Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) contains more than 200,000 acres of land, including coastal areas, interior forests, and growing residential communities. In 2006, QIN faced severe resource management problems related to conservation and sustainable timber production. The reservation was using a property allotment system that dated back to the 1900s and no longer met the community’s needs.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) partnered with QIN to develop a comprehensive conservation strategy that includes Greenprinting, funding strategies, real estate training, and landowner outreach.

TPL’s role
TPL works with tribal governments and native communities to acquire and protect ancestral homelands and culturally significant places. TPL uses integrated tools and strategies to create, fund, and manage land conservation programs and to clarify community goals. For the Quinault, that meant designing a conservation program that:

• Preserves Quinault Nation culture and traditions
• Protects key natural lands and waters
• Supports economically and ecologically sustainable management of the reservation’s natural resources

Project highlights
The partners first undertook a research effort to catalogue and study QIN properties using TPL’s Greenprinting services. Working closely with the QIN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), TPL gathered data on local topography, geology, plant and animal biology, and fish and timber resources, along with other baseline information. This data informed
a computer model that helped QIN assess which lands, if acquired, would best meet the community’s conservation goals. In addition, an extension of the Greenprint model was created that incorporates data on land ownership to help prioritize and track outreach with landowners.

After identifying high-priority land for conservation, TPL compiled the resources available for land acquisition, creating a database of funding options that QIN staff can search, update, and track.

**Results**

QIN uses the Greenprinting results and funding analysis to assess the viability of various conservation opportunities, landowner negotiations, and financing options. Using TPL’s model, QIN is also producing an application that quickly estimates the value of timber lands for potential acquisition, streamlining the appraisal process. The Quinault Greenprint remains highly visible throughout Indian Country.