Webinar Management

All attendees will be muted throughout this webinar.

If you have questions, please enter them in the Question box.

Audio Tab: Choose Computer audio to use your computer microphone and speakers. Change your microphone and speaker options using the dropdown menu. Choose Phone call to dial using the information provided to switch to phone audio.

Questions Tab: Ask questions to the staff and panelists about the webinar material or request technical help.
For 41 years

Our Mission...

to strengthen American Indian economies to support healthy Native communities. We invest in and create innovative institutions and models that strengthen asset control and support economic development for American Indian people and their communities.

First Nations Development Institute
Goals of Today’s Webinar

- To share practical examples of how partnerships have helped Tribes acquire and restore lands
- Provide resources and connections for Tribes interested in partnering with nonprofits, CDFIs or other entities
- Share information on the USDA Forest Service’s Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Request for Proposals
- Technical assistance available to Tribes and Native nonprofits interested in applying for the CFP
Introductions

Rjay Brunkow
CEO, Indian Land Capital Company
(Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians)

Betsy Cook
Maine State Program Director, The Trust For Public Land

Kristin Kovalik
Oregon State Program Director
The Trust For Public Land

Austin Rempel
Senior Manager of Forest Restoration
American Forests

Brian Rueger
Forest Manager
Tule River Indian Tribe of California

First Nations Development Institute
Indian Land Capital Company
Indian Land Capital Company

- Founded in 2006
- Cris Stainbrook and Eloise Cobell sought to demonstrate a successful alternative to traditional bank lending practices in Indian country
- ILCC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Land Tenure Foundation a 501(c)3 charitable foundation.
A tribally-owned sawmill in Wisconsin. ILCC funded an equipment upgrade.
A land acquisition for a tribe in California. The acquisition gave the tribe access to the Pacific Coast for the first time in over 150 years.
Structure of ILCC

- ILCC is a for-profit entity owned by the non-profit Indain Land Tenure Foundation.
- Ownership status became critical to emphasize that ILCC was a lending institution, not a granting institution.
- The parent company does not take a dividend or profits of any kind from the operations of ILCC. All revenue is placed back into available capital to be redeployed back into Indian country.
- ILCC is a 100% Native-owned Certified Community Development Financial Institution.
Lending Practices of ILCC

- To date, ILCC is the nation’s only “Full Faith and Credit” lender in Indian country.
  - Allows the Tribe to purchase land and never have that land put at risk again.
  - Allows for a smoother and more efficient process when placing the land into Trust status.

- Typical Loan Structure
  - Extremely competitive rates, determined by our cost of funds but generally better than a typical tribe could do with traditional financing.
  - Generally, a 20-year amortization with a 5-year balloon payment
    - The idea is that at 5 years ILCC will renew terms, provided the parties are agreeable.
  - Underwriting process requires ILCC to accurately identify alternative streams of revenue to ensure debt service.
  - ILCC requires a General Obligation pledge from the tribe.
Q&A

Please submit your questions in the question box.
American Forests & Tule River Tribe
American Forests x Tule River Tribe
Non-profit and tribal forest restoration partnerships
11/4/2021
Who We Are

Brian Rueger – Forest Manager with the Tule River Tribe

Austin Rempel – Forest Restoration Manager with American Forests
American Forests is the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the United States.
Mission and Impact Model

Movement Building
- Coalitions
- Campaigns
- Career Pathways Programs
- Public Policy

Place-Based Partnerships
- Urban Areas
- Large Forest Landscapes

Innovation Lab
- Tools
- Research
- Reports
- Technical Guides
Grants

- Reforestation grants (private match for public funding programs)
- Tribal partnerships
- Broader partnerships for broader impact (restoration planning, climate resilience, fundraising)
- Communications
Tule River Tribe x American Forests

- Local connections
- Post-fire, tribal-led projects
- California Climate Investments Program, landscape-scale collaboration
Funding and Programs to Support Forest Restoration on Tribal Lands

• Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

• US Forest Service (e.g., Good Neighbor Authority and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program)

• Bureau of Indian Affairs

• State-specific programs, e.g., California Climate Investments grant program and Fire Safe Councils

• Specialty nonprofits, e.g., American Forests (reforestation) and Wildlife Conservation Society (climate adaptation fund)

• New resources in infrastructure package?
Stay in touch!

Brian Rueger – Forest Manager with the Tule River Tribe: brueger@ocsnet.net

Austin Rempel – Forest Restoration Manager with American Forests: arempel@americanforests.org
Q&A

Please submit your questions in the question box
The Trust for Public Lands
The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.
Partnering on Land Acquisition

- Planning & Property Identification
- Landowner Negotiations
- Funding
- Due Diligence
- Legal Prep for Closing
Planning & Property Identification
Landowner Negotiations

- Landowner outreach
- Negotiations
- Holding contracts with landowners
- Managing ongoing contact/expectations
Funding

- Identifying potential funding sources and timing

- Federal Funding Programs – who applies?
  - USFS Community Forest and Open Space Program
  - Forest Legacy Program
  - USFWS Section 6

- State Funding Programs

- Private Funding

- Other Financing (e.g. Carbon Sales, Bridge Loans)
Projects funded by the USFS Community Forest Program
USFS Community Forest Program & Trust for Public Land
Ranking Criteria

- Community Benefits
  - Economic
  - Environmental
  - Forest based education
  - Recreation

- Public Participation

- Strategic Connection to Landscape Conservation

- Threat
Post Award Requirements

- Forest Management Plan

- Federal Grant Forms

- Deed Language for Tribes – Notice of Grant

The Grant Recipient shall ensure that for all land(s) acquired pursuant to this grant is held in perpetuity and that the Community Forest will be (i) managed pursuant to the Community Forest Plan, and the purpose of the CFP; (ii) will not be conveyed or encumbered, in whole or in part, to another party without written permission and instructions from the awarding agency; (iii) will be managed consistent with the purpose of the CFP; and (iv) that land(s) acquired under this grant must not be sold, converted to nonforest uses or a use inconsistent with the purpose of the Community Forest Program, or converted to land held in trust by the United States on behalf of any Indian tribe.
Due Diligence

- Appraisals and Valuation
- Boundary Surveys
- Environmental Assessments
- Title Work
Legal Preparation & Closing

- Deed drafting

- Closing coordination

- Any additional property interest considerations

* TPL can’t provide legal counsel but can provide support for legal aspects of property acquisition
Thank you!

Kristin Kovalik  
OR Program Director  
kristin.kovalik@tpl.org

Betsy Cook  
ME Program Director  
betsy.cook@tpl.org
Q&A

Please submit your questions in the question box
Panel Discussion
1. What considerations should be made when seeking funding to support your land purchase or stewardship work (for example, through loans, or sources of state or federal funding)?

2. It is important for partnership arrangements to be mutually-beneficial, and with clear terms, for example protecting sensitive knowledge or data. Can you share examples of agreements that help to address these concerns?

3. In your field of work, what changes are you seeing in regards to partnerships with Tribes and Native communities?
Presenter Contacts

• Rjay Brunkow
  rjay@ilcc.net

• Betsy Cook
  betsy.cook@tpl.org

• Kristin Kovalik
  kristin.kovalik@tpl.org

• Austin Rempel
  arempel@americanforests.org

• Brian Rueger
  brueger@ocsnet.net
Funding Opportunity for Forest Land Acquisition

**Funder:** USDA Forest Service

**Opportunity Name:** Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program

**Grant Amount:** Up to $600,000 (50% match required)

**Eligibility:** Local governmental entity, Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native Corporations), or a qualified nonprofit organization that is qualified to acquire and manage land

**Applications Due:** January 10, 2022

**Request for Applications:** [https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-17317](https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-17317)

*For more information about technical assistance,*

*email Emilie Ellis at eellis@firstnation.org*
Contact and Social Media

**First Nations Development Institute**
2432 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Longmont, Colorado 80501
[www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org)
Tel: 303.774.7836
Email: [info@firstnations.org](mailto:info@firstnations.org)

The recorded webinar can be accessed on our website under the First Nations Knowledge Center at [https://www.firstnations.org/fnk](https://www.firstnations.org/fnk)
Please Take the 3-min Post-Webinar Survey!
You could win a $25 VISA Gift Card
Thank you!