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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Cultural Resources Stewardship, Partnerships, and Science

PATHWAYS

Tribal Preservation Program Report
2015



Building Partnerships for a New Centennial

Tribal Preservation Program

Building Partnerships for a New Centennial

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

In addition to managing the Nation's parks, the National Park Service is also a part of a national preservation network of partners who are committed to the preservation of the nation's cultural heritage. We are specifically honored to work with our tribal partners to preserve the unique cultures within their communities. The Tribal Preservation Program supports the mission of the National Park Service by creating Tribal partnerships dedicated to the preservation and protection of our shared National Cultural heritage.

The National Park Service's preservation programs continue to expand and evolve to maintain relevancy, from the passage of the 1992 amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, that created the Tribal Historic Preservation Office program to current tribal youth programs at National Parks that focus on the preservation of native cultures. As we approach 2016, and celebrate the centennial of the establishment of the National Park Service and the 50th anniversary of the signing of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are reflecting on the accomplishments achieved with our partners and strategizing to continue this work in the next centennial.

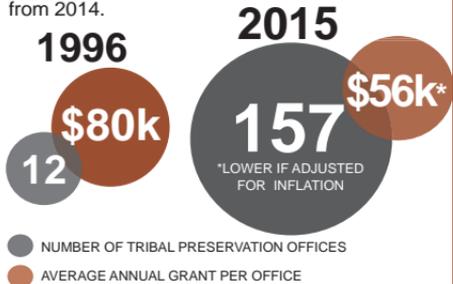
The Tribal Historic Preservation program is dedicated to working with Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations. The mission is to preserve and protect resources and traditions of importance to Native Americans. The Tribal Program is engaged in strengthening their capabilities for operating sustainable preservation programs. The tribal line item of the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, supports two grant programs: *Tribal Historic Preservation Office* grants and *Tribal Heritage* grants. These two grant programs provide much needed assistance to Native American communities interested in protecting their cultural heritage.

Whether it's tracing human history on the landscape, capturing the stories of elders, building traditional structures, or teaching youth the skills of the past, these programs not only preserve the cultural heritage of native peoples, but also build community, pride, and appreciation.

National Park Service Director
Jonathan B. Jarvis

Growing Scarcity

Since 1996, the rapid growth in tribal preservation offices- mirroring the program's popularity with native groups- has outstripped funding, the average grant dropping from \$80,000 to \$56,000.* Average awards are down by \$4,000 from 2014.



Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Groups

In 2015, 14 organizations were awarded \$532,145 in Tribal Heritage Grants to support the preservation of America's native cultures.

Afognak Native Corporation (Alaska), \$39,942

An archaeological survey in 10 coastal and riverine areas of Afognak lands with a site inventory for the lands department, the project will provide management recommendations for preservation and use.

Chickaloon Native Village (Alaska), \$40,000

Survey the Upper Matanuska Watershed, the Chickaloon Native Village and create a cultural resource inventory documenting ancestral connections to landscapes, sites, features, & resources within the watershed.

Knik Tribe (Alaska), \$16,010

Survey pedestrian cultural resources on the tribal land to identify, inventory, and evaluate sites to be protected from development and create conservation easements.

Tanana Chiefs Conference (Alaska), \$40,000

The "Dena' Nena' Henash - Our Lands Speaks" project will film interviews with elders in the Tanana Chiefs Conference region. It will be complimented with photos and selected texts highlighting Tanana heritage.

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians (California), \$34,711

An Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan will be incorporated into an Adaptive Management Plan for the Native American Land Conservancy's 2,560-acre Old Woman Mountain Preserve.

Wilton Rancheria, \$40,000 (California)

The Wilton Rancheria Ethnography Digitization Project will hire an ethnographer to develop a comprehensive database for cultural preservation using past ethnohistoric, ethnographic, and ethnocultural data on the indigenous population in its area.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Lincoln Creek District (Idaho), \$60,000

Continue restoring the Lincoln Creek Day School on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The historic school was constructed on the reservation to foster native heritage.

Aroostook Band of Micmacs (Maine), \$39,926

Establish an Aroostook Band of Micmacs repository of historic tribal veteran images and oral histories; and provide an opportunity for widespread community training on preservation practices for private military collections within tribal homes.

Crow Tribe of Montana (Montana), \$39,985

In coordination with the Crow THPO and a tribal monitor, survey the field school of the Grapevine Creek area near the Fort Smith battle site for a National Register of Historic Places nomination.

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (Nevada), \$37,672

Survey of Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation based on a literature review to help protect valuable cultural resources/sites from growing tourism in the area.

Otoe-Missouria Tribe (Oklahoma), \$25,021

This project will help establish a historical tribal land survey and comprehensive tribal survey to identify traditional skills of the Tribe, which will assist in ultimately establishing a THPO program.

Ponca Tribe (Oklahoma), \$39,643

The Ponca Tribe will create a manuscript documenting Ponca culture, history, and traditions.

Makah Cultural and Research Center (Washington), \$39,235

Experienced artists working with Makah youth will provide younger generations the opportunity to study and replicate the pre-contact artifacts made by their ancestors from skilled instructors and participate in songs and traditions related to the artifacts.

Quinault Indian Tribe (Washington), \$40,000

Produce a cultural resource plan, tribal historic preservation ordinances, and a consolidated tracking database with linked GIS maps.

Since 1990, more than \$17 million has been awarded to over 460 Indian and Alaskan Native communities.

Secretary of the Interior's 2014 Historic Preservation Award Winner



Vernelda Joyce Grant

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
San Carlos Apache Nation

In July 2015, Vernelda Grant, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the San Carlos Apache Tribe was presented a Secretary' of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award under the category of Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Her dedicated service extends from tribal preservation efforts within the San Carlos Apache Tribe to efforts across the country. In 2006, Vernelda became the San Carlos Apache's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, in addition to already being the Tribal Archaeologist and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Representative. She's assisted five other tribes in their efforts to become certified THPOs, served as a member of the Native American Advisory Group for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, served three terms on the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission, served as Chair of the National Congress of American Indians Commission on Repatriation and Burial Sites Protection, and served as a member of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona's Cultural Resources Working Group.

From her early days as the Director, Tribal Archaeologist, NAGPRA Representative, and throughout her role as the THPO beginning in 2006, Vernelda has been dedicated to preserving and protecting Apache culture and landscapes. She shares the oftentimes intense cultural history of the Apache people, to educate and strengthen the younger generation's cultural knowledge. She created the San Carlos Apache Tribe's Historic Preservation & Archaeology Department. Vernelda has successfully managed the department adhering to Apache cultural values in harmony with her training in Western Science as an archaeologist.

In 2007, Vernelda was instrumental in bringing together representatives from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the White House, and the Forest Service to the top of Dzil Nchaa Si An or "Big Seated Mountain" (also known as Mt. Graham in southwest Arizona), a sacred site to the Apache. The Apache were opposed to the construction of a telescope facility on the site, as proposed by an international coalition including the University of Arizona. The consultation serves as a great example of how government-to-government consultation should be; creating **an understanding and witness to why a tribe's connection to places is important to tribal life and well-being.**

Why the THPO Program Matters

The THPO program provides federal agencies and the constituency at large with a tribal representative to whom an agency may consult directly in making important decisions regarding historic preservation issues, particularly regarding Section 106 undertakings. In addition to that activity, the THPO provides various educational materials and events, performs survey and inventory of historic properties within tribal lands, and performs preservation planning to help it make informed decisions guiding economic development. As we move forward into the new centennial, NPS Tribal partners of the THPO program will continue to play a significant role in the national program of historic preservation.

A Conversation with James Bird

Chief, Tribal Preservation Program

Q How does being the former Eastern Band of Cherokee THPO influence your work for the NPS today?

My experiences as THPO provided insight into the daily operations of tribal government and how tribal consultation should be conducted. It helped me see the need for tribes' participation in preservation at the national level. I learned the importance of being proactive in reporting and coordinating with the tribal finance and grant compliance office. I try to emphasize this with NPS' tribal partners today.



Q What are some successes?

Helping a tribe succeed in establishing a partnership in the national program can require a lot of negotiation and technical assistance, but getting tribes to the point of working with the program with the minimum amount of anxiety is rewarding. Projects like the Lac du Flambeau Boys School are an important example of seeing first-hand the preservationist attitude of the people involved. The school now serves as an interpretive tool. Remembering the past can be painful and controversial, but it is important to have the structure remain as a learning tool.

Q What is the motivation to apply given stagnant funding?

Even though the grants don't fund a full office, some support is better than none. Tribes accept the responsibilities of responding to Federal undertakings, a big creator of work. They recognize the need to commit tribal resources to the undertakings regardless of whether or not they have the funding to do so. The HPF funding also provides training, assistance with planning, and a Federally recognized status in partnership.

Q What about the role of partnerships?

In addition to the partnerships between NPS and the tribes, regional THPO associations increase collaboration. This has grown over time and if NPS had more resources, it would be helpful to convene to share issues and challenges, to work toward solutions.

Q What are your hopes for the program?

I would like to see the new Gathering Rule take effect. That topic has long been controversial between many National Parks and neighboring tribes, such as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Also, I would like to see the THPO regulations, formerly, 36 CFR 61.8 published. It has languished since 2002. Finally, to see Congress adopt a funding formula that addresses the continuing growth of the program and enhance the effectiveness of the NPS Tribal Partnerships.

Program at a Glance

Origin and Purpose

In 1989, Congress directed the National Park Service to report on tribal preservation needs. The findings of that study, *Keepers of the Treasures—Protecting Historic Properties and Cultural Traditions on Indian Lands*, provided the foundation for the program, which awards grants, assists Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as well as approves requests from native groups to assume the duties of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

Grants

Tribal Heritage Grants are available to all federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Tribal Historic Preservation Office formula grants are drawn from the Historic Preservation Fund annually as appropriated by Congress and are awarded to eligible offices to support its activities to preserve and promote cultural traditions.

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

- Work on the frontlines to protect resources and places vitally important to cultural identity.
- Ensure activities reflect the knowledge and participation of tribal elders, culture bearers, spiritual leaders, and preservation professionals.
- Assist federal agencies in complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act on reservations and within traditional homelands.
- Create oral history programs, establish and operate museums and culture centers, and develop training and education programs that preserve traditional culture.

Program Manager

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In Memoriam

Ronald "Ronnie" James Emery

Oglala Lakota and Cheyenne River Sioux

October 5, 1964 – November 6, 2014

Ronnie passed into the spirit world from an unlikely accident while hiking in the Black Hills of South Dakota with his sons. The family had gathered in the Black Hills to pray for his 18 year old daughter who had died just a few weeks earlier.

Ronnie spent his career with the National Park Service working on tribal matters. He began with the Tribal Historic Preservation Grants Program in the 1990s. Then in 1999, he joined the American Indian Liaison Office as the Tribal Liaison Specialist. He worked to ensure the success of the American Indian Liaison Office in land exchanges between the National Park Service and tribes. He performed important roles in National Park Service training efforts in numerous workshops throughout 17 years and tailor-made the resource documents for each particular workshop. In addition, he was instrumental in representing tribal interests in program discussions, policy briefs and guidance materials.

Ronnie was particularly close to the American Indian Liaison Office effort to create a Tribal Park of the South Unit of the Badlands National Park to be managed by the Oglala Sioux. He dedicated many years to this effort, and the Badlands Tribal Park agreement was signed in 2012 much to Ronnie's gratification.

Ronnie's laugh, constant smile, good heart, notable people skills and inherent wisdom are greatly missed by those whose lives he touched.



Pat and Ronnie

In Memoriam

Patricia “Pat” L. Parker, Ph.D.

Chief, American Indian Liaison Office

April 16, 1943 – December 16, 2014

Dr. Patricia L. Parker, Chief of the American Indian Liaison Office at the National Park Service, passed away on December 16, 2014. Pat, as she was known to all, began her National Park Service leadership by posing note-worthy questions to tribal officials, listening intently to the answers and creating solutions and choices that previously had not been offered. Pat’s passion for American Indian engagement played a significant role in the publication of the 1990 *Keepers of the Treasures* report, a watershed event in national historic preservation programs. This report led to Congress providing for tribal participation in the national program of historic preservation. Tribal oral histories, language preservation, and other cultural preservation pursuits were considered and funded under Pat’s guidance.

Perceiving the need for better relations between the National Park Service and tribes, Pat created and led the American Indian Liaison Office. In 1995, this became the first national office of its kind within the NPS. She served as the head of this office for nearly 20 years until her passing in December 2014. During that time she worked on land exchanges and developed an intensive two-day workshop on the foundations of Indian Law and Policy for senior National Park Service managers, staff and tribal officials. Pat led a cultural resources’ tribal working group within the National Park Service to better coordinate and communicate its programs and resources available to American Indian tribes, Alaska Native groups, and Native Hawaiian organizations. She was instrumental in resolving many longstanding issues between those groups and the National Park Service. By working with park leadership to help them understand the needs and views of tribes and with tribal leadership on the legal, regulatory and policy structures that framed park managers’ views of what was possible, she expanded the possibilities for both. She imagined working together on caring for park lands and park resources, and helped to make it happen.

“ Tribes seek to preserve their cultural heritage as a living part of contemporary life ... Indian tribes are living cultures, fundamentally different in character from other components of American society that can continue and be strengthened only through the perpetuation of their traditions. From a tribal perspective, the ‘Keepers of the Treasures’ hold not only the keys to the tribal past, but the keys to the tribal future. ”

~ Dr. Patricia L. Parker

Right and Below: Old Woman Mountain Preserve, Community Programming, 2015 Tribal Preservation grantee, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Missions

Photos courtesy of Native American Land Conservancy



Cover Photo: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve's superintendent, Rick Obernesser shaking hands with Cheesh'na Tribal Council Administrator Wilson Justin during the dedication of Kendesnii Campground.



The last official Red Lake Delegation to Washington, DC in 1909. Some of the men in this photo include chiefs from the seven clans of the Red Lake Nation. First row, left to right: George Highlanding, Everwind, John English, Chief Nodin, and Ponemah. Second row: Joe Mason, P.H.Beaulieu, Kingbird, Basil Lawrence, Atty. John Gibbons of Bemidji, Alex Jourdain, Ba-bee-ge-shig, Eh-nee-we-qua-nobe. *Photos courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*

“The Red Lake Band of Chippewa has operated an Office of Tribal Archaeology since 1999-providing archaeological survey for tribally initiated projects and offering Section 106 review and consultation with federal agencies. The Tribe receives hundreds of Section 106 consultation requests each year and reviews and responds to these requests when the Tribe feels it has a vested aboriginal or treaty interest” (Ferris, 2015). The program plan of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa clearly states its understanding the consultation workload will increase, but is confident that the NPS Tribal partnership will continue to strengthen their ability to work in this area.