

- ATNI
- CERT
- IAC
- INCA
- ITC
- NAFWS
- NCAI
- NTEC
- NWIFC
- USET



A National Tribal Natural Resources Strategy

Natural resources have always been central to the cultures, lifeways, and economies of tribal communities.

The United States has a fiduciary trust obligation to manage Indian natural resources and protect tribal reserved rights with all the diligence and skill at its command.

Natural resources are still abundant in Indian Country, but suffer from years of neglect and abuse, insensitive development, encroachment, expropriation, and lack of investment.

Despite their natural resources, Indian Country suffers from shocking levels of unemployment, poverty, health and social ills.

The potential of natural resources to improve tribal economies and meet community needs while advancing objectives of the United States for energy independence and security remains unrealized.

A coalition of intertribal organizations is working together to develop and advance a national tribal natural resource strategy.

Objectives of the Tribal Natural Resources Strategy

- Overcome administrative, fiscal, and other impediments to enable Indian tribes to exercise self-determination and manage their natural resources to benefit their own communities.
- Encourage investment and development of Indian natural resources to increase income, employment and business opportunities in accordance with tribal objectives and priorities.
- Support informed tribal decision-making by providing credible information and expertise to evaluate and understand opportunities and risks in natural resource management and development.
- Help tribal governments prepare for and adapt to uncertainties and challenges of broad issues such as climate change and global economies.
- Provide a comprehensive and cohesive framework to assist the United States in fulfilling its fiduciary trust obligations towards Indians.
- Enhance substantive tribal involvement in administrative actions and decisions by various federal agencies involved in natural resource management.
- Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and services available for management of Indian natural resources.
- Support the capacity of tribal governments and leadership to influence the development and implementation of policies and programs affecting natural resources of the United States.
- Improve appreciation and understanding of ecological processes and interactions with human communities through tribal science and traditional knowledge.
- Heighten awareness and sensitivity of innovation and creativity in tribal natural resource programs.