

US Forest Service Tribal Relations Program Report



FY2011

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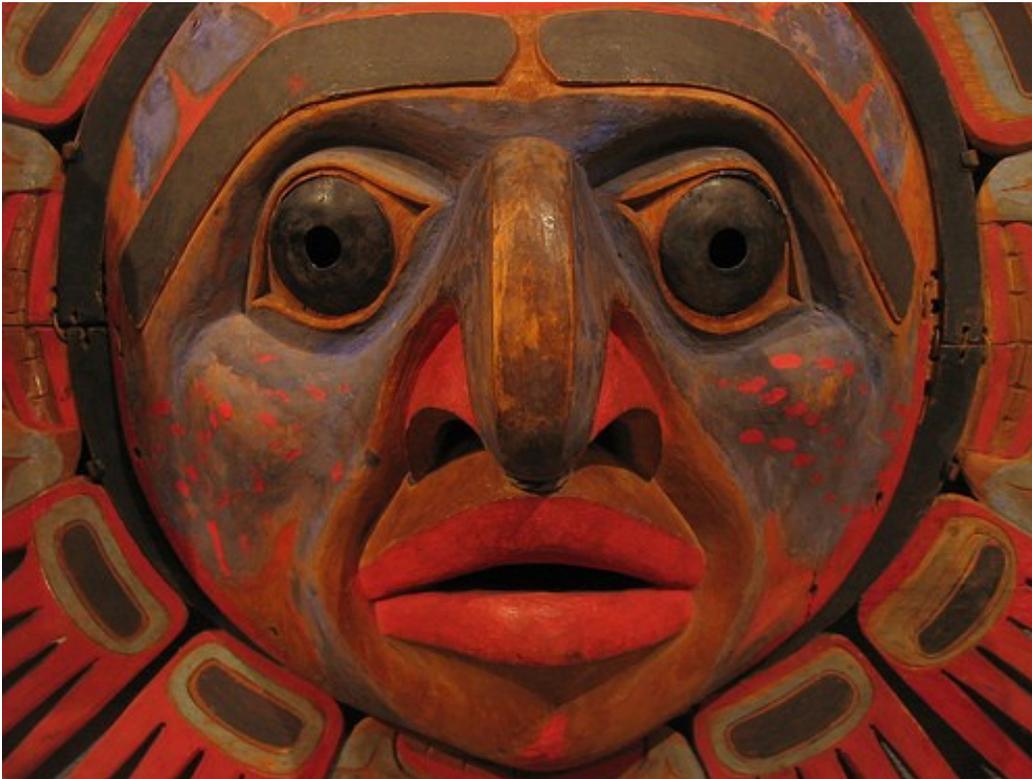
Mission

The Tribal Relations Program facilitates a Forest Service culture that

- Recognizes the inherent sovereign status and reserved rights of Indian Tribes.
- Honors the federal trust responsibility.
- Excels at conducting substantive consultative processes.
- Supports tribal rights to pursue the vitality of their cultures, economies, and land.
- Promotes collaborative natural and cultural resource management.
- Uses traditional ecological knowledge in combination with the best Western science and technology.
- Advances American Indians and Alaska Natives in the workforce.
- Respects tribal connections to traditional landscapes.
- Seeks to enhance and maintain important relationships with Indian Tribes and communities.

In fulfilling its mission, the Tribal Relations Program (TRP) seeks to achieve a vision of the Forest Service (FS) as a recognized leader among federal land management agencies in partnering appropriately and collaboratively with Indian Tribes for mutually beneficial outcomes.

U.S. Forest Service Tribal Relations Program



Prior to 1871, the United States entered into over 300 treaties with Tribes; approximately 60 of these treaties involve ceded lands that are within the boundaries of present-day [National Forest System \(NFS\) lands](#). Some tribal governments have reserved rights on these lands, and all present-day national forests and grasslands retain some tribal interests, which may include cultural resources and sacred sites. As current stewards of historically tribal lands, the FS is charged with managing NFS lands and resources to benefit the general public and Indian Tribes, while also respecting the special trust relationship that exists between the United States and Indian Tribes. This trust relationship is a unique government-to-government relationship, wherein all branches of the federal government recognize Indian Tribes as sovereign entities possessing inherent rights to self-governance and self-determination pre-dating the U.S. Constitution. The government thus has a fiduciary duty to consider these rights when its agencies conduct activities and programs.

In addition to treaty rights, legislation, Executive Orders and Memoranda of Understanding/ Agreement, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) directives require the FS to actively consult with Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) on policies and activities that may affect them. The TRP provides policy and direction on tribal consultation to FS leadership and staff to ensure that Agency programs and activities are implemented in a manner fulfilling the legally mandated trust responsibility, honors Indian treaty rights, and maintains a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Organizational Structure

Washington D.C. Office of Tribal Relations

Responding to identified needs and Executive direction, the FS established the first Tribal Relations Program Manager (TRPM) position in the Washington Office in 1988. Subsequently, in 2004, [the Office of Tribal Relations \(OTR\)](#) was formed as a permanent organization, housed within [the State and Private Forestry \(S&PF\)](#) Deputy Area, and funded through an Agency-wide cost pool. The OTR's key mission is to facilitate consistency and effectiveness in FS program delivery to Indian Tribes, and to institutionalize long-term consultative and collaborative relationships with tribal governments through new policy and direction. The current OTR staff consists of six employees located in Washington D.C headquarters (WO OTR). The OTR:

- Oversees FS programs and policy that may affect Indian Tribes, encouraging and supporting respectful, supportive government-to-government relationships that strengthen external and internal coordination and communication about tribal concerns and the FS mission.
- Prepares and implements policy and direction outlining legal requirements and opportunities within existing authorities relating to Indian Tribes.
- Clarifies the Agency's responsibilities regarding tribal trust and reserved rights.
- Develops and supports education and training for federal employees, helping them work more effectively with tribal governments and other partners.
- Explores innovative ways to interact with Indian Tribes, tribal members, and others to enhance the Agency's interaction with tribal communities.

The OTR is committed to helping Indian Tribes benefit from FS programs. The OTR also strives to help the FS benefit from tribal input in policies supporting tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination, as well as FS goals such as climate change adaptation and mitigation. The OTR initiates and works to institutionalize relationships with internal and external partners, working closely with other staffs to ensure tribal concerns and opportunities are addressed in new policies. The OTR also develops implementation processes for new authorities.

Regional Tribal Relations Program

The TRP is threaded throughout all [FS Deputy Areas](#), and is reflected in the organizational structure of the nine FS Regions throughout the country. The Regional TRPMs are based in different staff areas, some in NFS, and some in S&PF. TRPMs are also found at different levels within the Regions – some reporting to the Regional Forester and others to Staff Officers. This brings both depth and breadth of experience as well as perspective to the



program as a whole. Each Region has a single TRPM assigned to it, except for R1 and R4; those Regions share one TRPM. The TRPMs, along with the WO OTR, comprise the core of the TRP. Regional TRPMs are often engaged with WO OTR in affecting national policies, programs, and projects. An extended team of Tribal Relations employees includes personnel at the forest level as well as at [FS Research Stations](#) and Laboratories. Tribal Relations personnel facilitate work that spans the Agency and transects research projects, forest and project planning, wildlife management, watershed restoration, cultural resource management, and many other issues.

Strategic Plan Framework

[The Tribal Relations Strategic Plan](#) guides the TRP in achieving its mission. Final Program Direction for FY 2011 for State and Private Forestry directed the foundational program areas to work toward these goals.

- Goal 1:** Ensure the Agency redeems its trust responsibility and protects American Indian and Alaska Native reserved rights as they pertain to Forest Service programs, projects, and policies.
- Goal 2:** Leverage partnerships to maximize mutual success.
- Goal 3:** Promote integration and utility of the Tribal Relations Program throughout the agency.

Goal 1 – Redeeming Trust Responsibility

The TRP ensures that the FS redeems its trust responsibility and protects Indian Tribes' reserved rights as they pertain to FS programs, projects, and policies. It strives to create a culture in which decision-makers consult effectively with Indian Tribes and ANCs by establishing clear directions and agency expectations. Specifically, the OTR provides advice and assistance to WO staff in identifying the need or opportunity for government-to-government consultation, developing strategies and tactics for carrying out consultation, and following up on the results of consultation. The OTR helps create explicit policy and direction to foster effective consultation between the Agency and Indian Tribes on policies and actions that may affect their interests. This encourages a consistent relationship with Indian Tribes throughout all FS mission areas, clarifies communications, and enhances collaborative opportunities. National consultation efforts for FY 2011 focused on several primary issues, although numerous collaborations with WO staff occurred throughout the year across all Deputy Areas as well.

Sacred Sites

In 2010, Secretary Vilsack directed the FS to work with [USDA's Office of Tribal Relations](#) to review existing laws, regulations, and policies for their effectiveness in securing consistent protection for American Indian and Alaska Native sacred sites located on NFS lands. Secretary Vilsack asked the FS to consult with tribal leaders to determine how the Agency can improve in balancing the need to protect sacred sites with the Agency's mission to deliver forest goods and services for current and future generations.

In 2011, an Executive Team was created to develop the report, and guide it through the collaborative and consultative processes. Executive Team members included Joel Holtrop (Deputy Chief, NFS), Jim Hubbard (Deputy Chief, S&PF), Corbin Newman (Regional Forester, Southwestern Region), and Janie Hipp (Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Tribal Affairs). A core team of FS personnel from the Washington Office, Regional Offices, and the forest level was also assembled to develop the processes and products associated with the review. Between February and April 2011, FS personnel hosted and attended over 50 separate listening sessions, some of which included multiple Tribes. Within the same time period, FS line officers completed a survey. [The results of those efforts](#) and other information were combined to create the first draft of the report to the Secretary, which was reviewed by the Executive Team. A final version of the Draft Report was the focal point for consultation and additional collaboration between May and August 2011. Throughout fall 2011, the Regions engaged in consultation on the Draft Report with more than 150 Indian Tribes. Agency personnel shared information about the Draft Report at intertribal meetings as well. A draft of the final [Sacred Sites Report](#) is currently undergoing the final approval and clearance process.

Planning Rule

The [National Forest Management Act \(NFMA\)](#), an amendment to the [Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974](#) (RPA), requires the FS to develop land management Planning Rules. Each FS Planning Rule thus guides Agency land managers in developing, amending, and revising land management plans for the 155 national forests and 20 grasslands in the NFS. With the current Planning Rule dating back to 1982, the FS began drafting a [new Planning Rule](#) in 2009. Since the beginning of the rulemaking process in 2009, the FS has made a concerted effort to engage federally recognized Indian Tribes and ANCs through meaningful consultation and various collaborative efforts.

The FS initiated consultation on the Planning Rule in September 2010, followed by 16 national and regional consultation meetings with Tribes and ANCs, and one-on-one consultation meetings with designated local officials. Following the release of the proposed rule in 2011, consultation with federally-recognized Indian Tribes and ANCs continued, primarily at the local and regional levels between individual forest level line officers and tribal officials. A few Regions additionally conducted sub-regional meetings with multiple Tribes and/or multiple National Forests. Tribal consultation ended on October 21, 2011.

During the public comment period on the proposed rule, the FS held a tribal teleconference to discuss how the Tribes' previous comments had been addressed in the proposed rule. Sixteen Tribes participated in the discussion, and members of the rule writing team, the Ecosystem Management Coordination Director, and the Chief of the Forest Service addressed their questions. Tribal input received from the national consultation and written submissions have greatly informed the rule's development, and strengthened the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the FS. The OTR remains engaged in reviewing and developing the implementation directives, and assisted Agency efforts to recruit an American Indian/Alaska Native representative on the [Planning Rule Federal Advisory Committee](#). The collaborative process guiding the development of the [Planning Rule](#) will not end with the release of the new rule; collaboration will continue as the rule is implemented and plans are revised or amended. Overall, USDA and the Agency believe that collaboration is necessary to make the rule's implementation successful.

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill)

In response to consultation during the drafting of the [Sacred Sites Draft Report](#), both Indian Tribes and FS employees provided input about opportunities for the Agency to strengthen policy and directives pertaining to tribal interests. Many FS employees realize that the FS mission includes protecting sacred sites while ensuring improved access to these sites by those who deem them sacred. FS employees, including many line officers – regional foresters, forest supervisors, and district rangers – embrace the charge to better protect sacred sites. They are constantly seeking ways to accommodate tribal needs in using these sites, and, in many cases, are succeeding. Their efforts are enhanced by legislation in [the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 \(2008 Farm Bill\)](#) providing for reburial of repatriated human remains on NFS lands, temporarily closing portions of NFS lands for cultural and traditional uses, providing forest products for traditional and cultural purposes, and keeping culturally sensitive information confidential.

In the [2008 Farm Bill](#), Congress [enacted legislation](#) "to strengthen support for the policy of the United States of protecting and preserving the traditional, cultural, and ceremonial rites and practices of Native American Tribes, in accordance with [AIRFA]." The statute included language permitting the following:

- Section 8103 – Reburial of Human Remains and Cultural Items on NFS lands.
- Section 8104 – Temporary Closure for Traditional and Cultural Purposes.
- Section 8105 – Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes allows tribal use of trees, parts of trees, or forest products from NFS land for traditional and cultural purposes free of charge.
- Section 8106 – Prohibition Disclosure. The protection of the confidentiality of certain culturally sensitive information from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Farm Bill therefore expands protection of sacred sites and tribal interests. The OTR also continues to work Agency-wide on this effort, in partnership with TRP field staff as well as WO staff and leadership. The OTR is analyzing and strengthening policy and directives to implement the [Cultural and Heritage provisions](#) of the 2008 Farm Bill. The OTR additionally contributed to consultation on other Farm Bill provisions in FY2011, including the [Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program](#), and developing the Special Forest Products Rule (completion date unknown). Finally, the [Sacred Sites Draft Report](#) also attempts to protect sacred sites and tribal interests.

National Level Consultation

The OTR provided advice and assistance to staffs across the Agency to initiate or complete consultation on national level issues and policies with tribal governments and ANCs, which included considerations of treaty and ceded rights, sovereignty, and tribal and ANC interests.

Fiscal Year 2011 was an exceptionally robust year for tribal collaboration and consultation on Agency-wide policies and processes. As the following table illustrates, consultation topics were broad in scope, and included many issues that have far-reaching implications for the Agency and tribal communities.

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Planning Rule/Pre-publication of Draft Proposed Rule	September 23, 2010	December 13, 2010
Planning Rule – Post-publication of Proposed Rule	December 13, 2010	March 22, 2011
Wind Energy – Directive	August 25, 2010	February 1, 2011
Administrative Appeal Rule – 36 CFR 214	August 11, 2010	January 10, 2011
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program	September 30, 2010	February 20, 2011
Farm Bill Section 8103 (Reburial) – Manual Revision	October 5, 2010	May 31, 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 EIS	April 25, 2011	August 25, 2011
National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusions Supporting Landscape Restoration	May 6, 2011	August 31, 2011
Sacred Sites (Draft Report to the USDA Secretary)	July 2011	November 2011
Burned Area Emergency Response -Manual Revision	May 24, 2011	October 7, 2011
Planning Rule (120 days prior to date of Final Rule)	July 14, 2011	October 21, 2011
National Best Management Practices for Water Quality on National Forest System Lands	Informal OTR review	Released April 2012

The OTR advised national headquarters staff on national legislation, as well as Departmental and Agency policy. This advice focused on positive relations with tribal governments, and adhering to trust responsibility and executive direction in support of the Chief's emphasis areas. The OTR advised the Chief, the Associate Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Regional Foresters, Station Directors, and other FS leaders on tribal relations programs, policies, and procedures, as well as current tribal issues affecting FS resource management on the national level. The OTR thus ensured tribal interests were represented in the decision-making process of the National Leadership Team. In the field, TRP personnel provided advice and assistance at appropriate organizational levels.

Staff Training

The OTR ensures service-wide orientation and training of FS employees for competency in tribal relations, including the appropriate procedures necessary for government-to-government consultation. The OTR also contributes to interagency training on Federal Indian law, the history of federal/tribal relations, and exercising the federal trust responsibility to Indian Tribes. In FY 2011, the OTR assisted the USDA Office of Tribal Relations in developing and providing training that relates to Agency policies and interactions with Indian Tribes. It also

provided funding for and collaborated with the USDA Office of Tribal Relations and the White House Indian Affairs Executive Working Group on a web-based training module, "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments." This training is now available on the [GoLearn site](#), and may soon be available on AgLearn. The OTR also conducted a national, USDA-wide webinar on Sacred Sites in July 2011.

Goal 2– Leveraging Partnerships

The TRP aims to ensure effective leadership, consistent performance, and accountability throughout the FS, while leveraging partnerships to increase synergy and efficiency, as outlined in the [Tribal Relations Strategic Plan](#) and FY2011 Program Direction. Ongoing relationship building, which begins with meaningful tribal consultation and communication among both Tribes and staff, allows the FS to engage with Tribes in program delivery and other opportunities as they arise. In addition to Regional and forest level efforts, the OTR cultivates relationships with several key intertribal partners at the national level, resulting in important benefits to all stakeholders and their member Tribes. In FY 2011, the following strategic partnerships continue to be nurtured:



Washington Office Partners

Intertribal Timber Council

Established in 1976, the [Intertribal Timber Council \(ITC\)](#) is a nonprofit nationwide consortium of Tribes, ANCs, and individuals dedicated to improving the management of the natural resources important to tribal communities. The ITC works cooperatively with government agencies, private industry, and academia to explore issues and identify practical strategies and initiatives to promote social, economic and ecological values, while also protecting and utilizing forests, soil, water, and wildlife. Over 60 Tribes and ANCs currently belong to the ITC. The OTR presents quarterly to the ITC Board via teleconference, and annually at the ITC Symposium, providing updates of FS projects in Indian Country and Alaska. The OTR also works cooperatively with Forest Service's [WO Research and Development \(R&D\)](#) on the ITC Research Subcommittee to craft solutions to tribal research issues. Additionally, on August 8, 2011, the FS finalized a grant, managed by the OTR, to the Intertribal Timber Council to begin the third decennial **Indian Forest Management Assessment Team Study (IFMAT III)**, an assessment of tribal forests and forest management. This grant provides the seed money to initiate the mandated IFMAT III Report required of the Bureau of Indian Affairs/DOI. The ITC has unique expertise in developing such reports, as the ITC created both [IFMAT I](#) in 1993 and [IFMAT II](#) in 2003.

National Congress of American Indians

Founded in 1944, the [National Congress of American Indians \(NCAI\)](#) is the oldest, largest, and most representative tribal organization, serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. The OTR maintains regular dialogue and engages with NCAI as a key contact for sharing information and FS notices. The OTR presents to NCAI several times a year, for example at the NCAI Executive Council Session, Mid-Year Conference, and Annual Convention. NCAI is also the current fiscal sponsor and manager for a relatively new tribal consortium focused on tribal natural resource strategy, [Our Natural Resources \(ONR\)](#), with whom the OTR has engaged. NCAI staff were also invited to attend a range of FS briefs and trainings hosted by the Washington Office in FY2011.

United South and Eastern Indian Tribes

Established in 1968, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is a consortium of 26 Eastern and Southern Tribes dedicated to enhancing the development of Indian Tribes, to improving the capabilities of tribal governments, and assisting the member tribal governments in dealing effectively with public policy issues. More generally, USET serves the broad needs of its members. The OTR, often in collaboration with Regions 8 and 9, provides regular FS updates at the USET Annual Meeting, and engages with the USET Committees on Culture and Heritage and Natural Resources. The OTR most recently provided updates on ongoing policy development, including the [Planning Rule](#) and the draft [Sacred Sites Report](#).

Intertribal Agriculture Council and the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance

The OTR and the [USDA National Agroforestry Center \(NAC\)](#) cooperated with the [Indian Nations Conservation Alliance \(INCA\)](#) during FY2011 to sponsor a one-day Tribal Agroforestry Workshop immediately following INCA's national conference in December 2011 (in FY2012). The workshop identified Tribes interested in expanding the application of agroforestry practices and systems to address tribal interests and specific agroforestry opportunities and needs (e.g., training, technology transfer, research). This workshop engaged tribal partners in the USDA agroforestry mission, while simultaneously advancing INCA's goals of assisting Tribes and ANCs in establishing and maintaining Tribal Conservation Districts to protect natural and cultural resources while improving economic opportunities to own and operate farms and ranches.

Interagency

The OTR continued to participate in various interagency working groups in FY 2011, including:

- **USDA Native American Working Group (NAWG).** Chaired by the USDA Office of Tribal Relations, the NAWG is a USDA-wide group of leaders and staff who work on tribal issues and programs. The OTR represents the FS on the NAWG. In addition, OTR represents the FS as the lead agency on the NAWG Subcommittee on Accountability and Reporting. In FY 2011, the OTR took the lead on developing a Department-wide consultation reporting tool, which will be rolled out in later 2012/early 2013. The OTR served on the Subcommittee on Education and Training, and made several presentations to the group as a whole on FS initiatives and policies.

- **Interagency Working Group on Indian Affairs (IWGIA).** The IWGIA is a government-wide group of federal agency representatives who work with Indian Tribes. The purpose of the IWGIA is to foster interagency collaboration and coordination, to improve federal-tribal consultation, and improve the delivery of services to Indian Tribes. The White House has identified interagency collaboration as an essential component of developing comprehensive policy initiatives to improve conditions in Indian Country, and this group is a way to accomplish this goal. The IWGIA members coordinate their individual efforts and collaborate across agencies on policy issues affecting tribal communities. The OTR regularly attends and provides updates at the IWGIA's monthly meetings.
- **United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR).** The OTR participated in an interagency review of the results of the 2010 UPR, culminating in completion of the [draft Common Core Document of the United States of America](#). The draft Document was submitted with the Fourth Periodic Report of the United States of America to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in August of 2011.
- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIP).** The OTR served on a group consisting of members from across the Executive Branch that met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya. The group discussed Mr. Anaya's review of specific cases he examined concerning alleged violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples in many parts of the world. In particular, Mr. Anaya's review resulted in a chapter in his draft report: [United States of America: Situation of the Native Americans in relation to artificial snowmaking from recycled wastewater in the San Francisco Peaks](#).

Internal

Throughout the summer of 2011, the OTR worked with the [Pacific Northwest Region](#) to improve the [Tribal Climate Change Project](#), a project of the Forest Service 2010 Coordinated Approach to Tribal Climate Change Research, through coordinated review and comment of strategic documents. Working with R&D, the OTR has helped bring increased focus to tribally relevant research efforts underway in the field. The OTR also coordinated FS climate change efforts with various government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Smithsonian Institution (National Museum of Natural History Arctic Studies Center), and participated in the NASA/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' [Interagency Forum on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations](#). The OTR also conducted outreach to international and domestic nongovernmental organizations involved in climate change such as [the Rights and Resources Initiative](#) in Washington, D.C.

Goal 3– Promoting Integration and Utility

The OTR works across Deputy Areas to encourage integration of tribal perspectives in natural resource management. As with sacred sites and the [Planning Rule](#), the FS has moved towards greater inclusivity and engagement with Tribes – the first stewards of what are now National Forest System lands – to truly provide for the greater good. In FY 2011, the OTR continued supporting efforts to integrate tribal perspectives and participation in FS programming.

Reburials

The Regions continue to need assistance with repatriation and reburial of human remains and associated funerary objects. In FY 2011, the OTR collaborated with the [FS Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources Program](#) to secure \$250,000 in NFS funding for reburial of human remains that had been repatriated to Tribes under [the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#).

Tribal Forest Protection Act Review

After the 2003 fire season, when nearly 20 Indian reservations were devastated by wildfire spreading from adjacent federal lands, Congress passed the [Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 \(TFPA\)](#), authorizing the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to enter into tribally-proposed stewardship contacts and other agreements. Although many barriers and challenges have been overcome since TFPA's enactment, impediments to Agency and tribal use still remain. On August 12, 2011, the FS and the Intertribal Timber Council entered into a cooperative agreement, managed by the OTR, to initiate an analysis of TFPA's implementation. The shared objectives of this project reflect the collaborative nature of our partnership and shared vision of Tribes contracting with the FS to work on NFS lands to protect important resources on tribal lands. The project's overall goal is to increase the use of TFPA authority, and to suggest positive steps for further enhancement. In FY 2011, the assessment contract was executed and phase one was completed, consisting of a series of key interviews and execution of an online survey. This assessment continued in FY 2012, with site visits chosen on the basis of interview and survey results.

Salish Kootenai College, Natural Resources and Business Departments

In September 2005, the FS and the [Society of American Foresters \(SAF\)](#) entered into a participating agreement to build the capacity of American Indians and Alaskan Natives to engage in forest restoration contracting activities. Two modules were developed and delivered, [Forest Restoration](#)

[Skills and Small Business Training](#) that built upon an earlier partnership with the Society of American Foresters. This training was designed specifically to assist Tribes in developing a Native American small business that specializes in forestry and Wildland fire contract work for the Forest. [Salish Kootenai College \(SKC\)](#), an accredited four-year institution in the center of the Flathead Reservation, was selected to deliver this training as the only tribal college or university (TCU) that offers a 2-year forestry technicians program and a 4-year forestry program. In FY 2011, SKC delivered this training as the Woods Work program to Chugachmiut (an Alaska intertribal organization) and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

Workforce Outreach and Recruitment

The OTR supports the full range of workforce development efforts undertaken by the FS, including internships, recruitment, academic scholarships, and the [Student Career Experience Program \(SCEP\)](#). The OTR also supports the [Society for American Indian Government Employees](#) and other organizations and activities that foster recruitment and retention of Native American employees. In FY 2011, the OTR supported two WO [Washington Internships for Native Students \(WINS\)](#), one in [Conservation Education](#) and another in [Cooperative Forestry](#). The OTR also hired a second-year law student for the summer under the [Student Temporary Employment Program \(STEP\)](#). [R&D](#) also hosted two additional [WINS](#) interns in FY2011, and extended one of these students as a SCEP employee through the spring of 2012.

Guidance Tools

Knowledge gained throughout development of the [Sacred Sites Draft Report](#) and the field is being further incorporated into revision of the Tribal Relations section of the [Forest Service Manual \(FSM 1563\)](#). This information will be used by OTR to amend FS directives regarding government-to-government consultation and other aspects of working with Tribes. This revision is intended to incorporate recent and expected policy changes, as well as to provide more coherent and consistent guidance on consultation and collaboration processes.

Database Development

The OTR is developing an *internal* database for FS staff to become better acquainted with the Tribes in their Region, and more fully understand the historical relationships and interconnectedness of Tribes to particular forests and grasslands. A draft database of treaty rights, ceded lands, and relevant Executive Orders was developed in FY 2011, and information collection is ongoing. A second tool was also developed that collates Regional and local Memoranda of Understanding into a searchable database for FS staff to consult in crafting MOUs in their Region. A third tool, an OMB-compliant consultation reporting database, is being developed in cooperation with the USDA Office of Tribal Relations and the USDA Native American Working Group.

Toward a Tribally-Focused Research Agenda

FS R&D staff from across all Research Stations and the WO have been working hard on continuing and creating research projects that tie into the perspectives and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. With an ongoing emphasis on mitigating and adapting to climate change, the R&D effort has expanded to include many aspects relating to natural and cultural resources. One highlight of this growing R&D effort is the "All Station Tribes and Climate Change Project," which began in FY2010 and is a first step in providing a coordinated research response nationwide to emerging issues important to both the Agency and Tribes. This project has resulted in the establishment of regional Scientist-Tribal Manager networks, numerous regionally and nationally relevant publications, as well as hosting three Tribal-focused climate change research forums in the Southwest, South, and Great Lakes regions in FY2011.

Future Focus

The OTR has been engaged with directive review for the new [Planning Rule](#), and involves Tribes in implementation. The coming release of the [Sacred Sites Report](#) by the Secretary of Agriculture will continue to keep the OTR heavily involved in the Report roll-out and communication plan for sharing those recommendations with tribal communities. The OTR has begun to target efforts to clarify and provide guidance on all [Farm Bill authorities](#), working closely with the TRP and other field staff to [revise directives and the TRP relevant sections of the FS manual](#). In the coming year, the OTR will also initiate a process to systematically update the [Tribal Relations Strategic Plan](#), to go into effect in FY2014.

Educating and advising FS leadership and staff on policy that will enhance the Agency's positive working relationships with Tribes will, as always, continue to be a priority for FY 2012 and beyond. Along with policy, the OTR will continue to advocate for expanded stewardship contracting with Tribes, and explore ways to not only share FS research relevant to Tribes, but also learn from the centuries of tribal traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). This includes facilitating conversations between the FS and Tribes to drive the FS research agenda in areas of common interest. R&D is committed to institutionalizing many of its ongoing tribal research and engagement activities to provide a more coordinated approach to sharing knowledge and experiences across Regions and ownerships. It will seek to deliver information relevant to both Tribes and other land managers. Given the ever-growing tribal interest in climate change, the OTR will continue to connect Tribes with FS efforts in that arena, primarily within the national [Climate Change program](#) in the WO.



Regional Efforts

The FY2011 primary issues of concern are as numerous and varied as the forests in which they occur, and the tribal interests that are potentially impacted. They include local planning efforts and project implementation, as well as nationally recognized needs such as improving consultation processes and sacred sites. In a year when the [Draft Sacred Sites Report](#) has taken center stage, it is not surprising that issues surrounding access to and protection of ceremonial landscapes are repeated throughout the Regions. Similarly, high-profile consultation around the [Planning Rule](#) has again highlighted tribal interest in collaborative management, particularly in restoration efforts, of the natural resources which many Tribes rely upon for both sustenance and cultural identity. This trend toward collaborative management ties in to another theme that continued in 2011-- tribal employment opportunities in the forests.

Equally represented were concerns about treaty rights (including reserved rights on ceded lands) that impact everything from healthy ecosystems to tribal economic development opportunities. A frequent (and recurring) theme regarding treaty rights is continued access to and protection of traditional landscapes for both ceremonial and subsistence purposes (e.g., hunting and gathering). These two issues are integrally linked for tribal communities because opportunities for co-management would benefit both the natural resources and the Tribe through expanded employment opportunities. Finally, many Indian Tribes throughout the country struggle, as do FS personnel, with the volume of both national and forest-level consultation requests. Some Regions have established alternative consultation strategies, such as the Lead Forest Consultation Strategy for Indian Tribes that currently reside far from their traditional homelands,

Overall, Regional differences are apparent in structures, processes, and resources. These differences reflect the different social, cultural, economic, and ecological contexts in different sections of the country, as well as the organizational cultures unique to each Region.

	Notifica- tion let- ters	Local consultation					Policy or Rule- making	
		Project	NHPA/1 06	NAGP RA	TFPA	MOA/ U	Re- gional	Na- tional
Region 1/4	583	616	391	2	4	42	11	89
Region 2	37	19	102	26			18	26
Region 3	87	57	16	5			80	37
Region 5	499	211	238	31	29	71	20	49
Region 6	193	254	192	1	1	12		169
Region 8	113	512	849	444	1	48	5	49
Region 9	1085	246	44	3	0	8	0	165
Region 10	288	11		5		20	1	57
Total:	2885	1926	1832	517	35	201	135	641

Lead Forest Consultation

Several Regions, including Regions 2, 8, and 9, participate in the Lead Forest Consultation strategy, consulting on national and regional actions where the government-to-government consultation takes place at the National Forest level, and involves the forest line officer(s) and appropriate tribal official(s). Delegations and technical working groups may also collaborate on behalf of either party, with a firm understanding of the roles and responsibilities developed at the local level.

The Lead Forest approach improves the quality of FS consultation by eliminating redundancy while providing a cross-check to ensure that all Indian Tribes and ANCs are given the opportunity to consult. It is designed to promote consistency in message, meaning, and content, and to fulfill the legal mandate to consult with all affiliated and affected Indian Tribes and ANCs. When national consultation is initiated, the lead forest must engage with all affiliated and affected Indian Tribes and ANCs. Indian Tribes and ANCs have discretion to determine their desired level of engagement.

The Lead Forest strategy is not intended to replace relationships established at the local level, and local units still retain maximum flexibility to communicate and consult with Indian Tribes and ANCs that have a programmatic interest in forest level projects and historic ties to the landscape. This strategy is used when consulting on national and regional actions, for example those that may include agency notifications, regulations, policies, guidance, and strategies.

Regional Consultation at a Glance

Northern (R1) and Intermountain (R4) Regions

The Northern and Intermountain Regions share a TRPM with two additional tribal liaisons supporting the Kootenai, Nez Perce-Clearwater, and Payette National Forests. Tribal relations responsibilities for the remaining forest and grasslands are collateral duty assignments, typically assigned to Heritage Program Managers/archaeologists, with a few exceptions. The majority of consultation efforts with the 85 Tribes who live or have interests in the Regions focused on forest level projects, although many consultations also occurred on NHPA/Section 106 and national policy-making. In the past year, new issues arose, including concerns about mining in light of the recent rapid increase in gas and gold exploration proposals. Tribes in the Region generally believe that their rights and interests pre-date the General Mining Act of 1872, and are looking to the FS to exert more authority. Ongoing issues impacting Tribes in the Region include protection of sacred landscapes and consultation. As is the case throughout the country, many Indian Tribes struggle with the volume of Forest-level consultation requests, and the influx of requests for national policy consultation in FY2011 has been overwhelming.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

- Transportation of oversized loads on highways running through NFS lands in ceded territories.
- Consultation overload.
- Grazing: some units have been working on grazing issues for some time, while others are just beginning to tackle similar issues.
- Mining: while mining has always been a tribal concern, the recent dramatic increase of gas/gold exploration proposals has greatly elevated their concerns. Tribes generally believe their rights and interests pre-date the General Mining Act of 1872, and look to the FS to exert more authority.
- Impacts of land exchanges on treaty rights.
- Bighorn Sheep habitat protection.
- Interagency Bison Management Plan (Montana).
- Protecting Sacred Landscapes.
- Travel Planning: protecting cultural sites from off-road impacts while maintaining access for hunting, fishing, gathering, etc.

Consultation Summary

18 units across the Northern and Intermountain Regions recorded and reported their consultation efforts. Several noted that in addition to these formal communications, hundreds of additional contacts occur between FS and tribal staffs throughout the year. Many assert

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that these informal, undocumented contacts are essential to strong tribal relations. Others report that in spite of their efforts to notify Tribes about FS projects, invitations for consultation are rarely acknowledged or accepted. Tribes with the desire and staff resources hold regular meetings with specialists in several forests to improve communication and solicit timely feedback on projects. Meetings such as these provide forums to proactively identify and resolve issues early and reduce consultation overload.

Forest/Grassland	Notifi- cation letters	Local consultation					Policy or Rulemaking	
		Project	NHPA/106	NAGP RA	TFPA	MOA/U	Regional	National
Ashley	20		4			16		
Beaverhead-Deerlodge	105	105	105					
Bitterroot		30	31					
Boise	21	27	27			3		11
Bridger-Teton	8		1					7
Caribou-Targhee	16	15	4			2		6
Custer								
Dakota Prairie Grasslands	110	3	10		4			24
Dixie	35						1	3
Fishlake								
Flathead		26	26			2		
Gallatin								
Helena								
Humboldt-Toiyabe	300~	83	83			1		5
Idaho Panhandle								
Kootenai	116	161	64	2			2	
Lewis & Clark								
Lolo	46	21	21				1	
Manti-La Sal								
Nez Perce-Clearwater	35	16	10			12	5	1
Payette	57	91	1				2	
Salmon-Challis	14	14	4					4
Sawtooth		24				6		28
Uinita/Wasatch-Cache								
Total (not all units reporting)	583	616	391	2	4	42	11	89

Tribes of interest:

Battle Mountain Band (Shoshone)
Benton Paiute
Bishop Colony (Paiute-Shoshone)
Blackfeet Tribe
Bridgeport Indian Colony (Paiute)
Carson Colony (Washoe)
Chippewa Cree
Coeur D' Alene Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Goshute
Crow Tribe
Dresslerville Community (Washoe)
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Eastern Shoshone
Elko Band (Western Shoshone)
Ely Shoshone
Fallon Colony (Paiute and Shoshone)
Fort Belknap Tribe
Fort McDermitt
Fort Peck
Hopi Tribe
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Las Vegas Paiute
Lovelock Paiute
Lower Brule Sioux
Moapa Band of Paiute
Navajo Nation
Nez Perce Tribe
Northern Arapaho
Northern Cheyenne
Northern Ute Tribe
Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (includes Shivwits, Cedar City, Koosharem, Kanosh, Indian Peaks Bands)
Pyramid Lake Paiute
Reno-Sparks Colony (Washoe, Paiute, Shoshone)
Rocky Boys Chippewa Cree
Salish – Kootenai Tribes
San Juan Southern Paiute (limited)
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
Skull Valley Band of Goshute
South Fork Band Colony
Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
Standing Rock Sioux
Stewart Community (Washoe)
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone
Three Affiliated Tribes
Timbi-sha Shoshone Band
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Weeminuche Band)
Walker River Paiute
Washoe (includes Carson, Dresslerville, Stewart, Washoe, Reno-Sparks, Woodsfords Colonies)
Wells Band Colony
Winnemucca Indian Colony (Paiute and Shoshone)
Woodsfords Community (Washoe)
Yerington Paiute
Yomba Shoshone

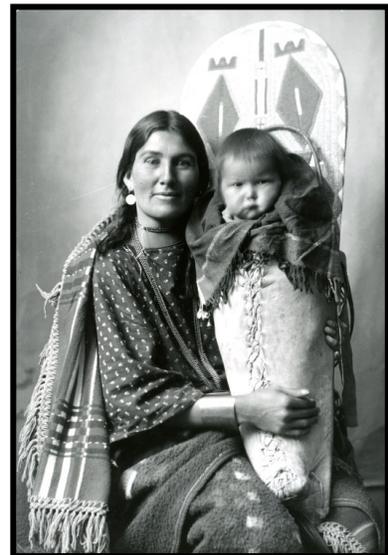
Partnerships and Programs

The Northern and Intermountain Regions are actively cooperating with Indian Tribes under 31 agreements, including 15 new agreements initiated in FY2011, and several master agreements that incorporate new annual operating plans. A variety of partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were executed in FY2011. These covered processes for consultation itself, to site-specific [NHPA/Section 106](#) consultation plans, to fieldwork/workforce training programs. Other MOUs document a process to fulfill trust responsibilities under the [2008 Farm Bill](#), such as temporary closures, cultural data management, and forest products permits. New and ongoing co-management activities represent a significant portion of the Region's MOU portfolio and include restoration, research, monitoring, and interpretive programming.

R1 and R4 Forests and Grasslands are actively operating under 32 partnership agreements and/or Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). Fifteen were initiated in FY2011, and several others are master agreements with new annual operating plans added yearly. Agreements include MOUs to establish consultation procedures, dynamic partnerships for job skills training, youth education camps, full-scale habitat restoration projects, and plans to implement [2008 Farm Bill](#) provisions.

Selected Accomplishments

The **Middle Fork Interpretive Program** on the Salmon-Challis National Forest is in its fourth year of operations under a cooperative agreement between the FS and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. In 2011, Diana Yupe, Tribal Archaeologist, told 3,500 visitors about the history and culture of the Shoshone-Bannock people, their strong ties to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River country, and the importance of preserving the archaeological sites along the river. Tribal members also monitor along the river and engage with the FS to address recreational impacts to cultural resources. A 2010 program to install interpretive signage at wilderness portals moved forward this year, and will be installed in 2012. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe is also actively involved in monitoring sacred sites along the Middle Fork.



Lizzie Edmo and child (c. 1890).
University of Nevada-Reno Special
Collections) for wilderness signage.

For nearly 25 years, National Forests in Regions 1, 4 and 6 have joined with the Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce and Kalispel Tribes to jointly sponsor and host the **Inter-Tribal Youth Natural Resource Camp**, a weeklong summer camp for youth from Northwest reservations. In FY2011 the Payette NF (R4) and Nez Perce Tribe co-hosted the 2011 camp.

Rocky Mountain Region (R2)

Among the 45 Tribes with interests in the [Rocky Mountain Region](#), 21 are located within the Regional boundary. The Region 2 TRP provides inter-regional consultation leadership for an additional five Indian Tribes as outlined in the Lead Forest Consultation strategy. The R2 TRPM is located on the State and Private Forestry staff at the Regional Office, and is supervised by the Director of Cooperative Forestry. Throughout the Region, tribal relations are assigned to the unit Heritage Program Manager, with a few exceptions. The vast majority of consultation in the Region is focused on [NHPA/Section 106](#) engagement, with significant consultation occurring on national policies, including but not limited to the [Planning Rule](#), the [Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#), [Farm Bill](#) provisions, [Burned Area Emergency Response](#), and the draft [Sacred Sites Report](#). Region 2 also conducted major consultation on the [Colorado Roadless Rule](#), as well as a 'bundled' consultation with 13 Indian Tribes regarding the Draft San Juan Public Lands EIS and related issues.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

None reported.

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Consultation summary

Forest/Grassland	Notification letters	Local consultation	Policy or Rulemaking					
		Project	NHPA/106	NAGPRA	TFPA	MOA/U	Regional	National
Arapaho-Roosevelt/Pawnee								
Bighorn								
Black Hills								
Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison								
Medicine Bow-Routt/Thunder Basin NG								
Nebraska-Samuel R. McKelvie/Buffalo Gap-Fort Pierre-Oglala NG								
Pike-San Isabel/Cimmaron-Commanche NG								
Rio Grande/San Luis Valley PLC								
San Juan/San Juan PLC								
Shoshone								
White River								

Total (aggregate) 37 19 102 26 18 26

* Data reported indicates a minimum of 37 notification letters were sent for the Region in total.
 **Data reported indicates a minimum of 26 national consultations occurred for the Region in total.

Tribes of interest:

Cheyenne River Sioux
Crow Creek Sioux
Eastern Shoshone
Flandreau Santee Sioux
Iowa
Kickapoo of Kansas
Lower Brule Sioux
Northern Arapaho
Oglala Lakota
Omaha
Prairie Band of Potawatomi
Rosebud Sioux
Sac and Fox
Santee Sioux
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Southern Ute
Standing Rock Sioux
Ute Mountain Ute
Winnebago
Yankton Sioux

* Region 2 additionally consults with the following Tribes within the Lead Forest Consultation Strategy:

Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Kaw
Kaw Tribe of Oklahoma
Otoe-Missouria
Pawnee
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
Southern Arapaho
Southern Cheyenne

Partnerships and Programs

No new partnerships were reported for FY2011, but since 2009, Region 2 has participated in an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and 13 Tribes affiliated with the San Luis Valley of Colorado to address reburial issues. In addition, the Region annually provides American Indian youth with natural resources career experiences and gainful summer employment through a cost-share agreement for the Black Hills Youth Conservation Corps project.

Selected Accomplishments

In FY2011, the [Pike-San Isabel](#) issued a temporary closure and re-routed forest users to other recreation areas to accommodate a Northern Ute traditional ceremony.

Southwest Region (R3)

In [Region 3](#), the TRPM oversees the TRP at the Director level, and is a member of the Regional Leadership Team. Additional TRP staffs are located on the [Cibola](#), [Coconino](#), [Kaibab](#), and [Santa Fe](#) National Forests, with the Cibola adding its first full-time TRPM in FY 2011. A part-time liaison to the Navajo Nation also supports the Kaibab NF, and the Assistant Social Scientist has primary responsibility for coordination of consultation and collaboration on the [Planning Rule](#). Heritage Resource staff are heavily involved in the TRPM on the Kaibab, as are various technical specialists on a case-by-case basis.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

- Watershed health and improvement, including protection from insects, disease, and wildfire, and diversity of plant life and wildlife habitat.
- Climate change adaptation and forest resiliency.
- Ecosystem restoration and mutually beneficial land management and restoration projects (including the [Collaborative Forest Restoration Program](#)) and data sharing.
- Reburial – R3 has the largest workload in the Agency regarding repatriation and reburial under the [Native American Graves Protection Act](#), as exemplified by the 2011 unprecedented achievement of the reburial of 275 human remains, 650 associated funerary objects, and 400 unassociated funerary objects with the Hopi Tribe. The Region continues to be a leader in developing reburial policy.
- Sacred sites and continued access to and use of cultural landscapes (traditional plants/medicines), which is increasingly important due to wildfire displacement.
- Uranium exploration and development.
- Snowbowl decision and pipeline construction.
- Hazardous fuels treatment EIS (sacred site).

Consultation Summary

Forest/Grassland	Notifica- tion let- ters	Local consultation					Policy or Rulemaking	
		Project	NHPA/10 6	NAGPRA	TFPA	MOA/U	Regional	National
Apache-Sitgreaves								
Carson								
Cibola/ Kiowa-Rita Blanca-Black Kettle-McClellan Creek	70	18	8				26	21
Coconino*		18		5			23	3
Coronado								
Gila								
Kaibab*		10					10	6
Lincoln	17	11	8				19	5
Prescott								
Santa Fe*							2	2
Tonto								
Total (not all units reporting)	87	57	16	5			80	37

- These forests did not distinguish between consultation and other types of communications with Tribes. Additionally, 55 notification letters were sent out for nine national policy consultations.

Tribes of interest:

Alamo Navajo Chapter
 Apache Tribe
 Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of OK
 Cochiti Pueblo
 Comanche Tribe
 Ft. Sill Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache
 Hopi Tribe
 Isleta del Sur
 Jemez Pueblo
 Jicarilla Apache
 Kiowa

Mescalero Apache Navajo Nation
 Navajo Nation
 Pueblo of Acoma
 Pueblo of Isleta
 Pueblo of Laguna
 Pueblo of Sandia
 Pueblo of Zuni
 San Felipe Pueblo
 San Ildefonso Pueblo
 Santa Ana Pueblo
 Santo Domingo Pueblo
 Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
 Zia Pueblo

Partnerships and Programs

Regional FS staff engages with Tribes at various levels through not only formal consultation but also substantial outreach and collaboration, particularly on issues of cultural sites. Throughout the Region, FS and tribal staff undertake site visits and assessments to ensure that tribal interests are protected and addressed. Where tribal members and staff educate FS personnel about cultural properties, FS personnel provides opportunities for tribal youth to engage in natural resource programs on wildfire, erosion, silviculture, and more.

Working together in the field through site visits and monitoring, FS and tribal personnel are engaged on the Bill Williams Cap Project (Kaibab NF) to ensure that mitigation measures developed with the Hopi Tribe are being implemented. Similar assessments of other cultural sites have been undertaken with the Havasupai and Navajo Nations. Professional exchanges in FY 2011 between the FS, Hopi biologists, and Arizona Game and Fish personnel helped build new bridges around common interests.

On the [Lincoln NF](#), the Agency and Mescalero Tribe are implementing a [Tribal Forest Protection Act](#) program under the 16 Springs Stewardship Contract, and the Tribe has also participated in an insect and disease workshop with the [Rocky Mountain Research Station](#) in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Region 3 also actively solicits participation in the [Collaborative Forest Restoration Program](#), and has entered into agreements with the Mescalero on a planning project for GIS data development and the White Fire rehabilitation area.

Selected Accomplishments

The Region's [Collaborative Forest Restoration Program](#) (CFRP) has delivered approximately one third of the total federal program dollars (\$45.7 million) to tribal recipients. Tribes are doing mission-related work as partners to restore watersheds, utilize small diameter material, and biomass, reduce the threat of wildfire, and restore the bosque along the Rio Grande River. Outreach for our CFRP is very strong, and ten Tribes participated at the Region's annual CFRP workshop. Tribes provided lessons learned, strengthened proposals, and received grant management training relative to audits of federal grants.



Alamo Navajo Wood Mixer training

One excellent example of the Region's CFRP efforts is a grant awarded to the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. (ANSB) to expand training of tribal members in forest restoration projects. Building upon previous investments by the Agency and the ANSB to train tribal members in restoration thinning and forest products harvest, FY 2011 saw a significant expansion in opportunities for the ANSB to acquire commercial business contracts and provide jobs to the Tribe. With two additional CFRP awards, training has been expanded to an additional 900 acres and [NEPA](#) planning for another 18,000 acres. FS efforts to engage additional partners has resulted in cross-jurisdictional work for the ANSB crew on Bureau of Land Management, State, and private lands through additional contracts – a true “all lands” collaboration that is sustaining a tribal restoration crew with great potential to grow among other Regions.

Pacific Southwest Region R5

The Region 5 TRP is supported by three full-time TRPMs, and the remaining responsibility for tribal relations is shared among primarily Heritage Program Managers and several line officers as a collateral duty. The Regional TRPM is located at the Regional Office and reports to a Deputy Regional Forester. Given the high number of Tribes in the Region, all FS personnel engaged in tribal relations carry a substantial portfolio of Tribes on each forest. In addition to federally-recognized Indian Tribes, Region 5 also engages with a large number of State-recognized Tribes and tribal organizations.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

- Cultural resources and sacred sites. There is substantial concern among Tribes throughout the Region regarding protection of and impacts to sacred sites in the context of both the FS and State and private activities, as well as management of cultural resources.
- Access and closures for gathering and traditional ceremonies.
- Planning Rule.
- Fire prevention and suppression.
- Health and well-being of tribal communities.
- Economic development – with a focus on FS contracting.
- Consultation – inadequate resources for consultation and liaison responsibilities, as well as Farm Bill provisions.

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Consultation Summary

Forest/ Grassland	Notifi- cation Letters	Local consultation					Policy or Rulemaking	
		Project	NHPA/106	NAGPRA	TFPA	MOA/ U	Region- al	National
Angeles*	2	2	1	1				
Cleveland*	25	2				1		
Eldorado								
Inyo								
Klamath/ Butte Valley*	4	4	3		2	1		
Lake Tahoe Basin								
Lassen & Plumas	275	58	16	2	2	15		19
Los Padres								
Mendocino	7	5	4	1			13	2
Modoc								
San Bernardi- no*	12	12	12	1	2			
Shasta Trinity*	9	9	9			1		
Sierra- Se- quoia*	26	26	26	26	23	24		
Six Rivers								
Stanislaus	139	93	167			29	7	28
Tahoe								
Total (not all units reporting)	499**	211	238	31	29	71	20	49

*Numeric data not submitted for forest-level consultation. Number and type of consultation (local, regional, national) is estimated.

**Data reported indicates a minimum of 499 notification letters were sent for the Region in total.

Tribes of interest:*

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla in Augustine
 Barona Band of Mission Indians
 Bear River Band of Rhonerville Rancheria
 Berry Creek Rancheria
 Big Lagoon Rancheria
 Big Pine Paiute Tribe
 Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians
 Big Valley Rancheria
 Bishop Paiute Tribe
 Blue Lake Rancheria
 Cabazon Band of Cahuilla
 Cahuilla Band of Cahuilla
 California Valley Miwok Tribe
 Campo Band of Mission Indians
 Chicken Ranch Tribal Council
 Cold Springs Rancheria
 Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono
 Colusa Rancheria
 Cortina Indian Rancheria
 Coyote Valley Reservation
 Elem Indian Colony
 Elk Valley Rancheria
 Enterprise Rancheria
 Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
 Grande Ronde
 Greenville Rancheria
 Grindstone Indian Rancheria
 Guidiville Rancheria
 Hoopa Valley Tribe
 Hopland Reservation
 Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel
 Inaja/Cosmit Reservation
 Jamul Indian Village
 Juaneño Band of Mission Indians
 Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation
 Karuk Tribe
 Klamath/Modoc Tribes
 Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
 La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians
 La Posta Band of Mission Indians
 Laytonville Rancheria
 Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation
 Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians
 Manzanita Band of Mission Indians
 Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
 Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
 Middletown Rancheria
 Mooretown Rancheria
 Morongo Band of Cahuilla
 Native American Community in Calaveras County
 Nomlaki
 Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu Nation
 Pala Band of Mission Indians
 Paskenta Nomlaki
 Pauma Band of Luiseno
 Pauma/Yuima Band of Mission Indians
 Pechanga Band of Mission Indians
 Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
 Pinileville Indian Reservation Rancheria
 Pit River Tribe
 Potter Valley Rancheria
 Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
 Ramona and Santa Rosa
 Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians
 Redding Rancheria
 Redwood Valley Reservation-Rancheria
 Resighini Rancheria
 Rincon Band of Luiseno
 Rincon Band of Mission Indians
 Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians
 Round Valley Reservation
 San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
 San Manuel Band of Serrano
 San Manuel, Cahuilla
 San Manuel
 San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
 San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians
 San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians
 Santa Rosa
 Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla
 Santa Rosa Rancheria-Tachi Yokuts
 Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians
 Santa Ysabel Band
 Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
 Sherwood Valley Rancheria
 Siletz
 Smith River Rancheria
 Soboba Band of Luiseno
 Sovereign Nation of Confederated Tribes
 Squaw Valley Tribe
 Susanville Indian Rancheria
 Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Table Mountain Rancheria
Torres-Martinez Band of Cahuilla
Trinidad Rancheria
Tule River Indian Reservation-Yukuts
Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
Twenty-Nine Palms Band
Upper Lake Rancheria
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Wintuan
Wiyot Tribe
Yana
Yuki
Yurok

* Region 5 additionally consults with numerous State-recognized Tribes and intertribal organizations.

Partnerships and Programs

Five new Memoranda of Understanding and partnership agreements were executed in FY2011 for a range of activities, including management of cultural areas (Karuk/Klamath), thinning projects (Enterprise Rancheria/Lassen), reburial (Cold Springs Rancheria and Tule River/Sierra-Sequoia), and tribal staff for firefighting (Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk/Stanislaus). Other partnerships and collaborative activities for FY 2011 covered a range of issues, including sacred sites workshops, opportunities within the Tribal Forestry Protection Act program (grants), and coordination of FS tribal monitoring and other activities.

In FY 2011, the [Sierra-Sequoia](#) NF launched the Willow Creek Planning Collaborative to develop a multi-stakeholder guidance document for managing the Willow Creek watershed in cooperation with several State-recognized Tribes. The [Sierra-Sequoia](#) NF also executed a cost-share agreement with the Cold Springs Rancheria for repatriation of human remains.

Selected Accomplishments

The Maidu Stewardship Project, a nationally recognized 10-year stewardship project designed to enhance forest health through the demonstration of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), has been dormant for several years. This is due to significant issues surrounding FS contracting as well as personal changes and internal issues within the Maidu Cultural and Development Group (the contractor). The project was revived in FY 2011, resulting in more than 96 acres of fuels reduction work successfully accomplished by the Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew. This accomplishment was showcased in Sunset Magazine, on National Public Radio for the California Report, and as a national story. Another collaboration between the [Plumas NF](#), the Maidu Summit Consortium (a pan-Indian group of federally-recognized Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, and individuals) the Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew, and the USDA [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) created a [BAER](#) grass burn plan integrating TEK to treat the

grass.

In the spring of FY 2011, TRPM Merv George coordinated and assisted in delivering "Tribal Relations Training" to FS leadership and staff who work with Tribes on the [Lassen](#) and [Plumas](#) NFs. The training covered trust responsibility and consultation, the history and dynamics of Tribes, the difference between federally recognized and non-federally recognized Tribes, local tribal information, and the benefits of Agency-tribal collaboration.

Pacific Northwest Region (R6)

TRP staff in Region is comprised of the Regional TRPM, one tribal Liaison, and one TRPM at the forest level. One Heritage Program Manager and one archaeologist, along with several part-time tribal liaisons, are assigned collateral responsibilities for tribal relations. Several forests in the Region hold tribal meetings on a regularly scheduled basis- generally every quarter- and frequently involve Bureau of Land Management staff. An annual "program of work" meeting is held with various tribal departments of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, including the Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Cultural Resources, and the Board of Trustees.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

- Geothermal development on/near traditional cultural properties.
- Sacred sites.
- Traditional cultural properties, including identification and management of traditional gathering areas.
- Culturally significant foods (plants, animals, and fish).
- Treaty grazing rights.
- Impacts to treaty rights and treaty resources, including fish, game, and culturally significant food plants, by other user activities and insufficient resource management.
- Access to (and management of) sites for traditional cultural celebrations.

Consultation Summary

Forest/Grassland	Notifi- cation letters	Local consultation					Policy or Rulemaking	
		Project	NHPA/106	NAGPRA	TFPA	MOA/ U	Regional	National
Columbia River Gorge								
Colville								
Crooked River NG								
Deschutes	40	61	61					71
Fremont-Winema	20	20	1*			1*		
Gifford Pinchot								
Malheur								
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie		88	81			3		52
Mt. Hood								
Ochoco	7	9	9					9
Okanogan- Wenatchee								
Olympic	36	24	12		1			12
Rogue River-Siskiyou		9	8					10
Siuslaw	37	29	10			4		8
Umatilla								
Umpqua	24	6	6					3
Wallowa-Whitman*	5	5	3	1		2		2
Willamette	24	3	1			2		2

Total (not all units report-
ing)

193 254 192 1 1 12 169

***Regional reports indicate this data is likely minimum numbers**

Tribes of interest:*

Alsea
Burns Paiute Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Coquille Indian Tribe
Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe
Hoh Indian Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalapuya Indians
Klamath Tribe
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Lummi Indian Business Council
Makah Indian Tribe
Modoc Tribe
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Nez Perce Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Nooksack Indian Tribe
Port Gamble Band of S'Klallam Indians
Puyallup Indian Tribe
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
Quileute Tribe
Quinault Indian Nation
Samish Tribe
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe
Skokomish Indian Tribe
Smith River Rancheria
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation
Swinomish Tribal Community
Tillamook
Tulalip Indian Tribes
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Yahooskin Paiute
Yakama Indian Nation
Yaquina

* Region 6 additionally consults with numerous State-recognized Tribes and intertribal organizations.

Partnerships and Programs

In FY 2011, a Master Stewardship Agreement was executed with the Klamath Tribes, the Nature Conservancy, and Lomakatsi Restoration Project for activities of mutual benefit, including restoration treatments on forest lands to promote healthy, resilient forests and provide job and economic development opportunities for tribal members. A Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) is in development for the Black Hills Vegetation project, and discussions are underway to develop a second SPA for the Coyote Vegetation project. A second master agreement with the Klamath was in final stages of approval for partnering on education and training for tribal members, and expansion of opportunities tied to existing career development programs within the Tribes. Two potential SPAs are currently under consideration for hand thinning work and sale preparation work on the Chiloquin RD.

Other new FY 2011 developments include agreements with the Quinalt Nation for a salmon habitat restoration plan, and a National Forest Foundation grant to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for the Dungeness Watershed Action Plan. The Tribal Forest Protection Act was also utilized to allow Quinalt operation of the wastewater treatment plant associated with clean water and aquatic resource restoration. On the Willamette N, an existing MOU with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for "Coordination of Natural and Heritage Resources Management Issues" was renewed in 2011.

Selected Accomplishments

None reported.

Southern Region (R8)

The Region 8 [IR](#) serves more than 51 Tribes, with one full-time regional TRPM assisted by 11 Heritage Program Managers and two other staff with collateral duties. The regional TRPM reports through the Planning Director at the Regional Office, but is remotely located on the Kisatchie National Forest. Region 8 is somewhat unique in that many of the Indian Tribes of interest are located far from their traditional homelands and sacred sites due to the historic removal policy. As a participant in the Lead Forest Consultation strategy (see also R2 and R9), R8 conducted several multi-tribal consultations in FY2011. The strategy appeared to be particularly well-suited for regional and national policy consultations. Although several Tribes prefer to hold one-on-one consultations, the group efforts were generally well-received.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

- NAGPRA and artifacts collections.
- NEP/NHPA section 10; particularly inconsistency in, and timing of, consultation.
- Reburial on NFS lands.
- Adequacy of FS staff resources.

TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT 2011

Consultation Summary

Forest/Grassland	Notifica- tion letters	Local con- sultation	Policy or Rulemaking					
		Project	NHPA/106	NAGPR A	TFPA	MOA/U	Region- al	National
Angelina-Davy Crockett-Sabine- Sam Houston-/ Caddo-Lyndon B.								
Apalachicola-Ocala -Osceola								
Bankhead-Conecuh -Talladega-Tuskegee								
Bienville-Delta- DeSoto-Holly Springs- Homochitto- Tombigbee								
Chattahoochee-								
Cherokee								
Croatan- Nantahala - Pisgah-Uwharrie-								
Daniel Boone								
El Yunque								
Francis-Marion-								
George Washington & Jefferson								
Kisatchie								
Land Between the Lakes NRA								
Ouachita								
Ozark-St. Francis								

Total (aggregate) 113 512 849 444 1 48 5 49

* Data submitted in aggregate only, not for individual forests.

Tribes of interest:

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal town
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
Catawba Indian Tribe
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Chickasaw Nation
Chitimacha Indian Tribe
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
Coushatta Indian Tribe
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Kialegee Tribal Town
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Miccosukee Indian Tribe
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Muscogee Creek Nation
Osage Tribal Council
Poarch Creek Indians
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
Seminole Indian Tribe
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe
Tuscarora Nation
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes

* Region 8 additionally consults with the following Tribes within the the Lead Forest Consultation strategy:

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Delaware Nation
Delaware Tribe of Indians
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Kaw Tribe of Oklahoma
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma

Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

* Region 8 also consults with 10 "USET nations" -members of the United South and Eastern Tribes, an intertribal organization. Not all Tribes consulted reside within the Region..

Partnerships and Programs

A new, regional Memorandum of Understanding was executed in FY 2011 with the Caddo, Choctaw (OK), and Alabama Coushatta for fire management and use of tribal crews on NFS lands. A previously executed MOU declaring formal government-to-government relations continues through FY 2012, and a programmatic agreement regarding alternative NHP protocols is under development between the Region and 12 Oklahoma Tribes.

Selected Accomplishments

The **Living Archaeology Weekend**, an award-winning educational event for local students and the public, was successfully held again in FY 2011 on the Daniel Boone N. Joined this year by the United Keetoowah Band (UKB) of Cherokee Indians, the FS Southern Region and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma continued to sponsor the event in collaboration with numerous educational partners and agencies. A standard component of the event again this year was the native food-ways stations, where visitors learned about wild and domesticated food sources, cultivation and harvesting strategies, and open fire, hot rock and earth oven cooking. Botanists also demonstrated medicinal plant use and traditional healing practices. The UKB demonstrated stickball and the Absentee Shawnee showcased traditional dancing involving the students. For the past two years, Chief George Blanchard of the Absentee Shawnee has led the dances, and shared the Shawnee language with young attendees. The presence of the Absentee Shawnee and Keetoowah Band of Cherokee educate local residents about the traditional and continuing presence of these peoples on the forest.

In FY 2011, the George Washington-Jefferson NF honored requests from the Eastern Band of Cherokee (NC) to reinter human remains on their traditional lands with the full support of the Regional Forester, as did the Land Between the Lakes National Recreational Area. Also noteworthy in FY 2011, Ft. Armistead acquired status as a National Historic Landmark. The FS purchased the site in 2005 from private land owners in the hopes of serving as long-term stewards of this tribally-significant property. Ft. Armistead has now been incorporated into the

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and serves as an important reminder of the Removal Period in U.S. history. In 2011, for the second year in a row, over 20 educators from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma visited Ft. Armistead to make traditional observances.

Eastern Region (R9)

Regional effort focus on 74 federally-recognized Indian Tribes that have rights and interests in the management of NFS lands and programs within the 20 states of the Eastern Region. Included are 21 "removed" Indian Tribes located outside of the Region, primarily in Kansas and Oklahoma, whose ancestral lands are in the Eastern Region. The Eastern Region also maintains active relationships with numerous inter-tribal organizations, tribal colleges and universities, American Indian professional associations, and Indian urban centers.

The protection of treaty rights and the preservation of appropriate opportunities to exercise those rights on national forests within the Eastern Region are significant aspects of the Region's TRP. 12 forests within the Eastern Region are components of lands ceded by Tribes through treaties with the United States. Tribes have asserted reserved treaty rights on more than 7.5 million acres (64%) of NFS land within the Eastern Region. In 2010, Regional Forester Kent Connaughton approved the Region's first comprehensive framework for tribal relations. The "Tribal Relations Strategic Framework for the Eastern Region" is an aspirational document, focusing on trust responsibility and consultation, with more practical and prescriptive material in the appendices. The TRPM for the Eastern Region serves as "special assistant" to the Regional Forester, is directly supervised by the Regional Forester, and is a member of the Regional Forester staff group, the Regional Leadership Team, and the Regional Office Leadership Team.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

- Sacred sites and ceremonial landscapes.
- Integration of the Culture and Heritage provisions of the 2008 Farm Bil.
- Self-governance.
- Treaty/reserved rights.
- Education and technology transfer.

TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT 2011

Consultation Summary

Forest/Grassland	Notifi- cations let- ters	Local consultation					Policy or Rulemaking	
		Project	NHPA/106	NAGPR A	TFPA	MOA/U	Regional	National
Allegheny								
America's Center for Conservation, Recreation, & Re- sources								
Chequamegon- Nicolet	134	29						67
Chippewa	38	3	2			1		32
Green Mountain- Finger Lakes	14							
Hiawatha	151	6						15
Hoosier	6		3	3				
Huron-Manistee								
Mark Twain								
Midewin Tallgrass Prairie								
Monongahela								
Ottawa	68	10	2					10
Shawnee								
Superior	75	177	16			1		16
Wayne	21	21	21					21
White Mountain								
Regional Forester*	578					6		4
Total (not all units reporting)	1085	246	44	3		8		165

*Regional Forester consultation reported separately, in aggregate.

Tribes of interest:*

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
 Aroostook Band of Micmacs
 Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
 Bay Mills Indian Community
 Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
 Cayuga Nation of New York
 Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
 Citizen Potawatomi Nation
 Delaware Nation
 Delaware Tribe of Indians
 Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
 Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
 Forest County Potawatomi Community
 Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
 Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
 Hannaville Indian Community, Tribe of Potawatomi Indians
 Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
 Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
 Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
 Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
 Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
 Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
 Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
 Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
 Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
 Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
 Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
 Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
 Lower Sioux Mdewakanton Community of Minnesota
 Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut
 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
 Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Potawatomi Indians
 Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
 Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
 Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
 Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut
 Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island
 Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi
 Oneida Indian Nation of New York
 Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Onondaga Nation of New York
 Osage Nation
 Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma
 Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
 Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine, Indian Township
 Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine, Pleasant Point
 Penobscot Indian Nation
 Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
 Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
 Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
 Prairie Island Mdewakanton Indian Community of Minnesota
 Red Cliff Chippewa Tribe
 Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
 Sac and Fox Nation
 Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
 Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
 Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
 Sakaogon Chippewa Community
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa
 Seneca Nation of Indians
 Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
 Shawnee Tribe
 Shinnecock Indian Nation
 Sokaogon Chippewa Community
 St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
 Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians
 Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York
 Tuscarora Nation of New York
 United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
 Upper Sioux Community
 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) of Massachusetts
 White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians
 Wyandotte Nation

*Region 9 participates in the Lead Forest Consultation Strategy and additionally consults with several Intertribal organizations.

Partnerships and Programs

Under the guidance of the "Tribal Relations Strategic Framework for the Eastern Region," Region 9 has begun a series of actions to fulfill the vision and mission of that document. Beginning with a comprehensive, Region-wide analysis of ceded territories and reserved rights, R9 is utilizing GIS technology to map tribal interests on each forest. Making extensive use of Memoranda of Understanding, the Region is also executing and amending agreements that integrate the Culture and Heritage provisions of the [2008 Farm Bill](#), providing a consultation model based on self-regulation and treaty rights, and honoring self-governance and reserved rights.

Acknowledging the importance of sacred and traditional sites, Region 9 is taking a highly proactive approach to identify and protect these tribal resources by engaging with Tribes throughout the Region, as well as those removed from their traditional homelands. In FY 2011, these efforts focused on developing intertribal Memoranda of Understanding to protect ceremonial stone landscapes as well as working with forests to prevent grave robbing and desecrations.

To fulfill the goal of self-governance, Region 9 is taking a multi-layered approach to promoting economic development among Tribes. The Region hires tribal members for temporary positions and internships, trains youth, provides orientation and training on the [Tribal Forest Protection Act](#) and stewardship contracting, and paves the way for co-management. Forest Supervisors throughout the Region engage Tribes at the conceptual stages of local project development, and make frequent use of programmatic agreements and MOUs to provide the framework for collaboration and consultation.

The Regional TRPM has also taken the national lead among the Regions, actively cooperating with both national and regional staff, serving on the [Sacred Sites Report](#) Core Team, and providing leadership on training and policy for FS Law Enforcement and Investigations.

Selected Accomplishments

The Lac Vieux Desert Band (LVD) of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians successfully completed a stewardship project on the [Ottawa NF](#) at the JW Toumey Nursery. This Integrated Pest Management project provided employment for tribal members and worked toward a restoration goal culturally important to the Tribe. It called for removing mature scotch, red, and jack pine trees adjacent to nursery seedling fields and restoring the sites. Removal of these tree species is a key way to protect forest resources, because it manages outbreaks of *Diplodia* in tree nurseries and in out plantings in the forest, creating an area for growing native plants. This area will be the site for demonstration gardens for shady woodland, dry meadow, and dry mesic meadow species. Many of the plant species proposed in these gardens are of great importance to the Chippewa, and these gardens will provide an educational setting and serve as a seed source. This project amply demonstrated the potential for the LVD Tribe and the Ottawa NF to work together not only to strengthen their relationship, but also to work toward common goals of landscape restoration.



In the summer of FY 2011, the Ottawa NF and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) sponsored the 3rd annual **Camp Onji-Akiing**, hosting 42 tribal children at a 3-day residential, outdoor classroom. Programs were designed for students to gain a better understanding of the natural and cultural aspects of the Great Lakes area, environmental sciences, and natural resource career opportunities. Through team-building and personal growth activities, students learned the skills and attitudes they'll need to succeed in the future. FS employees provided programs on aquatic ecology, wildlife, botany and forestry, as well as fishing, GPS and orienteering sessions. A high-ropes course teaches the students how to face challenges and overcome obstacles. GLIFWC Wardens are also on hand to support archery, cultural exploration, and team building exercises. Over 20 FS and GLIFWC employees volunteered their time and skills to help create a caring, learning environment.



Alaska Region (R10)

Typically, [Region 10](#) consults with 31 federally- recognized Indian Tribes and 30 ANCs, maintaining relations with other tribal entities, including not-for-profit tribal organizations like Chugachmiut, and non-federally-recognized Tribes such as the Tongass Tribe. The TRP extends beyond the forest boundaries to Tribes that are not currently located on the forests but have historical ties to these lands. Intertribal organizations play an active role in the R10 TRP, and the FS maintains ties to many of these organizations. For example, the FS meets with the Alaska Tribal Leaders Committee, the [Alaska Forum on the Environment](#), the [Alaska Federation of Natives](#), and the Grand Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

The regional TRPM, located in the Regional Office, reports to a Deputy Regional Forester. In addition, the TRP is supported by three TRP staff, and an additional seven people (primarily archaeologists) in their collateral duties. The Regional Forester provides strong support, and a strong communications network includes both FS staff (down to the ranger districts) and Alaska tribal leaders.

Primary Issues for FY2011:

- Federal subsistence ["Haa Atxaayí Haa Kusteeyíx Sitee," or "Our Food is our Way of Life" (Tlingit)].
- Economic development and jobs.
- Training opportunities – for both Tribes and Agency staff, and opportunities for Alaska Native hires with the federal government.
- Over-regulation of special forest products.
- Co-management of significant traditional and historical sites.
- Inadvertent discoveries of human remains and reburial.

Consultation Summary

Forest/Grassland	Notifica- tion letters	Local consultation					Policy or Rule- making	
		Pro- ject	NHPA/1 06	NAGP RA	TFPA	MOA/ U	Re- gional	Na- tional
Chugach	48							6
Tongass	240	11		5		20	1	51
Total	288	11		5		20	1	57

*Region 10 also distributed notification letters for 212 information sharing sessions provided. These sessions included intertribal organizations and in an interagency forum.

Tribes of interest:*

Angoon Community Association
 Cape Fox Corporation
 Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
 Chenega Bay IRA Council
 Chenega Corporation
 Chickaloon Village
 Chickaloon-Moose Creek Native Association
 Chilkat Indian Village
 Chilkoot Indian Association
 Chugach Alaska Corporation
 Cook Inlet Regional Corporation
 Craig Community Association
 Douglas Indian Association
 Eklutna Incorporated
 Eklutna, Native Village of
 English Bay Corporation
 Eyak Corporation
 Eyak, Native Village of
 Goldbelt Corporation
 Haida Corporation
 Hoonah Indian Association
 Huna Totem Corporation
 Hydaburg Cooperative Association
 Kake Tribal Corporation
 Kake, Organized Village of
 Kasaan, Organized Village of
 Kavilco Inc.
 Kenaitze Indian Tribe
 Ketchikan Indian Community

Klawock Cooperative Association
 Klawock Heenya Corporation
 Klukwan Inc.
 Knik Tribal Council
 Knikatu Incorporated
 Kootznoowoo Inc.
 Metlakatla Indian Community
 Nanwalek, Native Village of
 Ninilchik Natives Association, Inc.
 Ninilchik Traditional Council
 Petersburg Indian Association
 Port Graham Corporation
 Port Graham Village Council
 Salamatoff Native Association, Inc.
 Salamatoff, Village of
 Saxman, Organized Village of
 Sealaska Corporation
 Seldovia Native Association
 Seldovia Village Tribe
 Shaan-Seet Inc.
 Shee Atika, Inc.
 Sitka Tribe of Alaska
 Skagway Traditional Council
 Tatitlek Corporation
 Tatitlek, Native Village of
 Tyonek Native Corporation
 Wrangell Cooperative Association
 Yak-Tat Kwan, Inc.
 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

*includes ANCs

Partnerships and Programs

Although no new Memoranda of Understanding were executed in FY 2011, Region 10 has numerous, long-term and ongoing MOUs in place, primarily concerned with protocols for consultation and information sharing. Several other five-year agreements address the Russian River archaeological district, and a challenge cost-share agreement with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program and University of Alaska-Anchorage to interact with the FS. Additional funding was provided to Alaska Natives for several youth projects in addition to habitat improvement, fisheries monitoring research, and TEK transfer. The FS collaborated with the Kenaitze Tribe, Qutekcak Native Tribe and Alaska Geographic for a youth Ice Patch Archaeology Survey as part of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe Susten Culture Camp. The Qutekcak Native youth were also employed by the FS, with support from Alaska Geographic, on a Chugach Children's FS project to plant birch trees near Hope, Alaska.

The Washington OTR provided funding for two projects in R10 in FY 2011: the reburial of 24 sets of human remains and associated funerary objects on the [Tongass NF](#), and the opportunity to provide the **Wood Works** training.

Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) are a fixture in the Region, and have provided numerous opportunities for engagement between Alaska Natives and the FS. In FY 2011, the numerous projects that directly benefit Alaska Natives were implemented by FS RACs with their local tribal partners. These projects included moose habitat treatment, campsite restoration, [NEPA](#) analysis for recreation enhancement, ATV, and other trail maintenance and construction to benefit subsistence, fish and wildlife habitat improvements (Starrigavan Watershed Restoration), wildlife observatory enhancements, and many more.

Selected Accomplishments

In addition to the numerous small grants and agreements that have benefited both natural resources and people in R10, the S&PF program has made significant investments in the Region. Under the [Forest Stewardship Program](#), targeted technical and planning assistance was provided to important private forest landscapes – resources that have traditionally had a strong focus on Village and Regional Alaska Corporations. Landowners received professionally-prepared plans and assessments tailored to their specific ownership objectives, which are often focused on wildlife habitat enhancement, traditional forest products, and wood energy. In FY 2011, these funds allowed for completion of Forest Stewardship Plans for three ANCs; the plans emphasized wood energy as an important objective, analyzed impacts to more than 500,000 acres managed by the three ANCs, allowed substantial forest road repair and pre-commercial thinning, and encouraged a [Forest Land Enhancement Program](#) project that completed 4.7 miles of forest road repair on corporation land. Work on two ARRA grants continued in 2011, with remaining pre-commercial thinning, pruning, logging and slashing to improve forest health, reduce forest fuels, and enhance wildlife habitat.

An S&PF Diversity Project was also completed in FY 2011, and created a bilingual booklet (Yup'ik and English) entitled [KELLUTELLRA ALASKA-M UNGALAQLIRNERA ENIARITULINUN ITRALLERKAANENG KASS' AT YUP'IIT-LLU QANERYARAITGUN: Protecting Southwestern Alaska From Invasive Species](#). The booklet illustrates how invasive plants, insects, and animals spread and interact with their environment, how other Alaskan communities have worked to prevent or eradicate them, and what resources exist to help control the spread of exotic organisms. This information will assist the Yup'ik people in preserving their traditional lands and their subsistence culture.

Challenges

The Regions and WO share common challenges to achieving meaningful consultation and creating an effective TRP. These challenges potentially adversely impact tribal relations. The following issues are echoed throughout the Regions and among TRP staff:

Inconsistency

In relationships: Tribes often remark about difficulties in keeping track of FS employees, particularly with our rapid rate of retirement. Similarly, when tribal councils change, FS staff can become frustrated because they feel as though communications about projects must start over-- "from square one." In both instances, it can be challenging to maintain relationships and consistency, and to keep up the momentum in communicating about projects.

In issues and processes across boundaries: Every Tribe is unique, and tribal interests on a particular forest may or may not coincide with other tribal interests in the same forest. Many Tribes have legal rights or interests that span multiple forests or Regions. Often, policies for acknowledging tribal rights vary among Regions, forests, or even among different districts within the same forest. These inconsistencies are confusing and frustrating. A single FS point of contact has been suggested for Tribes that have interest in, and consult with, multiple forests. This would provide the multiple benefits of reducing redundancy, increasing efficiency in addressing multiple consultation requests, and potentially expediting tribal response times.

Training

Forests report that it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with educating new employees on tribal rights.

There is a need for forest level training to clarify consultation and collaboration (who what when where).

Conflicting schedules

Tribes and forests also each have their own unique processes and timelines; while advance planning is required to get on a tribal council agenda, the FS may be seeking input within a very short time-frame.

Communications

FS Communications: The method for handling national policy consultation needs improvement. While some calls for consultation on national policy are sent from the WO directly to the Regions, other notices are distributed directly from the Regions to Tribes. In the case of the [Planning Rule](#), the Department sent communications directly to Tribes. This creates confusion and frustration at the forest level, where line officers and tribal liaisons are excluded from communications, and yet they must field inquiries from the Tribes. Furthermore, Tribes report that they are inundated by multiple federal agencies to

Tribal Communications: Even in Regions where tribal relations are generally positive, Tribes often bypass the Forest and/or Regional Office to elevate issues directly to the WO or even the Department. This even occurs before an issue has developed. While the OTR provides notice of, and defers to, the Regions about such meetings and outcomes, it would be helpful if other WO staff would also share such information with Regional and TRP staff.

Resource limitations

Forest Service: The funding and allocation of time for staff engaged in tribal relations with collateral responsibilities continues to be an impediment to meaningful consultation and an effective TRP, given both the number of Tribes and magnitude of consultation requests. Physical distances between FS offices and Tribes impede face-to-face consultation, especially for Tribes who currently reside far from their traditional homelands. Tribes frequently lack the resources to travel to regional consultation venues. The FS and Tribes would like more opportunities for both on-the-ground and face-to-face meetings, but the great distances pose a logistical challenge. The distance also reduces opportunities for collaborative partnerships.

Tribes: Tribes are not staffed to deal with the magnitude of federal requests to consult, and therefore prioritize their involvement based on strong relationships, urgent issues, and projects where they believe that they can have an impact. Despite these challenges, the FS TRP continues to improve relations with the first stewards of NFS lands across the country. Through diligent efforts to both comply with statutory authorities and work towards mutually beneficial programs and projects on the ground, the Agency continues to make great strides in redeeming its trust responsibilities and improving the natural resource legacy that has been entrusted to us.