

Food Sovereignty Planning

**Burns Paiute Tribe
RFP Project Proposal
January 2024**

Summary

This document provides initial ideas and suggestions for a project plan for the Burns Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Planner position. It includes some key questions and objectives, a five-phase approach, and estimated timeline. This project plan may likely change and evolve as I get more familiar with the vision and goals of the Burns Paiute Tribe and as we work together to create a strategic plan.

Project Background

Tribes and First Nations across Turtle Island are reclaiming their traditional foodways as part of holistic efforts towards Tribal sovereignty. These efforts are intimately tied to relationships with land, language restoration, holistic health, spirituality and ceremony, economic independence, and more. In March 2023, the Burns Paiute Tribe conducted a working session to create a vision for what food sovereignty can look like within their community. This project aims to build off of this work, as well as the work of many generations of food and culture keepers within the Tribe, to restore relationships between Tribal members and their traditional foods and medicines.

As I currently understand it, food sovereignty is not just about growing food plants, but also about establishing ways to share food with community and support community members in growing and harvesting food themselves. In that way, it should feel like a continuously growing network of people learning from and with each other. It would be an honor to be in service to the Burns Paiute Tribe as you continue this important work, and to learn along the way about what food sovereignty means to all of you.

Objectives and Key Questions

In the issued RFP, the Burns Paiute Tribe highlights seven primary components for the scope of work. These include (but are not limited to) **Program Development** and the creation of a strategic plan, **Community Engagement**, **Traditional Knowledge Integration**, **Food Production**, **Education and Outreach**, **Partnerships**, and **Data Collection and Reporting** and the creation of a monitoring and evaluation system. Some of these components have clear and tangible objectives or deliverables, others are more open-ended and deliverables will emerge in time. With that in mind, I have outlined some key questions to help direct work towards each of the desired components.

Program Development

- What has the Tribe already identified as goals for their food sovereignty plan? What is still undefined?
- What existing work is happening towards food sovereignty goals?
- What models and external examples of food sovereignty are desirable?
- *Deliverable(s): Strategic Planning Document*

Community Engagement

- Who wants to be involved in the food sovereignty planning process? And how would they like to be involved?
- What additional listening sessions, workshops, and/or meetings would be helpful in making these connections?
- *Deliverable(s): TBD*

Traditional Knowledge Integration

- What are important ceremonies and practices that need to be included in the food sovereignty plan?
- Who is allowed access to different types of knowledge and how do we protect sensitive information?
- What are important food-related seasons for the Tribe to integrate into the plan and programs?
- *Deliverable(s): TBD*

Food Production

- What combination of cultivation and wild harvesting is of interest to the Tribe?
- What existing spaces are utilized for food/medicine growing and/or harvesting? What additional spaces are desired?
- What are the environmental needs of desired plants, and how can we meet those conditions?
- Who is interested in contributing to stewardship of food and medicine plants?
- *Deliverable(s): Spatial plan and plant guides to accompany strategic plan*

Education and Outreach

- How can we support sharing and knowledge exchange related to traditional foods, gardening, harvesting, and stewardship?
- What are existing programs and organizations that we can integrate food sovereignty into?
- *Deliverable(s): Programs overview to accompany strategic plan*

Partnerships

- What organizations and groups within the Tribe can we partner with?
- What organizations and groups within Burns / Eastern Oregon can we partner with?
- What are other Paiute Tribes doing in their food sovereignty programs and can we / do we want to connect with them?
- What other organizations and groups in the Pacific Northwest can we partner with? Within Turtle Island?
- *Deliverable(s): TBD*

Monitoring and Evaluation

- How can we measure success for the next few years of implementing the food sovereignty plan?
- How can our models of measuring success align with Tribal ways of knowing?
- *Deliverable(s): Evaluation criteria to accompany strategic plan*

Approach

The following phases provide an initial suggestion for how we meet the project objectives and answer the questions posed on the previous page. A core value that I would like to incorporate into this work is adaptability; and so this outline can easily be altered based on feedback from the Burns Paiute Tribe. Further, I plan to incorporate space for feedback throughout the entire process, so that we can slow down or change direction at any point, as desired by the Tribe.

Phase 1: Grounding

Onboarding and Contextualization

One of the first things I will want to do is to familiarize myself with prior and ongoing food sovereignty work completed by the Burns Paiute Tribe, such as the workshop hosted last March 2023.

Relationship Building

I will also want to begin with reconnecting to members of the Tribe that I have already met and meeting others, in order to form a coalition of people who want to be involved in food sovereignty initiatives.

Precedent Research

There has been many different approaches to food sovereignty work happening across Indian country; to provide us with some examples and inspiration, I will research these other programs and plans and share what I find with our coalition.

Phase 2: Expanding

Workshops and Listening Sessions

As needed, I can help plan and coordinate additional workshops, meetings, tabling, site visits and tours, and listening sessions to gather additional input to include in the strategic plan.

Relationship Building (continued)

We will continue building relationships with folks inside and outside of the Tribe who we identify as being an important partner in this food sovereignty plan.

Precedent Research (continued)

As we learn more about what the Burns Paiute Tribe's vision for food sovereignty is, we can refine and add examples that are most relevant to the goals we develop.

Phase 3: Synthesizing

Strategic Plan Development

With the information gathered in the prior phases, our coalition can start to create spatial, ceremonial, program, service, organizational, and partnership plans along with ways to measure our progress.

Precedent Research (continued)

Again, as we translate goals and visions into a strategic plan, we may want to conduct additional precedent research to find relevant examples of other communities' plan details.

Approach

Phase 4: Additional Research

Detailing our Plans

Based on the initial strategic plans, we can research and define additional details. For example, the necessary conditions and equipment to grow desired plant species.

Relationship Building (continued)

At this point our relationship building will likely focus on learning from others about the detailed requirements for implementing the plan (i.e. nursery management experts, food bank experts, etc.)

Phase 5: Prototyping

Prototyping

If time allows, we can select a couple elements from the strategic plan to start developing and testing. This could be an event, or an initial season of planting one of the desired species, etc.

Evaluation

Using the measurement and evaluation tools that we created in the strategic plan, we can assess how successful our prototypes are and iterate on them from there.

All Phases

Continuous Feedback

During all phases of this project, I want to continue welcoming feedback on the process as a whole, and adjusting the process to best align with the desires of the Tribe.

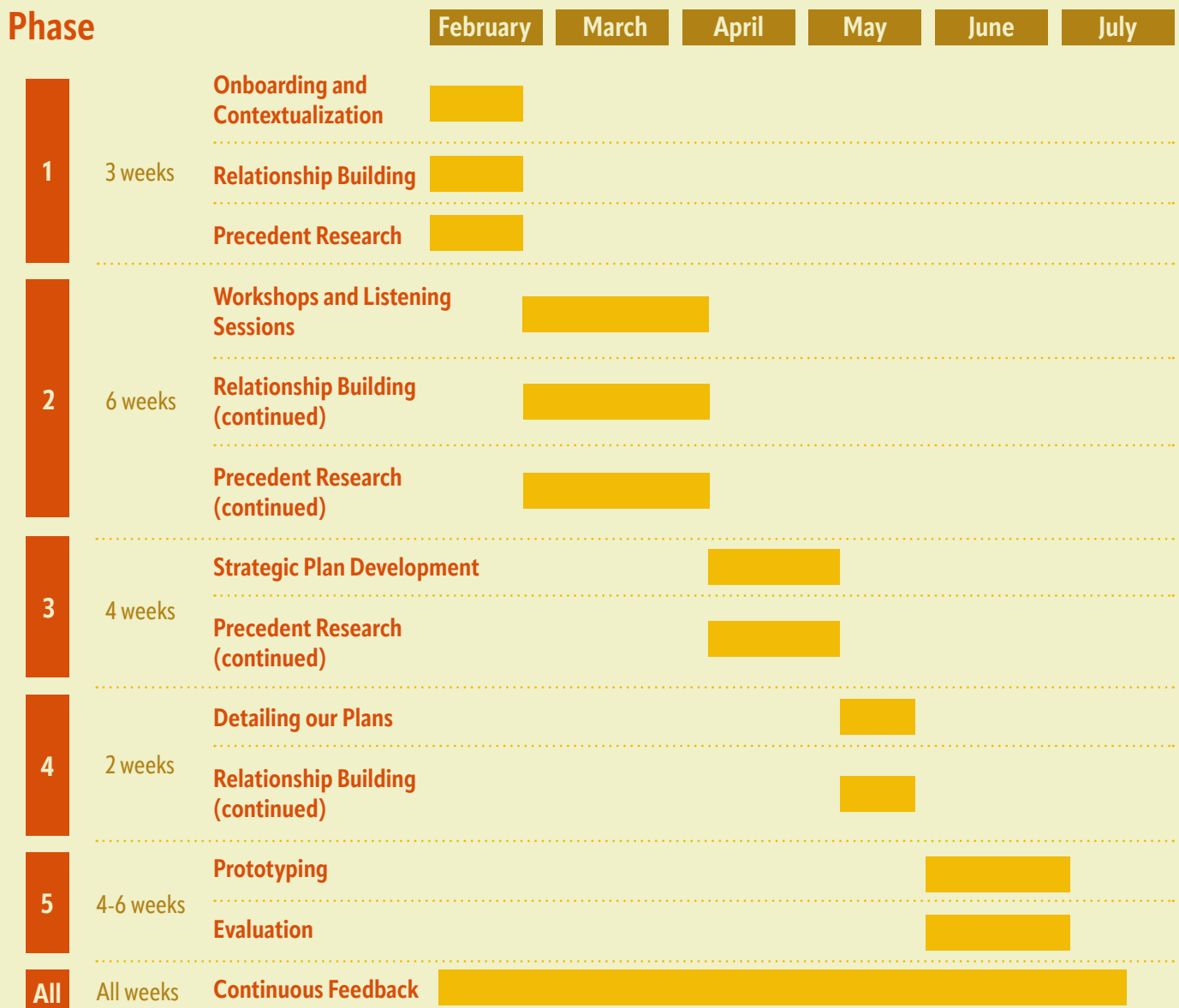
Approach

This table shows how each part of the approach maps to the scope of work components found in the RFP document. I believe we will complete meaningful steps towards each of these seven components through the outlined approach.

Phase		Program Development	Community Engagement	Traditional Knowledge Integration	Food Production	Education and Outreach	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
1	Onboarding and Contextualization	●		●				
	Relationship Building		●	●			●	
	Precedent Research	●						
2	Workshops and Listening Sessions		●	●				
	Relationship Building (continued)		●	●			●	
	Precedent Research (continued)	●						
3	Strategic Plan Development	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Precedent Research (continued)	●						
4	Detailing our Plans	●			●	●	●	●
	Relationship Building (continued)		●	●		●	●	
5	Prototyping		●		●	●	●	
	Evaluation							●
All	Continuous Feedback		●	●				●

Estimated Timeline

My preference for using the hours allotted would be to work about 20 hours a week. Thus, the 500 hours will be met within about 6 months. I have estimated the different phases to last the lengths listed below, based on working at 20 hours per week. Again, this is of course subject to change, both based on any adaptations requested by the Tribe, and/or unexpected delays or scheduling challenges.





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