

Forest Service Directives Modernization: Tribal Review & Comment

The USDA Forest Service has initiated national Tribal consultation on its **Directives Modernization** effort. Tribes are encouraged to review proposed changes across the Forest Service Manual (FSM) and Forest Service Handbooks (FSH).

These updates specifically target two critical areas that shape how agency staff carry out their responsibilities:

- **Tribal Relations Directives:** Addressing government-to-government consultation, Tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, Sacred Sites, and reburial.
- **Land Management Planning Directives:** Governing all aspects of National Forest management and forest planning, including the implementation of the 2012 Planning Rule. These updates will directly dictate how Tribal interests, Tribal consultation, and Indigenous Knowledge are integrated into forest planning.

Key Dates & Opportunities

- **August 15, 2026:** Deadline for Tribes to submit comments to the Forest Service.
- **Request Consultation:** Tribes can request direct Government-to-Government consultation by emailing SM.FS.otrtribalcon@usda.gov.
- **Review Draft Materials:**



How ITC is Supporting Tribes

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) is reviewing the drafts to support Tribal Shared Stewardship priorities and will provide template letters for member Tribes. ITC is hosting two virtual office hours to discuss the changes, answer questions, and gather feedback:

- **July 20, 2026 (10–11 AM PT):** Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Dag7t-nURmO9OcZ6jk3O9g>
- **July 28, 2026 (2–3 PM PT):** Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/17YH6zU6StatORbdRo-Xbg>
 - Registration links can also be found at www.itcnet.org.

For questions, contact Stephanie Lucero, Shared Stewardship Coordinator for ITC, at Lucero.Stephanie@gmail.com