



Office of the State Forester

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management



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Governor

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Tribal Outreach and Activities Annual Report 2019

Agency Overview

The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), in partnership with local, county, state, and federal agencies, protects Arizona’s people by: providing coordination and resource response for the suppression and management of wildland fire; delivering education to aid in the prevention of wildland fire; providing information, education, technical assistance, and integrated management strategies through forestry programs; collaborating in forest restoration; and ensuring fire and life safety through regular building inspections, permitting, and plan reviews.

Tribal Contact

DFFM is in constant collaboration with tribal entities during the fire season while engaging in an active fire: the engagement is essential to ensure cultural sensitivity for tribal interests. The grants department continually advertises and advocates for tribes to apply for funding for projects conducting fuels treatments, invasive vegetation treatments, and wildfire assistance grants among other funding opportunities. The State Fire Marshal office is ready to respond to tribal entities and ready to inspect on reservations at their request.

DFFM is in the process of updating our Forest Action Plan for 2020. The agency is operating under the approved 2010 Forest Action Plan; below is a table listing our current goals and objectives for the agency as it pertains to Tribal interaction.

AZDFFM Goals	Objectives
Goal 1: Improved Communications between all land management agencies, indigenous tribes, and other cultural groups about varying perspectives and beliefs related to forests, trees, and other natural resources.	Objective A: Build trust, communication networks, and problem solving strategies between land management agencies, communities, and stakeholders about the diverse cultural perspectives of forest users and Indigenous Tribes.
	Objective B: Improve Broader understanding of various cultural perspectives as they relate to forest resources, fire management, and other natural resource issues.
	Objective C: Educate the public, government officials, and community leaders about the role and importance of cultural perspectives in restoration, sustainable forest and wood products businesses, fire management, and responsibilities.

Duty ♦ Respect ♦ Integrity

AZDFFM Goals	Objectives
Goal 2: Effective collaboration mechanisms for sharing of information about resources, priorities, policies, and management strategies between Tribes and non-Tribal organizations.	Objective D: Where appropriate, share data and implementation strategies to leverage successful outcomes on tribal and adjacent lands with similar management objectives.
	Objective E: Improve information sharing about available resources to address the needs of indigenous tribes and other cultural groups in Arizona.

Tribal Notifications

For all projects involving State Trust Land DFFM collaborates with the State Land Department for tribal consultations. The Land Department is the responsible entity for activities taking place on trust land, therefore the Land Department has agreed to take the lead in tribal notifications. Below is a list of activities with associated Goals and Objectives that have taken place in 2019.

DFFM Tribal Consultation Activities		
Goal	Objective	Activity
Goal 1 , 2	Objective A, D, E	State Fire School trained 57 students from 13 different tribes. The school focuses on producing new Structural Firefighters.
Goal 1 , 2	Objective A, D, E	Attended 2 tribal meetings through the Fire Chiefs Association: meeting with 9 tribes.
Goal 1 , 2	Objective A, D, E	Inspect and collaborate upon request with Sancarlos (4 projects) and the Navajo Nation (9 projects).
Goal 1	Objective C	Presented to a Tribal summer program, American Indian Services, for students working in tandem with NAU School of Forestry.
Goal 1	Objective C	Engaged with NAU tribal students at Intertribal Timber Council conference of Natural resources.
Goal 1 , 2	Objective A, B, D, E	Assisted White Mountain Apache tribe with treatments on Mount Lemmon working in tandem with Forest Service.

Goal	Objective	Activity
Goal 1 , 2	Objective A, B, D, E	Worked for continuous implementation strategies with White Mountain Apache Tribe for Tribal fee lands.
Goal 1 , 2	Objective A, B, D, E	Worked for continuous implementation strategies with White Mountain Apache Tribe and Forest Service for treatment on forest service lands.
Goal 1, 2	Objective A, C, E	Dispersed prevention material at Western Navajo Fair, working with Navajo Prevention program.
Goal 1	Objective A, B	Assisted Tribes in suppression of Wildfire with suppression resources and/or agency representatives.
Goal 1, 2	Objective A, B, D, E	Worked with Hualapai Tribe in implementation of forest thinning. Treating acres of tribal land.
Goal 2	Objective D, E	Awarded grants to tribes for hazardous fuel reduction.
Goal 1, 2	Objective A, B, C, D, E	Met with Gila River Indian Tribe to help plan and offer assistance in the Gila and Salt river confluence project.
Goal 1, 2	Objective A, B, D, E	Continuous weekly prescribed fire coordination with tribes and federal entities during active prescribed fire season
Goal 1, 2	Objective A, C, D, E	Worked with BIA in development of Communities at Risk List for the State.
Goal 2	Objective D, E	Worked with Tribes with completion of Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement for White Mountain Apache, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort McDowell Tribe.
Goal 2	Objective D, E	Collected Fire numbers for National fire activity report from Tribal representatives.
Goal 1, 2	Objective A, B, D, E	Collaborated with tribes pertaining to archeological sites while fighting fires.