

Office of American Indian Trust Responsibilities— Intermountain Region, National Park Service

Role

The primary role of this office is to interpret policy and facilitate communications (consultation) between park managers and tribal governments in fulfilling trust and government-to-government relation responsibilities.

Function

The following are the primary functions:

Trust Responsibilities. Consistent with the federal government's trust responsibilities, provides professional advice and technical assistance to park management in establishing and maintaining legal government-to-government consultative and collaborative relationships with sovereign Indian tribes. To ensure that park and regional managers understand the concept of trust responsibilities, provides guidance and training on fulfilling this fiduciary obligation. Is available to work with park managers to be cognizant of tribal protocols and values, and tribal positions and agendas on sensitive issues needing resolution that are common to the National Park Service and Indian tribes.

Government-To-Government Relations. The office facilitates cooperation, communications, and consultation between parks and tribes, and may represent the park manager or Regional Director when requested. The lead for government-to-government relations is the responsibility of each park manager.

Tribal Self-Governance. P.L. 103-413 permanently establishes tribal self-governance throughout the Department of the Interior. The office establishes and maintains complete legislative background, and regulations. Pertinent information on Department and Service policy, and a list of participating (compact) tribes, are readily available to park personnel.

NPS Ambassador/American Indian Liaison. The office coordinates activities that deal with tribes and tribal colleges, and represents the region on topics not related to a specific park. The office identifies and brings the right people and entities together to discuss issue(s) and reach resolution or understanding. Included is communication between tribes and parks to provide access to and use of sacred sites for traditional cultural purposes. May represent the Regional Director on larger region and strategic issues.

Oversight and Policy Compliance. Provides advice on compliance with NPS policy, regulations, laws, court decisions, treaties, and executive orders for their implication upon park management decisionmaking. Works directly with park managers and American Indian governments in NPS planning and implementing program activities that may affect tribal cultural and religious values.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Responsible for assisting superintendents, as requested, in facilitating NAGPRA consultation activities with tribes.

Congressional Inquiries/Coordination. Responds to requests of Indians and for tribes on behalf of the Regional Director.

Interface with WASO American Indian Liaison Office. Assists the Washington Office when requested, is available for details and consultation to strengthen NPS American Indian programs.

Tribal Grants Programs (i.e.: Historic Preservation Fund proposals and awards). When requested, represents the region in the development and implementation of the NPS Tribal Historic Preservation Fund and the Keepers of the Treasures organization.

Other functions could be performed subject to the accomplishment of primary function responsibilities and the availability of time and resources.

National Park Service
Intermountain Region

American Indian Trust Responsibilities Offices are located at:

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