



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Offices of the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget and the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs within the Department of the Interior (Department) propose to consult on the best methodology to accurately determine the number of tribal wildland firefighter full-time equivalents.

At present, there is no documented and agreed upon methodology to accurately determine the number of tribal wildland firefighter full-time equivalents (FTEs). Such a methodology is needed for the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) to inform annual allocations to fund tribal wildland firefighter salaries and inform out-year budget proposals. Tribal wildland firefighters are valued partners in interagency wildfire response efforts.

The Department's Wildland Fire Management program budget includes annual funding for an estimated 500 tribal wildland firefighter FTEs. The methodology used to generate this estimate may be outdated. The Department believes the actual number of tribal wildland firefighter FTEs may be significantly higher based on feedback from, and on-going engagements with Tribes, the Inter-Tribal Timber Council, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The present Departmental methodology to determine federal wildland firefighter FTEs thus may not be the best methodology to determine tribal wildland firefighter FTEs.

The Department invites you to consult based upon these four framing questions:

- (1) Which methodology would Tribes propose to count tribal wildland firefighter FTEs?
- (2) How do Tribes staff tribal wildland fire programs including seasonal and/or full-time personnel?
- (3) To what degree do Tribes include fire-related duties in position descriptions for personnel that contribute to tribal wildland fire programs?
- (4) How do Tribes determine the rate of pay for tribal wildland fire program personnel?

We will hold three consultation sessions on these topics as follows:

Day	Time	Location	Connectivity
Monday, May 1, 2023	1pm-4pm PDT	Edith Green Wendell Wyatt Federal Building 1220 SW 3rd Ave, Portland Oregon CONFERENCE ROOM 1A & 1B	In-Person
Tuesday, May 2, 2023	2pm-5pm EDT	Virtual	Register in advance for this meeting: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscu6prTkprErPqNd9u-DNDu66SOGuys

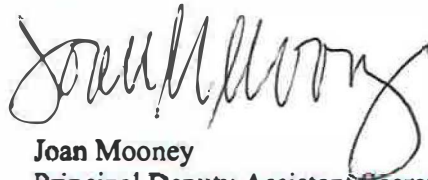
Thursday, May 4, 2023	1pm-4pm PDT	Radisson Phoenix Airport 427 44 th Street Phoenix, Arizona CACTUS CONFERENCE ROOM	In-Person
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We welcome your written comments, which should be submitted by email to: consultation@bia.gov by 11:59 pm EDT on Friday, May, 12, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact Jeff Rupert Director of the Office of Wildland Fire via email at jeffery_rupert@ios.doi.gov or Samuel Kohn Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs, via email at samuel.kohn@bia.gov.

We look forward to speaking with you and receiving your input on this matter.

Sincerely,



Joan Mooney
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary -
Policy, Management and Budget



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs