CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Ninety-First Annual Tribal Assembly
September 23-25, 2026
Juneau, AK

Resolution TA 26-33

Title: Support for the Preservation, Retention, and Accessibility of Native Allotment Records

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 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Native allotments are lands conveyed to Alaska Native individuals pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906, and the records associated with these allotments contain important legal, cultural, historical, and genealogical information for Alaska Native families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Native allotment case files, surveys, applications, use and occupancy documentation, land status records, maps, probate records, and related documents are essential to protecting Native land ownership, succession rights, resource access, and tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the loss, destruction, mismanagement, or limited accessibility of Native allotment records can create significant hardships for Native allotment holders, their heirs, tribes, and future generations seeking to establish ownership, resolve probate matters, or document traditional land use and occupancy; and

WHEREAS, the preservation and digitization of Native allotment records will improve access, strengthen records management practices, safeguard irreplaceable historical information, and ensure the long-term protection of Native land interests; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida does not maintain a complete repository of Native allotment records and many documents necessary to verify land ownership, inheritance, occupancy, and land status are fragmented among multiple federal agencies, archives, and record centers, creating barriers for Tribal citizens seeking to protect their lands and interests; and

WHEREAS, the loss, destruction, or inaccessibility of Native allotment records places an undue burden on allotment holders and their heirs, who may be required to produce proof of facts adequate to overcome the doctrine of administrative finality in order to correct errors, address omissions, or protect their lawful interests in Native allotment lands, even when the underlying records were under the custody and control of federal agencies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened September 23-25, 2026, hereby supports the preservation, retention, and protection of all Native allotment records maintained by federal agencies, tribal governments, archives, and other repositories;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida advocates for the transfer, sharing, digitization, and preservation of Native allotment records so that tribal governments, allotment holders, and heirs have reliable access to complete and accurate records necessary to protect Native land interests;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida advocates for the digitization, secure storage, and long-term retention of Native allotment records and encourages federal agencies, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management, to ensure these records remain accessible to Native allotment holders, heirs, and federally recognized tribes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida supports efforts to improve records-sharing agreements, archival preservation initiatives, and technical assistance programs that help Native allotment holders and their descendants access and protect allotment documentation;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida urges Congress, the United States Department of the Interior, and all relevant agencies to provide adequate resources and funding to preserve, maintain, digitize, and make available Native allotment records for the benefit of current and future generations of Alaska Native people.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of September 2026, by the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata