

Brandy A. Hill

I am a tribal member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians located in Michigan. I am happily married and the mother of two wonderful children. My daughter is a senior at Northern Michigan University and my son is in middle school. Both my children's schools have active Indian education programs. I am on the parent committee for the Indian Education program in Gladstone, MI.



My government service has been with the U.S. Forest Service while stationed in both Michigan and Wisconsin. I am a federal law enforcement officer and currently hold the position of Patrol Captain stationed in Gladstone, MI. In my current role, I oversee the law enforcement program for three Michigan forests, all of which have active MOU's with several federally recognized tribes. I worked in the field of recreation and law enforcement for 15 years prior to promoting to my current position. This field experience provided me with the opportunity to interact with so many people enjoying the national forest, public land that falls within the ceded territories where my ancestors once lived. My passion for natural resources and public service led me to the profession of conservation enforcement. Early on in my career I saw the introduction of MOU's between tribes and the Forest Service, this opened the door to better cultural understanding. Much progression in the area of tribal relations has occurred in my Agency but I feel there is more that can be done internally and externally.

I see diversity initiatives being made but still feel American Indians and Alaskan Natives are underrepresented. In my Agency this is of particular importance because the vast majority of public lands known as National Forests lay within what are also known as ceded territories. This means we are the governing agency managing and protecting lands that the American Indian and Alaskan Natives hold so dear. I feel it is of utmost importance for our culture to be understood and respected so that those making decisions affecting these lands will know the value of this. This is done through educating leaders and the recruitment and advancement of the American Indian/AN. This is also done through interacting with our youth, inspiring them to tap into their inherent passion for natural resource management.

While the federal government strives to increase numbers of American Indians what it lacks is adequate progress towards inclusion of what the American Indian or Alaskan Native brings to the workforce. My experience with civil rights within the federal government is black or white; it's felt as if everyone that falls outside of that is forgotten or not valued. I would like the opportunity to assist other races, particularly the AI/AN, with their inclusion into the workforce. I would like to assist in giving natives a voice, a seat at the table and the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. I would also like to establish a meaningful advocacy for AI/AN employees who may be struggling in the workplace.