

**Forest Service Handbook
National Headquarters - Washington Office
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 1509.13 – American Indian and Alaska Native Relations Handbook
Chapter 30 - Voluntary Closures**

Amendment: 1509.13-2004-1

Effective date: March 03, 2004

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Approved by: Joel D. Holtrop, Deputy Chief

Date approved: February 20, 2004

Responsible Staff:

Last Change:

Superseded Document(s):

Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

01 - 04: Sets out codes and captions for Authority (sec. 01), Objectives (sec. 02), Policy (sec. 03), and Responsibility (sec. 04) related to the Tribal Relations Program and provides cross-references to additional direction at FSM 1563.01 - 1563.04.

10: Establishes the chapter for direction regarding consultation with Tribes.

10.1: Provides a cross-reference to the full listing of laws, regulations, and Executive orders at FSM 1563-1563.01i. Exhibit 01 sets out the full text of Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.

11: Provides direction on the steps to follow in consulting with Tribes.

12: In this section regarding compensation, encourages agency officials to facilitate tribal participation in agency decision making and provides guidelines for the agency to consider compensation to Tribes or tribal representatives for extraordinary circumstances or specialized expertise when it may be in the agency's interest.

20: Establishes a chapter for direction on repatriation and reburial documentation.

21: Sets out samples of documentation for repatriation and reburial in exhibits 01 through 05.

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30: Establishes a chapter to provide direction on voluntary closures of National Forest System lands for tribal activities.

31: Provides direction on needs to be considered when Tribes request voluntary closures of areas because of traditional tribal activities.

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A number of traditional tribal activities critical to tribal identity, beliefs, and well-being require privacy. Forest Service units and Tribes can work out mutually acceptable arrangements with Tribes by scheduling and locating activities to reduce potential conflict between traditional tribal activities and other uses.

At times, additional measures are necessary to reduce unwarranted interference and interruption of traditional tribal activities that are not open to the general public. When a tribal request for a voluntary closure is submitted, in consultation with tribal officials and traditional leaders, consider the need for:

1. Postings and signage requesting Forest visitors to respect the Tribe's need for privacy during traditional activities. Suggested wording may include:

This is the traditional ceremonial/fishing area/or other [INSERT DESIGNATION] as appropriate, for the [INSERT NAME] Tribe.

The Forest Service and the Tribe request that you do not interrupt or record tribal activities.

2. Educational materials regarding the Tribe and its traditional uses in the area.
3. Arrangements for Tribal representatives and Forest Service employees to be available in the area to explain the traditional values and uses of the area and the need to respect the Tribe's activities.