

SECTION 14.810 Indian Tribal Treaty Rights and Consultation (SMA Only)

For all new development or new uses in the SMA, the Forest Service is responsible for consulting with Indian tribal governments at the government-to-government level. The purpose of this process is to ensure that its management activities will not affect treaty rights, and to provide meaningful participation in the identification, evaluation and protection of cultural resources.

Section 17 (Savings Provisions of the Scenic Area Act) contains several provisions regarding the need to avoid potential effects to treaty rights. Treaty rights are defined by the Treaties of 1855 between the Congress and Indian Tribal governments. These rights are not subject to negotiation. Potential effects to treaty rights must be avoided. The Forest Service has no authority to interpret or negotiate in the area of treaty rights.

Cultural resources are protected by the Scenic Area Act and the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Indian tribal governments are identified as parties to be consulted during the inventory, evaluation and protection of cultural resources.