

Land Area & Name Directory

A collaborative NATHPO initiative to create a Tribally driven platform for cultural resource contacts and areas of interest



Purpose and Goals

Understanding the locations of Tribally important places and resources is essential to their preservation and consideration during emergency response activities and planning for infrastructure, energy, and broadband development – including NHPA Section 106 reviews. This project will create a geospatial platform for information on Tribal cultural resource contacts and areas of interest. It will be driven by Tribes in its design, decision making, and data population. It will improve both protection of Native places and efficiency of required project reviews.

A New Approach

Identifying the need for such a tool, staff in the NPS Northeast Region worked with Tribes to develop a beta platform to demonstrate the idea’s feasibility (“Horizons”). Recognizing the strength of the project being Tribally driven and housed outside government, a transition to NATHPO is underway. Unlike other similar directories, LAND will contain only information populated by Tribes, representing a fundamentally different approach to a perpetual challenge.

Guiding Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sovereignty & self-determination • Meaningful consultation • Relationships & trust • Tribal capacity building • A seat at the table • All land is indigenous land

NATHPO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association of Tribal government officials protecting culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance. We provide guidance to preservation officials, elected representatives, and the public about national historic preservation legislation, policies, and regulations. We promote Tribal sovereignty, develop partnerships, and advocate for Tribes in governmental activities on preservation issues. NATHPO is already asked regularly for information that this directory will contain.

NATHPO has been working to establish partnerships, initial funding, and Tribal interest and trust in the initiative. The Inland Oil Spill Preparedness Program (IOSPP) within DOI will be providing 3-year funding for a GIS specialist at NATHPO to transition the beta platform, adapt it based on Tribal needs, and help guide data input. Ongoing funding is needed for the Tribal Working Group, the Common Ground Tour, and NATHPO operational support for the project.

Role of Tribes	Role of Agencies and Industry
Make decisions about platform structure and function	Provide financial support for Tribal Working Group, Common Ground Tour, NATHPO staff project operations, ongoing platform maintenance
Populate and update data	Enjoy access to accurate contact and area of interest data

Project Activities

Phase 1: Beta & Transition – Origin and building of NPS beta platform, securing federal funding to facilitate transition to NATHPO, begin communications with Tribes to solicit feedback, building partnerships and support for a new approach.

Phase 2: Design & Development – IOSPP funding, transition beta platform to NATHPO, GIS specialist hire, establish Tribal Working Group, develop GIS platform based on Tribal needs, preliminary planning for Common Ground Tour.

Phase 3: Common Ground Tour & Data Entry – Operational GIS platform, Common Ground Tour across Indian Country to build relationships and trust, share information and begin data entry by Tribes, long range platform planning.

Phase 4: Growth & Maintenance – Outreach and workshops to encourage data entry by more Tribes, platform tweaks and updates based on feedback and Tribal needs, annual data updates by Tribes, ongoing operational support.

Projected Timeline

Prior to 2024	2024		2025		2026		2026 and beyond	
	Jan - Jun	Jul - Dec	Jan - Jun	Jul - Dec	Jan - Jun	Jul - Dec	Jan - Jun	Jul - Dec
Phase 1: Beta & Transition								
Phase 2: Design & Development								
Phase 3: Common Ground Tour & Data Entry								
Phase 4: Growth & Maintenance								

For more information, contact NATHPO Executive Director Valerie Grussing at valerie@nathpo.org.