

NATIVE AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT

The park will continue to work with the Ohlones and Coast Miwoks in three broad activity areas: cultural resource management; interpretation and education; and revitalization of community and tradition.

Cultural Resource Management. The park, together with tribal representatives, would conduct field work to survey, identify, and inventory archeological and ethnographic sites, as well as record, test, and preserve these sites. The park could offer cultural resource management and archeological training to tribal representatives as a means of enhancing the professional discourse between the park and the tribes in this arena.

Interpretation and Education. The park would work with park-associated native people to collaborate on a range of interpretive and educational activities. These could include: Indian-led educational programs offered through park visitor centers; permanent and temporary exhibits on native history and culture; annual commemorative festivals with native components; teacher trainings on Native American curricula; and participation of native people on visitor center advisory boards.

Community and Tradition. The park would continue to support the revitalization of Ohlone and Coast Miwok community and tradition. Native people would continue to conduct religious activities in the park; gather natural materials for use in traditional crafts; participate in the study of native histories and genealogies; and work with the park on ethnographic landscape restoration efforts.

To provide direction for these activities the National Park Service would work to establish and implement a set of protocols for engaging Native Americans in the park. Each protocol agreement would be tailored to the specific type of relationship that the National Park Service and the tribe have developed or are in the process of developing. Protocols could be developed providing for agreements that may include the following elements or stipulations:

1. Government-to-government relationship with the tribe by first contacting or notifying the tribal chair, president, or governor when issues arise.
2. Contacts by the park superintendent (or designated staff) with specific tribal representatives or tribal council offices designated by the tribal council or tribal chairperson to deal with specific park proposals (or issues) that may arise. The agreement should include a list of the types of proposed National Park Service activities for which the tribe would like to be contacted.
3. Routine notification to appropriate tribal officials (designated by the tribal council or tribal chairperson) by the park regarding park planning, project development, or environmental impact assessments. Appropriate methods for this preliminary notification should be summarized in the agreement (e.g., letter, telephone contact, meeting with tribal chair, cultural committee, tribal council, etc.).

4. Meetings between park management and the tribe on a periodic basis to review upcoming park plans or projects which may impact American Indian resources in or near the park (e.g., once a year, once every six months, etc.).
5. Exchange of information, research results, and technical assistance between the National Park Service and the tribe.
6. Time frame for responding to oral and written communications.
7. Steps for resolving disputes (e.g., alternative dispute resolution processes, third party mediation, or mediation by the Regional Director or Native American Affairs Office Director).
8. Process for amending or modifying the agreement.
9. Time period in which the agreement would remain in effect.
10. Process for ending or canceling the agreement.