

Part 306 - NRCS Cultural Resources Training Module on Working Effectively with Tribal Governments

306.0 Purpose

- A. To announce the availability of and policy regarding NRCS's new cultural resources training module, **Working Effectively with Tribal Governments**, and ensure distribution of the module information and access to all appropriate offices.
- B. The training module provides background on Federal Government authorities related to tribal consultation, and guidance on appropriate protocols for working effectively with Tribal governments. This training supplements NRCS's existing six modules of Web-based cultural resources training already available in AgLearn and two field-based modules available through NRCS State offices. Students should also refer to NRCS's cultural resources policy in the General Manual (Title 420, Part 410) and the National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook's (Title 190, Part 601) step-by-step guidance on tribal consultation regarding historic and cultural properties.

306.1 Background

- A. In 2003, NRCS introduced its Web-based cultural resources training through the National Employee Development Center (NEDC). It is the policy of NRCS that all employees who carry out some or all of NRCS's cultural resources compliance responsibilities or must consider cultural resource in work assignments at the field and State office levels shall take the cultural resources training. This policy is also a condition in the NRCS nationwide Programmatic Agreement among the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and NRCS ratified in May 2002.
- B. The NRCS required cultural resources training has been missing a critical section on tribal consultation, required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Section 106 regulations, and several executive orders. This new module, developed, field tested and edited over the last year by the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Executive Working Group Education Committee, fills the gap and is to be added to the NRCS cultural resources training effective immediately upon publication of this National Instruction. The Education Committee consisted of representatives of the ACHP, the Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).
- C. The purpose of this training is to establish and increase awareness and knowledge of NRCS's cultural resources stewardship and historic preservation consultation responsibilities under several authorities, including Section 106 of NHPA. It is designed for management and field office personnel, partners, NRCS State Office Cultural Resources Specialists and Coordinators, and NRCS planners, including Technical Service Providers (TSP).
- D. Completion of this training may also be a requirement for certification under the NRCS Conservation Planning certification program. TSPs who provide planning assistance that includes cultural resources inventory or cultural resources compliance studies are required to complete cultural resources training Web-based modules, including this tribal consultation training.
- E. NRCS sponsored and supported the most recent edits and updates to **Working Effectively with Tribal Governments** to ensure that all NRCS employees (and other agency employees, government-wide) have access to this important training.

306.2 Explanation

- A. Effectively immediately and until further notice, the new module, **Module 9: Working Effectively with Tribal Governments**, is a required part of NRCS's Web-based (Modules 1-6 are already available though AgLearn) cultural resources training. The field-based modules (7 and 8) are developed and presented by each NRCS State office.
- B. The Module 9 training consists of four sections: Course Purpose and Navigation; Introduction to Tribal Concepts; Federal Indian Law and Policy; and Cultural Orientation and Tips for Working More Effectively with Tribal Governments; plus Course Resources (links).
- C. Module 9 is to be taken immediately after field modules 7 and 8 or, if the field modules are not required (for some planners), after Module 8.
- D. Because Module 9 was developed by an interagency group, it is hosted by OPM's GoLearn site at: <http://tribal.golearnportal.org/start.html>. Users can log into the site or cut and paste this link into their

browser.

E. If users encounter difficulty navigating the site, they can click on one or more of the buffalo images at the top of the course.

306.3 Responsibilities

State Conservationists/Directors of the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas, and Center Directors have the following responsibilities:

- (1) By March 1, 2010, ensure all employees (including managers), partners, and TSPs whose work assignments include consideration of cultural resources, are made aware of the new modules and complete them prior to April 30, 2010.**
- (2) Ensure new employees (including managers), partners, and TSPs whose work assignments include consideration of cultural resources, are made aware of the new modules and complete the entire NRCS Cultural Resource Training course, including Module 9, within 60 days of entry.**