

**Arizona Office of Tourism Consultation Policy**  
**Amended: July 9, 2010**  
**Created: March 31, 2006**

This Consultation Policy statement is advisory only. A consultation policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the **Arizona Administrative Procedure Act**. If you believe that this policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under **Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1033** for a review of the statement.

**Tribal Government Policy**

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**PURPOSE**

This policy establishes the basic principles governing the Arizona Office of Tourism's (AOT) relations with and process for engaging Tribal governments in the State of Arizona.

**INTRODUCTION**

The mission of AOT is to enhance the state economy and the quality of life for all Arizonans by expanding travel activity and increasing related revenues through tourism promotion and development. There are twenty-two Tribal governments within the State of Arizona that have jurisdiction over approximately 28% of the land base. The State of Arizona and Tribes share the recognition that tourism is an important means of economic development.

**POLICY**

AOT recognizes the sovereignty of Tribal governments and their jurisdiction over lands within Indian Country as defined by federal law. (The definition in federal law includes all lands within reservation boundaries [18 U.S.C.A. §1151].)

AOT's support to Tribes will be provided in the interest of the State and will not be used as the basis for assertion of State authority within Indian Country.

AOT is committed to developing cooperative relationships with Tribes, and will respect the cultural concerns of Tribes.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Responsibility for the enforcement of this policy lies with the director of the Agency, executive management, division directors, and all AOT staff.

**PROCEDURES**

1. AOT's staff will include a Tribal Tourism liaison, to the extent resources allow, to help build rapport and communications with the Tribes.
2. AOT will establish, staff and rely on the Tribal Tourism Advisory Committee as an important method of communication with Tribes, to the extent that resources allow.
3. AOT will work with the Tribes for the mutual benefit of promoting and marketing Native American heritage and culture.
4. AOT will assist Tribal governments in product development by providing technical assistance, sharing data, encouraging participation in AOT programs and projects, and conducting joint Tribal-State projects to the extent resources allow.
5. AOT will invite tribal representatives to participate in its training programs.
6. The Tribal Tourism liaison and AOT staff will relay Tribal issues, including requests from Tribes for assistance, to the Director of Communications and Community Development or the Director of AOT on a weekly basis.
7. AOT will enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) when considered mutually appropriate by AOT and an interested Tribal Government.
8. AOT will continue to recommend appropriate Tribal representation for appointment to the Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) to assist the agency Director in preparation of budget and in the establishment of policies and programs which promote and develop tourism throughout the state.

**APPROVED BY:**

Arizona Office of Tourism

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Sherry Henry  
Director