

*This developing plan content is under construction and is being shared as a snapshot of thinking. Additional changes based on Forest Service and public input are expected.*

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## Forest-wide Tribal Resources Plan Components

### Background

*Not drafted.*

### Desired Conditions

- American Indian tribes and individuals retain a connection to the land that fosters both traditional and contemporary cultural uses of the Forest.
- Traditionally used resources are not depleted and are available and are available for future generations.
- Traditional Tribal uses such as the collection of medicinal plants and wild plant foods are valued as important uses that are recognized and allowed within sustainable limitations.
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge from American Indian Tribes and other sources is considered in forest management.
- The cultural landscape retains characteristic American Indian elements, including archeological sites, former Cherokee town sites, historic trails, and other Tribal use areas.
- Tribal members have access to sacred sites for individual and group traditional ceremonies. There are opportunities for solitude and privacy for ceremonial activities.
- Conflicts between American Indian traditions and ceremonies and other forest uses are minimized.
- Strong relationships between FS and Tribal representatives are fostered and maintained with proper government-to-government levels of communication.

### Standards

- Formally consult with Tribes as appropriate to identify and determine the significance of cultural resources.
- For projects with the potential to address the culture history of tribes, the Forests should ensure that such projects address topics of known importance to tribes.
- Protect heritage resources for traditional and ceremonial purposes identified by Tribes.
- Allow no activities that would be damaging to Tribal use areas.
- Restrict minerals activities at Tribal traditional and ceremonial sites, allow no surface occupancy.
- Manage Tribal Landscapes to preserve and restore their inherent cultural values. Formal Tribal consultation is completed prior to any management decisions and activities within these areas.
- Maintain confidentiality of Tribal Landscapes, traditional areas and sacred sites. Do not show locations in public documents or files unless agreed upon by all parties.
- Allow Forest use on a case-by-case basis for Tribal traditional and ceremonial activities in areas that otherwise may be closed to public use.

**Guidelines**

- Activities and uses should be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to traditional American Indian beliefs and cultural practices.
- Temporary closure orders should be used to accommodate traditional use.
- Tribal traditional use of medicinal plants and other botanical resources should take priority over applications for commercial harvesting.

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