



**TESTIMONY OF FAWN R. SHARP, PRESIDENT
QUINAULT INDIAN NATION**

BEFORE THE

**HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES ON THE
FY 2014 BUDGETS FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE**

April 24, 2013

Good morning and thank you for inviting the Quinault Indian Nation to present our FY 2014 budget priorities for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). We ask that this Committee not subject Tribal programs to sequestration reductions or assess unfair and disproportionate rescissions on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) peoples, not now, not ever. Ours is a unique relationship that you must honor and respect just as we were expected to trust you to honor the obligations documented in the agreements between our Nations. We ask this in the name of our ancestors and for the future generations of our indigenous people.

Tribal Specific Priority Request

- **\$5.79 million over a period of 5 years for upper Quinault River Restoration – BIA (2013-2017)**

Local/Regional Requests and Recommendations

- **Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians**
- **Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board**
- **Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission**

National and Self-Governance Requests and Recommendations - BIA Requests:

- **+ \$9.8 million - Contract Support Costs over FY 2012 enacted level and maintain the status quo statutory language enacted in FY 2013**
- **+ \$19 million – BIA Public Safety and Justice**
- **+ \$8 million - Tribal Pay Cost to achieve parity with the U.S. cost predictions**
- **+ \$89 million – General Increase to BIA Tribal Priority Allocation for inflationary and fixed costs and will allow Tribes to fully exercise the right to self-govern**
- **Fully-fund provisions of Tribal Law & Order Act of 2010**
- **Funding to fully staff the Office of Self-Governance**

National and Self-Governance Requests and Recommendations -IHS Requests

- **+ \$5.8 Million over FY 2012 enacted level**
- **+ \$403 million for mandatory costs, inflation and population growth and to maintain existing health care services**
- **+ \$171.6 million for Purchased/Referred Care Program**
- **+ \$5 million to the Indian Health Service (IHS) Office of Tribal Self-Governance to keep pace with the increase needs of Tribes entering Self-Governance**

TRIBAL SPECIFIC REQUEST JUSTIFICATION

\$5.79 MILLION UPPER QUINAULT RIVER RESTORATION (5 year period from 2013-2017)

The Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) respectfully submits this proposal to complete river, floodplain, and salmon habitat restoration activities in four priority areas in the upper Quinault River (UQR) over a period of 5 years beginning in 2013. The QIN requests \$5.79 million in funding to 1) build up to 140 engineered logjams, 2) purchase logs and pilings for use in the logjams, and 3) complete approximately 537 acres of forest restoration planting. The funding will also be used to complete permitting, consultation and other construction related activities.

The UQR is located on the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. The river provides the QIN culturally and economically important salmon resources. The most important salmon resource to the QIN is the Quinault Blueback (sockeye) salmon. The Blueback and other salmon stocks native to the UQR have declined significantly over the past 50 years. Current trends in Blueback run sizes indicate that the decline will continue and that the Blueback salmon is at risk of “virtual extinction”.

The QIN hired the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) in 2002 to conduct a study to evaluate changes that occurred to the UQR and potential causes for the observed declines in Blueback salmon production. The USBOR identified many contributors to salmon habitat loss and the Blueback salmon decline. However, the most important conclusion made by the USBOR was that:

“the upper Quinault River and its salmon habitats will not heal on their own. Restorative intervention is required.” – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 2005

In response to the USBOR’s conclusion and inherent risks to continued viability of the Blueback salmon as a fisheries resource, QIN made restoration of the UQR and Blueback salmon one of its primary initiatives. QIN staff immediately began developing a plan to restore the river. The Quinault Department of Fisheries completed the *Salmon Habitat Restoration Plan – Upper Quinault River* (Plan) in 2008. The Plan is a comprehensive, science based approach to restore the UQR including its floodplains, floodplain forests, and salmon habitat.

The Plan applies engineered logjams (ELJs) and floodplain forest restoration methods modeled after natural floodplain forest developmental patterns and river channel habitat forming processes found in river valleys of the west side of the Olympic Mountains. The overall goal of the Plan is to restore for the long-term through cumulative benefits of individually completed projects, natural riverine and forested floodplain processes that will result in restoration of ecosystem services for salmon, wildlife and human users of the resources. Restoration of the Blueback and other fisheries resources in the UQR will provide cultural and economic benefits to local stakeholders, private landowners, and the QIN.

The Plan and restoration approach is endorsed by federal regulatory agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Army Corp of Engineers. The Plan is also endorsed by agencies of the State of Washington including the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership, and the Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition. Federal land managers include the Olympic National Park and the U.S. Forest Service.

The QIN has received support in principle from over 27 private landowners in the UQR for the proposed projects. The QIN, with help from its restoration and funding partners, has raised and spent approximately \$3.3 million in grant and 'in-kind' staff funding since the USBOR study was conducted a decade ago. In that period, QIN has completed planning, engineering design, an environmental assessment, streamlined permitting and Endanger Species Act (ESA) consultation processes, and constructed three habitat restoration projects. These accomplishments demonstrate the ability and commitment of QIN to restore the UQR and the Blueback salmon. The QIN requests that this proposal for funding be approved so it can continue the work it has begun and maintain the momentum it has established to restore the UQR and Blueback salmon.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The QIN proposes to 1) build up to 140 engineered logjams, 2) purchase logs and pilings for use in the logjams, and 3) complete approximately 537 acres of forest restoration planting. The QIN will also complete permitting, consultation, and other construction related activities. The QIN has shovel ready designs completed for 4.8 river miles of the 12.6 mile (approximately 6,900 acres) UQR restoration reach with the remaining 7.2 river miles scheduled for completion in late summer 2013. Restoration activities in this proposal include ELJ construction, materials procurement, and forest restoration planting in four prioritized project areas in the restoration reach.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project areas proposed for use of the funding include approximately 3.6 miles of main stem river channel and 520 acres of existing floodplain. The project, if funded and constructed in its entirety, will yield approximately 7.7 miles of protected and/or restored main stem river and side channel salmon habitat, approximately 860 acres of new floodplain, and reestablish approximately 537 acres of mixed conifer-deciduous floodplain forest.

PROJECT TASKS, TIME SCHEDULE, AND BUDGET

The proposed project will complete tasks and related activities according to the time schedule and estimated costs identified in Table 1. The QIN will manage the project and provide 'in-kind' services necessary to complete Tasks 1 and 5. Local logging contractors and timber suppliers will provide materials and services necessary to complete the project. The QIN has a contract with Quinault Valley Forestry, LLC to provide services

necessary to complete materials procurement and construction services (Tasks 2 and 6). GeoEngineers, Inc. and Natural Systems Design are under contract with the QIN to provide permitting, river restoration, engineering design and construction oversight services (Tasks 3 and 4). R2 Resource Consultants is an environmental consulting firm under contract with QIN to provide forest and wetlands restoration services (Task 7).

Table 1. Project tasks, timelines, and estimated budget during the period 2013 to 2017.

Task	Description	Time Schedule	Amount
Task 1	Project Management & Coordination	2013 – 2017	\$ 18,200
Task 2	Materials Procurement Services	2013 – 2017	\$ 1,450,161
Task 3	Permitting, NEPA and Consultations	2013 – 2015	\$ 12,000
Task 4	Professional Engineer Services	2014 – 2017	\$ 140,000
Task 5	Fish Management/Conservation	2014 – 2017	\$ 42,848
Task 6	ELJ Construction Services & Related Activities	2014 – 2017	\$ 3,589,580
Task 7	Forest Restoration Services	2014 – 2017	\$ 537,000
GRAND TOTAL			\$ 5,789,789

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED OR RETAINED

Jobs created or retained by this project include professional, labor, and services wage jobs. This project as proposed will directly create or help to retain an estimated 109 part-time seasonal or full-time jobs during the 5 year period. 61 part-time seasonal or full-time professional and labor wage jobs will be created or retained during the 5 year period. An additional 35 jobs (which represent indirect and induced employment) are created or sustained as the income earned by the project workers is spent in other sectors of the economy. The proposed project will likely create or retain 41 jobs in the local Grays Harbor County and Jefferson County sectors whereas the remaining 20 jobs created or retained will be filled by professionals employed by companies located in the Puget Sound Region. In addition to the professional and labor jobs an estimated 48 services related jobs in the local Quinault, Washington area alone will be created or retained. These jobs include wage level positions in the food services, restaurant, tourism, retail, and lodging sectors. Additional jobs will also be created or retained as the income from the services workers is spent in other sectors of local and regional economies.

CONCLUSION

“The Great Spirit bestowed life to all of us...including the animals, birds, fish, insects and plants. Our collective Native warnings and predictions were ignored in the rush to capitalize and exploit the bountiful resources of the land. Countless irreplaceable species are preserved now in museums or documented in textbooks. As the consequences of unmanaged exploitation and pollution reach irreversible proportions, the United States heeded our centuries old appeals for environmental protection. We only hope it’s not too late and that Mother Nature’s wounds can still be healed. We will continue to serve as the environmental conscience to the nation and the world.”

- **Joseph B. DeLaCruz, President, Quinault Indian Nation, 1972-1993**