

## **Collection Of Forest Resources: Tribal Members**

In keeping with the policies of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the U.S. Forest Service Policy toward American Indians and Alaska Natives (FSM 1563), various National Forest Land Management Plans, and past Forest Service practices, the following guidelines relate to the access to, collection, and use of forest resources by American Indians for traditional purposes.

The Tonto National Forest desires to facilitate access to and use of forest resources by Tribal members for traditional practices. The forest will also facilitate requests from Tribal members for materials the forest may not be able to provide directly (FSM 1563.03).

Permits are required for timber products to be used for religious purposes. These permits will be issued free-use by the forest to the Tribe upon application to cover all Tribal members who wish to collect such materials from forest land.

No Forest Service permit is required for the collecting of minor quantities of medicinal and ceremonial plants, acorns, pinyon nuts, agave, tree boughs, water, plants, quartz crystals, other minerals, soil, invertebrate fossil remains, rocks, trees less than 6 ft. in height, and other food plants or other resources for personal (non-commercial) use in traditional cultural or religious activities, provided those activities are in accordance with Executive Order 13007, applicable laws and regulations, and Forest Service policies regarding special forest products and botanical products.

It is requested, but not required, that Tribal members who intend to collect such items notify the forest archaeologist of their intent so that field-based Forest Service personnel can be notified that traditional collecting activities may be encountered during their patrols. Such contacts can also clarify if the proposed collecting requires a permit or not. For verification purposes, documentation of this contact will be kept in a record at the forest office containing the name(s) of the individual(s) requesting the materials. Traditional collecting activities shall not be monitored by Forest Service personnel without receiving prior approval from the Tribal Cultural Preservation Office.

Permits will be required for larger quantities of forest products above the level of personal use, for materials to be used commercially, and for larger items such as construction beams or trees more than 6 ft. in height. These may be obtained at any USFS district office or the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office. Tribal members will be notified at that time of suitable areas in which such materials may be obtained and the length of time for which the permit is valid.

No artifacts or other cultural items or remains may be collected from archaeological sites without a permit.