Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) are officially designated by federally-recognized Native American tribes to direct preservation programs approved by the National Park Service (NPS). The THPO assumes some or all of the functions and responsibilities of State Historic Preservation Officers on tribal lands. The NPS distributes Historic Preservation Fund grants, which are typically matched by Tribes, to THPOs by apportionment formula.

Background

For many years, THPOs have received insufficient federal funding to fully implement their federally mandated responsibilities. There were only 12 federally recognized THPOs when the program began in 1996, with $79,875 going to each. In FY 2021, by contrast, 198 THPOs received an average of $69,369 in funding. Collectively, Tribes with NPS-recognized THPOs exercise responsibilities over a land base that exceeds 50 million acres in 30 states. THPOs review federal undertakings—including projects using federal funding or requiring federal approval—for their impacts on tribal historic resources (Section 106 review). THPOs also survey and maintain inventories of tribal historic resources, prepare preservation plans, and provide technical assistance and funding for preservation activities. THPOs also facilitate nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and Tribal Registers. Along with local, state, and federal law enforcement, THPOs work to prosecute looters of Indian remains and sacred objects. They also provide oversight for repatriation per the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

In FY 2021, THPOs:
- Reviewed more than 45,000 federal undertakings, providing 3,500 National Register eligibility opinions
- Surveyed approximately 75,000 acres for cultural resources and inventoried, evaluated, or designated over 2,600 significant historical and archeological properties
- Nominated more than 1,100 properties to Tribal Registers

FY 2022 Appropriations Request

Please support $24 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund
ACTIVITY: Grants to Tribes

Recent Funding History:
- FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $11.735 million
- FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $13.735 million
- FY 2021 Enacted Funding: $15.000 million
- FY 2022 President's Budget Request: TBD
- FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation: $24,000 million

JUSTIFICATION: Tribal Historic Preservation Officers are in great need of federal funding as the number of THPOs has grown dramatically since the creation of the program. Currently, there are nearly 200 THPOs. Increased funding would help address significant shortfalls in THPO funding needs.
Recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Officers*

**ALABAMA**
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Cherokee Nation of Alabama

**ALASKA**
- Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes Organization
- Huna Totem Corporation
- Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

**ARIZONA**
- Havasupai Tribe
- Hopi Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Assiniboine Tribes of the Big Sandy and Little Sandy Reservations

**CALIFORNIA**
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Chumash Casino Resort Band of Mission Indians
- Karok Tribe
- Siskiyou Band of Y Prairie Indians

**COLORADO**
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Western Shoshone Tribe of the Winnemucca, Nevada, and Bear River Reservations

**CONNECTICUT**
- Housatonic Band of Mohegan Indians

**FLORIDA**
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Seminole Tribe of Florida

**IDAHO**
- Nez Perce Tribe

**ILLINOIS**
- Potawatomi Nation

**INDIANA**
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas

**MASSACHUSETTS**
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

**MICHIGAN**
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Potawatomi Tribe of the Straits of Mackinac

**MINNESOTA**
- Santee Sioux Tribe of the Yankton, Yanktonai, and Wahpeton Reservations
- Yankton Sioux Tribe

**MISSOURI**
- Iowa Tribe of Iowa

**NEBRASKA**
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska

**NEVADA**
- Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**
- Passamaquoddy Tribe

**NEW JERSEY**
- Monmouth County Native American Association

**NEW MEXICO**
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Mescalero Apache Tribe

**NEW YORK**
- Allegany Seneca Nation
- Seneca Nation of New York

**OHIO**
- Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

**OKLAHOMA**
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Chickasaw Nation

**OREGON**
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

**PENNSYLVANIA**
- United States Marshals Service

**RHODE ISLAND**
- Narragansett Indian Tribe

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
- Catawba Indian Nation

**SOUTH DAKOTA**
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Yankton Sioux Tribe

**TENNESSEE**
- Chickasaw Nation

**TENNESSEE**
- Cherokee Nation

**TEXAS**
- United States Marshals Service

**UTAH**
- The Navajo Nation

**VERMONT**
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

**WASHINGTON**
- Confederated Tribes of the Yurok Reservation

**WEST VIRGINIA**
- Blackwater Indians

**WISCONSIN**
- Menominee Indians of Wisconsin

**WYOMING**
- Wind River Shoshone Tribe

*As of December 20, 2020: https://www.nps.gov/hpgp/search/