

Arizona Tribal Relations Strategy 1.20.11

Various laws, regulations, policies, and guidance direct Federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to formally consult with American Indian Tribes regarding management and authorized actions on public lands. Forming and maintaining long-term relationships with tribes is critical to ensuring successful and sustainable relations through tough decision-making processes.

BLM Arizona commits to developing successful relationships with tribes. Our goal is to enhance trust-building and strengthen personal relations, leading to more effective understanding, cultural awareness and development of projects and programs of common interest and benefit.

Develop communication principles with each Tribe to guide to all government-to-government relations.

- Regularly consult with tribes in order to understand and clarify tribal issues, concerns, proposals, and options.
- Use consultation and feedback to be very clear to tribes on BLM issues, requirements and authorizations, both in general and for specific projects.
- Work toward an understanding of accountability for all parties in the consultation process.

Develop line managers relationships with Tribal leadership that promote awareness of cultural values, communication styles, politics and projects for tribal partners, and increased personal trust.

- Expand efforts to participate with tribes in engagement of youth and other tribal members in natural and cultural resources activities and career opportunities,
- Enhance opportunities to work cross-culturally and develop strong community ties with neighboring tribes.
- Establish a tribal liaison function for each District

Collaborate with Tribes on Issues and Projects of Common Interest

- Collaborate early on land use planning, attending committee and councils sessions as invited and required.
- Establish project authorization and implementation procedures with tribes for common projects.
- Work with tribes on career/employment opportunities for tribal students, including SCEP, STEP and internship opportunities.