



United States Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

July 15, 2011

Dear Tribal Leader:

On November 3, 2010, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) and the Forest Service invited you to engage with us in a review of policy and procedures affecting Sacred Sites on National Forest System lands. Since then, USDA OTR and the Forest Service have met with interested Native Americans at over 50 listening sessions across the Nation. We have met in Indian Country, in Alaska Native villages, telephonically and face to face, at inter tribal venues, and at numerous other locations as requested by the Tribes. These listening sessions reached out to native communities, engaging not only tribal leadership but also culture keepers and traditional practitioners.

We truly appreciate the time and effort invested by tribal members and leaders to tell us about Agency activities, existing laws and regulations, policies, procedures, protection of Sacred Sites, and the changes in policy you would like to see.

Please review the *Draft Report to the Secretary of Agriculture: USDA and Forest Service Policy and Procedures Review - Indian Sacred Sites*, on the enclosed CD. You may request a hard copy of the report be sent to you by contacting any of the individuals listed below. Building on comments provided at the listening sessions and written input, we compiled a summary of what you said to us and developed a list of recommendations for changes to begin to address what we heard.

We want to ensure that we heard you correctly and that your comments are accurately reflected in the draft report. From now through November 14, 2011, USDA and the Forest Service are inviting your comments and request your consultation on the draft report. The draft report is also available online at [www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/sacredsites](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/sacredsites).

USDA OTR and the Forest Service will incorporate comments and other information gathered during consultation into a final report, which will be given to the Secretary this winter.

To request consultation or provide comments on the draft report electronically please email [TribalSacredSites@fs.fed.us](mailto:TribalSacredSites@fs.fed.us). You can also mail requests or comments to:

USDA Forest Service  
Office of Tribal Relations  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250-1160

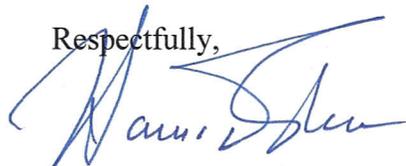
If you have any questions, please contact Fred Clark, Director, Forest Service OTR, at (202) 205-1548, or Toni Stanger, USDA OTR, at (202) 557-6212.

Contact information for Regional Forest Service Tribal Relations Program Managers is below. They can also provide you with a hard copy of the report or appendices, help to coordinate consultation or further dialogue, or answer questions.

Location	Name	Telephone	Email
Missoula, MT	Cheryl Vanderburg	406. 329.3348	<a href="mailto:cvanderburg@fs.fed.us">cvanderburg@fs.fed.us</a>
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Juneau, AK	Lillian Petershoare	907. 586.7089 (0)	<a href="mailto:lpetershoare@fs.fed.us">lpetershoare@fs.fed.us</a>

Again, thank you for your assistance in this important effort to review USDA and Forest Service policies and procedures regarding Native American Sacred Sites. We look forward to continuing the discussion with you.

Respectfully,



HARRIS D. SHERMAN  
Under Secretary  
Natural Resources and Environment



THOMAS L. TIDWELL  
Chief  
U.S. Forest Service