



Tribal Relations Directives & Research and Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap

National Policy and Document Background

Please join the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service for a May 9, 2024, Tribal Forum on the Tribal Relations Directives, and revisions to the Research & Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap.

Collaborative Tribal Forum

Date: May 9, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. eastern

Online ZoomGov Meeting

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Background

Tribal Relations Directives

The Tribal Relations Directives set forth the national policy, practice, and procedure for developing, maintaining, and enhancing the agency's government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Indian tribes (Tribes) and government-to-corporation relationships with Alaska Native Corporations.

The Tribal Relations Directives currently include the following Forest Service [Manual](#) and [Handbook](#) chapters:

- Forest Service Manual 1500 – External Relations,
 - Chapter 1560 – State, Tribal, County, and Local Agencies; Public and Private Organizations, Section 1563 – Tribal Relations (amendment issued in 2016);
- Forest Service Handbook 1509.13 – American Indian and Alaska Native Relations,
 - Chapter 10 – Consultation with Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations (amendment issued in 2016);
 - Chapter 20 – Repatriation and Reburial Documentation (issued 2004); and
 - Chapter 30 – Voluntary Closures (issued 2004)

In consultation with Tribal officials and through staff-to-staff collaboration, the agency seeks to review, update, and revise the Tribal Relations Directives:

- Update the authorities section to incorporate and ensure consistency with current laws, regulations, and orders

- Incorporate principles established in recent executive direction throughout relevant sections and general revision language throughout the directives
- Reorganize sections of FSM 1563 for clarity
- Reorganize and clarify FSH 1509.13 chapter 10 on consultation, cooperation, and collaboration with Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations including:
 - Clarifying and updating processes and protocols for consultation
 - Clarifying and updating timelines and procedures for consultation
- Establish new chapters in FSH 1509.13 on
 - Tribal relations training for agency staff
 - Co-stewardship
 - Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge

Research and Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap

The 2015 [Forest Service Research and Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap](#) is a guide for collaboration between Forest Service researchers and scientists with Tribal Nations to help develop ethical and significant research partnerships. In order to appropriately work with Tribal Nations, the Forest Service must ensure Tribal sovereignty and self-determination are respected while upholding the federal trust responsibility in science production. The 2015 Forest Service Research and Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap describes the need for Tribal engagement that upholds the agency's government-to-government and government-to-corporation relationships, and trust responsibility. Specifically, it contains objective such as:

- Include and consider tribes in lines of research of mutual interest and keep them involved through the entire research process
- Develop methodologies that are sensitive to Tribal concerns
- Incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into existing Forest Service management tools

However, there have been a number of Executive Orders, updates to Forest Service policies, and advances in Indigenous research co-production in recent years that warrant an update to our 2015 Forest Service Research and Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap. Forest Service Research and Development Tribal Relations Staff intend to provide opportunities to participate in updating this guide. During the Forum and beyond, we encourage you or your staff will consider the following questions:

- For those who are familiar with the 2015 version of the Forest Service Research & Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap, what aspects worked in collaborating?
- What is missing from the R&D Tribal Engagement Roadmap?
- How is research a part of the federal trust responsibility?
- What does consultation for research look like?
- What are the barriers to expanding application of indigenous knowledge into FS research?