



**TRIBAL RELATIONS
STRATEGIC PLAN**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
REGION 5
CALTHPO/SHPO SUMMIT
2020**

TRIBAL RELATIONS REGION 5



INTRODUCTION



Hello!

My name is Rowena Yeahquo, Kiowa/Comanche from Oklahoma.
I am the new Tribal Relations Specialist for the Pacific
West Service.

Land Acknowledgement – Honor the ancestral land where I am currently, which is in Vallejo, CA. The land of the Patwin, Suisun, and Miwok.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide information on the how the Tribal Relations Program is reviewing ways to enhance and expand program delivery to Tribes in CA.

Thank you, **Aho'**



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Leslie Weldon

Senior Executive for Workforce Environment,
former Deputy Chief, National Forest System

“All or part of every national forest and grassland is carved out of the ancestral lands of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. Indigenous communities across the country still maintain strong historical and spiritual connections to the land, connections that have not been extinguished despite changes in land ownership.”



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Background:

Each USDA agency shall provide an opportunity for Tribes to participate in policy development to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. Each Tribe will be provided the opportunity for timely and meaningful government-to-government consultation regarding policy actions which may have tribal implications.



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PURPOSE



The Pacific Southwest Region (R5) is engaging in an organizational planning initiative that seeks to align the region's staffing and organizational structure to meet present and future management goals and objectives.

Tribal Relations is an important to the Forest Service because Tribes have indelible ties to the Nation's forests and grasslands.



TRIBAL RELATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN



PURPOSE

As a part of this alignment, R5 is in the process of drafting a **Tribal Relations Strategic Plan (TRSP)** with the goal of improving how we meet trust responsibilities, respond to tribal rights and interests, and increase collaboration with Tribes.

This Strategic Plan will set program goals and an annual action plan.



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COMMITTEE



To begin this task a Preliminary Plan is developed which includes a Program Review Assessment, Tribal Outreach and Engagement, Program of Work, and the preparation of the final Draft TRSP.

The Tribal Relations Program Assessment (TRPA) was developed through a committee consisting of region staff personnel, forest personnel, forest supervisors and tribal members from the region.



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COMMITTEE



The Tribal Relations Program Assessment (TRPA) developed recommendations based on the following areas:

- Program Guidelines and Delivery
- Partnerships/Agreements and contracting
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Research
- Leadership Development
- Outreach and Recruitment



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Protecting Cultural Sites



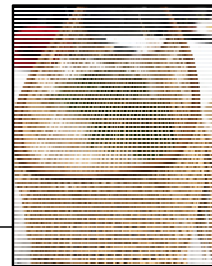
An important aspect of the TRSP is protecting tribal cultural sites, traditions, places, and practices. Especially, during Fires.

A current incident on the Plumas NF, North Complex Fire, expressed a need for a Tribal Liaison on every fire incident.



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Tribal Outreach & Engagement



The next step in the TRSP process is **Tribal Outreach & Engagement**.

Tribal input is imperative in order to create a responsive and inclusive document that affect Tribes in California, we will include tribes throughout the process.

We need your comments and suggestions on ways to enhance and expand program delivery to Tribes in CA.

A Chance to have your voice heard!

We will engage the tribes in several ways:

- Government to Government Consultation
- Engage at Tribal forums and Inter-tribal organizations
- Questionnaire
- Comments to email address





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Tribal Outreach & Engagement



The TRSP can be on agenda for discussion at forest Tribal forums, tribal council meeting and tribal organizations for input and comment. Contact me to attend your meeting:

Rowena Yeahquo
Tribal Relations Specialist
Forest Service
Pacific SW Region
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Email: rowena.Yeahquo@usda.gov

Please send your comments on the R5 Tribal Relations Strategic Plan to:

SM.FS.R5TrblRelats@usda.gov



Tribal Relations & US
Forest Service
Region 5

~~The End~~
To Be
Continued...

