



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



“For Current and Future Generations”

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10/5/2023

USFS: Who are We?

- Responsible for managing 193 million acres
- Over 30,000 permanent employees
- Mission - To **sustain the health, diversity, and productivity** of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.
- Motto - "Caring for the land and serving people."

Organizational Structure

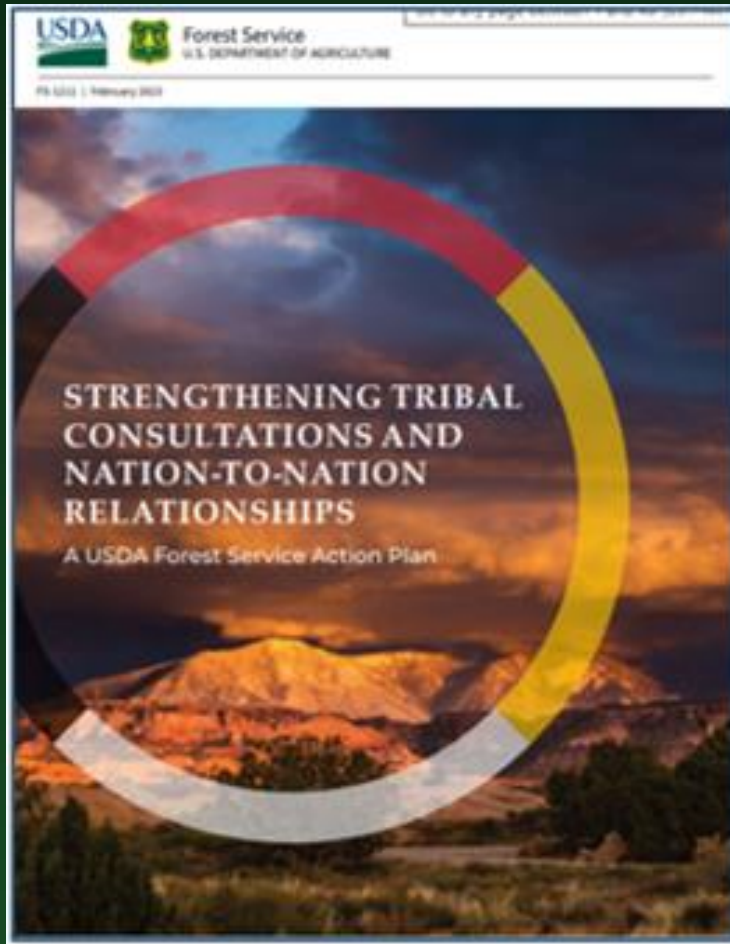
Four Levels:

- Washington Office (WO)
- 9 Regions
- 154 Forests / 20 Grasslands
- 600+ Ranger Districts

Branches:

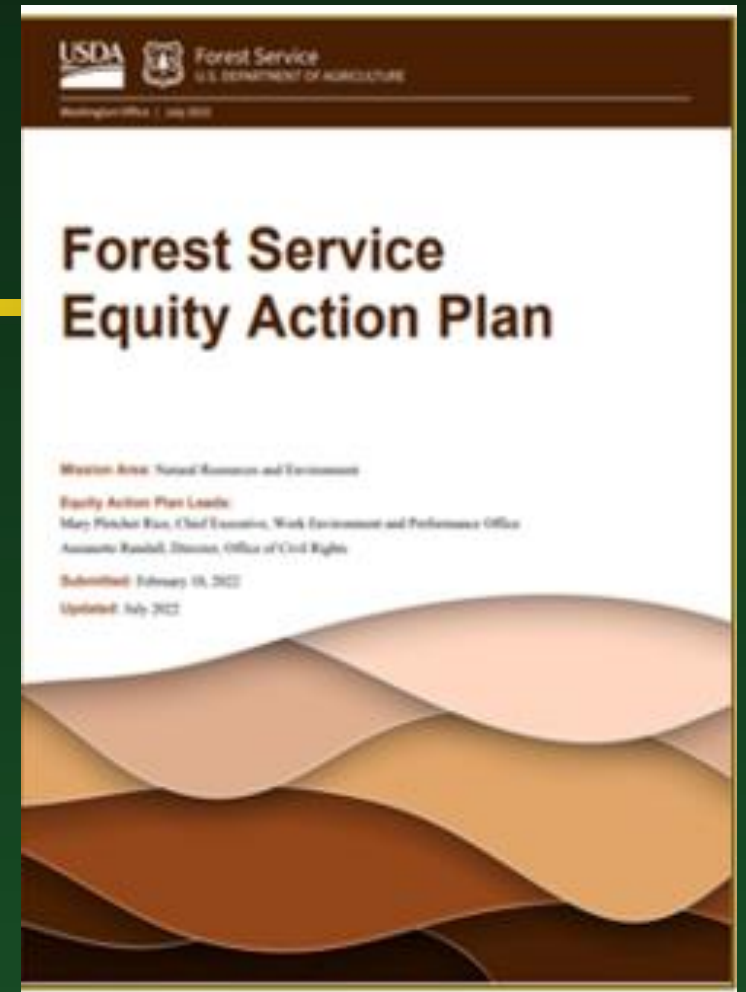
- National Forest System
- State, Private & Tribal Forestry
- Research and Development
- Administration
- Workforce Environment
- International Programs





Two Plans – Shared Goals

- Expand and enhance co-stewardship
- Increase equity, distribution and access to benefits
- Expand application of ITEK
- Increase staff training and participation in engagement and consultation



FOCUS AREAS

STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS

Improve the agency's ability to foster effective partnerships and respect Tribal sovereignty

FULFILL OBLIGATIONS

Manage lands in a manner that seeks to protect Tribal rights and interests

ENHANCE CO-STEWARDSHIP

Support healthy and resilient forests and grasslands

ADVANCE TRIBAL RELATIONS

Continuously create, improve, and maintain Tribal relations

1. Strengthen Relationships between Indian Tribes and the Forest Service

2. Fulfill Trust and Treaty Obligations

4. Advance Tribal Relations within the USDA Forest Service

3. Enhance Co-Stewardship of the Nation's Forests and Grasslands

Emphasis on Partnerships

- Emphasis on partnerships to accomplish work on the ground
- Working together with Tribes, State Agencies, Partner Organizations, and Communities
- Working across boundaries



Authorities / Funding

Good Neighbor Authority

Tribal Forest Protection Act / 638 Contracts

Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL)

Tribal Cultural & Heritage Cooperation Authority

Inflation Reduction Law

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



Challenges

Communication

Capacity

Process

Multiple Legal Requirements



Developing & Implementing projects together

- Aquatic Restoration Projects
- Ethnographic studies
- Fuels reduction and timber management projects
- Gathering and using Indigenous Knowledge—fire, life sources, climate change, water quality, wildlife
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement—vegetation, invasives
- Access to traditional cultural areas
- Updating signs/interpretation



Thank you!

