##### Collaborative Restoration Workshop

##### *Working Toward Resilient Landscapes and Communities*

April 26-27, 2016

Denver Colorado

Abstract

An important aspect to collaboration is acknowledging and increasing partnerships with tribes. The Forest Service has a responsibility to create larger, more impactful collaborations since Tribes are the original stewards of the Americas and currently own expansive tracts of land and resources important to the United States.

As an agency, the Forest Service acknowledges that federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations share a common interest in restoring, sustaining and enhancing the nation’s forests and grasslands as part of a complex and historical indigenous presence. Today, Indian tribes continue traditional use of forests and grasslands to sustain their cultural identity and continuity. The federal government’s trust responsibilities, treaty obligations, laws and regulations mandate that the Forest Service engage with Indian tribes concerning a diversity of issues and opportunities.

On July 24, 2015, the agency published in the Federal Register the [Proposed Directives on American Indian and Alaska Native Relations Forest Service Manual 1500, Chapter 1560 and Forest Service Handbook 1509.13, Chapter 10](https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/07/24/2015-17911/proposed-directives-on-american-indian-and-alaska-native-relations-forest-service-manual-1500); on February 8, 2016, Chief Tom Tidwell signed the final directives.

**Key Messages:**

* The Forest Service responsibility is to implement programs and activities consistent with and respecting Indian treaty rights and fulfilling the federal government’s trust responsibility with Indian tribes.
* The policy expands and improves the agency’s work with Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, including consultation, collaboration and coordination.

**Revised Guideline:**

* Provides tools to work with tribes using contracts, grants and agreements and sets out options for resolving disputes with the Forest Service, including objections, administrative appeals, and mediation.
* Addresses forest and grassland closures, forest products, confidentiality and reburial of human remains as it pertains to Indian tribes as authorized in the Farm Bill.
* Modifies and adds Forest Service staff roles and responsibilities to emphasize working with Indian tribes.
* Institutionalizes a minimum 120-day tribal consultation period and delineates what processes and steps are required for consultation.

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