Mission

• The scientific study of endangered languages.
• The support of native efforts in maintaining endangered languages.
• The dissemination, to both native communities and the scholarly world, of the fruits of these efforts.
Mechanisms

• Small research grants.
  – Currently about $25,000 per year.

• Native Voices Endowment: A Lewis & Clark Legacy.
  – For tribal members or colleges along the Lewis & Clark route exclusively.
  – Currently about $75,000 per year.
Outreach

- Presentations to classes.
- Small archive.
- Newsletter.
Small Grants

• Over 100 projects over the past 11 years.
• Over $140,000 in grant money.
• Short and unbureaucratic application procedure, though the grants are highly competitive (ca. 14% success rate).
• Many grants were made to individuals or groups who had never received (or, in many cases, applied for) grant money before.
• Approximately half of the grants are based in native-speaker communities.
Areal Coverage

• About half the grants have been for work in North America.
• The rest have been spread throughout the world.
• Although the coverage varies from year to year, it is always representative of the applications received.
Results from the Grants

• Many hours of recordings & annotations.
• Many grateful acknowledgments.
• Many recipients have moved on to other grants.
  NSF, HRELP, and private foundations.
• One MacArthur Fellow
  Ofelia Zepeda, University of Arizona
The number of linguistic dissertations on endangered languages has doubled.
In recent years, this represents a doubling in terms of percentage as well.
However, the percentage itself is miniscule.
ELF’s Future Challenges

• Finding sustainable funding for small grants program.
  (as is the Native Voices Endowment)
• Expanding archiving offerings.
• Consistent outreach efforts.