

Organizational Profile

Mission Statement

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (TDN) is a federally recognized and self-governing Tribe of Tolowa Dee-ni' people. On June 1, 2017, the elected, seven-person TDN Tribal Council adopted a motion to accept the following mission statement as guiding principles for TDN's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan:

To exert and protect the inherent sovereignty endowed upon the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation to promote our tribal identity, and the wellbeing of our people, community, and environment by building a strong foundation, managing resources, and perpetuating our cultural lifeways and legacy.

The TDN's mission places focus on nuu-da'-ye' (our family); nuu-srxii-xee (our children); nuu-k'wii-daa-naa~ye' (our future generations); nvn-nvst-'aa~ta (mother earth); and xwii-t'i (everyone).

Service Area

The *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*, or TDN ancestral lands, extends from the southern terminus at Wilson Creek, CA to the northern border at the Sixes River in OR, and east to the Applegate Valley, OR, and finally meeting the horizon of the west in the Pacific Ocean. The TDN's service area encompasses more than 2,015 Tribal citizens living within ancestral tribal lands and around the world. Three of the five counties existing within *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* are recognized as main service areas for this project: Del Norte County, CA (DNC) (26,589 population); Humboldt County, CA (HC) (133,985 population); Curry County, OR (CC) (23,296 population).¹ The majority of individuals serviced in these three counties include poverty-level and low-income people who comprise 16.5% of the population of DNC; 13.9% of CC; and 18.0% of HC.² These numbers are significantly higher than the national poverty rate of 11.5%.³

Organization History

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's Nvn-nvst-'aa~ta (Natural Resources Department) houses the primary scientific data collectors and technical advisors for issues and management decisions pertaining to TDN's trust resources within the aboriginal territory. This includes monitoring and management of water quality, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, fisheries, wildlife, and marine resources.

The Nvn-nvst-'aa~ta Habitat & Wildlife Division focuses on research and partnerships to inform restoration, adaptation and active stewardship on a landscape level, to land and wildlife within Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation aboriginal territory.

¹ Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022; Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html>

² County Statistics. Source: Deloitte, <https://datausa.io>

³ Income and Poverty in the US: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-263.html>

Narrative

Project Justification

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (TDN) is the lead applicant for this preservation and revitalization project called Tolowa Dee-ni' Tr'aa-may-dvn Xwee-nish (Tolowa Dee-ni' Living Plant Library) Continuation Project. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is a federally-recognized and self-governed nation of Tolowa Dee-ni' people. TDN's ancestral homelands, *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*, stretches along the Pacific coast from Wilson Creek in Northern California up to the Sixes River in Southern Oregon, and inland to the Applegate Valley (Supporting Document #1). Today, the current tribal government is headquartered in Smith River, California. Following its termination, TDN's reservation and fee lands are now characterized by a fragmented patchwork of parcels, and has increased in size from four acres to over 900 acres since the 1980's.

The arrival of settlers to the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* in the 1850's launched Tolowa genocide, relocation, and forced subjugation sponsored by the U.S. government. By the late 1800's, a once flourishing Tolowa population, thought to be near 10,000, was reduced to only several hundred. Today, more than 2,015 Tribal citizens live all around the world, though over half reside near or inside of the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*. Because most tribal citizens live within the immediate five-county area, TDN's service range includes Del Norte (572 TDN citizens) and Humboldt (135 TDN citizens) counties of California, and Coos (337 TDN citizens), Curry (254 TDN citizens), and Josephine (36 TDN citizens) counties of Oregon. The audience served by this particular project include all TDN citizens, and nontribal citizens residing within the three counties located closest to the TDN's reservation in Smith River: Del Norte County (26,589 residents), Curry County (23,296 residents), and Humboldt County (133,985 residents).¹ Noncitizens are included as an organizational audience to support community-wide education of TDN history, cultural practices, and environmental stewardship.

Area residents comprise a vast array of spoken languages, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, and educational levels. A small number of individuals in Del Norte, Curry, and Humboldt counties speak a language other than English at home (12.4%, 6.5%, and 10.8% , respectively).² Native Americans encompass the third largest racial identity in this area, comprising 9.9% of DNC (the highest in the state of California); 2.7% of CC; and 6.4% of HC.³ Concerning educational attainment, 16.8% (DNC), 8.9%, (CC) and 8.7% (HC) of citizens do not possess high school-level educations.⁴

Today, unemployment rates exceed the national average in all three counties.⁵ High unemployment may contribute to the extreme poverty levels experienced across the region: 16.5% in DNC; 13.9% in CC; and 18.0% in HC, all well above the national average rate of 11.5%.⁶

Historically, the economy of this region was vigorous. Throughout the 1900's, the local economy was driven by resource extraction and large portions of these communities worked in the logging and fishing industries. Today, the dominant economic sectors in DNC include

¹ Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022; Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk> ² County Comparison: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/currycountyoregon,humboldtcountycalifornia,delnortecountycalifornia/PST045218>

³ Ibid.

⁴ County Comparison: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/currycountyoregon,humboldtcountycalifornia,delnortecountycalifornia/PST045218>

⁵ County Unemployment Rates: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/27281>

⁶ Income and Poverty in the US: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-263.html>

educational services, public administration, management, and sales.⁷ In all three counties, the fastest growing economic industry is tourism.⁸

Before Contact, the Tolowa Dee-ni' met their needs through cultural practices and relationships with the earth's bounty that they had maintained since time immemorial. The natural world served as a central force to tribal identity and provided the basis for Tolowa Dee-ni' lifeways that physically, culturally, spiritually, and socially sustained the people. Tribal populations traveled freely throughout the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* and harvested food, seeds, medicinal supplies, and other utilitarian materials based on known seasonal cycles. Plants played a central role in the cultural, spiritual, and social norms of the Tribe. For millennia, the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* provided rich and varied plants for Tolowa peoples to harvest from coastal, riverine, upland oak forest, and redwood forest ecosystems. They adhered to strict spiritual protocols that outlined the use of Nvn-nvst-‘a~ (Mother Earth) and the preservation of her natural resources. In addition, Tolowa Dee-ni' actively cultivated and maintained botanical resources across the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*, employed plant propagation techniques to grow traditional plants across ecosystems, and maintained indigenous forms of agriculture based on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) passed down through generations. After colonization, TDN's access to traditional food sources and abilities to manage the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* dramatically changed. Today, accessing traditional food sources in large enough quantities for subsistence proves difficult, if not impossible, for most tribal people.

The post-contact era began in the 1850's and included the Tolowa holocaust and subsequent reduction of tribal populations; repeated forced relocations and dramatically reduced access/rights to the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*; boarding schools where students were forcibly deculturized from their tribal languages and cultural traditions; and the dismantling of traditional tribal resource systems; all in service of the overall separation of Tolowa Dee-ni' from their traditional lifeways.

The destruction of Tolowa settlements and constant relocation of Tolowa Dee-ni' created a reality wherein tribal citizens became unfamiliar with traditional language, landscapes, and the vast resources existing with the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*. In place of indigenous knowledge and practices, colonizing forces brought European cultural and language traditions. These included Western agricultural practices such as the introduction of invasive species, row-cropping, and ranching of domesticated livestock. The introduction of each practice contributed to the degradation of the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* and further destruction of the Tolowa culture. Colonizers mischaracterized indigenous water and land resources as economic commodities instead of interconnected lifeway systems; and thus, created a legacy of environmental destruction and oppressive land management across the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*. The rise of colonial resource extraction-based economies such as logging, mining and fishing, further separated Tolowa Dee-ni' from traditional ecologically-based agricultural practices. In addition, 'protections' set forth by federal and state land management agencies created barriers for TDN citizens to access and harvest their traditional plants. Currently, almost 70% of Del Norte County is under federal land management, managed with restrictive harvest policies that do not recognize the inherent subsistence rights of the Tolowa Dee-ni'.

In addition to this loss of sovereignty, tribal citizens also experienced dramatic losses of cultural traditions, including the rights to speak the native Tolowa language. Before colonization,

⁷ Del Norte Profile: <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/census2012/delnodp2012.pdf> ⁸ TDN:

Sowing Seeds for Local Abundance Feasibility Study: <https://www.tolowa-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Sowing-Seeds-for-Local-Abundance-Feasibility-Study.pdf>

Tolowa was spoken in villages throughout the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*. In 2011, a study on the Tolowa language found that the last fluent speaker may have died before 1990.⁹ However, according to tribal records, the last first language speaker died in 2012. Today, only one high level (speaks full narratives and tells stories) speaker exists within the Tribe. No first-language Tolowa speakers exist in the world today. However, to help preserve the language, tribal members began a revitalization program in the 1960s and have since established the Tolowa Dee-ni' Alphabet.¹⁰ Currently, the Tolowa language is listed with Reawakening status which means that the TDN community is working to establish more uses and speakers for the language. Though colonization brought a need for many cultural preservation issues to the Tribe, the two most prevalent needs addressed by this project are the need to preserve tribal sovereignty through a return to traditional land management practices; and the need to preserve tribal language and cultural knowledge around plants of the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*.

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is inspired by and has learned from the various models of food sovereignty and living libraries in other tribal governments and native communities across North America and beyond.¹¹ This proposed project and its continued development outline was informed by the Cherokee Nation's seed library project and is currently led by the Nation's Nvn-nvst-'aa~-ta (Department of Natural Resources). However, our proposal includes enhancing the educational potential inherent to a seed and plant library in three main ways. This project will build on the work done in previous years to continue adding and teaching a traditional language component, providing access to the general public and youth, and offering a variety of hands-on workshop and agro-tourism initiatives. Made possible by past support of the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's living plant library was the first of its kind in present-day Del Norte County and the surrounding community. Today, it remains the only indigenous-informed facility and location to support food sovereignty education and botanical literacy for Nation citizens and community living within the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*. The Nation's staff and elected leadership are encouraged by the success of this program and are excited to continue expansion if additional funding is awarded. There is substantial work to be completed, as outlined in this proposal's itemized budget and scope details, before the library can fully support tribal citizens and community in an adequate manner that promotes learning beyond the physical facility.

The current state of the Tr'aa-may-dvn Xwee-nish was developed by starting the process of converting the Sri'-srwvlh (Gilbert Creek) Community Garden to a native and medicinal plant propagation site, in order to provide locally-produced plants to the Nation's departments, projects, and citizens for personal and public use. Staff worked with advisory committees, volunteers, knowledge holders, community members, and contracted expertise to design and plan the current layout and propagation inventory at this site. The proposed project will expand the garden conversion to use Sri'-srwvlh as an educational space that houses a live collection of plants that were traditionally found throughout the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*. These plants include those traditionally used for food, medicine, and materials at a site easily accessible to Tribal citizens year-round. In addition, the Nation's Yuu-nvlh-ts'it-dvn (Education Department) and its Language and Culture Division houses projects that support Tolowa wee-ya' (language) learning and the cultural education of tribal citizens, Nation staff, and community.

⁹ [Golla, Victor](#) (2011). *California Indian Languages*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

¹⁰ [Bommelyn, Loren](#) (1995). *Now You're Talking Tolowa*. Arcata: Humboldt State University, Center for Indian Community Development.

¹¹ <https://webapps.cherokee.org/SeedBank>

The Education Department will work in tandem with the Nuu-da'-ye'-dvn (Community and Family Wellness Department; CFW) to assist with plant name translations and pronunciations in the Tolowa language, as necessary. CFW Department staff will also continue to support outreach events targeted at tribal families, and assist with distribution and instruction at “seed and plant give-away” type events and workshops. The proposed project expands the communities served by existing projects and focuses more strongly on cultural and horticultural education, and thus better supports a community-based system for cultural preservation through the use and knowledge of traditional plants.

The history of the Tolowa Dee-ni' illustrates pressing needs for the community to preserve its culture, language, relationships, and practices. As the Tribe works to increase land ownership, advocate for co-management and resource stewardship, strengthen sovereignty, and restore its cultural history, it is imperative for the Tolowa Dee-ni' and their surrounding communities to be educated about traditional *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* management and harvesting practices. The proposed project continues to build on a successful model of a living, native plant and seed library and a plant propagation nursery at Sri'-srwvlh. The library and nursery will continue to support the preservation of important aspects of Tolowa cultural history and tradition. This project will enable staff to continue converting the site of Sri'-srwvlh to a learning space with a live collection of plants found throughout the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* including those traditionally used for food, medicine, and materials. With continued support from the IMLS Enhancement Grant program, this living library collection will further educate community members about native plant identification, Tolowa plant names, respectful and sustainable harvesting, processing and uses, propagation, and cultivation techniques. Activities planned for the upcoming seasons include seed collection, storing, and germination workshops; propagation and care seminars; partnerships with the Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food Council to host learning and training events; traditional plant use workshops; potential space for basketweaving and other fiber arts gatherings; and cultural demonstrations. By further investing in this successful project, the Nation will leverage additional awarded funds to continue developing a resilient and sustainable program driven by traditional Tolowa lifeways and culture.

This program will be structured to preserve and revitalize TDN traditional plant knowledge and language. Finally, establishing the living plant and seed library provides stock material for seed collection and other forms of native plant propagation. The native plants and seeds will be used for distribution to TDN citizens and other community members as part of the library program and support efforts for the TDN to produce the required native plants for many in-house economic development and restoration projects.

The project will be useful to the following audiences: All age levels of TDN citizens and nontribal citizens of California's Del Norte and Humboldt counties, and Curry County, Oregon. In addition, since the community experiences such high rates of poverty, a large portion of the audience will also include individuals at or below the federal poverty level. The project will also serve environmental scientists, botanists, linguists, agricultural entities, students, cultural preservationists from other Tribes, land managers, etc. who want to gain an understanding of TDN TEK-based science, best management practices, and culture specific to native plants and language. Nvn-nvst-'aa~-ta (Natural Resources) Department (NR) was established to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of both the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and Tolowa aboriginal territory. The Department honors this mission through a number of programs and services, all working towards the goal of promoting culturally appropriate stewardship of Tribal lands, water, air and resources. In 2018 the Habitat & Wildlife Division was established to focus on research, data collection, traditional knowledge, best available science and partnerships to inform restoration, adaptation and active stewardship, on a landscape level, to land, plants, and wildlife within *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* (Tolowa aboriginal territory). The goals of this division include

the following:

- Protect the legal right for Tribal hunting and gathering.
- Habitat restoration and adaptation through the gathering of baseline and/or monitoring data on priority species, related habitats, indicators, and human uses.
- Increase access to high quality traditional food and utilitarian plants.
- Develop capacity for fuels reduction workforce, prescribed & cultural burning and forest health improvement.

Under this division the Tolowa Dee-ni' Tr'aa-may-dvn Xwee-nish (Tolowa Dee-ni' Living Plant Library) was developed and is in the process of expanding the site location as the project requests within the community have gained positive feedback. The Habitat & Wildlife Division is also expanding on the food sovereignty program, which will be housed next to the Tr'aa-may-dvn Xwee-nish. This program will have a space to process food from the nursery and hold workshops for the community.

Three main assessments were conducted from 2017-2019. During the summer of 2017, a community survey found that almost three-quarters of respondents eat locally produced food on a regular basis and 70% of tribal respondents are interested in eating more locally-sourced foods. In 2018, the TDN conducted an agricultural feasibility study and discovered that many traditional food sources have been depleted in the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*.¹² The study indicated that losses of native food sources decreases tribal food sovereignty and increases food insecurity, but identifies opportunities for the Tribe to become an active producer in the local food system.¹³ Furthermore, the study specified tourism as a growing industry in Del Norte County, and the

Sri'-srwvlh property as a high potential location for a tribal-operated agricultural tourist site. The study also recommended the development of a nursery that specializes in culturally significant traditional plants for the public and tribal citizens and assists in the propagation of other agricultural enterprises, citing the lack of any local native plant producers. Concerning language, a 2019 tribal analysis showed that the TDN contains only one proficient language speaker and two language teachers. The report identifies an urgent need for tribal citizens of all ages to have access to language instruction to help preserve tribal heritage and culture. Additionally, recent meetings with the TDN citizenship at large and stakeholders called for comprehensive language learning in the community. Tolowa Dee-ni' language is a living and vital language that has the ability to match any other in the world for expressiveness and beauty.

¹²Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, 2008. Sowing Seeds for Local Abundance Feasibility Study.

¹³Ibid.

Since time immemorial, the Tolowa Dee-ni' maintained a systemic understanding of tribal needs, the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*, and how to live in harmony within the natural world. Tolowa people lived in a sustainable manner throughout the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn* and continue to possess cultural knowledge concerning best proven plant management practices for regional ecosystems. Colonization and western progress have not proven beneficial for the overall cultural preservation of the Tribe nor for health of plant populations existing within the varied ecosystems of the *Taa-laa-waa-dvn*.

Project Work Plan

The three phases of this project that will be funded through this opportunity will lead to the continuation and development of a physical living, native plant and seed library, a nursery that will be expanded to allow greater capacity for the propagation of native plants, an increased diversification of community education workshops, and the development of a QR code- based digital plant library that contains Tolowa-derived plant information and audio files with Tolowa wee-ya' pronunciations. The Nation's Language and Culture Program has already been working with Natural Resources Dept. staff to identify and create files and QR codes for keystone plant species, and audio files will feature Tribal Youth Corps participants as speakers. The three phases of the project include stock procurement, seed and plant library physical resource activities, and seed and plant library educational resource activities. The stock procurement phase will occur during all months of the two-year project. The development of physical resources for the seed and plant library will start in October 2024 and extend throughout the rest of the grant period. The development of educational resource activities will occur primarily on a seasonal basis throughout the grant period, highlighting the seasonality of traditional plant resource management and harvest. Physical earthmoving, site preparation and associated construction/monitoring will be completed under separate funding sources supporting this project.

The library and nursery will support the preservation and promotion of important aspects of Tolowa Dee-ni' cultural history and tradition by: 1) preserving tribal food sovereignty and traditional plant management techniques through the establishment of a living, native plant and seed library and plant propagation nursery; 2) preserving cultural understandings and access to traditional Tolowa food, medicine, and utilitarian plant materials through the creation of the library; 3) preserving tribal language through the creation of digital audio files and written words to support native plant literacy; 4) preserving tribal cultural plant knowledge through hands-on workshops and living library tours, and 5) integrating with the Nation's growing Food Sovereignty Program, which also includes propagation of kelp, animal processing, operation of the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery, and creation of a household, office, and site-wide compost program.

The required activities for this project include site preparation, stock procurement, seed and plant library physical resources, and seed and plant library educational resources. Community partners include the following TDN departments and programs: Public Works and Facilities (PWF); Office of Self Governance (OSG); Tribal Heritage Preservation Office (THPO); Education Department (ED); Information Technology (IT); Community and Family Wellness(CFW). Other community partners include Dan Burgess of California State Parks and Rural Human Services (DB); and libraries existing within the 5-county service area (L); the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Community Food Council for Del Norte and Tribal Lands (FC); and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Natural Resources and Harvesting Committee (HC) and the Waa-tr'vslh-'a~ (Culture) Committee (CC)

The use abbreviations denote organizational involvement in certain activities.

1. Stock procurement activities include developing a target plant list for the project period (NR), continue developing best management practices for new plants within the nursery (FC; NRCS; DB; CC), identifying best plant sources (DB), developing harvesting agreements with California State Parks and the National Park Service (some agreements are already in place but need expansion) (OSG; THPO; NR; DB), obtaining permits and procurement plans for TDN properties in collaboration with the Harvest Committee (; NR; HC), procuring plants (NR; DB), collecting seeds (NR; DB), collecting viable cuttings (NR), propagating plants (NR, DB), planting approximately ½ acre of native plants (NR).
2. Seed and plant library physical resource activities include the development of plant and seed request forms (NR), organizing and storing seeds for library purposes (NR), purchasing a list of relevant plant reference books to expand the library (NR), developing list of TDN plant resources (cultural, language, and recordings) (NR; ED; THPO), logging materials into a tracking system (NR), developing QR code plan for at least 20 plants (NR; ED; IT), working with the Education department to develop QR displays (IT; NR; ED), designing and ordering signage for Native Plant Library (NR; ED), advertising library (L), Working with Educational Department to create educational plant worksheets (NR; ED) begin taking request forms (NR), filling seed orders (NR), propagation for members (NR), Propagation for restoration projects (NR) etc.
3. Seed and plant library educational resource activities include the development of a seasonal workshop schedule (NR; ED), locating trainers and advertising workshops (NR), holding seasonal seed and plant workshops (DB; L; ED), and collaborating with other libraries (L).

Preliminary site assessments were conducted through an agricultural study which illustrated the best areas for expanding the living library and nursery.¹⁴ In addition, native plant lists have already been compiled. TDN is not aware of any IMLS projects that closely relate to this proposal. The digital component of the project will exist in the form of QR codes that reside within the physical library garden, beside their corresponding plants. When a workshop participant, visitor, or tribal citizen scans a QR code with a cellular phone, they will gain access to the digital plant library that contains Tolowa-derived information regarding the associated plants and audio files that indicate proper Tolowa names and pronunciations of each plant, as well as a list of corresponding resources at the Tribal Family Resource Library available for checkout.

¹⁴TDN: Sowing Seeds for Local Abundance Feasibility Study: <https://www.tolowa-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Sowing-Seeds-for-Local-Abundance-Feasibility-Study.pdf>

Project Results

The goals for the project include:

1. TDN citizens and surrounding community members will have increased access to and improved knowledge of native plants, including the plant identification, propagation, cultivation, respectful harvesting practices, and traditional purposes
2. TDN will house a living collection of native plants for demonstration, NDN-tivities, limited harvest (ex. Swamp tea), and species preservation/propagation
3. TDN citizens and surrounding community members will gain an increased proficiency in speak and recognizing Tolowa plant names and vocabulary

Desired results for this project include:

1. Completing an annual planting, propagation, and harvesting schedule for native species
2. Harvesting, cutting seeds, and juvenile plants of at least 30 native species for plant collection and propagation.
3. Planting at least 15 representatives of native species in the first year and an additional 15 in the second year
4. Completing four seasonal workshops per year
5. Propagating at least 50 of each 15 species in the first year and an additional 50 of each 15 species the second year
6. Cataloging a digital and physical seed library with native, annual, and perennial food seeds and distributing seeds to at least 20 tribal citizens in the first year and at least 30 tribal citizens in the second year
7. Developing 15 species specific QR codes for the garden in the first year and 15 additional QR codes in the second year
8. Train at least 1 new staff

Desired participant outcomes include:

1. The ability to identify at least 10 native plants in cultivated and wild settings.
2. The ability to readily access seeds for home planting and cultivation for personal and family use.
3. Measured increases in knowledge of traditional Tolowa Dee-ni' methods of cultivation and propagation.
4. Increased proficiency in speaking and recognizing Tolowa wee-ya' (language) for plant species and parts.
5. Providing plants for restoration projects within Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Ancestral Territory.

These outcomes will increase overall tribal food sovereignty and contribute to individual knowledge about the natural world, indigenous practices, and cultural appreciation. The TDN has established evaluation and monitoring processes to understand and measure impact across all activities. For example, all participants in library membership, workshops and other educational activities will be recorded and surveyed. Progress goals will be measured through the quantitative and qualitative analysis of surveys from library and workshop participants. Surveys will be given after workshops to measure success rates. An accurate accounting of the number and types of species planted, propagated, and harvested will support tribal efforts to measure other desired results. Progress and effectiveness of the project will be monitored through monthly reports prepared by project managers and delivered to Tribal Council and the TDN citizenship. Accurate record keeping has been a requirement of the Nation's Natural Resources Department since its inception, and thus, reliable information is expected without bias. No expected risks for inaccuracies exist.

Activity	2024			
	September	October	November	December
Stock Procurement				
Develop a new target plant list for project period				
Work with partners to develop Best Management Practices for new plants				
Identify best sources for plant (TDN property, nursery, or other)				
Expand on agreements with CSP, NPS				
Work with Harvest Committee and Harvest Title				
Procure plants				
Collect seeds				
Collect viable cuttings				
Propagate plants by various methods				
Plant out approximately 1/2 acre of native plants onsite per plans				
Seed and Plant Library--Physical resources				
work with PR to finalize plant and seed request forms				
Organize seeds for easy "check out," store at physical book library				
Develop list of relevant plant reference books, purchase				
Develop list of TDN plant resources from 1 restoration site(cultural, language, recordings)				
Log all materials into IMLS tracking system (??)				
Develop QR plan for selected plants (can set a minimum number--20?)				
Work with IT to develop QR displays				
Design and order signage for Native Plant Library (Ethnobotanical library?)				
Advertise library				
Grand opening event (? Not sure of timing on this one)				
Begin taking request forms, filling seed orders, propagation for members				
Seed and Plant Library--Educational Resources				
Develop seasonal workshop schedule with other departments				
Locate trainers, advertise workshops				
Hold seasonal seed and plant workshops (all of this language can be changed)				

Digital Plan

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Natural Resources Department, Habitat & Wildlife Division has begun to develop a schedule of work to organize and manage data within the Tolowa Dee-ni' Tr'aa-may-dvn Xwee-nish (Tolowa Dee-ni' Living Plant Library). The division will continue to work with the Nation's Administrative Services Department, IT Division, and the Education Department, Language and Culture Division to create 30 additional QR Codes. These codes will be linked to a digital seed and plant library catalog that contains audio files of Tolowa plant names and textual information about each plant. Audio files will contain speakers from the Tribal Youth Corps, and completion of this project portion will directly further the educational goals of that program, which employ tribal youth aged 18-24 and is housed within the Nation's Tribal Employment Rights Office.

The Nation's Language and Culture Division is in the process of creating and managing QR codes that are linked to Tolowa wee-ya' (language) and its database and dictionary hosted online at <https://www.weeyadvn.com/>. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation will hold a creative commons license that enables the free distribution of copyrighted work. Permissions for use of digital content will be addressed at the bottom of website pages. Creative Commons licensing opens the door for others to help build the knowledge represented in our library. It also opens access for sharing information. The main requirement for accessing digital content includes a subscription or library membership. This licensing will enable the proliferation of the Tolowa wee-ya' throughout the speaking and learning community, including community members outside of the tribal citizenship. This resource will also be utilized as part of ongoing staff training, and is already integrated into many tribal departmental programs internally, with partners, and aimed at the general public.

A subscription service supports the sustainability of the project. With a creative commons license, there will not be a need to assert ownership rights of new digital content, other than providing a message at the bottom of the screen that describes permission. We will use QR coding software and open websites to create the QR codes. We will work closely with the Language Division, who has already worked with NR staff to use computers and web editing software to create the digital library. The IT Department will support the project by creating website pages linked with existing public and citizen-facing websites and social media. We will use MP4 audio files with 60fps for the language audio and connect files to the current language YouTube channel.

The Education Department currently maintains a physical library that is used for the Tribal Youth Corps and Summer Youth participants to access. We will work with them to connect QR codes directly to the that library.

The Project Coordinator will work closely with the IT Department and the Education Department on every aspect of digital development. We will screen for quality types, accessibility, accuracy, etc. We will use multiple backup systems including cloud drives and physical backups to ensure the longevity of all audio and text files. We will use a program like

Audacity to edit ID3 metadata to identify content. We will use the Music Metadata Style Guide from Music Biz to organize metadata structure.

We will keep physical and digital backup copies of metadata and use keywords that encourage the discovery of our metadata. All content for the QR Codes will be accessible to public, and free to use, with permission from the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.