



Sample General Outline for a Wetland Program Plan



A Fact Sheet for Tribal Wetland Programs

November 2023

Note that all Wetland Program Plans (WPPs) *must* include a narrative description of program goals, a description of planned actions that are consistent with the EPA’s Core Elements Framework, and an implementation schedule.

1. Introduction or Background, such as:

- What is the history or status of your tribe’s wetlands program or wetland management activities?
- What wetland resources are present on and around your community, and why are wetlands/water resources important to your tribe?
- Are your wetland resources threatened by any specific activities or stressors?

2. Program Plan – Include goals and objectives (overall or for each core element), core elements that will be addressed, program activities for each, and status (if actions have begun). The four Core Elements are: 1) Monitoring and Assessment, 2) Regulation, 3) Voluntary Restoration and Protection, and 4) Water Quality Standards for Wetlands.

3. Program Evaluation – When and how will program activities be evaluated or reassessed?

4. Appendices (optional) – May include the implementation schedule, a monitoring strategy, supplemental maps, plant lists, etc.

The implementation schedule can be included as an outline or as one or more “action tables”, in the main text or as an appendix. Tribes may create a separate table for each core element addressed, with a row for each action and subsequent columns for specific activities and the proposed timeframe:

Core Element: Monitoring and Assessment		
Actions	Activity	Timeframe
Define wetlands monitoring objectives and strategies	1. Identify monitoring objectives 2. Define data needs and uses 3. Coordinate with most relevant partners (federal, state, tribal agencies, universities, etc.)	1. 2022 2. 2022-2023 3. 2023-ongoing

Other tribes create a separate table for each action within the core elements addressed, with a row for each specific activity and columns to display the years during which each activity will occur:

Action: Build the capacity and sustainability of the Tribe’s proposed Wetland Reserve Program					
Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Research developing a Wetland Reserve Program Plan for the purpose of wetland restoration and protection and for wetland program sustainability	x	x	x		
Seek and apply for funding opportunities to implement and sustain a tribal wetland reserve program if needed.		x	x	x	x

Some action tables also include columns to identify possible partners and potential funding for each action.

Find examples of EPA-approved tribal WPPs at <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/state-and-tribal-wetland-program-plans>.