



May 2, 2023

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**RE: USDA-DOI TRIBAL TREATIES DATABASE:  
TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND LISTENING SESSION**

Office of the  
Secretary

Dear Tribal Leaders:

Office of Tribal  
Relations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of the Interior (DOI) seeks your guidance and recommendations through participation in a **Consultation & Listening Session on the [Tribal Treaties Database](#)** at the National Congress of American Indians Midyear Convention in Cherokee, NC on June 5, 2024. We also encourage Tribal attorneys and Tribal subject matter experts to attend and share comments about the database.

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

In 2021, the White House announced the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Tribal Treaty Rights and Reserved Rights](#). This MOU supports the creation, integration, and use of a searchable and indexed database of all treaties between the United States government and Tribal nations. The USDA and DOI, along with the Department of Defense, partnered with Oklahoma State University Libraries (OSU) on the creation of the database. This database is in its beta version as we are constantly adding, editing, and adjusting the information on the website. Users are encouraged to approach the database as a starting point for research and learning. We welcome feedback and contributions that can help improve the accuracy and representation of the information provided.

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In its current version, the database includes:

- 600+ treaties and agreements;
- Tribal connections between signatory Tribes and modern-day federally recognized Tribes;
- Key provision tagging (ex. hunting, fishing, gathering provisions, bad men clauses, rights of way); and
- Links to National Archives treaty scans and page scans from [Volume II of Charles J. Kappler's compilation of laws and treaties](#).

Tribal leaders and subject matter experts have expressed support for this database and have also asked for additional resources to be incorporated in the database. To move forward in the most responsive way to Tribal leader recommendations, USDA and DOI is conducting a Tribal leader consultation and seeks your guidance on the following questions,

1. What is the best way to incorporate Tribal commentary into the database?  
*Example.* Incorporation of Tribal Council Resolutions in database identifying a Tribe's connection to specific treaties (confirmation as a signatory/successor-in-interest Tribe).
2. Are there any other titles (alternative names) for your treaty that you would like to see incorporated in the database?

*Example.*

**National Archives Scan Title:** 1854. Treaty with the Nisqually & other Bands around Puget Sound, and adjacent Inlets, Considered as one Nation.

**Kappler's Vol. II Scan Title:** Treaty with the Nisqualli, Puyallup, Etc., 1854.

**Other Titles (alternative names):** ex., Treaty of Medicine Creek

3. In looking at the treaties and agreements published on the database, are there any glaring (non-substantive) mistakes that you have identified as it relates to your Tribe?
4. What additional resources/treaties/agreements would you like to see included in the database?

**Written Responses.** If you would like your comments included in the official record, please submit to the USDA Office of Tribal Relations email at [tribal.relations@usda.gov](mailto:tribal.relations@usda.gov) by July 8, 2024. While later comments will not be submitted into the published consultation record, USDA welcomes comments on this database at any time.

Feedback from Tribes and subject matter experts is critical as we continue to develop the treaty database. OSU has an additional resource where input can be submitted on the database at any time through an [online form](#).

**Tribal Consultation Details.**

*What:* Tribal Treaty Database Consultation and Listening Session  
*Where:* NCAI Midyear Convention,  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
*Room TBD*  
*When:* Wednesday, June 5, 2024  
1:00 – 3:00PM ET  
*RSVP:* Whether attending in person or remote please **Register HERE**

**Questions and Updated Information.** Updated information will be posted on the [USDA Tribal Consultations website](#). Any questions on logistics for this engagement session can be directed to [Tribal.Relations@usda.gov](mailto:Tribal.Relations@usda.gov). Whether attending in person or remote please **Register HERE**

Thank you for your time, support, and comments on the Tribal Treaty Database. We look forward to this discussion.



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

Attachments (1):  
Proxy Letter Template