



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 15, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader,

On April 22, 2022, President Biden signed [Executive Order 14072](#) on “Strengthening the Nation’s Forests, Communities, and Local Economies.” In this Order, the President recognized that nature holds special importance to Tribal Nations, and recognized the significance of nature to sustain the plant and animal life fundamental to combatting the global climate and biodiversity crises. Nature can deliver:

- a wide range of solutions in the fight against climate change;
- clean water, food, and fiber;
- biodiversity support; and
- protection for communities from floods, storms, extreme heat, wildfires, and other climate-fueled disasters.

The Executive Order called for a report - led by the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy, Council on Environmental Quality, and Domestic Climate Policy Office - that identifies key opportunities for greater deployment of nature-based solutions across the Federal Government, including through potential policy, guidance, and program changes.

Federal agencies, U.S. laws and international agreements to which the US is a party use different definitions of nature-based solutions. This effort recognizes nature-based solutions as any investments in nature that provide benefits to both the environment and to people. This includes a wide range of actions (e.g., protection, restoration, sustainable management, etc.) that can provide social benefits (e.g., climate regulation or adaptation, cultural benefits, livelihoods, health, justice, food or water security, recreation, etc.).

An interagency group is exploring these key opportunities and producing the requested report. President Biden’s presidential memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships and Executive Order 13175 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments direct Federal agencies to engage in regular, meaningful and robust federal consultation with Tribal Nations in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications. The Federal members of this effort recognize that the ideas shared in the report may affect Tribal Nations and acknowledge the experience Tribal communities have in applying nature-based solutions, which often provide other communities and Federal agencies with examples and advances.

### **Questions for Consultation**

We are scheduling a Consultation Session to discuss emerging ideas and solicit feedback. We welcome input on the following questions either during the Consultation Session or in writing:

- 1) What could Federal staff do to be more effective in partnering with you on nature-based solutions?
- 2) Are there nature-based solutions that are not currently supported by certain Federal programs, policies, or projects that you would like to see supported (or supported better)? Which kinds of nature-based solutions would you like to see supported by which programs?
- 3) What can we do to improve Tribal access to existing Federal programs that support nature-based solutions?



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- 4) How could partnerships with the Federal government on nature-based solutions be streamlined or improved?

**Consultation Session**

August 15, 2022

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

[https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_myfBTu2WSjqEopGWPWNSxA](https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_myfBTu2WSjqEopGWPWNSxA)

You may provide your written input to [NaturePolicies@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:NaturePolicies@ostp.eop.gov) by September 15, 2022. We look forward to speaking with you. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact Ella Clarke, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Presidential Management Fellow, [ella.m.clarke@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:ella.m.clarke@ostp.eop.gov), (202) 881-9900.

Thank you for sharing your insight, knowledge and ideas with us as we work to improve the adoption of nature-based solutions in partnership with Tribal Nations. We look forward to hearing input both in writing and during the Consultation Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brenda Mallory".

Ms. Brenda Mallory  
Chair of the White House Council on Environmental  
Quality

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy".

Ms. Gina McCarthy  
White House National Climate Advisor



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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alondra Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Alondra Nelson  
Performing the Duties of the Director of the Office of  
Science and Technology Policy