



CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT, CO  
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## OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

The Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) oversees the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP's) Native American responsibilities and initiatives. ONAA staff works closely with the ACHP's tribal/Native Hawaiian member to address critical issues brought to the ACHP by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs), and intertribal organizations.

The program's primary responsibilities are the following:

- ▶ Advising the ACHP chairman, members, executive director, and staff on policy matters and historic preservation issues affecting Indian tribes and NHOs;
- ▶ Ensuring the ACHP meets its government-to-government consultation and trust responsibilities to Indian tribes;
- ▶ Providing technical assistance and outreach regarding tribal and NHO consultation in the Section 106 review process; and,

- ▶ Participating in interagency initiatives focused on Native American issues.

### WHAT DOES ONAA DO?

#### Policy Development

With staff support from ONAA, the ACHP has undertaken several major policy initiatives including the adoption of:

- ▶ Plan to Support the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- ▶ Policy Statement Regarding the ACHP's Relationships with Indian tribes
- ▶ Policy Statement Regarding the ACHP's Interaction with Native Hawaiian organizations
- ▶ Policy Statement Regarding Federal Relationships with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
- ▶ The ACHP's statement on its Trust Responsibility

#### Major Initiatives

ONAA develops and manages major program initiatives that support greater and more effective involvement of Indian tribes and NHOs in federal decision making.

**Improving Tribal Consultation in Infrastructure Projects** – a report that responds to tribal input about their involvement in federal infrastructure development and offers recommendations for federal agencies that focus on improving the pre-application process and assisting applicants with tribal coordination.

**Early Coordination with Indian Tribes for Infrastructure Projects** – a 90-minute online/on-demand course for federal agencies and applicants.

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of the nation's diverse historic resources and advises the President and the Congress on national historic preservation policy.

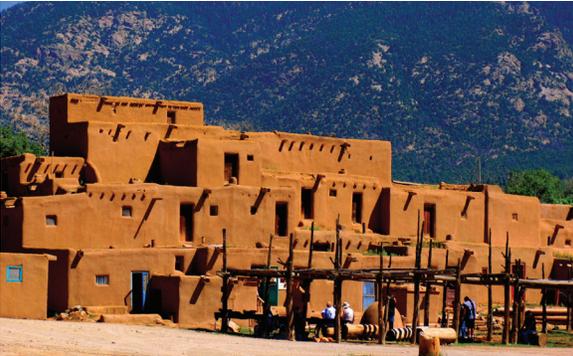




BIGHORN MEDICINE WHEEL, WY



CAVE HILLS, SD



TAOS PUEBLO, NM  
WIKIMEDIA PHOTO BY KAROL M.

## Plan to Support the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In 2013, the ACHP adopted a plan to support the Declaration and has issued two guidance documents on the intersection of the Declaration and the Section 106 process and offered webinars and other training and outreach regarding the Declaration. ONAA staff also assists the State Department in its interactions with U.N. bodies regarding indigenous issues.

## Protection of Indian Sacred Sites

In December 2012, the Departments of Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy and the ACHP (signatories) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding interagency coordination and collaboration for the protection of Indian sacred sites. The signatories have adopted a policy on the confidentiality of sensitive information, published a general information paper on Indian sacred sites, developed an online course on the federal government and sacred sites, and conducted an extensive study on the federal legal protections for Indian sacred sites.

## Training and Guidance

ONAA develops and delivers in-person training and webinars for Indian tribes, NHOs, federal agencies, and other Section 106 participants. ONAA has also begun offering online/on-demand training; the first such course is Early Coordination with Indian Tribes for Infrastructure Projects.

The ACHP has also entered into a partnership with Salish Kootenai College in Montana to offer students in the Tribal Historic Preservation Program access to the ACHP's subject matter experts, in-person and through remote lectures and curriculum materials, mentoring and internship opportunities. The ACHP Foundation is a partner and provides financial support for the ACHP to accomplish its work with the college.

ONAA has developed an extensive body of guidance on a wide range of topics including handbooks on both tribal and NHO consultation, addressing traditional cultural landscapes in the Section 106 process, recommendations for improving tribal-federal consultations, and the role of the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in the Section 106 process.

There are also several information papers that introduce Section 106 participants to topics such as the challenges facing Indian tribes that were removed from their ancestral homelands and how to work with non-federally recognized tribes.

**For more information and additional guidance, please visit:**

**[WWW.ACHP.GOV/INDIAN-TRIBES-AND-NATIVE-HAWAIIANS](http://WWW.ACHP.GOV/INDIAN-TRIBES-AND-NATIVE-HAWAIIANS)**



## ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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