

United States Department of Agriculture



Office of  
Tribal  
Relations

OR

# Opportunities for Partnership with the USDA Forest Service

Faline Haven  
Office of Tribal Relations  
USDA Forest Service

[fhaven@fs.fed.us](mailto:fhaven@fs.fed.us)

202-205-1520



# Forest Service/Tribal Relationship



- **“We envision a future where the Forest Service and Indian Tribes work collaboratively through government-to-government relationships to manage the resources entrusted to their care, a future where the Forest Service has the organizational structure, skills and policies to redeem our responsibilities in this partnership”.**

# The FS Tribal Relations Program

- Situated to lead cultural change in the Forest Service, where relationships with Tribes are valued as essential and positive assets.
- Together, Tribes and Agencies – including the Forest Service – can accomplish projects and programs that affect positive change to the country's ecosystems, economies and social systems, especially those in Native America.

# The Washington Office part of the Tribal Relations Program: OTR

- The Office of Tribal Relations is still new
- Key responsibility is national policy and direction
- The field offices are primarily responsible for relations with individual Tribes and regional or local issues
- Still a small staff, with four permanent positions filled

# Forest Products Laboratory

<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/aboutus.html>

## 2008 Woody Biomass Grants

### Forest Restoration Activities on National Forest system

- To meet the shared goals of Public Law 109-58 the Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Address the nationwide challenge in dealing with low-valued material removed from hazardous fuel reduction activities, restoration of insect and diseased conditions or catastrophic weather events.
- grant that will be not less than \$50,000 or more than \$250,000 each.
- These funds are targeted to help communities, entrepreneurs, and others turn residues from forest restoration activities into marketable forest products and/or energy products.



Susan L. LeVan-Green,  
Program Manager,  
Technology Marketing  
Unit, Forest Products  
Laboratory. 608-231-  
9504 or  
[slevan@fs.fed.us](mailto:slevan@fs.fed.us).



# Center for First Americans Forestlands



**College of Menominee Nation, USDA Forest Service  
Partnership**

**Mike Dockry, FS Liaison to the College of Menominee  
715-799-5600 x 322 or [mdockry@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdockry@fs.fed.us)**



# Forest Health Protection Assistance



An example of an effective and valuable working relationship between the Tribes and the Forest Service, include the provision of technical assistance and funding devoted to forest health protection projects.







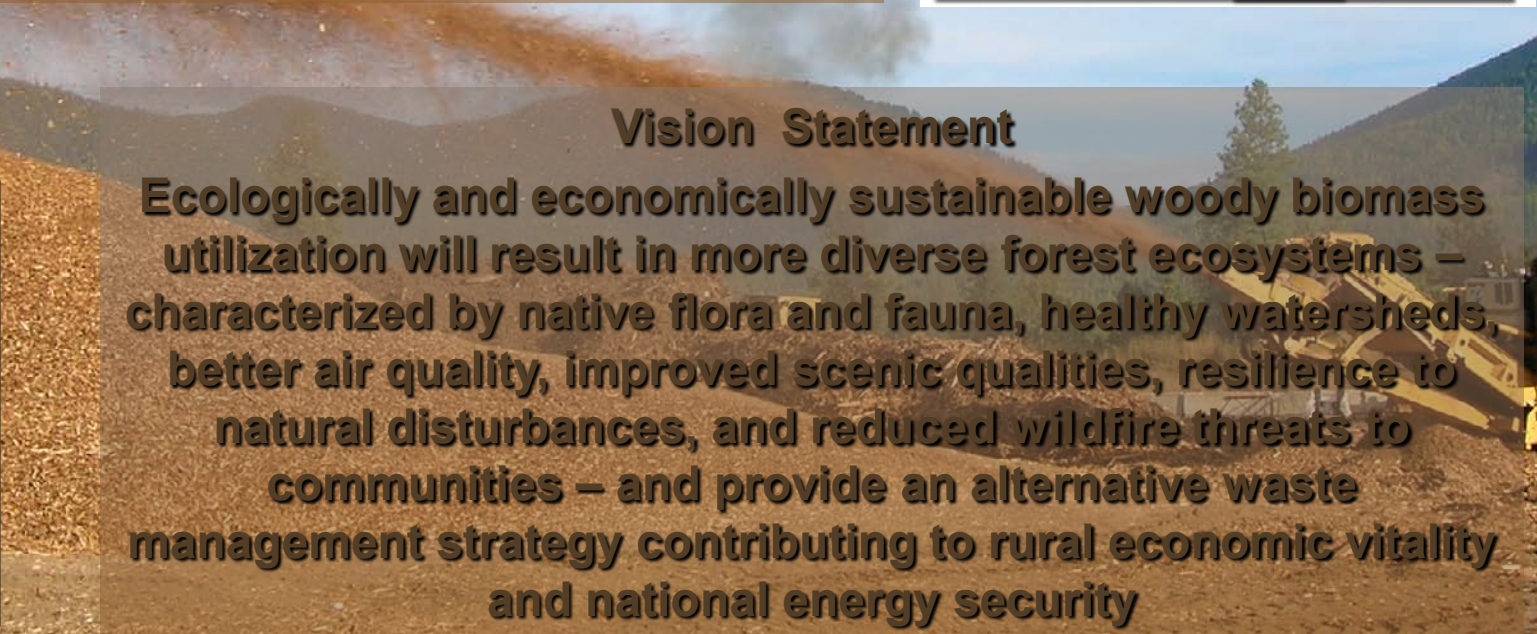
# Federal Woody Biomass Working Group

- Providing technical and policy advice
- Serving as an information clearinghouse
- Overseeing research and development
- Coordinating, planning and encouraging woody biomass utilization
- Implementing the Woody Biomass MOU



## Vision Statement

Ecologically and economically sustainable woody biomass utilization will result in more diverse forest ecosystems – characterized by native flora and fauna, healthy watersheds, better air quality, improved scenic qualities, resilience to natural disturbances, and reduced wildfire threats to communities – and provide an alternative waste management strategy contributing to rural economic vitality and national energy security





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

National Technology  
& Development Program

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# WOODY BIOMASS UTILIZATION DESK GUIDE



[http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/Woody\\_Biomass/documents/biomass\\_deskguide.pdf](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/Woody_Biomass/documents/biomass_deskguide.pdf)

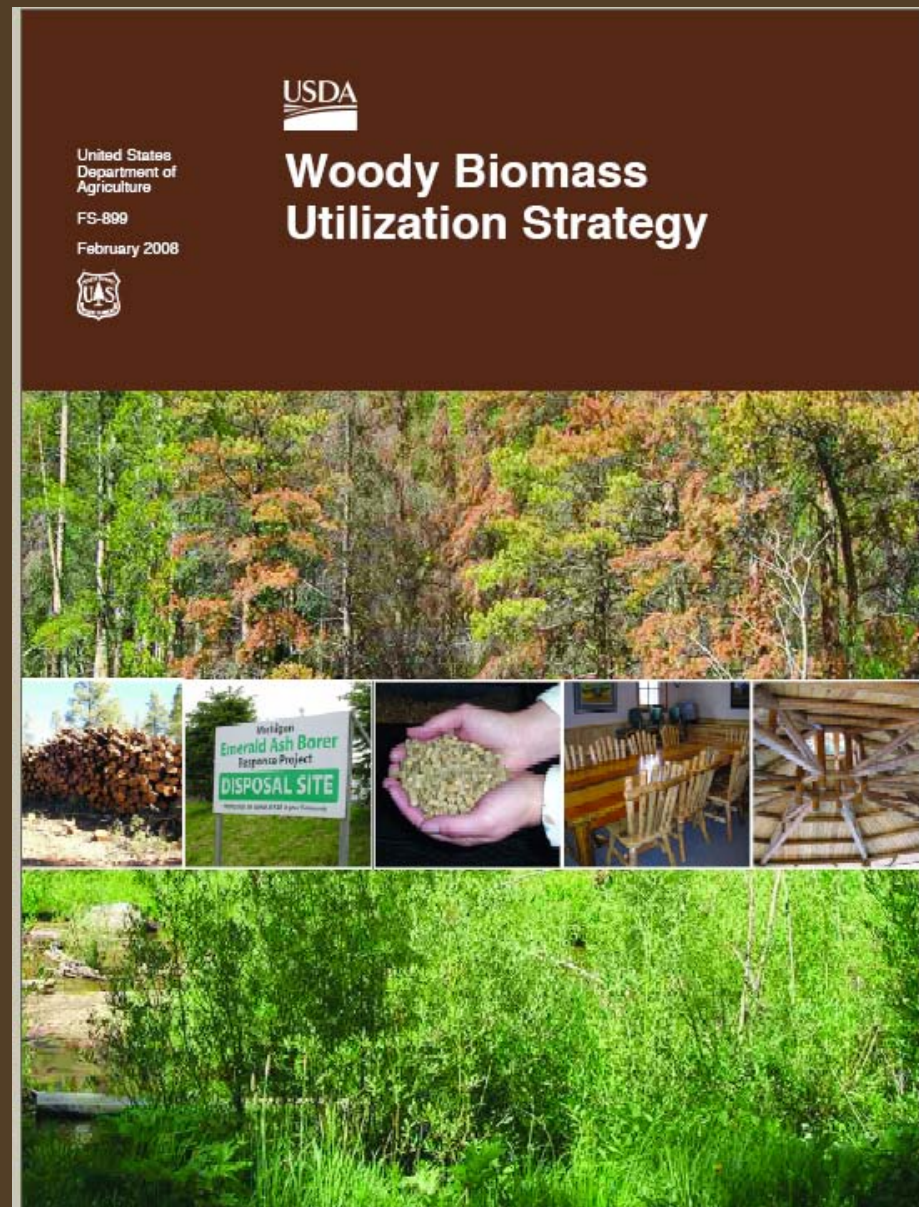
# Strategy Goals

**Goal 1:** Identify and Build Partnerships Through Collaboration

**Goal 2:** Develop and Deploy the Needed Science and Technology

**Goal 3:** Help Develop New and Expanded Markets for Bioenergy and Biobased Products

**Goal 4:** Facilitate a Reliable and Sustainable Supply of Biomass



# Ecosystem Services

[www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices](http://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices)

...the benefits people obtain from ecosystems



Marketable

Non-Marketable

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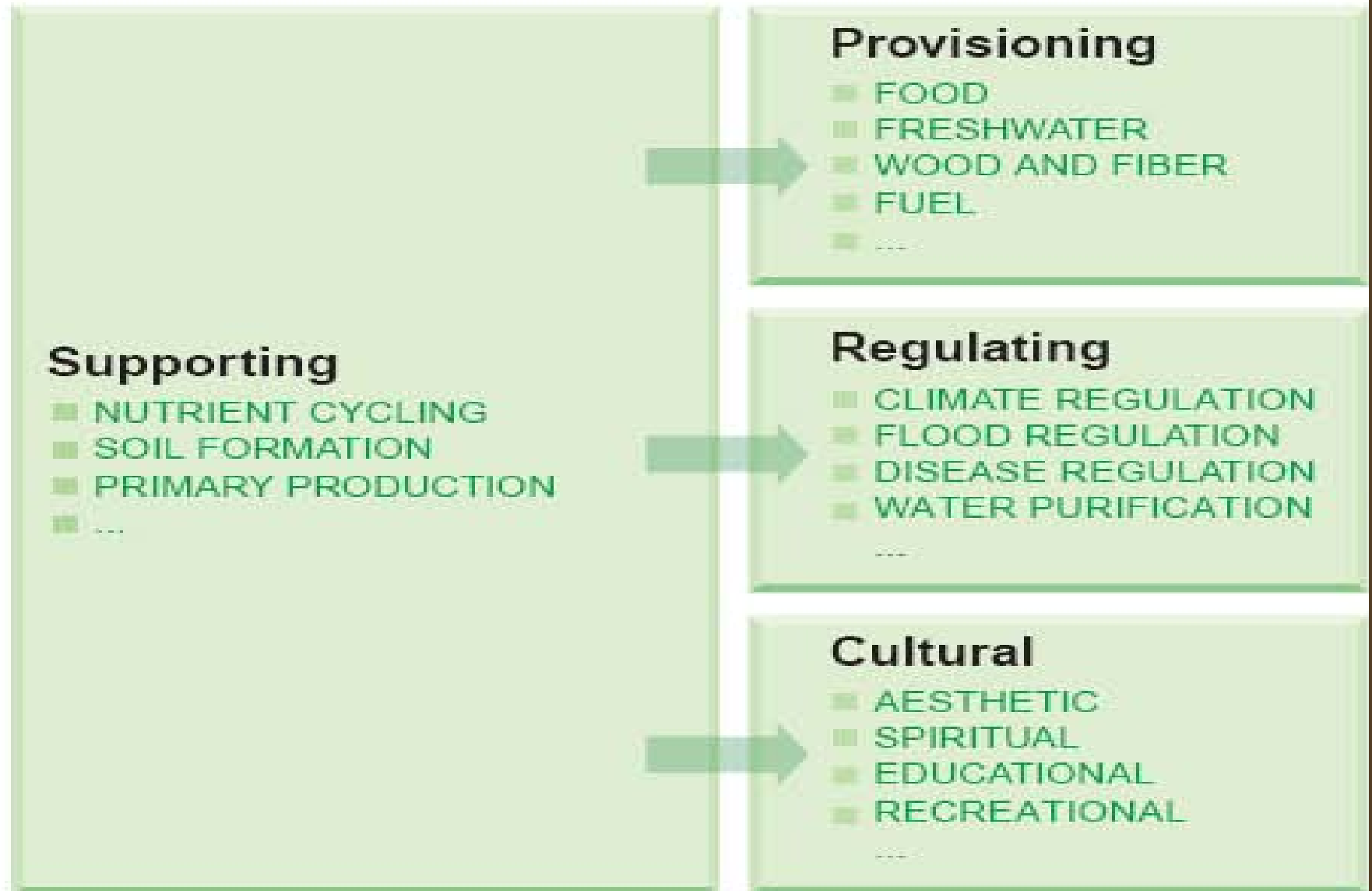
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Priceless



# ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



**Source: The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

# DRIVERS of ECOSYSTEM DECLINE

climate change  
increases in population, wealth  
globalization  
disconnect between people & nature  
etc..

## Management CHALLENGES

wildfire & extreme events  
pests & invasives  
loss of open space  
water scarcity & decline  
recreation pressures  
etc..

## Management OPPORTUNITIES

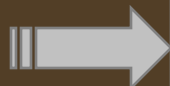
climate mitigation  
new ecosystem markets  
alternative energy  
sustainable operations  
collaboration; new partners  
etc..

## Ecosystem MANAGEMENT



restoration  
fuels treatments  
biomass utilization  
demonstration projects  
etc..

## Ecosystem SERVICES protection & enhancement



cleaner air and water  
species diversity  
climate adapted forests  
flood control  
cultural & educational values  
etc..

# An ECOSYSTEM SERVICES perspective...

## The Forest Service...

**Sustainable management that focuses on the supply and delivery of ecosystem services.**

- **Managing natural capital = natural asset accounting**
- **Designing management activities to enhance and maintain services**
- **Anticipating future change**
- **Connecting ecosystem services to the people who benefit**

## An ECOSYSTEM SERVICES perspective...





# *What services are currently marketable?*

- Carbon sequestration
- Watershed services
  - Wetlands
  - Water quality
- Biodiversity (T&E Habitat)
- Renewable energy (bioenergy)





# **Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004**

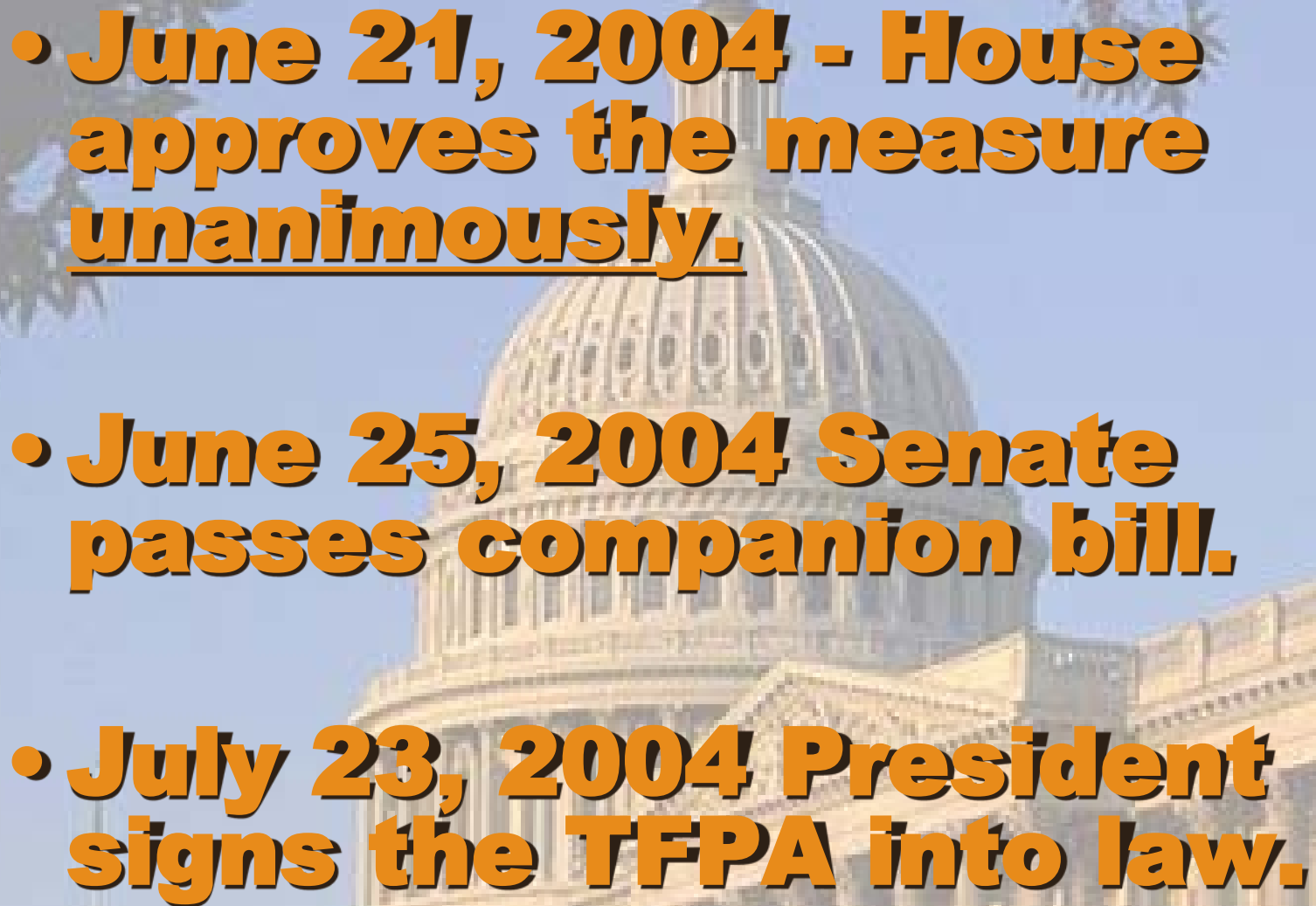
- **History**
- **Purpose**
- **Authorities and Direction**
- **Discretionary Judgment**
- **Working Examples**

# *History*

- **Summer of 2003**
  - **18 Indian reservations were devastated by wildfire that came from adjacent federal lands.**
  - **Half of the reservations were in Southern California.**






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- **June 21, 2004 - House approves the measure unanimously.**
  - **June 25, 2004 Senate passes companion bill.**
  - **July 23, 2004 President signs the TFPA into law.**

# Purpose

- House Resources Committee Chairman Pompo



“We emphasized community participation and protection in [HFRA], and that is exactly what we are doing for Native American Tribes with this new legislation”



- **California Senator Feinstein**



– “...this legislation will give Native American Tribes across the country the chance to protect their ancestral lands from catastrophic fires.”

# Authorities and Direction

FSH 2409.19 Chapt. 60

- **TFPA provides tribes a tool to propose work and enter into contracts and agreements [ on federal public lands] with the FS or BLM to reduce threats to Indian trust land and Indian communities.**





# **Tribal proposals must focus on NFS lands that:**

- **Border or are adjacent to tribal lands**
- **Pose a fire, disease, or other threat to the Tribal land or community or is in need of restoration**
- **Involve a feature or circumstance unique to the Tribe**
- **Are not under an existing contract or agreement that would conflict.**



**WHOA!** NFS lands share 2,100 miles of common boundary with Tribes.

# To qualify, the Indian land must:

- **Border or be adjacent to the NFS lands**
- **Be in Trust or restricted status**
- **Be forested or have grass, brush, or other vegetative cover**
- **If burned over it must be capable of regenerating vegetative cover.**





The award may be on a best value basis that gives special consideration to tribally-related factors including the:



- Tribe's status as a Tribe
- trust status of the Indian land
- Cultural, traditional, and historical affiliations
- Treaty rights or other reserved rights on the NF
- Indigenous knowledge and skills
- Prior cooperative efforts on the NF land
- Tribal access to the NF lands



**HEY!** I won if you consider my handicap points.



# Working Examples

## Treated Apache Lands

- Mescalero Apache and the Lincoln NF TFFPA Stewardship Contract
  - Designed to reduce the threat of wildfires and bark beetle outbreaks
  - 6 year contract with a base year and 5 optional years of extension

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- A photograph of a forest with many trees and a large tree trunk in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.
- Initial signing awarded 645 acres of precommercial thinning and hand piling
  - A total of 16,000 acres are to be treated
  - The service portion of the contract is approximately \$10 million.
  - Total commercial timber harvest is estimated at 20 MMBF.



# **WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION MOU WITH FS AND BLM**

- Hazardous fuels reduction projects
- Agreement to annually provide 80,000 bone dry tons (8,000) of woody biomass material.





**The End**

*Any Burning  
Questions?*