



OFFICE OF TRIBAL
RELATIONS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
TRIBAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

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Tribal Relations News

Director's Welcome

In a previous edition of the Tribal Relations News, I noted how the Forest Service's relations with Tribes are pivoting toward new and more positive stages. In this edition, we again illustrate that we are entering a new era in tribal relations, showing great examples from across the country and highlighting partnerships at the local and regional levels, new publications, and even a new set of Forest Service Tribal Relations Manual and Handbook directives. The trajectory continues to look good.

The Manual and Handbook directives are a landmark. These directives had not been seriously updated since the original directives were published in 2004. I believe we have accomplished a set of guidance that is thorough, creative, and bold. Not only do we codify the 120-day minimum consultation period and clarify who can represent the Chief of the Forest Service in tribal consultation (both were elements in focused, previous interim directives), we link to Article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (free, prior, informed consent), we assign responsibilities to all Deputy Areas, establish core competencies in tribal relations, and much more.

The many phases and overall trajectory of tribal relations are treated with skill and insight by Theodore Catton in his new book *American Indians and National Forests*. Written through funding provided by the Office of Tribal Relations and published by the University of Arizona Press, this must-read book is available through local and online book sellers.

Other articles show that we have been hard at work, including a joint Sacred Sites Executive and Core Teams workshop and a national tribal relations program strategy workshop. Events with Tribes are happening across the Nation, including the featured session between the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation and the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, as well as the Climate Adaptation Workshop for Tribes in Southeast Alaska, sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Research Station. Another of our articles shows the great partnerships that are growing through the annual To Bridge a Gap Meeting, this year co-hosted by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and the Forest Service.

I want to emphasize that "have-to" or "hammer" approaches based on intellectual knowledge and focusing on requirements in guidance such as regulations and directives are absolutely necessary. However, the hammer alone makes an incomplete toolbox.

The directives establish a platform, and it is up to us as employees to take it to higher levels through our interactions, our support for tribal relations, and the set of our hearts. We need to help each other and our fellow employees develop positive attitudes that are susceptible to new beliefs about the positive value of working with Indian tribes and tribal communities. Having a positive attitude is a precursor to positive action. Let's use the directives to head in that direction.

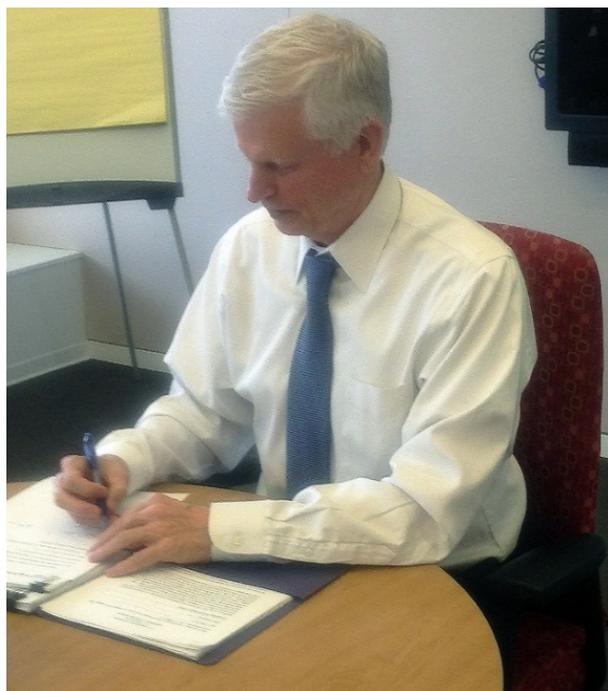
My thanks go to the wonderful tribal relations team from across the country, to the Office of Tribal Relations staff in Washington DC, and to our tribal and intertribal partners for their great experience, insight, and passion for this work. The Office of Tribal Relations staff had a day-long retreat not long ago, during which we coined the phrase "Supporting Sovereignty through Shared Stewardship." Let's do that together.

~ Fred Clark

Forest Service Revises Tribal Relations Directives

WASHINGTON, DC — Revisions to the Forest Service Directives on American Indian and Alaska Native Relations, both the Manual (FSM 1500, Chapter 1560) and Handbook (FSH 1509.13, Chapter 10), were completed and published in the Federal Register on March 9, 2016.

The Forest Service and federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native entities share the value of restoring, sustaining, and enhancing the nation's forests and grasslands, providing, and sustaining benefits to the American people. In many cases, Indian tribes continue their traditional uses of the nation's forests and grasslands to sustain their cultural identity and continuity, and for economic development. The Government's trust responsibilities and treaty obligations make it essential that the Forest Service engages with Indian tribes in timely and meaningful consultation on policies that may affect one or more Indian tribes. In Alaska, the Forest Service is also required to consult with Alaska Native Corporations on a nation-to-corporation basis rather than nation-to-nation. In July 2012, the Forest Service issued an interim directive clarifying who may consult on behalf of the Forest Service and requiring a minimum consultation period of 120 days for national-level consultation with Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations. A second interim directive was issued in April 2014. After more than two years of outreach, coordination, and consultation (including a series of five webinars), a set of proposed directives were published in the Federal Register on July 24, 2015, for a 60-day



U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell signing the Tribal Relations Directives. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Fred Clark.

public comment period. Following the conclusion of tribal consultation and the end of the public comment period, comments were considered and the directives were modified accordingly, leading to the March 9, 2016, publication in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service Directive System consists of the Forest Service Manual (FSM) and Handbooks (FSH), which codify the agency's policy, practice, and procedure. The FSM contains legal authorities, objectives, policies, responsibilities, instructions, and guidance.

The FSH are the principal source of specialized guidance and instruction for carrying out the direction issued in the FSM.

The revised directives establish clear expectations to achieve consistency in administering the tribal relations program and are consistent with current laws and authorities, such as the 2013 USDA Departmental Regulation on Tribal Consultation, Cooperation, and Collaboration; the 2012 Sacred

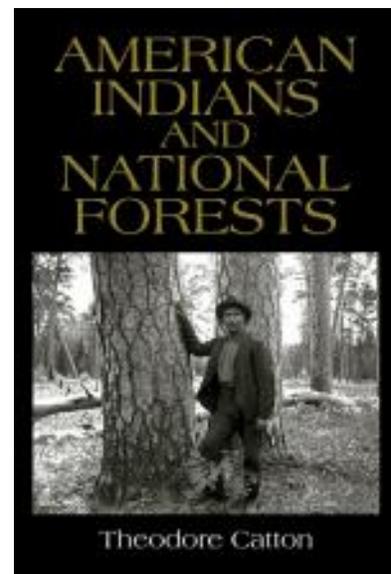
Sites Report; and the Culture and Heritage Cooperation Authority provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). The directives also include support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The first major modification of the agency's 2004 policies relating to Indian tribes, the revised directives better guide agency employees in their work with Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations and encourage Forest Service staff to foster partnerships with tribal entities, emphasizing that the responsibility to support and promote tribal relations and the mutual benefit of those partnerships is the job of every Forest Service employee.

The Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations will be providing webinars this summer to provide context for the revised directives. You can find the directives on the "Authorities" page on our website, or you may contact the Office of Tribal Relations at OTR@fs.fed.us or (202) 205-1514.

Theodore Catton Publishes *American Indians and National Forests*

The idea for *American Indians and National Forests*, the new book written by Theodore Catton and published this year by The University of Arizona Press, began with the knowledge that many of the original leaders and participants in the Forest Service's tribal relations program were still accessible, and they had a lot of history to share. The idea was to gain the knowledge of those individuals and place their experiences in the context of larger legal and policy developments and through the lens of much longer social and historical trends. As Catton notes, "... the history needed to begin not with the start of the tribal relations program in 1988, nor even with the start of the Forest Service, but much earlier, so as to explain how the present relationship rests on top of the past five hundred years of joint Indian and European occupation of the continent."



This story needed to be told. All National Forest System lands were once American Indian and Alaska Native lands. They are still part of a diverse tapestry of indigenous landscapes in which many tribal communities still hold their hearts, identities, and cultural well-being. Even as much, tribal communities still care for these lands on behalf of all people, not just themselves. The indigenous peoples of the United States were marginalized, denied a voice in making decisions about the lands and resources that were so much an inherent part of them. Now, the Forest Service and Indian tribes have started learning to not just coexist as neighbors, but to engage in shared stewardship that brings out the best of both. New policies, new personalities, and greater understanding have taken hold to awaken the Forest Service to tribal voices. Indian tribes have risen to the occasion with stronger and more capable voices. As Catton points out, “Weighing indigenous perspectives on the environment is an emerging trend in public land management in the United States and around the world. The Forest Service has been a strong partner in that movement over the past quarter century.”

American Indians and National Forests is not all about successes, though it does show successes. It shows the weaknesses, the failures, and the struggles of the past and current relations between the Forest Service and Tribes. The successes and struggles are told through interviews with many of the individuals most involved, case studies, reviews of trends in Federal Indian law and policy, and analysis of the many shifts of ever-changing social and political winds. It is, however, all about the positive trajectory, overall, of Indian tribes gaining greater voice, respect, appreciation, and partnership in their interactions with the Forest Service in their application of tribal sovereignty – and the Forest Service’s growing ability to reciprocate.

Dedication of Yates Building Totem Pole

WASHINGTON, DC — On March 21, 2016, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell had the honor of hosting Tlingit master carver Israel Shotridge, his wife Sue, and Tlingit Culture Bearers Ishmael Hope, Richard Rinehart and Mike Hoyt, to dedicate the Yates Building Totem Pole. Also joining in the dedication celebration were USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer and Alaska Regional Forester Beth Pendleton, as well as USDA and Forest Service staff, including the Alaska Region Tribal Relations Program Manager Melinda Hernandez Burke.

In 2005, the Forest Service commissioned Mr. Shotridge to create a totem pole to be displayed in the “Hall of Tribal Nations” exhibit in the Washington Office. Mr. Shotridge, a member of the Teikweidee Taantwaan Bear Clan of the Tongass Tribe, is from the community of Ketchikan. He is one of Alaska’s master carvers, and his work is exhibited around the world.



Totem pole carved by Tlingit master carver Israel Shotridge in its final location inside the Yates Building. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Fred Clark.



U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell welcomes Tlingit master carver Israel Shotridge. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Dominic Cumberland.



Pictured left to right, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Tlingit Culture Bearers Ishmael Hope, Mike Hoyt, and Richard Rinehart. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Dominic Cumberland.



Tlingit master carver Israel Shotridge (center), Sue Shotridge, and Ishmael Hope performing a traditional dance, accompanied by Mike Hoyt on the drum. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Dominic Cumberland.

In 2012, the totem pole made the journey of nearly 3,000 miles from where it was carved on Vashon Island, Washington. From 2012 through 2013, the Yates Building underwent extensive renovations, and the totem pole was moved from its original location.

During this process the totem pole experienced some damage, and the Forest Service asked Mr. Shotridge to make the repairs and participate in the dedication as it sits in its final location. The totem pole includes traditional and contemporary elements honoring the Native artists of the three tribal nations of Southeast Alaska: the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian. The piece pays tribute to the Civilian Conservation Corps Totem Pole Restoration Program that began in 1939 and continued through 1953. Under this program, more than 200 Alaska Native carvers and laborers restored and replicated totem poles in Southeast Alaska.

Sacred Sites and Regional Tribal Relations Program Workshops

SOLVANG, CA — From March 29 through 31, 2016, the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations, the Pacific Southwest Region, and the Los Padres National Forest together held the combined 2016 Sacred Sites Executive and Core Team Workshop and National Tribal Relations Program Strategy Workshop.

Both workshops were held at the Hotel Corque, which is owned by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, who generously hosted the workshops and granted the attendees access to one of their sacred sites located in the Santa Ynez Mountains. Attendees included leadership from the Washington Office, the Pacific Southwest Region, and the Rocky Mountain Research Station, as well as the entire Office of Tribal Relations staff, Regional Tribal Relations Program Managers from across the Nation, local Forest Service Tribal Liaisons, and Los Padres National Forest staff. Combining the National Tribal Relations Program Workshop with the Sacred Sites Workshop saved travel funds and resources, since many of the Sacred Sites Core Team members also serve as regional representatives for the National Tribal Relations Program.



Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Interim Chairman Kenneth Kahn welcomes attendees. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Rebecca Hill.

Grace Romero Pacheco, tribal elder and traditionalist representing the Tribal Elders Council of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, graciously opened the Sacred Sites Workshop with a blessing. Afterward, Interim Chairman Kenneth Kahn welcomed the attendees, and Culture Director Nakia Zavalla provided the cultural context for the workshops. During her introduction, Ms. Zavalla performed a traditional Chumash song with her father Pete Crowheart, Comanche, who is the Tribal Liaison for the Los Padres National Forest.



Culture Director Nakia Zavalla provides the cultural context for the workshops. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Rebecca Hill.

The Sacred Sites Workshop began with a half-day field trip to a Chumash sacred site on the Los Padres National Forest, led by Pete Crowheart, for an on-the-ground mutual learning engagement. Chumash ancestors used caves and protected rock shelters for sacred religious ceremonies, colorfully decorating rock panels with paintings that included human figures and animal life, using red, orange, and yellow pigments, applying dots around the figures to make them more distinct. Many of the caves still exist today and illustrate the spiritual bond between the Chumash and the environment. The visit to the Chumash sacred site provided a rare and emotive opportunity to observe a sacred place, and this experience richly informed our discussions on sacred sites over the following days.



Workshop participants during the field trip to a Chumash sacred site on the Los Padres National Forest. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Andrew Madsen.

The Sacred Sites Workshop reviewed accomplishments, ongoing work, and current Forest Service practices in the treatment of sacred sites, facilitating a mutual and clear understanding of our strategic goals focused on implementing the recommendations of the 2012 Sacred Sites Report (2012 Report). Secretary Vilsack directed the USDA Office of Tribal Relations and the Forest Service to review policies and procedures for the protection of and access to Indian Sacred Sites; this resulted in the 2012 Report and associated recommendations. Following publication of the 2012 Report, Forest Service leadership established a Core Team to develop and implement a strategy and an Executive Team to oversee and provide guidance for the Core Team's work. Together, the Sacred Sites teams are looking at how to integrate the broader concept of "Sacred Places" as highlighted in the 2012 Report and recommendations, to enable the Forest Service to more appropriately consider American Indian and Alaska Native views of what is sacred. The group also discussed the curriculum and upcoming pilot sessions of Sacred Sites Facilitated Learning Engagements, which were designed by Keres Consulting, Inc., a Native American owned company.

The National Tribal Relations Program Workshop's discussions resulted in a vision of strategic approaches to critical work and implementable action items essential for the future of improving Forest Service relations and partnership opportunities with tribal communities across the Nation. The team's efforts established a vital core framework for a new, multiple-year Forest Service Tribal Relations Strategic Plan. Small teams, each with representation from different parts of the agency, will be fleshing out that framework, developing action items that tie into the current Forest Service Strategic Plan in ways that will improve consultation, collaboration, and education in support of tribal sovereignty and the Forest Service Mission through shared stewardship.

At the end of three intensive and constructive days, the team left with a new focus on the critical issues and actions to improve our National Tribal Relations Program, protection of sacred sites, and work in mutual benefit with our tribal partners.

U.S. Board on Geographic Names Approves Change of Place Names

WASHINGTON, DC — History was made on Thursday, April 14, 2016, when the U.S. Board on Geographic Names met to consider proposals to remove nine offensive names of features on National Forest System lands in eastern Oregon. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names gathered in the celebrated Kiowa Room at the Department of Interior, where they considered proposals submitted in response to Oregon House Bill 488, Chapter 652 Oregon Laws 2001, declaring the word “squaw” to be derogatory and admonishing public bodies (state and county agencies) to change the names of squaw-named geographic features. The state law does not apply to federal agencies, but the Forest Service has been willing to assist and support local entities and persons who have come forward with such name changes for features on Forest Service lands in the Northwest Region.

These changes have not come quickly. In 2005, the Oregon Geographic Names Board advised the affected county governments of the legislation and invited them to propose replacement names. No responses were received. In 2010, after at least one news outlet implied that the Oregon Geographic Names Board was not fulfilling its responsibility, (“Changing Names at Speed of Gov’t”, *Bend Bulletin*, 2010), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation submitted 44 proposals to change names throughout eastern Oregon. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Cultural Resources Protection Program includes information and insights from and affecting the *Weyületpuu* (Cayuse), *Imatalamláma* (Umatilla), and *Walúulapam* (Walla Walla) tribes. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation consider the word “squaw” offensive.



Above and below, Wiwaanaytt Meadow, Malheur National Forest, Grant County, Oregon. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Don Hann.



Sixteen of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation’s original proposals applied to features in Grant County, with five of the stream features extending into neighboring counties. The Oregon Geographic Names Board solicited feedback from county governments when the proposals were under consideration in 2010.

On October 29, 2010, the Regional Forester of the Northwest Region sent a letter to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Cultural Resources Protection Program expressing support for their efforts to replace squaw-names on units within that Region unless other Tribes with an interest in the area raised valid objections. The Grant County Court stated it was opposed to all of the names proposed by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Cultural Resources Protection Program, citing a lack of opportunity for locals to provide input; “a lack of local heritage”; and confusion that would result from the spelling and pronunciation of native names.



Wíwaanaytt Creek, Malheur National Forest, Grant County, Oregon. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Don Hann.

Twelve of the 18 proposals on the docket refer to nine features on land administered by the U.S. Forest Service, while six refer to four features on Bureau of Land Management land. The 13 voting members of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

approved all of the proposals that did not have a counter-proposal. Name changes for all nine of the features on Forest Service land were approved. Three were changed to names proposed by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and six were changed to names proposed by Grant County.

Below is a list of the name changes for the Forest Service features:

1. Little Squaw Meadow is now **Frosty Meadow** (counter proposal)
2. Squaw Creek is now **Kúckuc Creek** (counter proposal)
3. Squaw Creek is now **Sharp Creek** (counter proposal)
4. Little Squaw Spring is now **Myrtle Spring**
5. Squaw Meadow is now **Shootingstar Meadow**
6. Squaw Meadow is now **Wíwaanaytt Meadow**
7. Squaw Rock is now **Donaldson Rock**
8. Squaw Creek is now **Mona Creek**
9. Squaw Creek is now **Wíwaanaytt Creek**



Squaw Meadow sign (includes offensive word), Malheur National Forest, Grant County, Oregon. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Don Hann.

Pacific Northwest Research Station Sponsors Climate Adaptation Planning Workshop

TULALIP, WA— The Pacific Northwest Research Station sponsored a Climate Adaptation Planning Workshop for Tribes in Southeast Alaska from December 7 through 9, 2015, at the Tulalip Hotel and Conference Center in Tulalip, WA. Co-sponsors included the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative. Travel stipends were provided through a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The training was facilitated by Sue Wotkyns, Climate Change Program Manager, from the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University under a Joint Venture Agreement with the Pacific Northwest Research Station. The training was well received. Thirty-three participants representing twenty Southeast Alaska tribes, tribal communities, and tribal organizations participated in the training. Tribal members and employees from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Tulalip Tribes provided first hand examples from their respective climate change adaptation planning and implementation efforts. For more information contact Linda Kruger at lkruger@fs.fed.us.



Participants in the Climate Adaptation Planning Workshop. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Linda Kruger.

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation hosts the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

BRIGHAM CITY, UT — On March 1, 2016, the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation hosted the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest at their Brigham City Tribal Office for a meet and greet day. This event was designed to foster a strong working relationship between the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest specialists and tribal members engaged in open dialogs concerning combined interests. The event was a success as both sides learned a great deal from each other about the cultural importance and management of forestlands. Forest specialists also provided information about their careers and job opportunities within the Forest Service. Future collaborative activities are being planned; one such example is an ethnobotany

project where the Forest Service botanist and archaeologist will be working with the Tribe's cultural and natural resource manager and tribal youth. This collaborative project seeks to get tribal youth out on the forest where they can learn how forested lands are managed by the Forest Service. At the same time, this will provide forest resource managers the opportunity to better understand which forest resources are important to the Tribe's way of life. From this and similar opportunities, the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation will continue to work towards common goals in the management of the Tribe's traditional cultural area.



Members of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation and Forest Service employees. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Rachele Handley.

USDA Forest Health Protection Funds 13 Pest Suppression Projects

WASHINGTON, DC — USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection within State and Private Forestry provides technical assistance to Tribes to help identify, detect, and manage insects, pathogens, and invasive plants impacting tribal forests. When treatments are needed to suppress pest outbreaks on tribal lands, the Forest Service provides funds through the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Submitted proposals are reviewed annually, and in Fiscal Year 2016, the Forest Service provided \$620,000 to assist ten individual Tribes with 13 pest suppression projects (Table 1).

Forest Health Protection field offices are located throughout the Forest Service regions, and are available to provide Tribes, National Forests, and states with technical assistance in detecting, identifying, surveying, monitoring, and managing forest insects and pathogens. Tribes experiencing insect or disease outbreaks impacting forest resources should contact a local field office. The [national staff directory is available online](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/publications/FHP_Staff_Directory_final.pdf) (http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/publications/FHP_Staff_Directory_final.pdf).

If an outbreak warrants treatment, Forest Health Protection field office staff will work with tribal foresters to develop a management plan to suppress the outbreak. The proposal is submitted through the regional BIA office to the national BIA office, and then passed along to the Forest Health Protection, Washington Office for funding consideration. If the proposed project is selected for funding, the Forest Service transfers funds to BIA, which then provides funds to the Tribe to either conduct the treatment or contract the work. Along the way, Forest Health Protection staff will provide assistance, if needed, in the best treatment methods. For more information, please contact Robert Rabaglia at brabaglia@fs.fed.us.

Table 1. Fiscal Year 2016 Forest Health Protection projects funded through Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Tribal Entity	Pest(s) Treated
Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe	hemlock woolly adelgid
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation	Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana	mountain pine beetle
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota	pine engraver *
Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico	southwestern dwarf mistletoe
Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico	southwestern dwarf mistletoe
Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of California	white fir dwarf mistletoe & bark beetle
Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation	western dwarf mistletoe *
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon	western dwarf mistletoe
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	western dwarf mistletoe

* Two pest suppression projects during Fiscal Year 2016.

Safety Corner



Los Padres National Forest.
Photo credit to Forest Service employee Chris Koeppel.

Apply sunscreen when you will be outdoors.

Monitoring with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on the Lolo National Forest

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST, MT — The Lolo National Forest submitted the following photographs taken in recent years while monitoring on the Plains Thompson Falls and Superior Ranger Districts of the Lolo National Forest in Montana with members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation.

On October 29, 2014, Forest Service West Zone Archaeologist Erika Karuzas and the late Pend d'Oreille elder, Mike Durglo, Sr. visited the location of a dispersed recreation campsite located within the National Environmental Policy Act study area for a landscape restoration project. To allow for effective consultation, the Forest Service archaeologist informed the Tribal Preservation Department during the "PreNEPA" process.

Working together, we can reduce the recreation impacts to this site and protect this valuable cultural resource.

On February, 19, 2015, Kootenai "junior" elder Francis Auld was out monitoring along the Clark Fork River when met by Forest Service archaeologist Erika Karuzas, who was following up on a call from the Tribal Preservation Department informing her of potential looting. Mr. Auld had also heard that people were looking at looting prehistoric sites along the Clark Fork River.



The "Fishing Camp" identified by the late Pend d'Oreille elder, Mike Durglo, Sr. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Erika Karuzas.



Clark Fork River. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Erika Karuzas.

Although Ms. Karuzas and Mr. Auld were monitoring in an area that had been surveyed numerous times with negative inventories, together, they found fishing net weights on the stony beach. Most importantly, they found no evidence of looting at this location.

On August 9, 2013, Forest Service archaeologist Erika Karuzas and Kootenai “junior” elder Francis Auld were out monitoring on the Plains Thompson Falls Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest when they discovered a disturbed rock cairn. All three parties are working together to monitor the site.



Fishing net weight found along the Clark Fork River. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Erika Karuzas.



Landowner and Kootenai “junior” elder Francis Auld looking at a disturbed rock cairn. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Erika Karuzas.

2016 To Bridge a Gap Meeting

KINDER, LA — The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and the Forest Service held the 2016 To Bridge a Gap Meeting from April 11 through 14, 2016, at the Coushatta Casino Resort in Kinder, Louisiana.

To Bridge a Gap provides a mutually designed and executed opportunity every year for information-sharing and direct leader-to-leader interaction between the Forest Service and Tribal Nations. The first To Bridge a Gap was organized in 2000 shortly after President Clinton issued Executive Order 13175, which recognized tribal rights of self-government and tribal sovereignty, and affirmed and committed the federal government to work with Native American tribal governments on a government-to-government basis. In recent years, other federal agencies have also attended.

The meeting provides a venue through which Tribes and the Forest Service develop mutual bonds of trust and communication, including sessions in which Southern Region leadership meet with tribes with rights and interests in that Region, and in which, separately, Eastern Region leadership meet with tribes with rights and interests in that Region. The relationships that tribal leaders and their staff build with managers of National Forest System lands near their current reservations and ancestral homelands have proven invaluable in supporting tribal communities and getting good work done on the ground.

The Secretary of Agriculture was represented by Leslie Wheelock, director of the USDA Office of Tribal Relations, and tribal leadership included individuals from the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, and The Shawnee Tribe.

Forest Service attendees and presenters represented the Washington Office; Albuquerque Service Center; Southern, Eastern and Intermountain regional offices; Southern Research Station; Grey Towers National Historic Site; Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area; and a number of National Forests, including the Allegheny, Cherokee, Daniel Boone, Francis, Marion and Sumter, Hoosier, Kisatchie, Mark Twain, Monongahela, Nantahala, Ouachita, Ozark-St. Francis, Sawtooth, Shawnee, Umatilla, and Willamette, as well as the National Forests in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas.

Registrants represented more than 30 Tribal Nations, including the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Comanche Nation, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Oglala Sioux, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, The Chickasaw Nation, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, The Osage Nation, The Shawnee Tribe, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Tlingit, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes.

Numerous federal agencies and entities were also in attendance, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of

Indian Affairs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Highway Administration, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, National Park Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

State agencies included the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Georgia Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Transportation, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Texas Department of Transportation.

Other organizations included Colorado State University, Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Louisiana State University, Native American Rights Fund, National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Northwestern State University, South Central Climate Science Center, University of Arkansas, and the University of Oklahoma.

Bambi Kraus, President of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, gave an update, and two new Tribal Historic Preservation Officers were inducted. Fred Clark, Director of the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations, provided an update on the accomplishments of both the Sacred Sites and Tribal Relations programs. Mike Kaczor, Forest Service Federal Preservation Officer, provided an update on the agency's heritage program. Karen Diver, Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs, was the keynote speaker and provided an impassioned speech on the issues facing Indian Country, such as climate change and food security, and the importance of partnerships with agencies to leverage resources to better address these issues.

Finally, the Forest Service and the United South and Eastern Tribes presented Larry Heady, Special Assistant to the Regional Forester for Tribal Relations in the Eastern Region, awards for his years of service to both the Forest Service and Tribal Nations. The Forest Service also hosted an on-site recruitment and hiring event for students to apply as indefinite student interns and for recent graduates to apply through the Pathways Internship authority. Eleven individuals were hired.



Fred Clark, Director of the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations, speaking at the 2016 To Bridge a Gap Meeting. Photo credit to USDA employee Amanda Burley.



Larry Heady (center), Special Assistant to the Regional Forester for Tribal Relations in the Eastern Region, receives a star quilt in honor of his many years of service to Tribes and the Forest Service. Photo credit to Forest Service employee Chris Koepfel.

USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Consultation Schedule

Updated March 25, 2016

Table 1. Schedule of Current and Upcoming Tribal Consultation.

Topic	Type	Start Date	End Date
Change in Requirements for Public Comment	Regulation (36 CFR Part 216)	January 22, 2016	May 23, 2016
Bighorn Sheep Management Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Invasive Species Management Directives	Handbook	January 22, 2016	May 23, 2016
Rangeland Management Directives	Manual and Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Recreation Site - FSH 2309.13	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Ski Water Rights – FSH 2709.11	Handbook	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance Directives	Manual	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Wilderness Management Directives	Manual	Delayed	To Be Determined

Table 2. Completed Tribal Consultation.

Topic	Start Date	End Date
Farm Bill Section 8105 (Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Uses) – Regulation and Directive Revision	April 20, 2010	September 1, 2010
Administrative Appeal Rule – 36 CFR 214	August 11, 2010	January 10, 2011
Wind Energy - Directive	August 25, 2010	February 1, 2011
Planning Rule – Pre-publication of Draft Proposed Rule	September 23, 2010	December 13, 2010
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	September 30, 2010	February 20, 2011
Farm Bill Section 8103 (Reburial) - Manual Revision	October 5, 2010	May 31, 2011
Planning Rule – Post-publication of Proposed Rule	December 13, 2010	March 22, 2011
Paleontological Resources Preservation	March 7, 2011	July 13, 2011
Management of National Forest System Surface Resources with Non-Federal Mineral Estates	March 7, 2011	July 13, 2011
National Aerial Application of Fire Retardant Environmental Impact Statement	April 25, 2011	August 25, 2011
National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusions Supporting Landscape Restoration	May 6, 2011	August 31, 2011
Burned Area Emergency Response - Manual Revision	May 24, 2011	October 7, 2011
Planning Rule (120 days prior to estimated date of Final Rule)	July 14, 2011	November 14, 2011
Sacred Sites (Draft Report to the Secretary of Agriculture)	July 2011	November 2011
Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program - Policy Directive	February 1, 2012	May 31, 2012
Objection Process Consultation, Revision of Regulations at 36 CFR 218	April 2, 2012	September 7, 2012
Planning Rule Directives	February 27, 2013	June 28, 2013
Paleontological Resources Preservation	May 23, 2013	July 22, 2013
Fire and Aviation Management Directives	June 6, 2013	October 6, 2013
Special Forest Products	June 6, 2013	October 6, 2013
Solar Energy Directives	December 4, 2013	April 4, 2014
Heritage Program Directive	December 4, 2013	April 4, 2014
Commercial Filming Interim Directive	December 4, 2013	April 4, 2014
National Forest System (NFS) Bundled Tribal Consultation	December 4, 2013	April 4, 2014
Research and Development’s Tribal Engagement Roadmap	January 10, 2014	May 11, 2014
Groundwater Resource Management – FSM 2560	May 6, 2014	October 3, 2014
Tribal Relations Directives	June 6, 2013	September 22, 2015
Community Forest Program - Proposed Rule	September 29, 2015	February 3, 2016

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The Office of Tribal Relations would like to express gratitude for the valuable contributions to this newsletter.

Please contact Rebecca Hill with any comments or future story suggestions for the summer 2016 newsletter.

Thank you.