



Guidance on Research with the Hualapai Tribe Peach Springs, Arizona

Introduction to the Hualapai Tribe:

The Hualapai Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in northwestern Arizona. “Hualapai” (pronounced Wal-lah-pie) means “People of the Tall Pines.”

The Hualapai Reservation was established via executive order in 1883. The Hualapai Reservation encompasses about one million acres along 108 miles of the Grand Canyon and Colorado River. The Hualapai Reservation occupies part of three Northern Arizona Counties, including the Coconino, Yavapai, and Mohave Counties. The Hualapai Reservation’s topography varies from rolling grassland, to thick forests, to rugged canyons. Elevations range from 1,500 feet at the Colorado River, to over 7,300 feet at the highest point of the Aubrey Cliffs.

The total population of the Hualapai Reservation is about 1,621 of whom 1,353 are tribal members. Total tribal membership, including members not residing on the Hualapai Reservation, is approximately 2,300. Most people who reside on the Hualapai Reservation live in the town Peach Springs, which owns its name to the peach trees that historically grew at nearby springs. The closest full-service community is Kingman, Arizona located 55 miles west of Peach Springs on historic Route 66.

As a sovereign nation, the Hualapai Tribe is governed by an executive and judicial branch. The executive branch is composed of a nine-member Tribal Council, which includes a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The members of the Tribal Council are elected to office and serve 4-year terms. The Tribal Council oversees twelve administrative departments. The judicial branch of government consists of a Tribal Court and a Court of Appeals. The Tribal Council will be the entity with final approval over any research project concerning the Hualapai Tribe or the Hualapai Reservation.

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and an overview of the research approval process to researchers wanting to conduct research with the Hualapai Tribe, tribal members, or pertaining to natural or cultural resources within the boundaries of the Hualapai Reservation.

This research guide will discuss the research approval process at the Hualapai Tribe, will discuss general guidelines for researchers wishing to work with the Tribe and will provide an overview of the suggested contents of research proposals.

RESEARCH APPROVAL PROCESS

Approval by the Tribal Council:

All research concerning the Hualapai Tribe, its tribal members, or the natural or cultural resources within the boundaries of the Hualapai Reservation must be approved by the Hualapai Tribal Council. There are no exceptions to this rule, regardless of any discussion with tribal staff or with tribal departments, the Tribal Council has final approval over any research. The Hualapai Tribe does not yet have a Tribal Institutional Review Board. **It is imperative that all required review and approval of the research proposal be completed prior to the start of any research.**

Estimate of Project Timeline:

As the approval process can take time, we urge researchers interested in working with the Hualapai Tribe to build into your timeline an appropriate amount of time to navigate the approval process and we encourage researchers to reach out early in the process.

General Overview of Review Process for Approval:

Department of Natural Resources – The approval of research proposals is coordinated through the Hualapai Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources. Researchers should first reach out to the Department of Natural Resources. Researchers should submit a research proposal adhering to the guidelines provided below. Based on the specific of each proposal, the Department of Natural Resources will coordinate with other Departments within the Tribe to review the proposal and provide input. These Departments will provide a recommendation to the Tribal Council on whether the research proposal should be approved. Contact information for the Department of Natural Resources is provided below:

Hualapai Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 300

Peach Springs, Arizona 86434

Phone: (928) 769-2254

Fax: (928) 769-2309

<https://hualapai-nsn.gov/services/natural-resources/>

Tribal Council – The Tribal Council may request that Researchers present their research proposal to the Tribal Council. If requested, this would be a 10-minute presentation. Please be ready to present and address any questions the Tribal Council may have. A presentation may take place during a Tribal Council meeting in Peach Springs, AZ or via Zoom. The Department of Natural Resources, and other relevant Departments, shall provide their recommendations on whether the research proposal should be approved. At this time, any contract relating to the research proposal will be presented to the Tribal Council. The prior review of the research proposal by the Department of Natural Resources, and other relevant Departments, will hopefully allow the researcher to have a complete proposal to present to the Tribal Council.

GENERAL CONCEPTS

Below are some concepts that are important for Researchers to consider when working with the Hualapai Tribe.

Community Partners:

In collaborative research, building relationships with Indigenous communities is central to the integrity of the research. Build and sustain mutual sincere relationships based on trust, respect, and reciprocity. The foundation for genuine relationships is intentional and mutually beneficial to both partners. Building these relationships with tribal representatives, tribal members, elders, community members, or tribal employees is important and necessary to produce sound research. In addition, PI/Researchers must demonstrate full transparency with respect to all benefits to all parties involved, risks to Tribe, funding, and fiscal contracts (and requirements to these contracts), and confidentiality and ownership to data collected and results. When possible, research questions and objectives should be generated by or in collaboration with the Hualapai Tribe to address the needs, concerns, and priorities of the Tribe.

If you are working with a tribal department, employee, or member, you must still obtain the appropriate approval from the Tribal Council outlined in this document. Working with a community partner or the Tribe's corporation does not guarantee the approval of the proposed research or project. **If you do not have a community partner and are making an unsolicited research inquiry, the provided research proposal will be carefully and closely examined.**

Extraction of Knowledge:

Often, researchers come into Indigenous communities with specific agendas to extract Indigenous knowledge for self or institutional gain. The results of the research are often used to their advantage or profit and do not benefit Indigenous communities in any way. This type of research is extractive and not beneficial as it is only one-sided. In addition, results may not be shared with the Indigenous communities.

It is important to acknowledge that knowledge is being extracted from the Hualapai community or Hualapai homelands. Individual, Collective, Traditional, Ecological, animal and non-human relatives (Example: land, water, plants, rocks, etc.) knowledge and knowledge systems of the Hualapai Nation are integral to Hualapai Indigeneity, culture, and lifeways. It is critical for all researchers to recognize the protection and preservation of these types of knowledge and knowledge systems.

Reciprocity and Benefits to the Hualapai Tribe:

The proposal should clearly state and discuss the benefits to the Hualapai Tribe. The results from this research or project should be useful and accessible to the Hualapai Tribe, and Tribal participants. The results should contribute to the overall societal development, provide opportunities that may not have been accessible otherwise, or be tribal-led solutions.

Mentorship, Training, and Youth Development:

When possible, all projects should strive to involve Hualapai youth, tribal members, community members, or employees. This may include internships, volunteer work, or employment opportunities that support the development of the Hualapai Nation.

Adaptability:

Researchers often already have research questions before building relationships or working with Indigenous communities or approaching the Tribe. These proposed research questions are used to extract and use knowledge or data as they see fit. When working with Indigenous communities, the researcher should be open to change and adapt accordingly. Listen to the needs and concerns of the tribal government, the community, or tribal members and incorporate the feedback into your research and framework.

Time:

Throughout the world, cultures have different concepts of time. For Tribal communities, timelines may be influenced by ceremonies, traditional events, seasonal cycles, and government functions. Research culture may sometimes pressure tribal communities to expedite or accomplish research goals without consideration for the community's timeframe.

Funding and Grants:

It is expected that if you plan to conduct research with the Hualapai Tribe or on the Hualapai reservation, all funding is provided by the PI/Researcher. Do not expect the Hualapai Tribe to provide any funding for the project. If the Tribe sees potential or significance to the project, the Tribe may be open to funding, this will require further discussion. The Hualapai Tribal Council has the final approval of any funding contributions to a potential project.

Sometimes researchers will include "working with Indigenous people or communities" into their grant proposal without the necessary relationship building and consultation with those said Indigenous communities. If this research is grant funded, the PI/Researchers must coordinate and consult with community partners and the Tribal Council about the Hualapai Tribe *before* being listed as a collaborative partner in the research. In addition, The PI/Researcher must share all fiscal contracts and requirements for these grants and contracts.

Data Ownership:

The Hualapai Tribe reserves the right to: (1) ownership and control over research data collected in the Hualapai community and on Hualapai lands; (2) choose to share or not share ownership of the data; (3) withdraw from the research at any time if the Tribe feels the research is not pertinent anymore; (4) prevent the publication of intellectual resources that may be unauthorized, sensitive, or misrepresent the Hualapai people or harms the welfare, safety, or health of the Hualapai people; and (5) request the collected data at any time.

Confidentiality:

The Hualapai Tribe has the right to determine what shall remain confidential and what will be excluded from the research or project. This applies to the Hualapai Tribe, Hualapai lands, and citizens of the Hualapai Nation.

Researchers and other personnel do not have the appropriate information and knowledge, training, experience, or discretion with Hualapai culture to determine what information or images are for public use. Hualapai traditional knowledge requires careful thought and a culturally responsive interpretation. At any time, the Tribe may require additional confidentiality agreements between all parties pertaining to information concerning their culture, traditions, sacred sites, and spiritual beliefs.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL CONTENTS

We strongly encourage researchers to fully develop their research proposal prior to presenting before the Tribal Council. We recommend inclusion of the following elements in your research proposal.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Abstract** – Provide a brief summary description of the proposed project.
- B. **Table of Contents** – Recommended for long or complex proposals.
- C. **Investigators** – Provide the name, title, address, telephone number, email address, and institutional affiliation of the Principal Investigator (PI) and all additional investigators listed in the proposal.

II. OVERVIEW

Summarize the proposed project by describing in general the problem or issue being investigated as well as any previous pertinent research.

- A. **Statement of Issue** – Describe the issue to be investigated and its importance and relevance to science and to the Tribe. Provide relevant background information that clarifies the need for the proposed project and why it is valuable for the research and/or collecting to be conducted on the Hualapai Reservation.
- B. **Literature Summary** – Summarize the relevant literature regarding the issue, problem, or questions that will be investigated.
- C. **Scope of Study** – Describe the overall geographic and scientific scope of the proposed project.
- D. **Intended Use of Results** – Describe how the result of the proposed project will be used.

III. RESEARCH QUESTION AND OBJECTIVES

Describe the specific objectives of the proposed project. Where appropriate, the objectives should be stated as specific hypotheses to be tested.

IV. BENEFITS TO TRIBE

Please be as detailed as possible. This section carries a lot of weight when considering the approval of this research.

- A. Benefit to Hualapai Tribe** – Describe how the research or the results of this research will benefit the Hualapai Tribe, provide details on how the research or the result of this research could benefit the health, culture, language, natural resources, or wildlife of the Hualapai people.
- B. Additional Opportunities** – Describe any additional opportunities this research or the results of this research will provide to Hualapai youth, elders, tribal members, or employees.

V. RISKS TO TRIBE

The risks to the Hualapai Tribe should be none to minimal. If risks are involved, the expected risks should be outweighed by the expected benefits.

- A. Potential Risks** – Describe the potential risks and/or impact of the research, if any.
- B. Mitigation** – Describe any plan to mitigate any potential negative effects or impacts of the research.
- C. Previous Studies on Tribal Reservations** – Explain whether this research been conducted on other tribal reservations? If so, explain any concerns during that research process.
- D. Previous Studies in General** – Explain whether this research been conducted elsewhere? If so, explain what the results were.

VI. METHODS

Describe how the proposed methods and analytical techniques will achieve the study objectives or test the stated hypothesis/question. Provide pertinent literature citations.

- A. Description of Study Area** – Clearly describe the study area. Provide maps or geographic coordinates as appropriate.
- B. Procedures** – Describe the proposed study design that addresses the stated objectives and hypotheses. Explain the methods and protocols to be employed in the field and/or laboratory.

- C. Collections** – Where applicable, describe the type, size, and quantity of specimens or materials to be collected, sampled, or captured, and your plans to remove them from the collecting site.
- D. Analysis** – Explain how the data from the study will be analyzed to meet the stated objectives or test the hypotheses.
- E. Schedule** – Provide a schedule that includes start of project, approximate dates, analysis, reporting, and completion dates.
- F. Budget** – Briefly outline the expenses associated with this project and identify your expected funding source(s).

VII. DELIVERABLES AND PUBLICATIONS

- A. Timeline** – Describe when the results of this research be finalized and/or published.
- B. Location** – Describe where the results of this research will be published.
- C. Information Sharing** – Describe whether and how you plan on sharing the results of this research, or any publication of the research results, with the Hualapai Tribe.
- D. Authorship** – Knowledge is being extracted from the Hualapai community and/or homelands. State whether the Hualapai Tribe or tribal members will be listed as an author and explain why or why not.

VIII. QUALIFICATIONS

Provide a background summary or curriculum vitae for the principal investigator and other investigators listed in the proposal.

IX. CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONSENT

- A. Confidentiality** – Confidentiality is a significant concern to the Hualapai Tribe and may be a significant concern to individual tribal members. Describe how the information gathered during the course of the research project will be protected, including how the researcher will ensure the confidentiality of the identities of any participants.
- B. Consent** – Include a copy of the consent form that will be used. Ensure that the consent form informs participants about how their information will be used by the research project and how their privacy will be respected.

X. SPECIAL CONCERNS

- A. Colorado River Trips** – The Hualapai Reservation encompasses 108 miles of the Grand Canyon along the Colorado River. River Mile 165 to 274 (National Canyon to right before Columbine Falls/Emery Falls). Along the Grand Canyon/Colorado River corridor, the Tribe borders Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

If your research involves a river trip, you must coordinate with BOTH the Hualapai River Runners (or any other outfitter) AND the Hualapai Tribal Council. The Hualapai River Runner and Grand Canyon Resort Corporation do not represent the Hualapai Tribal Council, and the Hualapai Tribal Council has the final approval for any research trip.

*****The PI must ensure that the Hualapai Tribal Council has given approval of the research project. Booking a river trip with an outfitter does not guarantee approval by the Hualapai Tribal Council to conduct research on the Hualapai Reservation*****

- B. Endangered Species** – You must notify the Hualapai Natural Resources Department of any endangered species or evidence of an endangered species on the Hualapai Reservation. This information must be shared with the Hualapai Tribe.
- C. Permits** – Upon approval of a research project by the Hualapai Tribal Council, the PI must coordinate and obtain all appropriate permits. Permits to access the Hualapai Reservation may be obtained through Hualapai Game and Fish. You must notify Hualapai Game and Fish of the research area and your safety protocols.

Hualapai Game and Fish

Address: PO Box 249, Peach Springs, AZ 86434

Phone: 928-769-2227

Email: hualapai.rafting@hualapai-nsn.org

- D. Filming and Photography** – Any permit granted by the Hualapai Game and Fish is not a commercial filming or photography permit. Any approval issued by the Hualapai Tribal Council also does not equate to a commercial filming or photography permit. There shall be no filming or photography of any kind related to the research project performed on the Hualapai Reservation.
- E. Special Areas** – For Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) or Lake Mead National Recreational Area (LMNRA) the PI must coordinate with GCNP or LMNRA to obtain appropriate research permits.

F. Safety Protocols – The Hualapai Reservation encompasses remote and rugged terrain of canyon lands and forests. For documentation, include in your research proposal your safety protocols for the research site area. Detail your communication plans in case of emergency. List the devices you will use in case of emergency (radio, sat phone, cell or GPS); this information is needed for search and rescue.