



2024 “BRIDGING THE GAP” Meeting AGENDA

First American Museum
Oklahoma City, OK
April 1-4, 2024



Theme: Building Relationships Through Collaboration

Monday, April 1, 2024

10:00 AM

REGISTRATION BEGINS

(Located front hallway of Hall of the People)

12:00 – 2:00 PM

The ARPA & NAGPRA Assistance Program: A Campaign to End Cultural Heritage Crime

Jeremy Wingo, Shannon Cowell, and Ashleigh Thompson

The ARPA & NAGPRA Assistance Program is a collective of archaeologists and law enforcement allied with Tribes to protect cultural heritage. This program unites the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Cultural Resources Unit, the BIA Division of Environmental Services and Cultural Resources Management, and Archaeology Southwest, a nonprofit based in Arizona. Our team assists in investigating illegal excavation and vandalism of archaeological sites across Indian Country. We also combat the illegal trafficking of sacred cultural items and facilitate repatriations both domestically and internationally. We create educational materials for professionals and the public, offer specialized ARPA & NAGPRA trainings, and help protect cultural sites through restoration and monitoring. We work closely with Tribal leaders, Tribal Historical Preservation Offices (THPOs), State Historical Preservation Offices (SHPOs), and several law enforcement agencies. Our website, SaveHistory.org, provides educational content on Tribal heritage values and lets people report cultural crimes confidentially through a web form or tipline (1-833-ENDLOOT). In this presentation, we will share information about our work and the resources we can offer to Tribes interested in ending looting and vandalism. We envision a world where cultural heritage is protected and respected in support of Tribal sovereignty.

Seating limit: 40

(Located in Empowerment, Leadership & Resiliency Suites)

2:30 – 4:00 PM

Rivercane Session– Michelle Baumflek

Hosted by the Rivercane Gathering Planning Team and Rivercane Restoration Alliance:

This session is geared towards those who are interested or currently involved in rivercane related projects. We will not have a spring Rivercane Gathering meeting this year, so this is an opportunity for people to come together, share updates, make new connections, and identify future interests. Keeping with the theme of BTG this year, part of our session will be dedicated to a presentation and information sharing focused on rivercane as it relates to THPOs, including NHPA/NEPA/Section 106.

Seating limit: 40

(Located in Empowerment, Leadership & Resiliency Suites)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Located in Imagination & Inspiration (205 & 206)): Breakout Sessions are limited to Tribal Leaders or their designated representatives and Agency/Organization leaders and their designated representatives and invited guests. Session is a semi-formal discussion designed to give tribal leaders and senior agency/organization officials the opportunity to meet face-to-face and discuss current topics.

4:00-5:00 Bureau of Land Management
Topic: Oklahoma Field Office and New Mexico State Office – BLM Projects
(Moderator: Melanie Barnes, New Mexico State Director, and Erin Knolles, Archeologist, Oklahoma Field Office)

5:00 – 6:00 PM Tribal Caucus (**Limited to Tribal Leaders or their designated representatives**) Located in Sovereignty Suite

6:00 – 8:00 PM **Meet and Greet Reception! (Located in Hall of the People)**
Finger food and drinks provided (Cash bar)
Welcoming remarks: Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation THPO and Marla Collins, Forest Service Tribal Relations Specialist

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 AM **LIGHT REFRESHMENTS (Hall of the People)**

*Please check out the 2024 Poster Session and Eco-café from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Upstairs Hallway during Tuesday and Wednesday of the meeting. There will be **daily** voting for the poster that best sparks your interest.*

8:00 AM **REGISTRATION**
(Located in front hallway of Hall of the People)

8:00 – 9:00 AM **Posting of Colors:** Chickasaw Nation Color Guard
Opening Prayer: Lloyd Himonykey, Commanche Nation Elder
Welcome and Recognitions- Shoshana Wasserman, First Americans Museum Deputy Director; Bobby Gonzales, Chairman of Caddo Nation of Oklahoma; Ken Arney, Forest Service Southern Regional Forester & Tony Dixon, Forest Service Eastern Regional Forester
General announcements/housekeeping- Jonathan Rohrer Caddo Nation THPO and Marla Collins Forest Service

9:00 – 10:00 **Keynote Speaker—** Chairman of Caddo Nation of Oklahoma **Bobby Gonzales**

10:00 – 10:15 AM **BREAK**

10:15 – 11:45 AM **GENERAL SESSION: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) AND NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT (NFMA)**
(Moderator: Polly Edwards, Caddo Nation)

10:15 – 10:40 **Josh Worchester**, Caddo Nation EPA Director; **Polly Edwards**, Caddo Nation Tribal Administrator

Topic: NEPA Perspective – Consultation with Tribes

10:40– 11:20 **Daryl Bingham**, Environmental Coordinator, USFS Region 9
Topic: NEPA 101 and NEPA Perspective – Consultation

11:20 – 11:45 **Jennifer McRae**, National Old Growth Forest Plan Amendment
Topic: The National Old Growth Forest Plan Amendment

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM **LUNCH (Provided for meeting registrants and located in Hall of the People)**

1:00 – 3:00 PM **EXECUTIVE BREAKOUT SESSION: REGION 9 (NORTHEASTERN US)**
(Located in Imagination & Inspiration (205 & 206))

Executive Session is limited to Tribal Leaders or their designated representatives and US Forest Service leaders and their designated representatives. Session is a semi-formal discussion designed to give tribal leaders and senior agency officials the opportunity to meet face-to-face and discuss current topics.

1:00 – 1:25 PM **LIGHTNING SESSION: CONSULTATION PREFERENCES**
(Moderator: Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation THPO)

1:00-1:05 **Caddo Nation**, Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation THPO
1:05-1:10 **Quapaw Nation**, Billie Burtrum, QHPP Deputy Director
1:10-1:15 **Delaware Nation**, Carissa Speck, Delaware Nation Historic Preservation Director
1:15-1:20 **Shawnee Tribe**, Erin Paden, Shawnee Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist
1:20-1:25 **Comanche Nation**, Martina Minthorn, Comanche Nation THPO

1:30 – 2:15 PM **GENERAL SESSION: NAGPRA ENFORCEMENT/FEDERAL PRESERVATION LAWS**
(Moderator: Velicia Bergstrom, USDA Forest Service)

1:30 – 2:15 **Daniel Gomez**, Partner with Connor & Winters LLP and Adjunct Professor, Tulsa School of Law
Civil Enforcements with ARPA and NAGPRA
Kevin Payne, Tribal Liaison, Assistant United States Attorney
A Mississippi Case Study- United States v. Burnham

2:15 – 2:30 PM **BREAK**

2:30 – 4:00 PM **GENERAL SESSION: UNDERWATER PRESERVATION: MITIGATION DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN EXCAVATION**
(Moderator: Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation THPO)

2:30 – 4:00 **Neil Puckett, PhD.**, Maritime Principal Investigator, SEARCH Texas – Austin Station; **Jessie Halligan, PhD. RPA**, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology Associate Director, Center for the Study of the First Americans Texas A&M University; **Amanda Evans, PhD. RPA**, Maritime Services Practice Leader, Grey & Pape, Inc.

Topic: Underwater Mitigation

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4:00-5:00 Ouachita National Forest and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
Topic: Updates and current happenings
(Moderator: Tamar Mannikko, Ouachita National Forest Heritage Program Manager & Kristina Hill, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Heritage Program Manager(tentative))

5:00 – 7:00 PM **DINNER (Hall of the People)**

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 AM **LIGHT REFRESHMENTS (Hall of the People)**

7:00 AM **REGISTRATION**
(Located in front hallway of Hall of the People)

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **GENERAL SESSION: CASE STUDIES IN NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT (NAGPRA) ENFORCEMENT**
(Moderator: Misty Madbull, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)

8:00 – 8:30 **Tim Carpenter**, CEO, Argus – Cultural Property Consultants
Topic: Miller Case – Indiana

8:30 – 9:00 **Caven Clark**, Retired NPS; **Robert Still**, Special Agent, Investigative Services Branch, NPS
Topic: From Evidence to Person: Intersections of Collaboration in ARPA/NAGPRA Cases

9:05 AM –10:45 AM **GENERAL SESSION: NAGPRA PROGRAM PERSPECTIVES AND REBURIAL ASSISTANCE**
(Moderator: Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation THPO)

9:05 – 9:25 **Melanie O’Brien**, National NAGPRA Program Manager
Topic: National Perspective: Updated NAGPRA Regulation

9:25 – 9:45 **Leslie Schmidt**, NAGPRA Manager, Forest Service National Headquarters, Washington Office
Topic: Agency Perspective: NAGPRA Update

9:45– 10:05 **Meg Cook**, Senior Archaeologist, Tribal Liaison & NAGPRA Specialist, Tennessee Valley Authority
Topic: NAGPRA and Reburial: Federal Responsibilities and Commitments—case study

- 10:05 – 10:25 **R8 Forests: Marcus Ridley**, Alabama NF, Forest Heritage Program Manager; **William Macneill**, Mississippi NF, Forest Heritage Program Manager; **Amber Hood**, Chickasaw Nation, Director of Historic Preservation and Repatriation
Topic: Forest Service NAGPRA Resources Farm Bill Assistance requests
- 10:25 – 10:35 Q&A Session
- 10:35 – 10:50 AM **BREAK**
- 10:50 AM – 11:45 PM **GENERAL SESSION: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT PANEL**
(Moderator: Wayna Roach, USDA Forest Service)
- 10:50 – 11:45 **Karen Brunso**, THPO, Chickasaw Nation; **Lindsey Bilyeu**, Program Coordinator, Choctaw Nation; **Tasha Hernandez**, Regional Environmental Coordinator, USFS, Region 9; **Ana Perez**, Program Analyst/Forest Service Liaison, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Topic: Best Practices -Tribal Perspective and Agency Perspective
- 11:45 – 11:55 Q&A Session
- 11:55 PM – 12:55 PM **LUNCH (Provided for meeting registrants and located in Hall of the People)**
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM **EXECUTIVE BREAKOUT SESSION: REGION 8 (SOUTHERN US)**
(Located in Imagination & Inspiration (205 & 206))
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- 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM **GENERAL SESSION: UPDATES AND CURRENT HAPPENINGS**
(Moderator: Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation THPO)
- 1:15 – 1:45 **Rebekah Dobrasko**, Section Director, Cultural Resources Management, Environmental Affairs Division at Texas Department of Transportation
Topic: TXDOT Early Consultation Tool and Tribal Histories Project
- 1:45 – 2:15 **Kandace Hollenbach**, SEAC President; **Jessica Kowalski**, Research Station Archeologist (Tentative)
Topic: SEAC Image Policy
- 2:15 – 2:45 USDA Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations: **Heath Bailey**, Tribal Relations Specialist, **Amber Carillo**, Tribal Relations Specialist, **Reed Robinson**, Director, Office of Tribal Relations
Topic: Sacred Sites Best Practices Guide
- 2:45 – 3:00 PM **BREAK**

3:00 – 4:00 PM

GENERAL SESSION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION ACT/NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT AGREEMENTS
(Moderator: Tesa Villalobos, USDA Forest Service)

3:00 – 3:30

Sarah O'Donnell, NAGPRA Coordinator, Osage Nation

Topic: Osage Nation's NAGPRA/ARPA Plan of Action

3:30 – 4:00

Gavin Hale, Heritage Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, Monongahela NF

Topic: ARPA Updates from Monongahela National Forest

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4:00-5:00

Region 9 Tribal Homelands Work Group

Topic: Future of Tribal Homelands Working Group

(Moderator: Wayne National Forest Supervisor Lee Stewart and Hoosier and Shawnee National Forests Supervisor Mike Chaveas)

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Dinner—Located in Hall of People

6:30 – 7:30 PM – Cultural Night will include dance performance by Caddo Culture Club and Metro Caddo Cultural Club, singing by Hasinai Scouts Youth Drum Group

Thursday, April 4, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 AM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS (Hall of the People)

8:30 – 9:30 AM

GENERAL SESSION: STEWARDSHIP COLLABORATION

(Moderator: Velicia Bergstrom, USDA Forest Service)

8:30 – 9:00

William MacNeil, Mississippi NF, Forest Heritage Program Manager

Topic: Building Relationships with Ancestral Lands: The Collaborative Process to Document and Protect Historic Removal Routes on the National Forests in Mississippi

9:00 – 9:30

Krista Langley, Acting Tribal Relations Program Specialist USDA FS Region 8; **Michael Fedoroff**, CONSERVE Director, University of Alabama; **Michelle Baumflek**, USDA FS Southern Research Station; **Brian Zettle**, US Army Corps of Engineers TNTCX

Topic: Updating the Forest Service Research and Development Tribal Engagement Roadmap

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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9:00 AM – 9:55 AM	Kisatchie National Forest Topic: KNF/Tribal updates and highlights <i>(Moderator: Matthew Helmer, Kisatchie National Forest Heritage Program Manager)</i>
10:00 AM – 10:55 AM	Mississippi National Forests Topic: Current and Future Project Consultation on NF in MS <i>(Moderator: William Macneill, Mississippi National Forests Heritage Program Manager)</i>
11:00 AM – 11:55 AM	National Forests and Grasslands in Texas Topic: PA, Oil and Gas Analysis, Forest Plan revision, and Tribal Input <i>(Moderator: Juanita Garcia, National Forests and Grasslands in Texas Public Services Team Leader & Tribal Relations Program Manager)</i>
9:35 – 10:10 AM	GENERAL SESSION: CHANGES TO COAL MINING REGULATORY AUTHORITY IN EASTERN OKLAHOMA <i>(Moderator: Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation THPO)</i>
9:35 – 10:00	Allison Travers , Lead Natural Resources Specialist, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; Matthew Whittaker , Vice President, Marshall Miller & Associates, Inc. Topic: Coal Mining Regulatory Authority Changes and Upcoming Project Proposal
10:00 – 10:10	Q&A Session
10:10 – 10:25 AM	BREAK
10:25 – 11:30 AM	GENERAL SESSION: TOPICS AT THE READY <i>(Moderators: Lexie Rue-Harris, Southern Region Tribal Relations Specialist and Christine Herman, Eastern Acting Tribal Relations Specialist)</i>
10:25 – 11:30	Topic: Open Mic
11:30 – 12:00	Retiring of Colors — Chickasaw Nation Color Guard Closing Prayer —
12:00 PM	Meeting ends