

When decisions are being made or plans created that involve tribal lands or affect tribal interests, tribes need to be notified prior to the general public. Congress requires consultation with Indian tribes and more recently with the corporations created by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The BLM consults with tribes on a government to government basis evidenced by various types of agreements. The BLM also consults with all adjacent land owners before taking any action that may affect their interests. The BLM mission statement addresses a multiple use concept authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The official list of all federally recognized tribes can be found at BIA.gov; a little history on the tribal leaders list.

In 1994 congress specifically reviewed and endorsed the list recognizing tribes through the Federally Recognized Indian Tribal List Act. The act directs the Secretary of the Interior to annually publish a list of all federally recognized tribes. Regulations explain that by recognized tribes; congress means those tribes with which the US maintains a government to government relationship in recognition of the sovereignty of those tribes. An Indian tribe cannot be terminated except by an act of congress. All the secretary's listings since 1995 have been published according to this authorization. Tribal enrollment is ongoing; tribes retain their sovereignty over their members. In Alaska, people can be both tribal members and ANCSA shareholders.

Now you know where to find the tribal list. The question is; why isn't- why is it important to know which tribes are federally recognized? Why contact tribes at all? Tribes lived in America before Europeans arrived. Tribes possess aboriginal title to the lands they used and occupied. The federal government is the legislated government body designated to work with tribes. The Department of the Interior is the designated federal entity mandated to publish a listing of the federally recognized tribes.