



United States Department of Agriculture

Collaborative Project Planning Webinar

Best Practices for Collaborative Planning Between
Tribes and US Forest Service



Forest Service
Southwestern Region

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





United States Department of Agriculture

Introduction

John Waconda, Restoration
Partnership Coordinator

US Forest Service,
Southwestern Region

Albuquerque, NM



Forest Service
Southwestern Region

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



Why is a Tribal/FS relationship important



To ensure Tribes have an opportunity to provide input on desired forest/resource conditions,

- which affect their ability to access, maintain, and protect tribal uses, sacred sites, and TCP's.
- which can affect water availability, concern of uncharacteristic wildfire, wildlife habitat, and long-term forest health.
- We want tribal inclusion and participation.... **Shared Stewardship**

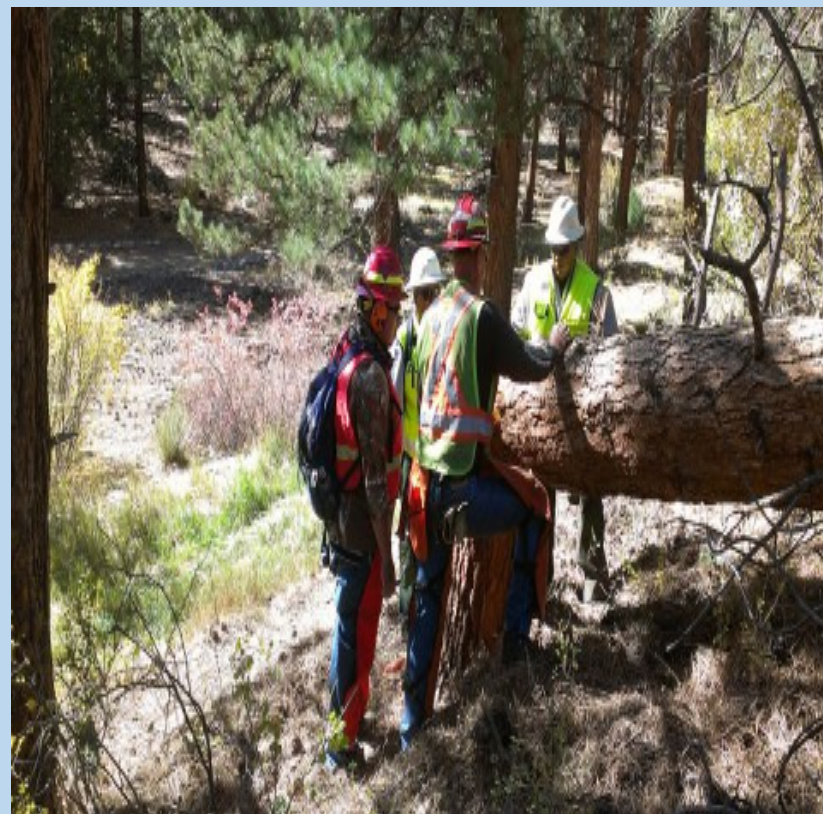




United States Department of Agriculture

Ideally....

- There is an existing positive Tribal/FS relationship, or desire to establish, or improve one
- Tribes have been involved in FS consultation or collaborative projects
- Tribes have been involved in Forest Management Planning or Forest Plan revision processes
- Know where FS is located...



Forest Service
Southwestern Region

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



If the Tribal Project involves or desires to involve the US Forest Service.....

- Project on lands managed by the USFS, or adjacent to FS lands
- Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Project (RTRL)
- Forest Service as a Partner
- Potential Funding from the Forest Service (Grant, Agreement, Contract etc.)
- USFS may provide support / assistance
- Project may potentially impact the Agency or relationship in the future

Let's start talking!!!





United States Department of Agriculture

Important

Early Collaboration is encouraged to identify project priority areas and objectives. This is important to ensure alignment with partnering agency priorities, staffing, and funding.

Plus, to consider all possible opportunities, identify specific agreement and funding mechanisms, and provide important joint decision making understanding.



Forest Service
Southwestern Region

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



Planning Questions

- Concept --- What is intent, need, desire, and purpose of the project
- Location --- Where is proposed project located
- Jurisdiction --- Who is land management agency, landowner, manager, who has decision-making responsibilities (Tribal government, BIA, USFS)
- Authorities/Policies/Regulations --- Guides process and procedures, requires sharing of information, processes often differ
- What is the type of project (Restoration, preservation, landscape, fire, wildlife, watershed, harvest, etc.)





Considerations when a project is on FS lands or involves FS as a major partner

- Is the proposed project included in current Forest Management plan, and if so, is it a priority?
- Does it align with policy, regs, and resource management authorities?
- Is NEPA and other compliance requirements complete and current?
- Are there associated current actions/projects taking place?
- What are the treatment types/objectives?
- Are there any challenges?
- Is there funding available? Are other partners involved?
- **How does the Tribe want to be involved?**





United States Department of Agriculture

USFS Restoration Project Planning Process is Complex

- NEPA process is inclusive and data hungry
- Deep in Manual and Handbook guidance
- Large Public comment requirement
- Supports multi-use management
- Integrated Program involvement (Planning, Implementation and Monitoring)
- Involved staff and budget, require program of work planning
- Navigating the Grants and Agreement process



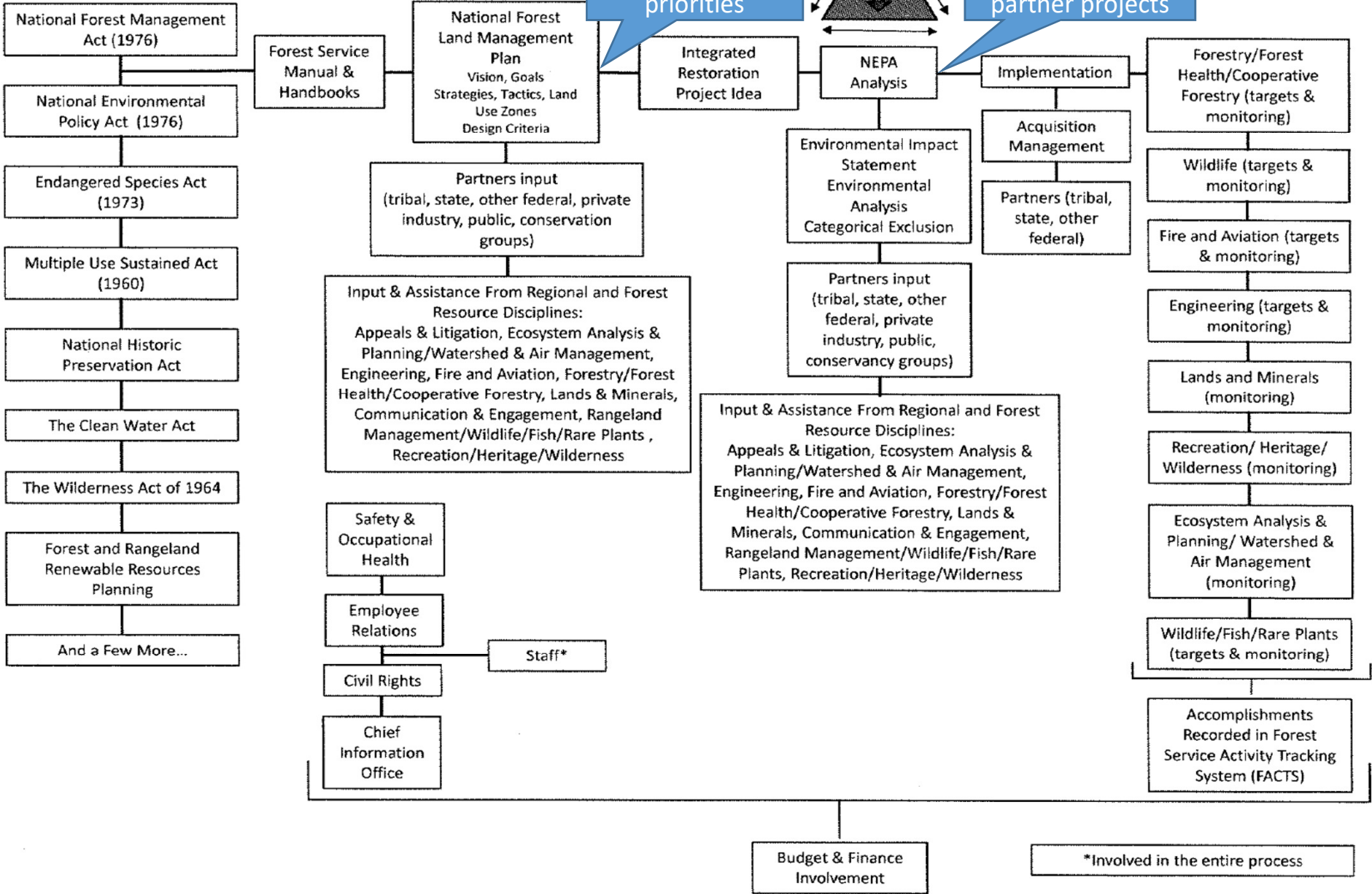
Forest Service
Southwestern Region

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

Direction, Flow, and Involvement for Restoration Projects

Forest Plan Revision: Tribal collaboration on priorities

Program of Work: incorporate tribally developed partner projects



*Involved in the entire process



United States Department of Agriculture

We want Tribal involvement and support tribal capacity development

- Self-Determination and Self-Governance support
- Economic Development (Businesses, Jobs, Entrepreneurs)
- Training
- Youth Engagement
- Leverage Tribal/non-Tribal Partners
- Connect with various funding sources



Forest Service
Southwestern Region

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



Watershed Improvement decisions and actions begin with coordination and cooperation.
No single organization or Agency can do it alone.
Thus the importance of Partnerships!

Start a Partnership With the USDA Forest Service or Obtain Federal Financial Assistance

A Guide for Tribal Governments



the Partnering toolkit



An essential guide to cross-sector partnering

AUTHORITIES THAT CROSS DEPUTY AREAS

Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act, as amended (P.L. 94-148) (16 U.S.C. 565a-1)

- Conduct pollution abatement.
- Provide cooperative manpower, job training, and development programs.
- Develop and publish cooperative environmental education and forest history materials.
- Support forestry protection.

Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (P.L. 102-154)

Conduct:

- Trail maintenance and/or grooming.
- Fish and wildlife habitat improvement.
- Wildlife monitoring.
- Watershed restoration.
- Environmental education.

Cooperative Funds Act (16 U.S.C. 498)

- Accept monies received from voluntary contributions toward work in forest investigations, protection, management, or improvement of NFS lands.
- Improve wildlife habitat.
- Plant trees.

Granger-Thye Act (16 U.S.C. 572)

- Accept monies for the benefit of depositor if it is for work the Forest Service is authorized to perform.

Public Land Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 1701)

- Provide work experience and training on public lands to low income young men and women in research, forest, recreation management, or resource protection activities that support of the Forest Service mission.

CONTINUE (from back panel)

Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535)

- Obtain services, supplies, materials, or equipment from another Federal agency.

Service First (43 U.S.C. 1703)

- Share facilities and services between U.S. Department of the Interior and other USDA agencies.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

State and Private Forestry within the Forest Service reaches across the boundaries of the NFS lands to States, Tribes, communities, and non-industrial private land owners. Related authorities authorize providing technical and financial assistance to States and others to help sustain the Nation's forests and protect communities and the environment from wildland fires.

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (P.L. 93-315, as amended)

- Assist forest stewardship on private, State, and local lands.
- Improve timber stands.
- Manage insect infestation and disease.
- Support urban forestry.
- Aid fire prevention.
- Manage and support Forest Legacy Program.

Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) (P.L. 105-77, as amended)

- Enhance forest products in the eastern hardwood industry.

Collaborative Forest Restoration—Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (P.L. 106-393 3605)

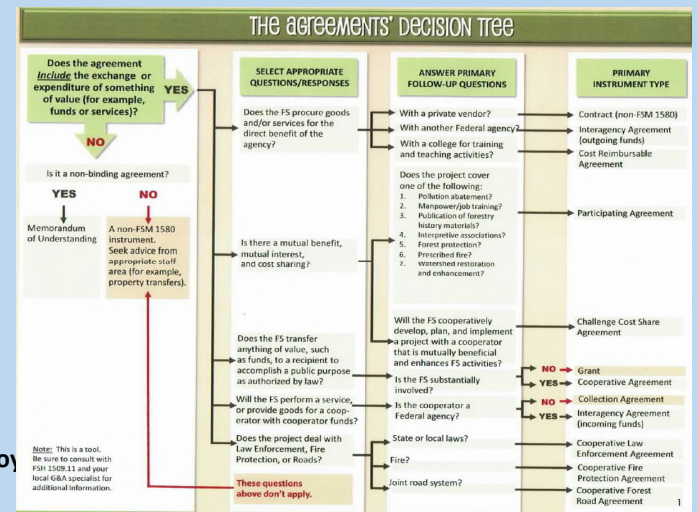
- Apply only to projects in New Mexico.
- Promote healthy watersheds.
- Reduce threat of large high intensity wildfire.
- Improve function of forest ecosystems.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Partnering for the Sustainability, Protection, Restoration, and Stewardship of National Forests and Grasslands

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON AUTHORITIES AND TYPES OF PROJECTS AWARDED IN MY PROGRAM AREA?

Forest Service FS-1115 July 2018



Forest Service
Southwestern Region