

Bureau of Indian Affairs – Invasive Species (IS) Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (Tribes and inter-tribal organizations authorized under P.L. 93-638).

We request that successful applicants provide an annual report to the Regional BIA point-of- contact (listed below) by September 1st of each year until the project is completed. Reporting helps support future appropriations! Reports might include:

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- Objectives achieved
- Photos / short narratives

Proposal Eligibility

- Proposals must provide the contact information for the Tribal project manager overseeing the project. Failure to provide this information will result in disqualification.
- The proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. *Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate account and should be requested at the time you develop the budget with BIA, contracting officials (if selected for funding).*
- Proposals calling for the capture, holding, or removal of feral or wild animals must be approved by Tribal Resolution
 - All other proposals must be signed (at a minimum) by the equivalent of the Director of Natural Resources. This is to help ensure the Tribe is aware of the project.
- Funding requests can range from \$2,500 - \$200,000 per application. Proposals addressing more than one focus area may be combined into one proposal.
- An eligible entity can submit multiple applications.

Project Eligibility

Successful applications will focus on the management/control of invasive species on tribal trust lands, individual Indian allotment lands, or in areas managed by tribes through treaties or agreements.

Instead of focusing on the definition of “*Invasive Species*,” this program will focus on the damage caused to Tribal Trust Resources and leave it to the discretion of the applicant to describe:

- a) whether the species is “invasive” or represents an instance in which a native species is behaving as an invasive species due to altered environmental conditions.
- b) whether the damage is occurring in an agricultural setting - or - a more general, non-agricultural setting.
 - Noxious Weeds/Agriculture related projects will be reviewed by the BIA Branch of Agriculture and Rangeland Development (BARD).
 - Fish & Wildlife/non-agriculture related projects will be reviewed by the BIA Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation (BFWR).

Funding focus can include:

- 1) **Planning** funding would allow tribes to participate in local/regional/national forums and/or planning efforts by which such collaborative efforts have been established, or would allow tribes to initiate a collaborative forum, task force, or management planning effort where none currently exist.
- 2) **Prevention** funding would provide for the development of planning/management documents and or develop/implement procedures to prevent IS from impacting tribal trust resources where such species are not already established.
- 3) **Implementation** funding would assist tribes in implementing management plans or other established protocols aimed at the control, management, or prevention of IS.

Ranking Criteria

All projects should focus on alleviating or preventing IS impacts on tribal natural resources.

Eligible projects will be ranked according to the degree they meet the following criteria:

- The extent to which collaboration with other partners has been investigated/pursued;
- The extent to which a proposal provides the most cost effective means of controlling or managing IS;
- The extent to which a project is self-sustaining; requiring little, if any, future funding for operations/ongoing management;
- The extent to which a management plan attempts to eradicate the IS, reduce the IS to the lowest level possible, or prevent the invasion of IS;
- The degree of benefit to native species and other tribal natural resources;
- The degree of benefit to tribally important species and/or habitats that are listed in official and approved tribal documents, management plans, or Tribal Resolutions;
- The degree to which the project meets the goals/objectives/requirements of approved tribal or federal/state planning documents;
- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates an awareness and ability to achieve environmental compliance (NEPA, ESA) and other permitting requirements;
- The degree of cost-sharing and partnerships (include letter of support);
- The extent to which a project engages tribal youth in natural resources management (play, learn, work, serve);
- Ability to provide reports that highlight project successes (by Sept. 1st of each year).

For Noxious Weeds projects only – the attached “Noxious Weed Management Project Ranking Criteria Scoring Table” will be used by BARD when ranking proposals in FY 2026. A proposal that does not document at least 50% cost share will not be considered.

All projects must focus on the reduction of invasive species populations to the lowest levels practicable. There will be no consideration for maintenance of populations, especially for feral horse and swine populations. BIA will not fund projects with long-term (greater than 30 days) holding, maintaining, or otherwise providing care for feral animals in holding pens or other enclosures.

This funding source is non-recurring. Thus, the goals of any proposed project should not rely on future funding.

How to Apply

Submit your proposal to the Regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs that services your area.

Proposals are due to your Regional office (address and contact info below) by close of business on July 1st, 2026.

The proposal should clearly address the ranking criteria listed above and be limited to six pages maximum (not including letters of support/contributions).

Please submit a proposal in the following format:

- I. Introduction/Background – Name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.
- II. Goal/Objectives – What are the goals of the project? List measurable objectives that work towards achieving the project goals.
- III. Methodology – How you plan on accomplishing the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan in which you are seeking funding for implementation.
- IV. Outcome/Results - What are the expected work products? What measurable benefits are expected? What is the expected timeline?
- V. Budget - Need a detailed line item expenditure breakdown. Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- VI. Letters of support/contributions.

BIA Regional Contact List for IS Program

Great Plains	Southern Plains	Eastern	Midwest	Eastern Oklahoma	Rocky Mt
Todd Hauge, Safety of Dams (605) 226-7621 todd.hauge@bia.gov	Robert Codopony, Acting NR Branch Chief (405) 850-6772 robert.codopony@bia.gov	Mikail Kane, Regional NRS (629) 203-2337 mikail.kane@bia.gov	Chase Meierotto, Acting Fish Wildlife & Parks Branch Chief (715) 519-0742 chase.meierotto@bia.gov	Justin Morgan, Soil Conservationist (918) 315-1465 justin.morgan@bia.gov	Frank D. Rollefson, Regional Wildlife Biologist frank.rollefson@bia.gov
Address: BIA, Great Plains Region, Division of Natural Resources, MC 301, 115 4 th Ave. SE, Suite 400, Aberdeen, SD 57401	Address: BIA, P.O. Box 368, Anadarko, OK 73005	Address: BIA, 545 Marriott Dr. Suite 700, Nashville TN 37214	Address: BIA, 5600 W. American Blvd, Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437	Address: BIA, 3100 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee, OK 74401	Address: BIA, Rocky Mountain Region, Division of Natural Resources, 2021 4 th Ave. North, Billings, MT 59101

Navajo	Southwest	Western	Pacific	Northwest	Alaska
Delores Becenti, Regional Geospatial coordinator delores.becenti@bia.gov (505) 863-8253	D. Chris Kitcheyan - Regional Biologist (505) 563-3408 david.kitcheyan@bia.gov	Kenneth Gishi, Rangeland Mgt. Specialist (480) 744-5568 kenneth.gishi@bia.gov	Peter DeJongh peter.dejongh@bia.gov (916) 718-9770	Robert Compton - Rangeland Mgt. Spec. (503) 348-4712 robert.compton@bia.gov	Rosalie Debenham, Fish & Wildlife Biologist rosalie.debenham@bia.gov (907) 310-9935
Address: BIA, Navajo Region, 301 W. Hill St., PO Box 1060, Gallup, NM 87305	Address: BIA, Southwest Region, 1001 Indian School Road, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104	Address: BIA, Western Region, 2600 N. Central Ave, 4 th Floor Mailroom, Phoenix, AZ 85004	Address: BIA, Sacramento Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825	Address: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland Oregon 97232	Address: BIA, P.O. Box 21647, Juneau, AK 99802