



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
Eighty-Eighth Annual Tribal Assembly  
April 19-21, 2023  
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 23-22

Title: Tribal Management of Sacred Sites

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 35,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Tlingit and Haida people have existed since time immemorial as the guardians of their lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, several sacred sites connected to the Tlingit and Haida people exist within its traditional territories; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of August 11, 1978, protects the rights of Native Americans to exercise their traditional religions by ensuring access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites; and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of this resolution, “sacred sites” are identified similarly to the definition of sacred sites in Executive Order 13007 and means any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; and

WHEREAS, as part of Sealaska Corporation’s land holdings there are sacred sites currently owned in fee ownership; and

WHEREAS, during the Eighty-Seventh Tribal Assembly, Sealaska leadership stated an interest in beginning a dialogue on management and possible transfer of ownership of sacred sites to appropriate tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, it is of interest to Tlingit & Haida and the other Southeast tribes to protect Tribal cultural heritage from inadvertent harm and to stop possible desecration of sacred sites; and

WHEREAS, tribes have unique abilities to protect such sites that make it advantageous to be in ownership or management of such sites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 19-21, 2023, hereby approves advancing discussions with Sealaska on further protecting sacred sites within Sealaska's ownership and exploring possible transfer of ownership or management of sacred sites to the appropriate tribal government.

ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, by the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata