



TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM



PIT RIVER TRIBE

SOLAR & WOODY/AGRICULTURE BIOMASS FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Project Manager: **Kyle DeSautel**

Award Amount: **\$250,000**

The Pit River Tribe currently owns over 10,000 acres of reservation land, but strategically plans for the '100 mile square' their ancestors traditionally inhabited. As such, any planning that happens within the Tribe includes lands in the Californian counties of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta and Siskiyou. With over 3,300 members, many of which populate the 100 mile square, it's important for the Tribe to plan for, and include these areas and establish and maintain positive collaborative working relationships with the communities. The Tribe would like to begin the process toward autonomy from reliance on the power grid and will work with an expert consultant to help develop this goal. The consultant will help identify the community's energy level baseline and project the baseline into the future to accommodate growth.

When exploring alternative energy sources, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory illustrates the 4 counties that comprise the 100 mile square, and the surrounding counties have plenty of feed stock to explore biomass. The biomass identified for the purpose of exploring alternative energy consists of both woody biomass and agriculture biomass. Solar is another area of interest to the Pit River Tribe. With over 288 days of sunlight in the 100 mile square, it only makes sense to look at the feasibility of utilizing the sun's rays to attract and store power. This, along with biomass power production can be a strategy used to supplement the grid power for the Pit River Tribe and provide crucial back-up power when natural disasters hit as they've done the last several years with wildland fires.

Based on best practices, the Pit River Tribe wants to take a phased approach to its alternative energy quest. The Tribe plans to carry out feasibility studies on both woody/agriculture biomass and solar within the 100 mile square. Initially, the Tribe wants to build alternative energy projects and infrastructure on Tribally-owned lands, but also work with the surrounding jurisdictions to cover the 100 mile square.