

Attachment A – Raw Data

Report RTOC strategic planning session


Contents

1 Past RTOC Accomplishments and Learnings	2
1.1 Brainstorm: RTOC Successes and Accomplishments.....	2
1.2 Brainstorm: What have we learned from RTOC efforts?	5
2 Our Current Environment- What do we need to be aware of?	8
2.1 Brainstorm: RTOC Internal Strengths and Weaknesses	8
2.2 Brainstorm: Possible External Opportunities and Threats	11
3 Our Current Environment and Future Work	16
3.1 Brainstorm: RTOC - Our work on Policy Issues.....	16

1 Past RTOC Accomplishments and Learnings

1.1 RTOC Successes and Accomplishments










Number of tables participating: 20 tables of 4-5 people each

-  **Centering Question:** What stands out for you when you think about RTOC past activities and accomplishments? Focus on activities and accomplishments that the RTOC (as a whole committee) has worked on *What was successful? *What contributed to our successes?

There are specific past areas where the RTOC has been successful in moving national policy or taking other nationally or regionally significant action, like the Baseline Needs Assessment, input on the Guidebook, increases to tribal set-asides, the AIEO reorganization, and other successes. (18)

-  7. RTOC has been able to advocate for funding for Tribes
-  9. In getting EPA into Tribal country
-  12. went from 7 tribal and 60 epa employees, to now 22 tribal reps & 18 epa staff as a RTOC body, more tribal participation.
-  19. Network and Circuit Riders availability to the Tribes has been very successful and would like to see additional funding to continue
-  20. RTOC has been able to expand resources for training for specific needs like water quality for Tribes
-  21. Baseline Needs Assessment
-  29. Since the start of GAP the number of Tribes brought into the program and developed Environmental Programs has grown.
-  34. Increase to Tribal Set-Aside funding for Tribes.
-  41. The development of consultation processes is a success. Has developed the underpinning for national consultation.
-  47. The reorganization at Headquarters - AIEO has now been elevated and R9 RTOC was a major factor of that happening.
-  50. Pesticide workgroup has been valuable in increasing awareness of program.
-  53. Comments on the Guidebook - significantly moving the Agency's approach and timeframe because of R9 feedback.
-  57. Technical Assistance and Partnerships with BOR
-  58. *Early 90s the formulation of RTOCs and NTOCs due to CWA programs as catalyst for more collaboration
-  61. Advocate for Tribes to build capacity in several medias - TAS
-  69. *Formulation of RTOC Charter - Realization and Working relationship between EPA and Tribal collaboration was necessary
-  81. RTOC has moved the Agency in terms of development of consultation approaches
-  89. successes include HQ consultation policy, participation on drinking water/wastewater task force, regional policies

There are things that the RTOC does well, which aren't specific accomplishments but reflect the RTOC's areas of strength, like planning, providing a good forum for discussion of issues, advocating for tribal interests, enhancing communication and coordination, and engaging leadership. (33)

-  4. Workgroup Efforts have become more effective over the years...it has evolved
-  8. Bringing Action Items to appropriate agencies
-  16. RTOC has been successful in providing a forum for improved environmental programs for tribes
-  26. Advocating for additional resources and funding for tribal programs
-  27. RTOC provides forum with tribal reps to bring their concerns and requests, such as ground funding availabilities.
-  31. Good communication between project officer and EPA; Tribal leadership and staff are notified on major issues.
-  32. Past planning - setting goals at the beginning.
-  42. CWA workgroup works well in serving as a platform for discussing and troubleshooting tribal issues.
-  43. RTOC is effective in influencing and communicating to HQ

- 44. provides continuity with programs and peers...even if there is turnover, you can jump in and gain learning experiences
- 51. We have been successful when the whole RTOC pulled together toward a common goal
- 63. RTOC really came together to address individual issues that have come down from EPA affecting all of Region 9
- 65. contributions to success is that rtoc provides a venue to voice opinions and sometimes get results that may change programs
- 71. Tribes and EPA can help develop the agenda
- 76. RTOC has generated discussion of issues in regards to policy and how the Agency deals with Tribes.
- 82. RTOC has been fundamental in giving the smaller Tribes an equal voice
- 83. Organization: Action Items, Agendas, Tribal Caucus, Workgroups
- 84. The opportunity for tribes to caucus is facilitated and legitimized
- 87. Having a robust RTOC that has been meeting for so many years is important - it gives continuity to issues, history.
- 88. EPA leadership helped pull this off, the Felecia's, etc
- 90. the venue provides tribal people a voice to get help with serious environmental (cultural) issues effecting their tribal lands.
- 91. Allows people to work on their environmental interest
- 92. EPA is more in tune with the Tribes because of the communication that happens through RTOC
- 98. contributions to success: we're vocal, brief lots of issues, have back up numbers and information to support our positions
- 99. Improve planning process between tribes and EPA
- 101. tribes have vision to strengthen department
- 104. Allows tribes to set or influence priorities
- 106. Policy Review - effective with making changes and including tribes in strategic planning etc.
- 107. Consistency and accountability by having the Committee with Tribal representatives and EPA representatives
- 110. Tribal Leaders participates when RTOC is in the Indian Country.
- 112. another contribution to past successes is collaboration between tribes and EPA
- 115. Good examples of government cooperation with tribes
- 117. Attempts to create an agenda that improves attendance and participation

■ The RTOC is a useful means of disseminating information (among tribes, EPA, and other Agencies and entities). (17)

- 2. Helped keep Tribes informed on issues.
- 3. RTOC has been a good instrument for getting out information
- 5. Information exchange and bringing issues to all levels
- 6. Tribes are kept informed via handouts, presentations that share different perspectives from Tribes across the Region, email updates (sometimes too many), hearing different speakers from different parts of the region.
- 17. Promoting an understanding why things happen (why the Agency does or asks for the things it does).
- 24. RTOC helps R9 understand tribal issues and how to solve them together.
- 30. RTOC brings Tribes together around similar issues that affect them
- 37. For tribal reps., hearing updates on policies in all medias, and how other tribes are approaching them.
- 54. Bring relevant information to Tribes and focus on important issues
- 64. EPA being able to hear tribal experience educates EPA about the tribal creativity at problem solving environmental concerns.
- 66. RTOC is can explain specific new measures (ex: of SP 14) in work group sessions.
- 75. RTOC good for timely dissemination of information; issues may be addressed in timely manner
- 77. With high transition and change over within tribal government and environmental programs, RTOC can assist with additional information sharing
- 94. RTOC has brought the Tribal perspective (not limited to environmental issues) to the policies coming out of Federal Agencies
- 100. Assist Tribal members to better understand EPA Tribal Programs

- 💡 113. Sharing and collaboration of Tribal stories/successes/examples of managing their resources are shared at RTOC...showcased
- 💡 118. EPA has learned most effective means to get messages out to tribes and receive feedback.

■ **The RTOC provides valuable networking opportunities.**

- 💡 10. Having headquarters folks engaged.
- 💡 11. Having a forum to present and share case studies.
- 💡 15. networking meeting tribes learning their issues
- 💡 22. new tribe to RTOC learning from other tribes, common issues, helping each other
- 💡 23. Networking directly with EPA is important for new people...it is unique in its interface....face to face gives us a voice
- 💡 33. rtoc in the past has always been inactive and continues to evolve..it is a chance to meet with your peers
- 💡 38. Before RTOC EPA didn't know how to communicate with Tribes
- 💡 46. avenue for lessons learned from other Tribes
- 💡 48. Information sharing within Tribes on additional funding resources available
- 💡 49. Tribes sharing their environmental issues, successes and needs
- 💡 55. Getting other agencies involved in tribal issues
- 💡 56. Networking with colleagues from other tribes, sharing ideas and getting to know each other.
- 💡 68. RTOC fosters Solidarity = coming together of tribes
- 💡 74. Having RTOC meetings is impressive in how the meeting facilitates collaboration, problem solving, and knowledge exchange.
- 💡 78. growth of the RTOC, more tribes have come to join
- 💡 93. RTOC has been successful in having full participation of EPA R9 staff at meetings to focus on tribal issues.
- 💡 95. Having the opportunity for Tribal Leaders to meet one-on-one with the Regional Administrator at RTOCs.
- 💡 102. Meeting at different reservations and going on tours is key to understanding the diversity of tribal experiences. Very valuable for many.
- 💡 103. The networking and pulling people together and being able to visit tribal lands.

■ **The RTOC provides a venue for elevating issues among tribes and/or within the Federal family.**

- 💡 14. R9 RTOC being able to escalate issues to NTOC.
- 💡 18. RTOC influences regional and national policy.
- 💡 25. RTOC can define issues for Tribes and brings the topic to the National level
- 💡 35. Raised the awareness of /Tribal needs and EPA has expanded the number of funded programs.
- 💡 36. raising local and regional issues to the national level
- 💡 39. Participation of and Access to EPA upper management - the decision makers
- 💡 40. more attention is given to region 9 by Headquarters in DC. on how work is being done by the RTOC.
- 💡 52. Successful in advocating to protect tribal budget in this budget climate of program cuts
- 💡 59. HQ participation with regional tribes
- 💡 60. Access to political appointees and Regional Administrator.
- 💡 72. forum bringing new ideas to the regional and national level
- 💡 79. RTOC has increased the visibility of tribes in R9.
- 💡 86. Major issues are resolved by Tribes and EPA
- 💡 96. Serves as means to raise issues with HQ
- 💡 114. Tribes speak with one voice, sending a consistent message that carries more weight from the regional to the national level

■ **Areas where the RTOC can improve as a functioning body. (16)**

- 💡 13. continue to encourage participation with Tribal Leadership
- 💡 28. EPA to act on the RTOC action items
- 💡 62. Lack of participation from tribal leaders - it's unclear how involved leaders are in environmental issues. Varies from tribe to tribe and issue to issue.
- 💡 70. Centralized RTOC locations i.e. Reno, Arizona, great turn out. SF is expensive.
- 💡 73. Tribes need to go much further in building capacity for their programs than states
- 💡 80. Tribes are co-regulators but don't receive the same equality in funding like state co-regulators
- 💡 85. Tribes are preservers of their environment and should be recognised as such
- 💡 97. Bringing EPA to Indian Country for RTOC needs to continue.

- 💡 105. Tribes are environmental stewards and take care of all medias including endangered species, but sometimes their hands are tied by env regulations and lack of funding and lack of watershed partnerships
- 💡 109. For the changing tribal staff, there could be more RTOC orientation sessions at each RTOC meeting (e.g., a packet of information at each training session about what has been done and will be done.
- 💡 111. We need to be consistent in carrying our voice out to the leadership, and we need to commit to participate in the RTOC process... expressing our voice, overtime that carries alot of weight
- 💡 120. with the turnover, rtoc needs to better educate the new representatives (e.g., information package with charter, current work, upcoming work, more background)
- 💡 121. educating and preparing new rtoc representatives to better represent their tribes and participate at rtoc
- 💡 108. How do we meet the needs of the tribes.
- 💡 116. Ideas brought during RTOC sometimes set up preference and adversely effect other tribes.
- 💡 119. Lack of tribal leaders participation leads to difficulty in making decisions requiring leadership input.

📌 Responses that didn't answer this question (3)

- 💡 1. br
- 💡 45. Went from suits to jeans and Enrique still hasn't got it.
- 💡 67. T



1.2 What have we learned from RTOC efforts?

Number of tables participating: 19 tables of 4-5 people each

- 📘 **Centering Question:** What have we learned from RTOC efforts that were successful and those that were not as successful? Focus on activities and accomplishments that the RTOC (as a whole committee) has worked on.

📌 The RTOC has been successful at bringing tribes together, building relationships among tribes and with the Agency, sharing information, and resolving issues. (29)

- 💡 1. Success is building the communication process with EPA R9
- 💡 6. More tribes comment on national and regional policy as a result of RTOC meetings.
- 💡 7. Better process to bring interest to the variety of the RTOC workgroups
- 💡 12. RTOC brings Tribes together as one powerful voice to speak on things that are of importance to all Tribes in R9
- 💡 16. Transfer of communication tribal caucus portion from Regional RTOCs to NTOC (good in R9 , but not across nation)
- 💡 19. RTOC helps faciliatate help to individual tribes and has been successful in mitigating those issues
- 💡 21. Orientation for new RTOC members
- 💡 22. RTOC allows collaboration with colleagues , for example dissemination of the tribal survey for Safe Drinking Water
- 💡 26. Transfer of communication from tribal caucus RTOC discussions to NTOC (good in R9, but not in all Regions)
- 💡 28. RTOC has been successful in having an increase in EPA participation.
- 💡 37. EPA has learned the best means to get messages out to tribes and receive feedback.
- 💡 39. RTOC has been been good forum for updating Tribes on EPA matters
- 💡 40. RTOC has not worked as effectively when Tribal and EPA representatives have focused on their personal agendas rather than the tribal programs
- 💡 42. Information sharing is key.
- 💡 45. Successful - the value of a large group enables greater conversation and ease of interaction.
- 💡 50. a lot of important collaborative work got done during track 6 - we need to bring it back!
- 💡 60. Created a process for dealing with action items
- 💡 67. Using success stories during the annual budget presentation has improved getting the budget needs across to EPA.
- 💡 72. RTOC will be persistent in trying to tackle an issue
- 💡 74. Forum for people to ask questions before they come to their first RTOC
- 💡 78. decision makers are all at the same table
- 💡 83. With current budget constraints, hearing ideas from EPA at different levels (Region and HQ) can help tribes change strategy, or even learn about new funding sources.
- 💡 85. assessments such as the pesticides and 106 assessments were successful.

- 💡 90. RTOC has been successful at inviting different EPA managers to come and speak to issues and concerns from tribes.
- 💡 91. EPA is allowed time to answer tribal issues, which allows for more information to be gathered and exchanged.
- 💡 92. Bringing non-EPA issues to RTOC (i.e. Forest Service,)
- 💡 95. The addition of workgroups has been effective, including the CA workgroup and continuation of grants workgroup.
- 💡 98. Budget development - taking the lead
- 💡 99. Successful in pushing major issues to a national level - making a change - e.g. Core Water Q S - first round = bad

■ **The RTOC can work to overcome barriers to common understanding, ensure consistent participation, address issues in a timely manner, and engage tribes effectively. (30)**

- 💡 3. RTOC does not work as effectively when representatives and EPA personal bring their personal agendas to the table
- 💡 8. There has been a disconnect in the past between Tribal representatives and their constituents
- 💡 9. GAP Online doesn't work, intent was to build capacity for tribes and not do EPA's job.
- 💡 14. Tribal EPA Offices are understaffed and can't participate on workgroups. Lack of tribal EPA staff.
- 💡 15. Lack of participation in workgroups
- 💡 17. People should come prepared - when people aren't prepared for sessions or discussions, we get lost in catching people up.
- 💡 18. EPA and HQ still need to understand tribes and individual tribal issues better
- 💡 20. When we let individual interests drive discussions, we often end up in difficult situations.
- 💡 23. Information overload
- 💡 25. Lack of tribal leader participation.
- 💡 27. when workgroup participation is low, important RTOC work doesn't get done
- 💡 32. Consultation process of implementation has problems
- 💡 33. Lack of active participation on workgroups
- 💡 34. Ideas brought to RTOC sometimes affect adversely to other tribes.
- 💡 41. GAP Online doesn't work, the intent was to build tribal capacity, not do EPA's job.
- 💡 47. conference calls are great but you need to participate.
- 💡 49. Effective and appropriate consultation still a challenge
- 💡 55. Participation is fluid because of resource constraints and it has been a challenge.
- 💡 56. RTOC still has not dealt with the issue of Native representation on the committee
- 💡 57. Communication needs to be able to facilitated across all environmental collaborators (Consultation practices need to be improved by HQs - not meaningful...better in Region 9 with regional staff)
- 💡 61. Tribal response to assessments for 106 funding have been slow to come in
- 💡 68. Active participation - could be better
- 💡 75. Some issues are not resolved because of environmental staff change over.
- 💡 76. RTOC has not been successful in getting increases in tribal set a side for budget request.
- 💡 77. No active participation in the last EPA Strat Plan development
- 💡 79. Follow-through on some issues has not been completed, issues from the past are still on the table
- 💡 84. As a tribal committee RTOC still has not been successful in being able to bring the concept of Cultural
- 💡 86. lack of collaboration with tribes BEFORE policy is developed, such as Luke writing the Guidebook
- 💡 88. Limited resources from EPA.
- 💡 89. EPA has failed to listen to the voice of RTOC

■ **The RTOC Charter Workgroup should consider, when developing the new Charter and SOPs, making some edits to meeting structure, preparation, and organization that would benefit the functionality of the group. (34)**

- 💡 2. Meeting structure changes - some times for the good and others not so good.
- 💡 4. Difficult to come to a common agreement on issues, because of so many reps. with diverse perspectives.
- 💡 5. Some of trainings, for example GAP Online, are too short. We need to make sure there's adequate time and flexibility to meet the shifting needs of Tribes.
- 💡 10. No substitute for face to face meeting
- 💡 11. Not enough time to go into complex issues in depth.

- 💡 13. We should have people RSVP for the RTOC and for sessions so we know where there's heavy interest.
- 💡 24. RTOC leadership requires setting aside personal political agendas when in a leadership position.
- 💡 29. technological tools are wonderful but!!
- 💡 30. Too many workgroups and due to lack of tribal staff can't participate
- 💡 31. Trainings should be scaled by interest, and we should have people RSVP so they can come prepared for discussions and so that there's enough time allowed for discussions that may run long.
- 💡 36. too much time spent talking about charter, procedure issues, prevents RTOC from addressing substantive issues
- 💡 38. Transfer of issues raised at RTOC and NTOC getting to the administrators and HQs Decision makers
- 💡 43. Meeting structures that change sometimes are good and others not so good
- 💡 44. Need approaches/forum to get up to speed other than RTOC meetings
- 💡 46. RTOC representatives in the past have had a disconnect with the tribes they represented
- 💡 48. RTOC should be a place for productive discussions, not soapboxing. People should remember to come to this collaborative discussion ready to collaborate.
- 💡 51. Breakout sessions are very helpful and relay information on specific issues
- 💡 52. Not enough time to respond to EPA Action items
- 💡 53. Because R9 is so big, often unwieldy, it's hard to get continuous representation from every tribe, or even every geographic region.
- 💡 54. It's sometimes hard to keep focus on the forest, instead of the trees.
- 💡 58. RTOC Session needs to be better organized
- 💡 62. Strong personalities can dominate discussions, it's important to remember to seek input from all present, not let just a few run the show.
- 💡 64. Access to GAP Orientation when new Tribal staff join the Environmental Program
- 💡 65. EPA's efforts to reduce number of meetings / face time is bad for morale
- 💡 66. Technology no substitute to face to face meeting
- 💡 69. Interested in knowing about Workgroups (who is on the workgroups) and what workgroups are working on
- 💡 70. Tribal leaders issues and concerns need to be able to be carried with confidence to NTOC leaders and shared with HQs EPA
- 💡 71. There is a need to expand the orientation into RTOC to help open up the lines of communication amongst the Tribal EPA Departments as well as EPA itself
- 💡 80. Sometimes agenda is not relevant to all participants, need to be put in break-out session
- 💡 82. Wish there was a way to streamline info - I sometimes get the same darn email from 3-4 different people, I then have to weed through it to find the gem that has value for me to interpret and inform my council and community. I should get fewer repeat emails, and they should clearly articulate what's actionable, and what's important (don't bury the lede!!!)
- 💡 87. Time needs to be used more effectively to discuss issues - RTOC, NTOC - rather than being rushed by HQs - need more access to the decision makers regarding specific programs/concerns/issues/upcoming rules, etc
- 💡 94. Want to set up a better agenda which includes collaboration for tribal leaders and EPA during national meetings
- 💡 96. Agenda development - more meetings of the mind not presentations
- 💡 97. Attempts to change the RTOC agenda in order to get better participation on all days of the RTOC meeting not so successful. Lots of people still missing.


■ **These responses didn't seem to fit the question, or were unclear. (7)**

- 💡 35. the funding for the tribes has been the same, no increase
- 💡 59. RTOC interagency agreement was signed, but no implementation
- 💡 63. separating grants issues from rest of action items
- 💡 73. Challenging - a large organization of people coming together and making sure the group continues to move forward.
- 💡 81. Ooops
- 💡 93. How can we better integrate new Tribal environmental program into their environmental program(s) as well as the RTOC
- 💡 100. h





















2 Our Current Environment- What do we need to be aware of?

2.1 RTOC Internal Strengths and Weaknesses















Number of tables participating: 20 tables of 4-5 people

-  **Centering Question:** What are the RTOC's possible strengths that will help us be successful and possible weaknesses that will affect our work? Focus on internal RTOC strengths and weaknesses. type a + before strengths and a - before weaknesses

The RTOC benefits from passionate, knowledgeable participants, and from being a forum where EPA and tribes are comfortable engaging on important issues. (20)

-  2. +people are passionate
-  4. +combination of people with a lot of history, as well as new people with fresh ideas
-  6. A lot of Tribal and EPA Participation make the group concept work with continued support
-  7. Strength - turn over can bring fresh ideas
-  9. Strength in number of tribal participants
-  20. + Everyone who participates in RTOC with a willingness to hear what issues are, wanting to know what's going on and what we can do to fix it.
-  24. The mindset of Region 9 EPA and the recognition of EPA's role with the tribal programs
-  35. RTOC strengths: tribal partnerships, working with EPA.
-  39. the divise knowledge that the group has.
-  43. Strength - R9 Tribal and EPA Staff continue to articulate well to HQ what Region 9 needs regardless of the push-back received from HQ.
-  81. Bringing a positive attitude to RTOC helps with resolving concerns.
-  89. RTOC enhances the relationship between Tribes and EPA
-  101. + Improved communication via email in the recent past, from EPA and Corn. Networking.
-  102. +robust RTOC participation
-  113. Number of tribes within the region - diversity
-  114. +RTOC members are willing to help new tribal staff...but they need to be aware of the problem to help.
-  115. the workgroups do great work when there is tribal participation
-  120. RTOC good for networking -getting direct contact with EPA staff and also RTOC reps and workgroups
-  129. EPA R9 listens to Tribes and cares about their perspective
-  134. RTOC policy advisor position is critical

The RTOC may struggle because not all the right people are in the same place at the same time, there may not be enough time for quality dialogue, and because of misunderstandings or personal differences. (21)

-  3. Weakness - turn over in staff
-  8. -some people are burned out on RTOC, some new people do not understand the process
-  17. Turn over - both on the tribal side and EPA
-  23. -leadership doesn't allow flexibility that used to occur in meetings - we used to be able to discuss issues and find resolution. People that were leaders have passed on. Are we too compliant?
-  28. Structure of the meetings sometimes become more personal agendas and hinder the process
-  44. Need to reinvigorate and take RTOC to next level, noticing lack of interest within EPA Region 9
-  53. lack of tribal representative outreach to constituents
-  59. - Tribal decision-makers are not able to come to RTOC meetings.
-  64. -we need people to speak up. We have a lot of discussions or calls where just a few people are asked to represent all of Indian Country.
-  65. Tribal Representatives need to be here or their alternates. It is not sticking to the charter.
-  72. - If tribal leaders come to RTOC meetings, they expect EPA R9 leaders to be there to interact with. (Annual Conference is best time for this.)
-  79. lack of education of the representatives and alternates.
-  83. Rolls of RTOC Reps - needs to be more clear for new reps.
-  90. Tribal Representatives need to face to face with their constituents...so that everybody can be heard. Needs to be more interactive during the Tribal Caucus

- 💡 95. Is RTOC articulating to tribes their importance in participating?
- 💡 96. Bridges to Tribal Councils need to be strengthened and maintained
- 💡 98. EPA is an Agency and Tribal EPA Programs are their "lives", mindset might be different
- 💡 106. - need better communication from RTOC to environmental staff, not just tribal leaders
- 💡 107. not enough tribal participation on workgroups and other RTOC activities
- 💡 126. Sometimes EPA staff doesn't really understand the multi-hats that Tribal Staff wear.
- 💡 131. a-lack of participation by Tribes at the consultation that are provided by EPA at RTOCs

■ **The RTOC structure includes great processes for elevating and resolving issues, provides a venue for creativity, is an opportunity for quality engagement, and allows us to focus on the work and build the relationships necessary to be successful. (29)**

- 💡 15. + coffee is good to have during meetings
- 💡 16. the ability to communicate to all tribes in the region and EPA, being the liason for the tribes to EPA.
- 💡 19. RTOC offers EPA opportunity to understand the issues and concerns of tribes
- 💡 26. Having a better orientation packets for new environmental staff what RTOC is all about, i.e. history of how RTOC is created and past concerns and where RTOC is going.,
- 💡 38. Sharing of information of tribal successes and challenges
- 💡 40. +Video conferencing technology
- 💡 46. stable tribal representation to bring important issues to the committee
- 💡 47. RTOC is really great at telling the Tribal story; promoting Tribal leadership via success of these individuals
- 💡 48. Strenght is that we have a charter
- 💡 49. Attempting to resolve questions from tribes at RTOC instead of allowing time to gather information and ensure reply is complete.
- 💡 54. Having EPA bring everyone together collaboratively and the help from EPA in general.
- 💡 55. + sharing of tribal stories and successes
- 💡 56. being able to visit the tribes communities and seeing how they deal or address an issue.
- 💡 61. +number of meetings
- 💡 66. the workgroup process is a strength
- 💡 69. RTOC has been great at bridging the relationship between the Agency and Tribes
- 💡 73. +we have a strong commitment to process, we should use that to our advantage. (build a stronger agenda)
- 💡 74. Brings the EPA leadership down to the ground level and connects them to the Tribes
- 💡 75. +we should use the power of the Chairman of the TOC to get stuff on the agenda.
- 💡 77. regular meeting schedule and other RTOC activates (workgroups) help EPA understand tribes and tribal issues better than other federal agencies - this makes RTOC unique
- 💡 80. Creative ideas to make additional resources, technical assistance available to tribes
- 💡 85. +Tribes should use their representation on the TOC to get valuable stuff onto the agenda.
- 💡 103. Out of all federal agencies EPA is very proactive with tribal programs
- 💡 110. + Networking, getting to know other tribal reps, is the most positive use of RTOC.
- 💡 112. RTOC can be used as training for tribes, special sessions or extended work group
- 💡 117. R9 and R10 Tribes are leaders in impacting change. RTOC venue for developing the collective voice
- 💡 118. Strength is that RTOC gives a venue for interaction for EPA to meet tribes givin this time of funding issues
- 💡 124. Tribes can network and assist each other on common issues
- 💡 128. Organization - structure - best region

■ **The RTOC structure could benefit from some changes to allow more time for deep discussion, greater organization, a better method to ensure broad representation of tribal issues...and much, much more. (46)**

- 💡 1. weakness is the size of the region. tribes have different needs and issues.
- 💡 5. -too many presentations, not enough discussion
- 💡 10. -meetings aren't always as organized to be effective to discuss communication
- 💡 11. - redundancy during meetings
- 💡 12. -lack of participation in some workgroups
- 💡 14. strength of RTOC is a regular known expected quantity. also a weakness because people tend to wait for issues to be brought up at RTOC
- 💡 21. The delay of addressing issues so the topic can go through RTOC has caused a delay in resolving issues quickly.

- 💡 27. lack of Climate Change education
- 💡 29. -agenda is all presentations, we used to spend days just talking about issues. I don't come to meetings. We're over-reliant on technologies like this instead of discussing issues.
- 💡 30. RTOC website has lots of information, but it could be more inviting!
- 💡 31. - R9 is SO big, it makes the meetings unwieldy....
- 💡 32. -unavoidable bureaucracy
- 💡 33. hard to find a general consensus on one issue. weakness is are we missing issue that may be important to a smaller tribe?
- 💡 34. -doesn't like talking about fluffy ideas.
- 💡 42. - not enough time to share tribal stories
- 💡 51. RTOC in the past has become more presentation then discussion this is being worked on
- 💡 52. Many issues on the table and have not followed through
- 💡 57. Some tribes or people in RTOC are too reticent. Can it be made more inviting?
- 💡 60. -issues in the present to us, transition, climate change, etc. Why aren't we talking about these things at every meeting? In the Caucus, we used to talk about things like that, strategize . We used to caucus a lot more, and frequently. People don't speak up.
- 💡 62. identify clearer process to raise issues to tribal caucus and rtoc
- 💡 63. -number of meetings
- 💡 67. No cultural connection because EPA programs do not recognize this issue
- 💡 68. Weakness - spreading self too thin
- 💡 70. lack of participation on the workgroups and no real outputs or accomplishments. such as the Charter.
- 💡 71. Lack of understanding the roll of the RTOC and the EPA - side track meeting focus
- 💡 76. Concerns are brought up without possible solutions.
- 💡 78. - all information is shared out in the halls...communication is not shared from point a to point b and back again....rather goes from point a to point z with no follow through
- 💡 82. Break out session is not long enough
- 💡 84. when there are a lot of issues on the table, the RTOC can loose focus and effectiveness. If we utilize the limited RTOC time on a few key priority issues of regional/national significance, our voice will be stronger.
- 💡 86. develop a process to capture all issues, including all the individual tribal issues
- 💡 87. -election process is lengthy, involves a lot of work
- 💡 88. - need to present appropriate trainings for new staff...
- 💡 91. Inherit weakness, EPA as an Agency and strongholds
- 💡 92. - EPA R9 needs to do more outreach to tribes about environmental issues.
- 💡 94. a weakness is that a tribe uses the RTOC to lay out an issue
- 💡 99. -we don't celebrate our successes, so people don't remember them.
- 💡 100. Weakness: There needs to be program training to new staff to understand compliance, reporting, etc.
- 💡 104. Are we too set in our process ways? Are we willing to revolve to something that's different than what we done in the past 15 years.
- 💡 105. develop a clear process to share individual tribal issues to tribal representatives and the tribal representatives to raise them appropriately to the tribal caucus and rtoc
- 💡 108. Some staff and Tribal Councils find the meetings dull, boring
- 💡 111. -we need to actually DO STUFF. We talk about strategic planning a lot, but don't do anything. Does planning matter? In the GO briefing, it says we should write our grant to focus on DC's priorities, align us with the major objectives of EPA. Why are we doing this? What is this supposed to be used for?
- 💡 119. a-RTOC should make better use of processes that it has in place
- 💡 121. Having EPA the only Agency to support RTOC limits other agencies to participates and narrows the discussions from other other agencies.
- 💡 125. - did not know process for getting issues and concerns brought up at RTOc
- 💡 130. spending too much time on minor changes to the rtoc charter. some things need ot be done outside of the charter, e.g., sops,
- 💡 135. need to provide more legislative analysis

■ **Our work together is sometimes limited by funding to travel and funding to support work in Indian Country.**
(11)

- 💡 13. Restrictive on funding to get to RTOC

- 💡 25. direct funding to tribes to implement programs
- 💡 36. -EPA travel budget
- 💡 41. - Travel restrictions (funding and distances) make it hard for all tribes to participate.
- 💡 45. Have we leveraged other federal agencies as much as we could. it has it in the charter
- 💡 50. develop Tribal "Environmental Agreements" to focus direct federal funding
- 💡 58. EPA fails to inform the new people to RTOC of the availability of programs and what they encompass... what is available to us
- 💡 97. Need to have more media participation in RTOC. Funding limits this need.
- 💡 116. EPA's ability to travel will not allow for as much collaboration at RTOCs.
- 💡 122. We submit a grant based on our own strategic plan, but if it doesn't meet the objectives of EPA it's not worthy of EPA's funding. Why can't EPA just pay attention to what Tribes need over what EPA needs for itself?
- 💡 127. increased tribal capacity is matched with decreased resources. we as tribes are not able to meet the demands for reaching capacity with the decreasing resources available to us.

🟠 **The Agency's continued funding of the RTOC as a priority makes a strong statement about commitment to the tribal dialogue. (2)**

- 💡 22. +established funding for RTOC
- 💡 109. EPA continues to give support funding for the RTOC

🟠 **Unclear (6)**

- 💡 18. Different Tribes are affected by different issues
- 💡 37. Multi media - can be both
- 💡 93. Workgroup - organization, admin., coordination, structure, membership
- 💡 123. EPA R9 list
- 💡 132. Cultural traditions and practices are strongly held by Tribes in R9
- 💡 133. -/+ AIEO

💡 **2.2 Possible External Opportunities and Threats**

Number of tables participating: 20 tables of 4-5

- 📘 **Centering Question:** What are the possible external opportunities and threats we need to be aware of? Focus on the immediate external environment, e.g., R9 tribal programs, EPA programs, other federal, state, local agencies etc.)

🟠 **The amount of Federal funding, and limitations on the use of those funds, seems to be increasing. (39)**

- 💡 3. -Federal budget
- 💡 8. - Potential cuts to funding at all levels.
- 💡 10. -funding is always a threat for non collaboration
- 💡 12. - Inequality of funding between states and tribal programs
- 💡 14. -EPA reducing the number for RTOC
- 💡 17. threat - possibility of dramatic funding declines because of economy crashes
- 💡 22. Inconsistency in funding driven by political changes, minus
- 💡 23. - bad economy means less funding for resources needed keep up environmental programs
- 💡 30. + wirj with the Administrator to remove funding caps
- 💡 33. -Funding requirements
- 💡 36. -Funding constraints
- 💡 46. -the bean counters want to count things that don't necessarily measure positive progress in Indian Country. eg ISWMPs - having a plan doesn't indicate success and good operations.
- 💡 48. -Federal Budget Recessions, limited funds
- 💡 53. lack of funding and participation due to the funding.
- 💡 62. - Funding situation
- 💡 68. -political climate, senior leadership, congress & the house, the voting public - all of these things can have very real and drastic impact on funds available to Tribes across the board (not just EPA).
- 💡 73. - Global/national economic situation = limited/ decreasing funding

- 74. threat - with limited funding and multiple agencies vying for same dollars, it reduces the funding available for everyone
- 76. - Environmental management is so grant driven - competitive
- 80. - IHS needs to work more effectively with all levels of tribal government and not just dictate
- 86. threat: the economy / budget cuts
- 89. + similar to Pacific Island Territories, provide more flexible funding to tribes (see omnibus territories act)
- 93. - Hqs requiring unfunded mandates on their programs - demanding more for less
- 98. threat - Tribal environmental programs don't always have the capacity to handle destructive environmental issues
- 100. -With reduced funding in future years, we NEED to maintain the RTOC in Region 9. Very important
- 107. - The uncertainty of funding could effect future ROTC meetings.
- 111. state of global economy
- 112. - Global economy - recession that won't end.
- 116. -GAP funding
- 119. federal budget
- 120. Global economic volatility
- 123. threat - environmental programs aren't sustainable
- 124. lack of funding
- 133. Decreased budgets across federal government
- 147. World wide economic situations still unstable
- 148. Increased indirect cost rates decrease available funds
- 150. Recession or depression?
- 173. Disparities between rich and poor - people in congress can't imagine what it's like in Indian Country because as a society we are so far removed from the reality in remote, rural communities - no wonder we have a hard time convincing congress to fund our programs, they have a hard time believing it's a reality that 30% of people on Navajo lack access to safe drinking water, or that so many of us lack reliable power, drinking water, wastewater services, roads, etc.
- 174. Disinvestment on part of Federal programs in Tribal Trust responsibilities

■ **There are emerging opportunities to leverage funds, help eachother, and bring additional partners into the conversation. (18)**

- 7. + peer matching opportunities should be used in more programs
- 11. +/-RTOC can advocate to Tribes to do more with less
- 20. Reaching out to other agencies for resources, i.e. NRCS (USDA), BIA, DOI.
- 24. +leveraging funding from other agencies
- 26. +additional resources, building stronger partnerships with agencies that don't have strong tribal programs
- 27. +It's great when an RTOC meeting can be "one stop shopping" for access to opportunities for tribes
- 39. +EPA works with other agencies for cooperative funding
- 40. +Invite other federal agencies (partners) that have funding available to support tribal programs. (ie: DOE)
- 42. + as we learn about other federal agencies, an opportunity for more funding
- 45. RTOC and EPA can point Tribes to new opportunities for new resources
- 49. +/- need to look for other sources of funding for programs
- 50. + work with the Administrator to remove funding caps
- 51. + or - : Look for more co-funding opportunities for tribes.
- 52. -opportunity to find and leverage other funding sources for tribal programs
- 61. rtoc can bring in other federal agencies for complementary work and funding
- 65. +RTOC to invite other federal partners to participate to share additional information sharing (resources)
- 87. Invite foundations to participate
- 96. opportunity: interagency leveraging, agreements

■ **There are some limitations, both in leadership positions and at the staff level, that may hinder our successes, for example staff turnover, political leadership changes, etc. (18)**

- 1. -/+ AIEO - some staff are just climbers and looking for a way up and out.
- 2. -/+ political leadership
- 4. -Change of administration

- 5. -Different administration with a new election cycle
- 19. - House of Representatives is a big threat
- 34. -the mindset of 'that's the way things have always been done'
- 38. - Other EPA Regions and different interpretations of policies and continual questioning of Tribal Capacity.
- 56. - EPA HQ staff does not view Tribal governments as co-regulators
- 64. -Turnover with a lack of training opportunities
- 66. -Sometime political boundaries cause for unsuccessful partnerships between surrounding communities and tribes
- 79. - HQ continues to try and take the blanket approach for policies concerning Tribes across the nation.
- 90. threat: a new, conservative administration next year
- 94. -Tribes that complain when EPA is not around, but won't stand up when the opportunity arises.
- 106. - Tribes are provided very limited access (time wise) to the EPA Administrator /EPA R9 RA to present and discuss key issues/concerns
- 117. -Some environmental staff does not check with their councils on what they want.
- 138. -EPA Project Officer changes
- 139. Change in Tribal departments/programs and lack of understanding of the structure
- 142. -difficulty recruiting and retaining staff without significant funding, not partial funding.

■ **We have a wealth of opportunities in our existing representatives, tribal staff, communities and leaders that we can leverage to great effect. (8)**

- 15. +Chukchansi RTOC was good because it brought in other agencies for networking
- 35. -opportunities to build coalitions and networks including other federal agencies
- 37. + Environmental issues come down to education. We could all recommit to educating whoever we are in contact with.
- 41. + being able to speak in a unified voice on issues or policy.
- 91. +NTOC as advisors to AIEO (provided they are actually taking the advice of the NTOC).
- 97. opportunity; R9 reps on the NTC, NTWC
- 134. +opportunity to engage the millennial generation. It can be hard to engage them, they're independent, not competitive, how do you engage them and use their talents to benefit? Is that millennial mindset of 'everyone a winner' affecting EPA? We're giving everyone something, such that everyone gets pennies. Give the best the most!
- 168. +Perseverance pays off

■ **There are great opportunities for leveraging non-cash resources that we could explore! (22)**

- 9. + tribal and non tribal organizations for partnership
- 28. + better communication/integration between Tribes and other Tribal organizations that might have a more media-specific focus = stronger collective voice
- 31. + maximize leveraging of NTOC
- 44. + more opportunities to expand to other watershed partners to meet environmental goals
- 47. Cities can help on environmental issues , plus
- 54. opportunity - there are more ways to collaborate with other agencies and with the states for funding and environmental protection
- 55. +partnering with state and local agencies
- 57. + Possible co-managing parks between states and tribes.
- 58. Opportunities to work with multiple agencies and tribes
- 59. Other federal agencies may be able to assist on environmental issues, plus
- 69. +supporting tribal circuit riders for all media throughout our programs, reach out to other organizations, schools, learning establishments, and brought to the RTOC meetings to establish that connection for our programs.
- 70. + States are starting to look for help/funding from tribes
- 71. + Coordination with other agencies to be more efficient in pooling resources
- 72. +opportunity to educate politicals, ensure they understand the value of our work.
- 81. + Watershed partners (stronger relationships) help in advocacy of tribal issues and environmental concerns

- 83. +RTOC can be an intermediary for other Agencies that may not be as "Tribe savvy" as EPA
- 85. + Use tribes' traditional ecological knowledge to promote stewardship of the land and appropriate decision-making. Partnership with state and federal parks. Tribes have the knowledge base from their heritage.
- 101. opportunity: better relationships with states and access to state funding
- 102. +/-Video conferencing
- 103. + convene and build an effective federal agencies work group to work with tribes in r9
- 104. Social media
- 171. RTOC should establish a social network for sharing of ideas

■ **There are environmental threats, like climate change, natural disaster, population shift, and similar that concern us. (26)**

- 18. - Energy development - drill baby drill!
- 32. - Mining - impacting all resources with no regard of long term impacts
- 43. +/- Climate Change
- 60. -natural disasters (i.e. drought, fire)
- 67. man-made disasters (i.e. Fukushima)
- 75. Climate change threats (i.e. West Nile virus, rising sea levels land use)
- 99. - Shift in public view on protection of natural resources - regulations
- 108. - Global climate change
- 109. -climate change
- 113. - climate change is a threat
- 115. long term sustainability of fresh water
- 118. impacts of climate change
- 122. -Climate Change will affect
- 125. Climate Change, education is important
- 128. overpopulation leads to overuse of resources
- 131. Climate change/Major catastrophes that will impact funding and priorities
- 136. - Food resources dwindling, as well as clean water....
- 141. tsunami debris heading our way and ongoing concern on radioactive long term impacts
- 144. Divisive issues for tribes. Energy Development
- 145. desertification in az
- 149. rising water levels, floods
- 151. Global Warming-Climate Change: Fracking, Erosion, Fires, drought=more reactionary funding rather than capacity and programs
- 153. tsunami
- 156. Need to take environmental trends seriously and act on them
- 161. +/- The next generation is both aware of environmental issues, and part of the consumer culture.
- 172. - water shortages a threat, maybe more than global warming

■ **There are social and political changes that may affect our ability to be successful, including local and national politics, legal questions, the economy, etc. (21)**

- 6. Immediate threats are the political changes because they coincide with funding
- 13. - Uncertainty of upcoming presidential election and its outcome for tribes.
- 25. -legislation can effect our effectiveness with other agencies
- 82. - Sup. Court negative to tribal rights
- 92. - the Republican platform
- 110. 2012 Election
- 127. -gas prices
- 129. National politics - could be negative changes no matter who wins
- 130. Impact of 2012 Elections on Environmental Laws - pressure to leasen environmental laws/authorities
- 132. - lack of listening and dialog by so many Americans
- 143. wars, global political climate
- 146. continuity of programs due to political leadership

- 💡 152. - Inaccurate public perception of all tribes having casinos and being rich, and therefore undeserving of government funding or assistance.
- 💡 157. terrorism attacks
- 💡 158. Tribal court cases that affect tribal sovereignty
- 💡 159. military global conflicts impacts domestic program funding
- 💡 166. increasing world population, finite global resources
- 💡 167. increasing international influence on US policies
- 💡 170. increase tribal population
- 💡 175. - Multi international corps - setting up shop in areas with no environmental regulations
- 💡 176. - Change in administration

■ **There are emerging technologies that may help us work better, smarter, and faster. (8)**

- 💡 121. technological advances
- 💡 126. + Possible new technologies to help clean the environment.
- 💡 135. +Internet access, information sharing
- 💡 140. +Video Conferencing allowing additional tribal partnerships
- 💡 155. Technology is pushed, but not everyone is trained to use it...need to provide training...Communication would be able to be facilitated more efficiently...better networking between tribes
- 💡 160. -Limited access due to lack of internet access
- 💡 163. Technology has brought more opportunities with epa and possible environmental consequences without regulations
- 💡 164. Limited technology.

■ **Here are some other positive ideas that didn't fit into a category above! (6)**

- 💡 16. +We've worked hard to get other RTOCs as active as us - that's an opportunity we should continue to try to promote. Smaller Regions don't express such passionate opinions as Regions 8, 9, 10. We need to help them get more involved in issues. Climate change is one such opportunity, funding issues are another.
- 💡 21. +/- technology because is can isolate and bring people together
- 💡 78. Overall increase in awareness in tribal and general population that can help support of environmental program and budget support; plus
- 💡 137. + identify and provide additional training opportunities
- 💡 162. Native American Water Master Association for tribal water operators is a great opportunity
- 💡 169. + All resources for environmental work are challenged.

■ **Here are some other concerns that didn't fit into a category above! (5)**

- 💡 84. - HQ doesn't truly understand the trust responsibility.
- 💡 95. - lack of commitment by EPA / TRIBES to the RTOC as a functioning body.
- 💡 105. -Office of Inspector General is continuing to threaten our programs(ie. Capacity Guidebook, IWMP Changes) without taking the time to consult, coordinate, with the people that these changes will affect.
- 💡 114. -GAP guidebook
- 💡 177. -lack of consultation


■ **These responses were unclear. (7)**

- 💡 29. +Invit
- 💡 63. -TREAT: could limit the focus of the continued collaboration between EPA and Tribes.
- 💡 77. - Mid night riders - OK - water
- 💡 88. + Op leadership on the NTOC
- 💡 154. the definition of consultation.
- 💡 165. Rtoc should establish it
- 💡 178. Split - R vs D = division







3 Our Current Environment and Future Work

3.1 RTOC - Our work on Policy Issues (Brainstorm)













Number of tables participating: 18 tables of 4-5.

-  **Centering Question:** What Policy issues does it make sense for RTOC to focus on in the next 12-18 months? Review the list of RTOC policy work. Identify if there are key policy issues that are missing from this list. Think about what have you discussed in Rounds 1 and 2 that might affect the RTOC 's work








The RTOC should focus on Solid Waste issues and funding.(6)

-  4. Minimize and Manage Solid Waste - need to work on sustainable resources.
-  10. have a policy that gives tribes access to RCRA
-  14. Need a sustainable program for Solid Waste.
-  34. Need an ability to deal with individuals with solid waste issues and not just open dump situations.
-  36. Not enough funding for Solid Waste, that is an area that should be focused on by RTOC to focus on efforts like recycling etc. and other forms of implementation
-  47. Focus Area #8 - Sustainable Infrastructure for Tribes ... especially solid waste issues





The RTOC should focus on drinking water, groundwater, infrastructure, and watershed health. (12)

-  5. Groundwater protection, there no laws that protect our groundwater for those tribes that rely on that.
-  19. Water and Solid Waste seem to be the most important issues for tribes, environmentally.
-  31. Water issues - drinking water quality, quantity, infrastructure is old.
-  38. Have drinking water, but having qualified technicians to manage the system. O&M for drinking water and wastewater!!
-  42. FAE requirements to even get a water grant. I already am in the grant process, why do I have to prove again that I'm capable of taking on another grant.
-  52. Water: ensure continuous and accessible water quality training
-  58. Establish targeted funding for mature tribal water programs...treatment in same manner as states and territories
-  65. Permanently lift the statutory cap on tribal 319 funding
-  79. Policy for intertransfer of DWTSa/CWISA infrastructure funding
-  82. Surface and groundwater need to be linked so that Tribes can get support from EPA regarding water extraction from outside entities which degrades the environment
-  83. Support infrastructure because its a national issue - how do tribes fit into the national issue - how to access the "infrastructure bank?" as an example.
-  85. Targeted funding for CWA programs for Hualapai ... and other Tribes...

The RTOC should focus on preparing for a potential political transition. (7)

-  6. Reaffirming Tribal perspectives in advance of possible post-election transition
-  18. start transitioning planning in the event that there is a change in administration
-  29. rr9 rtoc needs to be a part of the transition team regardless of the election results
-  53. focus area #1 appears to be the main point that affects all of us in RTOC . we need to address how we will continue to operate under changes brought upon by different administrations
-  61. The EPA has something to share about how to work effectively (or try to) with Tribes.
-  62. how can the rtoc support EPA in the national stage
-  84. After next November election, R9 staff should be present to ensure change is effective for the region and the tribes.

The RTOC should focus on cross-media areas of broad potential impact, such as capacity building, traditional ecological knowledge, increased funding flexibility, etc. (21)

-  1. connect environmental health to public health
-  2. needs to be more funding for infrastructure and capacity building
-  3. Tribal EPA Agreements should become part of the policy focus and needs to be funded. The tribes priorities (water, pesticides, etc) should be met.
-  7. Greater flexibility of the possibility of consolidating funding application process of EPA programs, for GAP, Water, Air.

- 💡 9. Distinct lack of information about how pollution affects health - Cross Media Issues (Focus Area 9)
- 💡 11. Have a tribal set-aside for all EPA programs
- 💡 12. with the failure of congress to fund multimedia implementation, have rtock work on alternative methods to allow for implementation funding
- 💡 15. TEK = cultural tie in to environmental protection
- 💡 17. Allowing more flexibility in EPA tribal programs to meet individual tribal goals and objectives
- 💡 20. Climate Change
- 💡 21. Cross Media (Focus #9) could be refocused to Human Health and Environment
- 💡 23. Pesticides: Use time to influence national policy
- 💡 26. Most tribes do not have pesticides management programs - more advocacy around cross media issues like pesticides. More funding available to focus on actual environmental threat
- 💡 27. Cross media: Have a conversation about how to include cultural concerns in work, if it can happen
- 💡 35. The Tribe's relationship to the environment is one of cultural and needs to be a component in the introduction to the policy
- 💡 59. Border: achieve greater flexibility with allowing individual tribes to address their border environmental issues.
- 💡 67. GAP needs to have more flexibility in the use of funds - IMPLEMENTATION and use of funds to leverage
- 💡 69. Recognition of cultural preservation tied into environmental work. How can we help EPA recognize these actions are PART of the Mission, not distracting from the mission?
- 💡 76. Flexibility between medias - tribal needs focus on
- 💡 77. Continue to work on sustainability for tribal medias.
- 💡 80. Cultural needs to be integrated into all of our issues, basically the core of Tribal takes on environmental issues

🟠 The RTOC should focus on air quality issues. (2)

- 💡 13. Focus are #5 Enhance air quality - add "build Tribal capacity for technical (monitoring, emissions inventory, AQS) and programmatic air work.
- 💡 75. For Air (Focus Area #5) the most important issues are developing tribal capacity to understand air issues, EPA to provide technical support (monitoring, emissions inventory, etc.) and information about issues.

🟠 The RTOC could find ways to help tribes move forward, such as streamlining grant processes, ensuring funding availability, and addressing policy flaws. (24)

- 💡 22. tribes should be assured that we are always protected.
- 💡 33. Policies to try to change the indirect rate
- 💡 37. Use a federal funds to use as match for other federal grants
- 💡 39. Administrative burdens - that can be changed fast track by Nov 2012
- 💡 41. Expanding resources to assist tribes in eliminating cultivation of illegal crops
- 💡 43. Allow EPA/other federal agencies to utilize 638 granting process for tribes
- 💡 44. Focus on how the strategic plan will be implemented instead of just being a stationary document.
- 💡 45. More capability in terms of enforcement of tribal laws and ordinances against other federal entities
- 💡 48. Administrative burden - I'm a one woman operation and all these hoops are holding me back. If the requirements are unavoidable, how is EPA making it as easy as possible to comply?
- 💡 49. recognition that guidance is guidance and the law is the law
- 💡 51. Give Regions the ability to make funding decisions, not HQs...
- 💡 54. Are RTOC policies connected to EPA policies and all the way to the top.
- 💡 55. we need targeted funding
- 💡 60. in all programs that have the ability to have TAS, to really honour that commitment and allow Tribes to have the power to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law
- 💡 63. go to annual reports and away from qtrly reports
- 💡 64. Focus on fewer items and do a good job
- 💡 66. let's discuss how EPA can give the tribes the funds and just trust them
- 💡 68. meaningful consultation
- 💡 71. How can EPA support/fund data management (including regional solutions) to support environmental programs
- 💡 72. Focus area #6 is also an important area to address, it covers many different media that will help the various needs of different tribes

- 💡 73. Additional enforcement on solid waste, air quality, issues within tribal lands
- 💡 74. The policies are focused on epa's statutes rather than the maintenance of funding for tribal environmental priorities. We reinvent our programs when EPA's priorities change.
- 💡 78. Focus Area #1 - add "formulate a policy for EPA to provide compliance/enforcement support and training to build tribal capacity"
- 💡 81. More flexible of use of EPA funding to address a Tribe's priority program issue(s)

■ **The RTOC could focus on ways to bring other Agencies into the conversation. (7)**

- 💡 24. develop more MOA/MOUs between tribes, EPA and other federal agencies to accomplish environmental goals
- 💡 28. One-stop-shopping for \$ within the Federal Agencies. More streamlining with other Federal agencies
- 💡 30. Bring other govt agencies to meetings for better networking and development of partnership
- 💡 50. Legislative analysis on topics coming out - based on priority issues - collaborate with other entities.
- 💡 56. How to bridge the gap between agencies (IHS, EPA), and bring in NRCS, BLM, etc.
- 💡 57. Identify and prioritize leveraging opportunities with other federal agencies.
- 💡 70. Better collaboration with other agencies.

■ **These items didn't seem to fit a category above: (6)**

- 💡 8. Advocacy is too broad a term for the focus areas. We need a more specific term for each policy issue.
- 💡 16. There should be a training for EPA before they work with Tribes. There maybe should be a training for Tribes on how to work with Federal agencies.
- 💡 25. OIG audit of GAP - Tribes didn't find out until it was too late. Those findings may affect the future of the program, and a lot of that was about how Tribes report on accomplishments under the grant. How could the Agency have informed Tribes early about the audit?
- 💡 32. Federal explanation of their authorities versus their Trust responsibilities
- 💡 40. go back to tribal issue discussions as opposed to just discussions (bottom up discussions)
- 💡 46. An issue with this session is that we feel like this is almost a vote on the issue focus not the individual tribes needs as a whole