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USET SPF Alert

Department of Defense Seeking Comments to Improve Tribal Consultation Efforts

Dear USET SPF Membership,

On February 8, 2021 the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) [link] announcing that they are seeking comments on how to improve their Tribal Consultation efforts. This action is in response to President Biden's January 26, 2021, "[Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)" [link], which reaffirms the Administration's commitment to [Executive Order 13175](#) [link] and requires federal agencies to prepare and periodically update plans to implement E.O. 13175.

As directed by President Biden's Memorandum, DoD is seeking input from Tribal Nations to develop a "plan of action" within 90 days on specific issues and recommendations including, but not limited to—

- Revisions to its current [DoD Instruction 4710.02: "DoD interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes"](#) [link];
- Identify procedures to ensure regular, meaningful, and robust consultation;
- Measure the progress of ongoing efforts to consult and coordinate with Tribal Nations;
- Protection of Tribal lands, rights, and resources from impacts related to ongoing military installations and training operations;
- Addressing legacy pollution of Tribal lands due to past DoD activities; and
- Recognizing the service and sacrifice of Native American Veterans.

For a complete list of issues DoD is seeking Tribal Nation comment on, please view the [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) linked above.

Comments on the items referenced in the [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) and other recommendations to improve DoD's Tribal Consultation efforts can be emailed to DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com [link]. Comments will be accepted until **March 8, 2021**.

For more information, please contact USET SPF Senior Policy Analyst, Brian Howard at bhoward@usetinc.org.