

ATTACHMENT D RECOMMENDED FOCUS AREAS

While EPA Region 10 provides funding for all activities that build the capacity of Tribal governments to manage environmental programs, Tribes are encouraged to discuss these recommended focus areas with their EPA Project Officer.

1. For Tribes new to the GAP program or those that have experienced difficulty meeting grants management requirements, Region 10 recommends focusing on developing and maintaining core grants management competencies.
2. For Tribes with established programs that have demonstrated grants management ability, Region 10 recommends considering the following focus areas:
 - **Managing Solid and Hazardous Waste/Establishing and Implementing Recycling Programs**
This is the only area within the scope of the GAP program where implementation activities are allowed. Region 10 recognizes solid waste management as a significant concern to Tribes in the region and an issue of special importance to Tribes in Alaska, where unmanaged open dumps may contaminate drinking water sources and have other adverse effects on Tribal health and subsistence resources. In addition, cleaning up or upgrading open dumps is a priority included in EPA's strategic plan. See Goal 3, Objective 3.1, Sub-objective 3.1.1 at <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm> for more details.
 - **Planning Tribal Responses to the Environmental Impacts of Climate Change**
Tribes in Region 10 are increasingly concerned about the rate and effect of climate change on their communities and traditional life ways. Region 10 supports the use of GAP funds to gather and report on changed climatic conditions and to plan for how Tribes can best respond to climate change related risks, such as coastal erosion and increased risk of flooding. Exploration of ways in which Tribes can reduce carbon emissions is also encouraged.
 - **Renewable Energy**
Alternative energy activities could include research, planning, and development; demonstration projects may be an option for regions where they have not been done previously. Some sample work plan activities include: attending alternative energy conferences/training; networking with other Tribes and organizations that have done alternative energy work; conducting an alternative energy assessment that includes compilation of existing written or electronic data, and solar, wind, and other environmental measurements; compilation of GPS/GIS information (this activity requires brief quality assurance documentation); completing (or procuring expert assistance to complete) an alternative energy feasibility study; and conducting a demonstration project (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, or a combination of technologies). GAP funds may not be used for: ongoing alternative energy implementation activities (buying solar panels, wind turbines, energy efficient wood stoves, or other systems for every house in the village); duplicating alternative energy studies or demo projects completed for the region; and operation and maintenance of community alternative energy systems (other than a demo project).
 - **Resource Extraction**
GAP activities under this focus area are limited to capacity building efforts or baseline data collection, including the collection of traditional ecological knowledge. Sample activities might include: attending project meetings where environmental data is being discussed; attending training related to the environmental impacts or regulatory process of Oil & Gas Exploration,

Development or Production and Mining; collecting traditional ecological knowledge data; attending National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Training; attending public information meetings about federal and state agency permits; and activities to educate community and Tribal Council. GAP funds can not be used for the following:

- To oppose or support a particular resource extraction project;
- Inherently tribal government work, such as paying the travel for tribal council to participate in Government-to-Government Consultation meetings;
- Implementation of NEPA; such as complying with NEPA or using GAP funds to participate as a Cooperating Agency in the NEPA process.

- **Protecting Subsistence Resources**

Region 10 recognizes that protecting and restoring healthy and abundant subsistence foods is critical to maintaining Tribal communities and Tribal culture. Region 10 encourages the use of GAP funds for activities such as:

- Baseline Assessments (for example, fish tissue sampling, and fish consumption surveys)
- Baseline water quality monitoring and assessments
- Environmental emergency response preparedness activities
- Wetlands and fish habitat inventory work
- Document traditional indigenous ecological knowledge

Note: All sampling and compilation activities require an EPA approved quality assurance plan before beginning the activity.

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- **Developing Capacity to Properly Operate Utilities**

This focus area addresses the importance to Tribal governments of developing the personnel resources to effectively operate and maintain utility services, such as drinking water supply, wastewater sanitation, landfills, and electrical supply, in an environmentally sustainable manner. Because maintenance and operation activities cannot be done with GAP funding, Tribes should include in their application long-term plans to insure that utility management capacity will be maintained after being developed. Examples of unallowable activities include paying for utility related expenses such as purchase of oil or other supplies, or salary for the utility operator.

- **Environmental Education** Activities with students or teachers in K - 12 schools; community meetings; flyers; newsletters; websites, etc.
- **Develop Tribal Consultation Policy** EPA encourages Tribes to develop their own consultation procedures that allow the Tribe to comfortably consult with federal agencies. Some items this policy might include are: who federal agencies should communicate with within the Tribe; protocols for visiting the community; how often the tribal council meets; how the Tribe prefers to communicate; and on what specific issues. A resulting written consultation document would benefit the Tribe and any organization working with the Tribe.
- **Collaboration with the Regional Tribal Operations Committee** through teleconferences, email, letters, and face-to-face contact to exchange information on environmental issues of concern to Tribes.