

Exchange Network Forum

Partnerships with EPA, States, Tribes & Territories

Thursday, October 10, 2024

Format

- **This Forum is an open meeting.** We want to encourage open dialogue. Please be respectful.
- **You will hear from Tribes, States, and EPA.** Calls are divided into thirds, with time for each group to push updates and request feedback.
- **We will send polls, surveys to gauge interests.** This is a call run by Exchange Network partners for Exchange Network partners.



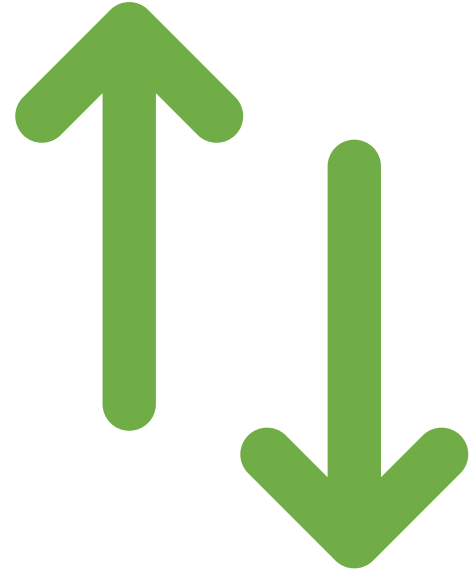
Logistics

- **Introduce yourself!** If or when you speak, please tell us your name the organization you represent.
- **Submit questions in the Microsoft Teams chat.** You are also welcome to message the meeting host directly.



Meeting Guidelines

- **Choose to be present and participate**
- **Engage actively, raise your hand to speak**
- **Maintain a respectful, open space to share and discuss ideas**
- **Assume positive intent**
- **Be curious and open to new ideas**
- **Listen and question with a desire to understand**
- **Stay on topic**
- **Turn on your camera when speaking**
- **Meetings will be recorded**



Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Meet Your EN Coordinator: Region 5**
- **Tribal Exchange Network Conference**
- **Environmental Information & Innovation (E2i) National Meeting**
- **Unified Platform**
- **Open Forum**



EPA Region 5 – Regional Exchange Network Coordinators (RENCs)



+ 35 Tribal Nations

R5 RENC Overview

Name:

Robert Senow

Job Title:

IT Specialist

Time at the Agency:

4 Years, 4 Months

Time in the RENC Role:

1 Year, 8 Months

Other Job (non-RENC) Roles:

GIS Analyst, R5 GitHub
Enterprise Admin, R5 GPO
Admin, GIS/Data
Visualization Support
(Superfund & ER/RST)

Contact Information:

senow.robert@epa.gov



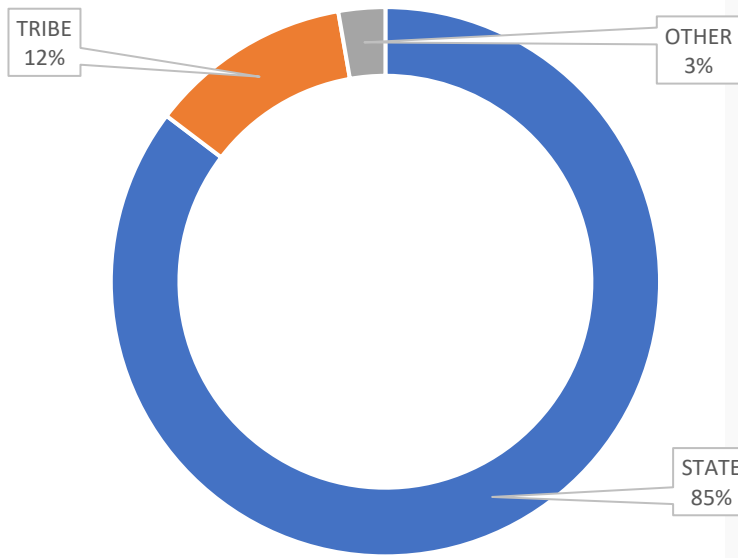
R5 Regional Overview

Project Types in R5 2021-2023

8 Open Grants

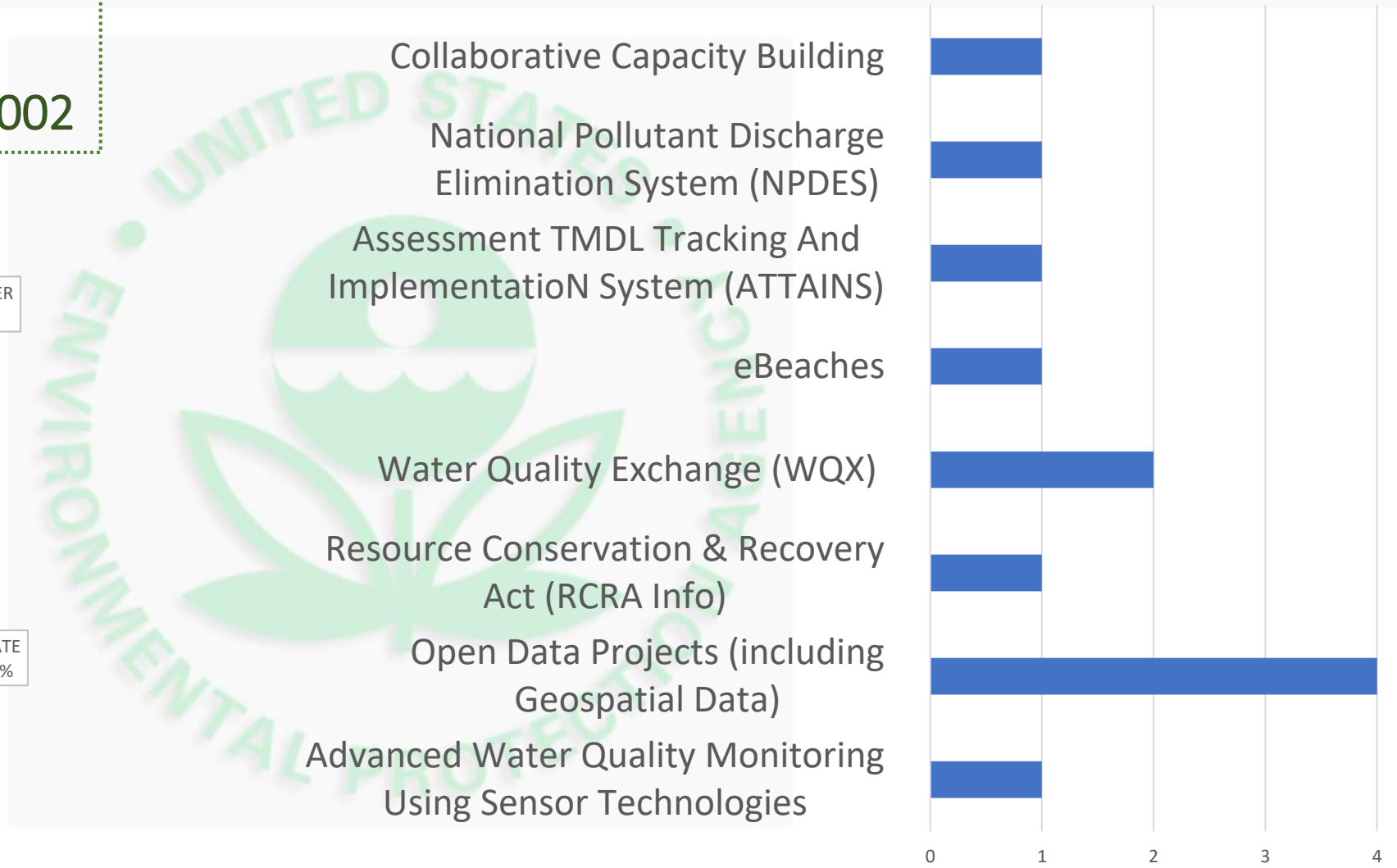
111 Total Grants since 2002

R5 Grant Recipients 2002-2023



■ STATE ■ TRIBE ■ OTHER

*Other grantee types include universities and instrumentalities of the state or tribe.



Upcoming Event



**TRIBAL
EXCHANGE NETWORK
CONFERENCE**

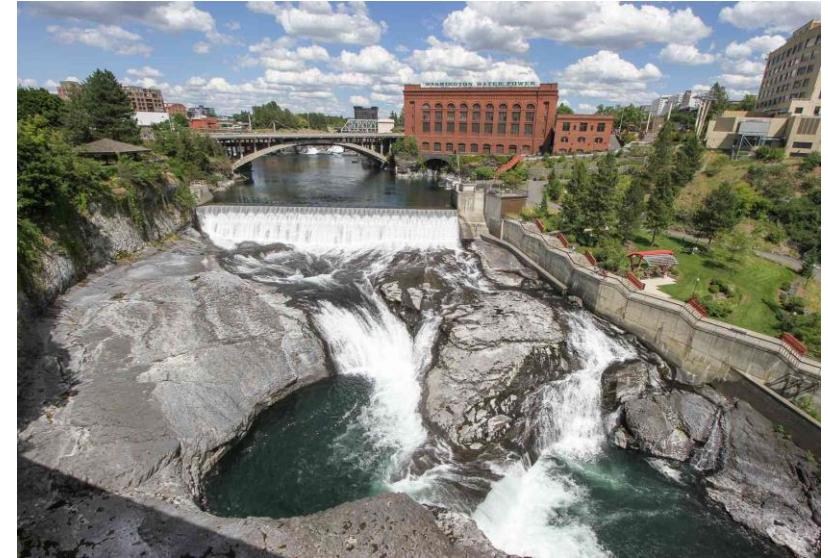
TENC24

October 16-17 | Spokane, WA

*with pre-conference sessions on Oct. 15th *with virtual sessions offered online via Zoom

Tribal Conference

- **Registration Deadline in October 10, 2024.** [Access Registration Portal.](#)
- **Tribal Exchange Network Conference** will run from October 16 - 17 at the Northern Quest Resort in Spokane, WA. The theme is *Tribal Data: Sharing Stories, Supporting the Future*.
- **Hybrid sessions, Exhibits and Networking & Interactive Workshops!** Registration will open up soon. [Sign up to receive more information and to keep up-to-date with the TXG.](#)



bit.ly/tenc24

Overview

- **E2i had 368 total attendees.** Approximately 62% of total were in-person (n=229); about 38% were virtual (n=139).
- **Attendees represented 102 unique entities or organizations,** which encompass 39 State environmental departments, including DC; 17 Tribal entities, including Tribal Consortia and Universities; and 2 federal agencies (US EPA; US DoE).
- **Over 60 speakers, panelists spoke during the 3-day meeting.** E2i had a total of 38 presentations, including plenaries, panels, and workshops.

[Access Recordings](#)



Key Topics

- **Geospatial Data** and conversations around related management, data standards, *etc.* were explored both during presentations and afterward as key discussion point.
- **Artificial Intelligence** received a notable attention, with related break-out sessions being the most well-attended of the conference.
- **Others for you?**



EPA

- **EPA was well represented with 114 attendees,** representing 9 Program Offices and 9 EPA Regions.
 - **EPA Program Offices (n=73);** Office of Mission Support was best represented (n=31), followed by the Office of Water (n=14) and Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (n=11).
 - **EPA Regional Staff (n=41);** Region 7 was best represented (n=15), followed by Region 4 (n=8) and Region 5 (n=4).
- **Most EPA staff attended meeting in-person,** with 69% of Program Office Staff and 61% of Regional staff.



States

- **39 State environmental departments attended E2i**, including Washington, D.C. Notably, no territories attended the national meeting.
 - **Most states had 2-3 representatives.** Best represented were Oklahoma (n=14), Colorado (n=8); Alaska, Tennessee & Washington (n=6).
 - **Several state affiliated groups attended in-person**, including the Western States Air Resource Council, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Kansas State University, and University of Kansas.
- **Half of state staff attended meeting in-person**, with 52% state-affiliated registrants in Kansas City, MO.



Tribes

- **17 Tribal entities attended E2i**, including Federally Recognized Tribes (n=9), Alaskan Native Villages/Corporations (n=2), Tribal Consortia (2) and Universities (n=2).
 - **Tribes (n=10)**: Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Cherokee Nation, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Comanche Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Pueblo of Jemez, Quinault Indian Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Tulalip Tribes of Washington
 - **Alaskan Native Villages (n=2)**: Native Village of Shungnak, Pedro Bay Village
 - **Consortia (n=1)**: American Indian Higher Education Consortium
 - **Others**: Haskell Indian Nations University, College of the Muscogee Nation; Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

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Industry

- **Industry was very well represented with 73 participants.** Government contractors and/or vendors made up these industry representatives.



Feedback

- **We got a great response rate for the in-Person survey (68).** Majority of responses came from States (47%) followed by EPA (29%), Other (19%) and Tribes (4%).
- **The virtual response rate was less strong at only 9.** Again, most responses were from States (44%), EPA (33%) and Other (22%).
- **Overwhelmingly positive feedback!** Those surveyed provided excellent anecdotes on what worked well and suggestions for how we can do even better next time around.



Feedback

- **This was most participants FIRST Exchange Network meeting** at 62% of survey participants.
- **Average rating was ~ 4.6 / 5.** Folks really enjoyed conference sessions, esp. the Keynote address by George Hawkins.
 - In-person: 4.64 / 5
 - Virtual: 4.45 / 5
- **Vast majority rated the meeting venue, session topics, and speakers 5 or 4.** Majority felt session timing was appropriate, with few suggestions provided.



Feedback

- **EN 101.** There are so many new people, so an EN 101 primer would benefit most. Topics could be systems, roles, leads, grants, etc.).
- **Need more structured and deliberate networking events** to facilitate conversations within specific communities (e.g., air, water) or among interest groups (e.g., security). These events should be in places conducive to conversation...
- **General logistics, both in-person and virtual.** Room for expanding and improving virtual aspects of the meeting. Issues with Whova noted.



**Other
Comments?**

Suggestions?

Contact

Moderator: [Alex O'Neill](#) (US EPA)

Panelists: [Robert Senow](#) (US EPA), [Lydia Scheer](#) (US EPA), [Dwane Young](#) (US EPA), [Kurt Rakouskas](#) (ECOS)

Hosts: [Alex Desibour](#) (US EPA, Contractor); [Kate Sijthoff](#) (US EPA, Contractor)



Thank you!

Questions?