

Arizona Office of Tourism Consultation Policy
Amended: March 31, 2015
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PURPOSE

This policy establishes the basic principles governing the Arizona Office of Tourism's (AOT) relations with and process for engaging Tribal governments in the State of Arizona.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of AOT is to enhance the state economy and the quality of life for all Arizonans by expanding travel activity and increasing related revenues through tourism promotion and development. There are twenty-two Tribal governments within the State of Arizona that have jurisdiction over approximately 28 percent of the land base. The State of Arizona and Tribes share the recognition that tourism is an important means of economic development.

POLICY

AOT recognizes the sovereignty of Tribal governments and their jurisdiction over lands within Indian Country as defined by federal law. (The definition in federal law includes all lands within reservation boundaries [18 U.S.C.A. §1151].)

AOT's support to Tribes will be provided in the interest of the State and will not be used as the basis for assertion of State authority within Indian Country.

AOT is committed to developing cooperative relationships with Tribes, and will respect the cultural concerns of Tribes.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for the enforcement of this policy lies with the director of the Agency, executive management, division directors, and the Tribal Tourism Liaison. Transmission of information shall be the responsibility of all AOT staff.

PROCEDURES

1. AOT's staff will include a Tribal Tourism liaison, to the extent resources allow, to help build rapport and communications with the Tribes.
2. AOT will establish, staff and rely on the Tribal Tourism Advisory Committee as an important method of communication with Tribes, to the extent that resources allow.
3. AOT will work with the Tribes for the mutual benefit of promoting and marketing American Indian heritage and culture.
4. AOT will assist Tribal governments in product development by providing technical assistance, sharing data, encouraging participation in AOT programs and resources, and conducting joint Tribal-State projects to the extent resources allow.
5. AOT will invite Tribal representatives to participate in its training programs.
6. Tribal issues, including requests from Tribes for assistance, will be directed to the Director of AOT and/or Tribal Tourism Liaison on a weekly basis.
7. AOT may enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) when considered mutually appropriate by AOT and an interested Tribal Government.
8. AOT will continue to recommend appropriate Tribal representation for consideration for appointment by the Governor's Office of Boards & Commissions to the Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) to advise the agency Director in preparation of budget and in the establishment of policies and programs which promote and develop tourism throughout the state.

APPROVED BY:

Arizona Office of Tourism

Sherry Henry
Director

Date