## Land Restoration, Regenerative Agriculture, and Educational Indigenous Proposal from Harvest of All First Nations

1. Please describe the operation you propose for this property. Include details regarding your proposed grazing management practices, vegetation / forage management and irrigation management practices. Please include practices that you currently employ, and management results from them to conserve soil, water, and forage resources.

Harvest of All First Nations (HAFN) aims to utilize this land as a bridge between the celebration of Indigenous wisdom and culture through regenerative agricultural and cultural practices. Our mission and vision intend to restore and rematriate (ancestral matrilineal concept embraces nurturing and inclusion of all life, encompassing all genders and all living beings within our ecosystems) the land by applying Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). At Harvest of All First Nations, we define TEK as Indigenous ecological wisdom, which is today practiced and known as permaculture, biodynamics, and other regenerative agriculture which HAFN's farm team and consultants practice at the land. According to the short-lived 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie, the Front Range (including the Poor Farm property) was recognized as territory belonging to the Arapahoe and Cheyenne. In honor of this history, HAFN's main goal with The Poor Farm property would be to heal the land and the BIPOC+ communities in Boulder County simultaneously. We will do this through reconnecting people to the land by implementing regenerative farming practices, cultural restoration, and rematriation to the landscape. The goal is to create a sense of sovereignty for the BIPOC+ communities in Boulder County, while restoring a right relationship with the land.

Through our Food Justice and Sovereignty Program, we engage with the land and teach participants and land stewards to be in right relationship with the land. This begins before we even grab a tool, when we ask for permission from the land to work on the land and co-create with nature, we give thanks for the opportunity to do so as well. To be in right relationship with the land means that we acknowledge all the living beings that call a place a home. Each of those beings, whether plant, animal or ancestor is essential to the ecosystem, and we must respect and be aware of the impact we have when we do our work.

The Food Justice & Sovereignty (FJS) Program teams up with community members and allies to work and learn with the land. This program teaches ancestral agricultural methods and other significant cultural practices, while simultaneously creating a safe space for BIPOC+ communities, by granting land access run by BIPOC leaders. We have been growing vegetable varieties at multiple plots throughout Boulder County since 2022, including those at Yellow Barn, Moving Mountains, Growing Gardens, and Wild Child Farm. Our food production has been enacted by a variety of experienced farmers as well as knowledgeable Indigenous teachers that bring traditional practices for growing crops. This includes using drought tolerant native seeds that are adapted to our climate and ecosystems such as Hopi blue corn, Hopi black beans and different squashes, as well as other seed crops from MASA Seed Foundation. To regenerate soil, we have implemented practices such as applying compost, companion planting, little to no till, and applied biodynamic preparations made with bison manure to honor the native grazers of this land. Our Three Sisters Garden is intentionally grown using traditional techniques that allow for furrow irrigation, increasing water retention for our crops and reducing the use of disposable materials such as plastic drip irrigation.

HAFN's farming efforts are led by professional and community land stewards within our FJS program. This program is HAFN's most generously funded project, allowing us to offer BIPOC+ community members and allies an open living classroom on the farm. Through vegetable production, we will teach stewards and the community on ways to be in right relationship with the Earth, while guiding a reconnection with culturally original foods. We will also employ a polyculture system that boosts the ecosystem in the entire land area, while changing paradigms of extractive and slavery thinking.

In addition to educational food production, HAFN will host its other cultural education programs that provide somatic learning experiences and offer healing opportunities to the land. This will include our Sowing Seeds of Change (SSC) and Cultural Education and Environmental Justice Program (CEEJ). SSC hosts a series of workshops lead by BIPOC+ community members, in which they teach a range of topics from pollinator advocacy, soil health, water retention, culture and food, to Indigenous herbalism, etc. CEEJ operates equity consultancy, educational classes, land acknowledgement ceremonies, and TEK workshops based on ancestral wisdom lead by Indigenous representatives or wisdom keepers. We will additionally host partners' programming, such as "plant walks" like the Seeds of Justice program we co-hosted in 2024 with Boulder Open Space Mountain Parks and Cool Boulder. These programs will work with the land to bring back cultural backgrounds.

A foundational aspect of how we sustain our regenerative practices is by giving to our BIPOC+ communities all of the food we grow. This is possible because HAFN, as a good standing nonprofit, gets ongoing financial support. We donate all our harvest through Boulder Food Rescue, community partners and stewards attending to the land, while sharing the rest of the food at our Annual Corn Festival, a culmination and cultural celebration hosted in partnership with Boulder County Open Space at the Agricultural Heritage Center in Longmont for the past few years. Our food distribution partnerships ensure that the food that was traditionally grown by the community goes to nourish the community members who experience the highest rates of food insecurity and systemic oppression. This reflects how the land and community nourish each other when in right relationship.

#### **First Year Goals**

- Cultivate up to 1 acre of vegetable gardens including a Three Sisters Garden to donate and feed our community
- Observe the land and the natural patterns of water, weather and wildlife. This will help us develop our projects.
- With a secure lease and funding, we would like to have up to 10 chickens in a chicken tractor to help with pest control and have some egg production for our team, and community.
- By the end of the season, we would like to bring in up to 3 pigs to help prepare future garden beds and build soil while adding organic matter. Pigs would be obtained from other farm partners such as Wild Child Farm, DAR, or The Golden Hoof either as a purchase, or donation.
- We would like to make use of the farmhouse and have 2 farm hands living and working on the property and use one of the lower-level room as an office for our operations, and the living room space for our team to gather, share meals together, and have monthly/weekly team meetings.
- We additionally hope to use the first year of our contract to expand land access available to host programming, such as the SSC with an average attendance of 20-30 people accordingly.
- To install a tipi or two to expand gathering spaces for educational and gathering purposes (tipis are not permanent structures).

## Second Year Goals

- Expand our gardens to 2 acres range to increase food production for our community.
- Bring on 2-3 hoses for grazing and the development of youth engagement programs.
- Begin planting perennial gardens, which would include native as well as perennial medicinal herbs such as yarrow, chamomile and valerian.
- Install rainwater and grey water systems around the farm to use our resources wisely<sup>1</sup>
- Would install a tipi or two to expand gathering spaces for educational and gathering purposes (this is not a permanent structure).
- Considering funding and infrastructure we would seek to expand our egg production to about 20-50 chickens, helping us provide eggs for a larger community.

• Begin the rotation grazing process with the pigs to fertilize and naturally till the land.

# Third Year Goals

- Expand our production gardens to 3 acres or more depending on resources and capacity.
- Continue to develop and potentially expand our horse and education programming.
- Continue to develop and expand perennial shrubs to potentially include rotational grazing using horses, pigs and sheep<sup>2</sup>
- Continue to expand and develop perennial medicinal herb gardens to serve our community and other HAFN programming, shrubs such as choke cherries, golden currants and service berries.
- Continue to develop and expand our education programming while plating a food forest garden.
- Would continue using the farmhouse as housing for our team as well as potentially increment HAFN office operations to this location<sup>3</sup>

# Practices Currently Applied for Soil Management and Irrigation Systems

# Soil testing:

- At the beginning of our season, we took soil samples from our gardens to get a basic understanding of the health of our soil and how we could support it during the season.
- We follow up with soil samples during the next season to look at the impacts that our gardening and practices have on the landscape.

Three sister method of planting, vegetable and pollinator gardens

- At Yellow Barn, animals were used to prepare the soil before beds were built for the garden to add organic matter.
- To prepare our plots at Growing Gardens we loosened the soil by hand tilling multiple times to help remove grass from our garden beds and then added rich compost before planting.
- At Growing Gardens, we practiced barefoot planting and seed handling with a cultural approach to minimize soil disturbance, as well as irrigation and flood system methods which improve soil health, aeration and water retention.
- Traditional rain capturing systems, water flooding systems, and irrigation water mitigation systems which are passed on from generation to generation (manual trenching and zigzag flooding irrigation techniques).
- Implementation of biodynamic strategies, such as:
  - o Buffalo manure to make a concentrated form of compost and a silica preparation used to increase pest resilience and grow healthier produce.
- o Biodynamic practices are based on the principle that a farm or land is a whole living organism, therefore when addressing a challenge such as a pest or disease we look at the balance of the whole ecosystem rather than attacking something with a pesticide or solution. Regenerative methods of pest control, and organic methods with the assistance of pollinator companion plants:

Applied diatomaceous earth sparingly.

- Used homemade pest repellents that used all organic and non-toxic ingredients.
- Used companion planting to increase crop resilience and diversity.
- Timing seed planting according to plant sizes- for example beans will not be planted until corn is 6 inches tall, and intentional companion plantings such as tomatoes, basil and garlic.
- Hand tilling and other ancestral tools to implement seeds (weed out, and barefoot access to the fields).
- Permaculture zones techniques were applied to utilize our space in the best way possible while creating optimum environments for all our unique crops to get what they need.

• Application of TEK and cultural approach such as offering and asking permission to the land ahead of time and giving thanks for the opportunity and all the bounty it provides cultural altar and practices.

Community building and implementation of invitation of diverse and popular traditional knowledge from community giving:

- Our stewards bring a rich and diverse set of perspectives and wisdom to share, some of them have brough generations worth of knowledge that have enriched our experiences in the gardens.
- We host our Sowing the Seeds of Change workshops that highlight BIPOC+ voices and teachings regarding being good stewards and growing food to nourish our communities.
- Throughout our collaboration partnerships we bring marginalized communities that benefit and heal from being at the land such as: Tribe Recovery Homes, and Safe House Alliance Center.

# 2. Please describe your agricultural background and any existing agricultural enterprise(s). Include general location information, and the years of experience implementing the agricultural practices you have proposed.

HAFN's FJS agricultural program is led by a team of experienced farmers which share the responsibilities of the land and knowledge that exists between the *Farm Mentor* (Temachtiani- Nahuatl word) and *Farm Mentee* (Temachtili- Nahuatl word), who carry traditional Indigenous practices handed down to them through generational traditional knowledge and application. These practices teach us how to cultivate food, care for the soil, and foster a deeper connection with the Earth. Our team is supported by a network of experienced farmers and land stewards in the community such as Nick Didomenico from Drylands Agroecology Research (DAR), Andre Houssney from Jacob Springs, Daniela Escudero at Reverent Roots, Oliver Weber from Pachamama Farms, Tim Francis at Dharma's Garden, and we could also access consultancy and advice from Frontline Farmers, GoFarm who can provide us access to additional BIPOC+ experience farmers in the region, along with the support of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to incorporate their scientific knowledge, financial support and landscape planning. All these collaborations make us a great example of how to work in community, allyship, and opening opportunities to expand resources, material, tools and efforts as we also are expanding potential partnership with other farmers such as: Amy Scanes-Wolf, Alice and Karel Starek from The Golden Hoof, Caitlin and Freddy from Labyrinth Dairy.

Our current farm mentor, Diego has demonstrated and taught ancestral agriculture practices that have been passed down from generation to generation through his lineage which are based on water conservation and cultural practices.<sup>4</sup> These practices have supported us in cultivating healthy soil, community and education as well as our production. In 2022, in collaboration with DAR as a fiscal sponsor and active collaborator with our agricultural practice, we were able to grow 2K pounds of food, which was given at the First Corn Festival hosted at Yellow Barn, and to many elder Indigenous homes. In 2023 we produced 2,667 pounds of food on 21,798 square feet (roughly 0.5 acres), in 2024 due to land access we were forced to scale down and grew

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In reference to the parameters established within the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks' 2017 "<u>Agricultural Resource Management Plan</u>" (henceforth referred to as "Ag Plan"), pages 46-49

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Annex A – Farm House Goals

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Details about traditional practices are requested to remain confidential by the Farmer.

730 pounds of food on 2200 square feet (roughly 0.04 acres). However, despite the land access challenge we increased our food production in ratio per square foot by 2.75 times.

# 3. Please describe your proposed vegetation and soil sampling protocol or observations and how you will use this information to adapt and modify management practices

HAFN's mission and vision is to create safe healing and educational places for communities while reconnecting with the land. Therefore, our harvesting methods are based on cultural and community practices which help us determine the harvesting dates. We will be harvesting crops as they are ready throughout the season and our big harvest will be in the fall, which is done with multiple community members by hand including cultural aspects and teaching to have them ready to be share with our community at the Corn Festival. Our crop and rotation are intentionally selected and planned to enhance soil health and nutrient sharing, this is based on TEK and regenerative agricultural principles. We have implemented new methods of cultivation according to the plant's needs, for example: we have used buffalo composting preparations what has helped to improve the growth and readiness of the corn seeds. We have used Growing Gardens, Dharma's Gardens, MASA and Wild Child Farm seeds on our property, and we are in the process to obtain different native seeds from other Indigenous organizations and partners.

## Crop listing for upcoming years:

**First Year**- Focused on observation, three sisters (corn beans and squash), other annual crops such as tomatoes, tomatillos, chillis, peppers, watermelons, a variety of medicinal herbs, lettuces, kale, etc. Supported by a medicinal garden some pollinators help prevents pests and attract beneficial insects. Additionally, medicinal plants will also be cultivated to support different programs at HAFN as well as our community members. As well, as we have been able to preserve and keep seeds from previous crops, while developing and expanding relationships with other Indigenous farming organizations for preservation of the mother seed and to keep seeds as healthy and strong as possible as part of our vision.

- Chicken incorporation to support soil fertility, and pest control (such as grasshoppers and beetles), the rotation would be implemented as needed to build soil, and pest control.
- Buffalo pit is based on a biodynamic preparation known as barrel compost that traditionally uses cow manure, crushed eggshells and basalt powder to add minerals and the 6 biodynamic compost preparations that aid in ingredient transformation and making this a rich concentrated compost preparation and application. These ingredients are mixed and buried in the ground for 6-9 months as the preparation changes. The use the bison manure with HAFN has been intentional in honoring the native grazers of this land. Bison manure brings a variety of fungal matter and bacteria that are adapted to these soils unlike cow manure that does make a positive impact but is not native (rematriation). This preparation is powerful due to the fact that it is used in homeopathic amounts, so a pit renders about 300 acres worth of application. At the end of this season, we would like to use up to 3 pigs to help us till the soil in preparation of future gardens.

Simultaneously, consultation from different partners such as Dryland Agroecology Research (DAR), Reverent Roots, Jacob Springs (and potentially other collaborators) will come visit the land to plan and assess, observe on where to implement the following based of the project such as: horses, pigs, buffalo pit, food forest and shrub implementation which will bring more water to the land over the course of years.

During our first year, given funding capacity, we would use one acre of this land for farming the Three Sisters and herbal gardens. The rest of the land would be used to support our educational programs and animal grazing projects by working on the infrastructure of the buildings in place. In the coming years, based on HAFN's secured funding, we would greatly expand the acreage of our farming efforts.

Second Year- Same essential crops as the first year and now that the our team is more familiar with the land, with readiness to expand the area that was already prepared by grazing animals to grow additional crops that community might request or doubling the amount that on the initial crops, with the intent to start planning into developing a food forest. The ideal location for shrub implementation would be near the healing trail.

This year in addition to vegetable production, we will also be working with DAR, and Reverent Roots<sup>5</sup> to implement dryland plants that are native to this land and are regarded by Indigenous cultures. This will include medicinal plants like chokecherry bushes, sage, leaving as many native plants as possible on the land, while also planting an herbal garden which could be used across programs.

Depending on funding and resources we would grow our chicken production as well as incorporate pigs and horses into our operations to build soil fertility and use the pigs to till the soil in preparation for future gardens.

Third Year- After the planting of native, culturally significant shrubs (chokecherries, twinberry fruit, elderberries, etc) has taken place, we would most ensure that this are well maintained through the swales systems of irrigations taking advantage of the land slopes that already exist at the land. This system could be diverted (according to city regulations) to the lake so this can generate larger water capacity within the area next to this land and will benefit all ecosystems and water production. Part of our goals would be to produce perennial crops while we are teaching our community how to perform these practices with a cultural approach, and sense of safety and healing. This year would be with the vision to ensure that also Indigenous talks and walks are offer to the community alongside with already project-based education programs existing through HAFN and collaborators.

## Other Regenerative Agricultural Practices Applied:

- Tillage: our intention is to use tillage to prepare the land for crops only. If possible, we would use pigs and chickens to help us till the soil while adding manure to the land.
- Fertility management: to increase soil health and fertility we will make sure to rotate crops, cover crops, add compost and biodynamic
  preparations as well as different animals such as pigs, chickens and horses to add manure.
- Grazing management: in our second or third year we would like to incorporate animals (pigs, chickens, horses) into our operation to add fertility
  and graze our fields with barely minimum soil disturbance, as well as help prepare plots for our gardens.

## Horse Management:

We would work along with Jacob Springs and other collaborators regarding horse management assessment. Horses play a valuable role in regenerative agriculture by contributing to soil health, biodiversity, and sustainable farming practices. Their manure is a rich source of organic matter and nutrients, enhancing soil fertility, improving water retention, and supporting beneficial microbial activity. When properly managed, horse manure can be composted to create high-quality fertilizer, reducing the need for synthetic inputs. Additionally, horses can aid in low-impact land management by grazing in rotational systems, naturally aerating the soil with their hooves, and promoting pasture diversity. Their presence fosters a balanced ecosystem, aligning with regenerative and cultural principles that restore and enhance the land. As an additional benefit, hosting pigs and horses will naturally till the soil so that our farmers can incorporate rotational planting and expand food production in future growing seasons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> More information about these organizations can be found at https://www.dar.eco/ and https://www.reverentroots.com/

#### Irrigation:

Our intention is to use drought tolerant crops as much as possible and implement TEK practices that reduce the need for irrigation. To support this, we will use traditional flood irrigation techniques which reduce the use of plastic and irrigation technology as well as allow the soil and plants to take in the necessary moisture naturally. We would also like to install rain barrels and other rain catchments techniques to keep as much moisture on the land as possible. This will help us build soil health and support our efforts with the bison manure preparation to support native fungal networks and healthy bacteria to improve the health of the whole ecosystem.<sup>6</sup>

#### Pest management:

Our priority is to create a healthy and diverse ecosystem that is resilient to pests and disease. This includes creating a habitat for native pollinators and pest control species such as lady bugs and native wasps. We also are aware of the importance of protecting native species such as the prairie dog and recognize the imbalance that they can cause in the ecosystem without the presence of the buffalo. We intend to mitigate their presence in our gardens by planting alliums as a border as well as researching and contacting experts on this topic to help maintain a healthy ecosystem.

#### Soil testing:

We are in current collaboration with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and DAR to ensure soil health is achieved. They would be able to assist with additional planning and mapping accordingly and based on their *"The American Relief Act, signed into law on Dec 21, 2024, extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. AKA Farm Bill through Sept 30, 2025".* Currently they are active and can take applications, plan and submit the CEMA 222 Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation, which fits perfect in our modeling program, and we have had conversations and applications already in place to support several projects.<sup>7</sup> Through this program they help us as well to map and practices as well.

#### Green house access/ Loop House:

Currently we have found support with our different partners such as Growing Gardens, Darma Gardens and Pachamama farms of help with seeds, starts and growing how access. However, it is our goal to help develop a greenhouse as well so we can grow and care for our own seeds.<sup>8</sup>

We will continue to mirror planting patterns to nourish the land, using regenerative agriculture TEK practices and land rematriation while evolving our teachings to meet the needs of the land and the community. The property would also have a defined space for animal grazing. We'd hope to bring pigs with the support of DAR, or Pachamama Farm to till the land. With the help of Wild Child Farm, Reverent Roots we would graze animals. It will also serve as a community educational opportunity for introducing concepts of TEK, regenerative agricultural practices and implementing rematriation of the land. We'd also like to have a space for horses, to develop a Native youth program to engage with community organizations like Maya Motion Healing, Colorado Native, and AMISTAD to create an educational opportunity for BIPOC+ youth and families to engage with their culture. This feels essential in our operation because we are taking care of the next generation and allowing them to reconnect with the land, giving them an opportunity to see themselves represented in this community.

# 4. Please describe how the City of Boulder agricultural land you are proposing to lease improves the viability of your existing agricultural operation or improves agricultural stewardship of your existing property(is).

Harvest of All First Nations has been farming for several years, but this will be the first time that we could steward the same land year-after-year. This would drastically enhance our ability to tend the land and enact our programming. A consistent space for HAFN would also increase the stability we can provide for the community and give us space to prove how TEK creates symbiotic relationships with the land that only improve over time.

In addition to the land, HAFN intends to make full use of the existing infrastructure. We would utilize the buildings that already exist on the property to host free TEK workshops (including but not limited to pollinator education, soil health and herbalism), living spaces for two farmers, offices for HAFN, and a community cultural healing center. Having these on the land would allow us to use the plots in a somatic learning environment with our teachings. We would use the current infrastructure as gathering spaces to introduce our presenters and begin our journeys together. We would also use current barn spaces to store garden and animal care tools as we grow our operations.

### 5. Please describe how your proposal supports the implementation of the Fort Chambers-Poor Farm Management Plan

HAFN's ultimate vision is to create a shared space that will allow community and the land to operate in a reciprocal and regenerative way as a symbiotic ecosystem. This falls in alignment with the Poor-Chamber's "Heal the Land, Heal the People" vision, which HAFN could help bring to fruition. We would like to demonstrate and establish that through TEK methods (which apply art, culture, permaculture, free range horse grazing, animal grazing, biodiversity implication, food forest, rematriation, buffalo barrel compost. Etc.), it is possible to create a healing space that will help communities to not only rebuild and heal the history of the land, but to create new paradigms while creating new history that now involved the ancestors of these lands. This will establish a new history that can provide some comfort and healing to the land after the hurtful past that has previously taken place. We possess strong collaborations, agricultural and cultural knowledge, and funding partnerships that allow us to fulfill our ultimate vision, then serve as a model for other organizations and Indigenous reservations trying to do similar projects. The healing cultural educational space that we describe through this land proposal would help transition the generational trauma experience by First Nations Peoples and other BIPOC+ communities into a strong sense of reparations through allyship and solidarity from local governments. Our management style will default on a matrilineal process where families and community become a preference, and we will be implementing our farmers knowledge a long side with many experience contractors and collaborators that are all forth helping to fulfill and support HAFN's mission and vision. We would utilize the buildings that already exist on the property to host events like our Sowing Seeds of Change educational gatherings, where we teach support and encourage BIPOC+ leaders to share in a somatic way about regenerative culture, pollinator education, soil health, herbalism and more. Having these on the land would allow us to use the plots in a somatic learning environment with our teachings. We would also partner with FLOWS to bring First Nations onto the land to talk about their work in ecological policy and water justice, just as we have done previously through the Cultural Education and Environmental Justice Program in collaboration with Cool Boulder and other projects, with the intention to bring Indigenous Relations Consultants to teach a holistic approach about the land and its history while practicing hikes for wilderness and survival skills.

# 6. Describe your ability to finance the implementation of your proposed operation. Include information regarding any necessary capital or operating loans that will be required. Please describe how and where you will market the products grown on the property.

Harvest of All First Nations is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that maintains steady income through a balance of grants, sponsorships, individual giving, and program revenue. We have strong grant partnerships with private foundations as well as local, state, and federal departments that support our

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ag Plan pages 51-53

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> More information about their work can be found at <u>https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/colorado</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> In reference to Ag Plan pages 46-49

operations, including the City of Boulder and Boulder County. HAFN's agricultural efforts fall under the category of our FJS program, the most generously funded program under our purview, and are backed by general operating and program-specific funds. Between existing funding and upcoming grants opportunities, we foresee our income further stabilizing and growing slowly. Upon request HAFN's annual record of support would be provided.

We would hope that by securing land access we are able to develop a Community Support Agriculture (CSA) program that could provide financial support to HAFN, participatory reparations to marginalized communities, and food security to local Indigenous communities. Beyond profit making, the goal is to create an educational program where people can learn more about these natural healing properties to use for food and herbal medicines. As part of our traditionally regenerative approaches, nothing we produce goes to waste. For example, after harvesting corn and utilizing kernels, we use corn silks for tea, the cobs for cooking soups and donate the rest of the cobs to our ranching partners to feed their sheep, pigs and horses. In 2024, we harvested a significant portion of our corn to give away to Native American Church Chapters locally, to be used in prayer ceremony. Traditional Ecological Knowledge teaches dozens of uses for plants that are unique to Indigenous cultures. While some of these plant uses are closed practices (meaning they are limited to those who share Indigenous cultural background), Our programs show community members a much wider range of benefits in foods, medicinal herbs, and land, as well as how to utilize these skills in ways that benefit themselves, the Earth, and the community.

Stable multi-year land access, combined with sufficient financial funding, is the determining factor of HAFN's capacity to deepen its impact for BIPOC+ communities and the local food system. All of the operations listed in Year 1 are guaranteed annual deliverables for the project, and we are both working with local partners and diversifying our funding to increase the likelihood that we can expand our operations. That being said, having the Poor Farm lease would give us the stability we need to not only refine our current operations but also explore what more is possible.

If we are successful, Harvest of All First Nations within time is interested in developing products and connections that support local producers and Indigenous entrepreneurs. This could take the form of a Native food hub that localizes harvests and products from multiple partners, and individual retailers. This year, we have applied for a grant in collaboration with Food Security Network, that promotes selling this type of products to retailers, like corn dough (masa), to sell to the community. Part of the purpose of this sale would also be educational, and we'd invite the community into this process and with potentiality of become a part of the farmers' market in the future, or to greenhouse implementation that can support all year around vegetable regenerative production and community space while supporting local economy. We are making alliances and new contracts and collaborations with other organizations and government agencies such as Longmont Parks & Sustainability, who are actively involved with the Sister City project that engages Arapahoe youth and several other BIPOC communities, to support us in achieving these goals.

The expanded marketing and revenue goals that come with a CSA, an Indigenous food hub, and other producer-supporting products are reflections of what is possible by the end of the three-year lease, on the condition that Harvest of All First Nations secures this land access and the necessary resources to support funding. We do not yet know all of what HAFN is capable of beyond the scope of one-year deliverables, because the organization has not been able to establish multi-year land access. That being said, we are well-equipped to create new levels of cultural and economic development after securing reliable land access. By leasing the Poor Farmland to Harvest of All First Nations, Boulder County could invest in the cultural rematriation, food sovereignty, and economic growth of Indigenous and BIPOC+ community members in the area.

# 7. Please describe any kind(s) of infrastructure improvement(s) that you envision for the property.

First Year:

- Basic materials to grow in the season as mentioned above this entails:
- Water pump: to help irrigate annual gardens and provide water for our animals when they are integrated. Irrigation flooding system may
  require a pvc pipe adapted to the water pump.
- Shelter for animals: we would like to integrate animals such as pigs, chickens and horses and would like to have appropriate infrastructure
  for this purpose. This means, preparing and restoring barn spaces, with the assistance of collaborators and community partners such as
  Stone Tree Craftsmen LLC, and other community members that can contribute on remodeling, or fortifying the barn structures without
  damaging the historical buildings (determined based upon city limit regulations).
- Fencing: this would be necessary to ensure the safety of our animals. (First or second year depending on funding and season).
- For chickens we would need a chicken tractor and mobile solar electric fencing to protect them from predators and be able to rotate them to different spaces.
- For our pigs we would need 1 pig hug big enough to shelter 3-4 full grown pigs at a time and enough electric fencing reels to keep them contained in their areas.

Indigenous Tipi placement, where we can host educational gathering and seasonal (this is not a permanent structure), and will help to host a shaded area near to the fields with the farmers

House Rental Integration: part of the farm team actively living in the rental home on the top part of the home, second upstairs room for office, and having the bottom utilizing the North downstairs small room as one of HAFN's office/seed saving/storage office items. Then to utilize the large living room area as a gathering place for gathering teaching, team meetings, and a place where farm team can take lunch breaks, processing the corn seeds and other herbs and plants. Seeds are at risk of freezing in a regular barn or to be infested by mice or other creatures<sup>9</sup>

Second Year: Finalizing the shelter reconstruction and adaptation for the animals and graze to be hosted, upkeeping with maintenance of all outside and inside structures of the properties (including the residential home). If the farm and HAFN have capacity, we will restructure the residential home so that there is a farmer and/or family that can live on-site and be available 24/7 to tend to the land and animals.

Third Year: We will continue all the previous deliverables. If capacity allows, we will explore and revisit collaboration with the City of Boulder with hopes of remodeling/restoring the big historical home to a safe functional standard. With the City's support, we seek to explore possibilities that could use the house as a cultural space (youth and cultural teachings), holistic healing center for individuals, educational site, central office for HAFN, and housing for our farm workers. For us to achieve this, we will count on the support and collaborations of organizations such as Maya Healing Motion, El Centro AMISTAD, FLOWS, CuetalchtepetI Healing and Educational center (focused on mental health and recovery), Tribe Recovery Homes, and Farmers Land Trust. Thus, our farm will be a place where all Indigenous Nations can gather, heal and celebrate culture to be shared with other within the communities of all backgrounds.

8. Please describe the machinery and equipment needed to implement your proposed grazing and vegetation management operations on the property and how you will meet those needs, e.g.: own, lease, borrow, hire custom, etc. Please only list or describe the machinery or equipment you will be using on the property, e.g.: seed drill, portable corrals, temporary fencing, etc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> (Annex A- Farmhouse Rental Proposal)

HAFN poses a great network of opportunities, partners and community that helps us thrive on the work that we believe is valuable to the land. Through our current collaboration with Pachamama we can access a tractor that would help us especially for the first year with tilling, so eventually we can incorporate the draft horse methods with the collaboration of Jacob Springs farm, and we are working to strengthen our community relationships with Light Root Farm through Reverent Roots and The Farmers Land Trust. Over the course of the years, we have been able to acquire equipment for community and gardening tools, such as: shovels, hand gardening tools, gloves, etc.

Most of our land management efforts are done with the intention of minimizing soil disturbance through mainly using hand tools and intentionally using other equipment to help us prepare the soil for gardens. However, during the second year we foresee working with our partnerships like DAR, whom will have access to specific project equipment management such as laser level, bulldozer, and survey flags to implement the swale system native brush implementation and reforestation through the chokecherry, red berried elder, twinberry fruit, service berry shrubs colony, and some willow salix trees. These will intend to support the rematriation of the land and bring cultural Indigenous plants back to this land as a healing process, and a place of medicinal plants to be accessible for Indigenous communities while learning from more about reconnecting with these plants and from/about them.<sup>10</sup> We would invest in a water pump, PVC pipes for the flood irrigation system, fences for the animals, shelter for the animals.

## 9. Are you involved in your agricultural enterprises on a full-time basis? If not, what percentage of your time is dedicated to agricultural pursuits?

Land access has prevented us from being full-time farmers, however on this land, we would pursue farming full-time. The farming will be done with our farm team, which is comprised of BIPOC+ community members. We will also use the assessment and consulting of other partner organizations, listed above. We would also benefit from the use of the house leasing property as farmers and to be able to create a community space and established office as explained above<sup>11</sup>. Though consistent land access has been the only factor that has determined HAFN's ability to farm full-time, our FJS program is dedicated full-time to the efforts of land relationship, traditional teaching, and food sovereignty, which our agricultural enterprises embody and will expand.

# **10.** Please provide any information pertaining to your eligibility as a U.S. Department of Agriculture historically underserved producer. (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers)

Due to colonization, Native farmers are consistently underserved producers. This is emphasized by the fact that the new federal administration has recently fully removed the content of the USDA Underserved Farmers & Ranchers page. Even without this formal recognition, our farmers and land stewards fall under the category of historically underserved producers.

HAFN is an Indigenous women led organization, and in the times that we are facing this is a disadvantage on its own. We face firsthand the statistic that "86% of White-led organizations received foundation money compared to 75% of Black-led organizations and 82% of BIPOC-led organizations."<sup>12</sup> With increasing unsteadiness from the federal government in terms of funding priorities and distribution, we are concerned about the extent to which private foundations will lead the charge of support BIPOC-led organizations like ours. HAFN is additionally relatively young. This can be both a strength, indicating our adaptability and grassroots connections within community, and a disadvantage while seeking long-term philanthropic collaborations. Increasingly, we are finding that many funds are available for projects but less available for general operations or capacity-building. As a young organization, we need the latter in order to expand the former.

We are thankful that Boulder County and City of Boulder have demonstrated optimal support for our values and have enacted extensive efforts to positively change the historical dynamic between governments and marginalized communities. Especially now, with a federal administration so adamant against diversity and equity, these local efforts are essential. Ongoing support from local government will continue the powerful momentum that HAFN has built over the past few years, allowing us to continue serving the community to the best of our ability for years to come.

# 11. Please describe your pay and employment practices and how you have provided farm goods to disadvantaged communities or mentored first generation farmers.

HAFN currently operates with contracted team members, in which we seek to pay equitably for all contributing members but are unable to presently provide health insurance nor more than 30 hours to contracted individuals. It is a long-term financial goal to be able to grow our team capacity to provide an employee-model staffing and benefits. More details about contractor wages and organization income can be provided upon request.

HAFN's ultimate vision is to bring people back to the land so they can heal with it and reconnect. At its core, this means we believe in sharing food and knowledge with the community. In collaboration with different organizations such as Boulder Food Rescue, and Indigenous communities we have being able to donate our food to communities in need. Additionally, part of our herbs will support our Ancestral Womb Post-Partum Care (AWPC) program which supports herbal medicines to a variety of communities across the Front Range. Our focus is to share the products of our food, while helping communities with food insecurity. The purpose of our FJS Program is to provide access to land and knowledge that will empower BIPOC+ communities to reconnect with the land and grow food while creating resilience in their communities. We have done this by hosting gardens at a variety of locations in Boulder County such as Wild Child Farm, Growing Gardens, Yellow Barn Farm and Moving Mountains. At these gardens we implemented TEK practices along with biodynamic and permaculture principles to help create a healthy ecosystem as well as heal our communities. This reconnection to ancestral practices and foods has served many BIPOC+ community members as well as our educational gatherings that highlight BIPOC+ teachers and mentors that bring somatic integrated learning to our gardens. We recognize that diversified streams of income and reliable community support are increasingly essential during these times of growing uncertainty. Our Land Stewardship program focuses on creating access by offering a stipend to BIPOC+ members to come and offer their support in tending our gardens while learning how to grow their own food. Our programs have impacted hundreds of people in need, and we hope to expand our programming by creating access to land in the long term with a project like this.

## 12. What is your proposed bid for this property?

HAFN's total bid is \$39,191.20 for three years (\$11,021.00 Year 113, \$11, 208.00 Year 214, \$16,962.20 Year 315).

# Attached Below are References, Proposal Form, and Annex A and B. References

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ag Plan pages 124-127

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Annex A Farm House Proposal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> According to leading nonprofit resource, Catchafire https://blog.catchafire.org/case-studies/supporting-and-uplifting-bipoc-led-nonprofits

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> First Year Bid, \$11,021.00: 1 acre of vegetable gardens (\$150-175), 10 chickens (\$10), 3 pigs (\$30.60-36), and 2 house rooms (\$10,800)

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Second Year Bid, \$11,208.00: 2 acres of vegetable gardens (\$300-350), 30 chickens (\$30), 4 pigs (\$24.48-28.80), 2 house rooms (\$10,800)
 <sup>15</sup> Third Year Bid, \$16,962.20: 3 acres of garden vegetables (\$450-525), 30-50 chickens (\$30-50), 4-6 pigs (\$36.72-43.20), 4 horses or 2 sheep (7.2AUM, \$122.40-144), and the full house (\$16,200)

Name	Email address and Phone Number	Relationship
Nick DiDomenico- DAR		DAR consultant, agricultural partner for over 10 years
Marissa Pulaski - DAR		DAR consultant, agricultural partner for over 10 years
Vanessa Keely- Growing Gardens		Growing Gardens Collaborator and witness of agricultural techniques and impacts
Mark Willuhn- Sustainable Alliances	_	Partner Farmer in 2023
Miles Golson		Farmer partner, collaborator and Philanthropist 2022- present
Amy-Scanes Wolf		Former collaborator farmer 2022 and mentor
Daniela M. Escudero	at or and of A	Former HAFN FJS Program Weaver and current contractor
Hayden Dansky	2	Community Delivery Share Program

\*Please note that bidders may be asked to provide financial reference(s and information upon request.

# Proposal Form- Required

Failure to complete, sign and return this signature page with your proposal may be cause for rejection.

Contact Information	Response
Company Name including DBA	Harvest of All First Nations
List Type of Organization (Corporation,	501c3
Partnership, etc.)	
Name and Title of Person Authorized to Contract	Andrea Nawage
with City of Boulder	Chief Executive Director
Name and Title of Person Submitting Bid	Andrea Nawage
	Chief Executive Director
Email Address for Person Submitting Bid	
Company Address	
Company Phone Number	
Company Website	Hafnco.org
Company Fax Number	N/A

By signing below, I certify that:

• I am authorized to bid on my company's behalf.

- I am not currently an employee of the City of Boulder.
- None of my employees or agents are currently an employee of the City of Boulder. I am not related to any City of Boulder employee or Elected Official.
- I am not a Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) retiree.

Date \_\_2/24/25\_\_\_\_\_

## Annex A

### **Farmhouse Rental Proposal**

HAFN could benefit from the utilization of the residential home rental as this could be occupied in different ways to benefit land use and programing as well. We would like to propose a farmhouse in combination of an office space and partial community gathering and seed processing space.

## First Year Occupation Plan:

To assign two hand farmers living at the house (top floor) or one room as the farm room, and the other one as seed storage. Bottom floor: dining room assigned as a congregation space, meal space for farmers, processing seed room and plants, HAFN monthly team meetings, and third room to be assigned as a HAFN central office space (this could be used for CED, FJS Program Weaver, and Admin Assistant).

#### Second Year Occupational Plan:

Option A: To remain with the same occupancy distribution and to analyze prior rent renewal as potential implementation of a section 8 voucher belonging to HAFN's CED family; this will include a family farmer and office space for HAFN.

Option B: To explore an additional farmer presence to occupy the house that could help with animal grazing, and care (total of two-three farmers presence), and continuing with HAFN's HQ operations as a central place.

## Third Year Occupational Plan:

To explore with the City of Boulder about potential possibilities on upgrading to increment building and remodeling capacity for the large house, so HAFN's centralize cultural healing center/office<sup>16</sup> and a larger farming mentor program could be hosted and developed, amongst a cultural educational space. During this year HAFN's Farmhouse could be utilized as for some of the farm mentor residential home with key members of HAFN's organization, and animal caretakers alongside to the office space and meeting space, while the transition to the larger home gets situated.

If the land and organization needed to modify this proposal, we would consider the possibility of making the Farmer Home a residential place, to meet the HAFN's founders family needs at the time of revision (based on section 8 at that time and if eligible) or market under a residential home value, while there may be further conversations regarding the large historical structure for remodeling. Additionally, this will benefit the coordination of programs and needs of the organization, such as having emergency coverage if needed, while having an office room always accessible in the house.



# Annex B

Proposed rough map may change according to the land observations of the seasons and suggested adaptations through team, and contracting partners.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> according to city occupancy rules and regulations