

Increase Tribal Assets with Forest Land

Find out how through *First Nations*

Is your tribe or community interested in purchasing forested land for cultural purposes, harvesting traditional foods, or educating youth on cultural practices? Or, do you want to expand your community's public tourism offerings?

Now may be the time to act!

First Nations Development Institute, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, is helping tribes facilitate the purchase of land through the **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)**. Through this program, the USDA Forest Service will fund up to 50% of allowable project costs (including the reviewed and approved yellow book appraised land value) for tribes. 50% of project costs must be covered by non-federal matching funding.

Applicant Eligibility

The CFP funding opportunity is open to federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations, qualified nonprofit organizations focused on conservation, and local governments.

The Proposed Land Must Be:

Forest land – This land must be at least 5 acres, suitable for sustaining natural vegetation, and at least 75% forested (defined by presence of trees and absence of non-forest uses)

Private forest land – This includes land that is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses, is not held in trust by the U.S., and can provide community benefits and public access

Full fee purchase land (also known as fee simple or fee acquisition land) – This is land that the purchaser must acquire all rights, title and interest to from a seller or owner



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Why Apply? Through forest acquisition, Native communities can:

- Increase land base for cultural purposes
- Protect sensitive cultural sites and areas through public exclusion zones
- Increase access for harvesting traditional foods, which strengthens tribal food sovereignty
- Generate products from harvestable resources, such as art and value-added foods
- Provide educational opportunities and demonstrations for youth
- Improve economy from tourism, including agritourism, cultural tours, educational offerings, and public lodging areas
- Create outdoor recreation

Take Advantage of this Forest Land Opportunity!

To provide support in applying for this program during the 2021/2022 funding year, First Nations is offering technical assistance to tribes and Native-led conservation organizations. This technical assistance may include application guidance and review and help in identifying matching funding. Interested groups are encouraged to connect with First Nations and explore this important opportunity to increase their tribal assets. **Reach out today!**

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