

## Climate Impacts to Tribal and Native Hawaiian Historic Properties: Plan for ACHP Actions

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has developed a set of actions it will take to address climate impacts to historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and tribal treaty and reserved rights that may be impacted by climate change (NHO).

The ACHP acknowledges that climate impacts range from wildfires to flooding to drought and all can have devastating impacts on sacred sites, traditional cultural landscapes, and other sites of religious and cultural importance to Indian tribes and the Native Hawaiian community. The ACHP also recognizes the need to address both proactive as well as reactive strategies in the face of current and ongoing disasters such as the wildfires burning across parts of the western U.S. Finally, the ACHP acknowledges that tribal treaty and reserved rights related to historic properties, sacred sites and landscapes and other important cultural places may also be impacted by climate change and commits to integrating, as appropriate, the consideration of such rights in its efforts to implement this plan.

### **Seek support from ACHP members to advocate for tribal and NH climate resilience and disaster response funding**

Staff will seek support from the ACHP membership for recommending to the appropriate House and Senate committees that funding be provided for Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to develop and implement plans for addressing climate impacts to their sacred sites and other sites of religious and cultural importance.

Similarly, staff will seek support from the ACHP membership to advocate for one-time funding for Indian tribes when Congress is considering such funding to states to address the impacts of a disaster.

### **Working with federal partners**

As part of the ACHP's overall climate strategy, the ACHP will convene a meeting of federal preservation officers of those agencies actively involved in addressing climate impacts on federal and tribal lands or with central roles in climate and disaster response programs including but not limited to:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Environmental Protection Agency

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- 1) Identify existing programs that are or could integrate including incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and practices into land management such as prescribed burns and that do or could provide technical or financial assistance to Indian tribes or NHOs;
- 2) Identify opportunities for collaboration among agencies and potential Section 106 mechanisms to improve assistance to Indian tribes and NHOs to address impacts to sacred sites;

- 3) Serve as a forum to explore agency management practices, conducted in part to meet each agency's Section 110 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act that could serve to guide historic property stewardship in the face of impacts from a changing climate; and,
- 4) Identify available resources, or determine necessary actions to acquire resources or personnel, that can be dedicated to the identification of sacred sites, cultural landscapes, and other sites of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians so that these locations can be taken into account by federal agencies as they continue to address climate impacts.

The ACHP, as a member of the Unified Federal Review, will work with its partners to suggest, consistent with the UFR's Strategic Plan, additional efforts that could be made to integrate tribes into UFR deployment during active disasters.

The ACHP, as a member of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, will recommend the establishment of a centralized point of contact that would be responsible for assisting Indian tribes with preparedness and response as well as assisting FEMA with tribal consultation for emergency planning, response and recovery.

#### **Working with Tribal and Native Hawaiian partners**

The ACHP will host several virtual national meetings to solicit input from Indian tribes and NHOs on climate impacts on sacred sites, cultural landscapes and other historic properties of significance to them and ways the federal government might address them including incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and practices. The ACHP will also propose listening sessions to solicit similar input at intertribal organization meetings such as the To Bridge a Gap annual conference and NATHPO meetings.

Future ONAA interns will be asked to research Native youth perspectives on climate change impacts on sacred sites and how such impacts should be addressed in order to ensure the health and survival of their cultures.

#### **Outcomes from working with partners**

The ACHP, with federal, tribal and Native Hawaiian partners, will draft an information paper that identifies ways that sacred sites, cultural landscapes and other historic properties have been and continue to be impacted by climate change.

The ACHP, working with these partners will develop a set of best practices for addressing climate impacts to sacred sites, cultural landscapes and other historic properties with the goal of protecting such properties and where that is not possible, minimizing impacts to them.

#### **Climate Preparedness and Response in Section 106**

The ACHP will develop protocols for federal agencies and Indian tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations to use regarding how disaster mitigation measures and disaster response/recovery activities might be implemented.

In the context of Section 106 programmatic consultations, the ACHP will promote the incorporation of tribal or Native Hawaiian traditional land management practices, as appropriate, by federal land managers.

The ACHP will encourage federal agencies to review existing programmatic agreements to ensure they include tribal or Native Hawaiian consultation regarding climate preparedness and response provisions.

The ACHP will develop sample stipulations regarding tribal and Native Hawaiian involvement in climate action planning that may be included in programmatic agreements.

The ACHP will develop training, based on the information gathered through outreach to federal agencies, Indian tribes, and NHOs, on climate change and historic properties.

The ACHP will continue to raise awareness in the historic preservation community regarding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples focusing on the articles that address indigenous rights to protection of the environment in accordance with the ACHP's plan to support the Declaration.

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