**Sample Invitation to Consult Letter for Indian Tribes**

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Section 106 Consultation

Dear [*Title of highest-ranking elected official in Tribe*] XXXXX:

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) invites you to participate early in the development of the [*Project name*] Project (Project), located in [*county(s), State(s)*] under the provisions of the 2021 *National Programmatic Agreement for* *Phasing Section 106 for Large-Scale Multi-Year Projects* (Phasing NPA). The purpose of the Project is to [*concise description, including tentative timeline for the Project planning, decision-making, and implementation*].

Under the terms of the Phasing NPA, the FS invites parties early in the Project planning to develop a Heritage Implementation Plan (HIP) in consultation with Tribes, the SHPO, and other consulting parties that will define how the FS will consider effects to historic properties during planning and implementation of the Project. You are invited to consult under Section 106 as a HIP consulting party to help inform the development the Project and the HIP, and to also identify and propose potential Cultural Resources Stewardship Opportunities that may be implemented as part of the Project.

The FS is committed to consulting with Tribes on Projects that could affect cultural resources and historic properties of interest to Indian Tribes, in addition to government-to-government consultation on resources that are important to you.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating as a HIP consulting party within thirty (30) days of receiving this letter. You can respond by letter or email. Please address hardcopy replies to [*Line Officer*] at [*Address*]. You may also contact the Heritage Program Manager [*Name, Contact Information*] or Tribal Relations Coordinator/Specialist [*Name, Contact Information*].

If you have questions about the terms of the Phasing NPA, you may visit the website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/heritage/npa>. We would be very interested in working with you, or your staff, as we develop the Project in the next few months.

Sincerely,

[*Line Officer*]

Enclosures (hardcopy)

CC: [*THPOS, cultural resource staff, Environmental Coordinators, etc.*]

**Sample Invitation to Consult Letter for SHPOs and Other Interested Parties**

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Section 106 Consultation

Dear XXXXX:

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) invites you to participate early in the development of the [*Project name*] Project (Project), located in [*county(s), State(s)*] under the provisions of the 2021 *National Programmatic Agreement for Phasing Section 106 for Large-Scale Multi-Year Projects* (Phasing NPA). The purpose of the Project is to [*concise description, including tentative timeline for the Project planning, decision-making, and implementation*].

Under the terms of the Phasing NPA, the FS invites parties early in the Project planning to develop a Heritage Implementation Plan (HIP) in consultation with Tribes, the SHPO, and other consulting parties that will define how the FS will consider effects to historic properties during planning and implementation of the Project. You are invited to consult under Section 106 as a HIP consulting party to help inform the development the Project and the HIP, and to also identify and propose potential Cultural Resource Stewardship Opportunities that may be implemented as part of the Project.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating as a HIP consulting party within thirty (30) days of receiving this letter You can respond by letter or email. Please address hardcopy replies to [*Line Officer*] at [*Address*]. You can also contact the Heritage Program Manager, [*Name, Contact Information*].

If you have questions about the terms of the Phasing NPA, you may visit the website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/heritage/npa>. We would be very interested in working with you, or your staff, to craft the Project in the next few months.

Sincerely,

*[Line Officer]*

Enclosures (hardcopy)

CC: [*Heritage Professionals, Environmental Coordinators, etc.*]