



List of Key Issues, Concerns & Interests

Regarding plant gathering on public lands, Summarized from RSVP forms

Top Concerns – Tribal:

- **Access (x4) –**
 - to sites (x1)
 - especially access to supplies for basket weavers (x1)
 - It is important for us to be able to gather i.e., cedar bark, bear grass and other plants from public lands, for our use in creating baskets, necklaces, clothing, etc.
 - Access for gathering, per treaty rights – Aside from the legal concern, this can also embody developing a courteous relationship with land manager – make sure that all staff/enforcement people know of the tribal right, to avoid unnecessary problems.
 - To know where we can get traditional plants to relocate in the reservation
- **Rules & Regulations (x5)**
 - To know the rules regarding gathering on public lands
 - Recognition and enforcement of Tribal treaty gathering rights
 - Tribal regulation and co-management of plant resources
 - Assuring that statutory/regulatory restriction do not impinge on the treaty rights of tribes (distinguish between them and the non-tribal gatherer) – making sure tribes are not required to have permits like other parties, as the treaty IS the permit, forever. Also, concern about competition with pharmaceutical companies or over-gathering by florist harvesters. Regulations need to be protective as well.
 - Developing gathering regulations with DNR and USFS
- **Education (x5)**
 - To learn and exchange information regarding traditional plants
 - Passing on knowledge of the traditional plants' use and occurrence to the next generation – training by elders and tribal school, natural resources department, or all of these; and also means to keep certain locations confidential as well.
 - How to harvest in a sustainable manner, and avoid important food and medicine plants being over-harvested or harvested in a way that decimates natural plant populations.
 - Establishing gardens of native plants for education/tribal school purposes
 - Learning about other tribes interests and concerns
- **Concerns about the commercialization of our resources and regulation of non-tribal commercial gathering (x4)**
 - Assuring that statutory/regulatory restriction do not impinge on the treaty rights of tribes (distinguish between them and the non-tribal gatherer) – concern about competition with pharmaceutical companies or over-gathering by florist harvesters. Regulations need to be protective as well.
 - Preventing over-harvesting by tribal and non-tribal gatherers
- **Proper preservation, protection, sustainable use & management (x7)**
 - Tribal regulation and co-management of plant resources

- Concern that one day our traditional plants and trees may not exist any long on public lands some day in the future
- Developing and maintaining land management protocols that assure sustainability – thinking of noxious weed control, considering the number of permits for non-treaty gathering to assure sustainability, etc.
- Maintenance and protection of gathering areas
- Preventing over-harvesting by tribal and non-tribal gatherers
- Protection of ecosystems and plant resources
- **Building Partnerships & Relationships (x2)**
 - How do tribes build partnerships with local land holders? We might create a resource of best practices and numbers of key people from DNR, forest service and state/national parks. There is a lot of confusion on what people's rights are and it changes based on the agency you are working with. Coming up with a clear resource for people would help people to harvest more often.
 - Access for gathering, per treaty rights – Aside from the legal concern, this can also embody developing a courteous relationship with land manager – make sure that all staff/enforcement people know of the tribal right, to avoid unnecessary problems.
- **Safety**
 - Many people want to know how to determine if areas have been sprayed with herbicides - for example, in clear cuts on forest service land.

Top Concerns – Agencies:

- **Resource Management – (x7)**
 - Co-management of public lands that upholds treaty rights
 - Needs of tribes/balance of resource use
 - Eco-cultural restoration of traditionally managed plant communities and ecosystems
 - Prescribed fire and its role today for restoring cultural landscapes
 - Protection/perpetuation of traditional use plants
 - Exploitation of traditional use plants to non-native populations
 - Managing public perception of extractive use by a specific group
- **Cultural Interests – (x8)**
 - Interest learning more about plants for basket weaving and traditional burning practices
 - Historic prairies
 - Importance of berries in traditional use and current tribal use
 - Preservation of cultural ties to land
 - Old growth cedar trees for dugout canoes --availability, addressing ESA concerns
 - Loss of traditional gathering sites
 - Passing on traditional knowledge to future generations
 - How can NRCS assist Tribes as they develop traditional, culturally relevant plants programs?
- **Access – (x4)**
 - Vehicular access to public lands solely for tribal members for gathering purposes
 - Access to gathering sites
 - Accommodating access and use on park lands given current regulations
 - Traditional plant gathering locations on public lands

- **Regulation, rules, protocols, policies – (x3)**
 - Understanding and advocating for (through NEPA review, etc.) tribal access to harvesting traditional plants on public lands (foods, fiber materials & medicinal plants)
 - Exploring ways to work through federal policies and tribal desires
 - Consultation protocols--government to government

Top Concerns – Other:

- **Communication, Information Sharing –**
 - Cross-cultural communication: How do we ensure that tribal perspectives are not just heard, but also truly understood by land managers?
 - Cultural protection: What kind of protocols can/should be in place for sharing information about the land that can assist with our “management” of it, while at the same time respecting indigenous intellectual property?
- **Legal Matters –**
 - How to provide legal protection of Tribal Treaty Rights to gather
 - How do you limit State or local government attempts to limit or bar Tribal Rights
 - How provide a Tribal regulatory plan to regulated gathering and protect Tribal rights and the health of the resource.
- **Access –**
 - How provide Tribal access to “open and unclaimed” lands for gathering purposes, including “industrial” timber lands.
 - Native American craftsmen and families must have access to natural resources sites that can be managed for generations to supply native plant products for personal use.
- **Agreements, Plans & Partnerships with Agencies and Land owners –**
 - Collaboration and democratic participation in decision-making about the management of public lands: How do both tribes and land managers ensure that there is fair representation of diverse tribal perspectives about land-management decisions?
 - Plans and agreements must be developed and honored by everyone
 - Institutional change: What are tribes and agencies doing, or what should be done, to ensure that all agency staff support the efforts and initiatives that are taking place at higher bureaucratic levels? How can we ensure continuity of efforts in changing political climates?
- **Gathering on land owned by private forest land-owners –**
 - The resources owned and managed by private families must be protected from over harvesting and unwanted harvesting
 - Harvest of native plants products from private family owned forest lands needs to be to the mutual benefit of both tribal families and the private forestry families
 - These plans and use agreements are to be developed and honored, and are ONLY between individual or family tribal members and individuals and/or family forest owners. They are not to be considered open agreements for any and all tribal members to use.
- **Climate change -**
 - What can/should be done to plan for the impacts of climate change on culturally important plants, animals and places?