



Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance

GRASSLANDS FOR GENERATIONS

Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance (BNGA) in Brief

BNGAlliance.org

Vision BNGA envisions Native nations uniting so the diversity of life in the Northern Great Plains flourishes for current and future generations.

Mission BNGA's mission is to ensure that Native nations have the technical and financial resources to plan and act on their vision for their traditional lands and waters, which includes ensuring that:

- Tribal members thrive by sustainably stewarding and connecting with natural resources
- Grasslands and native wildlife are restored or enhanced
- Fish and game departments have the capacity to deliver conservation impacts at scale

Values Seven generations: Making decisions that will benefit present and future generations

Empowerment: Enhancing the ability of citizens of Native nations to increase their economic resources in relation to sustaining natural resources, to protect natural resources, and to practice Native lifeways

Collaboration: Enhancing collaboration between Native nations, Native-led organizations, and other like-minded stakeholders across the region

Respectfulness: Make plans and decisions in a way that fully respects the rights and dignity of the individual and Mother Earth

Equity: Plans and decisions improve the capacity of society to offer equality of opportunity to all

Effectiveness: Plans and decisions are made according to high standards of design and implementation with quantifiable outcomes envisioned

Strategies To address threats to grasslands and community wellbeing in Native nations in the Northern Great Plains, BNGA is pursuing three main strategies:

- 1) Coordinating regional efforts to build collective action, ensuring more political and financial support to conserve grasslands and enhance Native communities' wellbeing.
- 2) Seeking to create long-term, sustainable funding for Native-led natural resource stewardship by establishing a conservation trust fund. Generating and then consistently distributing funding on an annual basis to Native nations over the long term will enable Native nations to recruit and retain skilled staff. Consistent

financing will sustain multi-year program support towards achieving flourishing grasslands and communities.

- 3) Strengthening its position as a regional, non-governmental institution that will incentivize integrated nature stewardship and cross-sector innovation so that people, wildlife, and lands of the Northern Great Plains can continue to help one another thrive.

Goals

BNGA was established to build capacity and raise the sustainable funding needed to accomplish four goals over ten years. Climate change will significantly affect how people, habitats and wildlife of the region interact, and the challenges they face. Therefore, all goals must consider the expected impacts of climate change, and all activities to implement goals must reflect climate risks.

Goal 1: 30% of Tribal land in the Northern Great Plains is under Native-led conservation management

Goal 2: 10 paths of connectivity (on Tribal, public, and/or other lands) are secured for Native nations in the Northern Great Plains, supporting culturally and ecologically important wildlife species through Native-led conservation management

Goal 3: 60 new or expanded, sustainable and natural resource-based enterprises and 300 jobs are created in Native communities (bison management, local foods, ecotourism, hunting/fishing, renewable energy, etc.)

Goal 4: Tribal members' understanding of connections between people and nature are preserved and strengthened, Indigenous lifeways promoted (native foods, medicines, customs, etc.), and opportunities for Tribal members to engage with nature are created (recreation, etc.) (100,000 participants)

Next steps for creating a conservation trust fund

- 1) Build BNGA's capacity as an organization, invite investment by finding and communicating BNGA's niche, lead with compelling goals, build participation, and enhance opportunity in Native nations
- 2) Establish BNGA's track record by showing concrete results
- 3) Assess the level of interest from Native nations and the feasibility of BNGA's ecological and socioeconomic goals
- 4) Revise BNGA's goals, as needed, and then identify activities and costs to achieve them
- 5) Secure anchor donor(s), followed by additional sufficient funding pledges
- 6) Design fund structure
- 7) Create articles of incorporation that lay out scope of activities that the trust fund is designed to support