



March 1, 2021

United States Department
of Agriculture

Office of Tribal Relations

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

Phone # 202-205-2249

Fax # 202-720-1058

FRAMING PAPER

**USDA Tribal Consultation:
Tribal Consultation Policies & Processes**
March 9 & 11, 2021

TOPIC: [Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#) (Jan 26, 2021)

SUMMARY: On January 26, 2021, Joe Biden issued a presidential memorandum on consultation reaffirming President Obama’s [Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies](#) (Nov 5, 2009), which requires each agency to prepare and periodically update a detailed plan of action to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175 – [Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#) (November 6, 2000). President Biden’s memorandum directs each Federal agency to consult with Tribes before developing a detailed plan of actions the agency will take to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (Nov. 6, 2000), and to submit the plan to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by April 26, 2021. USDA will hold a consultation on March 9 and 11 to discuss and receive feedback on USDA’s [Departmental Regulation on Tribal Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration](#) as well as USDA’s [Consultation Action Plan](#).

QUESTIONS: As a starting point before the conversation, please consider the following questions regarding USDA and consultation. Any feedback from tribal leaders can either be discussed at either consultation or submitted in writing to the Office of Tribal Relation (OTR). Submission details can be found below.

QUESTION 1: What are some of the “best practices” you see with consultations?

QUESTION 2: Are there particular programs, topics, or agencies within USDA about which you have concerns regarding our consultation process?

QUESTION 3: What is the most effective way to do “virtual consultations” during the pandemic: phone calls, video, or other ideas?

QUESTION 4: After the pandemic, do you want to continue to include a virtual component to consultations?

QUESTION 5: USDA has existing consultation policies that we are reviewing for improvements. We have put our policies on our website for your review and input. Please consider submitting written comments and edits to our policies.

What edits and recommendations do you have for:

- [USDA 2009 Consultation Action Plan?](#)
- [USDA Departmental Regulation on Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration?](#)

DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Please join us for the consultation on March 9 and 11 beginning at 11:30 am ET (www.usda.gov/tribalrelations/tribal-consultations), and/or submit any written comments by March 22 to tribal.relations@usda.gov.