Collaborative Project Planning Webinar

Best Practices for Collaborative Planning Between Tribes and US Forest Service

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Introduction

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Why is a Tribal/FS relationship important

To ensure Tribes have an opportunity to provide input on desired forest/resource conditions,

- which affect their ability to access, maintain, and protect tribal uses, sacred sites, and TCP’s.
- which can affect water availability, concern of uncharacteristic wildfire, wildlife habitat, and long-term forest health.
- We want tribal inclusion and participation.... **Shared Stewardship**
Ideally....

- There is an existing positive Tribal/FS relationship, or desire to establish, or improve one
- Tribes have been involved in FS consultation or collaborative projects
- Tribes have been involved in Forest Management Planning or Forest Plan revision processes
- Know where FS is located...
If the Tribal Project involves or desires to involve the US Forest Service.....

- Project on lands managed by the USFS, or adjacent to FS lands
- Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Project (RTRL)
- Forest Service as a Partner
- Potential Funding from the Forest Service (Grant, Agreement, Contract etc.)
- USFS may provide support / assistance
- Project may potentially impact the Agency or relationship in the future

Let’s start talking!!!
Important

**Early Collaboration** is encouraged to identify project priority areas and objectives. This is important to ensure alignment with partnering agency priorities, staffing, and funding.

Plus, to consider all possible opportunities, identify specific agreement and funding mechanisms, and provide important joint decision making understanding.
Planning Questions

- Concept --- What is intent, need, desire, and purpose of the project
- Location --- Where is proposed project located
- Jurisdiction --- Who is land management agency, landowner, manager, who has decision-making responsibilities (Tribal government, BIA, USFS)
- Authorities/Policies/Regulations --- Guides process and procedures, requires sharing of information, processes often differ
- What is the type of project (Restoration, preservation, landscape, fire, wildlife, watershed, harvest, etc.)
Considerations when a project is on FS lands or involves FS as a major partner

- Is the proposed project included in current Forest Management plan, and if so, is it a priority?
- Does it align with policy, regs, and resource management authorities?
- Is NEPA and other compliance requirements complete and current?
- Are there associated current actions/projects taking place?
- What are the treatment types/objectives?
- Are there any challenges?
- Is there funding available? Are other partners involved?
- How does the Tribe want to be involved?
USFS Restoration Project Planning Process is Complex

- NEPA process is inclusive and data hungry
- Deep in Manual and Handbook guidance
- Large Public comment requirement
- Supports multi-use management
- Integrated Program involvement (Planning, Implementation and Monitoring)
- Involved staff and budget, require program of work planning
- Navigating the Grants and Agreement process
We want Tribal involvement and support tribal capacity development

- Self-Determination and Self-Governance support
- Economic Development (Businesses, Jobs, Entrepreneurs)
- Training
- Youth Engagement
- Leverage Tribal/non-Tribal Partners
- Connect with various funding sources

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Watershed Improvement decisions and actions begin with coordination and cooperation. No single organization or Agency can do it alone. Thus the importance of Partnerships!
Start a Partnership With the USDA Forest Service or Obtain Federal Financial Assistance
A Guide for Tribal Governments

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Forest Service
Southwestern Region

[Image of USDA Forest Service logo]

[Image of USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region]

The Partnering toolbook
An essential guide to cross-sector partnering

[Image of toolbook]

The agreements' decision tree

[Image of decision tree]

The assumptions and criteria

[Image of assumptions and criteria]

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