2012

THE TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM **ANNUAL REPORT**

The National Park Service Tribal Preservation Program assists Native Americans with cultural preservation programs in a way that honors tribal sovereignty while working within the federal preservation authority granted by Congress. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), appointed by the tribal government, is a key figure in this effort.

Section 101(d)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act states that a tribe may assume historic preservation responsibilities on tribal lands. This is done through the designation of a THPO who is responsible for administering the functions of a State Historic Preservation Officer with respect to their tribal lands.

THPOs are on the frontlines in protecting cultural resources that are vitally important to the cultural identity of American Indians. They work closely with federal agencies to assist them in complying with the National Historic Preservation Act on their reservations and within their traditional homelands. They are responsible for creating tribal oral history programs, developing and operating tribal museums and cultural centers, and working with community members to develop training and education programs that preserve traditional lifeways and beliefs.

THPOs ensure that their program activities reflect the knowledge and participation of tribal elders, culture bearers, and spiritual leaders, as well as archeologists, historians, and other preservation professionals. THPO efforts to protect significant places and practices are based on an understanding of the unique cultural and spiritual values of tribal nations, and are expressions of tribal sovereignty.

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices are the fastest growing preservation partnerships within the national historic preservation program. The explosive growth of these programs shows the value that Indian tribes place on preserving historic places and protecting tribal cultural traditions.

Top: Frances G. Charles, Tribal Chairwoman, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and Billy Frank Jr., Chairman, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Bottom: Field Museum: Gordon Real Bird, Jr (seated) and Jack Real Bird photographing and taking notes on Crow saddles in the Field Museum's collections, courtesy of the National NAGPRA Program.

RENO FRANKLIN, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS AND TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, YOCHA DEHE WINTUN NATION

"All THPOs believe that their work is an active expression of tribal sovereignty as they assume the state historic preservation responsibilities for their respective tribal lands."

>> ORIGINS OF THE TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

In 1989, Congress directed the National Park Service to study and report on tribal preservation funding needs. The findings of that report, *Keepers of the Treasures—Protecting Historic Properties and Cultural Traditions on Indian Lands*, provided the foundation for the Tribal Preservation Program and its two grant programs, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices Grants and Tribal Heritage Grants.

>> WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF THE TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM?

The Tribal Preservation Program assists Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. The Program approves Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) program plans and awards Tribal Historic Preservation Office Grants and Tribal Heritage Grants.

>> THPOs

The Program is responsible for processing and approving requests from tribes to assume the duties of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. In 1996, twelve THPOs were certified by the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service. By the beginning of 2013, 142 of the approximately 336 tribes who could qualify as THPOs, will have been approved and have established THPO programs.

>> TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE GRANTS

Since 1996, the Historic Preservation Fund has provided annually-appropriated funding to THPOs. The THPO grants are awarded based on an apportionment formula agreed upon by THPOs and the NPS.

>> TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANTS

Since 1990, the Tribal Heritage Grants have been awarded on an annual basis to Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the preservation and promotion of their unique cultural traditions.

Caddo Nation: The Caddo Nation THPO program works with the tribe's elders to document and preserve sacred and ceremonial sites both on and off Caddo ancestral lands in five states. Many of these sites are unknown to anyone outside the tribe. In addition, a number of federal and state agencies have partnered with the Caddo to document and report important archeological collections of significance to the tribe.

In 2011, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) purchased a tract of land in Bossier Parish for use as access to a boat launch facility on Bayou Bodcau. The tract of land included the "Bellevue Mound," one of the oldest mounds in northwest Louisiana, located on the Caddo Nation's traditional homeland. The USACE, Vicksburg District, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, and the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding procedures to be followed for the treatment and disposition of all Native American human remains and cultural items inadvertently discovered or intentionally excavated at the site. Field work was conducted by the USACE which yielded important information regarding site configuration, social identity and status, and world views/cosmology for the Woodland period in Louisiana. The USACE decided, after consultation with the Caddo THPO, that the site will be used for educational purposes in a culturally sensitive manner.

"Sacred sites protection is a momentous responsibility requiring tremendous dedication on the part of those who serve this purpose. The duty of cultural preservation must be approached with knowledge, diligence and especially, reverence. This is what our Tribal Historic Preservation Officers impart." Kelier George, President, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

>> HOW WERE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND MONIES USED TO SUPPORT THE TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM IN 2012?

Congress appropriated $55,910,400 from the Historic Preservation Fund for historic preservation in 2012, of which $8,375,398 (16%) supported Tribal Historic Preservation Offices through THPO grants. Of this amount, 131 THPOs received grants ranging from $53,000 to $105,000. In addition, 20 projects totaling $748,822 were funded in 2012 through the Tribal Heritage Grants program.

>> FISCAL YEAR 2012 AT A GLANCE

Tribal Historic Preservation Office Grants and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

- The number of THPOs increased from 117 to 131. This is an 11% increase over the previous year and represents 39% of all eligible tribes.
- The average grant award to a THPO program was $1,000 less than what THPOs received in 1996, at the start of the THPO Grants program. Not only is this amount lower, but it does not factor in rising costs due to inflation.
- THPO grants range from $53,000 to $105,000. For some tribes, the grants often do not cover the salary and most basic operational costs associated with the THPO.
- The 131 THPOs represent tribes located in 26 states, who are responsible for managing over 58 million acres of tribal land.
- THPOs reported a total of 32,883 actions taken on Section 106 undertakings including 3,070 opinions on whether places are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Approximately 242,175 acres of tribal land was surveyed. 4,746 archeological sites and 1,115 historic properties were added to tribal inventories.
- 3,084 new listings were added to tribal registers of places of cultural and historical significance, and 28 nominations were submitted to the National Register of Historic Places.
- NPS provided training to THPOs on HPF grants.
- NPS created a new website, *Connecting with Native Americans*, www.nps.gov/tribes to connect THPOs and other tribal representatives with NPS Cultural Resources Programs.

Tribal Heritage Grants

- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations were awarded $748,822 in Tribal Heritage grants for 20 projects; over $1.75 million was requested.
- The average Tribal Heritage grant is $37,444 and funds two-year preservation projects.

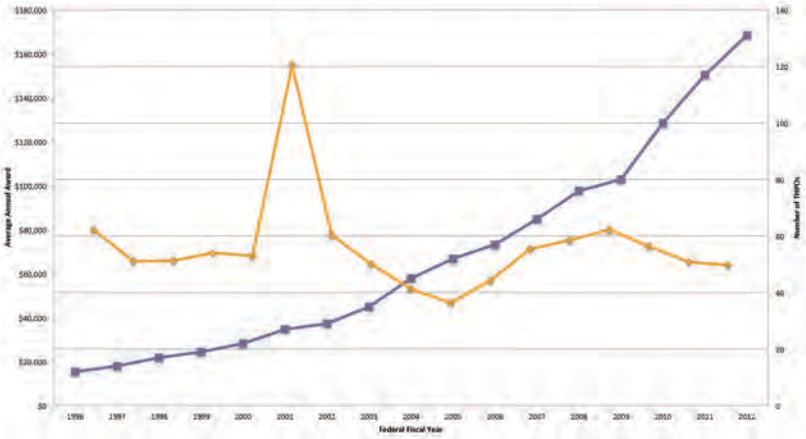
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma: Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki (Chief Jean-Baptiste de Richardville House), located near Fort Wayne, Indiana is a rare, and exceptionally well-preserved example of a treaty house. Built in 1827 as part of the terms of the 1826 Treaty between the Myaamia (Miami) and the United States, Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki served as the primary residence and locus of activities for Pinšiwa, the sovereign leader of the Miami, during negotiations with the U.S. federal government from 1826 to 1840.

Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki represents not just a home utilized as a Chief's residence but stands today as a symbol of Miami resistance and the survival of the Miami Nation. During the treaty years (1814 to 1840), Miami tribal leaders, including Akima Pinšiwa, used every means available to them to avoid the fate of neighboring tribes and be removed to lands reserved for them in Kansas. Miami resistance to removal stood to the very end and removal was only accomplished through force of arms in 1846.

In May 2011, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, George Strack, testified on behalf of the National Historic Landmark nomination for the Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki. The nomination was approved by the Department of the Interior in April of 2012. A special plaque presentation ceremony took place on April 28 in front of a gathering of tribal officials and tribal members in attendance to celebrate the event.

"Tribal preservation will be the key to enhance social development and growth for all Indian people. To know what you are, and where you came from, may determine where you are going." Arly Yanah, Yavapai-Prescott

NUMBER OF THPOS VS. AVERAGE THPO GRANT AWARD



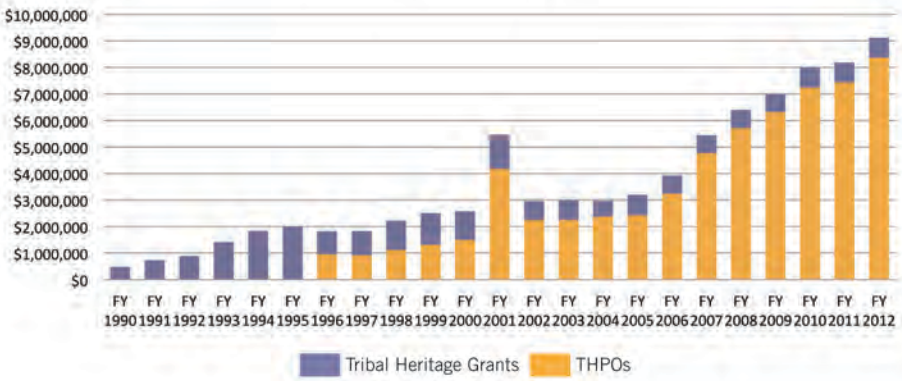
DISTRIBUTION OF HPF TRIBAL LINE ITEM 2012

State Historic Preservation Offices	$ 46,924,800
Tribal Historic Preservation Offices	$ 8,375,398
Tribal Heritage Grants	$ 748,822*
Total	$ 56,049,020

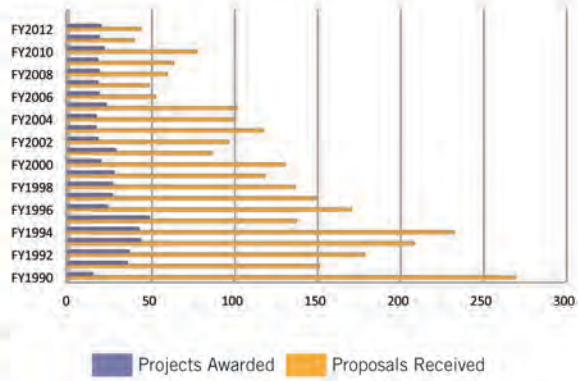
**Total includes $138,680 redistributed by NPS for Tribal Heritage Grants*

Number of THPO's Average THPO Award

TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM (1990-2012): THPO AND TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANTS



TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANTS: NUMBER OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED VS. PROJECTS AWARDED (1990-2012)



Big Pine Paiute Tribe: Since the program's inception, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers have been critical to successful consultations between federal agencies and tribes. Their specialized knowledge regarding Section 106 and other cultural resource laws benefits not only their tribe but oftentimes tribal partners that do not have a THPO program. The Big Pine Paiute, Bishop Paiute and Timbisha Shoshone Tribes have been consulting with the Navy on Coso Hot Springs, a sacred healing site now located on the Naval Air Weapons Station in China Lake, California for over five years. Initial meetings about Coso Hot Springs took place in 2007 and left the Navy and the tribes barely on speaking terms. The THPOs and their tribal governments called for a facilitator for the next consultation meeting and the Navy agreed to hire Indian Dispute Resolution Service. This resulted in a series of successful consultation meetings between the tribes and the Navy that continue today. Even though many issues such as improved access, impacts from nearby geothermal development, and land ownership remain under discussion, respectful government-to-government consultation is taking place. In this renewed spirit of cooperation, Coso Hot Springs may yet be the key for future partnerships to protect the land.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
TRIBAL RELATIONS AND AMERICAN CULTURES
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