



# EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.



August 22, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader,

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) invite you to a Tribal consultation to discuss Guidance being developed for Federal Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge. The consultation will include an update on the development of the Guidance and a presentation of information being considered for inclusion. The consultation will take place virtually by Zoom at the following time:

- Thursday, September 22, 2022, 3:00 – 5:00 pm EDT

Register in advance for the meeting here:

[https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_iShOGWbkR3CT79GNJLd9aw](https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_iShOGWbkR3CT79GNJLd9aw)

At the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit last November, OSTP and CEQ issued a memorandum recognizing the importance of Indigenous Knowledge, committing to elevating its role in Federal scientific and policy processes, and creating an Interagency Working Group on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge to develop government-wide guidance.<sup>1</sup> During April through June 2022, OSTP, CEQ, and the White House Domestic Policy Council, along with the Working Group, gathered initial input on this effort through Tribal Consultations, listening sessions, written comments, and individual meetings.<sup>2</sup>

Informed by this valuable input from Tribal Nations, OSTP and CEQ are developing Guidance to inform the approach of Federal agencies to Indigenous Knowledge. We anticipate the Guidance will:

- Provide an overview of Indigenous Knowledge,
- Address the importance of growing and maintaining relationships with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to support Indigenous Knowledge, and
- Identify statutory authorities and practices that can assist agencies to protect and apply Indigenous Knowledge and collaborate with the Tribes and Indigenous Peoples who possess it.

We are eager to hear your thoughts to further inform our work on the Guidance. Questions to guide our discussion are listed below.

- What are specific aspects of the proposed Guidance topics that would help ensure the appropriate consideration of Indigenous Knowledge in Federal decision making?
- What are specific practices related to the Guidance that would enhance the effective and appropriate elevation of Indigenous Knowledge in Federal decision making?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/111521-OSTP-CEQ-ITEK-Memo.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/06/27/readout-ostp-and-ceq-initial-engagement-on-white-house-indigenous-knowledge-effort/>.

- What are some opportunities that are particularly relevant to your Tribal Nation for Federal agencies to consider Indigenous Knowledge in decision making?
- In Highly Influential Scientific Assessments, like the [National Climate Assessment](#), the Federal government is required to ensure conclusions are supported by evidence of appropriate quality. How should Indigenous Knowledge be evaluated for applications in such scientific assessments?<sup>3</sup>

We will consider comments received during the September 22, 2022 consultation as well as written comments to develop the Guidance. We invite you to submit written comments by E-MAIL to [ITEK@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:ITEK@ostp.eop.gov). Please provide written comments by end of day, Monday, September 26, 2022. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact [ITEK@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:ITEK@ostp.eop.gov). We thank you for your partnership and hope you will be able to participate in this important government-to-government consultation. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alondra Nelson  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
Deputy Director for Science and Society  
Office of Science and Technology Policy



Brenda Mallory  
Chair  
Council on Environmental Quality

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<sup>3</sup> <http://globalchange.gov/nca5>