



TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST FY 2005 Tribal Government Relations Accomplishments

VISION:

We develop a positive working relationship between Forest Service and Alaska Native leaders, federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native organizations, adjacent Alaska Native landowners (including native corporations), and individuals in the Alaska Native community.

Goals:

- We will establish and maintain a current directory of Tribal and Corporation contacts for line and staff on the forest.
- We will provide current directories of Forest Service Leadership and Staff to facilitate communication with our Tribal partners.
- We will establish clear roles and responsibilities among line officers, Native liaisons, heritage program, subsistence program, and other program areas.
- We will develop MOU's and MOU revisions with tribes that define consultation protocols, and mutually acceptable expectations for improved relationships, and an evaluation of annual results to identify issue, a process of issue resolution and to recognize our successes.

Priorities:

The priorities that we developed and focused on during FY2005, were based on fundamental needs, and input from Grand Camp, from participants in the Sacred Sites tour, recurrent issues identified by District Rangers and our Tribal partners over the last several years.

Specifically we have focused on:

- Communications
- MOU'S and Consultation guidelines
- Working with Tribes and Communities
- Grants
- Employment and outreach opportunities
- Heritage Resources Management, NAGPRA, and Guidelines for the protection of Sacred Sites

FY 2005 PROGRAM OF WORK**Communications:**

- We responded to approximately 300 external and internal contacts regarding Tribal Government Relations issues. We provided information and encouraged discussions regarding relevant recurring issues and finding resolution for those issues.
- We provided opportunities for Tribal Governments, Tribal members and for Forest Service personnel to discuss and resolve consultation business protocols. During the year we visited many of the various Communities to meet with Tribal Governments, Clan Leaders and individuals to discuss opportunities to work together to promote better understanding and cooperation between Tribal Governments and the Forest Service.
- Meetings with Tribal Government elected officials, councils, or council members and Staff occurred with Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Hoonah Indian Association, Angoon Community Association, Douglas Indian Association, Wrangell Cooperative Association, Craig Community Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, and the Organized Village of Saxman.
- We have established a Tongass National Forest Tribal Government Relations Web Page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/index.shtml>

Memorandums of Understanding and Consultation

- The result of many discussions with Tribal Governments regarding consultation resulted in the review of the Forest Service programs, activities and consultation protocols that were subsequently agreed upon in updating MOU's.
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Forest Service are prepared to sign a recently updated MOU! To date, MOU's have been updated and signed with Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Douglas Indian Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Wrangell Cooperative Association, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Klawock Cooperative Association and Craig Community Association. Other MOU's are being reviewed in Saxman, Metlakatla, Kasaan, Kake, Petersburg and Hoonah.

Working with Tribes, Communities and Corporations

- We participated with Craig Community Association in Transportation Planning Workshop.
- We presented a Sacred Sites program at the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, EPA Workshop.
- We presented a Sacred Sites program at the Tlingit and Haida Central Council General Assembly.
- We worked with Wrangell Cooperative Association to host a "Common Grounds" meeting to establish protocols and authorities, process for issue resolution, and responsibilities for work assignments. Timing was not favorable for this meeting this year.
- Cooperated with Sealaska Corporation to develop a process to provide cedar logs to communities for educational and traditional carving activities.
- Participated in Youth Cultural Camps at Klawock, Hydaburg, Kake, and Ketchikan.
- Provided archaeology presentations to all students K -12 and an evening presentation for the Hoonah community.
- Provided archaeology presentation to students Grade 2 – 9 in Angoon.
- Co-sponsored Archaeology month activities and community events with the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe included evening presentations with Judy Ramos and School presentations.
- Worked with and Yakutat Tribe and with Teri Rofkar, spruce root weaver, to learn methods of spruce root collection, preparation and begin weaving roots. Teri worked with the community at large as well as with the 7th and 8th grade classes.
- We provided a program that included a Mock Dig with 5th Grade Harbor View Students.
- We made a presentation to the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association regarding SE Archaeology, co-presented with Auk cultural presenter, followed by a field visit to the Auk village site at Auk Recreation Area.
- We helped coordinate a presentation sponsored by Sealaska Heritage Institute, the Forest Service and the University of Colorado by James E. Dixon at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center.

- We worked with Lillian Petershoare to review original work and photos by Moss and Newton for *Haa Atxaayi Haa Kusteeyix Sitee* and archived at the Admiralty National Monument.
- There is an ongoing partnership among the Tongass National Forest, Klawock Heenya, City of Klawock, Craig Community Association, State of Alaska, and others to conduct a multi-disciplinary assessment of the Klawock Watershed and develop plans for restoration.
- The forest has recently signed an agreement with Sealaska Corporation to include Sealaska lands in an assessment of roads and drainages in the Upper Twelvemile Study Area
- For the 2nd year employees from both the Craig and Thorne Bay Districts presented talks and demonstrations about deer and their place in traditional and modern Southeast Alaskan Society. The program is hosted by the Craig Community Association (held at the CCA Community Building) and is a joint effort with the State of Alaska, POW Tribes, and local schools). The 3rd annual Deer Celebration was scheduled for November 4, 2005 in Craig.
- The Craig Ranger District has initiated consultation with the Klawock Cooperative Association regarding traditional uses of Hole in the Wall and apparent conflicts with Wilderness management objectives.
- The Tongass National Forest supported Klawock's totem raising efforts and training of young carvers with an administrative permit for cedar poles from the forest. Terry Fifield, Archaeologist, was a member of the City of Klawock's Totem Raising Committee. Olleke Rappe-Daniels, Deputy Forest Supervisor, and John Autrey, Tongass Tribal Liaison, presented a talk about CCC Totem Park construction during the 2005 festivities.
- In June 2005 the Craig Ranger District conducted a monitoring trip to archaeological and historic sites between Klawock and Naukati. Both Klawock and Craig IRAs were invited to place representatives with the project and offer guidance for the trip. Debbie Head of Craig joined John Autrey, Terry Fifield and volunteers for the weeklong paddle.
- Coffman Cove Community Archaeology Project: As plans solidify around the planned archaeological excavation, education, and interpretive project at Coffman Cove Terry Fifield made two presentations to the Wrangell Cooperative Association Council (November 2005 & February 2006). The excavation contract was awarded in late September 2005.
- On Your Knees Cave Archaeological Project: This project, which began in 1996, continues to be the focus of discussion and consultation between the Forest Service, researchers, and Alaska Native organizations.
- Video: The Tongass National Forest has been working with Sealaska Heritage Institute and the University of Colorado Boulder (with help from the National Park Service) to produce a 28-minute documentary film

Grants:

TRIBE	LOCATION/PROJECT AMOUNT	STUDY	
Angoon Community Assoc.	Sockeye escapement assessment	SST	\$ 81,600.
Angoon Community Assoc.	Kook Lake sockeye assessment	SST	\$ 49,858.
Hydaburg Coop. Assoc.	Hetta Lake sockeye escapement	SST	\$ 87,608.
Kake, Organized Village	Sockeye escapement	SST	\$ 79,300.
Ka'saan, Organized Village	Prince of Wales steelhead	SST	\$ 59,186.
Klawock Coop. Assoc.	Klawock Lake sockeye assessment	SST	\$ 29,150.
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	Salmon Lake sockeye & coho esc	SST	\$115,200.
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	Klag Lake sockeye escapement	SST	\$ 97,200.
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	Subsistence salmon monitoring	HM-TEK	\$112,969.
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	Subsistence TEK database	HM-TEK	\$ 35,000.

Employment and Outreach Opportunities

- We are working on a strategy to increase diversity of the Tongass NF workforce through direct hiring opportunities, and outreach efforts. The Alaska Council of Native Employees and the Tribal Government Relations Program are working April 4, 2006 Tribes. We hired an Alaska Native, Angela Lammers, as the Tribal Government Relations Program Administrative Assistant.
- This year there were 52 Alaskan natives working for the Forest Service in the Alaska Region; 38 women & 14 men.
- We are working to improve outreach for employment opportunities. Many of this year's employment advertisements lacked Native applicants for many vacancies.
- We investigated allegations of the potential for discriminatory practices that involved employees. The Civil Rights Regional program, which is responsible for documenting these kinds of grievances, complaints, and issues, received no formal complaints supporting this allegation. The Tribal Government Relations program in partnership with the Tongass Civil Rights Action Group and the Alaska Council of Native employees are providing on-going opportunities for mentoring and dialogue.

Heritage Resources / Sacred Sites Management

- We worked with the Hoonah Indian Association on return of artifacts from WSU to Hoonah and worked with the Kaagwaantaan to identify items of cultural patrimony and potential NAGPRA repatriation.
- We accomplished collaborative field work with Sitka Tribe at Signaka Island and participated in many discussions regarding Sacred Sites and NAGPRA reburials.
- We conducted site monitoring activities with Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, and with the State Historic Preservation Officer representative.
- We worked with Petersburg Indian Association to develop a site monitoring program.

- The National Sacred Sites Policy Development Team, who worked with Tribes during June 2004, finalized their report and proposed draft policy, which has been turned over to the Washington Office to make final decisions and to publish the final report and policy. Further Government-to-Government consultation will occur when this internal process has been accomplished.
- We are having discussions with Ketchikan Indian Community, The Tongass Tribe and with Sitka Tribe of Alaska and individuals about developing cooperatively a vision, guiding principals and objectives for the management of Sacred Sites on Duke Island and other localities.

Sacred Sites:

Our work with Tribes to establish a vision, guiding principals and objectives for the management of Sacred Sites resulting in the following draft Tongass Land Management Plan Standards and Guidelines.

- The Tongass National Forest will manage sacred sites as an integral part of its land management.
- The Forest Supervisor, Deputy Forest Supervisor and District Rangers will be responsible for sacred sites management.
- As early as possible conduct formalized government-to-government consultation with Tribes to develop agreements regarding the access, use, protection, and management of sacred sites.
- Develop site-specific management strategies that detail protection issues and enforcement mechanisms for identified sacred sites within the area of potential effects in consultation with Tribes.
- Protect the confidentiality of sacred sites information, and be respectful of traditional cultural symbols, icons, stories, Tribal words or language.
- The Forest Service will not use Tribal knowledge, stories or symbols without permission.
- When human remains or other cultural items are involved, follow the inadvertent discovery requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.
- Identify what kinds of mutually acceptable solutions are available (on a case-by-case basis) should a sacred site be potentially contaminated or violated.
- Invite tribes to collaborate in monitoring sacred sites and to evaluate the effectiveness of sacred sites protection measures and other management strategies.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (Unassociated Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects, Objects of Cultural Patrimony)

The Tongass has two cases pending from our NAGPRA Summaries reported to the Indian tribes in 1993.

Prince of Wales Zone

- Pending repatriation of the Nossuk whale carving (a mortuary monument) to the Klawock Cooperative Association.

Juneau Zone

- Pending repatriation to Hoonah Indian Association of two objects of cultural patrimony - incised stones from the Chilkat Peninsula believed to represent clan crests.

Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects

The Tongass has seven cases pending from our NAGPRA *Inventories* reported to the Indian tribes in 1995. We have successfully repatriated human remains and associated funerary objects to Indian tribes in Kake and Wrangell.

Ketchikan Zone

- Repatriation of human remains to Cape Fox Corporation is pending now that a Notice of Inventory Completion has been published in the Federal Register

Prince of Wales Zone

- Pending repatriation of human remains from Staney Creek.
- Human remains from Dall Island (Kaigani) obtained by Forest Service law enforcement from a fisherman.

Sitka Zone

- Pending repatriation of human remains from from Warm Springs Bay, Baranof Island (most likely to Angoon Community Association and/or Kootznoowoo Corporation).

Juneau Zone

- Pending repatriation of human remains from Wilson Cove, Admiralty Island (to Angoon Community Association and/or Kootznoowoo Corporation).
- Pending repatriation of items obtained in excavations on the Lost River near Yakutat to the Yakutat Tribe.
- Pending repatriation of human remains from Taku Village.

Inadvertent Discoveries

Additionally, the Tongass has six active *Inadvertent Discovery* cases that are in various stages of resolution. In 2005 we transferred custody of human remains that were inadvertently discovered on Partofshikof Island to Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

Ketchikan Zone

- In June 2005 Zone archeologists discovered human remains on Duke Island, south of Ketchikan. All of the bones suspected to be human were left in place and remain undisturbed. Based on their location and other evidence; these human remains appear to be culturally affiliated with the Tongass Tribe. Representatives of the Tongass Tribe, Ketchikan Indian Community, Organized Village of Saxman and Metlakatla Indian Community along with

Alaska Native elders were notified by phone on June 28, 2005, and have since received a letter of notification. The proposed plan of action is to leave the remains in place.

Prince of Wales Zone

- The Zone archeologist is working on a reburial agreement with the Klawock Cooperative Association for a skull recovered in an Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) investigation.
- Consultation is ongoing with Klawock Cooperative Association, Craig Community Association and Sealaska Heritage Institute regarding ancient human remains found at Site PET-408 (On Your Knees Cave).

Petersburg Zone

- Five human hand bone fragments were recovered from cave excavations on the Wrangell Ranger District. The Zone archeologist consulted with the Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) on several occasions, to discuss the project and the disposition of the human bones. Following initial consultation, we drafted a Plan of Action regarding the inadvertent discovery of human remains, which the tribe accepted. We have posted two Notices of Intended Disposition in the Wrangell Sentinel and have sent copies to the Departmental Consulting Archaeologist. We expect to transfer custody of the human remains to WCA soon.
- Petersburg Zone archeologists are working with the Organized Village of Kake on a NAGPRA plan of action regarding the treatment of a human molar inadvertently discovered during a test excavation. The tooth was found while screening material excavated from a 50 cm² test unit at the North Point Site (SUM-025) on the mainland north of Petersburg. The North Point Site lies within the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit (Keexkwaan). The Petersburg Ranger District also contacted Sealaska Corporation, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and the Petersburg Indian Association, advising them of the discovery and requesting comment regarding the District's determination of cultural affiliation.

Juneau Zone

- Admiralty Island National Monument is consulting with six Indian tribes about an inadvertent discovery of human remains made in 2001 on Admiralty Island.

