



August 22, 2023

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
Secretary

Office of Tribal
Relations

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Room 501-A
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Washington, DC
20250

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Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Secretary, you are cordially invited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in USDA's Tribal Consultation & Listening Session on revisions to **Departmental Regulation (DR) 1340-002: Consolidating USDA Agencies' Services on Indian Reservations.**

This internal USDA Department Regulation would:

- Expand USDA's policy to provide tribes the opportunity to request USDA suboffices on their reservations to provide technical assistance from the following agencies:
 - The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (from the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area), and
 - The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS), Rural Housing Service (RHS), and Rural Utility Service (RUS) (from Rural Development (RD) Mission Area).
- There are not currently any specific Congressional appropriations accompanying the enhanced opportunities from the proposed policy.

There have already been some discussions with tribes regarding this DR, but this will be an opportunity to hear in Consultation from all tribal leaders followed by an open Listening Session. The draft of the DR will be sent with this invitation.

Here are the details for the consultation:

Date: Wednesday September 13, 2023 **Time:** 2:00 pm ET – 3:30 pm ET

Zoom Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItduirrT0sE1z4GiWBd2ifWVQOPJLsMXE>

Questions and Updated Information. Updated information will be posted on the OTR website at: <https://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations/tribal-consultations>. Any questions on logistics for this engagement session can be directed to Tribal.Relations@usda.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to this discussion.

Heather Dawn Thompson (*Cheyenne River Sioux*)
Director, Office of Tribal Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Attachments (2):

Proxy Letter Template

Draft Departmental Regulation