**Extension Research Guidelines for North American Indian Tribal Lands**

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**Abstract**  
University Research in American Indian Country requires a unique approach that prospective researchers need to understand in order to proceed in a legal, ethical and culturally sensitive manner. Researchers must recognize that they are working on sovereign lands and with sovereign governments. Cultural and legal issues are often very different from those of the researcher’s own background. Researchers also need to know that requirements vary from reservation to reservation. Any person planning to conduct research on reservation land must
obtain permission unique to that tribe before submitting their proposal to their own Institutional Review Board for approval.

Six Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) Agents collaborated with their respective tribes to develop guidelines for conducting research on sovereign tribal lands. Agents, specialists and staff from the Indian Country Extension Working Group provided comments and editing.

- Five new publications outlining the basic requirements for conducting research on five reservations in Arizona (note: a summary of these publications will be included on the poster).
- Agents formed new working relationships, or improved existing relationships, with their tribal governments.

University campus faculty will be informed of issues that they must understand in order to avoid conflicts between the university and tribal governments that may result in roadblocks to their proposed research.

University campus faculty and others will use the research guidelines to build relationships with tribal governments and FRTEP Agents.

Working relationships between tribal governments and universities will improve, leading to more research that will provide information to scholastic institutions and benefits to tribal members in the areas of agriculture, youth development, healthy families and community development.

**Key Words:** sovereign, Native American, research protocol