

In Reply Refer To:
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Mayor Karl S. Cook
P.O. Box 8
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926-0008

Dear Mayor Cook:

This letter is a continuation of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) outreach effort to make its consultation with your tribe more effective. Our August 2008 letter asked about your experience with the BLM and how it can improve its day-to-day working relationship with your tribe. This letter provides an update on the BLM's overall outreach effort and initiates government-to-government consultation on a revision of the BLM national Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO).

We are pleased to inform you that the BLM has now concluded a series of eight regional tribal listening sessions. The initial session was held on October 22, 2008, in Anchorage, Alaska. In 2009, the BLM hosted sessions in Phoenix, Arizona (April 8), Billings, Montana (April 15), Albuquerque, New Mexico (April 24), Boise, Idaho (May 6), Reno, Nevada (May 19), Palm Springs, California (May 20), and Salt Lake City, Utah (July 27). In addition, three tribes accepted the BLM's invitation to arrange individual meetings.

These listening sessions brought together state office and field office leadership and members of the Director's staff with tribal representatives. Attendees had the opportunity to tell BLM line managers how consultation is working, and provide suggestions for improvements. For the convenience of prospective attendees, the meeting times and locations were chosen where feasible to coincide with other meetings that would bring tribes together, such as the Alaska Federation of Natives meeting in Anchorage, a Traditional Cultural Property Workshop in Phoenix, and the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque. Meeting formats ranged from an open house, to an open mike, to a facilitated discussion, to a combination of the above. Formats were determined by host states, together with attendees in some cases, on the basis of what would be most conducive to the sharing of information. We hope that you were able to participate in one of these sessions.

Well over 100 tribal and village members or employees from more than 50 tribes and villages have attended sessions. Host states have prepared summary reports to capture

the feedback and recommendations attendees presented in these open fora. We have enclosed those summary reports for your information.

The BLM is in the process of interpreting the feedback and suggestions on the full scope of the BLM's activities and relationships with tribes, including those specific to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the associated PA it maintains with the ACHP and NCSHPO. Some recommendations would require changes in Department of the Interior or BLM manuals and others would require additional workforce or other resources. Still other recommendations may be addressed directly within the scope of the PA as the BLM proceeds with the revision process.

Last February the BLM committed that it would revise the PA to further elaborate on the role of tribes in the BLM's process for compliance with the NHPA. That agreement, an addendum to the PA, was enclosed with the BLM's March 2009 letter to you, and is also included here for your convenience. Using the input from the listening sessions, the BLM has worked with its co-signatories to develop a draft strategy for revising the PA. That draft strategy is enclosed for your comment. The strategy outlines the key goals for a next generation PA and proposed section-by-section changes. The BLM would greatly appreciate your comments on the draft strategy by January 31, 2010. Please send them electronically to our Preservation Officer, Robin Burgess, or our Tribal Coordinator, Jerry Cordova, (see e-mail addresses at the end of this letter) or send them by mail to:

Richard Hanes, Ph.D.
Division Chief of Cultural, Paleontological
Resources and Tribal Consultation
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop-204LS
Washington, DC 20240

If your tribe would like to meet with the BLM to discuss this strategy, please let us know.

As you will note in the addendum, the BLM, the ACHP, and the NCSHPO have committed to preparing a draft of the revised PA by February 4, 2010. The BLM will send that draft to you for your review and comment prior to completing the revision process.

For additional information or if you or your staff has any questions, please contact BLM Preservation Officer, Robin Burgess, Ph.D. at (202) 912-7241, robin_burgess@blm.gov or BLM Tribal Coordinator, Jerry Cordova at (202) 912-7245, jerry_cordova@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Abbey
Director

Enclosures

Cc: 240 RF LS 204
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