



**Tribal Superfund Working Group
Potential Research Topics
2026-2029**

WASTE

AND RESPONSE

COMMITTEE

Past Research Topics: 2020-2024

- **Connecting Tribal professionals to federal researchers and emerging technologies.**
- **Working effectively and efficiently with contractors on your sites.**
- **Addressing the loss of institutional knowledge in Tribal programs.**
- **Creating a one stop shop for new information and research on PFAS.**
- **Resources on the 4 R's: Responsibility, Respect, Reciprocity, and Relationships.**

Ecological Restoration & Natural Infrastructure

- Host webinars by researchers using these tools in cooperation with Tribal Nations and Native Villages to restore sites and ecosystems.
- Develop a section of TLAC where research, tools, and approaches are made available to Tribal staff interested in this approach.
- Create space and opportunities for Tribal staff and outside researchers to discuss these approaches to restoring sites and ecosystems.

What is Native American Interest (NAI) and How Could it Be Useful to Me?

- ▶ **Many Tribes not actively engaged in work on Superfund sites within their boundaries DO have stated interest in sites that affect their lands, water, and people.**
- ▶ **This issue does intersect with the National Historic Preservation Act and the work being done by many THPO staff. Are their opportunities for learning and sharing that could benefit many Tribal environmental staff?**
- ▶ **Would research and resources on this topic benefit Tribal staff who may be unaware of how sites in their area are affecting them?**

Getting Contracts to Tribal Departments and Entities

- **Many Tribes are interested in securing cleanup, remediation, and other contracts to do their own work on sites.**
- **Developing strong administrative and financial systems.**
- **Working effectively with other Tribal departments.**
- **Methods for applying for, and securing, the contracts.**

Other Possibilities?

- Addressing Legacy Hardrock Mine sites (especially given potential upcoming legislation)
- Ways to enhance community engagement at sites (e.g. Citizen Science projects).
- Managing response activities at sites and ensuring Tribal involvement.
- Ensuring Tribal data and knowledge are incorporated into remediation and other activities, while also protecting Tribal sovereignty.
- Send your ideas to me at todd.barnell@nau.edu.