Federally Recognized Tribes Coordination Protocol

Tribal Coordination Letters

Updated/Last Reviewed: 7/22/26

When does this process/ procedure begin and who begins it?

When sending out project Start of Study letters for projects that have a **federal nexus** including permits, land, funding, jurisdiction, or any other direct involvement from a federal agency. The NCDOT project manager or their NCDOT designee.

What elements do I need to begin this process/ procedure?

- ☐ Project Vicinity Map
- ☐ Tribal coordination letter template.
- ☐ Tribal Coordination Table and Contact List

Instructions

1. **Establish the Lead Federal Agency** and review the Federally recognized Tribal Coordination Table and Contact Information to determine which Federally recognized Tribe(s) should be contacted regarding the project.

2. **Use the Tribal Coordination Start of Study Letter template** to develop the letter to send to the Tribe(s).

   In compliance with the informal delegated consultation agreements between the FHWA, USACE and Tribes, the letter must
   a) be on NCDOT Letterhead and identify the lead federal agency,
   b) be signed AND transmitted by an NCDOT official* (*for Catawba Nation, letter must be mailed)
   c) The NCDOT Archaeology Group Leader must be cc'd on all letters to the Tribes.
   d) If the project is State Funded and may require a USACE permit, the USACE Project Manager should be cc'd on the letter.

3. **If the project impacts Tribal Lands*, or known tribal resources are at or nearby the project:**
   - If the project is Federally funded, the USACE Project Manager should be cc'd on the letter.
   - If the project is State funded and subject to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and requires a USACE permit, then the Corps-Tribal 2017 MOU is invoked, and the Corps will handle all contact.

4. The Federally recognized Tribes on the North Carolina counties list that have accepted this protocol for undertakings where FHWA or the USACE is the lead federal agency must be provided project information. The Federally recognized Tribes on the North Carolina counties list that have not consulted with FHWA or the USACE on past NCDOT projects are included for reference only and are not currently included on the contact information sheet.
   It is important here to acknowledge that other federally recognized Tribes associated with USFS property and the Trail of Tears may need to be contacted for NCDOT projects. Projects with USFS property that have the potential to impact the Trail of Tears will continue to be addressed on a case by case basis in coordination with USFS staff. Notify the lead federal agency if any federally recognized Tribe requests project coordination occur at a government to government level between the federal government and the Tribe.

5. **Distribution of Survey Information**

   If you have provided an opportunity for Federally recognized Tribes to comment on your undertaking prior to requesting an archaeological review of your project, and the Tribe raised no issues then you do not need to forward the "No Survey" documentation to the Tribe(s).

   For projects where NCDOT did not recommend an archaeological survey (after consideration of available information including information provided by other consulting parties/ tribes) and a "No Survey" form is generated, the NCDOT project manager does not need to transmit the form to any Tribe on the list unless the Tribe previously requested additional information, or that an archaeological survey be conducted.

   If a review of the undertaking resulted in a "No survey" recommendation and you have yet to contact the Tribe(s), you may include the "No Survey" recommendation as part of your Tribal Protocol consultation request documentation provided to the Tribe(s).

   Otherwise, **all survey results are to be forwarded to the appropriate Tribe(s) by the NCDOT project manager unless otherwise directed by their lead federal agency.**

6. **Letter Distribution and Filing**
   - **a) NEPA/SEPA Document:** All tribal correspondence should be included as attachments in the NEPA/SEPA document and/or maintained as part of the project's administrative record.
   - **b) Filing:** All tribal correspondence should be stored on the project's SharePoint site under Project Management Library, and PM Topic: Agency Coordination

**Tribal Lands are defined as (A) All lands within the exterior boundaries of any Indian reservation; and (B) all dependent Indian communities 16 U.S.C. 470w(14). Tribal lands include lands held in trust by the United States for a tribe external to the boundaries of a reservation if the lands are under Federal superintendence, but does not include allotment external to the boundaries of a reservation.*

List Version: 9/1/2026 COUNTY	Div	Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Catawba Indian Nation	Cherokee Nation	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians	Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	Monacan Indian Nation	Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Nansemond Indian Tribe	Pamunkey Indian Tribe	Tuscarora Nation
ALAMANCE	7		X				X	X				
ALEXANDER	12		X	X	X	X	X					
ALLEGHANY	11		X	X	X	X						
ANSON	10		X				X					
ASHE	11		X	X	X	X			X			
AVERY	11		X	X	X	X			X			
BEAUFORT	2		X				X					
BERTIE	1		X				X			X		X
BLADEN	6		X				X					
BRUNSWICK	3		X				X					
BUNCOMBE	13		X	X	X	X			X			
BURKE	13		X	X	X	X	X					
CABARRUS	10		X				X					
CALDWELL	11		X	X	X	X	X					
CAMDEN	1		X				X			X		
CARTERET	2		X				X					X
CASWELL	7		X				X	X				
CATAWBA	12		X	X	X	X	X					
CHATHAM	8		X				X					
CHEROKEE	14		X	X	X	X			X			
CHOWAN	1		X				X			X		
CLAY	14		X	X	X	X			X			
CLEVELAND	12		X	X	X	X	X					
COLUMBUS	6		X				X					
CRAVEN	2		X				X					
CUMBERLAND	6		X				X					
CURRITUCK	1		X				X			X	X	
DARE	1		X				X					
DAVIDSON	9		X				X					
DAVIE	9		X				X					
DUPLIN	3		X				X					X
DURHAM	5		X				X					
EDGECOMBE	4		X				X					X
FORSYTH	9		X				X					
FRANKLIN	5		X				X					
GASTON	12		X	X	X	X	X					
GATES	1		X				X			X		
GRAHAM	14		X	X	X	X			X			
GRANVILLE	5		X				X	X				
GREENE	2		X				X					X
GUILFORD	7		X				X					
HALIFAX	4		X				X					X
HARNETT	6		X				X					
HAYWOOD	14		X	X	X	X			X			
HENDERSON	14		X	X	X	X			X			
HERTFORD	1		X				X			X		X
HOKE	8		X				X					
HYDE	1		X				X					
IREDELL	12		X	X			X					
JACKSON	14	X	X	X	X	X			X			
JOHNSTON	4		X				X					X

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JONES	2		X				X					X
LEE	8		X				X					
LENOIR	2		X				X					X
LINCOLN	12		X	X	X	X	X					
MACON	14		X	X	X	X			X			
MADISON	13		X	X	X	X			X			
MARTIN	1		X				X					X
MCDOWELL	13		X	X	X	X			X			
MECKLENBURG	10		X	X			X					
MITCHELL	13		X	X	X	X			X			
MONTGOMERY	8		X				X					
MOORE	8		X				X					
NASH	4		X				X					X
NEW HANOVER	3		X				X					
NORTHAMPTON	1		X				X					X
ONSLOW	3		X				X					
ORANGE	7		X				X	X				
PAMLICO	2		X				X					
PASQUOTANK	1		X				X			X		
PENDER	3		X				X					
PERQUIMANS	1		X				X			X		
PERSON	5		X				X	X				
PITT	2		X				X					X
POLK	14		X	X	X	X	X		X			
RANDOLPH	8		X				X					
RICHMOND	8		X				X					
ROBESON	6		X				X					
ROCKINGHAM	7		X				X	X				
ROWAN	9		X				X					
RUTHERFORD	13		X	X	X	X	X		X			
SAMPSON	3		X				X					X
SCOTLAND	8		X				X					
STANLY	10		X				X					
STOKES	9		X				X					
SURRY	11		X				X					
SWAIN	14		X	X	X	X			X			
TRANSYLVANIA	14	X	X	X	X	X			X			
TYRRELL	1		X				X					
UNION	10		X				X					
VANCE	5		X				X	X				
WAKE	5		X				X					
WARREN	5		X				X	X				
WASHINGTON	1		X				X					
WATAUGA	11		X	X	X	X			X			
WAYNE	4		X				X					X
WILKES	11		X	X	X	X	X					
WILSON	4		X				X					X
YADKIN	11		X				X					
YANCEY	13		X	X	X	X			X			

Tribal Contacts

Tribe	Address	email	Send Letter via	Last Updated
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Ms. Julee Cobell Cultural Preservation Department Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive Shawnee, OK 74801-9381 405-275-4030	jcobell@astribe.com 106NAGPRA@astribe.com	can transmit letter via email	7/22/2026
Catawba Indian Nation	Dr. Wenonah Haire Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office 1536 Tom Steven Road Rock Hill SC 29730	hard copy only	hard copy only	6/26/2019
Cherokee Nation	Elizabeth Toombs Tribal Historic Preservation Officer PO BOX 948 Tahlequah OK 74465	elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org	can transmit letter via email	9/5/2019
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Dr. Beau Carroll Mr. Stephen Yerka PO BOX 455 Qualla Boundary Reservation Cherokee, NC 28719	beaucarr@ebci-nsn.gov syerka@ebci-nsn.gov	can transmit letter via email	7/22/2026
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	Mr. Harlen Chavis Jr., THPO Officer Lumbee Tribe Agriculture & Natural Resources Dept. 171 Comtech Drive, Suite B Pembroke, NC 28372	hchavis@lumbeetribe.com	can transmit letter via email	7/22/2026
Monacan Indian Nation	Monacan Indian Nation Tribal Office 357 S. Main Street Amherst, VA 24521 434-363-4864	Consultation@MonacanNation.gov	can transmit letter via email	7/22/2026
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	PO BOX 580 Okmulgee OK 74447	section106@muscogeenation.com	can transmit letter via email	4/3/2024
Nansemond Indian Tribe	Chief Keith Anderson 1001 Pembroke Lane Suffolk, VA 23434	chief@nansemond.gov administrator@nansemond.gov ellen@culturalheritagepartners.com	can transmit letter via email	7/22/2026
Tuscarora Indian Nation	Bryan Printup Tribal Historic Preservation Office 5226 Walmore Road Lewistown NY 14092	bprintup@hetf.org	can transmit letter via email	7/11/2019
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians	Roger Cain Section 106 Coordinator PO BOX 746 Tahlequah OK 74465	rcain@ukb-nsn.gov ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov	can transmit letter via email	4/3/2024