

# PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF TRIBAL HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICERS  
PROTECTING NATIVE PLACES

## **NATHPO Announces Recipients of 2023 Protecting Native Places Grants**

Washington, D.C., August 31, 2023 – National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), is thrilled to announce the recipients of its 2023 Protecting Native Places grants. Recognizing the interconnectedness of efforts to protect Indigenous culture and the natural world, NATHPO in partnership with The Wilderness Society (TWS) established a fund to support Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) in these important efforts. Unfortunately, public lands management has traditionally excluded the involvement of Native peoples.

To help change that, in 2022 NATHPO, in partnership with TWS through the support of the Wilburforce Foundation, established the Protecting Native Places Fund to support efforts to protect and manage Tribal cultural places, increase the role of Tribes in management and stewardship of culturally significant areas, and address racist and offensive place names. The focus of these efforts is on the management of public lands. Specifically, the grants will assist efforts to ensure that cultural sites are well managed and protected and that Tribes have an adequate say in the management of cultural resources and the incorporation of traditional knowledge on public land.

**“The work of protecting sacred places frequently intersects with culturally responsible management of public lands, but too often Tribes are left out of those processes,”** said NATHPO Executive Director Valerie Grussing. **“NATHPO is proud to help remedy this by supporting Tribal Historic Preservation Officers through these Protecting Native Places grants. We are grateful to our partners at The Wilderness Society and the Wilburforce Foundation and hope to continue and grow this support for years to come.”**

The Protecting Native Places Fund provides \$5,000 grants to NATHPO Member THPOs, issued through an application process managed by NATHPO staff and Board

members. Recipients can use the funds to support their work to ensure that Tribal cultural resources and places are managed and protected, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge, from upgrading mapping technology and document preservation to building structures and creating opportunities for education on Tribes' connection to and the importance of preserving ancestral lands.

This is the second year NATHPO has awarded Protecting Native Places grants to Member THPOs. The 2023 Protecting Native Places grant recipients include:

- Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Makah Indian Tribe
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Pueblo Acoma
- Quapaw Nation
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- White Mountain Apache Tribe

If you or your organization are interested in supporting this work and helping grow the Protecting Native Places Fund, please contact [Melissa@nathpo.org](mailto:Melissa@nathpo.org).

Who we are – NATHPO is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization, founded in 1998, of Tribal preservation leaders protecting culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance. Connections to cultural heritage sustain the health and vitality of Native peoples. 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. For more information visit our website at [www.nathpo.org](http://www.nathpo.org).