

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2014**  
**Bad River**

Meeting called to order at 8:08 am.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Bad River (Lacey Hill Kastern), FCPC (Nate Guldan), Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Doug Cox), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile, Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Chad Abel), St. Croix (Katie Stariha).

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Alan Johnson (WTCAC), Greg Bussler (NASS), Carleen Yocum (USFS), Lenore Lamb (USFS), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Chris Borden (NRCS), Tim Deveau (APHIS), Deahn Donner Wright (USFS), Ron Zalesny (USFS), Adam Wiese (USFS).

Sign in sheet is attached.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Executive Session. Motion by Lac du Flambeau, seconded by Bad River. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Item 17 – grant actually ended December 1. Mic Isham is chairman for LCO, not St. Croix.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the October 14 and 15, 2014 WTCAC Meeting Minutes with 2 corrections. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**4. NRCS Update**

Chris Borden – Jimmy sends his regrets for not being here – Ted Koehler with USFWS is interested in coming to a meeting. Appreciated invite to GLNAFWS Meeting. Appreciated our patience and the opportunity to provide the Tribal Liaison roles and responsibilities (attached). Will also discuss EQIP requests later. WLWCA meeting in Appleton and WTCAC was invited to attend and speak. Chris sees value to have a joint presentation with NRCS and WTCAC. Katie felt it would be good to go.

**5. APHIS Update**

JoAnn – Met with Oneida to discuss EAB quarantine. Also had discussion with Lac du Flambeau. No other new EAB finds. Nothing new on gypsy moth. They have a continuing resolution that is going to expire next Thursday. Two Farm Bill proposals came in from WTCAC and they are under review. 1) Developing an analytical tool that Tribes would use to

determine whether or not they want to develop their own quarantine and how they would develop it. 2) Funding for interns.

Dr. Deveau – would like to conduct more rabies clinics so please inform appropriate Tribal staff about approaching him to set this up. Would also like to set up a table top exercise based on rabies to look at emergency response for Tribes. Ag Discovery Program at land grant colleges, 2 week program that exposes young people to the opportunities in agriculture. Jason Suckow has taken the Western Regional Director Position for WS. He starts that position January 5.

Wildlife Service update- Melissa – Bird EA comments are due this Friday, there will then be another chance for public review. WS is going to be sending out an interagency EA on wolf management. Hopefully will be coming out next week.

They will provide us the objectives on our request via email.

#### **6. FSA Update**

Susan Hunter – update is attached. December Farm Loan is 2.65% for operating and 4% for the other.

#### **7. USFS Update**

Mary Rasmussen – report and contact list attached. She put together contact list as an objective that had been requested. She handed out partnership guides (attached). Lenore Lamb introduced herself. Worked 10 years with a Tribe as Environmental Director and then 4 years with BIA, both in Southern California.

Carleen Yocum – St. Paul office – State and Private Forestry. RFPs on handout. They are available to offer pesticide training to Tribes (John Khyll). jkhyll@fs.fed.us if anyone is interested, please let her know. They do an annual survey of pests and diseases and this info goes back to 1997. It can be accessed on the internet and the shape files are available. They could also do a presentation if we would like on this. They do this for all Tribal lands.

USFS Research – Deahn Donner Wright – They want to figure out how they can better partner with us as far as research goes. They rely a lot on external grants. Sometimes they cannot be the primary grant writer for some grants, but they can be a subcontractor. They could partner this way. They have a plant physiologist and also work on climate change, wildfire, biofuels, and phytoremediation. They do a lot with beaver management. They are also starting out looking at bats and white nose syndrome. They would be interested in working with us on a grant proposal for climate change study. USGS Northeast Climate Science Centers.

#### **8. NASS Update**

Greg Bussler – He sent Alan the objectives we had requested at the last meeting. They are a resource for information. WTCAC can help NASS, especially in the next Census of Ag. Can we provide names of all the farm operators on each of the reservations? The more data we get the

better represented the Tribes will be. Will be doing an organic production survey and it will be mailed out to people that said they were organic on the Census of Ag. This info will come out sometime next year. In 2016 they are doing a census of horticulture asking farms that produce \$10,000 or more in crops about their production. A 10 year ownership and transition of Ag lands survey will be mailed out in mid-December. They collect data on land ownership and rental info on lands. Crops in WI are looking pretty good, however corn is only in the mid-70s for percent harvest. 3<sup>rd</sup> largest corn crop and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest soybean crop this year.

### **9. IAC Update**

Alan – Dan indicted there will be a food summit from the 14-16 of April in Oneida. He was wondering if we could have a WTCAC meeting in conjunction with the meeting and he was hoping we would stay for the summit.

### **10. WDNR Update**

Shelly Allness sent Pat updates – next round of youth grants will be kicking off soon, applications will be due at the end of February. It will be posted on their website. Their annual consultation meeting is in Menominee on December 16. DNR draft wolf management plan will be ready for review in January.

### **11. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Presentation**

Ron Zalesny (USFS) - They recently put together 2 proposals for funding for tribal youth. In the process of writing those they found out about the opportunity with the NFWF.

### **12. Forestry Subcommittee**

We got funding for one subcommittee meeting through the NRCS agreement. We are also seeking funds from USFS to support subcommittees. They want to put together a meeting that we can get pertinent people at. WTCAC Members – Pat Pelky, Alan, Katie, Jason Quade, Scott, Al Murray, Lacey, Dan Brooks, Heather Stricker. Probably have meeting in January or February. Meeting will be held in Rhinelander. Pat will work with Mary Rasmussen to set up.

### **13. NRCS Agreement Update**

Alan- The final report for last year's agreement was sent out, still need to send in budgetary closeout form. We fulfilled all of our requirements anywhere from 100% – 315%. We indicated a number of items related to aquaculture that still need to be fulfilled.

It took 11 days to get funds in our checking account on the new agreement for the last meeting. He thanked NRCS.

### **14. GLRI Update**

Alan - We asked for a no cost extension. The GLAS report went in and the EPA extension as requested. EPA is working on it. He is hopeful it will be extended. Requested until July, we have \$60,000 left, about \$30,000 can be transferred as some tribes would like some more funds.

### **15. AmeriCorps Update**

Keith - Same as last time. We are out of funds and all that is left to do is finish the report that needs to be submitted. Alan will be talking to Keith and there are a few dollars left to write the final report.

### **16. APHIS Outreach and Training Program**

Alan – We have \$80,000 left in that account.

### **17. Aquaculture Subcommittee**

Jeremy from St Croix is going to lead the subcommittee. Keith, Jeremy and Tony met for a day in October and all info was transferred over to Jeremy. He will be the chair of the committee. They need to get together with Chris to set an agenda and plan a meeting.

### **18. NRCS Standards Development**

Chris Borden – Need a generalized discussion on the issues we anticipate being brought forward. Still need general resources concerning training? Need to bring up 2, 4-D discussion again. Bring up liaison. Each tribe can only have 1 hoop house, also there isn't an advantage for Socially Disadvantaged. There is a flat \$8,000 payment rate, should be more for Tribes. Seepage systems for runoff. Bridges and fix for Spirit Island from Washington. Roman will work on summarizing the issue.

### **19. Liaison Roles**

Please review the liaison roles (attached) and get back to Alan with comments.

### **20. EQIP Projects**

Handed out spreadsheets with EQIP requests (attached).

**MOTION:** Motion to rank all projects as High Priority except for FCPC, St. Croix, and Menominee projects which will be ranked Medium Priority. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

### **21. Strategic Plan**

Looking at redoing the Strategic Plan. By next meeting present an update on the process. Have in conjunction with the WTCAC meeting following the Madison meeting.

### **22. Financial Update**

Reports were provided to USFS, still have about \$1,500 left, and got an extension until next year. We have \$2,000 left in the USFS State and Private grant for the interns, got an extension until next year. APHIS 2014 is closed out, final report in. APHIS 2015 – does not have financial statement, we have about \$80,000 left out of \$100,000. AmeriCorps – Closes out December 31. Keith has about 19 or so hours – the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report went in and Alan will get the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report in. EPA Grant – Sent in the last quarter GLAS report which included mapping and number of acres of treatment. We have money left and requested an extension on it. He has not

heard anything about the new grant. We have \$61,000 left in old grant. Out of it, he estimates about \$30,000 that can be transferred.

**23. Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Motion to enter Executive Session. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Bad River. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to leave Executive Session. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Lac du Flambeau. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council  
December 3, 2014 Sign-in**

Name	Tribe/Organization	Email
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CHAD ABEL	RED CLIFF	

# Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)



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## ***NRCS Tribal Liaison Roles & Responsibilities***

***November 2014***

1. **NRCS State Tribal Liaison** - The NRCS State Tribal Liaison has the following roles and responsibilities:
  - Monitors NRCS-National, and NRCS-Wisconsin, Program Information through regular interaction with the Statewide Teleconferences, Area Office, Assistant State Conservationist for Financial Assistance Programs, and Assistant State Conservationist for Easements with consideration for how current program efforts may benefit tribes.
  - Ensures Program Delivery Timelines are communicated regularly with NRCS Tribal Liaisons including, but not limited to:
    1. Cookbook Meeting
    2. Program Planning Meeting
    3. Local Work Group Meetings
    4. Application Deadlines
    5. Ranking Deadlines
    6. Obligation Deadlines
  - Works with WTCAC Tribal Representatives to ensure NRCS Tribal Program Delivery occurs concurrently with General Program Delivery deadlines.
  - Schedules, and Facilitates, teleconferences with NRCS Tribal Liaisons to ensure a common understanding of current program tasks and/or opportunities.
  - Coordinates Screening Tool, Ranking Criteria, Applications Submitting, Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool with NRCS Tribal Liaisons and WTCAC Tribal Representatives.
  - Solicits Input from NRCS Tribal Liaisons about potential interest from individual Tribes regarding their interest in participating through special program opportunities (i.e. Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative).
  - Participates in, and Reports on Program Information and Opportunities, at each WTCAC Meeting, and/or Sub-Committee Meetings.
  - Pursues follow-up actions identified by WTCAC Representatives with NRCS Tribal Liaisons, Assistant State Conservationists, Supervisor, and/or State Conservationist; working to keep all members informed.
  - Solicits input from NRCS Tribal Liaisons, and WTCAC Tribal Representatives, of needed changes to existing conservation practice standards, and/or program policies to increase the efficiency and efficacy of NRCS Program Delivery.
  - Participates in WTCAC's Annual Technical Meeting with NRCS; then communicates the findings of such meetings with NRCS Tribal Liaisons.
  - Coordinates the development, and implementation, of Action Items from WTCAC Meetings and WTCAC's Annual Technical Meeting with NRCS.
  - Coordinates Cooperative Agreement implementation with WTCAC Executive Director and Assistant State Conservationist for Financial Assistance Programs.

2. **NRCS Tribal Liaison** – NRCS Tribal Liaisons have the following roles and responsibilities:

- Monitors NRCS-National, and NRCS-Wisconsin, Program Information through regular interaction with the Statewide Teleconferences, Area Office, and State Tribal Liaison with consideration for how current program efforts may benefit tribes.
- Ensures Program Delivery Timelines are communicated regularly with WTCAC Tribal Representatives for assigned Tribes including, but not limited to:
  1. Cookbook Meeting
  2. Program Planning Meeting
  3. Local Work Group Meetings
  4. Application Deadlines
  5. Ranking Deadlines
  6. Obligation Deadlines
- Works with assigned WTCAC Tribal Representatives to ensure NRCS Tribal Program Delivery occurs concurrently with General Program Delivery deadlines.
- Participates in teleconferences with NRCS Tribal Liaisons to ensure a common understanding of current program tasks and/or opportunities.
- Meets regularly, at least quarterly, with assigned WTCAC Tribal Representative to provide program information updates and explore potential projects.
- Conducts all phases of Conservation Planning with assigned WTCAC Tribal Representatives in preparation for potential Program Applications.
- Executes Screening Tool, Ranking Criteria, Applications Submitting, Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool and uploads into Protracts.
- Coordinates Screening Tool, Ranking Criteria, Applications Submitting, Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool with NRCS Tribal Liaisons.
- Solicits Input from assigned WTCAC Tribal Representatives about potential interest from individual Tribes regarding their interest in participating through special program opportunities (i.e. Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative).
- Solicits input from assigned WTCAC Tribal Representatives of needed changes to existing conservation practice standards, and/or program policies to increase the efficiency and efficacy of NRCS Program Delivery; and communicates those with the NRCS State Tribal Liaison for consideration at WTCAC's Annual Technical Meeting with NRCS.
- Manages Program Contracts, and Contract Implementation, with assigned WTCAC Tribal Representatives.

### **Tribes and Tribal Representatives**

NRCS State Tribal Liaison – Chris Borden

NRCS Tribal Liaisons:

1. Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians – Gary Haughn
2. Forest County Potawatomi Community – Michael Stinebrink
3. Ho Chunk Nation – Greg Yakle
4. Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians – Ron Speirling
5. Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians – Michael Stinebrink
6. Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin – Sherrie Zenk-Reed
7. Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians – Michael Stinebrink
8. Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin – Tony Bush
9. Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians – Gary Haughn
10. St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin – Keith Zywgotiz
11. Stockbridge Munsee Indian Community – Sherrie Zenk-Reed





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

Farm  
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Agency

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## Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – December 3, 2014

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison, (608) 742-5361 ext 104, [susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov](mailto:susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov)

### OBJECTIVES THAT WOULD BENEFIT FSA'S WORK IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Our objectives would be to provide information and outreach farm programs, farm loan programs, the numerous disaster programs and risk management programs (NAP) that are available through FSA. We can provide schedules for local meetings in their areas. If they have events planned we can work with the organizers to get a FSA representative on the agenda or we can work with them to plan some specific farm program events.

### SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED (SDA) – CHANGING TO “UNDERSERVED”

Good News!!! USDA's Office of Communications (OC) will soon change how FSA refers to women, minorities and others that heretofore were called “socially disadvantaged.” Many found the title of SDA undesirable, and now it will be changed to “underserved.” This will be implemented in the near future.

### FSA FARM BILL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS IN WISCONSIN

A link has been put on the WI FSA homepage that lists all the Farm Bill Informational Meetings that are being held by FSA offices and UW-Extension throughout Wisconsin on the new Dairy Margin Protection Program and the ARCPLC for farms with historical commodity (corn, soybean, wheat, oats, etc.) bases and yields. The listing will be updated weekly as more meetings are being planned. Visit the WI FSA Homepage at [www.fsa.usda.gov/wi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wi).

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION – COMMITTEE ADVISOR APPOINTMENT

Ballots for the current County Committee election were mailed November 1 for elections being held in certain counties or portions of counties. If you received a ballot, please return by December 1. If any tribal member is interested in serving as a County Committee Advisor (paid position) to represent tribal members in your county, be sure to submit a letter to the local FSA office that you'd like to serve. This should be done by the end of January.

### FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

December Farm Loan Interest Rates: \_\_\_\_\_ % for operating/microloans/youth loans and \_\_\_\_\_ % for ownership and conservation loans. **Microloan - maximum loan amount has increased to \$50,000.**

### CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

Signup #47 for the Continuous CRP is currently underway at the FSA. Cost-share payments, upfront signing incentive payments and practice incentive payments are available during this signup. We have not heard when there may be another general signup

### FSA STATE NEWSLETTER

All FSA program information will be put out from the FSA office via electronic GovDelivery newsletters. Anyone wishing to receive the FSA newsletter and program announcements should go the WI FSA homepage at [www.fsa.usda.gov/wi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wi) and click on “Subscribe to Wisconsin FSA Email News” in the upper right hand corner of the page with their email address.





## **2015 Tribal Relations Strategic Framework**

The 2015 Tribal Relations Strategic Framework (TRSF) is a comprehensive document that will serve as a “desk guide” for conducting work with tribes. It covers the Eastern Region, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, and Northern Research Station.

The TRSF follows a logical path beginning with the scope of the program. It then guides the reader through trust responsibility, reserved rights, consultation, accountability and strategic objectives. It outlines roles and responsibilities for Forest Service line officers, staff officers and program managers.

A robust body of appendices provides the user with practical field guidelines for numerous topics. The 2015 TRSF is a completed draft, currently under review by Executive Leadership.

## **Chequamegon-Nicolet RAC**

Chequamegon RAC is still in need of additional members and is again engaging in recruitment efforts. *Thanks Katie Stariha for your application!* The forest is looking for help in making some direct contacts with folks who might be interested. Handouts and application information are provided. Appreciate any help you can provide. Application deadline is Dec. 12, 2014.

## **Tribal Partnership Guide**

The Forest Service national Office of Tribal Relations released the publication “*Start a Partnership with the USDA Forest Service or Obtain Federal Financial Assistance: A guide for Tribal Governments*” in July 2014. The intent of this guide is to provide a better understanding of how best to work in partnership with the Forest Service. A flow chart for projects and potential opportunities directs you to the right sections in the guide. Hand out guide.

## **Extension of TMR Subpart A**

The Chequamegon-Nicolet is extending the deadline of the road system study to analyze all of the forest system roads for their existing use and characteristics, need for management activities and access, benefits, environmental risks and maintenance costs. **The comment period to gather input on how you use and view roads will now end Dec. 31, 2014.**

There is a tribal interactive mapping tool where tribes can select a road segment or area of roads on the National Forest and submit a comment about why the tribe values that particular road or roads.

The tribal interactive mapping tool is only accessible to the tribal points of contact.. If the tribe desires, the comments will remain confidential. Comments will also be taken in writing. To access the site go to <http://go.usa.gov/fkN4>.

## **The Chequamegon-Nicolet is now on Facebook!**

***“Like Us”* on Facebook**



## **Fiscal Year 2015 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Wildfire Risk Reduction - Request for Competitive Proposals**

Proposals will be accepted by USFS through State Foresters, by January 30, 2015, that clearly identify the reduction of wildfire risk in coordination with their respective State's Forest Action Plan and meet one or more of the six regional action options listed below:

1. Expand the use of prescribed fire as an integral tool to meet management objectives.
2. Where possible, maintain and increase the extent of fire-dependent ecosystems and expand the use of fire as a disturbance process.
3. Mitigate "event" fuels to reduce potential fire hazard.
4. Promote, support, and carry out local Fire Adapted Communities activities undertaken by communities.
5. Carry out hazardous fuel treatments in the wildland-urban interface.
6. Promote, support, and carry out wildfire prevention programs and activities.

**Northeastern Area Tribal Colleges liaison position** to be located at College of Menominee (Keshena) to be announced on USA Jobs website in January.

## **2015 Wood Innovations Program Request for Proposals**

The US Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center has announced a competitive grant opportunity. The submission deadline is January 23, 2015. The request for proposals covers two categories, expansion of wood energy markets and expansion of wood product markets.

### **GRANT CATEGORY 1: EXPANSION OF WOOD ENERGY MARKETS**

The intent of this category is to stimulate, expand, or support wood energy markets that depend on forest residues or forest byproducts generated from all land types. Preference will be given to projects that make use of low-value wood generated from National Forest System and other forest lands with high wildfire risk.

### **GRANT CATEGORY 2: EXPANSION OF WOOD PRODUCTS MARKETS**

The intent of this category is to promote markets that create or expand the demand for non-energy based wood products. Preference will be given to projects that support commercial building markets or other markets that use existing or innovative wood products. Wood energy projects will not be considered under this category because those projects can apply for funding under Grant Category 1.

Complete details on this grant opportunity and directions for applying are located at:

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/wip/2015-rfp.shtm>

Any questions about applying for this grant they can be directed to Lew McCreery. His email is [lmcreery@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmcreery@fs.fed.us) and his phone number is (304) 285-1538.





USDA Forest Service

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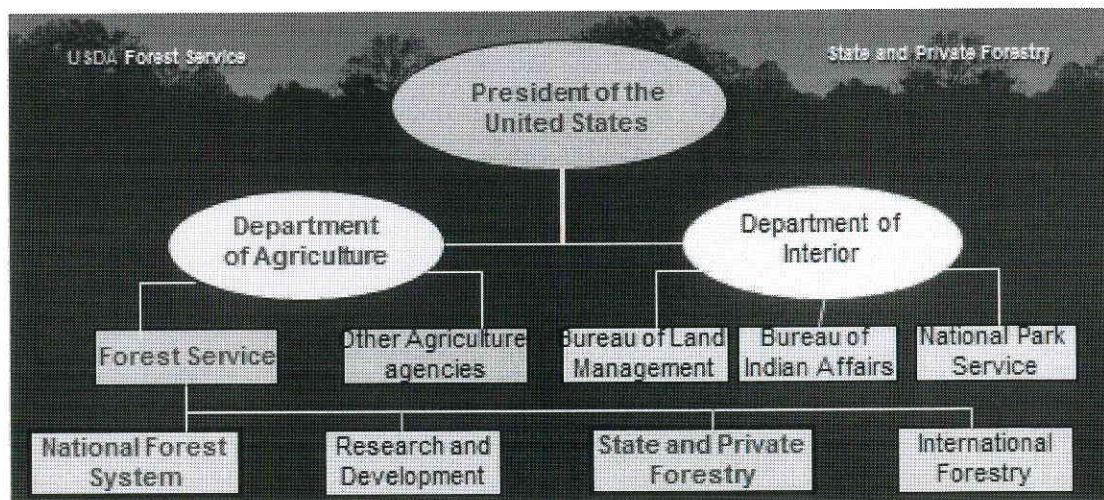
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# 2015 USDA Forest Service Contacts



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Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (National Forest System)			
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Mary Rasmussen Eagle River, WI	Tribal Liaison	906-202-2762	<a href="mailto:mrasmussen@fs.fed.us">mrasmussen@fs.fed.us</a>

Updated December 2014



# Start a Partnership With the USDA Forest Service or Obtain Federal Financial Assistance

A Guide for Tribal Governments



**Cover photos: A Navajo traditional home, or hogan, being built with a Forest Service Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grant. Photo by Jan Willem Jansens. A Mescalero Apache member thins ponderosa pine with Forest Health Protection program funding and Bureau of Indian Affairs coordination. Over 20 years, more than 30,000 acres of dwarf-mistletoe-infested forest have been treated on the Indian tribe's reservation this way. Photo by William Hornsby.**

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# Part 1

## Introduction

The Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) for the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, prepared this booklet to provide you, our tribal counterparts, with a better understanding of how best to work in partnership with the Forest Service. The Federal Government's trust responsibilities and treaty obligations require the Forest Service to engage with Indian tribes in timely and meaningful consultation on policies that have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes (USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002). Consultation alone, however, is insufficient. In addition to consultation, coordination and collaboration lead to information exchange, common understanding, informed decisionmaking, and mutual benefit.

OTR and regional tribal relations program managers (TRPMs) deliver the Forest Service Tribal Relations Program nationally. In every region, station, and area, regional TRPMs advise regional leadership and support integration of tribal relations across program areas. TRPMs collaborate with other Federal agencies, tribal governments, intertribal entities, and others to develop and implement programs and leverage funds and expertise for programs or projects. Indian tribes not only work with OTR staff and TRPMs in all nine Forest Service regions, but they also collaborate with the Forest Service Deputy Areas, including Research and Development, State and Private Forestry, the National Forest System, and Business Operations.

Throughout this document, the OTR uses the term "Indian tribe" to designate federally recognized tribes. Where State-recognized tribes are relevant or eligible for a specific program, they are specifically included in this document. This is because the Forest Service recognizes its trust responsibility toward Indian tribes, defined as "any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or other community, the name of which is included on a list published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (Title 25 of the United States Code, Section 479a-1)" (USDA Forest Service [In press a]). The Forest Service believes that it can partially fulfill this responsibility by promoting effective intergovernmental coordination, including building multifaceted partnerships that help meet the needs and desires of tribal communities. Therefore, the OTR is committed to increasing opportunities for Indian tribes to benefit from Forest Service programs and to help the Forest Service benefit from tribal input, especially regarding traditional knowledge. The OTR seeks to partner in support of tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination. The OTR is strengthening its relationships with internal and external partners, working closely with other staffs to ensure tribal concerns and opportunities are addressed in new policies.

The Forest Service OTR thanks everyone, including individuals from Indian tribes and Forest Service staffs, who helped produce this user-friendly guide, and hope it will encourage closer collaboration.

## I. Foundation

When the Forest Service—or any Federal entity—acquires goods or services for the direct benefit of the agency, it is called procurement (FGCA 1977). When the Forest Service instead provides goods or money to support programs with a public purpose, it is called Federal Financial Assistance (FFA) (FGCA 1977). *This guide deals only with FFA awards and partnerships, as will be explained in the following section.*

### A. Federal Financial Assistance

Congress must enact Forest Service authority to establish the award, and set aside money for that purpose (FGCA 1977). A FFA award comes in two forms: a grant and a cooperative agreement. A grant is appropriate where the Forest Service is not substantially involved—when Forest Service personnel or their representatives will not be substantially involved with the cooperator in carrying out the award agreement (USDA Forest Service 2009b). On the other hand, a cooperative agreement is appropriate when the Forest Service is substantially involved with the cooperator in carrying out the award agreement. Indian tribes should coordinate at the local level to learn of most Federal financial assistance opportunities. A few opportunities are formally announced on <http://www.grants.gov>, where applicants must apply and compete for the award. Federal Financial Assistance Awards have a maximum 5-year period of performance. Every FFA award must also have a legal instrument (document) defining the parties' rights, duties, entitlements and liabilities.

VS.

### B. Partnerships

Some types of agreements that the Forest Service can enter into with Indian tribes are not considered FFA award transactions. The Forest Service calls these other types of agreements partnership agreements (USDA Forest Service 2009e). Within the Forest Service, partnerships are often broadly defined as voluntary relationships between people, organizations, agencies, and communities that work together and share interests (USDA Forest Service [In Press b]). Selections of partnerships are made at the forest/unit/station level based on available resources and community/mission needs.

Partnerships share many of the same requirements as FFA awards. Partnerships all require the following elements:

1. Legal authority.
2. Appropriated funds can be used for the intended purpose.
3. Mutual interest and mutual nonmonetary benefit.
4. A state of participating or sharing (active involvement by both parties).
5. No conflict of interest.
6. Agreement must be executed before costs are incurred or work commences.
7. A specific relationship between the parties (written agreement).
8. Voluntary participation (USDA Forest Service 2003).

Whenever an agreement requires a cost “match,” the cooperator can contribute to the project “in kind,” or in nonmonetary ways (USDA Forest Service 2009e). For example, the contribution can be salary, travel, facility space, copying, or equipment. Depending on the type of agreement, the Forest Service will be able to pay the cooperator a portion in advance, or the cooperator will have to pay up front and the Forest Service will reimburse it upon project completion. In all cost-sharing agreements, the Forest Service and the cooperator must share mutual interest and benefit in the same qualitative way from the agreement (USDA Forest Service 2009e). In some research agreements, only mutual interest is required (USDA Forest Service 2009e).

Negotiating terms of an agreement:

- Maintaining confidentiality within the agreement: Indian tribes that want to maintain the confidentiality of their project’s findings/research collaboration, etc., may include language to that effect in the agreement. One way to do this is through demonstrating that the information is exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act, as public access to culturally sensitive data and information on Indian tribes might be explicitly limited by the Cultural and Heritage Cooperation Authority’s Prohibition on Disclosure (25 U.S.C. Chapter 32A, §3056). Indian tribes should be aware that it may not be possible to bar release of information to the public because of the Freedom of Information Act, however.
- Maintaining the ability to hire tribal employees under the agreement: Indian tribes are excepted by the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 under certain circumstances because Indian preference is a political preference, not a racial preference (*Morton v. Mancari*). To be specific, Indian tribes can give preference in hiring Indians if the business or enterprise is on or near an Indian reservation, the hired Indian employee lives on or near a reservation, and the employer’s preference for hiring Indians is publicly announced (U.S. EEOC 1988). Thus, Indian tribes can legally pass Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances that allow tribes to carry out hiring and contracting/granting practices to the advantage of tribal members on reservations (USDA Forest Service 2013d). In addition, the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Act requires the inclusion of Indian preference provisions in certain Federal contracts and grants (ISDEAA 1975).

For general information on Federal Financial Assistance and partnerships, please refer to the following sources:

1. Forest Service Grants & Agreements: <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/aqm/grants>.
2. Forest Service Partnership Resource Center: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/prc>.



**The Leech Lake Wildland Fire Crew has conducted projects with Hazardous Fuels Treatment, Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels funds.**

**Photo credit: Keith Karnes-Leech Lake Wildland Fire Crew.**

*Note:* If your Indian tribe is not seeking funding or a partnership, here are other opportunities to work with the Forest Service:

1. If you would like to access, develop, use, or occupy National Forest System lands (such as a lease, permit, term permit, or easement), you will need a Special Use Authorization. For more information, consult your line officer, district ranger, or special use program manager on your local national forest. You can also look up guidelines and the types of uses available at Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2710 ([http://www.fs.fed.us/specialuses/documents/fsm\\_2710\\_feb02.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/specialuses/documents/fsm_2710_feb02.pdf)) and FSM 2720 ([www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsm/2700/wo\\_2720.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsm/2700/wo_2720.doc)). See also <http://www.fs.fed.us/specialuses/>.
2. If you would like to obtain excess Federal property/equipment, then you should consult your State forester. The Forest Service Federal Excess Property Program loans property to State foresters and State Cooperators for firefighting purposes: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/>.
3. If you would like to gather traditional cultural products for noncommercial purposes, consult your local tribal relations program manager to find out your region's policy. Generally, the Cultural and Heritage Cooperative Authority allows the Secretary of Agriculture to provide forest products for traditional and cultural purposes free of charge to Indian tribes (25 U.S.C. Chapter 32A, §3055).

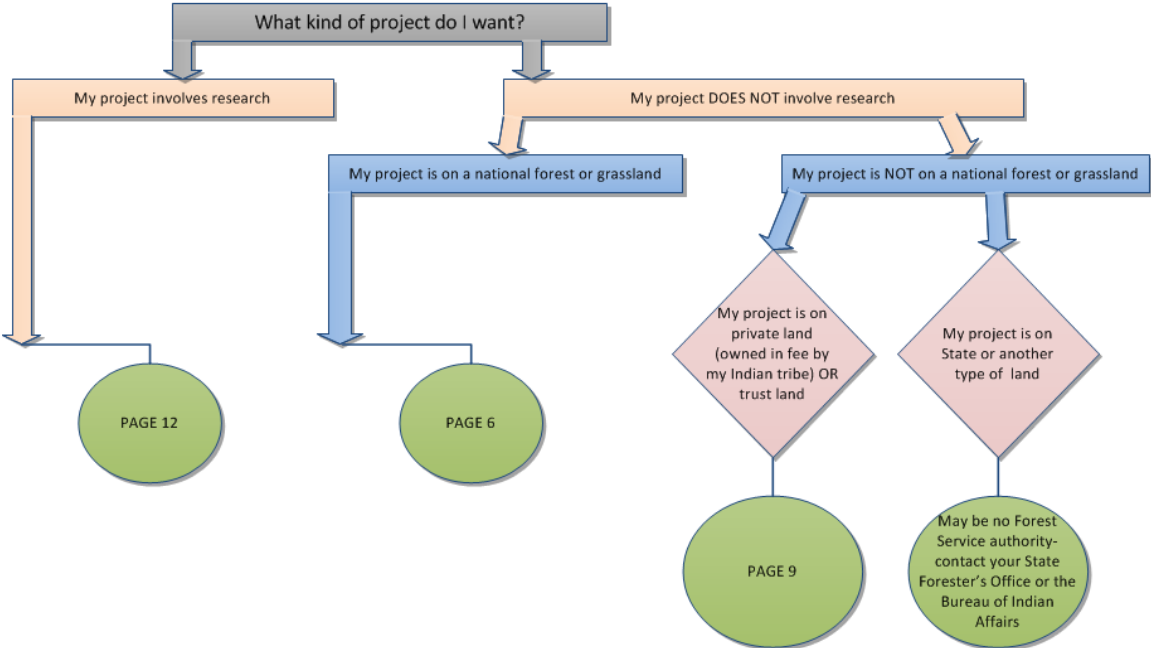
## II. Potential Opportunities

Indian tribes may be eligible for Federal Financial Assistance (FFA) and partner with the Forest Service in many ways. The Forest Service recognizes that because Indian tribes are sovereign nations, the Forest Service-tribal relationship is unique, and there are many programs and potential partnerships that Indian tribes may apply for or negotiate directly. At the same time, Indian tribes are not always directly eligible for FFA programs—in those cases, Indian tribes may need to contact the Forest Service’s national program lead, apply to their State forester, or go through their local government for Forest Service funds.

### A. Flow Chart

Use the flow chart to direct you to the right sections in the following list of programs.

**Guide Flowchart**



## B. Specific Programs

Depending upon the land type and the Indian tribes' project goal, the Indian tribe may select from a variety of specific programs (see previous flow chart and Part 2).

More examples are also available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/partnerships.shtml>.

### **National Forest System (NFS) Lands**

For each of the following types of project or action desired on NFS lands, a list of possible programs is provided. Descriptions of programs that only apply to one specific project or action are included in this section. See Part 2 for a detailed description of each program that applies to more than one type of project or action.

#### *Economic/Job Development*

- Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
- Economic Action Program
- Participating Agreement
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act

#### *Environmental Education*

- Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
- Participating Agreement

#### *Establishing a Formal Forest Service-Tribal Relationship*

- Memorandum of Understanding

#### *Fighting Pollution*

- Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
- Participating Agreement

#### *Fire Prevention and Firefighting*

- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement
- Joint Fire Science Program
- Hazardous Fuels Treatment, Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Funds
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act
- Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreement Authority (Wyden Amendment)

### *Forest Restoration/Protection*

- Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- Participating Agreement
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act
- Stewardship Agreements and Stewardship Contracts
- Tribal Forest Protection Act

### *Law Enforcement*

- Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement

### *Tribal Heritage*

- Protecting Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

When the Forest Service proposes to take an action that has the potential to affect historic properties, the Forest Service must give State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings and make a good faith effort in determining whether the undertaking will adversely affect those historic properties. Agency officials must consult with any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking. This requirement applies regardless of the location of the historic property. On national forest lands, however, Indian tribes can have additional input in determining National Register eligibility of a cultural resource, adverse impact, or mitigating the impact through treatments, in several ways (NHPA 1966, Protection of Historic Properties 2004):

- Memorandum of Agreement
- Programmatic Agreement
- Protocols
- Repatriation and Reburial of Human Remains and Cultural Items
- Heritage Surveys/Crew Jobs
  - Participating Agreements
- Volunteer Work on Traditional Lands

Tribal members seeking to travel and work on traditional homelands, which are now national forests, and volunteer on the forest may do so through several ways:

- Volunteer Agreement
- “Passport in Time” (PIT) Program
- Heritage Tourism
  - Participating Agreements
  - Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
  - Economic Action Program

*Note:* The implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act also authorize Federal agencies to expend funds for historic preservation activities, which could include working with Indian tribes. Agency officials are encouraged to facilitate tribal participation in agency decision making. Although no legal requirements exist to compensate for consultation or other involvement in Forest Service activities, the Forest Service may elect to provide compensation to Indian tribes or tribal representatives for extraordinary situations and specialized expertise. For example, the agency may compensate individuals and groups, including Indian tribes, if the agency is requesting information for which it would normally pay, such as information obtained through consultants about site-specific archeological or ethnographic data (USDA Forest Service 2012a, USDA Forest Service 2008b).

### *Watershed Restoration*

- Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- Participating Agreement
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act
- Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreement Authority (Wyden Amendment)

### *Workshops/Conferences*

- Participating Agreement



## **Private Land (Land Owned in Fee by the Indian tribe) and Trust Land**

For each of the following types of project or action desired on private lands, a list of possible programs is provided. Descriptions of programs that only apply to one specific project or action are included in this section. See Part 2 for a detailed description of each program that applies to more than one type of project or action. Note that, unless otherwise noted, all programs in this section are presumed to apply to both private and trust land.

### *Economic/Job Development*

- Economic Action Program
- Rural Development, Forestry, and Communities
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act
- Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC)

### *Establishing a Formal Forest Service-Tribal Relationship*

- Memorandum of Understanding

### *Fire Prevention and Firefighting*

- Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement
- Cooperative Fire Protection: State Fire Assistance Program
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
- Hazardous Fuels Treatment, Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Funds
- Joint Fire Science Program
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program
- Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreement Authority (Wyden Amendment)

### *Forest Products Production*

- Forest Legacy Program
- Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC)
- Woody Biomass Utilization Assistance Program

### *Forest Protection/Restoration*

- Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program
- Tribal Forest Protection Act
- Forest Stewardship Program
- Forest Legacy Program

- Forest Health Protection
- Woody Biomass Utilization Assistance Program
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act
- International Forestry Programs
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

### *Tribal Heritage*

- Protecting Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

When the Forest Service proposes to take an action that has the potential to affect historic properties, the Forest Service must give State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings and make a good faith effort in determining whether the undertaking will adversely affect those historic properties. Agency officials must consult with any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking. This requirement applies regardless of the location of the historic property. On national forest lands, however, Indian tribes can have additional input in determining National Register eligibility of a cultural resource, adverse impact, or mitigating the impact through treatments, in several ways (NHPA 1966, Protection of Historic Properties 2004):

- Memorandum of Agreement
- Programmatic Agreement
- Protocols
- Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
- Economic Action Program

### *Urban Forestry*

- Urban and Community Forestry Program

### *Watershed Restoration*

- Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreement Authority (Wyden Amendment)
- Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act
- The Forest Legacy Program
- International Forestry Programs



**A Greenville Indian Rancheria Fire Crewmember on a collaborative underburn of the Maidu Stewardship Project, which emphasizes unique contracting and land management mechanisms that integrate traditional stewardship on culturally important Forest Service lands.**  
Photo credit: Daniel Manning.

## Research

For each of the following types of project or action desired on research activities, a list of possible programs is provided. See Part 2 for a detailed description of each program that applies to more than one type of project or action.

### *Establishing a Formal Forest Service-Tribal Relationship*

- Memorandum of Understanding

### *Joint Research*

- Research Cost-Reimbursable Agreement
- Research Joint Venture Agreement
- Federal Financial Assistance for Research
- Joint Fire Science Program

### *Tech Transfer/Exchange*

- Cooperative Research and Development Agreement
- Technology Transfer Agreement

### *Workshop/Conference/Publication*

- Challenge Cost-Share Agreement Forest Products Production
- Community Wood Energy Program
- Woody Biomass Utilization Assistance Program

### III. Steps in Applying for Federal Financial Assistance

#### A. The Application Process

There are generally two types of Federal Financial Assistance (FFA)—grants and cooperative agreements. The Forest Service lists a few of its competitive opportunities at <http://www.grants.gov>. Not many opportunities exist, however, and most are centered on biomass and urban and community forestry. FFA is often given through cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements are noncompetitive or unsolicited, meaning that the Forest Service allocates funds to the national forest/State forester, or a potential applicant must contact the Forest Service directly to negotiate the agreements.

Before seeking an FFA opportunity:

1. Create a user account at SAM (System for Award Management) <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/> to get a DUNS number.
2. Register with and maintain current enrollment in the Central Contracting Registry (CCR): <http://www.ccr.gov/>.
3. Register at [http://grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

See the different processes in the following tables for competitive and noncompetitive Federal Financial Assistance.

<b><i>Noncompetitive</i></b> (Most FFA opportunities)	
<b>1. Contact your regional tribal relations program manager (TRPM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He/she should be able to put you in touch with appropriate Forest Service program officer to negotiate possible FFA opportunities at the regional level. Find a list of TRPMs at <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/regional/index.shtml">http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/regional/index.shtml</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Contact your State forester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After or in addition to contacting the TRPM, contact your State forester to help you find the appropriate Forest Service program officer to negotiate possible FFS opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Prepare a narrative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrative describes the proposed work, why it is needed, what will be done, by whom, and when (Erkert 2013).</li> <li>• Find a sample narrative template at <a href="http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fap/narrativetemplates.shtml">http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fap/narrativetemplates.shtml</a></li> </ul>

<p><b>4. Prepare a budget</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break down expected costs by cost category, including matching funds (Erkert 2013).</li> <li>• Use a budget worksheet:  <a href="http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf">http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Work with your financial/budget department to complete the required forms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget forms:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i.</i> SF-424: <a href="http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/application_for.doc">http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/application_for.doc</a></li> <li><i>ii.</i> SF-424A: <a href="http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424A.rtf">http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424A.rtf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other forms:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i.</i> SF-424B Assurances: <a href="http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424B_Assurances.pdf">http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424B_Assurances.pdf</a></li> <li><i>ii.</i> AD-1047 Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension: <a href="http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF">http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF</a></li> <li><i>iii.</i> AD-1049 Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace: <a href="http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf">http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF">http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF</a></li> <li><i>iv.</i> AD-1049 Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace: <a href="http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf">http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf</a></li> <li><i>v.</i> SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if award is more than \$100,000): <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sflllin.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sflllin.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Submit the application</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Forest Service program officer to submit your application, and then follow up with that person.</li> </ul>

<h2 style="margin: 0;"><b>Competitive</b></h2> <p style="margin: 0;">(Some Federal financial opportunities, including in biomass and urban and community forestry)</p>	
<p><b>1. Find a Request For Proposals (RFP) online at <a href="http://grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp">http://grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp</a></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” tab on the left side of the page.</li> <li>• Search by keyword, category, agency, etc.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: All currently open competitive grant opportunities are listed here. You may create alerts with keywords so that you will be notified of relevant upcoming opportunities.</p>
<p><b>2. Download the application</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After you click on a search result (FFA opportunity), the page will open showing the synopsis, or brief summary. For more information, click on the “Full Announcement” tab on top.</li> <li>• To apply for the grant, click on the “Application” tab on the top right.</li> <li>• Make sure you have the latest version of Adobe Reader (the “Application” page helps you with this).</li> <li>• Download the instructions and application on the bottom of the page.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3. Complete the application</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the instructions on the cover page carefully.</li><li>• Standard Proposal components:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>i.</i> Table of Contents</li><li><i>ii.</i> Abstract or Executive Summary</li><li><i>iii.</i> Project Narrative<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Introduction</li><li>➤ Problem Statement</li><li>➤ Goals and Objectives</li><li>➤ Technical</li></ul></li><li><i>iv.</i> Approach/Methodology/Project Design<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Management Plan/Key Personnel</li><li>➤ Evaluation</li><li>➤ Sustainability</li><li>➤ Dissemination of Results</li></ul></li><li><i>v.</i> References</li><li><i>vi.</i> Appendixes</li><li><i>vii.</i> Budget/Narrative<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A Budget Worksheet to help you: <a href="http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf">http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf</a></li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Work with your financial or budget department to complete the required forms, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>i.</i> SF-424: <a href="http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/application_for.doc">http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/application_for.doc</a>;</li><li><i>ii.</i> SF-424A: <a href="http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424A.rtf">http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424A.rtf</a></li><li><i>iii.</i> SF-424B Assurances: <a href="http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424B_Assurances.pdf">http://na.fs.fed.us/fap/forms/SF-424B_Assurances.pdf</a></li><li><i>iv.</i> SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sflllin.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sflllin.pdf</a></li><li><i>v.</i> AD-1047 Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension: <a href="http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF">http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF</a></li><li><i>vi.</i> AD-1049 Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace: <a href="http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf">http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF">http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/forms/ead/AD1047.PDF</a></li><li><i>vii.</i> AD-1049 Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace: <a href="http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf">http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/forms/ad1049.pdf</a></li></ul></li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you need help completing the application, contact the point of contact listed on the cover page, or contact grants.gov for any technical issues (1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov).</li></ul>
<b>4. Submit the application</b>	
<b>5. Wait for a response, your application will be reviewed either by a Forest Service program officer or a group (peer reviewers)</b>	

## B. The Post-Award Process

After any type of FFA award is given, there is a follow-up process, including the following:

### Payments

- Submit the SF-270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/grants/sf270.pdf>.

### Modifications

These can include requests for extensions, shifts in the budget, and changes in the scope of work (Erkert 2013).

- Requests should be made in writing a minimum of 30 days before implementation of the requested change (Erkert 2013).

### Monitoring

Your award agreement will specify how often you have to submit reports.

- Submit the SF-425 Federal Financial Report:  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/grants/approved\\_forms/SF-425.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/grants/approved_forms/SF-425.pdf)
- If the award is more than \$100,000, submit a Program Performance Report (SF-PPR form):  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5090284>

## The Closeout Process

Final billing and reports are due within 90 days of the expiration date of the award and must include:

- A final SF-270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/grants/sf270.pdf>
- A Final Program Performance Report (SF-PPR or alternate format for awards less than \$100,000): <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5090284>

## IV. Steps in Creating a Partnership

### Partnership Process

Remember that if it's not Federal financial assistance, then it's likely a partnership. Selections of partnerships are made at the forest-/unit-/station-level based on available resources and community/mission needs. Partnerships may begin informally—casually initiated through questions and responses. Others start formally through a request to join a new or existing project. Some partners come forward with a project in mind. Some partners continue informally, participating from the sidelines or as intermediaries (USDA Forest Service 2013b). Indian tribes can learn about opportunities at consultation meetings as well

#### A. Pre-Award—The Project Proposal

##### *Identify the Issue/Goal of Your Partnership With the Forest Service*

What is the project's purpose? Is there a deliverable?

Who will benefit?

What kind of match (money or in-kind) are you prepared to contribute?

##### *Contact Other Indian Tribes or Groups Already Doing the Kind of Project You Are Interested In*

See if you can partner or get some ideas from them.

##### *Contact Your Local Tribal Relations Program Manager (TRPM) To Identify Potential Opportunities*

Find a list of TRPMs at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/regional/index.shtml>.

##### *If the Project Is on National Forest System Lands, Contact Your District Ranger*

##### *Work With Forest Service Staff (Including a Project Manager) To Develop Terms of the Agreement*

- Maintaining confidentiality within the agreement: Indian tribes that want to maintain the confidentiality of their project's findings/research, collaboration, etc., may include language to that effect in the agreement. One way to do this is through demonstrating that the information is exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act, as public access to culturally sensitive data and information on Indian tribes might be explicitly limited by the Cultural and Heritage Cooperation Authority's Prohibition on Disclosure (25 U.S.C. Chapter 32A, § 3056). Indian tribes should be aware that it may not be possible to bar release of information to the public because of the Freedom of Information Act, however.
- Maintaining the ability to hire tribal employees under the agreement: Indian tribes are excepted by the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

under certain circumstances because Indian preference is a political preference, not a racial preference (*Morton v. Mancari*). To be specific, Indian tribes can give preference in hiring Indians if the business or enterprise is on or near an Indian reservation, the hired Indian employee lives on or near a reservation, and the employer's preference for hiring Indians is publicly announced (U.S. EEOC 1988). Thus, Indian tribes can legally pass Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances that allow tribes to carry out hiring and contracting/granting practices to the advantage of tribal members on reservations (USDA Forest Service 2013d). In addition, the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Act requires the inclusion of Indian preference provisions in certain Federal contracts and grants (ISDEAA 1975)

### *Your Project Manager Will Guide Formalization of the Agreement*

## B. Award—Complying With Procedures

1. Sign and return the last three pages of your award letter.
2. Perform according to agreement terms.
3. Submit project invoices and reports according to agreement terms to your project manager.

## C. Post-Award/Project Completion

1. Ensure that your project manager has all appropriate progress and financial reports along the way and that you have completed your obligations under the agreement, as your project manager will have to close out the agreement within 90 days of project completion.
2. Understand what program performance reports, including financial report, are required. At minimum, the reports are submitted annually, and at maximum, nine reports will be submitted.



**A Navajo traditional home, or hogan, being built with a Forest Service Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grant.**

**Photo credit: Jan Willem Jansens.**

## Part 2

### I. Programs

#### Challenge Cost-Share Agreement

Using Challenge Cost-Share Agreements, the Forest Service cooperates with other parties to develop, plan, and implement projects of mutual interest and benefit to all parties and enhance Forest Service activities. Parties may include public and private agencies, Indian tribes, organizations, institutions, and individuals. It requires at least a 20-percent cost match and does not require competition (Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 1992).

*Example: A national forest collaborated with an Indian tribe to complete a floodplain restoration and instream enhancement project. The goals included restoring habitat for endangered fish, and to meet the Indian tribe's First Food mission. The Indian tribe contributed about 70 percent of the project costs, including the construction work on the national forest lands, and much of the Forest Service salary needed for successful implementation.*

*Example: A tribal college and the Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory entered into a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement to host tribal high school students at a Student Leadership Seminar held at the tribal college, another university, and the Forest Products Lab. It exposed the students to sustainable development, the environment, and natural resource management.*

#### Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The program's fund may be used to pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System lands. No more than \$4 million may be spent from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund in any single fiscal year on any single project. (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, USDA Forest Service 2013a).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/>

*Example: In 2010, an Indian tribe, a national forest, a State Department of Natural Resources, and a State Department of Fish and Wildlife won funds to enhance the resilience and sustainability of forests by treating more than 150,000 acres over 10 years with thinning, trail management, and prescribed fire.*

#### Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

The Forest Service uses the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program to promote healthy watersheds and reduce the threat of large, high-intensity wildfires, insect infestation, and disease in New Mexico forests. Eligible entities include local and tribal governments, educational institutions, landowners, conservation organizations, and other interested public and private

entities (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 2000).

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r3/workingtogether/grants/?cid=fsbdev3\\_022022](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r3/workingtogether/grants/?cid=fsbdev3_022022)

*Example: A tribal school board was awarded money to develop and train tribal members on forest restoration practices. The school board then combined this with a Participating Agreement with a national forest to provide jobs for the newly trained youth.*

## Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

Through the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program), the Forest Service is authorized to provide financial assistance grants to local governments, Indian tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations (including land trusts) to establish community forests that provide defined benefits. Note that financial assistance cannot be used to establish a community forest on tribal trust land, thus only land owned by the Indian tribe is eligible. Community benefits include economic benefits resulting from sustainable forest management, recreational benefits secured with public access, natural resource protection, forest-based experiential learning, and replicable models of effective forest stewardship. The program requires a 50 percent non-Federal match. There are several requirements for land acquired through the program, including public access and managing the land according to a Community Forest Plan, which is developed with community involvement (2008 Farm Bill, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 2011).

*Example: The Forest Service gave an Indian tribe \$300,000—which the Indian tribe matched—to enable it to purchase forest land on a culturally significant mountain. The Community Forest on the Mountain will be used as a demonstration forest for education, enhancing artisan woodland resources traditionally used by the Indian tribe and restoring holly trees. The Indian tribe will ensure public access to the forest (a CFP requirement) by building scenic trails. Ultimately, the money helps the Indian tribe to protect its natural and cultural heritage.*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>

## Community Wood Energy Program

The Forest Service Forest Products Lab provides grants/assistance to develop community wood energy plans and provides competitive grants to acquire, upgrade, or demonstrate community wood energy systems. Indian tribes and State-designated tribes are eligible (2008 Farm Bill; Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 2008a).

<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>

## Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement

The Forest Service uses Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements to partner with parties to provide wildland fire protection, to perform approved severity activities, and to respond to presidentially declared emergencies or disasters under Federal Emergency Management Agency authorities (USDA Forest Service 2003). The activities can occur on private land within or near National Forest System (NFS) land or can be performed for the benefit of those who occupy or use national forests or other lands administered by the Forest Service. Alternatively, the Forest

Service can enter into reciprocal agreements with any fire organization maintaining fire protection facilities in the vicinity of NFS lands (Reciprocal Fire Protection Act 1955, Granger-Thye Act 1950, Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act 1975, Cooperative Funds Act 1914, USDA Forest Service 2009c).

## Cooperative Fire Protection: State Fire Assistance Program

This program supports State forestry agencies with responsibility for wildfire suppression by providing financial and technical support for equipment, training, and creation of fire-adapted communities through hazardous fuels reduction and planning. Projects target firefighter safety, fire planning, firefighter training, increased initial attack capability, and mobilization readiness for the efficient suppression and prevention of wildfires on non-Federal forest lands and other non-Federal lands. All cooperators must provide a 1:1 cost-share match. *Indian tribes must apply through the local/State government* (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978, USDA Forest Service 2011).

## Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement

Used when the Forest Service partners with a State or political subdivision (local governments) to enforce State or local laws or ordinances on lands within or part of any unit of the National Forest System (NFS). There may be cross-jurisdictional opportunities, both Federal and State, to enable tribal police officers to work on NFS lands. *Indian tribes should contact their local law enforcement office.*

## Cooperative Research and Development Agreement

Through this agreement, the Forest Service provides personnel, services, facilities, equipment, or other resources with or without reimbursement from the cooperator to support scientific research aimed at developing commercially viable products or services. The agreement should be between one or more Federal laboratories and one or more non-Federal parties (Federal Technology Transfer Act 1986, USDA Forest Service 2009e).

## Economic Action Program

This program provides technical assistance to rural communities in or near National Forest System lands (and dependent on the forest) for heritage tourism and historic preservation. \*Currently unfunded (USDA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations 2007, National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Economic Diversification Act 1990).

## Federal Financial Assistance for Research

The Secretary of Agriculture may conduct, support, and cooperate in investigations, experiments, tests, and other activities deemed necessary to obtain, analyze, develop, demonstrate, and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing, and using forest and rangeland resources in rural, suburban, and urban areas. The Secretary may cooperate with Indian tribes and is authorized to make competitive grants that will further research activities (Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act 1978).

## Forest Health Protection

The Forest Health Protection program protects non-Federal forest and tree resources from damaging forest insects, disease-causing agents, and invasive plants; develops and improves forest health protection technologies; and monitors the health of our Nation's forests. Technical assistance, formula grants, and project grants are available. For technical assistance on private or tribal trust land, Indian tribes can approach the Forest Service directly. The Forest Service can also conduct detection surveys and biological evaluations of forest insect and disease outbreaks on U.S. Department of the Interior and tribal trust lands.

Indian tribes owning private land may apply for financial assistance through the State forester. Indian tribes desiring financial assistance for trust lands, however, should approach the regional Forest Service Forest Health Staff and the Bureau of Indian Affairs forester to submit a proposal to the Forest Health Headquarters in Washington, DC. By September 15 of each year, the Forest Service sends out a request for these proposals for forest insect and disease prevention and suppression projects in the subsequent fiscal year. Indian tribes are limited to the cost of conducting suppression and eradication projects (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978, 1990 Farm Bill, USDA Forest Service 2009a, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 1990a).

*Example: In 2012, an Indian tribe received \$30,000 to conduct sanitation thinning to protect against the Mountain Pine Beetle on trust land. A tribal fire management thinning crew worked on the reservation, primarily to preserve native vegetation in a culturally important area.*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/>

## Forest Legacy Program

This program provides grants to States to protect forests with the focus on working forests—providing forest products and resource-based jobs, protecting air and water quality, providing recreational opportunities, and protecting important fish and wildlife habitat, including those for threatened or endangered species. Lands are protected through conservation easements (65 percent of all projects) and fee-simple purchases (35 percent of all projects). Projects are selected through a two-step competitive process resulting in high-quality projects that are supported locally and are nationally significant. Through the Forest Action Plans (Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategies), the States identify priority areas within the State to target Forest Legacy Program funds. *Indian tribes must apply through their State forester* (USDA Forest Service 2013b).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

## Forest Stewardship Program

These project grants help private forest landowners and individuals develop plans for managing non-Federal forest land. Note that projects cannot be conducted on tribal trust lands, thus only land owned by the Indian tribe is eligible. The Forest Service offers assistance, primarily through State agencies, to help protect and improve soil, water, range, aesthetics, recreation, timber, and fish and wildlife resources. It requires parties to share 50 percent of the costs. State forestry or equivalent State agencies, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and municipalities are eligible. *Indian tribes must apply through their State forester or contact the Forest Service's national program lead* (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978, 1990 Farm Bill, Farm Security and



Rural Investment Act 2002, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 1990b, USDA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations 2007).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.shtml>

## Hazardous Fuels Treatment, Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Funds

### National Forest System Lands

The Forest Service may use contracts or enter into cooperative agreements for hazardous fuels reduction, and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuel reduction activities on Federal lands. These activities should focus on protecting lands identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) or equivalent (Consolidated Appropriations Act 2012).

### Private or Trust Lands

The Forest Service may use up to \$15 million to enter into cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels reduction and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuel reduction activities on non-Federal lands adjacent to Federal lands. The funds can be used to protect communities where planned hazard reduction activities on National Forest System lands have the potential to place such communities at risk. Grants should be planned and implemented to complement hazardous fuel reduction on Forest Service lands in high-priority areas such as those identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent. National forests are to coordinate hazardous fuel reduction projects with State, tribal, and local partners whenever possible and can use all authorities available (the Forest Service often uses the Wyden authority) (Consolidated Appropriations Act 2012, USDA Forest Service 2013c).

*Example: An Indian tribe's Natural Resource Department received these funds to reduce hazardous fuels on its reservation, located in a high-risk wildland urban interface area adjacent to a national forest. The project sought to improve forest health, support the reservation's Community Wildfire Protection Plan, improve conditions for prescribed burns, and educate about fuel reduction projects.*

## International Forestry Programs

The Forest Service's Office of International Programs works to address climate change, conserve and protect critical global forest environments and resources, and improve the lives of forest-dependent peoples. This is accomplished primarily through direct, technical cooperation between Forest Service experts and their counterparts, as well as through grants and cooperative agreements with nonprofit and multilateral organizations, including Indian tribes and other individuals, organizations, institutions, and governments engaged in forest conservation and management. These agreements address specific issues including—but not limited to—invasive species mitigation, migratory species conservation, legal trade in forest products, and the impact of climate change on forests. The program must contribute to the goals and objectives of a specific work plan between the Office of International Programs and U.S. Agency for International Development or the State Department. Grants are limited to 5 years (International

Forestry Cooperation Act 1990, USDA Forest Service 2013e, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 1990c).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/global>

## Joint Fire Science Program

Congress created the Joint Fire Science Program to provide scientific support and tools to address wildland fuels issues (Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act 1998). The program is run by six Government agencies, including the Forest Service and five U.S. Department of the Interior agencies (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey). It focuses on wildlands administered by the partner agencies and other federally administered lands. The program's agencies collaborate with private, nonprofit organizations and tribal, State, county, and local governments (Joint Fire Science Program 2002).

<http://www.firescience.gov/>

*Example: The program provided the Forest Service funding to work with tribal colleges to study Traditional Ecological Knowledge of fire. Specifically, the colleges will conduct case studies on cultural resilience in fire-adapted ecosystems, and assess social vulnerability.*

## Memorandum of Agreement

Resolution of adverse effect(s) to historic properties through specific treatments must be documented in a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement between the Forest Service and the State Historic Preservation Officer, and, if appropriate, include the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Indian tribes, and other interested parties (USDA Forest Service 2008b).

## Memorandum of Understanding

Enables the Forest Service to formalize a relationship or coordinate its activities with other parties for mutual benefit, but each party directs its own activities and uses its own resources. It cannot be used to obligate or fund projects. Each Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must contain an expiration date of no more than 5 years from the date of execution. MOUs are useful for government-to-government relationships (USDA Forest Service 2009d).

*Example: The Forest Service signed an MOU with a few Indian tribes recognizing their government-to-government relationship and to establish standards by which the Forest Service and the Indian tribes would act consistently across National Forest System lands.*



**A Lac du Flambeau tribal member cuts a tree marked for firewood on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest as a result of a revised Memorandum of Understanding. Photo credit: Mary K. Rasmussen.**

## Participating Agreement

Through Participating Agreements (PAs), the Forest Service may enter into cooperatively performed projects of mutual interest and benefit with other parties (Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act 1975, USDA Forest Service 2009e). Under a PA, the Forest Service is authorized to advance funding to the partner in a prorated amount for initial project costs. Participating agreements require a minimum of 20 percent cost sharing by the partner to demonstrate mutual interest and benefit in the qualitative outcomes of the project. Cost sharing by partnering organizations can include noncash and in-kind contributions toward overall project costs. The Forest Service is allowed to provide cash advances for the minimum amount needed to perform anticipated activities, or no more than is needed for a 30-day period, whichever is less (USDA Forest Service 2009e).

PAs are implemented with partnering organizations for local projects in targeted areas on Forest Service land as provided by statute. For partnerships that are national or multiregional in scope, a Master Participating Agreement (MPA) is signed. Individual, Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) are executed on a project-by-project basis to carry out the purpose of the MPA (USDA Forest Service 2009e).

- Type 1: Cooperative Environmental Education and Forest History Materials—includes the development and publication of books, pamphlets, brochures, and audiovisual materials, but

not maps unless the material specifically promotes environmental education or forest history (USDA Forest Service 2009e).

- Type 2: Cooperative Manpower, Job Training, and Development Programs—appropriate when cooperator has an existing specific job program and parties share costs. It requires at least a 20-percent cost match and does not require competition (USDA Forest Service 2009e).
- Type 3: Cooperative Pollution Abatement Agreement—enables cooperatively performed projects involving construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities relating to pollution abatement. Eligible parties include Indian tribes, public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, or persons. It requires at least a 20-percent cost match and does not require competition (USDA Forest Service 2009e).
- Type 4: Forestry Protection Agreement—enables cooperatively performed projects involving fire prevention, fuels management, insect and disease control, noxious weed control, tree planting and seeding, erosion control, abandoned mine reclamation, land restoration, hazardous material identification, water testing and protection, and air pollution abatement. Projects have mutual interest and nonmonetary benefit. Eligible parties include Indian tribes, public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, or persons (USDA Forest Service 2009e).

*Example: A MPA between an Indian tribe and a Forest Service region provided for wildland and prescribed fire training and resource management work experience for tribal members, and a source of firefighters, heritage survey crews, and trail construction crews for the Forest Service region's forests.*

*Example: An Indian tribe and a national forest entered into a PA to work seasonally with the Indian tribe's Natural Resources Department to hire tribal interns. The interns work with Forest Service silviculture and hazardous fuels staff on the forest, including tribal land, with opportunities to incorporate tribal values.*

*Example: An Indian tribe and a national forest entered into a PA to perform work associated with a Forest Service project area. The work to be performed includes GIS (Geospatial Information System) preparation, precommercial thinning exams, and white pine pruning exams.*

*Example: A forest signed a PA with an Indian tribe to preserve heritage resources in the forest. Specifically, a tribal employee meets with boaters on a river and talks to them about the river's historical importance to the Indian tribe. The employee also discusses what visitors can do to preserve the heritage resources found in this special place.*

*Example: A forest and an Indian tribe signed a PA to jointly host a conference and conduct a government-to-government meeting. Topics to be discussed included managing Forest Service archaeological, cultural, and natural resources, as well as developmental opportunities for the Indian tribe.*



**The Forest Service Southern Region uses a Master Participating Agreement to provide skills development and training for Caddo tribal members through work as heritage survey crews on Forest Service projects.  
Photo credit: Daniel Cain.**

## “Passport in Time” (PIT) Program

This program engages volunteers in stewardship projects that benefit cultural resources and comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and other Federal historic preservation legislation. Volunteer involvement through PIT exposes the public to a broad range of natural and cultural resource issues and fosters public awareness and support of Federal land management (USDA Forest Service 2008c).

## Programmatic Agreement

Programmatic agreements may be negotiated and executed at the national, regional, State, or forest levels. The agreements enable the Forest Service and the Indian tribe to set up a process for consultation, coordination and cooperation between the national forest and State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Indian tribes, and consulting parties. The agreements also lays out the conditions under which national forest-based planning can take place under uniform standards for inventorying, evaluating, protecting, enhancing, consulting, and managing historic properties affected by the activities and programs administered and carried out by the individual national forests (USDA Forest Service 2008b, Protection of Historic Properties 2004).

## Protocols

Apart from the Programmatic Agreement, the Forest Service and the Indian tribe can create additional protocols such as a consultation protocol for how/when consultation should occur and a protocol for the potential inadvertent discovery and identification of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony found on public lands administered by the national forest (USDA Forest Service 2008b).

## Repatriation

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. In areas with many human remains or cultural objects, the Indian tribe may want to prepare by helping the forest create a Plan for the Treatment and Disposition of Human Remains and Other Cultural Items from the national forest pursuant to the law (see Forest Service Handbook [FSH] 1509.13 for an example). For a specific repatriation, a Repatriation Agreement will need to be executed (see FSH 1509.13 for an example) (USDA Forest Service 2008b).

## Reburials

In consultation with an affected Indian tribe or lineal descendant, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the use of National Forest System land by the Indian tribe or lineal descendant for the reburial of human remains or cultural items in the possession of the Indian tribe or lineal descendant that have been unearthed from the National Forest System land or an adjacent site. The Indian tribe's designated representative may contact the forest where the remains were found to formally request a reburial. The forest will then consult with the Indian tribe regarding the proposed place, manner, and timing of the reburial. The parties will also discuss the projected physical costs of reburial as well as the tribal costs, including travel to the site. The forest will then submit a request for funds to the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations. If that Office approves, it will budget the reburial for the next year, and the funds will go to the region at that time. After the reburial funds are approved, the forest and the Indian tribe may wish to negotiate an Memorandum of Understanding with the details of the reburial itself, including the place, manner, and timing (see FSH 1509.13 for an example) (25 U.S.C. Chapter 32A, §3053, USDA Forest Service 2012b).

## Research Cost-Reimbursable Agreement

These agreements allow the Forest Service to get certain goods or services from State cooperative institutions and colleges and universities to conduct agricultural research, extension, or teaching activities of mutual interest, although the parties may not benefit in the same qualitative way. The Forest Service may enter into these agreements with State cooperative institutions or other colleges and universities. The Forest Service may cooperate only with universities and colleges that offer baccalaureate or higher degrees (4 year) for teaching activities, however. The agreement does not require matching funds from the cooperator, although advance payments are prohibited (National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act 1977; USDA Forest Service 2009e; USDA Forest Service 2009f).



## Research Joint Venture Agreement

This type of agreement enables the Forest Service to do research projects with any entity or individual to serve the mutual interest and benefit of the parties in agricultural research, extension, and teaching activities. The Forest Service may partner only with universities and colleges offering 4-year degrees for teaching activities. The Forest Service and the other party share costs—the agreement requires a 20-percent cost match. Reimbursable and advance payments are possible depending on the type of cooperator. The agreements are unsolicited (National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act 1977; USDA Forest Service 2009e; USDA Forest Service 2009f).

*Example: A tribal college entered into a joint venture agreement with the Forest Service Forest Products Lab to explore opportunities for traditional ecological knowledge and western science to support tribal responses to climate change. The college was able to host native and Forest Service experts and scientists, who did research with student intern help, and then, the college held a tribal climate-change summit.*

## Rural Development, Forestry, and Communities

This program enables the Forest Service to help rural areas analyze and assess forest resource opportunities, maximize local economic potential through market development and expansion, and diversify communities' economic base. Funding may be allocated for such things as technical assistance, training and education, equipment, marketing, and all costs associated with making these services available to rural communities. Indian tribes are directly eligible. The Executive order requires annual Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations direction to implement. \*Currently unfunded (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 2009)

## Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

The act allows the Forest Service to enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and partnership agreements with local governmental entities, tribal nations, individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, and so forth for eligible projects that have been recommended by the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and approved by the Forest Service. The act encourages project proposals from a wide range of proponents, including Indian tribes, and tribes may also participate as RAC members. Planning and implementing the projects should help improve cooperative relationships among the people that use and care for Federal land and the agencies that manage the Federal land (Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act 2000, USDA Forest Service 2009e, USDA Forest Service 2013f).

Title II funds may be used for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resource objectives consistent with the Secure Rural Schools Act on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit the resources on Federal land (USDA Forest Service 2013f).

The purposes of the Secure Rural Schools Act include making additional investments in, and creating employment opportunities through, Title II-funded projects that:

- Improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure,
- Implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and
- Restore and improve land health and water quality (USDA Forest Service 2013f).

The funds may be used for projects that enjoy broad-based support and have objectives that may include—

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration;
- Soil productivity improvement;
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health;
- Watershed restoration and maintenance;
- The restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat;
- The control of noxious and exotic weeds; and
- The re-establishment of native species (Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act 2000, USDA Forest Service 2013f).

The act itself does not require matching funds or services from parties to an agreement. This act was designed to provide short-term assistance to rural communities and is subject to annual reauthorization or termination by Congress (currently funded through September 30, 2014) (Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act 2000, USDA Forest Service 2013f).

## Stewardship Agreements and Contracts

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have authority to enter into stewardship end results contracting projects, under contract or agreement instruments, for up to 10 years. Stewardship projects help achieve land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs, including contributing to the sustainability of rural communities and providing a continuing source of local income and employment. Stewardship projects focus on the “end result” ecosystem benefits and outcomes, rather than on what is removed from the land. Forest Service staffs collaborate to build community partnerships with cooperating Federal, State, and local government agencies; tribal governments; nongovernmental organizations; and any interested groups or individuals to develop projects (USDA Forest Service 2008a, 2014 Farm Bill).

Some of the features of the authorizing legislation includes enabling Forest Service and BLM to apply the value of timber or other forest products removed as an offset against the cost of services received, apply excess receipts from a project to other authorized stewardship projects, select contracts and agreements on a “best value” basis, and award a contract or agreement up to 10 years, which may stimulate long-term investment in the local community. Stewardship contracts and agreements may be used for treatments to improve, maintain, or restore forest or range land health; restore or maintain water quality; improve fish and wildlife habitat; and reduce hazardous fuels that pose risks to communities and ecosystem values (USDA Forest Service 2008a, 2014 Farm Bill).



The Forest Service would enter into a contract where the Forest Service designs the stewardship project, is the beneficiary of the work, pays the costs of the project, and contractors compete for the project. Stewardship agreements are particularly applicable for stewardship projects where there is a joint endeavor with mutual benefits and mutual interest and the partner is a State or local government, Indian tribe, or nonprofit. Some features of stewardship agreements include requiring a cost-share of 20 percent or more, not permitting a profit incentive, and allowing for termination by either party. Contractors in this case are typically not competing for the projects (USDA Forest Service 2008a, 2014 Farm Bill).

[http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/Stewardship\\_Contracting/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/Stewardship_Contracting/index.shtml)

*Example: A Forest Service region, national forest, Indian tribe, and other partners, including nonprofit organizations, developed a Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) to establish a collaborative partnership that will benefit all parties through the leveraging of diverse expertise, skills, and resources to successfully achieve mutual land stewardship goals and objectives while providing training and job opportunities for tribal members and local contractors.*

## Technology Transfer Agreement

The Forest Service may enter into cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs) for technological transfer for commercial purposes. The Forest Service may provide personnel, services, facilities, equipment, or other resources with or without reimbursement from the cooperator to support scientific research aimed at developing commercially viable products or services. The agreement should be between one or more Federal laboratories and one or more non-Federal parties. Although Indian tribes are not specifically mentioned in this act, the Forest Service may enter into CRADAs with Indian tribes or tribal entities that fit the description of industrial organizations and with tribal colleges that fit the nonprofit organization description (Federal Technology Transfer Act 1986).

## Tribal Forest Protection Act

To carry out projects on National Forest System (NFS) lands to protect Indian forest land, range land, or tribal communities, Indian tribes may submit requests to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts (TFPA 2004). Forest Service officials may provide advice and information to Indian tribes in advance of the Indian tribes' submitting proposals for stewardship contracts or other instruments, contracts, or agreements. Forest Service officials may assist Indian tribes in developing proposals that are consistent with the selection criteria set forth in the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA). Line officers may only accept proposals from a representative of the governing body of an Indian tribe, such as a tribal council or tribal chairman. The Indian tribe may submit a proposal on behalf of a tribal member that owns an allotment that meets the qualifications for a project. Note that lands selected by Alaska Native Corporations under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act are not held in trust or with a restriction against alienation. Therefore, such lands are outside the scope of the TFPA. An Indian tribe to which an individual Indian allottee belongs, however, may submit a request to the Forest Service to enter into an agreement or contract to carry out a project to protect the allottee's land. The Secretary may issue public notice of initiation of any necessary environmental review or of the potential of entering into an agreement or contract with the Indian tribe no later than 120 days after the request is submitted (TFPA 2004, USDA Forest Service 2008a).

*Example: Under this authority, an Indian tribe and a national forest signed a multiyear stewardship contract involving 15,000 treatment acres (one-half with commercial timber harvest and service work and one-half with service work only). The project is designed to reduce the threat of wildfire and forest disease spread from public lands to tribal land. It will also restore natural ecologic processes across a range of forest types, provide forest products to the local community, and enhance watershed conditions.*

## Urban and Community Forestry Program

There is both a national program and State-led programs. The national program grant assists State foresters, equivalent State agencies, Indian tribes, State-recognized tribes, interested members of the public, and private nonprofit organizations in urban and community forestry programs in cities and communities. It requires parties to share 50 percent of the costs, and the program must have national application. The organizers of the projects plan for, establish, manage, and protect trees, forests, green spaces, and related natural resources in and adjacent to cities and towns. Although individual landowners are not eligible, groups owning land are eligible. States have their own programs with varying criteria, but the party would have to apply through the State government (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 1978).

*Example: A nonprofit organization worked with an Indian tribe to conduct an audiovisual workshop designed to educate the tribal reservation community on community forestry fundamentals and to provide the reservation residents with a new opportunity to revitalize their cultural values of caring for the land.*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>

## Volunteer Agreement

Under a Volunteer Agreement, volunteers may be reimbursed for incidental expenses incurred that are required and directly related to their service. For example, volunteers may be reimbursed for expenses for personal vehicle use; public transportation; fuel for heating, cooking, or lights; uniforms/period clothing/costuming; and per diem if in official travel status and cooking facilities are unavailable (FITV 2002, Outka-Perkins 2009).

## Volunteer Fire Assistance Program

This program provides financial, technical, and other assistance through State forestry agencies to organize, equip, and train small, local fire departments in rural communities with populations under 10,000 to prevent and suppress rural fires. State foresters pass this funding through to local fire departments and fire training academies. The grants are generally \$5,000 or less, and all cooperators must provide a 1:1 cost-share match. *Indian tribes must apply through their State government* (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978, USDA Forest Service 2011).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa/>

## Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreement Authority (Wyden Amendment)

The Forest Service uses this authority when it enters into Cooperative Agreements and Participating Agreements with Federal, tribal, State, and local governments; private and nonprofit entities; and landowners to improve fish, wildlife, and other resources on National Forest System lands within a watershed and to reduce risk of natural disaster where public safety is threatened within the watershed. Agreements may be with willing Federal, tribal, State, and local governments; private and nonprofit entities; and landowners to conduct activities on public or private lands for the following purposes: protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources; reduction of risk for natural disaster where public safety is threatened; or a combination of both. Indian tribes and State-designated tribes are eligible. Note that this type of agreement would require only mutual benefit, not necessarily mutual interest, and has no minimum matching requirement (Wyden Amendment 1998, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 1998).

## Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC)

### Competitive Grants Program

This authority provides funds, on a cost-share basis, for projects that focus on enhancing opportunities for sustained forest products production for primary and secondary hardwood industries located in the eastern hardwood forest region. Non-Federal agencies; public and private agencies, including State, local, and tribal governments; institutions of higher education; nonprofit organizations; and for-profit organizations, corporations, and businesses are eligible. \*Currently unfunded (Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations of 1998; Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978; Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act 1978; Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 2008b).

*Example: A tribal basketmakers association used a WERC agreement to support its black ash basketry marketing and entrepreneurship training. Overall, the authority has enabled a more sustainable economic opportunity for the ash basketmakers.*

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/>

### The Hazardous Fuels Wood to Energy (W2E) Grant Program

Funds projects where some or all of the woody biomass is generated from National Forest Service System lands as a result of hazardous fuel treatments, forest restoration activities, insect and disease mitigation, catastrophic weather events, or thinning overstocked stands. Projects that use woody biomass from multiple land ownerships (State, Tribal, or private lands) and multiple sources (wood products facilities, urban wood waste, etc.) will be considered as long as some of the woody biomass is generated from National Forest System lands. Projects that do not anticipate using any wood from National Forest System lands will not be eligible (1990 Farm Bill; 2008 Farm Bill; Healthy Forest Restoration Act 2003; Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 2012; Consolidated Appropriations Act 2014).



**Micmac tribal member looks for emerald ash borer, an invasive species threatening the tribe's traditional basketry, in a black ash log. The Forest Service provided aid to the Maine Indian Basketmakers Association in its ash basketry marketing and entrepreneurship training efforts by partially funding a Wood Education and Resource Center authorized project in 2011. Photo credit: Jennifer Neptune.**

## Woody Biomass Utilization Assistance Program

This program provides annual project grants or cooperative agreements to further long-term forest health through enterprises that support forest management, hazardous fuel reduction, and other restoration activities. The program focuses on commercially viable wood energy project development through several different mechanisms:

- a. Statewide wood energy teams to support expansion of wood energy installations through cooperative agreements;
- b. Funding for the development of clusters of projects either geographically clustered or sector clusters (i.e., colleges, hospitals, etc.) through grants to help with the design; and
- c. Grants to assist with the design and other preconstruction costs of installing a wood-energy system.

Eligible entities include nonprofit organizations; local, State, and tribal governments; business, companies, corporation (for profit), and special purpose districts (public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, or port) (National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Economic Diversification Act 1990, USDA Forest Service 2013g). Find your regional contact on the official Web site.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/woodybiomass/index.shtml>



## Part 3

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2015 Tribal EQIP Application Summary 12-3-2014

Tribe	Project Name	Practice	Scenario	Cost Per Unit	Amount	Unit	Payment Rate	Total for Each Tribe
Forest County Potawatomi	Forest Trail and Landing Repair	655	Grading and Shaping with Vegetative Establishment	\$ 3.14	300	Feet	\$ 942.00	
Forest County Potawatomi	Stream Crossing	578	HU-Culvert installation, > 25" Diameter, Double culverts	\$ 84.35	90	Feet	\$ 7,591.50	\$ 8,533.50
Lac Courte Oreilles	Forestry	666	Precommercial Thinning - Hand Tools	\$ 256.99	200	Acres	\$ 51,398.00	
Lac Courte Oreilles	Wild Rice	644	Wild Rice Seeding	\$ 652.26	5	Acres	\$ 3,261.30	\$ 54,659.30
Lac Du Flambeau	LDF Phase 2		Aquaculture Ponds and associated practices	\$ 376,971.00	1	Various	\$ 376,971.00	
Lac Du Flambeau	Young Forest Practice	647	Alder Shearing	\$ 26.80	595.37	Acres	\$ 15,955.92	\$ 392,926.92
Menominee	Project 1	560	Gravel over Base Coarse	\$ 10.93	30	Feet	\$ 327.90	
Menominee	Project 2	560	Gravel over Base Coarse	\$ 10.93	75	Feet	\$ 819.75	\$ 1,147.65
Red Cliff	Blue Bird Boxes	649	Blue Bird Boxes	\$ 77.39	20	Each	\$ 1,547.80	
Red Cliff	Osprey Nesting Platform	649	3 Osprey Nesting Platforms	\$ 34.74	45	Feet	\$ 1,563.30	
Red Cliff	Bat Boxes	649	2 Bat Boxes	\$ 97.98	2	Each	\$ 195.96	
Red Cliff	Aquatic Organism Passage	396	Blockage Removal - road access	\$ 367.78	2	Each	\$ 735.56	
Red Cliff	Red Cliff Creek Streambank Protection Immediately DS from Blueberry Road	580	HU-Riprap on bank 4 to 7 ft high measure from bank top to toe of slope	\$ 28.57	125	Feet	\$ 3,571.25	
Red Cliff	Red Cliff Creek Streambank Protection Immediately DS from Blueberry Road	342	Introduced seeding-heavy grading	\$ 1,196.98	0.15	Acre	\$ 179.55	
Red Cliff	Red Cliff Creek Streambank Protection between Blueberry Road and the lake.	580	HU-Riprap on bank 4 to 7 ft high measure from bank top to toe of slope	\$ 28.57	150	Feet	\$ 4,285.50	
Red Cliff	Red Cliff Creek Streambank Protection between Blueberry Road and the lake.	3420	Introduced seeding-heavy grading	\$ 1,196.98	0.1	Acre	\$ 119.70	
Red Cliff	Woody Residue Treatment - Orchard Renovation	384	Orchard prunings or removals	\$ 175.89	4	Acres	\$ 703.56	
Red Cliff	Wood Residue Treatment	384	Orchard Pruning	\$ 175.89	3	Acres	\$ 527.67	\$ 13,429.85
Saint Croix	Wild Rice	644	Wild Rice Seeding	\$ 652.26	15		\$ 9,783.90	\$ 9,783.90
						Total	\$ 480,481.11	

Note: Bad River, Ho Chunk, Oneida, Sokaogon/Mole Lake, and Stockbridge Munsee do not have 2015 EQIP Applications

Note the Alder Shearing (\$15,955.92) is eligible for funding under the Young Forest Initiative

Note the Streambank Protection, and Aquatic Organism Passage (\$8,891.56) is eligible for funding under the Young Forest Initiative