

Pacific Southwest Region Tribal Relations Program FY05 Report

Introduction:

The Pacific Southwest Region is privileged to work with tribal governments, communities and indigenous organizations throughout its extent across California, Hawaii and the US affiliated islands in the Pacific. There are one hundred and ten federally recognized Tribes that have rights or interests or aboriginal lands within the State of California's national forests. There are also more than 50 nonrecognized Tribes and tribal organizations within the state.

The Region's tribal relations program is over 15 years old. All 18 National Forests in the Region have a tribal relations program manager (ranging from full-time to part time), the Region has a full-time program manager located in the Regional Forester's Office, Vallejo, California and the Pacific Southwest Research Station has a tribal liaison based in their regional office. The Region's government-to-government and consultation policies are provided under separate cover.

This report will concentrate on our government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Tribes.

Partnerships:

The Region cherishes and celebrates partnerships. We have over thirty ongoing partnerships and want to highlight three of them here:

The Hoopa Valley Tribal proposal to the Six Rivers Tribe is the first Tribal Forestry Protection Act Project in the nation. The Forest and Tribe share 25.1 miles of boundary and this project will help reduce the threat of fire in a culturally important area.

The Grindstone Rancheria and Mendocino National Forest Fuels Reduction partnership has resulted in improved forest management on ancestral lands, a trained and skilled tribal workforce and strengthened relationships between the Forest and the Tribe.

The Lassen National Forest and the California Indian Manpower Consortium have entered into a five year job training and development program for tribal members to work on trail maintenance and construction.

Contracts, Grants and Agreements:

In FY 2005, about 3.26% of the Region's contract business with to Tribes in the amount of \$2,552,786.42. Other contract information is summarized below along with grants and agreements:

The Modoc, Klamath and Shasta-Trinity NFs have worked for the past four years (including FY 05) on the Historic Properties Management Program (HPMP) for the Medicine Lake Highlands (MLH) with the Klamath Tribes and the Pit River Tribe. The three Forests have a master participating agreement with the Pit River Tribe for

restoration work; additional work includes watershed analysis, ethnobotany surveys and plant specimens' books and existing and desired future cultural condition analysis.

The Eldorado National Forest executed a 5 year Cooperative Cost Share Agreement with the Shingle Springs Rancheria to support cultural activities.

The Klamath National Forest has renegotiated a mushroom Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the Karuk Tribe.

The Lassen NF has protocol agreements (MOUs) with the Greenville Rancheria and the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

The Mendocino National Forest has major grants with Grindstone Rancheria, Robinson Rancheria, Middletown Rancheria, Coyote Valley Tribe

The Modoc has two Economic Action Planning grants that are active this year; one with the Pit River Tribe and another with the Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council.

The Plumas National Forest and Maidu Cultural Development Group are engaged in a Stewardship Contract on approximately 1,500 acres with an initial value of \$106,900. Under the pilot program, this was the 1st stewardship contract with a Tribe or tribal organization. The Plumas National Forest also has formalized protocol agreements with three Tribes: The Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria and Susanville Indian Rancheria.

The Sierra is in the final implementation phase of a partnership agreement between the forest and the Picayune Rancheria and Native Earth Foundation, a Native American based non-profit organization; to evaluate a wilderness trail, the Mono Trail, as a Traditional Cultural Property for its eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Sierra National Forest developed a confidentiality agreement regarding the sharing of culturally sensitive information. The Forest continues to make regular use of that agreement with Tribes. The Forest has also completed and signed a consultation MOU with the North Fork Rancheria and is in continuing consultation with Picayune Rancheria and Big Sandy Rancheria on their respective consultation MOUs.

A grant for \$20,000 was awarded to the Sierra Mono Museum, a Native American (Mono) museum from the Sierra National Forest, to conduct planning for expansion of the museum. The work was funded through Economic Recovery Funds, has been ongoing for three years and is in its final phase.

The Six Rivers has six major grants and ten agreements, including cost share and reimbursement of funds agreements with Tribes and tribal organizations, including the Hoopa Tribe (forestry protection), Karuk Tribe (watershed restoration), and the Yurok Tribe (utilization of sub-merchantable material) .(Also see previous information under partnerships.)

The Stanislaus National Forest works closely with three Miwok Tribes (note different spellings for different Miwok Tribes). The Tuolumne Band of MeWuk Indians, who works with the Stanislaus National Forest, was the recipient of a National Fire Plan grant to purchase a wood chipper for their Community Protection Program (Fuels Reduction program for their Rancheria). The Tribe is also working cooperatively with its' neighbors to reduce fuels in other communities.

The Stanislaus N.F. and Tuolumne Band of MeWuk Indians executed the NAGPRA Comprehensive Agreement. The Forest and Tribe had been instrumental in developing a regional model agreement.

The MeWuk Tribe contributed \$4800 toward a project that rerouted a road that went through a culturally significant site at Cow Creek. The Forest and Tribe had proposed the project to the Tuolumne County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and were successful in getting the project funded. However, the project bids came in over the budgeted amount, consequently the Tribe made up the difference in costs so that the project could be completed. Other Stanislaus tribal grants are listed below:

Tsi-Akim Maidu: Economic and Cultural Development Plan Grant Sponsor: Sierra Economic Development District (SEDD).

The goal of this project was to help the Tsi-Akim become more economically self-sufficient. Six specific planned activities included surveying tribal members as to community needs, skills and desired economic opportunities.

Miwok-Maidu Eco-Tourism Incubator Project Grant.

This project proposed to develop an eco-tourism incubator through teaching the tribal members the art of environmental interpretation and how to share historic and cultural information with visitors. This project was identified as one of the implementation items in the tribe's community action strategy plan.

Development of the *Miwok-Maidu Sense of Place Project*: Todds Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation (TVMMCF).

This project focused on culturally-based tourism and development of a riparian and forest land Native American Stewardship Plan which involved integrating Miwok-Maidu resource management concepts and practices into existing Forest Service community partnership. The project objectives tied directly into Foresthill's Community Action Plan.

Training Activities:

The Regional Office, in partnership with 3 Tribes, 2 intertribal organizations, and 2 agencies, hosted the 1st workshop devoted to the Tribal Forest Protection Act and received favorable response from the 130 plus participants and the Department, Congressional representatives, Tribes, Forests and others. The Region has also conducted 5 stewardship contracting training sessions open to tribal participants. The RO provides Forest and Province level training for leadership teams and staff, emphasizing current tribal relations issues and opportunities.

The Region works with R2 & 3 to design and implement the Interregional Indian Law Training workshops for line officers every year for the past 5 years. This workshop provides line officers with the information and skills they need to be successful in tribal relations, with an emphasis on tribal consultation, coordination and collaboration.

The Mendocino National Forest has provided the Grindstone Indian Rancheria field training in chainsaw operation and maintenance, map and compass reading, and safety training. The Forest also extended training to Round Valley Indian Tribes first-aid, Basic 32 and Wildland Firefighter Refresher courses.

The Plumas and Six Rivers National Forests have provided training to Forest personnel on government-to-government relations and consultation.

The Sierra Nevada Forest has also provided training and supportive assistance to the Picayune Rancheria which has developed a Cultural Resources Program. The Forest has also actively contributed in a local two-day workshop with the California Intertribal Council and at least 20 Tribes regarding cultural resources management (laws, history). The Forest also provided a Resources Overview for the Big Sandy Rancheria.

The Six Rivers supported tribal and agency participants for 2 training sessions on stewardship contracting and collaboration.

Educational Activities:

The local tribal college, DQ, has only recently reopened so no activities were pursued last fiscal year. The Angeles National Forest has issued a permit for Ne' Ayuh, a local Native American organization, to operate an American Indian Cultural Center which provides educational activities.

Consultation:

Consultation and coordination are on-going, recurring activities. Most Forests specifically underscored that they have constant interaction, at least on a weekly basis for virtually all land management planning and resource activities their Forest undertakes. Specific consultation documentation (see attached form and report) is at the project or local level. Such information is more appropriately examined during Forest reviews which include tribal participation. Examples of Forest consultation are included below, emphasizing the range and diversity of consultation topics.

The Cleveland consults with 12 reservations including Viejas, Barona, Cosmet/Inaja, Mesa Grande, and La Jolla regarding the draft Forest Land Management Plan and other decisions. The Cleveland also met with Viejas Reservation three times regarding the Tribal Forest Protection Act and other times regarding access issues between the Veijas and Capitan Grande Reservations.

The Eldorado National Forest has ongoing consultation with the Washoe Tribe on the proposed Kirwood Ski Area Master Development Plan and FERC licenses.

The Klamath National Forest meets weekly with the Karuk Tribe and has a leadership Summit meeting twice a year. Consultation involves hundreds of projects and includes mushroom picking, protection of sacred sites, basketry material burning outfitter river use during tribal ceremonial dates, and integration of tribal resource needs in forest fuels reduction projects.

The Lassen meets with the Susanville Indian Rancheria on the Planning rule, OHV planning process, Tribal Forest Protection Act, and special forest products draft policy.

The Los Padres NF consults on land management planning, oil and gas issues, various cattle grazing and a variety of other projects and plans.

Mendocino National Forest's Upper Lake/Covelo District Ranger met with Round Valley Reservation's President to consult and discuss Tribal Forest Protection Act and Stewardship possibilities. The District Ranger also met with or talked to the Tribe's Natural Resource Department Director about the following issues, projects and opportunities: Tribal Forest Protection Act, Stewardship, fire crew training, fuel hazard reduction, Community Fire Protection Plan, and stream rehabilitation.

The Modoc National Forest has quarterly Consultation Meetings between Pit River Tribe and Forest Line Officers and monthly meetings with cultural representatives, some tribal council members of the Pit River Tribe and Klamath Tribes for the development of the HPMP for the MLH. Quarterly Consultation Meetings between Pit River Tribe and Forest Line Officers – (Copy of one agenda is enclosed to illustrate the range of forest consultation activities.)

The Sequoia National Forest initiates consultation on all projects that may affect the Tule River Tribe. The Sequoia Forest Supervisor and Ranger met with the Tribal Council to discuss the Forest Protection Act and the stewardship Contracting Forest Service Handbook draft.

The Shasta-Trinity National Forests consulted with the Pit River Tribe and the Redding Rancheria regarding Forest Service implementation of the Tribal Forest Protection Act and proposed projects like the Pilgrim Timber Sale. The Forests also consulted with the Redding Rancheria regarding a proposed new marina at Shasta Lake (Turntable Bay).

The Sierra National Forest has an established agreement to meet quarterly with four federally recognized Tribes, three non-recognized groups and other members of the general tribal community to visit on agenda topics that are developed by both the agency and the tribal community. The Forest Supervisor and District Rangers are present at these meetings. The topics range from specific proposed Sierra NF projects, Special Forest Products; National Tribal Leaders Committee; Forest Protections Act and the National Fire Plan; grants and agreement discussions; NAGPRA; projects planned by Tribes; management of specific sites of importance to Native Americans, i.e., Mono Hot Springs, Haslett Basin Traditional Use Area. At present, an extensive FERC Hydro-Alternative Relicensing Process involves meeting with the tribal community on a monthly basis. Tribal members are actively involved in the development of a Historic Properties

Management Plan that includes over 100 (mostly Native American) cultural resources. The Forest is also in consultation with a current Special Use Permittee, a traditional practitioners group, to renew a permit that allows ongoing use of a specific traditional/spiritual area to conduct Native American traditional activities.

The Six Rivers National Forest maintains government-to-government relations with twelve federally recognized Tribes: The Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Karuk Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria, Smith River Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Table Bluff Reservation-Wiyot Tribe, Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, and Round Valley Tribes. The Forest has formal protocol agreements with 10 of the 12 Tribes (the other 2 Tribes prefer not to). The Forest has over 400 documented consultation activities covering amendments to the Forest Land Management Plan, Roads, fuels projects, vegetation management, grazing EIS, and proposed WO policies. There were also numerous staff-to-staff interactions that are not included here that were necessary in order to consult informed formal governmental consultation.

The Stanislaus N.F. holds annual Tribal Consultation Day on April 8, 2005 which was hosted by the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. Tribal consultation for projects in the early planning stages is initiated on this day. Other local Tribes were also invited to join in on the day. The Forest Supervisor, Deputy Forest Supervisor, 4 District Rangers and key staff are active participants in going over the potential plan of work for the year. District Rangers also met with local tribal representatives on a quarterly basis to consult on proposed projects and topics of interest. Deputy Forest Supervisor also met with tribal members to discuss the outcome of the Stewardship Fireshed Assessment (SFS) effort. Tribal members had provided earlier input to the effort and the deputy wanted to share with them what the outcome of the analysis was before it was announced to the public. Me-Wuk Tribal members visited the Cow Creek road reroute site twice during the year.

Project Coordination:

The Cleveland Forest has met with Viejas frequently about issues and opportunities, including a potential TFPA project, and access and potential land acquisition. The Cleveland has met with the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Ajchaman Nation over five times regarding a proposed basketweaving interpretive trail, a proposed burn plan to manage traditional plant materials and provide a location for their annual Eagle ceremony. The Cleveland National Forest attends the monthly Kumeyaay Culture Repatriation Committee meetings.

The Klamath National Forest's coordination efforts include collaboration with the Karuk and Shasta Tribes to protect sacred sites and natural resource issues during the Wooley fire, with the Karuk Tribe, outfitter river use during Karuk tribal ceremonies, integration of Karuk tribal resources in forest fuels reduction projects and increasing cultural burning. PSW is working with the Karuk Tribe and the Forest to integrate traditional values and practices into forest restoration activities.

The Middle Creek planting project was a collaborative effort involving a U.C. Davis doctoral candidate, Middle Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)

volunteers, a Robinson Rancheria basket weaver, and the Mendocino NF to re-establish populations of culturally important plant species for later use by basket weavers. Dogbane (propagated at the Forest's Genetic Research Center) and sedge were planted in five separate locations along Middle Creek.

Indian Days consisted of the health fair, parade, and prevention workshop held at Covelo and on the Round Valley Reservation. Mendocino NF fire and prevention employees and equipment participated in both the parade and prevention program. The prevention program was aimed at fire awareness/prevention at home and within the local community. Mendocino National Forest's Upper Lake/ Covelo District Ranger met several times with the Robinson Rancheria tribal environmental coordinator regarding noxious weed control opportunities/methods, and native plant material planting/cultivation projects.

Three Mendocino free use permits were issued to the Grindstone Rancheria (2 permits) and the Colusa Rancheria (1 permit) to cut manzanita to be used during ceremonial dances and related activities at each reservation.

Mendocino NF staff, Sacramento River Discovery Center (SRDC) representatives, and tribal council members from the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians met to discuss development and interpretive plans for the Red Bluff Recreation Area Five-Year Development Plan. The Tribe has expressed an interest in the educational programs offered by SRDC (under Special Use Permit), and funded SRDC staff time for science program in summer of 2005. The Tribe expressed its willingness to fund up to 50% of the development costs for the recreation area's proposed Native American Interpretive Area (village and signage).

The Mendocino National Forest worked with the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Round Valley Indian Tribes to commemorate the 142nd anniversary of the forced relocation to the Nome Cult Reservation. (now Round Valley). The Forest provided use of remote FS facilities for trail walkers and other logistical and financial support. Indian Days consisted of the health fair, parade, and prevention workshop held at Covelo and on the Round Valley Reservation. Mendocino NF fire and prevention employees and equipment participated in both the parade and prevention program. The prevention program was aimed at fire awareness/prevention at home and within the local community. The Forest worked with Grindstone Rancheria and Colusa Rancheria to obtain manzanita to be used during ceremonial dances and related activities at each reservation.

The Plumas NF has met with the Greenville Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria and Berry Creek Rancheria and Mooretown Rancheria on a number of national issues, such as the planning rule, OHV planning process, the TFPA, and the draft Special Forest Products Policy. The Plumas National Forest and the California Indian Basketweavers Association are in a partnership to improve basketry materials through controlled burns in Granite Basin for the benefit of tribal members.

The Sequoia NF and the Tule River Tribe coordinate on complimentary fuels treatments on both sides of the reservation boundary, tribal access, and other topics. The Sequoia is continuing the partnership to improve boundary fences along the shared border with the reservation to reduce unauthorized grazing.

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest met with the Pit River Tribal Council to discuss their program of work and other issues of a government-to-government nature and held a fieldtrip to Mt. Shasta.

Members of the Tuolumne Band of MeWuks were involved in the Stanislaus Centennial Event Steering Committee. The celebration was a very large community event and the Forest wanted to have a strong tribal presence representing the past and the future.

The Six Rivers National Forest has a long term partnership with the Karuk Tribe for road decommissioning to protect local streams. The total cost of the project was \$638,725 with the Karuk contributing \$163,738 in cash with \$88,606 in kind services.

The Karuk Tribe and Six Rivers have also entered into a long-term partnership to collaboratively manage an area of approximately 10,000 acres as the Karuk Environmental Management Practices Demonstration area. The objective is to showcase how to manage for biological diversity and ecosystem healthy by using Karuk cultural environmental practices and traditional ecological knowledge.

The Tuolumne Band of MeWuk Indians has provided a representative to the Stanislaus National Forest monitoring team that has been tracking with the local Granite Stewardship Project. The Granite area is important to the MeWuks and they have also expressed interest in the stewardship concept and process. The Calaveras District staff has continued to work very closely with the Calaveras Band of MiWuk Indians in the development and operation of the Wakaloo Hepyoo Campground. The District has also provided an opportunity for the tribe to use the back portion of the campground in August of each year to have their annual gathering with other Tribes.

FS Coordinated Activities and Technology Transfer:

PSW is working with a number of Tribes to assist in the identification and control of Sudden Oak Death disease.

The Lassen NF is facilitating Small Business Administration assistance to the Susanville Rancheria for economic development. The Plumas NF facilitated Enterprise Rancheria in obtaining Hub Zone designation.

The Calaveras Band of MiWuk Indians are working in partnership with the Calaveras District of the Stanislaus National Forest to operate the Wakaloo Hepyoo Campground which serves thousands of recreationists every year. (Please see attached).

The Modoc NF has provided technical assistance to the Pit River Tribe and the Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council, specifically related to their economic planning grants.

Following the Smoke is an award winning partnership between the Six Rivers, the Karuk Tribe and other agencies. The program involves a series of weeklong gatherings on the Six Rivers National Forest and is part of the Passport in Time Program. Over 500 people have participated in the 7 years of this program.

Stanislaus National Forest Staff provide technical expertise to the Tribe in the development of their own Fire Department.

The Tahoe NF supports the Colfax-Todd Valley Consolidated Tribe and the Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation to continue to monitor the bear grass plots that were burned during a joint FS Fuels and tribal project. The goal of the project is to provide and maintain suitable native basketmaking materials to local Basketmakers. This event provides an excellent opportunity for Tribe and the Forest Service to learn and work together to reinstate some indigenous burning practices and to demonstrate cultural practices to the local community.

Contacts with Tribes:

As mentioned earlier, contacts with Tribes are continuous and extensive. The Region and 8 Forests that work with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California are in on-going discussions to maintain consistent working relations and develop an interforest agreement with the Tribe (we have also asked R4 to participate).

The Cleveland has held three major multitribal, interagency meetings to introduce the new Forest Supervisor and offer Tribes an opportunity to express concerns and discuss topics with the CNF management. Included was information regarding the Tribal Forest Protection Act and the draft Forest Products policy and the Draft Forest Products Policy. The Alpine District Ranger frequently meetings meeting with the Viejas Reservation frequently and is developing a joint fuels reduction project under the Tribal Forest Protection Act. The Trabuco District Ranger participated in tribal events such as the California Indian basket Weavers gathering at the Pala Reservation where there were a number of California tribal elected officials. The Cleveland also attends the monthly Kumeyaay Culture Repatriation Meetings with tribal representatives and provided a location for the KCRC annual Solstice Gathering.

The Klamath NF has on-going, constant interaction at all levels of the forest and tribal organization, at least on a weekly basis. There is a Summit meeting between the leadership of the Klamath and the Six Rivers national forests and the Karuk Tribe.

The Lassen NF meets every month with the Enterprise Rancheria and the Susanville Rancheria.

The Los Padres National Forest has quarterly meetings with Santa Ynez reservation tribal officials.

The Modoc NF has innumerable meetings, especially fieldtrips with the Tribes on a variety of projects.

The Plumas NF meetings monthly with Enterprise Rancheria to maintain government-to-government relations discuss issues and develop mutually beneficial projects.

The Sequoia National Forest meets with the Tule River Indian Tribe frequently averaging monthly in person with phone calls to maintain the government-to-government relationship.

The Strategic Partnership Coalition, spearheaded by the Six Rivers National Forest, is made up of the Forest, ten Tribes and six other agencies and meets four times a year. The Coalition is an effective means of sharing information, exchanging resources and cooperating to address issues of mutual interest and has been invaluable for enhancing relationships, facilitating communications and encouraging coordination between the participants. The Stanislaus Forest Supervisor or Deputy Forest Supervisor meets quarterly with tribal representatives to discuss specific topics and also to maintain a government-to-government relationship with Tribes.

NAGPRA:

The Region has repatriated and supported reburial of approximately 60 burials in FY 05. There are approximately 104 burials still to be repatriated in FY 06 at a cost of \$350,000. A major NAGPRA meeting was held with representatives from the Santa Rosa Rancheria, Santa Ynez Reservation and others.