



Co-developing USDA FS New Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America's Forests
Hosted by Intertribal Timber Council

Topic and Discussion Guide

The following are the themes and discussion questions proposed for the upcoming national FS meeting in January and subsequent Regional Tribal Roundtables.

- Are these the right topics and questions? If not, what are other themes or questions to include?
- Do you have any initial thoughts you'd like to share in advance of the January roundtables?
- Do you have recommendations for the design and structure of the January roundtables to best incorporate Tribal perspectives into the strategy development?

If you have any thoughts, considerations, or written comments you wish to share regarding these discussion topics, please send comments to: [Andrea Bedell-Loucks, USDA FS \(email: Andrea.Loucks@usda.gov\)](mailto:Andrea.Loucks@usda.gov)

How can the final strategy best incorporate the values and needs of Tribes?

- **Science and Outcome-based prioritization** – Decisions must be based on the best available science, including recognizing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), and implementing TEK-driven projects in consultation with local Tribes. Land managers must also be able to incorporate emerging data and technology.
 - What does it look like to systematically include TEK into decision-making?
 - What other data and technology should be incorporated?
- **Cross-Boundary Partnerships** – No one entity can accomplish this work alone: to achieve collective impact, we must build a multijurisdictional coalition to work across land management jurisdictions and build broad public and community support for the work at the scale necessary to make a difference. Partnerships – including those beyond existing contracts and agreements -- will also be a key part of identifying barriers to success and creating solutions to challenges. Congress has provided extensive tools to utilize partnerships, such as the Tribal Forest Protection Act and Good Neighbor Authority.
 - What has been working in establishing partnerships with the agency?
 - What hasn't?
 - Are there improvements to process or policy that you could recommend (e.g., contracting process, Grants and Agreements process, etc.)?



- **Workforce Capacity** – Increasing the pace and scale of work will require building and sustaining an inclusive workforce in Federal and State agencies as well as in local, Tribal, nongovernmental, and other organizations, in all areas required for work to succeed at scale. New processes could better share existing qualified resources as is done in suppression operations. This means developing and implementing a collective strategy to recruit, train, educate, and mentor our workforces for long-term sustainability.
 - What are the current capacity needs within individual Tribes?

- **Outcome-Based Prioritization** – Investments must reflect shared prioritization of treatments designed to achieve landscape scale outcomes, rather than multiple land management entities investing in isolated treatments that are not effective. Investments must also be designed with the right timeframe for commitment in mind to allow the outcome to be achieved, recognizing that projects may require multiple stages and repeated treatments over time.
 - How would Tribes like to be involved in the prioritization process? What does that look like?

- **Industry Infrastructure** – Management, harvesting, transportation, and processing infrastructure are critical to forest restoration goals on a sustained basis. Economically accessible and viable markets will need to be developed at scale to dispose of and utilize materials removed.
 - What challenges related to the above (market access, mills, and transportation of material, etc.) are you facing?
 - Are there innovations you're aware of that we should further explore?

- **Equity and Inclusion** – Investments must be designed equitably and reflect the need to reach underserved communities and address past barriers.
 - Do you have suggestions on how to improve equity and inclusion in projects design, implementation and/or monitoring?

- **Communication** – Social license/consent will be critical to achieving our goals, and we will need the support of Tribal communities, the public and lawmakers to take necessary actions.
 - How would Tribes like to be engaged moving forward?
 - Do you have suggestions for the upcoming national and regional and Tribal roundtables?
 - What suggestions do you have for staying connected and receiving information?