
Working with Tribal Governments

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American Indian Tribes are unique:

- Culturally
 - Politically
 - Socially
 - Economically
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Treaties: Agreements Between Nations

- **Began before US independence**
 - **Ended in 1871**
 - **Total of 374 treaties signed between US and Indian nations**
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Trust Responsibilities:

- Federal obligation.
 - Trust Doctrine arises from multiple sources.
 - Trust responsibilities are duty of all Federal agencies.
 - US must properly manage and protect tribal natural resources, for the benefit of the tribe.
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American Indian Nations

are:

Sovereign Entities

Independent Governments

Federally Recognized Tribes

Currently over 560 federally recognized tribes in the lower 48 and Alaska.

- <http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/FRN02.pdf>

Many groups are NOT federally recognized.

- <http://www.csulb.edu/~gcampus/libarts/am-indian/tribes/>
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Why Work with Tribes?

American Indian Nations:

- have a vested interest in local, clean, sustainable, development.
 - often control large parcels of land and natural resources.
 - may have legal rights that must be addressed during planning.
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**American Indian Nations
have a vested interest in
local, clean, sustainable,
development.**

**American Indian Nations
often control large areas and
may be interested in resource
management beyond their
reservation boundaries.**

**American Indian Nations
may have legal rights that
must be addressed during
planning.**

Tribal Governments:

- **Combine the roles served by Federal, state, and local governments**
 - **Are unique to each tribe**
 - **Are the sole point of contact for all external relations for most tribes**
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When Working with Tribes:

- Remember each tribal nation is unique and sovereign.
 - Educate yourself about how each tribe is organized and governed.
 - Research any history of tribal concerns or claims related to your interests.
 - **Tiller's Guide to Indian Country:
Economic Profiles of American Indian
Reservations**, by Veronica Tiller, 2nd ed., 2006
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When Working with Tribes:

- **Respect cultural differences**
 - **Learn about and respect tribal leaders**
 - **Take the time to develop personal relationships with tribal contacts**
 - **Remember that your business is only one of many proposals in front of the tribe**
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Tribes are:

- **Sovereign**
 - **Unique**
 - **Independent**
 - **Busy**
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