- Virtual National Native Seed Conference*
- Upper Rio Grande Riparian Initiative Connectivity Workshop
- Tribal Corridors Fly-In*
- Rewilding Indigenous Coalition workshop*
- Wind River site visit
- Upper Rockies Regional Center Site visit
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Tribal leaders Climate Summit
- Alliance for Indigenous Environmental Stewardship Summit
- Western Indigenous Pollinator Workshop*
- Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
- Getches-Wilkinson 2024 Conference on the Colorado River
- We are ONE Summit
- NWF Annual Meeting*
- Potawatomi Gathering of Nations, Pokagon Band Rez
- Santa Clara Pueblo feast
- Indian Market/Pathways , Poeh Cultural Center
- Wild 12: 12th World Wilderness Congress*

* = Presented



Jon Naranjo displaying the poster for the Buffalo Story documentary at WILD12 in August 2024.

Marcus Sibley, Curtis Fisher, Vic Hogg and Randy Jones pose for Lobby Day in June 2024, meeting with the office of Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman of New Jersey to advocate for RAWA.

Tribal Advisory Council members and NWF Staff took a field trip of the La Cieneguilla Petroglyphs in July 2024.

Tribal Advisory Council

The Tribal Advisory Council is council of Indigenous leaders from across Indian Country that provide expertise to NWF and consultation in different fields, including respecting Indigenous Knowledges; wildlife and natural resources; Indian law and policy; FPIC; coalition building and collaboration; and the interconnections between ecology and cultures.

Current Members

Butch Blazer (Chair)
Mescalero Apache Tribe

John Banks
Penobscot Indian Nation

Shaun Grassel
Lower Brule Sioux

Koa Kaulukukui
Kanaka Ma'oli (Native Hawaiian)

Stevie Parsons
Kanaka Ma'oli (Native Hawaiian), Māori and Taíno descent

Charles Young
Kanaka Ma'oli (Native Hawaiian)

The Tribal Advisory Council at the TIPES Retreat in Santa Fe on July 17, 2024. (Left to Right, Back Row) - Charles Young, John Banks, Butch Blazer, Shaun Grassel, Stevie Parsons. (Left to Right, Front Row) - Gloria Tom, Karen Diver, Koa Kaulukukui.

- On July 17-18, 2024, the inaugural Tribal Advisory Council met in-person during the TIPES Retreat in Santa Fe, NM.
- For FY25, The Tribal Advisory Council will share knowledge on how to allocate the Frontline Fund ($100,000 set aside for sponsorships to Indigenous-led organizations and conservation efforts).
- On October 28, 2024, the Tribal Advisory Council met virtually to approve the amendments for the charter and to discuss initial applications for the Frontline Fund.

Frontline Fund Recipients

TIPES committed $100,000 USD to the Frontline Fund. The Frontline Fund is reserved for on-the-ground projects that intersect with TIPES Key Priorities. As of January 30, 2025, $35,000 has been processed to the following Indigenous-led organizations. Round two of Frontline Funding dissemination is in progress, recipients decided upon in February 2025.

KA HALE HOAKA

KUPA

HOMESTEAD POI

HUI O KUAPĀ

Policy Priorities in FY24

Dakota Access Pipeline
Caja Del Rio
Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)
Save Oak Flat Act
Native American Seeds Act
Native American Wildlife Connectivity Act
Tribal Access to Clean Water Act
Indian Buffalo Management Act

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

Where We Are Going

Staffing Projections

- Tribal Leadership Programs Director (IWLN/CRIYAC)
- Staffing Redesign to cover regions (FPIC regional representation)
- Working alongside the President, EVP, Philanthropy and Finance to actualize TIPES budget commitment

TIPES Redesign: New Logo, NWF Redesign Website

External

- Land Rematriation Resources
- Allocation of Frontline Fund based on Tribal Advisory Council recommendations
- New Indigenous Partnerships: Indigenous East
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Press Kit

TIPES Affiliate Learning Cohort

Vic Hogg and Garrit Voggesser are leading an Affiliate Cohort Program from January through November 2025. By the end of the cohort, all participants will have active projects with Tribal nations or organizations and feel equipped to share their learnings.

Travel/Events

- ACE Meeting in January 2025
- National Native Seeds Conference in February 2025
- Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) in Spring 2025
- Alaska Native Convening in April 2025
- Wind River Site Visit in May 2025
- TIPES Strategy Session in June 2025
- NWF Annual Meeting in June 2025
- Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) Strategy Session in July 2025

Gratitude

Special thanks to the Tribal Advisory Council, TIPES Implementation Team, and TIPES Affiliate Learning Cohort