



HISTORY

Beginning two years ago, the Grand Canyon Trust Native America Program assembled tribal advisors from eleven Colorado Plateau tribes to have an Intertribal Conversation on how those time-honored processes could be used to work on challenges that indigenous people face today. The group includes elders and youth who are charged with organizing dances, making songs, artists, storytellers, farmers, ranchers, and distance runners; all passionate about finding the right equilibrium where they can grow as a community while utilizing stories based on their ancient experience. With the group's direction and knowledge of the land and needs in their communities, they identified four focus areas:

- **WATER:** strengthen Native peoples sacred relationship with water;
- **HEALTH:** support better health through the revitalization of traditional farming, foods, and exercise, and bonding these activities with conservation teachings;
- **LANGUAGE & CULTURE:** support language and cultural preservation through stories, songs, and teachings that perpetuate land protection ethics; and
- **SACRED SITES:** strengthen networks, resources, and tools for long term protection of sacred sites.

Based on recommendations from the participants in the Colorado Plateau Intertribal Conversations, the Intertribal Opportunity Fund will support the work of tribes, communities, and organizations within the four key areas. Projects funded will showcase the results of their work at future Intertribal gatherings, share their experiences with gathering members and relatives from other tribes, and discuss what worked and what still needs to be done. In this way, the cycle of sharing and high honor among the tribes will continue.

INTERTRIBAL OPPORTUNITY FUND ELIGIBILITY

Eligible organizations will be formally organized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, tribal §7871 organizations or community organizations. Grant recipients will be Native American-controlled (Native-majority board) and located in and serve the 10 targeted reservation-based communities: Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi, Kaibab-Paiute, Navajo, San Juan Southern Paiute, Uinta Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, and White Mountain Apache.

Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$15,000, and must address one or more of the issues listed below. Special discretionary grants outside of the four focus areas listed below may be considered if participants of the Intertribal gathering decide they are urgent and the project is deemed important enough to warrant an exception should be made.

The Opportunity Fund is intended to support well-grounded projects that have high potential for results. Projects should be well-organized with identified timelines, outcomes, and activities. Projects should also include partners and must be driven by experienced leaders. Matching funds will increase the likelihood of successfully obtaining funding.

[More contact information and details on the back.](#)

"I've been alone, carrying the battle on, carrying on the efforts of my grandparents and great grandparents to hold on to the land. Now I have heard the voice of the universe that preserved this for them. It's very strong for me to learn that people here are still decent people. I had gone into my shell like a turtle, now I am coming out. Various tribes have squabbled over this and that. We need to repair those relationships. Now I have direction to take home and to say to the youth, this is the direction."

—Glenmore Begaye, Diné



CONTACT INFORMATION AND FORMS

For application forms and background information, please visit:
www.grandcanyontrust.org/nativeamerica/intertribalgatherings/opportunityfund

Questions can be referred to:
Tony Skrelunas: tskrelunas@grandcanyontrust.org
Deon Ben: dben@grandcanyontrust.org
Office Phone: (928) 774-7488



2601 Fort Valley Road
Flagstaff AZ, 86001

Artwork for Colorado Plateau Intertribal Conversations logo provided by ©Chris Frank



COLORADO PLATEAU
INTERTRIBAL CONVERSATIONS

Native America Opportunity Fund Funding Announcement



Using processes that were developed over a very long time, Native people of the Colorado Plateau created stories about their fantastic lands and their tribes that helped them live in harmony with the land, the environment, and their neighbors. From generation to generation, oral history, teachings, natural laws, songs, art, and taboos were passed down to ensure harmony and cohesiveness.



AREAS OF FUNDING FOR 2011: COLORADO PLATEAU INTERTRIBAL OPPORTUNITY FUND

Dear _____

We invite your promising project to apply for funding from the 2011 Native America Opportunity Fund. The elders of the Colorado Plateau Intertribal Conversations identified your project as a model for preserving the ancient story of the first peoples of the land. The success of your project is vital to ensure the areas identified as priorities, including water, health, language, culture, and sacred sites are protected for future generations. The specific issues identified for funding are summarized below:



WATER

In most tribal belief systems on the Colorado Plateau, water is life. It sustains crops, animals, and people. Its importance is chronicled in the stories, ceremonies and spirituality of the Colorado Plateau's traditional peoples. And yet, tribal water supplies are threatened both in terms of supply and quality.

IN 2011, THE COLORADO PLATEAU INTERTRIBAL CONVERSATIONS GROUP WILL CONSIDER FUNDING PROJECTS WHICH:

RE-INVIGORATE TRADITIONAL VIEWS ON THE SACREDNESS OF WATER

Tribal officials and administrators should know about traditional stories and teachings related to water systems. The Opportunity Fund will fund tribal efforts which utilize respected elders and tribal conservationists to instruct community, tribal, and future leaders about the various teachings and stories about the protection of sacred springs, rivers, streams, and aquifers.

HELP TRIBES WITH SPRING RESTORATION

Many tribal springs need to be restored, as they are sacred to ceremonies, agriculture, and life in the desert Southwest. The Opportunity Fund will fund tribal efforts to restore springs using youth, community organizations, and local leaders.

PROMOTE AWARENESS OF WATER AND HEALTH THROUGH CULTURALLY MEANINGFUL PHYSICAL RUNS

Meaningful healthy events which teach and showcase conservation and fitness, along with each tribe's unique culture, foods, traditional prizes, and teachings about water could provide significant benefits. The Opportunity Fund seeks three tribal runs or walks patterned after the Paatuwaqatsi Run (Hopi Water is Life Run).



HEALTH

The health concern that is most common to all Colorado Plateau Tribes is the rapid increase in diabetes, driven in large part by the disappearance of traditional foods and farming, both of which provide a basis for not only good health, but traditional culture and an authentic relationship with the earth. A renewed connection with gathering, farming and traditional food preparation could be a cornerstone for the re-invigoration of culture, spiritual well-being and physical health. Most tribes have programs that cut across a spectrum of solutions. These include protecting and/or cultivating native, traditionally important, or nutritious plants, joining elders with youth to share knowledge about culturally significant plants and promoting the use of Native foods in traditional dishes.

IN 2011, THE COLORADO PLATEAU INTERTRIBAL CONVERSATIONS GROUP WILL CONSIDER FUNDING PROJECTS WHICH:

CREATE MARKETS FOR, AND TEACH FOOD MAKING AT, TRADITIONAL FARMING PROJECTS

Networks between non-governmental organizations, communities, and tribal departments must be strengthened to support traditional farming projects as a way to create healthier diets and food security. The Opportunity Fund will support tribal farming projects whose aim is to develop local markets for their community's surplus of organic local produce, and/or showcase proper traditional processing methods resulting in healthy foods. Projects that share the best off reservation techniques, such as community supported agriculture and coops, are also encouraged.

TEACH NATIVE FARMER KNOWLEDGE

Farmer knowledge, stories, and techniques need to be relearned in tribal communities. The Opportunity Fund will support the efforts of tribal programs and farming projects to reclaim and disseminate farmer knowledge; stories and teachings around time-tested traditional growing, storage, and food processing techniques.

TEACH NATIVE PLANT GATHERING KNOWLEDGE

Plant gathering knowledge, stories, and techniques are important to tribal communities. The Opportunity Fund will support projects that educate the local community time-tested plant gathering knowledge—stories, traditional gathering practices, proper processing, and use as foods, medicine, tobacco and even goods such as baskets. Projects that bring together practitioners to share ideas, successes, and challenges are encouraged.

TEACH THE LIVESTOCK HERDING TECHNIQUES THAT SUPPORT ECOSYSTEMS

Tribal ranchers need to preserve traditional knowledge on methods of monitoring and protecting the land. The Opportunity Fund will support projects that work to learn from and teach the efforts of tribal ranchers/herders who are using time-honored techniques such as rotating the herds to different camps, allowing the land to rest, and monitoring impacts to the land.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Loss of language and culture is a tribal issue that impacts all aspects of conservation for tribes. Tribal people's culture, spirituality and identity are inseparable from the land, and the meanings of these themes are exemplified in the language. Songs and ceremonies chronicle a relationship with the land in the deepest and most meaningful sense of the word; they document a mutual respect, love and need for land, water, sun and skies, as well as the plants and animals they support. Traditional languages are refuges for those sacred songs and stories. They contain the names for Native and sacred plants and embody the core of tribal identity. When language is lost, culture is crippled—and so is a tribe's ability to manage land and resources using traditional knowledge and tested, age-old experiences.



IN 2011, THE COLORADO PLATEAU INTERTRIBAL CONVERSATIONS GROUP WILL CONSIDER FUNDING PROJECTS WHICH: **RECORD, ARCHIVE, AND SHARE ELDER STORIES**

The teachings of Tribal elders must be taught, using all available tools, to tribal youth. The Opportunity Fund will support projects that build capacity in young tribal members to record, archive, and share elder teachings via websites and video.

ENSURE TRADITIONAL STORIES, TEACHINGS, AND SONGS ARE CARRIED ON USING THE LANGUAGE

The elders feel it critical to support opportunities for tribal members to study traditional knowledge that chronicle a relationship with nature. The Opportunity Fund will support a young person and/or elder to learn/share the stories, teachings, and songs that are important to ensure continual balance with nature.



SACRED SITES

Tribal lands once encompassed most of the Colorado Plateau. Many landmarks are where important historical events took place and they serve as harbingers of teachings, stories, songs, offerings, and prayers. The gathering group feels it is important to strengthen the laws and share effective processes for protecting sacred landscapes. Many sites are threatened by uranium mining, tourism, development or a combination of these. (For example, the San Francisco Peaks, New Mexico's Mount Taylor and Zuni Salt Lake.)

IN 2011, THE COLORADO PLATEAU INTERTRIBAL CONVERSATIONS GROUP WILL CONSIDER FUNDING PROJECTS WHICH:

ENSURE THAT TRIBAL LEADERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ACTIVISTS HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF FEDERAL LAW AFFECTING SACRED SITES AND EFFECTIVE TRIBAL APPROACHES FOR PROTECTING THEM

Tribal officials, administrators, and non-governmental organization leaders must be armed with the right information to effectively protect sacred places. The Opportunity Fund will support efforts to educate tribal leaders, administrators and activists in the following subject areas: 1) Teaching about federal laws relevant to sacred sites and defining strategies for improving them; 2) Sharing processes that have been successful in protecting sacred sites in Indian Country.