

A PARTNERSHIP

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN
THE AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE TOURISM ASSOCIATION
and
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

AS A PROJECT UNDER THE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

among
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Commission
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish & Wildlife Service
National Park Service
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
and
WESTERN STATES TOURISM POLICY COUNCIL

Basis of Support for this Partnership under the WSTPC Memorandum of Understanding

The existing Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between the above listed Federal Agencies and the Western States Tourism Policy Council (WSTPC) was established, among other things, to:

- “Advance the domestic and international public’s awareness of travel and tourism on Federal lands and to encourage use of these travel and tourism opportunities in an environmentally sensitive manner to produce long-term economic, business development, educational, and recreational benefits, especially in rural areas.”
- “Support projects and conferences, such as.....American Indian Tourism Conference.” [Produced each year by American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA)]
- “Cooperate with State, local, tribal, regional, and private entities to:
 - Enhance the visitor experience on Federal lands;
 - Enhance opportunities for small business development in travel and tourism industries;
 - Support the long-term economic viability of communities in the western United States and local travel and tourism industries that serve those communities;

- Protect and interpret as appropriate the natural, environmental, cultural, and historical resources which serve as the foundation for travel and tourism; and
- Respect the needs and values of citizens in the western United States.”

In order to accomplish those goals with respect to tribal entities, the MOU states that, “American Indian Nations have a rich heritage that enhances America’s cultural diversity and inspires visitors from around the world. The Agencies respect and recognize the sovereignty of tribal nations and each tribe’s approach to tourism development.”

The MOU further provides that, “The Agencies will work together with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) to facilitate coordination, collaboration, and communication with tribal tourism organizations.”

Under the terms of the MOU, the Federal Agencies, including the National Park Service, agree, among other things, to:

- “Organize, encourage, and participate in community activities that enhance understanding about the use of travel and tourism to diversify the economic base of communities,”
- “Coordinate with private entities and tribal, State, and local governmental entities to provide tourism opportunities,”
- “Promote sustainable management practices to protect natural, historic, and cultural resources of Federal lands,”
- “Cooperate with the WSTPC in facilitating the development of sustainable projects and policies.”

Under the terms of the MOU that relate to this project, the National Park Service Intermountain Region agrees, among other things, to:

- Organize, encourage and participate in community activities that enhance understanding of the history and legacies of American Indian people, especially as related to the use of travel and tourism to diversity the economic base of tribal communities;
- Support projects and conferences, such as the American Indian Tourism Conference;
- Enhance the visitor experience on Federal lands by bringing authentic native voices to parks, forests, and other outdoor recreational and educational opportunities;
- Incorporate native perspectives as appropriate into the protection and interpretation of natural, environmental, cultural and historical resources.

Under the MOU, WSTPC agrees, among other things, to:

- “Cooperate with the Agencies in facilitating the development of sustainable projects and policies....”

Background - The Partners

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA)