

4/5/05

Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA)

Frequently Asked Questions

Will proposals be delayed while the Forest Service is drafting its new policy?

No, Forest Supervisors or District Rangers may move forward to discuss tribal proposals related to TFPA such as scope of projects, developing environmental analysis, and so forth. The Forest Service currently has authority to work with a variety of stakeholders to reduce threats from wildfire and disease.

Why does the Forest Service and the BLM have different policies to the same act?

The Forest Service has different statutory authority than the BLM. The Forest Service implements policy through directives and BLM uses Instruction Memoranda. The BLM must concur with Public Law 93-638, while the Forest Service does not.

Is Stewardship contracting the only instrument available under the TFPA?

No, Forest Supervisors and District Rangers may use a variety of agreement instruments, if applicable, except grants.

How will adjacent or bordering lands be determined?

The area of threat leading to the determination of bordering or adjacent lands shall be made at the local level after discussions with the Indian tribe.

Does TFPA affect the National Park Service or the Fish and Wildlife Service?

No, the TFPA does not apply to these agencies, only FS and BLM.

When will the policy be final?

The draft policy can become final 18 months after the issuance of the Interim Directive or the Interim Directive can be extended another 18 months, after which, policy becomes final.

When can tribes submit proposals?

Tribes can submit proposals anytime. They do not need to wait until the draft policy becomes final.

I'm not a Tribe, but I'm interested in this. How can I submit comments to the Forest Service?

The consultation and comment period for the draft policy is from April 25 to June 25, 2005. Any comments may be sent to Bryan Mercier at bmercier@fs.fed.us.

Where can I go to find out more information?

For additional information, please contact Marsha Butterfield at 202-205-4095, mbutterfield@fs.fed.us or <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/tribal/index.shtml>