

Summary of the USDA Forest Service Research and Development Roadmap

The U.S. Forest Service Tribal Engagement Roadmap (Roadmap) outlines an agenda for **USDA's Forest Service Research and Development deputy area** (USFS R&D) regarding services to and engagement with American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous peoples. The R&D Tribal Engagement Roadmap supports and implements the goals and objectives outlined in the agency-wide Tribal Relations Strategic Plan. By taking a R&D specific look at Tribal engagement, it will help highlight and prioritize the Research and Development's contributions to the broader U.S. Forest Service Tribal Relations Program.

R&D Tribal Engagement Roadmap Objectives and Actions:

Below are the six R&D specific objectives (associated actions are detailed in the [Roadmap document](#)) that R&D will strive to advance in support of the agency's Tribal Relations goals. In the detailed Roadmap, accompanying each Objective, are indicative examples of actions already being undertaken by R&D, which will serve as examples and models for advancing similar work in the future. Taken as whole, the breadth of USFS R&D engagement with Tribes should provide both Tribal and USFS leaders and staff access to the best available science and other knowledge in order to sustain the health and productivity of our nations' forests and grasslands for this and future generations.

1. Build new and enhance existing partnerships with Tribes, Indigenous and Native Groups, Tribal colleges, Tribal communities and Intertribal Organizations.

2. Institutionalization of Tribal Trust responsibilities and engagement within USFS Research and Development.

3. Increase and advance Tribal and indigenous values, knowledge and perspectives within USFS Research and Development, including both operational and research activities.

4. Network and coordinate within R&D and across Deputy Areas to increase Agency and R&D program efficacy.

5. Through a collaborative and participatory approach with tribes and tribal organizations, advance research on topics of joint interest such as:

- Climate change
- Fire science and management
- Fish and wildlife
- Forest management
- Forest products and utilization
- Non-timber forest products
- Restoration
- Social vulnerability
- Sustainability
- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Water and watershed protection

6. Develop and deploy research and technologies to support tribal decision-making on natural resources issues.

Forest Service R&D would like to hear from the Tribes and learn what is important about our research efforts to them.