



Northwest Forest Plan Amendment - Tribal Inclusion and Co-Stewardship

The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment emphasizes the critical role of Tribal inclusion in forest management. By integrating Indigenous Knowledge, honoring treaty rights, and fostering collaboration, the plan seeks to create resilient ecosystems while respecting the cultural, spiritual, and economic connections Tribes have with the land.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Enhanced Access to Cultural and Ceremonial Sites:** Improves Tribal access to traditional gathering places and ceremonial lands.
- **Integration of Indigenous Knowledge:** Embeds traditional ecological practices into biodiversity and ecosystem management.
- **Co-Stewardship Frameworks:** Establishes opportunities for Tribal collaboration in planning and implementation of forest management.
- **Respect for Treaty and Protected Tribal Rights:** Acknowledges and strengthens protections for Tribal sovereignty and legal rights.
- **Workforce Development:** Expands opportunities for tribal participation in forest-related careers and training programs.



Goals and Actions

Support Traditional and Cultural Practices:

- Support traditional activities such as plant gathering, animal and fish harvest, ceremonial practices, and stewardship activities vital to Tribal culture.
- Co-develop strategies to improve access to culturally significant locations.

Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge:

- Include Tribal perspectives in habitat restoration, watershed management, and climate adaptation projects through Tribal forest stewardship.
- Coordinate with Tribes on biodiversity initiatives such as development of Limited Operating Periods, Biological Assessments and Evaluations, and planning, monitoring, and management activities related to species of interest to Tribes.

Honor Treaty and Legal Rights:

- Strengthen coordination with Tribes to ensure treaty obligations are upheld.
- Develop protocols that protect tribal data sovereignty and promote informed consent regarding sharing of Tribal data.

Spotlight on Alternatives

Feature	Alternative B (Proposed Action)	Alternative C	Alternative D
Cultural Access	Promotes co-development of strategies to enhance access	Retains current limited provisions	Expands collaborative frameworks
Indigenous Knowledge	Integrates into all planning levels	Emphasis on habitat preservation	Broad use in ecological restoration through Tribal forest stewardship
Co-Stewardship	Encourages collaboration with Tribes regarding stewardship of federal lands, waters, and associated resources.	Limited Tribal involvement	Increased Tribal engagement in project design and forest stewardship

Why This Matters

Tribal inclusion is vital for fostering ecological resilience and cultural preservation and to uphold treaty rights. Incorporating tribal perspectives ensures sustainable management practices rooted in centuries of knowledge. Co-stewardship strengthens governance, builds trust, and aligns forest management with shared goals for ecological integrity.

Learn More About Tribal Inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

To explore tribal inclusion efforts, consult these sections of the DEIS:

- **Volume 1, Chapter 3:** Analysis of Tribal co-stewardship and cultural integration.
- **Volume 2, Appendix A1:** Detailed Tribal inclusion objectives and standards.
- **Volume 2, Appendix E:** Environmental Justice insights on Tribal engagement and equity.

How to Get Involved

Your feedback helps shape the future of Tribal inclusion in forest management. Engage with the process by:

- Visiting: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp
- Emailing comments to: SM.FS.NWFPquestion@usda.gov or SM.FS.NWFP_Tribal@usda.gov
- Participating in webinars and public meetings.

Help us ensure the Northwest Forest Plan reflects shared stewardship and respect for Tribal communities.

For more information about the Northwest Forest Plan & Amendment, including how to comment, scan the QR code or visit: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

