 

draft of Tribal Data Work Group workplan scope

### November 18, 2021

### Overview

There are 468 federally recognized Tribes within the 15-state area that comprises the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) region. Many of these, 225, are in the state of Alaska, while the remaining Tribes (239) are spread throughout the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 8, 9, the lower three states of 10 and New Mexico in Region 6. There are at least 61 Tribal air quality programs in the WRAP region, excluding those in Alaska. Due to the large numbers WRAP considers all federally recognized Tribes as members but does request a letter requesting to become an active voting member. WRAP currently has 28 active voting member Tribes.

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| *EPA Region* | *Number of Tribes* | *Number Tribes with Air Quality Programs1* |
| *6 New Mexico* | *21* | *2* |
| *8* | *28* | *14* |
| *9* | *148* | *30* |
| *10* | *42* | *15* |
| *10 Alaska* | *229* |
| *1 Based on the number of federally recognized Tribes by BIA and 2017 NTAA State of Tribal Air Quality Report. Highest number of Tribes monitoring or conducting Emissions Inventories* |

Each Tribal air quality program encompasses unique needs and requires specific emphasis to meet their goals. However, there are certain common themes that weave them together including:

* Staff (capacity) – many programs have one or two people to address the complexities of air quality. Some Tribes experience turnover in positions that tend to keep them at a lower level of performance compared to long-term stable programs.
* Funding – Most Tribal air programs are funded by EPA Clean Air Act (CAA) 103, 105, Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements (DITCA), or Indian General Assistance Grant (IGAP) grant programs. IGAP and 103 grants are used to build capacity while DITCA and 105 grants are awarded to programs that have built their capacity and capability to operate long-term.
* Training (capability) – New personnel to Tribal air programs may not always possess the basic knowledge or experience needed to manage the program. Opportunities to expand skills are available to Tribal professional, from several sources specific to Tribes and are imperative to building capacity and capability.

### Responsibilities and Deliverables

The majority of this Workplan Scope spans many years of effort and potential effort by the TDWG to provide needed information and services to the WRAP membership. The identified topical areas are considered ongoing. The ability of the TDWG to complete specific deliverables is subject to availability of time and contractor funding.

Workplan Scope Topical Areas

* Help Tribes understand the benefits of using WRAP and WESTAR products and services
* Help Tribes understand air quality monitoring data and use of the Air Quality System
* Help Tribes understand the emissions inventory process and National Emissions Inventory capability and use
* Ensure availability of monitoring/emissions data from Tribes
* Facilitate support of TIP development and Tribal air programs
* Discuss Tribal needs for air quality protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation
* Provide educational opportunities for WRAP member Tribes, e.g., such as Technical Support System
* Identify SIP, TIP, and FIP planning target dates
* Encourage Tribal participation in other WRAP Work Groups
* Establish consultation with WRAP member agencies
* Conduct information gathering efforts with other Tribal organizations such as the [National Tribal Air Association](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntaa/) (NTAA) and the [Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tams/) (TAMS) Steering Committee as necessary.

Annual Action Items

* TDWG periodic calls and meetings, reports on any deliverables completed
* Maintain distribution and contact list
* Solicit Tribal membership in WRAP and participation in the FSWG and OGWG
* Adapt products from TDWG and other Work Groups into a Tribal Resources webpage

This work must take into consideration differing levels of expertise, programmatic resources and approaches, cultural necessities, and needs by WESTAR-WRAP member agency. Several of these activities will involve close coordination within WESTAR-WRAP facilitated by the Technical Steering Committee (TSC), as is done with other WRAP Work Groups.

**Operations and Reporting**

The Co-Chairs will provide a summary report to the TSC at each TSC/WG Co-Chairs meeting, about the status of activities, findings, and work products related to the topics and for the action items described above. Participation in the TDWG will be dynamic and evolving depending on topics and action items being addressed and the interests of the Work Group’s members. The Co-Chairs, with support from WESTAR-WRAP staff, will maintain a distribution list to be updated when needed. Although a Tribal focus exists, the TDWG encourages other interested parties to join Work Group meetings. Participation will be tracked on the [Tribal Data Work Group webpage](http://www.wrapair2.org/TDWG.aspx). No formal detailed workplan is required but welcome.

The TDWG will have regular virtual or in-person meetings arranged by Co-Chairs, at least quarterly. The principal purpose of TDWG meetings is to provide a regular opportunity for Tribes to discuss the TDWG action items and other topics. If necessary, Subcommittees or Teams may be defined by the TDWG to execute, track, and provide oversight for both in-kind and/or any contractor-supported TDWG projects, and will meet as needed at self-defined separate intervals. Any active Teams and Subcommittees will report regularly to the TDWG. The TDWG Co-Chairs will communicate on relevant matters with the TSC and Board.

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On the [Tribal Data Work Group webpage](http://www.wrapair2.org/TDWG.aspx) continue display of the existing TDWG webpage’s posted materials and add relevant and current Tribal Resources such as the [WRAP region map with Tribal Resources](http://www.wrapair2.org/Map.aspx) and those listed at: [Completed Work Products](http://www.wrapair2.org/WGcompleted.aspx). Create a new Tribal Resources webpage accessible from the new WESTAR-WRAP front page.