



Indigenous Forest Knowledge Fund Welcomes Proposals for the Northern Forest

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The Northeastern States Research Cooperative ([NSRC](#)) recognizes and respects the deep, primary knowledge of Tribal Nations in the Northern Forest. In support of this knowledge, the NSRC announces a request for proposals (RFP) for the [NSRC Indigenous Forest Knowledge Fund \(IFKF\)](#). Proposals are welcomed for:

- Education, mentorship, and training of Indigenous youth in applied forest research and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledge about forest systems
- Applied forest research that advances Tribal priorities
- Synthesis and translation of forest research and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledge to advance communications, outreach, and economic programs for Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities.

NSRC will award \$200,000 in 2022 to support between two and five projects for one- to three-year funding terms to project leaders based or working in project settings on Tribal homelands and territories of the NSRC region (i.e., the Northern Forest).

“Working to facilitate the IFKF, under the direction of NSRC’s Tribal consultants, is exciting. I’m hoping it is just the beginning, and this initiative will continue to grow.”

- Anthea Lavalley, Member of the IFKF Planning Committee and NSRC Executive Committee

NSRC consults with an External Advisory Committee representing Indigenous interests, forest industry, natural resource management, conservation, wildlife, and economic development to ensure NSRC is aligned with on-the-ground informational needs and emerging priorities. A general NSRC RFP encourages projects of high cultural significance to Indigenous communities and lifeways (e.g., the health of brown ash and Indigenous peoples’ access to lands for hunting, fishing, gathering materials, and other purposes).

The IFKF is a separate opportunity to: 1) acknowledge and address structural inequities in opportunities for Indigenous youth to participate in forest research and 2) invest in the cultural and intellectual sovereignty of Tribal forest traditions alongside other forms of applied forest research.

In 2021, the inaugural IFKF funded two proposals.

[Haudenosaunee Forest Principles](#) led by Robin Kimmerer, who is based at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. This project brings together Indigenous community leaders, knowledge holders, and practitioners to consider the ways that Haudenosaunee forest protocols and traditions can be applied to contemporary forest management practices. Together, they are developing a set of Haudenosaunee Forest Principles based on the Haudenosaunee Environmental Protection Process, a guideline developed by the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force in 2007. The project will also create lesson plans designed to teach and demonstrate traditional forest knowledge from

Indigenous elders and practitioners to youth during *Native Earth*, a program for Indigenous students to explore the intersection between traditional ecological knowledge and environmental science.

[NEBI \(Water\): Connecting N'dakinna \(Land\), Bilowagizegad \(Climate\), and Alnobak \(People\)](#) led by Adam S. Wymore at the University of New Hampshire. This project provides Indigenous college students in New Hampshire with research opportunities that combine Indigenous knowledge of watersheds with empirically collected data from forested watersheds. Abenaki college students are developing 1) a virtual storyboard that preserves and shares Indigenous knowledge, language, and history about regional watersheds and 2) a unique research project using long-term surface water chemistry data to understand the effects of climate change on forested watersheds.

Proposals are due for the [2022 IFKF RFP](#) by July 1, 2022. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of NSRC administrators and Tribal consultants using the following equally weighted evaluation criteria:

- General fit to the program's primary goals and requirements
- Clarity of the specific project objective and likelihood of success
- Appropriateness of the approach and methods, including intellectual sovereignty and/or data management
- Tribal Leader (e.g., Tribal Council Official/Tribal Chairperson) or Tribal Department Director endorsement as expressed in signed letters of support

Award decisions will be announced by **July 22, 2022**, and funding will be committed by **August 19, 2022**.

Questions about eligibility or how grant funds are distributed to awardees should be sent to: alavallee@hubbardbrookfoundation.org.

The Northeastern States Research Cooperative ([NSRC](#)) is a competitive grant program for Northern Forest research, jointly directed through the USDA Forest Service [Northern Research Station](#), the [Hubbard Brook Research Foundation](#), and a designated institution in each of the four Northern Forest states: the [Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources](#) at the University of Vermont, the [Department of Natural Resources and the Environment](#) at the University of New Hampshire, the [Center for Research on Sustainable Forests](#) at the University of Maine, and the [Department of Sustainable Resources Management](#) at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York. Learn more about the Northeastern States Research Cooperative at nsrcforest.org.