

criteria were assigned relative values from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

Benefit: What are the probable significant outcomes to protect and restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on tribal lands if this program is successfully completed? The Service requires that the tribe articulate how the benefits of its proposal support the goals and objectives of the TLIP and Service and tribal Performance Goals in its proposal narratives. *Relative Value:* 5.

Performance Measures: To what extent does the proposal provide obtainable and quantifiable performance measures and means to monitor, evaluate, and report on these measures compared to an initial baseline? The measures should be specific and clear and should provide demonstrable benefits to the target species of the action. These actions must support the goals and objectives of the TLIP, the Service, and the tribe. *Relative Value:* 4.

Work Plan: Are the program activities and objectives well-designed and achievable? *Relative Value:* 3.

Budget: Are all major budget items justified in relation to the program objectives and clearly explained in the narrative description? *Relative Value:* 3.

Capacity Building: To what extent does the program increase the grantee's capacity to implement actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on tribal lands? *Relative Value:* 3.

Contributions and Partnerships: To what extent does the applicant display commitment to the project proposal through in-kind contribution or matching funds and to what extent does it incorporate contributions from other non-Federal partners in the form of either cash or in-kind services? *Relative Value:* 3.

D. TLIP Operations and Management

1. Can Grantees Use TLIP Funds To Cover Costs of Environmental Review, Habitat Evaluation, Permit Review (e.g., Section 404), and Other Environmental Compliance Activities Associated With a TLIP Project or Program?

Yes, the TLIP funds can cover these activities, provided they are directly related to the TLIP project or program being funded and are included in the budget and discussed in the program and budget narratives.

2. What Activities Are Eligible Under TLIP?

Eligible programs include those that improve, preserve, or maintain habitat

for endangered, threatened, candidate, or other at-risk species. Examples of the types of projects within identified tribal programs that the Service may fund include using prescribed burning to restore grasslands that support imperiled species, fencing to exclude animals from sensitive habitats, or planting native vegetation to restore degraded habitat. Tribes may implement TLIP projects on a variety of lands, including reservations, individual allotments, fee-lands, and village corporation and regional corporation lands in Alaska. Only activities that result in the protection and management of habitat that benefit listed, proposed, candidate, or other at-risk species are eligible for funding.

3. Are Any Specific Activities Not Allowable Under the Guidance of TLIP?

A proposal cannot include activities required to comply with a Biological Opinion under the Endangered Species Act or include activities required to comply with a permit (e.g., mitigation responsibilities). However, a proposal can include activities that implement conservation recommendations or to cover the costs of environmental review, habitat evaluation, permit review, and other environmental compliance activities that are required because of the TLIP project, provided they are included in the budget and discussed in the Program and Budget Narratives. Research projects or archeological projects are not eligible.

4. What Species Are Considered Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, or At-Risk?

Those species federally listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, or species proposed or candidates for such listing, or at-risk species (e.g., species recognized as a species of conservation concern, such as species listed or identified by a State or a tribe).

5. Does the Term "Private Lands" in the Landowner Incentive Program Appropriation Language Exclude Tribal Trust Lands From Participation in TLIP?

No, tribal trust lands are not "public lands." For the purposes of inclusion under TLIP, federally recognized tribes are considered landowners and are eligible.

6. Is the TLIP Program a Continuous Revenue Source for Tribal Wildlife Programs?

No, there is no authorization for appropriation of funds beyond FY 2003.

Funds appropriated in FY 2003 are available until spent.

7. Can the Grantee Hold TLIP Funds in an Interest-Bearing Account?

Funds can be held in an interest-bearing account, although any interest earned in excess of \$100 must be returned to the fiscally responsible Federal agency (43 CFR 12.64).

E. Grant Award Procedures

1. What Additional Information Must Be Provided to the Service by the Grantees Once Awards Are Announced?

Once the Director notifies grantees that their proposal was selected for funding, the recipient must submit a grant agreement and attachments as required by Federal regulations. As with our other Federal programs, TLIP agreements must comply with 43 CFR part 12, the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and all other applicable Federal laws and regulations. This grant program is also subject to provisions of Office of Management and Budget Circulars No. A-87, A-102, and A-133 (see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>).

2. Once Grants Are Awarded, Who Should the Grantee Consider as the Lead Contact Person?

Once grants have been awarded, the grantee should consider the appropriate Regional Native American Liaison as the lead contact person for all matters pertaining to the particular award. Financial matters will be delegated to the Division of Federal Aid through the Native American Liaison.

3. When Will the Service Award TLIP Grants?

Once the Service has reviewed and ranked all eligible TLIP grant proposals, the Director will make his final decision within 30 days of receiving the recommendations of the national review panel.

4. How Will Funds Be Disbursed Once the Service Has Awarded TLIP Grants?

Subsequent to funding approval, grant funds are electronically provided through the Department of Health and Human Services' SMARTLINK payment management system. Through this electronic funds transfer (EFT), grantees will be able to receive funds as needed. Some of the tribal grantees may not be EFT compliant. In order for us to ensure optimal service to potential grantees within the current Federal Aid process, grantees will need to obtain EFT capabilities compatible with the