**EPA Urban Waters Small Grants**

**Stormwater and LID Education and Outreach in the Spokane River Watershed**

**Project Proposal by The Lands Council**

The EPA’s Urban Waters Small Grants program is seeking project proposals that meet the following criteria:

* Address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution;
* Provide additional community benefits;
* Actively engage underserved communities;
* and foster partnerships.

To address urban runoff pollution in the Spokane River watershed, The Lands Council proposes to: (1) carry out door-to-door outreach in the Hillyard and surrounding MS4 neighborhoods, educating residents about stormwater pollution impacts and offering free tree seedlings to mitigate these effects; (2) provide river toxics and public health/safety information to users of the Spokane River, focusing on immigrant and homeless communities; (3) instruct students from two underserved and/or alternative high schools in the watershed on stormwater and LID concepts throughout the school year, culminating in each class designing a LID project that has potential to be implemented at their school or homes; and (4) teach a curriculum of environmental literacy and green job preparedness with emphasis on stormwater pollution and LID techniques to offenders at Geiger Corrections Center, with the option for rehabilitated offenders to continue instruction post-release with Lands Council staff at Fulcrum Institute’s Ash Street Work Force Development Station.

This proposal will improve public health by educating river users about safe fish consumption and recreation, and provide an opportunity for economic development by offering job training and career pathways for Spokane’s rehabilitated offenders. Two clients have already been placed in jobs at local landscaping firms following curriculum instruction from Lands Council staff. We will actively engage both high school teachers and students in the planning of the curriculum, and have already worked with offenders from Geiger to obtain feedback on offering the best possible instruction and assistance post-release. We will work with Fulcrum Institute and reach out to additional landscaping firms to expand job offerings for participants that complete instruction.

This proposal would fulfill all EPA requirements and make significant improvements in the knowledge of stormwater pollution impacts for members of our community most in need, while also reducing this impact through the planting of urban trees in MS4 areas.