



## Be•le Bom - Forever it Shall Remain

### Proposal Questions

#### Mission/History Of Organization

Native Roots Network (NRN), founded in 2004, blends traditional wisdom with cultural innovation for cross-cultural education. Our mission is to advance Indigenous-led pathways for just and vibrant communities. Initiated with projects like the Native Youth Cultural Exchange and Our Story Native Arts

#### JEDI Efforts and Impact

Native Roots Network (NRN) embodies justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. With an all-Indigenous board, featuring two women and an LGBTQ+ member, our organization reflects the communities we serve. Five out of our six staff members are Indigenous, ensuring that our mission is led by those with

Exhibition, NRN is dedicated to fostering youth leadership, promoting traditional arts, and engaging in land restoration. Our work is rooted in the utilization of ancestral wisdom and traditional ecological knowledge to cultivate traditional foods and fibers, embodying our mission to support vibrant Indigenous communities. A key principle of our approach is our Acornomics framework, which encapsulates the symbiotic relationship between people and nature, drawing on the acorn's significance to Native California Peoples. Through this, we strive to rejuvenate our role as land stewards and drive workforce development and place-making initiatives.

#### Final Success

Final success for our project is the full restoration of 1209 acres—equaling two square miles—of mixed oak woodland savanna, strategically located at the watershed's apex for multiple streams, which will rejuvenate areas degraded by hog raising and livestock overgrazing, ultimately yielding healthy waterways, flourishing native plants, and renewed access to traditional foods.

#### Location Details

traditional knowledge and lived experience.

Grounded in our Acornomics framework, we are directed by principles centering the symbiotic relationship between people and nature. This vision shapes NRN's efforts and methods, ensuring they advance Indigenous worldviews.

Equity, a core value, guides our decision-making process, emphasizing support for those most impacted by colonialism and patriarchy. Positioned in a socio-economically challenged area, we don't just work within the community, we're part of it. Our focus on land restoration and workforce development goes hand in hand with community empowerment, seeking to make an impact both organizationally and in our broader work.

Wenem To's, a term from the Wintu language meaning "middle place," is the name given to the land we are dedicated to protecting. This former ranchland, spread across the northern end of the great Sacramento River Valley, acts as a pivotal transition from the valley floor to the foothills. Just a mile north lies the boundary of the Shasta Trinity National Forest, leading further to Shasta Lake. Wenem To's is rich in biodiversity, housing four species of oaks, along with hybrid oaks, two types of pines, various willows, buttonwillow, native grapevines, redbud, Ceanothus, manzanita, and several critical plant species that bridge the ecosystems of the lower valleys and higher foothills. The land is threaded by two major stream systems, essential for the area's rich wildlife, including deer, rabbits, mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, and occasional bears. Raptors such as sharp-shinned and red-tailed hawks frequent the skies, along with bald eagles from the nearby lake. This area is also a vital habitat for both migratory and resident songbirds, showcasing significant biodiversity.

Historically, this area was stewarded by the Yana and Wintu peoples until the arrival of settlers, leading to a dark period of genocidal efforts that devastated Indigenous Peoples. The survivors were dispossessed of their lands, facilitated by the denial of a critical treaty that promised Wintu and Yana people a 35-square-mile reservation, part of the 18 "unratified treaties" in California. Subsequent settler activities, including homesteading and agricultural development, left their marks, transitioning from abandoned homesteads to seasonal cattle grazing. In the early 2000's the land was sold and used for more disruptive uses such as an ATV park and shooting range. In recent

years the ranch land housed a substance rehabilitation working ranch, that unfortunately exacerbated land degradation through overgrazing, compaction, and pollution.

We acquired this 1209-acre parcel in December 2024, embarking on a journey to restore and rehabilitate it guided by traditional ecological knowledge. The establishment of monitoring points precedes strategic land remediation efforts, prioritizing the most severely affected areas to stabilize and rejuvenate them. Our mission is not only to heal the land but to renew its ancient role as a biodiverse, ecologically resilient habitation, restoring the balance disrupted by years of misuse and neglect.

**Biodiversity in Project Area**

Our land restoration project aims to significantly build climate resilience in our region. By revitalizing the soil and reintroducing perennial grasses and other indigenous plants adapted to withstand heat, fire, and drought conditions, we will enhance the land's water retention capacity and enrich the soil with organic matter. These restorative efforts are predicted to attenuate the occurrence of flash flooding by mitigating rapid water runoff and to diminish the land's vulnerability to rapid drying. Consequently, the soil will be better equipped to both hold and slowly release water, providing steady hydration to the ecosystem during dry periods.

The management and caretaking strategies we employ will foster an environment that supports the oaks within the savanna to better withstand wildfires, produce more viable acorns, and support new growth and regeneration. Healthy oak savannas are vital to a thriving ecosystem as they provide essential habitat and nourishment for various species. Our practices will also improve the condition of the streams that thread across our land by decreasing soil erosion and sedimentation, addressing livestock waste contamination, and regulating the flow to reduce flood impacts in times of heavy rainfall, thereby fortifying the streams' ecological integrity.

This comprehensive approach will enhance biodiversity, supporting a more robust, interconnected ecosystem. The expansion of habitat quality on our land will inevitably benefit adjacent areas, including the open range land directly to the south and the land owned by the local junior college for rangeland practices. Approximately a mile north is the contiguous border with the Shasta Trinity National Forest, separated only by

**Expected Economic & Recreational Impact**

Our project's success is poised to drive meaningful economic and outdoor recreational impacts, fundamentally rooted in our innovative Acconomics framework. This approach reimagines workforce development through the lens of Indigenous reciprocity and care, aiming to establish a comprehensive restoration team by summer 2025. This team will not only bolster climate resilience but also advance workforce development in alignment with our community's values and the profound Indigenous understanding of a reciprocal relationship with the land.

Incorporating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) with contemporary restoration techniques, our TEK Workforce Development project will empower community members through active engagement in land management. By forming strategic partnerships with organizations such as TEK Chico and the Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA), we endeavor to provide TEK certifications, thereby opening avenues for sustainable economic growth and long-term employment opportunities within our community. Our project will transform "waste" materials from restoration activities into valued, sustainable products through our digital fabrication production shop, illustrating a regenerative economic model that enriches both our community and the ecosystem.

Guided by the Native Roots Network (NRN) and in collaboration with our partners, our land restoration team aims to restore traditional food sources, cultural plant resources, and reintroduce fire as a natural landscape management tool. This holistic approach not only revives the ecological integrity of our lands but also fosters a renewed sense of relationship and stewardship towards them among all who partake in our

medium-sized parcels of range land. Our restoration initiatives will not only increase connectivity to these other protected lands but will also create a buffer that fortifies the surrounding landscapes, elevating the overall climate resiliency and biodiversity of this extended region. By reinforcing this natural corridor, we enable species to migrate, seek refuge, and find resources with greater ease, enhancing the ecological robustness of the entire corridor network.

outdoor recreational and economic opportunities. Through the alignment of environmental restoration and economic development with cultural preservation, our project promises a sustainable and interconnected future for our community.

### Strategy & Timeline For Final Success

Our strategy for achieving final success with the TEK Workforce Development and land restoration initiative is multifaceted, comprehensive, and culturally infused. The timeline is methodically structured with specific milestones, each paving the way toward our overarching goals.

### Key Decision Makers

We aim to secure support from community members, local officials, and CalFire for Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) land stewardship. This involves raising awareness within our community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to advocate for the adoption of TEK practices, crucial for recognizing TEK methods in land stewardship. Our strategy includes engaging CalFire in discussions on cultural burns to develop viable methods for this underused practice.

#### 2025 Milestones:

x Skill-Building and Training: Throughout 2025, we are actively participating in collaborative meetings and training sessions with other Native Californian tribes and organizations. Our staff are undergoing certification trainings pertinent to the execution of cultural burns planned for fall 2025.

We're working to create a comprehensive dialogue that combines community cultural values with scientific evidence of TEK's efficacy and benefits, emphasizing fire risk mitigation, habitat restoration, and ecological resilience.

x Community Workshops: We will host a series of TEK workshops for community members throughout the year. These workshops will follow the seasonal calendar to ensure activities align with traditional ecological knowledge practices.

Support from entities like the Tribal Eco-Restoration Alliance (TERA), which has established connections with CalFire, is sought to leverage their experience and expedite our efforts. TERA's role can significantly promote ecological health and open opportunities for ecologically responsible practices.

x Monitoring Establishments: Points for ecological and cultural monitoring will be set up in 2025 to track the progress and effect of our land management practices.

Ultimately, through outreach, community engagement, and forming strategic alliances, we aim to integrate TE. into local land management. Our efforts focus on partnership, education, and showcasing the value of this cultural legacy, contributing to ecological sustainability and resilience. We plan to engage the business community in T.K land stewardship as part of our strategic commitment to future resilience and sustainability. Businesses supporting this vision not only contribute to ecological and social well-being but also position themselves as leaders in the journey toward sustainable development.

x Erosion Control: Immediate action will be taken to begin soil stabilization in areas prone to heavy erosion, protecting land quality and biodiversity.

x Infrastructure Adaptation: Over the summer, we will deconstruct the hog pen infrastructure to repurpose the land for more sustainable uses.

x Preparation for Revegetation: By the end of 2025, we'll be better positioned to commence seeding and planting necessary for revegetation efforts to restore native flora and fauna habitats.

#### Economic and Recreational Impacts:

Our role involves creating actionable partnerships that benefit everyone involved, from young adults entering the workforce to well-established businesses, fostering a healthier, more sustainable community for all. This mutual relationship is envisioned to transform not only local industries but also the grander scheme of

Upon successful completion of these initial steps, we expect the following economic and recreational impacts:

#### Economic Impacts:

- x Creation of employment opportunities for community members, especially young adults, through our land restoration team.
- x Establishment of pathways for education and training that enable access to trade schools or junior colleges.
- x Development of a regenerative economy that leverages sustainable products from land management activities, fostering a circular economy.
- x Promoting sustainable local tourism by showcasing the successful integration of TEK practices, biodiversity, and community stewardship.

#### Recreational Impacts:

- x Enhanced natural spaces due to revitalized ecosystems that support a wider variety of outdoor activities.
- x Increased opportunities for cultural engagement and learning for both the community and visitors through our programs.
- x Improved access to outdoor spaces, encouraging a deeper connection with nature.

#### 2026 Goals and Implementation Strategy:

In 2026, we aim to solidify and expand upon our pilot programs:

- x Launch a Full-Scale Land Restoration Team: Building on the pilot, we will offer extended employment opportunities and hands-on education in TEK land restoration.
- x Program Evaluation and Adaptation: Evaluating the pilot program to refine and improve the full-scale model for land restoration.
- x Community Integration and Education: Expanding community workshops to ensure widespread knowledge and involvement in TEK and land stewardship.
- x Creating Long-Term Career Paths: Developing clear and accessible career pathways in environmental management and allied fields, both for our youth and those seeking mid-career transitions.

Our strategy is to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors while using modern innovation and cross-cultural collaboration to re-establish our bond with the land. By creating economic opportunities informed by TEK practices, we not only support the well-being of our community but also preserve the indigenous heritage that sustains it. With careful monitoring and a willingness to adapt to ongoing learning, we are building a model for cultural and ecological resilience that can serve as a



valuable resource for Indigenous peoples and the broader population alike.

**Elevate Voices**

As a community-based grassroots Indigenous organization, our foundation rests on amplifying the voices of historically underrepresented groups and engaging in grassroots citizen action. Our mission centers around harnessing the inherent strength and wisdom of our community to instigate meaningful, sustainable change that respects our traditions while innovating for our future.

Our work is deeply intertwined with building the reach and impact of our community's voice and power. This commitment is reflected in every facet of our initiatives, particularly in our land work, which is guided by the values and goals that have long propelled our community forward. By prioritizing the vibrancy and resilience of our community, our efforts serve not only to advance environmental stewardship but also to ensure the active participation and leadership of those who have been historically sidelined.

Through organizing community dialogues, we create spaces for open, inclusive discussions that allow for the exchange of traditional ecological knowledge and contemporary environmental practices. These dialogues help in identifying shared goals and in co-creating strategies for achieving them, thereby ensuring that our plans are reflective of our community's collective wisdom and aspirations.

Our organization also invests in leadership development programs tailored to empower young Indigenous leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to advocate for our community and the environment effectively. By doing so, we are fostering a new generation who are deeply rooted in their cultural identity and committed to our collective cause.

We actively collaborate with other grassroots organizations, both within and outside Indigenous circles, to form coalitions that amplify our reach and impact. These partnerships are crucial in advancing policy changes, mobilizing resources, and raising public awareness about the issues affecting our communities.

**TCA Funding Plan**

TCA's support is crucial for our Acconomics project, aiming to boost economic and recreational impacts via a restoration team by 2025, rooted in Indigenous practices. This aid will enhance climate resilience and job

**Measurable On-Ground Outcomes**

By the onset of next winter's rains, we will have substantially remediated the former hog raising area at the top of the watershed, stabilized the terrain, and initiated seeding and plantings, demonstrating rehabilitation of an environment for sustainable management. Develop and commence the implementation of a cultural burn plan in collaboration with CalFire and other partners, evidenced by official approval and the initial burn conducted within the year. Host 10 TEK Workshops and/or work project days, fostering traditional ecological knowledge practices, with participation tracked through sign-ins and feedback. Design and launch a sustainable enterprise utilizing "excess" woody material from land restoration, with progress marked by the operational start and a review of the business plan. Establish a baseline and achieve a measurable increase in the consumption of traditional foods cultivated on the land, quantified through community surveys and harvest records.

**How long it took to complete application**

It took about 15 hours to complete narrative and additional 4 hours to complete file uploads. I experienced some technical issues trying to upload documents. Thank you.

opportunities by merging traditional knowledge (TEK) with modern techniques and fostering partnerships for TEK certifications, pivotal for community growth. It turns restoration byproducts into valuable goods, promoting a sustainable economy and enriching our ecosystem. Such support will refurbish habitats for varied outdoor activities, furthered by sustainable tourism highlighting our Indigenous legacy. Funding will acquire tools, secure professional and TEK specialist services for monitoring and training, streamlining operations for workshops and restoration efforts. TCA's help amplifies our efforts, ensuring a future where environmental care, economic progress, and cultural preservation converge.

**Confidential Items**

There is nothing that needs to be kept confidential. Thank you.

**Other Relevant Application Details**

I have been having issues trying to upload files in their own section. I was able to add them through other page with profile. They are present, just not attached in correlating upload sections.

