Fact Sheet: Tribal and Nonfederal Partners
Roles and Responsibilities

Nonfederal partners in the CESU Network may include universities, tribal colleges, state and local government entities, and non-government organizations (NGOs) with expertise in environmental management.

Tribes and nonfederal partners may be members in more than one CESU and assign technical and administrative representatives to each of the Units in which they are a member. In addition to the technical and administrative representatives, roles for tribes and nonfederal partners within the CESU Network include principal investigators and project participants.
Tribes and Nonfederal Technical Representatives
Technical representatives relay information from the CESU Director and communicate about CESU Network opportunities within their tribe or partner institution.

Communicate with the CESU Director, the CESU Network National Office, other partner institutions, and federal agencies about CESU activities

- provide information to the director as requested
- attend in person or teleconference meetings
- participate in strategic planning efforts
- review and vote upon potential non-federal partners

Promote, build awareness and generate support for the CESU program within the tribe or institution

- encourage students and tribal experts or faculty to participate in CESU activities
- forward CESU award opportunities to tribal experts or faculty
- work with tribal administrators or sponsored programs offices to get CESU agreement, amendment, and award signatures
- answer questions about the CESU from the tribal council, faculty, or sponsored programs offices

Tribes and Nonfederal Administrative Representatives
Most tribes and nonfederal partners assign an administrative expert to assist with CESU agreements. They ensure compliance with tribal and institutional policies when conducting CESU projects.

Review and help prepare cooperative/task agreements for awards in accordance with applicable institution policy, federal financial assistance regulations, and each CESU Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement (also known as a “Master Cooperative Agreement”)

- manage the individual CESU project cooperative agreement awards on behalf of a designated grants officer or specialist, as necessary
- provide support to Technical Representatives and Principal Investigators on CESU awards

Respond to requests from the CESU Council, CESU Director or the CESU Network National Office

- when requested, provide project information
- review and sign (or forward to the appropriate signatory) the CESU Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreements and Amendments

Tribe and Nonfederal Principal Investigators, Students, and Project Participants
CESU projects are financial assistance, not grants, and therefore require federal key officials and project participants to remain substantially involved throughout the project. Principal investigators should:

- develop projects with federal partners
- work with administrative representatives and sponsored programs officers to ensure compliance with institution grants and agreements regulations and policies
  - conduct projects in accordance with individual project agreements
  - share results widely

For more information, see www.cesu.org or contact Dr. Thomas E. Fish, CESU National Coordinator, at tom_fish@nps.gov.