



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2014:030

EXPAND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TRIBAL CONSULTATION TRAINING TO ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** in Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000 (E.O. 13175), the United States (U.S.) recognized the unique legal relationship with American Indians, affirmed its commitment to work on a government-to-government basis, and recognized the sovereign rights of Tribes to self-government and self-determination; and
- WHEREAS,** Presidential Executive Order 13175, issued on November 5, 2009, directs each federal agency to adopt a detailed plan of meaningful consultation and coordination with Tribal governments when developing new policy; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implemented numerous steps to fulfill the U.S. governments commitment to consult and coordinate with Tribal governments, including establishing the Office of Tribal Relations, and other mechanisms for consultation, communication, and collaboration; and
- WHEREAS,** the USDA consultation action plan initiated a program to provide training, education, and cultural competency opportunities to USDA personnel nationwide to assist them in understanding the agency methodology and protocol for conducting effective consultation activities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) developed Tribal consultation training, called "Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI)"; and
- WHEREAS,** the NRCS Tribal consultation training was produced through a collaboration of the NRCS Harmony Cadre, the American Indian and Alaska Native Employee's Association, and an Elders Council; and
- WHEREAS,** in August 2013, the NRCS conducted the WEWAI training in Warwick, Rhode Island, hosted by the Narragansett Indian Tribe, which was an exceptional learning and cultural exchange for all participants, which fulfilled the intent of the USDA Tribal Consultation Policy, and provided NRCS staff with insightful experience that should advance their knowledge and capacity to work well with Tribal governments and officials, and individual American Indian and Alaska Native farmers, ranchers, and producers; and

- WHEREAS,** the NRCS WEWAI training is a successful platform to promote meaningful working relationships between NRCS and federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** this training would enhance consultation and delivery of all USDA programs to federally recognized Tribes and to individual Indian and Alaska Native farmers, ranchers, and producers; and
- WHEREAS,** the USDA is engaged with other federal agencies in formal proceedings to consult and communicate effectively with federally recognized Tribes, such as in the recently created White House Council on Native American Affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors endorses the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service Tribal Consultation Training known as “Working Effectively with American Indians”; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the United States Department of Agriculture to implement the ‘Working Effectively with American Indians’ training program across all United States Department of Agriculture agencies; and to extend the Tribal consultation training program to all federal agencies, particularly in formal proceedings in which United States Department of Agriculture is engaged with other federal agencies.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 6, 2014.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”