



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240

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In Reply Refer To:
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Memorandum

To: Service Directorate

From: Principal Deputy Director 

Subject: Announcing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Consultation Handbook
(Updated 2018)

On January 20, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) updated its Native American Policy (Policy) which sets a nationwide framework for consultation and communication with Tribal governments (including Alaska Native Corporations). The Policy also references the Service's Tribal Consultation Handbook (Handbook) (attached) which serves as a Tribal consultation guiding tool for Service employees to help facilitate effective communications, on a government-to-government basis, with federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native governments on Service activities/actions that may affect Tribal interest.

With the recent signing of the Policy, we updated the Handbook to incorporate attributes of the new Policy as well as other information. Some of this new information includes recent language that addresses the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Department-wide recommendations on tribal consultation procedures regarding follow-up communication by agency staff to tribes. Another addition to the Handbook includes example letters which address various Service proposed actions warranting tribal consultation. Finally, the sections listed in the table of contents of the Handbook are now in hyperlinked format and when clicked on, will take the user to that particular section in the document when viewing the document on line. All of this information guides our tribal consultation efforts as we implement the Policy and fulfill the Service's mission.

Additionally, the Handbook is intended as a reference and as course materials for tribal Trust training that will soon be scheduled at Headquarters and regional levels as part of the Policy implementation. The Handbook can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/tcg.pdf>.

If you have any questions regarding the Handbook, please contact Mr. Scott Aikin, Native American Programs Coordinator at scott_aikin@fws.gov, or Mr. D.J. Monette, Associate Native American Liaison Advisor at dj_monette@fws.gov.

Attachment