Tribal Consultation

By: Melvin Hunter Jr.
Supervisory Forester
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Branch of Wildland Fire Management Mission Statement

To execute our fiduciary trust responsibility by protecting lives, property and resources while restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems through cost-effective and creative fire-management programs, collaboration and promoting Indian self-determination.

To fulfill BIA’s mission, we acknowledge Indian Country lands are not public property. The land is the source of a tribe’s spiritual, cultural, emotional, and economical sustenance which they and their future generations depend upon for their survival.

Source: www.bia.gov
567 Federally Recognized Tribes

- Western Region: 14 agencies serving 49 tribes
- Southwestern Region: 8 agencies serving 25 tribes

Source: www.bia.gov
Consultation - What is it?

According to Order No. 3317

The purpose of this Order is to update, expand, and clarify the Department’s policy on consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes; and to acknowledge that the provisions for conducting consultation in compliance with Executive Order 13175

A. Consultation between appropriate Tribal officials and Departmental officials early planning process

B. Effective collaboration with Indian Tribes and to inform Federal decision makers. Communication will be open and transparent without compromising the rights of Indian tribes

Bureaus promote cooperation, participation, and efficiencies between agencies with overlapping jurisdiction, special expertise, or related responsibilities
Consultation – How is it done?

- Emergency vs. Non-Emergency
  - Emergency June 2018 Soldier Canyon Fire (MEA)
  - Initial consultation: Tribal President w/ council members, tribal program’s, utility company’s, PIO, public, other
  - Continuation of consultation: Tribal representative “Chief of Staff”, other stake holder’s

- Non-Emergency
  - Compartment 15 Rx (TCA)
  - Hualapai Tribal Environmental Review Commission (TERC) responsibility review proposed RX
  - Role’s TERC recommend approval, Western Region Archaeologist approve Sec. 106

- Summary Tribal Organization: Cultural Department (primary), Tribal Roads, Conservation Dept., DRMP, Tribal Utilities, Tribal EMS
Consultation – Challenge’s

- Council Term: President/Vice President (2 year term) Council Members (4 year term)
- TERC change in membership
- Cultural awareness
- Awareness of Tribal Policy: Tribal Constitution, Ordinance, past Resolution’s
  - Ex. MAT Ordinance Sec. 26 Sacred Practices
    - 10-26-01 Prohibited Acts. The recording, taping, photographing, sketching, or in any other way preserving the performance of any ceremony, ritual, traditional practice, song, chant, or any other sound or act which is culturally traditional to the Mescalero Apache Tribe and its members is prohibited
- Continuing Education
Consultation – Why is it important?

- Tribal Consultation Policy
  - Executive Order 13175
  - 2000 (Clinton), required federal departments and federal agencies with Indian tribes when policy would impact tribal communities
  - 2009 (Obama), agency submit a detailed plan of action describing how the agency will implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175
  - 2017 (Zinke), working to improve tribal consultation

- Duty – Develop your subordinates for the future
- Integrity – Know yourself and seek improvement
- Respect - Build the team

2014, Hualapai Boy’s and Girl’s Club
In Conclusion
Next Step?