

Singel, Wenona

From: Singel, Wenona
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:01 AM
To: SM.FS.otrtribalcon@usda.gov
Subject: Urgent Request for Roadless Rule Tribal Consultation Records and Consultation Log
Importance: High

Dear Office of Tribal Relations Consultation Team,

I am writing to request information and records concerning the government-to-government Tribal consultations conducted in connection with USDA's proposal to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, Docket No. FS-2025-0001.

USDA's August 2026 Draft Environmental Impact Statement states that the Forest Service notified Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations of the opportunity to consult on July 22, 2025; that the Office of Tribal Relations held a Tribal forum on August 5, 2025; and that the Forest Service subsequently received **64 requests for consultation, held 29 consultations, and had an additional five consultations scheduled**. The Draft EIS states that these consultations were conducted either virtually or in person with local or regional Forest Service line officers serving as consulting officials. The August 2026 Tribal Summary Impact Statement likewise reports 29 consultations held and states that its summary reflects consultation input received through December 5, 2025.

I am seeking the records necessary to understand the content of those consultations and how Tribal input informed the August 2026 proposed rule and Draft EIS. Specifically, I would greatly appreciate:

1. **A complete consultation log or roster** for the Roadless Rule rescission process, identifying, for each consultation:
 - the Tribe or Alaska Native Corporation;
 - the date of the consultation;
 - whether it was virtual or in person;
 - the location, if in person;
 - the Forest Service consulting official and responsible Forest Service unit/region;
 - the Tribal officials or representatives participating, to the extent that information is publicly releasable; and
 - whether the consultation occurred before or after publication of the August 29, 2025 Notice of Intent.
2. **The consultation record for each completed consultation**, to the extent publicly releasable, including:
 - agendas;
 - meeting notes, minutes, memoranda, summaries, or consultation reports;
 - transcripts or recordings, if any were created;
 - presentations or briefing materials;
 - written comments, letters, position papers, maps, scientific materials, or other documents provided by the Tribe or ANC during or in connection with the consultation;
 - materials provided by USDA or the Forest Service to the consulting Tribe or ANC;

- follow-up correspondence;
 - written documentation of outcomes, agreements, disagreements, commitments, or requested follow-up;
 - and any documentation describing how the consultation affected the proposed rule, Draft EIS, alternatives analysis, or other agency decisionmaking.
3. **Information identifying where these records are maintained.** If the consultation materials are already publicly available, I would be grateful for links to the relevant repository or administrative-record folders. If the records are maintained by individual regions, forests, or consulting officials rather than centrally by OTR, please identify the appropriate record custodian or contact for each consultation.
 4. **Any consultation-related records created after December 5, 2025**, including consultations completed after the cutoff date used for the August 2026 Tribal Summary Impact Statement and any additional written Tribal input that USDA has received through the consultation process since that date.

I would also appreciate clarification as to whether the reported **29 completed consultations** include consultations with Alaska Native Corporations as well as federally recognized Tribal governments, and whether the August 5, 2025 Tribal Forum is included in or separate from that figure. My understanding from the Draft EIS is that the August 5 forum was a separate Tribal engagement event and that the 29 figure refers to individual government-to-government consultations.

Access to this information is particularly time-sensitive. USDA has now published the proposed rescission rule and Draft EIS, and **Tribes have only until September 21, 2026 to submit comments on the proposed rule and environmental analysis**. The proposed rule and Draft EIS repeatedly refer to Tribal consultation and rely upon the consultation record in characterizing Tribal concerns and explaining the agency's response. Tribes now evaluating the proposal need a meaningful opportunity to understand not only USDA's summary of that consultation, but also the substantive concerns, alternatives, evidence, and recommendations that Tribal governments themselves placed before the agency.

That information is especially important where the current proposed rule asks Tribes to evaluate whether USDA adequately responded to concerns raised during the earlier process and whether the Draft EIS properly analyzes Tribal rights, treaty resources, cultural landscapes, subsistence interests, co-stewardship and co-management proposals, reliance interests, and the consequences of replacing national Roadless Rule protections with forest- and project-level decisionmaking.

Because the current notice-and-comment period is already running and is quite limited, **a prompt response would be enormously helpful**. If gathering the complete consultation records will take additional time, I would particularly appreciate receiving the **consultation log identifying the 29 completed consultations, dates, Tribes/ANCs, locations or virtual status, and record custodians as soon as possible**, with the underlying records to follow.

Electronic copies or links to existing electronic records would be ideal. I am not requesting disclosure of culturally sensitive, confidential, or otherwise lawfully protected Tribal information; if portions of particular consultation records cannot be released for those reasons, I would appreciate access to the remaining nonconfidential portions and an indication that responsive materials have been withheld.

Thank you very much for your assistance, particularly given the short timeframe in which Tribal governments are currently working to review and respond to the proposed rule and Draft EIS.

Best regards,
Wenona T. Singel

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