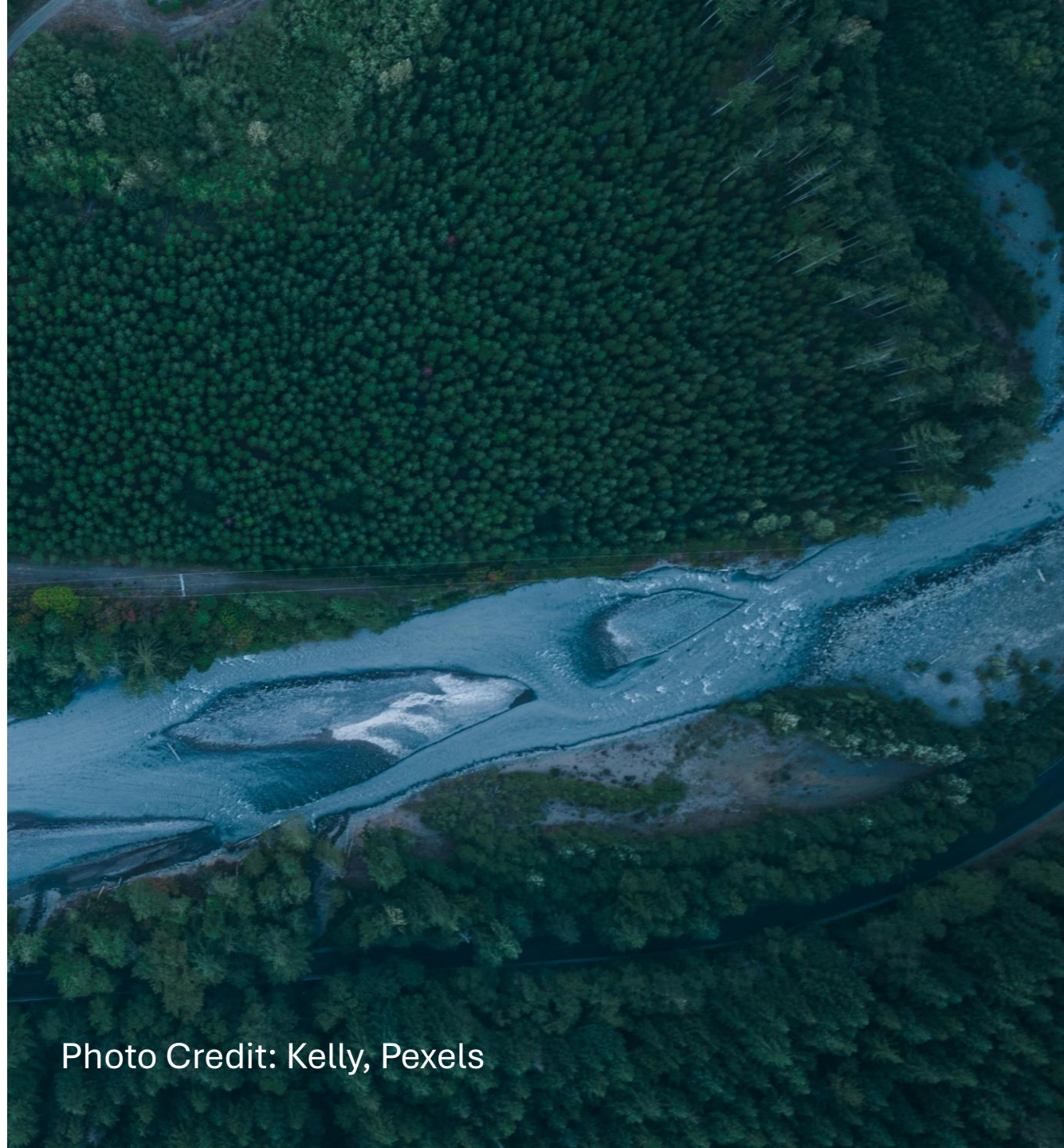


# EJ Assessment Workgroup

Developing guidance for the  
community engagement  
requirement

Photo Credit: Kelly, Pexels





# Background 2022 to Present

## **2022 - IAWG EJ Assessment committee forms**

- Statute analysis
- Direction and need identified

## **Jan 2023 - EJC EJ Assessment committee forms**

- EJC and IAWG assessment groups collaborate
- EJ Assessment template finalized
  - July 2023 Assessment implementation begins

## **May 2024 - EJC EJA committee reconvenes**

- EJC and IAWG EJA committees collaborate to discuss lessons learned
- 11 areas of potential guidance identified

## **Jan 2025 - Small group formed**

- focus on single guidance area: EJ Assessment Community Engagement Requirements
- understanding of needed guidance and specifics
- rough draft guidance developed
- discussion and refining of guidance continues





## Project Goal

**Complete current guidance** for the community engagement requirement of the environmental justice assessments using what agencies have learned so far from conducting EJAs and a small sample of focused conversations with community-based organizations and Tribes that agencies have already engaged with on EJAs.

# Expected Outcomes

Create a set of clear, actionable guidelines that ensure meaningful community engagement throughout the Environmental Justice Assessment process which includes:

- Finalize community engagement guidelines that agencies can adopt in their EJAs.
- Develop a process that better incorporates community voices into decision-making, ensuring more just outcomes
- Create a set of best practices that reflect lessons learned from past engagements
- Gather data that will inform the next EJ Assessment project



# Implementing Workplan

## **EJ Council workplan highlights EJA workgroup**

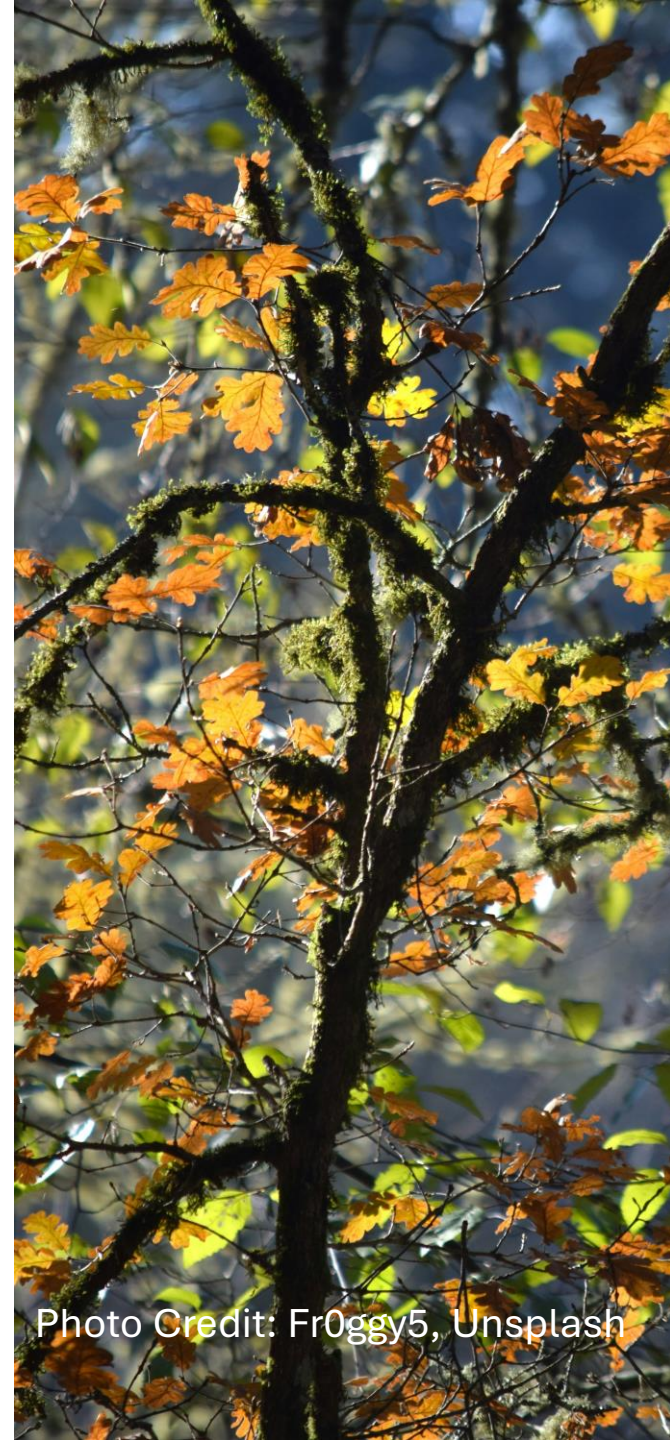
- Workplan created
- EJC request for:
- Additional perspectives
- Support adding voices of community and tribal members

### **To do**

- Create specific engagement plan – Aug 2025
- Refine guidance and create a final draft – Feb 2026

### **Future**

- Address other guidance priorities - TBD



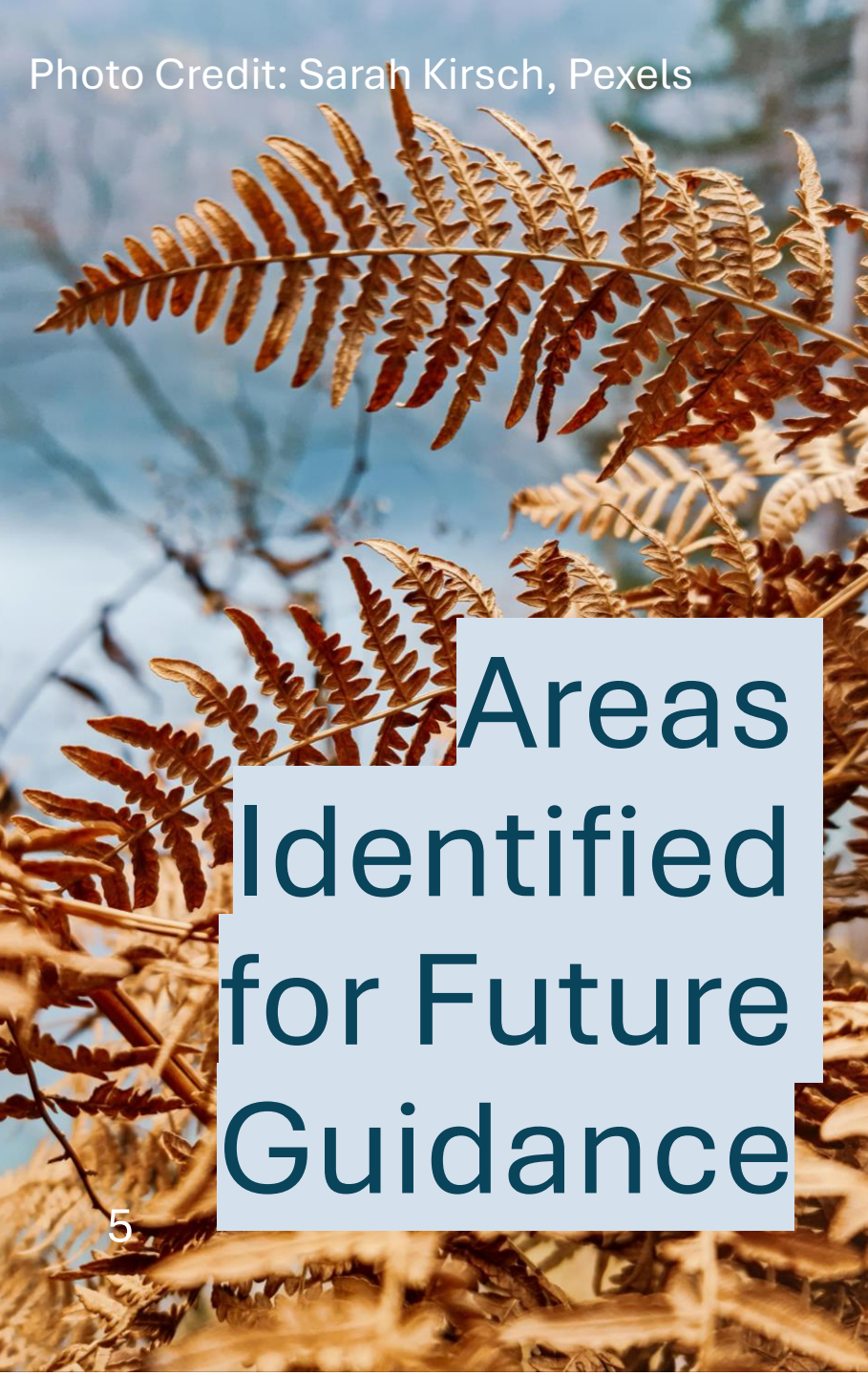


Photo Credit: Sarah Kirsch, Pexels

# Areas Identified for Future Guidance

- Tribal Engagement guidance
- Posting EJAs to the OFM website
- EJ Assessment Template guidance
- EJ Assessment Accessibility guidance
- Guidance on Expedited or exempt EJ Assessments
- EJ Assessment quality guidance
- SAA specific EJA guidance
- Additional SAA for EJA process guidance
- EJ Assessment community identification guidance
- EJ Assessment project identification



# Project Workplan



## Phase I: Gather Information

Review work completed  
Gather information from

- Agency personnel conducting EJ Assessment engagement
- Community Based organizations with experience in the EJA process
- Tribal personnel with experience in the EJA process



## Phase II: Refine Draft Guidance

Refine the draft guidance  
utilizing information gathered



## Phase III: Review Draft Guidance

Share the draft with:

- Interagency Workgroup
- Ex Officios
- EJ Council

Use feedback to adjust  
guidance create final draft



## Phase IV: Adopt Draft Guidance

Finally, the EJ Council will  
discuss and possibly adopt  
the final draft guidance

# Request

This workgroup needs your help to:

- Work towards co-creating EJC guidance with Tribes & community
- Ensure guidance is developed in alignment with EJC values and practical for state agencies
- Experiment with processes to meet complex goals
- Model early and often engagement