



Q&A Information Session: Tribal Nonpoint Source (CWA Section 319) FY 2017 RFP

Tuesday December 13, 2016

4:00 – 5:00pm Eastern

Wednesday December 21, 2016

2:00 – 3:00 pm Eastern

Steve Epting, US EPA Headquarters





Guide to the Webinar



- **Short overview of “FY 2017 Request for Proposals from Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water (CWA) Section 319.”**
 - Key Dates
 - Important Reminders
 - Threshold criteria versus Ranking criteria
 - Review of ranking criteria
- **Question and Answer segment**
 - Questions may be typed in at any time throughout the webinar

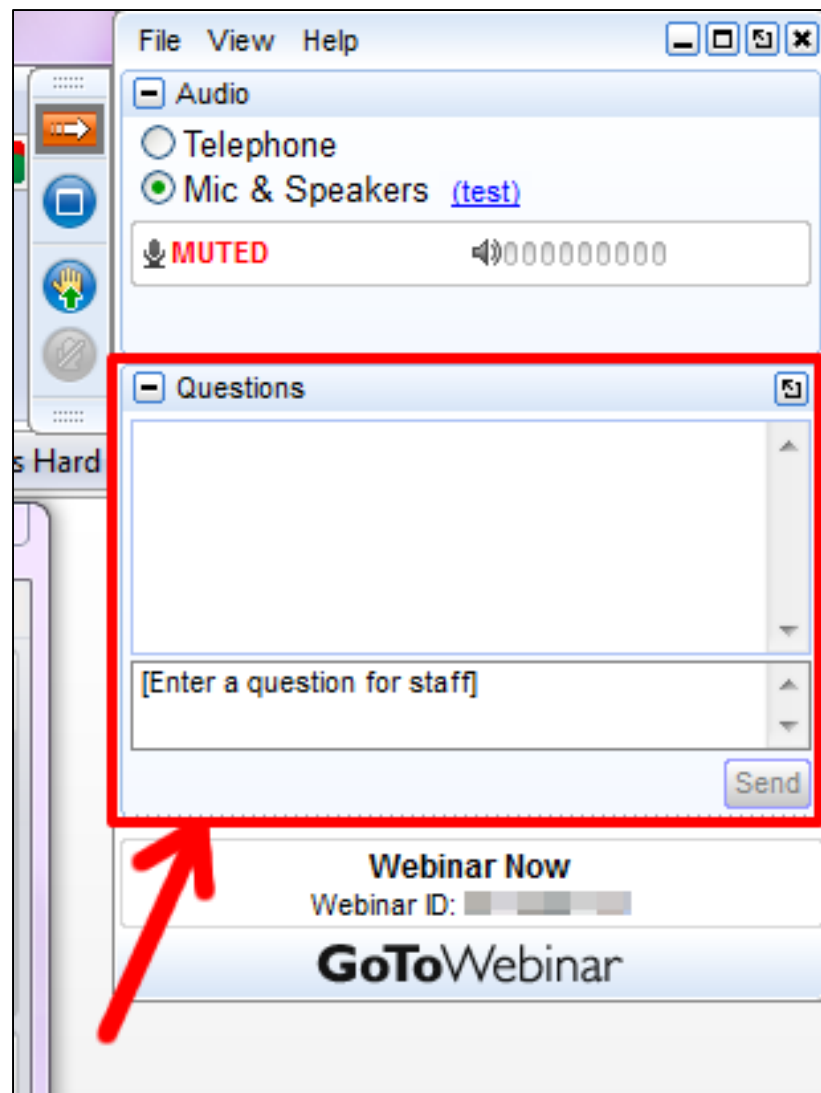


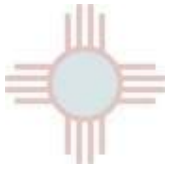
To Ask a Question – Type your question in the “Questions” toolbox on the right side of your screen and click “Send”.

Answers will be addressed either during the webinar and/or posted on the tribal NPS page:

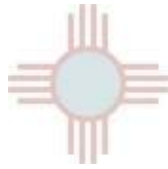
<https://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-tribal-current-grant-information>

Webinar slides will be posted to the tribal NPS page.





Key Dates



- **October 14, 2016:** date by which tribes must have met eligibility requirements (Section III of RFP)
- **December 1, 2016 to January 25, 2017:** Open application period
- **January 6, 2017:** Last day to submit questions to your EPA Regional Coordinator (or: tribal319grants@epa.gov)
- **January 25, 2017:** Submission deadline for proposals
 - Submissions via Grants.gov – by 11:59pm EST, by 10:59 P.M. CST, 9:59 P.M. MST, 8:59 P.M. PST, January 25, 2017.
- Late proposals will not be considered for funding



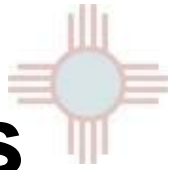
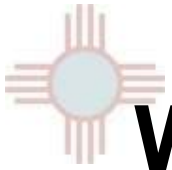


Important Reminders



- **All submissions must be done through grants.gov unless a waiver is obtained. If this is your first time, start process NOW.**
- Maximum federal request amount: \$100,000
- Page limit!
 - 15-page (single-spaced) limit on the proposal narrative
 - Additional pages are allowed for Supporting materials (maps, data graphs, site photos, etc.) (Page 18 in RFP)
- **Appendix A:** nine elements of watershed-based plan (Page 36 in RFP)
- **Appendix B:** Categories and Subcategories of NPS pollution (Page 37-38 in RFP)





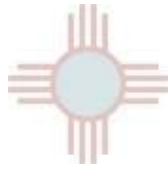
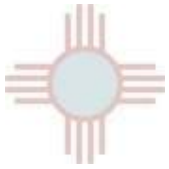
What has changed from last year's (FY 2016) RFP?

- **Not much!**
- Section I.A. clarifications
 - Expectations for watershed planning
 - EPA **encourages**, but does not require 9-element watershed-based plans
 - Eligibility of activities upstream or downstream of reservation waters, if related to waters within a reservation and consistent with NPS assessment report and management program



If you have a good idea, (Re)apply!

Year	# Proposals Submitted	# Proposals Awarded	% Proposals Awarded	Competitive Project Cap
2005	41	31	76%	\$150,000
2006	50	28	56%	\$150,000
2007	52	25	48%	\$150,000
2008	50	32	64%	\$150,000
2009	62	26	42%	\$150,000
2010	57	26	46%	\$150,000
2011	51	24	47%	\$150,000
2012	54	20	37%	\$150,000
2013	43	17	40%	\$150,000
2014	44	25	57%	\$100,000
2015	46	31	67%	\$100,000
2016	43	29	67%	\$100,000



Getting Started

- Have your account set up in [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Read through the RFP
- Review your NPS Assessment Report and NPS Program Management Plan
- Identify a priority project from your NPS Program Management Plan that you want to implement in FY2017 with NPS competitive funding
- Develop a workplan narrative to address the threshold criteria and ranking criteria
- Proposal work plan should conform to outline in Section IV.B of the RFP



Competitive Grants

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible tribes and intertribal consortia to develop and/or implement watershed-based plans and other on-the-ground projects that will result in significant steps towards solving NPS impairments on a watershed-wide basis. Proposals are due January 25, 2017. EPA estimates \$2.5 million in federal funds will be awarded under this solicitation.

Please refer to the Request for proposal document and the associated deadline table below. Questions about this RFP must be submitted in writing [via e-mail](#) and must be received by the Agency Contact identified in Section VII by January 6, 2017. Written responses will be posted here.

- **New!** [FY 2017 Section 319 Request for Proposals](#)
- [List of Tribes Eligible](#) for Base and Competitive Funding for FY 2017
- Q&A's for [FY 2016](#) and [FY 2015](#) included below for your reference.
- **New!** [November 10, 2016 Webinar Presentation: How To Write A Successful Tribal 319 Competitive Grant Proposal \(PDF\)](#) (68 pp, 13 MB)

Competitive Tribal Webinars

- **December 13, 2016**
4–5:00 Eastern
- **December 21, 2016**
2–3:00 Eastern

These webinars will be Q&A information sessions for the FY2017 Competitive Grant Request for Proposals. [Click here](#) to register for either of these webinars.

**FY2017
Request for
Proposals**



Previous year Q&A's



**Competitive Grant
Proposal “Best Practices”
webinar slides**

The RFP Process

Proposals are submitted online at Grants.gov by January 25, 2017

EPA Regions review proposals to ensure they meet RFP threshold criteria

Proposals passing Regional Threshold Review are forwarded on to National Review committee

Review committee members evaluate proposals and scores are averaged to result in ranked list

Awards announced in Spring 2017



Difference between Threshold Criteria and Ranking Criteria?



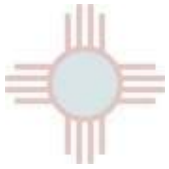
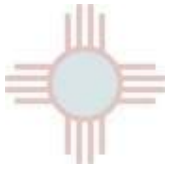
Threshold Criteria (Section III.D)

- EPA Regional review
- Signed Standard Form (SF) 424 – Application for Federal Assistance
- Proposal workplan
- Must substantially comply with Section IV.C
- No score

Ranking Criteria (Section V.A)

- National Committee review
- Proposals are evaluated, scored, then ranked
- Maximum score of 100 points

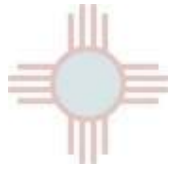
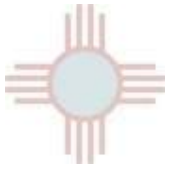




Nine Ranking Criteria

Section V.A. of RFP (page 24)





Ranking Criteria – NPS subcategories

- a. *The extent, and quality, to which the subcategories of NPS pollution are identified and described. (10 points)***
- Identifies each significant subcategory of NPS pollution
 - Extent to which these subcategories are present in the watershed

***See Appendix B of RFP for list of NPS pollution categories/subcategories**



NPS pollution categories addressed in FY16 awarded proposals (29 total)

NPS Category	# Proposals
Abandoned Mine Drainage	2
Agriculture	13
Silviculture	6
Hydrologic/Habitat Modifications - Removal of riparian vegetation (16) - Streambank modification/destabilization (17)	23
Marinas and Boating	0
Construction (on sites <1 acre in size)	4
Urban Areas	0
Wetlands and Riparian Management	5
Land Disposal/Storage/Treatment	7
Other	2

Note: In EPA's review, no preference is given to specific NPS categories.



Ranking Criteria – Water Quality Problem



b. The extent, and quality, to which the water quality problems or threats to be addressed are identified and described. (10 points)

- Identify each water quality problem or threat to be addressed caused by the subcategories of NPS pollution identified in the work plan
- Incorporate specific descriptions of water quality problems or threats, for example, in relation to impairments to water quality standards or other parameters that indicate waterbody health (e.g., decreases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).



Show the water quality threat or problem.



Failing septic system



Eroding streambank

Ranking Criteria – Goals & Objectives, Proposed Activities, & Location

c. The extent and quality to which the project goals and objectives, work plan components, specific management measures to be implemented, and the project location are described. (20 points total)

- The goal(s) and objective(s) of the project (2 points)
- The work plan components, which includes an outline of all activities to be implemented (7 points)
- The level of detail provided in relation to specific management measures and eligible practices to be implemented (7 points)
- Specificity in identifying where NPS project will take place in relation to waterbody affected by NPS pollutants (4 points)



Example Goals, Objectives, and Proposed Activities

Goal 1:

Decrease sediment and bacteria loading to meet water quality targets to support designated beneficial uses in Oak Creek.

Objective 1:

Remove livestock access to Oak Creek.

Management Actions:

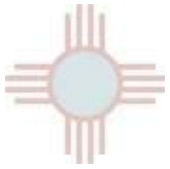
1. Install livestock exclusion fencing
2. Install off-site water supply for livestock

Objective 2:

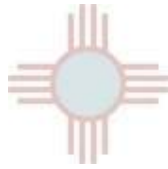
Stabilize eroding streambank and restore riparian area at former livestock access point.

Management Actions:

1. Stabilize 100 ft. of streambank
2. Riparian planting on 0.25 acres



Ranking Criteria – Water Quality Benefits

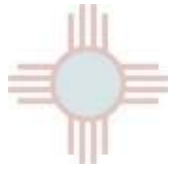
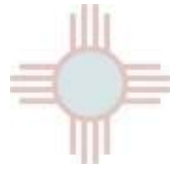


d. The extent to which the project will address the subcategories of pollution and extent to which significant water quality benefits will be achieved as a result of the project. (10 points)

- Describe water quality benefits achieved
- Specific water quality-based goals
- Info not available to make specific estimates? Water quality-based goals may include narrative descriptions and best professional judgment based on existing information.

How will the proposed work help address the water quality problem/threat you described earlier in the proposal?





Ranking Criteria -- Project type

e. The extent and quality to which the proposal fits into the watershed context and how it addresses 1 of the following 4 factors. (10 points)

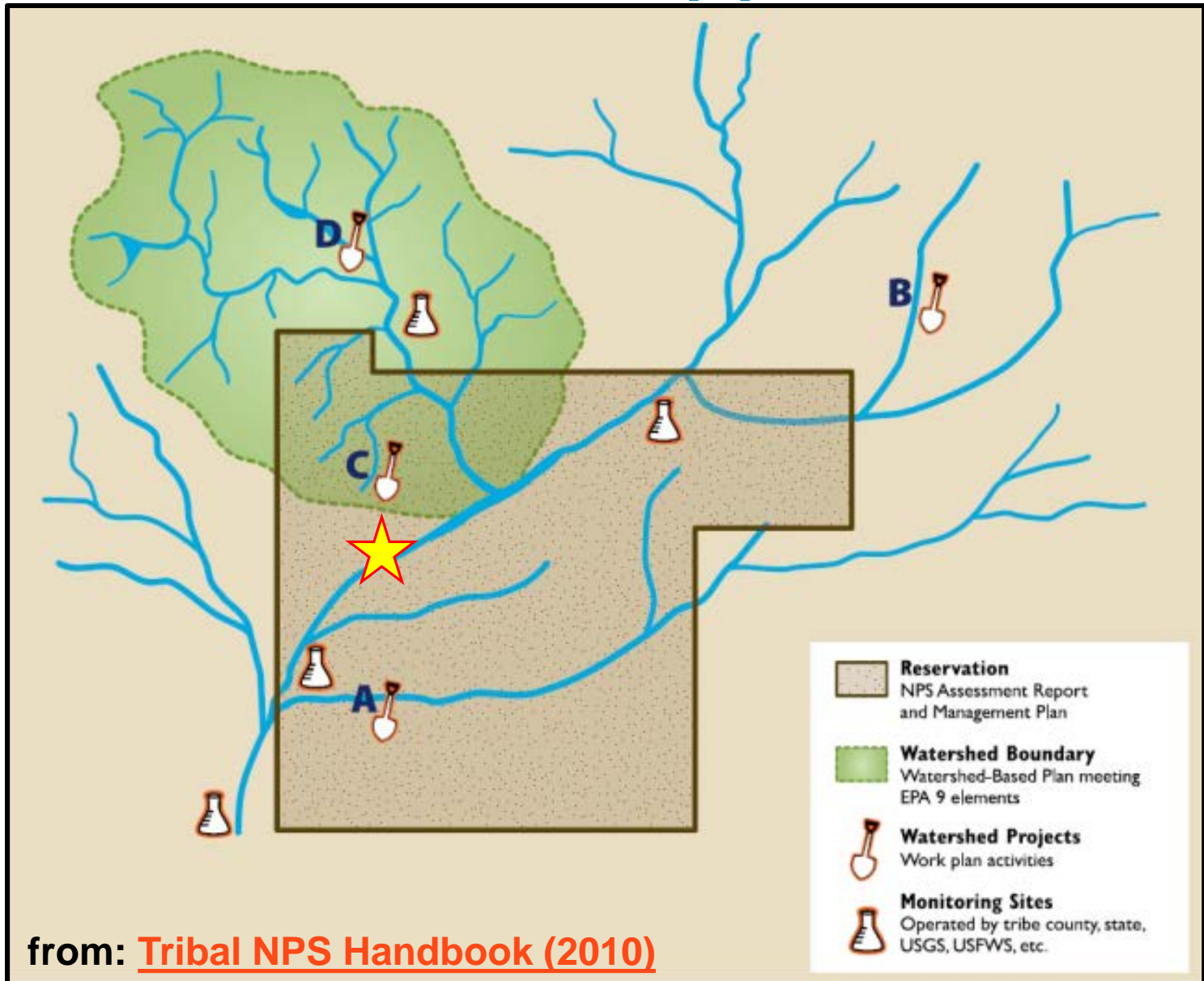
(WBP = Watershed-based Plan)

CHOOSE ONE:

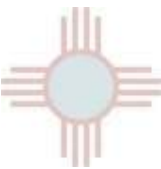
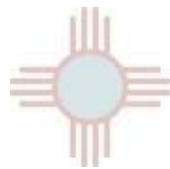
- (i) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a WBP
- (ii) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a watershed project (that does not implement a WBP)
- (iii) Implement a WBP.
- (iv) Implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.



Watershed Approach



from: [Tribal NPS Handbook \(2010\)](#)



Ranking Criteria – Environmental results and past performance

f. The extent and quality to which the proposal meets each of the following sub-criteria: (10 points total)

- i. Demonstrates potential environmental results (3 points)
- ii. Demonstrates a sound plan for measuring and tracking progress (3 points)
- iii. Past (last 3 years) performance under the federally funded assistance agreements. (4 points)





Ranking Criteria -- Budget



g. The adequacy and specificity of the budget in relation to each work plan component/task. (10 points total)

- i. Demonstrates reasonableness and allowable of budget and estimated funding amounts for each component/task. Adequacy and specificity of the information provided in detailed budget. Total project costs must include both federal and the required cost share/match (non- federal) components. (8 points)
- ii. (Approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner (2 points))



Example project budget table

Goal 1, Objective 1, Management Activities 1 and 2: Remove livestock access, stabilize streambank and restore riparian area along Oak Creek			
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fencing materials	0.5 miles	\$400/mile	\$200
Work crew to complete fencing and restoration	60 hours	\$80/hr	\$4,800
Livestock off-site watering structures	2 units	\$1,500 per unit	\$3,000
Bank stabilization materials	100 ft	\$20/ft	\$2,000
Native riparian plants	50 plantings	\$30/planting	\$1,500
Native grass seed mix	50 lbs	\$10/lb	\$500
Total			\$12,000



Calculating the Match



Federal Share	Non-Federal Match Percent	Federal Share Percent	Non-Federal Match	Total Project Cost
\$100,000	40%	60%	\$66,667	\$166,667
\$100,000	10%	90%	\$11,111	\$111,111
\$100,000	5%	95%	\$5,263	\$105,263

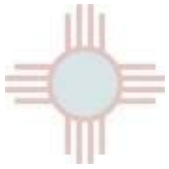
Example Calculation:

If you know the total project costs:

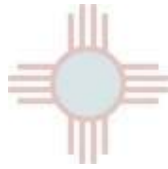
- (1) Multiply the total project costs by the cost share/match % needed.**
- (2) The total is your cost share/ match amount.**

For example: If your total project cost = \$166,667 and you need 40% cost share/match, then $\$166,667 \times .40 = \$66,667$ (Cost Share/Match).





Ranking Criteria -- Schedule



h. The level of detail in relation to the schedule for achieving the activities identified in the work plan. (10 points)

- Detail and clarity in relation to the schedule of activities for each work plan component and task or activity.
- May include: a specific “start” and “end” date for each work plan component and task or activity; an estimate of the specific work years for each work plan component; and interim milestone dates for achieving each work plan component and task or activity.



Example Project Schedule

	2017				2018						
Task	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
Final Report											

Task 1: Pre-project water quality monitoring

Task 2: Install livestock exclusion fencing

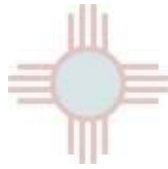
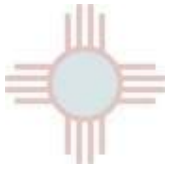
Task 3: Install off-site water supply for livestock

Task 4: Streambank stabilization design

Task 5: Streambank stabilization

Task 6: Riparian planting

Task 7: Post-project water quality monitoring

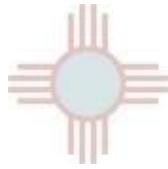
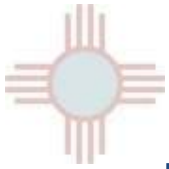


Ranking Criteria -- Roles and Responsibilities

i. The extent and quality to which the roles and responsibilities of the recipient and project partners in carrying out the proposed work plan activities are specifically identified. (10 points)

- **Specifically and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each responsible party in relation to each work plan component**
 - defining the specific level of effort for the responsible parties for each work plan component
 - identifying parties who will take the lead in carrying out the work plan commitments
 - identifying other programs, parties, and agencies that will provide additional technical and/or financial assistance.

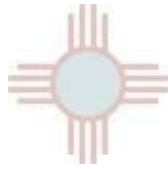
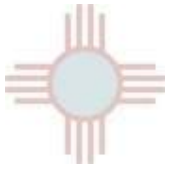




Things to Consider While Working on your Competitive Grant Proposal

- **Review committee can only evaluate proposal based on information provided**
 - Committee does not have access to the Tribe's NPS Assessment Report and Management Program Plan, or Watershed Based Plan
- **Review RFP carefully: Address both threshold criteria and ranking criteria**

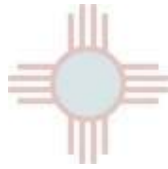
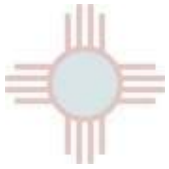




Reminders

- Tribes must use **grants.gov** to submit their application
- Competitive grant and base grant have separate deadlines –check <https://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-tribal-current-grant-information> for most up-to-date information
- EPA Regional NPS staff cannot provide assistance on development of competitive grant proposals/workplans
 - Questions regarding RFP will be directed to EPA HQ
 - Answers posted on the Tribal 319 NPS page & updated throughout competition period
- Reference your NPS Assessment Report, NPS Management Program Plan, and Tribal NPS Handbook for information on what to include in work plans





Questions?

Steve Epting

tribal319grants@epa.gov

FY2017 Competitive Grant Info at:

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-tribal-current-grant-information>

