Enhancing Government To Government Relations: A Tribal Guide to Forest Service Grants and Agreements

Office of Tribal Relations
USDA Forest Service

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Tribal Relations Strategic Goals

- Rights
- Partnerships
- Program Development
Goals:

• enable Tribes to more easily access grants and partner with the FS.
• provide a tool that is as user-friendly as possible.
• educate both Tribes and FS staff on possible partnerships through examples.
Ensure inclusion of different perspectives, especially Tribal perspectives

- 9 Focus Groups with 39 Forest Service employees and 44 tribal members representing 37 Tribes.
- Worked with many staff areas within the FS, including Grants & Agreements, Research & Development, Forest Health, Forest Management, Urban & Community Forestry, & Fire
Start a Partnership With the USDA Forest Service or Obtain Federal Financial Assistance
A Guide for Tribal Governments

Features

• Background on Forest Service grants and agreements
• Flow chart to get people started
• Different programs available with real examples
• Step-by-step instructions on applying for grants and partnering with the FS
• Information on confidentiality and Indian hiring preference
What kind of project do I want?

My project involves research

My project is on a national forest or grassland

My project is NOT on a national forest or grassland

My project is on private land (owned in fee by my Indian tribe) OR trust land

My project is on State or another type of land

May be no Forest Service authority - contact your State Forester’s Office or the Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Applying/Making Contact

• After identifying potential programs/agreement types/federal financial assistance that may fit your or your client’s needs, you can review the process for obtaining that federal financial assistance (page 13) or starting partnerships (page 19).
Examples of FS-Tribal partnerships:

1) Protecting Maine’s Sacred Black Ash Trees

Forest Service Regional Funds
+
MOU
+
Wood Education and Resource Center Funds

Successful Forest Service-Tribal partnership
Examples of FS-Tribal partnerships:

2) Eastern Band of Cherokee Get Grant for Special Place

Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program Grant

+ Tribal Match

Successful Forest Service-Tribal partnership
Examples of FS-Tribal partnerships:

3) Forest Service-Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa MOU

MOU between Forest Service and Tribe provides firewood cutting area

Successful Forest Service-Tribal partnership
Examples of FS-Tribal partnerships:

4) Forest Service partners with Caddo Nation in Heritage

Forest Service uses Master Participating Agreement to hire and train Caddo Nation as Heritage Crews in Texas and Louisiana

Successful Forest Service-Tribal partnership
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