



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

July 11, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) invites you to meet with WHCNAA leadership on July 18, 2022, 2:00pm – 3:30pm EST to discuss WHCNAA Tribal Homelands Initiatives.

As WHCNAA co-chair, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland will convene the virtual Tribal engagement session with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack and other senior Biden-Harris Administration officials. Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland represent the leadership of the WHCNAA Committee on Climate Change, Tribal Homelands, and Treaties.

The Tribal leader engagement session will focus on the [Nov. 15, 2021, Joint Secretarial Order 3403 between USDA and DOI on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters](#), the [2021 Tribal Treaty Rights MOU](#), the [2021 Sacred Sites MOU](#), and other land-related initiatives such as the fee to trust regulations at 25 C.F.R. Part 151, Tribal relocation efforts, and Indigenous Knowledge. The Committee leadership will provide the status of implementation for these policy documents and discuss how Tribal leaders play a role in the policies' execution.

During the July 18, 2022, session, Tribal leaders will be asked to share their guidance, recommendations, and perspectives on the WHCNAA Committee's workstream and progress. The engagement will also provide a valuable opportunity for federal agencies to share information about existing resources, future Tribal consultations, and initiatives being planned over the coming months.

The WHCNAA looks forward to your participation. The agenda with the registration link, Framing Questions for the session, a copy of Joint Secretarial Order 3403, 2021 Tribal Treaty Rights MOU, and a copy of the 2021 Sacred Sites MOU are attached. Materials will also be available on the WHCNAA website (www.bia.gov/whcnaa). Please submit any written responses to the Framing Questions to whcnaa@bia.gov no later than August 11, 2022.

Sincerely,

Anthony Morgan Rodman
Executive Director, White House Council on Native American Affairs

White House Council on Native American Affairs
Tribal Leader Engagement Session
Monday, July 18, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at: [https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN -
FIW8GoERTCHTJWPsqxSCQ](https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_FIW8GoERTCHTJWPsqxSCQ)

- I. Opening by WHCNAA Co-Chair
- II. WHCNAA Committee on Climate Change, Tribal Homelands, and Treaties
- III. Tribal Leader Discussion
- IV. Closing

White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA)
Tribal Leader Engagement Session on the Tribal Homelands Initiative
July 18, 2022
Framing Questions

1. Given the language in joint Secretarial Order No: 3403 between USDA and DOI, what milestones should the agencies achieve over the course of 2022 and 2023?
2. What resources (funding, capacity, technical assistance, etc.) do you need to successfully develop, pursue, negotiate, execute, and implement co-stewardship agreements?
3. Should other Federal agencies develop and execute a policy like joint Secretarial Order No: 3403, and, if so, what other agencies?
4. What challenges, including leadership resistance and policy/regulatory/legislative barriers, have you experienced in the pursuit of co-stewardship agreements with Federal agencies?
5. How should the Federal government evaluate tribal requests to transfer ownership or management of federal lands within existing reservations; and, how can the Federal government improve opportunities for Tribes to acquire surplus or excess federal property within or near their reservations?
6. What are your recommendations and feedback on how the 2021 Tribal Treaty Rights MOU can serve you in the protection of Tribal Treaty Rights?
7. Are there other Federal agencies that you recommend signing onto the 2021 Tribal Treaty Rights MOU, and, if so, what other agencies?
8. In March 2022, the signatories to the Sacred Sites MOU convened a listening session with Tribes and indigenous communities on the MOU. Since then, signatories have moved forward with the Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and co-stewardship efforts, which are elements of the MOU. What are your recommendations and feedback on how the 2021 MOU can serve Tribes and indigenous communities in the protection of sacred sites?
9. Are there other Federal agencies that you recommend signing onto the 2021 Sacred Sites MOU, and, if so, what other agencies?
10. What additional actions do you recommend to further implement the Sacred Sites MOU?