

Nation to Nation: Tradition of Collaboration is Pathway to Future

The Northeastern Area (NA) enjoys a history of collaboration with over 50 American Indian tribes and tribal bands found within our 20-state territory and with our federal partner the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs administered by NA have focused collaborative efforts providing benefits through education and outreach, reforestation, economic actions, community forestry, and in particular, forest health protection. The tradition of collaboration establishes a vital pathway for future efforts to sustain our forest resources and supports national efforts to enhance the relationship between the Forest Service and American Indians.

Successes to build on in the future include the following:

Forest Health Protection

- Provided funding and technical assistance to the Seneca Nation, Menominee Nation, Grand Portage Reservation, Passamaquoddy Reservation, and Pequot Reservation regarding aerial detection and suppression of forest insects such as the gypsy moth, forest tent caterpillar, hemlock looper, and hemlock woolly adelgid.
- Provided technical assistance to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, to inventory the Tribe's forestland. The Area will provide similar assistance to the Penobscot Tribe.
- Conducted gypsy moth trapping studies on the Grand Portage Reservation, to understand the dynamics of gypsy moth populations on the reservation.
- Offered training sessions and one-on-one consultations to train staff from numerous Tribes in identifying forest insects and diseases.
- Consulted with tribes to ensure oak wilt control measures are sensitive to cultural sites.
- Assisted in detecting and suppressing insects and diseases on non-industrial private lands owned by American Indians.



Through consultation and training, Northeastern Area staff help timber-rich tribes maintain healthy forests.

- Gave technical presentations at Bureau of Indian Affairs sponsored forest health workshops for Tribes.

Education and Outreach

- Dedicated personnel coordinate work with Tribal entities working with the Rural Conservation and Development Council. Our employee, in conjunction with the LacCourte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, hosted a Native American Forestry Seminar where American Indian youth were introduced to the scientific, cultural, and economic activities and opportunities in fields of natural resource management and research.
- Provided funding to host a conference on Black Ash, and update and print a "Black Ash Handbook." Black Ash is a culturally and economically important tree species to American Indians.
- Established informal contact with tribal representatives, attending three major Powwows in Northeast, hosted by the Mohegans, Mashentucket Pequot, and Shinnecock Peoples.

Over 50 American Indian tribes live within Northeastern Area's territory.



USDA Forest Service
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 State and Private Forestry

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Reforestation and Nurseries

- Responded to national efforts of the S&PF Deputy Chief who has funded several tribal nursery conferences and technical workshops. From these meetings, S&PF conducted a national needs assessment for the Intertribal Nursery Council of Tribal Nurseries. This survey identified current status of tribal nurseries and interest in starting new nurseries. The survey also determined financial and technical assistance needs regarding tribal forest nurseries.
- Funded a greenhouse engineer to consult with the Red Lake Band of the Ojibwa in designing a state-of-the-art greenhouse facility on the Reservation.
- Provide technical assistance regarding nursery management, including propagation of culturally important native plants, to Tribes throughout our territory.

Economic Action

- Funded an analysis of the Economic Benefits of Certification on the Menominee Tribal Enterprises.
- Provided financial and technical assistance to develop the planning document, "*Menominee Tribal Enterprises Strategic Plan for Revitalization*," that has guided implementation of business operating principles for the Menominee Tribal Enterprises.
- Provided technical assistance to the Seneca Nation to review and revise its forest management plan to identify economic opportunities related to non-traditional timber products.
- Provided almost \$100,000 to help develop and support the Maine Indian Basket Makers Association, a non-profit group representing American Indian artisans from 4 Tribes (Micmac, Maliseet, Penobscot, and Passamaquoddy). The Area assisted this group to develop and implement a marketing plan for their products. This group is also instrumental in demonstrating to American Indian youth the economic feasibility of producing and selling traditional American Indian products.
- Provided funding to the Mole Lake Band of the Chippewa Tribe to examine market opportunities for timber products.
- Provided funding to the Red Cliff Band of the Chippewa to develop a fish hatchery operation.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to tribal sawmill operations regarding efficiency, utilization, and marketing across our territory.

Forested Watersheds

Provided funding and technical assistance to the Maliseet Tribe to plant trees along riparian areas, and provided additional funding to mitigate damage done to these plantings caused by a severe ice storm in 1998.

Urban and Community Forestry

- Hosted an Urban and Community Forestry Conference in partnership with the Menominee Reservation to introduce concepts of urban forestry.
- Nationally, the S&PF Urban and Community Forestry Program provided over \$225,000 in a National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council grant to fund a project entitled: "Trees and Traditions of Native Americans." This project, led by a non-profit organization and monitored by the Northeastern Area, produced a national education video series (called "Spirit of the Trees") on American Indians and their connections to trees and forests.
- Co-sponsored a Great Lakes inter-tribal conference on forest resource partnerships, to explore new opportunities for the Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Tribes to work together on forest resource management issues.