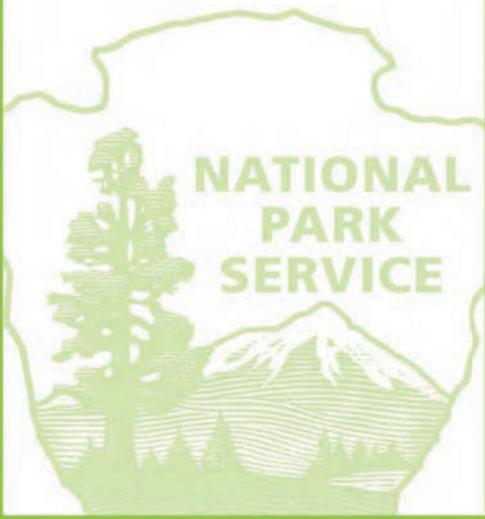




2013 ANNUAL REPORT

THE TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The National Park Service Tribal Preservation Program assists American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians with cultural preservation in a way that honors tribal sovereignty while working within the federal preservation authority granted by Congress.



Ralph Burns, Pyramid Lake Paiute THPO. Photo by Rebecca Snetselaar, Folklife Program Associate, Nevada Arts Council. See story inside cover.

A federally recognized tribe may assume historic preservation responsibilities on tribal lands. Appointed by the tribal government, the **Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)** is a key figure as a culture bearer in the effort to preserve and protect tribal cultural traditions.

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.



>>> **BILL HELMER** (CENTER), BIG PINE PAIUTE THPO AND ARCHAEOLOGIST, RECEIVES THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S 2012 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD IN THE THPO CATEGORY.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman Wayne Donaldson is at left, and former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar is at right. Although Mr. Helmer is not a tribal member, as a THPO he plays the role of a tribal culture bearer by facilitating the participation of tribal members in sacred sites consultation and other historic preservation education activities.

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 Office Grants and Tribal Heritage Grants.

WHAT DOES THE TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM DO?

Since 1990, the Tribal Preservation Program has assisted Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations. The Program is responsible for processing and approving requests from tribes to assume the duties of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and awarding THPO Grants and Tribal Heritage Grants.

TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANTS

All federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations are eligible to apply for Tribal Heritage Grants for the preservation and promotion of their unique cultural traditions.

THPO GRANTS

Since 1996, Congress has annually appropriated funds from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to support THPO operations. The THPO grants are awarded to eligible tribes based on an apportionment formula agreed upon by THPOs and the NPS.

WHAT DO THPOs DO?

- Work on the frontlines in **protecting cultural resources** and significant places vitally important to the cultural identity of American Indians.
- Ensure activities **reflect the knowledge and participation** of tribal elders, culture bearers, and spiritual leaders, as well as other preservation professionals.
- Assist federal agencies in complying with the National Historic Preservation Act (**Section 106**) on their reservations and within their traditional homelands.
- Create **tribal oral history programs**, develop and operate **tribal museums and cultural centers**, and develop **training and education programs** that preserve traditional culture.



From the cover page

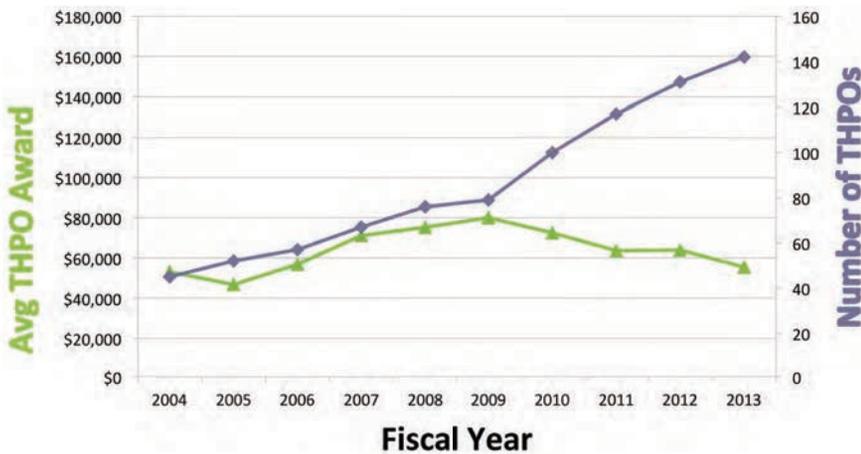
>> **THPO AND TRIBAL ELDER RALPH BURNS** of the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe of Nixon, Nevada, is a 2013

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) National Heritage Fellowship recipient as a storyteller. As a culture bearer of his tribe, Mr. Burns exhibits his passion for the preservation of traditional culture as a *Numu* (Northern Paiute) language teacher for the tribe. Burns is also an accomplished traditional dancer who frequently leads the sacred circle powwow dances and has instructed groups at the Pyramid Lake Reservation and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. Mr. Burns' profile as an artist is available in the Lifetime Honors section of the NEA's website, along with photos, audio, and a video sample of his work.



>> **THE PEORIA INDIAN SCHOOLHOUSE** is the only remaining historic structure of the Peoria Indians of Oklahoma. Built in 1872 by Principal Chief Baptise Peoria, the schoolhouse represents an era when the U.S. government wanted to replace Indian culture with that of the dominant society. The schoolhouse as it appears here has just completed the second of three phases of a restoration project supported by Tribal Heritage Grants. The restored schoolhouse will allow future generations to step back in time and develop a greater understanding of the hardships faced by their ancestors. Tribal members will also use the restored schoolhouse for a community center where tribal traditions can be passed on to future generations.

THPO GROWTH OUTPACES THPO FUNDING



The number of THPO offices is expanding at an ever increasing rate, but funding is not keeping pace with the rate of THPO growth.

As of FY 2013, 142 of the 336 eligible tribes have been certified as THPOs.

THPO GRANTS

2013 total THPO funding - \$7,867,323. The average grant award was \$55,404, which often does not cover basic operational costs associated with the THPO.

THPO ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2012*

Federal Project Review (Section 106)	41,696 actions
Survey and Inventory	195,982 acres
Archeological sites	7,043
Historic Properties	1,307
National Register of Historic Places Nominations	64
Tribal Register Nominations	11,911
Educational Activities	6,041

*At time of publication, 2013 THPO reporting is still ongoing

TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

\$ Requested in Applications	\$1.5 million+
\$ Grant Awarded	\$ 645,351
Average Award	\$ 37,962



>> The THPO of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony organized a cultural forum this summer called **REAWAKENING TRADITIONAL SCIENCE—EXPLORING THE WAYS OF OUR GREAT BASIN CULTURE.**

The forum brought community and tribal members of all ages together for presentations by contemporary scientists on local rock art and archeology. Great Basin Master Artists also demonstrated ancient traditional art forms such as basketry and tule duck making. Tribal language, oral history, and the use and care of traditional plants were also featured. The forum, funded in part by a THPO grant, showed how knowledge based both on tribal traditions and contemporary science can complement each other.

<< pictured left

2013 TRIBAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



>> **LOCATED ON THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION AT PEACH SPRINGS, ARIZONA**, the John Osterman Gas Station is listed on National Register of Historic Places for its historical association with Route 66. When the gas station closed, the building was deeded to the Hualapai Tribe in the hopes that the structure could be preserved. Hualapai THPO Loretta Jackson-Kelly envisioned restoring the building in order to provide a unique opportunity for tourists to learn about the early history of Route 66, and also experience the culture of the Hualapai people. Supported by a 2012 Tribal Heritage Grant, the Tribe is working with qualified professionals to restore the structural integrity of the building. The Tribe intends to use the restored building as a welcome center, a working gas station, and a space where Hualapai art forms like cradleboards and fine jewelry will be created and sold.

THPO PROGRAM

NPS signed partnership agreements with tribes to create 11 new Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

2013 NPS/THPO PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

- Aroostook Band of Micmacs, ME
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, OR
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, LA
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, OR
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe, OK
- Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, OK
- Pyramid Lake Paiute, NV
- Round Valley Indian Tribes, CA
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, OK
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, CA
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, MI

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE GRANTS

NPS awarded \$7,867,323 to support the duties of 142 THPOs.

TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANTS

NPS awarded a total of \$645,351 in grants, to 17 projects.



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