



February 5, 2021

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
Secretary

Office of Tribal
Relations

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

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Dear Tribal Leader:

Hihanni waste, greetings. On behalf of the Acting Secretary, you are cordially invited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in an upcoming tribal consultation.

Consultation Topics. In March, the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) will be consulting on the 1) *Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships*, and the 2) *Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government* which specifically includes addressing impediments to accessing USDA programs and services. These two actions by President Biden can be found as attachments below. Each of the two consultations will cover both of these topics. We are also building in two hours before the consultation for tribal caucus. USDA staff will not participate in the tribal caucus as it is designed for tribal leaders and tribal organizations to have internal discussion. For your convenience, we are offering the same consultation on two different days to help offer additional flexibilities. Details for the consultations are below:

Consultation #1

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Time: 11:30amET USDA Introduction

12:00-2:00pmET Tribal Caucus (hosted by NCAI, IAC, and IFAI)

2:00-5:00pmET Tribal Consultation

Consultation #2

Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021

Time: 11:30amET USDA Introduction

12:00-2:00pmET Tribal Caucus (hosted by NCAI, IAC, and IFAI)

2:00-5:00pmET Tribal Consultation

Proxies. In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please notify OTR by Friday March 5, 2021. To designate a proxy for this meeting, please copy the attached delegation form to tribal letterhead. This designation will authorize your designee, in writing, who will attend in your place and the estimated time of your absence. The delegation cannot be in perpetuity. You are also encouraged to bring program leadership and staff from your nation to the tribal consultation as observers.

Registration. Please register with OTR by Friday March 5, 2021. A registration link will be sent at a later date, but if you would like to register before the link is sent, please send the following information to Tribal.Relations@usda.gov :



1. Name
2. Tribe/Organization
3. Consulting official (Y/N)?
4. Email Address
5. Phone Number
6. Topics to Flag

Please also contact at Tribal.Relations@usda.gov if you have any items for the agenda. Once finalized, the agenda and registration information will be posted on the OTR website at: www.usda.gov/tribalrelations. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to joining you on March 9 and 11, 2021.

Lila wopila (much thanks),

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Dawn Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Heather Dawn Thompson (*Cheyenne River Sioux*)
Director, Office of Tribal Relations

Attachments (6):

1. [Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#)
2. [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)
3. [Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#)
4. [USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002 on Tribal Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration](#)
5. [USDA Action Plan for Context \(Dated November 5, 2009\)](#)
6. Tribal Leader Proxy Template