



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Educational Initiative

(Photo: Bob Wick, BLM)



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Preserving America's Heritage

CALTHPO-SHPO VIRTUAL SUMMIT
OCTOBER 2020

WHAT IS ACHP DOING?



(Photo: Wyoming, BLM)

Developing an information paper about TK in the Section 106 process in consultation with Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Native organizations.

WHY IS ACHP WORKING ON TK?

- ✚ Started in response to UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN PFII) 18th session
- ✚ Identified need to educate Section 106 participants about the importance of tribal and Native Hawaiian knowledge to the process

WHAT IS THE MAIN MESSAGE?



- ✚ Respect for traditional knowledge is required in Section 106 process
- ✚ Designated Tribal and Native Hawaiian representatives are the experts

1992 AMENDMENTS TO THE NHPA

Clarified the role of Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations in the Section 106 process

- ✚ Entitled to participate as consulting parties when an undertaking may affect a site of religious and cultural importance
- ✚ Properties of religious and cultural importance to them can be eligible for listing in the National Register

INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SECTION 106 PROCESS

✚ Federal agencies **shall consult** with Indian tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations when an undertaking might affect **properties of traditional religious and cultural importance**.

§ 302706. Eligibility for inclusion on National Register

(a) IN GENERAL.—Property of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization may be determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its responsibilities under section 306108 of this title, a Federal agency shall consult with any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that attaches religious and cultural significance to property described in subsection (a).

(c) HAWAII.—In carrying out responsibilities under section 302303 of this title, the State Historic Preservation Officer for Hawaii shall—



PROPERTIES OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE TO INDIAN TRIBES

(Photo: Cave Rock, Lake Tahoe, NV,
Wm. Dancing Feather, ACHP)

SPECIAL EXPERTISE

✚ The agency official shall acknowledge that Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations possess special expertise in assessing the eligibility of historic properties that may possess religious and cultural significance to them.

- ⌘ Indigenous Knowledge
- ⌘ Place Names
- ⌘ Oral History
- ⌘ Ethnobotany
- ⌘ Landscape Utilization

“...the best available data includes traditional knowledge, includes indigenous science...It’s really revolutionizing the way in which decisions are made and who gets a seat at the table, and creating a space for indigenous knowledge holders to be respected in these governing processes.”

Kelsey Leonard
Shinnecock Nation
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

RELEVANCE TO SECTION 106 PROCESS

- ⌘ “Special expertise” means “traditional knowledge”
- ⌘ Agencies must acknowledge and consider TK
- ⌘ Information paper seeks to raise awareness; first step in education of federal agencies and others

INCORPORATING SPECIAL EXPERTISE

“This relationship between the Indian Tribe and their special expertise is necessary for the NRCS to properly identify historic properties, evaluate significance and integrity, and assess potential effects...adequate eligibility determinations and assessments of adverse effects necessarily require that sites of religious and cultural significance are identified and recorded in a manner consistent with the site type...”

*Tribal Ancestral Lands Consultation Under the National Historic Preservation Act
Guidance for Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees*

SACRAMENTO WASH IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Programmatic Agreement between the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Arizona SHPO, Mohave County, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Hualapai Indian Tribe, and ACHP regarding the Sacramento Wash Improvements Project in Mohave County, AZ

II. Professional Qualifications and Permits

B. ...the USFWS recognizes that this expertise is the outcome of extensive traditional learning and training that certain Native individuals go through to receive tribal recognition as an initiated individual, a medicine man/woman, or a priest (holy person). **The USFWS acknowledges and respects traditional knowledge and traditional education systems on their own terms and recognizes that inclusion of individuals with this knowledge is a vital component for the identification, evaluation, analysis, recording, treatment, monitoring or disposition of historic properties.**

QUESTIONS?



(Photo: Utah, BLM)

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