



YUROK TRIBE - REPATRIATION

**Repatriation and Cultural Collections Program
Annual Report to the Tribal Membership
August 2007- June 2008**

Program Staff

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Program Overview

The Repatriation/Cultural Collections Program is responsible for implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Act and other laws pertaining to repatriation and cultural and ceremonial item protection.

The Program also maintains cultural, ceremonial and art collections for the Yurok Tribe. These collections vary in size, and came to the Tribe either through the repatriation claim process or via private purchase. The majority of the items are stored at the Yurok Tribe, as well as other facilities that are equipped to store contaminated items.

As a small program, with large goals and objectives, program staff work on several projects throughout the year and often collaborate with other departments and programs to accomplish program goals.

The information reported are a few of the many activities initiated since the last report to the tribal membership. Many activities are ongoing and will continue to develop in the coming years.

Repatriation Program Activities

Filed a NAGPRA claim for over three hundred ceremonial items from the Phoebe Hearst Museum at the University of California, Berkeley.

In the process of repatriating human remains from coastal lands.

Taking steps toward developing a NAGPRA Coalition

with other local tribes, specifically targeting the repatriation of human remains and funerary items classified as culturally unidentifiable by museums and federal agencies.

Monitoring the Phoebe Hearst Museums compliance with NAGPRA.

Repatriated funerary items for reburial in Yurok territory.

Cemetery Protection Activities

Program staff and an officer from Yurok Tribe Public Safety received certificates of completion in archaeological law enforcement from the Archaeological Resource Investigations (ARI). This five day course provided training in how archaeological investigations are performed and the laws, such as the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) are used to prosecute looters and grave robbers.

Near completion of policy and procedures for inadvertent discoveries on tribal and federal lands.

Developing plans for a Veterans cemetery on the Yurok Reservation.

Cultural and Art Collection Activities

Prepared a draft Collection Management Policy Handbook for the Cultural Collections.

Negotiating the private sale of cultural/ceremonial items for the Yurok Tribe's Collections.

Developed an exhibit space showcasing Yurok Veterans names, artwork related to Veterans and a certificate from the President of the United States honoring World War II Veterans.

Students from the Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods completed their elder interview project, which were framed and now being featured at the main Tribal Office.

Yurok Tribal Flag redesigned and printed for tribal





offices and tribal entities.

Assisted State Parks in redesigning the Stone Lagoon Visitor Center exhibit. The new exhibit will feature new material on the Yurok Tribe, the village at Stone Lagoon and local natural resources.

Cultural Center Activities

Beginning search for an architectural and engineering firm for the Cultural Center plans.

Completed the Cultural Center pamphlet and distributed to tribal member households and potential funding sources.

NAGPRA Committee

The Yurok Tribe relies on a Committee of ten elders, cultural, ceremonial people and museum professionals to advise them on matters related to repatriation, cemetery and cultural site protection. These tribal members are committed to working on NAGPRA issues throughout the year. The NAGPRA Committee Members are as follows:

Jimmy James
Glenn Moore
Georgiana Trull
Fawn Morris
Elsie Bacon
Walt Lara, Sr.
Rebecca James
Frank Lara
Everett Myers
Gene Brundin
Allen McCovey

