

Forming Tribal Conservation Districts in Alaska



Copper River-Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Conservation District (CRITR), displaying their signed agreement with USDA.



Kuigglugmiut (Kwethluk) Tribal Conservation District with U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture Harris Sherman and NRCS employees in front of their new high tunnel frame.

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www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

Overview

Tribal conservation districts combine local and traditional knowledge with technical resources to actively manage natural resources in a defined area. The goal of tribal conservation districts is to set local priorities for conservation and ensure sustainable use of natural resources for subsistence, economic opportunity, resource development, and cultural preservation.

A tribal conservation district establishes its conservation priorities through a comprehensive planning process. The plan is implemented locally by the district's governing board of directors and members.

Once a tribal conservation district is established under Tribal law, it can enter into a mutual agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and other federal agencies to carry out programs to accomplish conservation goals.

How to Form a Tribal Conservation District

1) Gather Tribal Resolutions: The Tribe signs a resolution forming their tribal conservation district (TCD). In Alaska, a Tribe may form a tribal conservation district on their own or it may join with other Tribes, villages, and/or ANCSA Corporations. All entities are signatories on the agreement.

If the Tribe invites an ANCSA Corporation, the ANCSA Corporation will also need a corporate resolution.

2) Prepare a Draft Mutual Agreement: Be sure to include all entities - the Tribe, Corporation (if invited by the Tribe), and tribal conservation district as signatories to the mutual agreement. A mutual agreement template is available from the NRCS Alaska Native Liaison.

3) Send the Agreement to Washington D.C.: Once resolutions and the draft mutual agreement are completed, work with the NRCS Alaska Native Liaison for further assistance and to initiate the review process by USDA in Washington D.C.

While Washington D.C. staff is reviewing the draft mutual agreement, work can begin on a strategic natural resources plan, bylaws, articles of incorporation, and selecting your TCD board members.

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