

The Tribal Water Quality Data Roadmap tool helps tribes submit their water quality data to the Water Quality eXchange (WQX). A tribe answers six questions about their existing and future work. Based on their answers, the tool creates a customized guide for a tribe to use to collect and share water quality monitoring data.

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# TRIBAL WATER QUALITY DATA ROADMAP

*"Data is Our Legacy"*

## Accomplishments

The Roadmap project sparked not only the development of the Roadmap tool but also the creation of new, easy-to-understand, WQX training documents and videos. The shared governance model provided tribes and U.S. EPA the opportunity to work together to address a common need. The Roadmap tool was released late 2016 and can be found on the WQX/STORET webpage at [www.epa.gov/storet](http://www.epa.gov/storet) under the "Learn More" tab.

In addition to creating a custom guide to share water quality data with EPA, the tool calculates summary statistics and plots graphs of a tribe's existing data in WQX using web services. This provides a tribe an opportunity to:

- View their previous submissions;
- Be more consistent with reporting water quality results; and
- Identify quality assurance issues in the data to promote quality data submissions.

## Goals

1. Recognize that good water quality data is the legacy of any tribal program and assist in helping that data be the basis of better environmental decisions.
2. Create a roadmap for tribes to develop and deliver water quality monitoring data even during times of staff turnover.

## Resources

Using a shared governance approach consisting of regional and tribal partners, the team was able to develop a simple spreadsheet tool that could be used by the tribes.