

# Tribal Caucus:

## *Concept & Practice*

- Purpose
  - To be **respectful** of all participant's time in the consultation process
  - To ensure that messages delivered on the record are **representative** of the whole
  - To ensure that all tribal representatives participating in an advisory committee **help educate one another** on issues that may be of importance and **provide more background** for others who may not be as familiar with a given issue
  - To make sure that the **agenda serves the intended purpose** of the meeting and accurately reflects what people wish to discuss
- Rationale
  - Members have few opportunities to meet in-person each year, which is critical to a cultural process and allows us to **merge issues and concerns across regions**
    - E.g., Agency representatives would not speak on behalf of their agencies without first consulting with supervisors and others within their agency to ensure accuracy and representativeness of statements
  - Process is a long-held practice in **tribal consultation** groups with the Administration (WHTNC) and other agencies, like IHS; it is the equivalent of Standard Operating Procedure
  - **Separate spaces** can be essential for collaborative processes
- Respect for ALL Participants
  - We need to be **considerate of space** so that all participants and agency partners have an adequate location to retire to while the caucus is being held that is respectful of their time and work needs
- Consideration of Timing
  - To be respectful of others in the room schedule caucus opportunities into the agenda (like today)
  - Place at a time on the agenda such that any new knowledge or information or items for discussion from the presentations has been **provided** and can be considered and/or prior to talking to key heads of state (e.g., Dr. Collins).