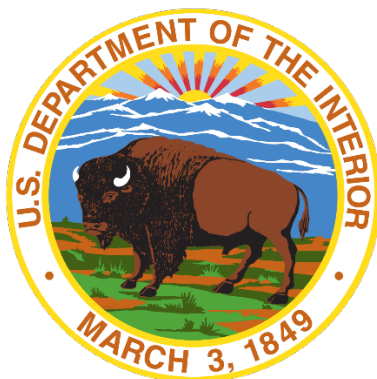


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT ON

TRIBAL CO-STEWARDSHIP

*Implementing Joint Secretary's Order 3403 on Fulfilling the
Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of
Federal Lands and Waters*



DECEMBER 2024

LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Through Joint Secretary's Order 3403, the Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce committed to working to ensure that we uphold the Federal Government's constitutional treaty and trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations and to steward the lands and waters that we are entrusted to manage for the benefit of all Americans.

To that end, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce have put in place policies, infrastructure, and agreements to usher in a new era of Tribal co-stewardship of public lands and waters.

Indigenous people hold title to their lands and have stewarded these places since time immemorial in the United States. In caring for and administering the lands and waters within its jurisdiction, the Department of the Interior is working toward honoring the United States longstanding treaty and trust responsibilities to protect Tribal sovereignty, including through the revitalization of and access to subsistence resources and sacred sites, and further recognizing the power of cultural practices and Indigenous Knowledge to improve resources management.

Together our agencies have made important progress on implementing Joint Secretary's Order 3403, and the landmark agreements we have advanced since I signed the order provide clear benefits to Tribes, to the Federal Government, and to public lands, waters, and wildlife.

These agreements have become foundational to our work across the Biden-Harris administration and will be critical as the Department of the Interior continues to build its collective capacity, knowledge, and expertise to develop and implement collaborative agreements for meaningful co-stewardship of public resources, including lands and waters.

Sincerely,



Deb Haaland

BACKGROUND

Indigenous people have held title to and stewarded and managed North American waters and lands since time immemorial, all while building vibrant cultures and communities. That tradition continues today as Indigenous people are among the best conservation land managers in the world.

Virtually all lands the U.S. Government holds today as Federal public lands were once Indigenous territory. In exchange for certain lands received through treaties, statutes, and Executive orders, the United States made promises and assumed obligations of trust to protect Tribal sovereignty and promote Tribal self-determination. These obligations include ensuring Tribes have a role in protecting and managing the millions of acres of Federal public lands with which Tribes continue to maintain connections. The United States should ensure that Tribes sit at the decision-making table with Federal land managers for the benefit of all Americans, to better fulfill the U.S. Government's obligations, and to secure effective stewardship of all Federal lands and waters.

In November 2021, President Biden announced the "Tribal Homelands Initiative" (Initiative), a collaborative effort to improve stewardship of public lands, waters, and wildlife by strengthening the role of Tribal communities in Federal land management. The Initiative, spearheaded by the Department of the Interior (Interior) and the Department of Agriculture (Agriculture), seeks to ensure the Federal Government elevates the role of Indigenous Knowledge, protects sacred sites, and honors trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal governments. The Initiative also seeks to restore Tribal homelands by improving the land-into-trust process.

One of the key components of the Initiative is ensuring that Tribal governments play an integral role in decision making related to the management of Federal lands and waters through consultation, capacity building, and other means consistent with applicable authorities. To that end, on November 15, 2021, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Agriculture Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack signed the initial Joint Secretarial Order 3403 (Order), titled "Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters."

On November 22, 2022, Secretary Gina Raimondo signed the Department of Commerce as a party to the Order.

The Order directs Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce (Departments) to ensure that their decisions relating to Federal stewardship of lands, waters, and wildlife include consideration of how to safeguard the treaty, spiritual, subsistence, and cultural interests of Tribes. It also directs the Departments' agencies to enter agreements with Tribes to facilitate their co-stewardship of Federal lands and waters, strengthen Tribal homelands, and issue a report each year on actions taken to fulfill the Order's purpose. This document constitutes the third annual report (Annual Report) on actions taken to fulfill the Order.

As this Annual Report demonstrates, the Departments view co-stewardship as a broad concept that supports a variety of arrangements. Co-stewardship takes many forms, including contracts for the operation and maintenance of Federal lands and waters and related facilities, interpretative services, bilingual signage, conservation agreements, management plans, access

and harvest/collection agreements, reintroduction and management of fish and wildlife populations, development of Tribal seed nodes, natural resource management plans, youth education programs, agreements related to the administration of Federal sites, and incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge.

I. YEAR 3: Continued Progress

Interior has continued to promote its Bureaus' and Offices' management of public lands and waters in a manner that seeks to protect the treaty, religious, subsistence, and cultural interests of federally recognized Indian Tribes and the Native Hawaiian Community. Below is a summary of Interior's actions this year to advance co-stewardship.

Strengthening the Foundation to Support Co-Stewardship

A critical component of success is ensuring that Bureaus and Offices have the necessary tools and support to pursue co-stewardship agreements. Over the past year, Interior has finalized key policies and put in place resources to bolster the foundation for long-lasting and meaningful co-stewardship with Tribes. Examples are listed below.

- **Advancing Policies**
 - **Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Rule:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a final rule to help guide the balanced management of America's public lands. Known as the Public Lands Rule, the rule provides tools for BLM to help improve the health and resilience of public lands in the face of a changing climate; conserve important wildlife habitat and intact landscapes; facilitate responsible development; and better recognize unique cultural and natural resources on public lands. Building on decades of land management experience and emphasizing the use of science and data, including Indigenous Knowledge, the rule applies the existing fundamentals of land health across BLM programs, establishes restoration and mitigation leases, clarifies practices to designate and protect Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and provides direction to seek opportunities for Tribal co-stewardship.
 - **Bureau of Land Management National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Rule:** Following significant engagement with the public, Alaska Native Tribes, and Alaska Native Corporations, BLM issued a final rule for the Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. The rule ensures maximum protection for significant resource values on the more than 13 million acres of special areas in the western Arctic, while supporting subsistence uses and needs for Alaska Native communities. The rule also clarifies that BLM will seek co-stewardship opportunities in both managing special areas and managing subsistence resources more broadly throughout the petroleum reserve.
 - **National Park Service Order on Consultation:** The National Park Service (NPS) issued a Director's Order for agency decision makers engaging in nation-to-nation consultations with Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. The order underscores the Bureau's commitment to developing, implementing, and

maintaining positive working relationships with Tribes based on transparency, accountability, mutual trust, and responsibility. Developed with input from Tribes, the order codifies existing NPS policies and procedures and affirms meaningful consultations with Tribes as a priority.

- **National Park Service Policy Memoranda:** NPS issued guidance to improve implementation of existing regulations regarding plant gathering by federally recognized Tribes for traditional purposes.
- **Providing Training and Resources:** Interior developed training courses to provide employees with information on co-stewardship authorities, policies, and best practices. In 2024, Interior trained nearly 400 Senior Executive Service and land management staff at seven in-person “Indian Law and Co-Stewardship” workshops. The workshops were held in all of the Interior regions and included participation from leadership staff at the U.S. Forest Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The workshops included presentations by nationally recognized experts in the fields of Indian law and natural resources management, the Office of the Solicitor, Bureau leadership, and Tribal leaders knowledgeable about current issues facing Indian Country and their Tribes’ co-management and co-stewardship agreements with the Federal Government.

Additionally, Interior developed an online training course for employees, which provides foundational training and a common understanding across Interior on co-stewardship and co-stewardship authorities. The training was developed with input from all the Bureaus and incorporates perspectives and information shared by Tribal leaders.

- **Setting Standards:** In fiscal year 2024, Interior developed and implemented co-stewardship performance standards for Schedule C and General Schedule supervisory positions and Senior Executive Service positions with co-stewardship responsibilities.

Public-Private Partnerships

Interior, through the Indian Affairs Office of Strategic Partnerships established in 2022, has been working with interagency partners and philanthropic leaders to leverage Federal funding and programs to expand resources for Tribes and Native-led organizations to support co-stewardship and tribally led conservation. Examples of partnerships work in 2024 are below.

- Interior and Agriculture worked with a number of organizations—Native Americans in Philanthropy, World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and InterTribal Buffalo Council—to develop the public-private Tribal Buffalo Lifeways Collaboration partnership. The philanthropic and nonprofit partners signed a charter in June 2024 launching a fund to support tribally led bison restoration. This new, historic alliance was created to stabilize, establish, and expand bison restoration, and to foster cultural, ecological, and economic revitalization within Native communities.
- Pursuant to their memorandum of understanding on supporting tribally led initiatives, the Office of Strategic Partnerships and the American Sustainable Business Network hosted a

virtual “Native-led Bison Restoration and Economy” roundtable to spotlight conservation efforts with the development of a sustainable bison economy and to launch the Network’s Catalyzing Indigenous Enterprise and Economic Development program.

- The Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, in coordination with the Office of Strategic Partnerships, worked to amplify and support the America the Beautiful Challenge, a public-private grant program for ecosystem restoration projects that has awarded more than 40 percent of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law–allocated funds to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support projects implemented by Indigenous communities and organizations, representing another year of record funding dedicated to tribally led projects for a single grant program at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and has leveraged \$1.5 million philanthropic dollars toward \$53 million in Federal funding with support from the Native Americans in Philanthropy organization.

Other Interior Activities Supporting Co-Stewardship

Interior took action this year to contribute to the broader effort to support tribally led conservation and Tribal sovereignty. Some examples are below.

- **Restoration of American Bison and Prairie Grasslands:** In March 2023, Secretary Haaland issued Secretary’s Order 3410, titled “Restoration of American Bison and Prairie Grasslands,” to restore wild and healthy populations of American bison and the prairie grassland ecosystem through collaboration among Interior Bureaus and partners, including other Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and landowners, using the best available science and Indigenous Knowledge. This year, Interior has taken the actions below.
 - Committed \$25 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to fund bison conservation projects and initiatives, including establishing new bison herds, restoring bison habitat, supporting bison transfers to Tribes, and entering into co-stewardship agreements with Tribes for bison management.
 - Coproduced the Bison Shared Stewardship Strategy, a comprehensive framework for partnership-based ecocultural restoration of bison, written by a team of eight Tribal and five Federal coauthors.
 - Established, in partnership with the InterTribal Buffalo Council, a Bison Management Apprenticeship Program, which aims to increase the number of bison experts in Indian Country through training and knowledge sharing, including opportunities for hands-on experience supported by national parks and national wildlife refuges.
 - Signed a new agreement with Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources to strengthen cooperation and coordination for the conservation of the American bison across its range in North America.

- **Historic Preservation Agreements:** NPS signed six Tribal Historic Preservation agreements with Tribes across the country, transferring certain historic preservation responsibilities that would otherwise be the responsibility of the State in which a Tribe is located. The program assists federally recognized Tribes in strengthening their historic preservation programs managed through Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. The following sovereign Tribal Nations joined the more than 220 others that have previously stood up Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in partnership with NPS—Tule River Indian Tribe in California; Pueblo of Nambé in New Mexico; Rappahannock Tribe in Virginia; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in Michigan; Nisqually Indian Tribe in Washington; and Peoria Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma.
- **Sacred Sites:** Federal authorities related to sacred sites on public lands and waters establish a continuing responsibility to weigh the potential impacts of agency action on sacred sites and historic properties of traditional cultural and religious importance. In December 2023, Federal agencies issued the “Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites,” to serve as a source of practical information for the public, Federal agencies, Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations.
- **Self-Governance:** Interior has been participating in the negotiated rulemaking associated with the Practical Reforms and Other Goals to Reinforce the Effectiveness of Self Governance and Self Determination for Indian Tribes (PROGRESS) Act, including the mandate to revise the current regulations implementing the Tribal Self-Governance Program codified at 25 C.F.R. Part 1000. In 2024, Interior completed the negotiated rulemaking and Tribal consultations and published the final rule in December.

Formalizing Co-Stewardship Agreements with Indian Tribes

Central to the Federal Government’s fulfillment of trust responsibility is entering into agreements with Tribal governments to collaborate in the co-stewardship. Interior is pleased to report on more than 69 co-stewardship agreements related to Federal lands and waters across the Nation this year, bringing the total agreements it has signed since the Joint Secretary’s Order to nearly 150. A list of agreements completed since November 2023 is found in the appendix to this Annual Report.

The following co-stewardship agreements represent some of the most exciting collaborative management and stewardship occurring across Interior with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiians in the past year. The below examples of recent co-stewardship agreements and related efforts help convey the breadth of Interior’s commitment to advancing meaningful co-stewardship of public lands and waters.

- **Cape Cod: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Massachusetts)**
A cooperative agreement with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe provides capacity to the Tribe to manage and analyze the requisite environmental information supplied by

offshore wind energy developers. Moreover, this agreement facilitates development of proactive, best practices for the management of data and information concerning cultural and archaeological places important to the Tribe, incorporates Indigenous Knowledge and language into a model depicting the preservation potential of submerged ancient cultural landforms and associated archaeological resources, and facilitates work and collaboration to develop capacity for the active monitoring and documentation of offshore cultural and archaeological resources that may be impacted as a result of approved activities by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

- **Coastal Washington: Quinault Indian Nation and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Washington)**

BOEM is working with the Quinault Indian Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Oregon State University to refine the model for understanding and identifying submerged precontact landforms off the Pacific Coast, which are areas that may have once been inhabited but now lie submerged offshore due to sea-level inundation over the last 20,000 years. The goal is to create a better model of submerged paleo-landforms off the Pacific Coast by integrating industry-standard geophysical survey data with Indigenous Knowledge through consultation with coastal Washington Tribes.

- **Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Washington)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe entered into multiyear funding compact pursuant to title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act regarding management of Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges. This co-stewardship agreement emphasizes the protection of marine and avian species, including the restoration of eelgrass beds and salmon habitats, which are vital to the Tribe's subsistence and cultural heritage.

- **Everglades and Biscayne National Parks: Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and National Park Service (Florida)**

Through a co-stewardship agreement, the Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida have committed to engaging in joint and cooperative endeavors focused on the natural and cultural resources of mutual interest to NPS and the Tribe. Work is ongoing to develop additional agreements with the Tribe and Everglades National Park related to wildland fire and prescribed burn operations, hydrology and water resources, and visitor services in the park's Shark Valley area. The Biscayne National Park agreement acknowledges Tribal citizens' right to traditional fishing and gathering of palm fronds and medicinally significant plants within the park's borders, subject to applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The Biscayne National Park agreement also addresses collaboration on fisheries management and vegetation restoration.

- **Grand Canyon National Park: Tribal Working Group and National Park Service (Arizona)**

Grand Canyon National Park has developed a successful Tribal working group with which it entered an agreement for developing the eastern end of the park and dedicating the Desert View Tower and Tusayan Pueblo locations to telling the stories of the park's 16 affiliated Tribes. The locations will have Tribal vendors demonstrating their arts and selling their artwork. In addition, the park and the Hualapai Tribe, through the Colorado River Management Core Team, are in the process of developing cooperative management strategies to address overlapping resource-management and visitor-use activities to benefit the Hualapai Tribe, Grand Canyon National Park, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. These cooperative strategies will also address continued co-stewardship to serve as a model to address important shared resource-management across jurisdictions for the benefit of all citizenries, wildlife, and water users.

- **Gravel to Gravel: Memorandum of Understanding between Alaska Natives and Interior Bureaus (Alaska)**

Through the Gravel to Gravel Keystone Initiative, Interior is investing funds made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support resilient ecosystems and communities in the Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Norton Sound regions of Alaska and make immediate investments to respond to the salmon crisis. Interior Bureaus are participating along with local and regional partners and State agencies. This work resulted in a memorandum of understanding among Interior Bureaus and the Association of Village Council Presidents, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Kawerak Incorporated, Nome Eskimo Community, Native Village of Eagle, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

- **Haleakala National Park: Kipahulu 'Ohana and National Park Service (Hawaii)**

The Haleakala National Park has entered a cooperative agreement with Kipahulu 'Ohana to manage a Kapahu Living Farm, a five-acre traditional taro farm located within the park, and to provide visitor tours of the facility that will educate visitors about historical practices through cultural demonstrations and hands-on activities.

- **Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Funding Agreement: Council of Athabascan Governments and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska)**

The purpose of this project is to provide logistical, technical, and functional support in the planning and execution of the FWS Alaska Native Relations training courses. The training sessions will enhance attendees' knowledge pertaining to the Federal Government's trust responsibility to Tribes, and FWS' working relationship with Alaska Natives.

- **Integrated Water Availability Assessment Collaboration Activities: Yurok Tribe and U.S. Geological Survey (California)**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is partnering with the Yurok Tribe of California pursuant to a Self-Governance Agreement on a project to assess the sedimentary and geomorphic effects of dam removal on the Klamath River’s downstream corridor. Work will help assess the effects of dam removals likely to affect Yurok ancestral lands. Datasets will be used to analyze trends and shifts related to dam removal and to validate sediment budgets and sediment transport models and provide a comprehensive understanding of how the downstream river corridor and estuary respond to an increase in fine-sediment flux.

- **Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument: Cochiti Pueblo and Bureau of Land Management (New Mexico)**

In 2024, BLM and Cochiti Pueblo announced the reopening of [Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument](#), a popular geologic hiking destination for visitors worldwide where average annual visitation peaked at approximately 130,000 visitors between 2015 and 2020. The monument was temporarily closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. BLM and Cochiti Pueblo jointly agreed to maintain the closure after pandemic restrictions were lifted to renegotiate operations of the monument, recognizing over-visitiation impacted both the natural resources within the monument and the gateway community of Cochiti Pueblo. The monument was established in 2001 with a provision that it would be managed by BLM in close cooperation with Cochiti Pueblo. This year, BLM and Cochiti Pueblo entered into an agreement under the [Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act](#) that will allow Cochiti Pueblo to take on day-to-day operations of the monument.

- **Las Vegas: Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Colony and Bureau of Land Management (Nevada)**

BLM and the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Colony entered into a co-stewardship agreement to establish a framework for cooperation and implementation of the government-to-government relationship and to coordinate co-stewardship opportunities between BLM and the Tribe in establishing, stewarding, and maintaining 3,200 acres located northwest of the Tribe’s Snow Mountain Reservation in Clark County, Nevada. The goal of the agreement is to strengthen land management effectiveness, enhance natural and cultural resource protection, increase Tribal engagement in BLM’s management decisions, and conserve the lands for present and future generations. Through this agreement, BLM and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe committed to work to coordinate resources and pursue funding opportunities to support cooperative stewardship of these lands.

- **Lisamu’: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (California)**

In 2024, BOEM entered into a cooperative agreement with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in central California to support the nomination of Lisamu’ (Morro Rock; Lisamu’ in Chumash; Le’samo in Salinan) to the National Register of Historic

Places as a traditional cultural place. This nomination seeks to elevate Morro Rock as a place that is highly significant, requiring any energy-related development to minimize impacts to the area. BOEM recognizes that this can only be achieved through co-stewardship where Tribes lead the identification and documentation of their most sacred places, and the research and nomination process will take place over the next 5 years.

- **Makah Tribal Lands and the Olympic National Park: Makah Tribe and U.S. Geological Survey (Washington)**

USGS is collaborating with forestry and wildlife biologists of the Makah Tribe on studies that monitor habitat use of radio-collared fishers (*Pekania pennanti*), estimate fisher density, and quantify distribution and abundance of key prey species in an area that includes the Makah Reservation and parts of Olympic National Park. This study, which compares the use of forest habitats by fishers and refines population estimates and genetic data, will help managers balance efforts to recover fisher populations while maintaining sustainable timber operations.

- **Missoula Field Office: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Bureau of Land Management (Montana)**

In 2024, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and BLM celebrated the historic signing of a memorandum of understanding that formally established BLM's commitment to collaboratively steward Federal public lands administered by the [Missoula Field Office](#) within the aboriginal territory of the Tribes. The agreement emphasizes the importance of Indigenous Knowledge and values in the management of public lands, and it builds on existing work BLM is doing with the Tribes, including the restoration of the tributaries and [Camas habitat and populations](#) in the Lower Blackfoot River corridor. By working together, BLM aims to ensure the cultural, spiritual, and ecological interests of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are respected and integrated into land management practices.

- **Molok Luyuk: Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Klettsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Bureau of Land Management (California)**

BLM, [Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation](#), and [Klettsel Dehe Wintun Nation](#) signed a co-stewardship agreement to strengthen cooperation in managing Molok Luyuk—roughly 20,000 acres of Wintun Nation ancestral lands located in [Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument](#). This agreement strengthens stewardship of Molok Luyuk through increased natural and cultural resource program coordination and intergovernmental engagement in management planning processes. It also provides a framework for Tribal officials, planners, resource specialists, and Tribal members to share knowledge and expertise, and provide resources and services to BLM to collaboratively develop resource management programs and coordinate on land use planning and management.

- Pacific Northwest: Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and U.S. Geological Survey**

Representing 20 treaty Tribes in Washington State, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission co-manages fisheries and co-administers investments made by Federal agencies to protect and restore habitats important to salmon and shellfish recovery and treaty rights. USGS collaborates and co-produces science with the Commission and its individual members to address these information needs and ecosystem recovery goals. This includes assessments of sediment directly inform adaptive management, guidance, and long-term resilience of ecosystem restoration efforts. It also includes (1) integrated studies of the effects and role of sediment in habitat suitability for salmon, shellfish, wetlands, and submerged aquatic vegetation and (2) disturbance thresholds to inform prioritization and phasing of efforts to restore fundamental habitat structure and function.
- Redwood National Park: Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and National Park Service (California)**

NPS and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation have formally established a framework for implementing their government-to-government relationship through a co-stewardship agreement. The agreement includes plans to develop a coastal climate change adaptation strategy to focus on the Enderts Beach area of Redwood National Park. This approximately 1,500 acre-area is the site of two significant Tolowa villages, Shin-yvslh-sri~ and Lht'vsr-me', which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is also one of the most highly visited coastal areas in the park, characterized by steep coastal bluffs, spruce forests, upland scrub and grasslands, and intertidal and marine resources.
- Sacramento Valley: Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria and Bureau of Land Management (California)**

BLM and Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria entered into a co-stewardship agreement for seven units of land that are adjacent to the Indian homelands of the Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria. The parcels, managed by BLM, are of great cultural, religious, and economic importance to Enterprise. This co-stewardship agreement strengthens land management effectiveness, enhances natural and cultural resources protection, and increases Tribal engagement in BLM's management decisions, thereby ensuring a greater level of consistency and local perspective in BLM's management of resources and lands.
- Self-Governance Agreement: Tanana Chiefs Conference and Multiple Interior Bureaus (Alaska)**

USGS joined BLM, NPS, and FWS in entering the first-ever multi-Bureau self-governance funding agreement with the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a consortium of federally recognized Tribes in Alaska. The agreement reflects a major step toward advancing the nation-to-nation relationship and trust obligation between the United States and the Tribes, and it furthers the principles of co-stewardship for the lands, waters, and habitat of interior Alaska.

- Southcentral Alaska: Ahtna, Inc. and Bureau of Land Management (Alaska)**
 BLM and Ahtna, Inc., an Alaska Native Corporation, signed a multiyear self-governance funding agreement to improve management of easements that provide access to public lands and waters across lands privately owned by Ahtna, Inc. across the southcentral interior of Alaska. The agreement transfers administration of the easements, known as 17(b) easements under to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, from BLM to Ahtna, Inc. This groundbreaking effort under title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act advances Interior’s priority of strengthening relationships with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations. Under the agreement, Ahtna, Inc. will administer the easement program on BLM’s behalf, supporting the public’s continued access to public lands and waters while respecting Ahtna, Inc.’s privately owned lands. Ahtna, Inc. will build a common dataset of easements and improve public signage, helping foster greater public understanding of land ownership patterns in the region.
- Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge: White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Minnesota)**
 A memorandum of agreement was signed between the White Earth Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and FWS. This agreement honors the commitments in the 1935 Collier Agreement and solidifies the relationship between Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and the Band. The agreement will decrease permitting burdens on Band member harvest including, for example, wild rice, trapping, leeching and turtling, wood cutting, plant gathering, and cultural practices while also expanding communication, information sharing, and collaboration between the Band’s Department of Natural Resources and the refuge staff. A second co-stewardship agreement was also recently completed that addresses planning, interpretation, environmental emergency response, and other issues.
- Yellowstone National Park Bison Species Status Assessment: InterTribal Buffalo Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Montana and Wyoming)**
 A cooperative agreement was finalized between the InterTribal Buffalo Council and FWS to gather Indigenous Knowledge for inclusion in the Yellowstone Bison Species Status Assessment. The Council is currently conducting interviews with Tribal knowledge holders.
- Yellowstone National Park: Interagency Bison Restoration Agreement and Tribal Youth Internships and National Park Service (Wyoming)**
 Yellowstone National Park entered into an Interagency Bison Restoration agreement with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone Bannock Tribes, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation, Blackfeet Nation, Northern Arapaho Tribe, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and Crow Tribe. In addition, the park has two Tribal youth programs. The Yellowstone Center for Resources Native American Internship Program, in partnership with the University of Montana, will offer ten 12-week summer internships for Native American students. The Bison Tribal Internships, funded by Yellowstone Forever, provides opportunities for Tribal youth to learn hands-on bison management.