



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #PHX-16-020

**TITLE: Self Governance Advancement – Tribal Compacting of National Park
Projects and Programs**

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1994 permits self-governance tribes who have a special geographic, historic or cultural relationship to National Park Units to enter into annual funding agreements (AFA) with the National Park Service to provide projects and programs in National Parks; and

WHEREAS, the following National Park Units are explicitly acknowledged by the National Park Service as having a special geographic, historic or cultural relationship to Federally Recognized Tribes, including but not limited to:

Aniakchack National Monument and Preserve

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Denali National Park and Preserve

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Katmai National Park and Preserve

Kenai Fjords National Park

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
Kobuk Valley National Park
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
Noatak National Preserve
Sitka National Historical Park
Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
Hohokam Pima National Monument
Montezuma Castle National Monument
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Saguaro National Park
Tonto National Monument
Tumacacori National Historical Park
Tuzigoot National Monument
Arkansas Post National Memorial
Death Valley National Park
Devils Postpile National Monument
Joshua Tree National Park
Lassen Volcanic National Park
Point Reyes National Seashore
Redwood National park
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
Yosemite National park

Hagerman fossil Beds National Monument

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Fort Scott National Historic Site

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Boston Harbor Island National Recreation Area

Cape Cod National Seashore

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

Isle Royale National Park

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Grand Portage National Monument

Voyageurs National Park

Bear Paw Battlefield, Nez Perce National Historical Park

Glacier National Park

Great Basin National Park

Aztec Ruins National Monument

Bandeleir National Monument

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Chaco Culture National Historical Park

Pecos National Historical Park

White Sands National Monument

Fort Stanwix National Historic Monument

Great Smokey Mountains National Park

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

Chickasaw National Recreation Area
Crater Lake National Park
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
Alibates Flier Quarries National Monument
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
Ebey's Landing National Recreation Area
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
Mount Rainer National Park
Olympic National Park
San Juan Islands National Historical Park
Whitman Mission National Historical Site; and

WHEREAS, inexplicably few projects or programs, have been compacted to tribes or tribal organization in the more than 20 years since the enactment of the TSGA; and

WHEREAS, aside from an annual national notice in the Federal Register, there is not a discernable effort by the National Park Service to publicize the reoccurring opportunity for tribes to enter into funding agreements for projects and programs with the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the experience of tribes who have attempted to enter into funding agreements with the National Park Service is beset by bureaucratic difficulties, and a narrow interpretation of the programs and projects available for contracting to tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians requests the Secretary of the Interior to undertake an analysis of the entire record, including attempts, compacting and contracting of Park projects and programs by Tribes, and report back to the NCAI on barriers to compacting National Park projects and programs, and provide recommendations to remedy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI requests Congress hold hearings on the progress and barriers to tribal compacting and contracting of the National Park Service projects and programs as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act as amended; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2016 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Phoenix Convention Center, October 9 to October 14, 2016, with a quorum present.


Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:


Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary