



Tribal Partnership Program

Section 203

(Water Resources Development Act of 2000,
as amended by Section 2011, WRDA 2007)

At a Glance:

- \$1 million Federal per tribe/per year limit.
- First \$100,000 of Reconnaissance phase is 100% Federal cost.
- The Feasibility phase for watershed assessments is cost-shared at 75/25 Non-Federal.
- Feasibility phase for ecosystem restoration is cost-shared 50/50.

The Authority. Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, as amended by Section 2011 of WRDA 2007, provides authority for the Corps, in cooperation with Indian tribes and heads of other federal agencies, to study and determine the feasibility of carrying out projects that will substantially benefit Indian tribes. The Tribal Partnership Program provides an opportunity to assist with water resources projects that address economic, environmental and cultural resource needs through studies including flood risk management, environmental restoration, and protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources.

The Process. Upon request, the Corps will cooperate with tribes to study water resources projects and such other projects as determined appropriate, primarily located within tribal lands. After a tribe requests a study, the Corps will conduct a reconnaissance study to determine the federal interest. Upon Corps headquarters approval of the reconnaissance report, a feasibility study is initiated where costs are shared with the sponsor (tribe) according to a negotiated Feasibility Study Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA). During the feasibility study potential solutions are identified, the costs, benefits and environmental impacts are analyzed, and a recommended project is developed. Congress

and the Administration must then authorize the recommended plan and provide appropriations for design and construction of the project. Depending on the type of project to be developed, different cost sharing responsibilities for the tribe and Federal government will apply. Cost share can be in the form of 100% work-in-kind.

Detailed design for project construction is not included. The studies can provide tribes with the technical data and analysis needed to either prepare plans and specifications for future implementation or to request implementation funds. Typical problems and opportunities studied under this program are related to: flood damage reduction, water supply, erosion or sedimentation control, ecosystem restoration, water quality, watershed planning, dam safety, community infrastructure, emergency management and preparedness, recreation, cultural resources protection, and environmental resources management.

How to Request a Study. If you have a need for a study that may fit within the Section 203 authority, please contact the Albuquerque District at the phone number below. Our Planning POC or Tribal Liaison will be happy to assist you and, if warranted, will meet with you on site to determine whether or not the proposed study fits within our authority. Upon receipt of a letter of request from a tribal sponsor the Corps can initiate the study.

For more information please contact:

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