

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a) (3), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the control of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Anchorage, AK, and in the possession of the Chugach National Forest and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Anchorage, AK, which meet the definition of "unassociated funerary objects" under Section 2 of the Act.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43, CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

The 1,672 objects are 1,651 glass trade beads, 19 dentalia shell beads, and 2 ivory hand-shaped pendants.

In 1988, these cultural items were recovered with a burial at the Uqciuvit site at the western end of Esther Passage, AK, during a legally authorized excavation project contracted by Chugach National Forest. Uqciuvit is a prehistoric/early historic period Chugach Eskimo settlement in Prince William Sound. Based on archeological evidence, these cultural items from the Uqciuvit site have been dated to the early historic period, and specifically to the late 18th century. The human remains recovered from the burial were reinterred near their original burial location in 1988. Chugach National Forest is not in possession of the human remains from this burial site.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of Chugach National Forest have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(2)(ii), these 1,672 cultural items listed above are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony and are believed, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been removed from a specific burial site of a Native American individual. Officials of Chugach National Forest also have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between these unassociated funerary objects and the members of the Native Village of Chenega and the Native Village of Tatitlek, which are represented by Chugach Alaska Corporation.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Chugach Alaska Corporation,

Chenega Corporation, Native Village of Chenega, Tatitlek Corporation, Native Village of Tatitlek, English Bay Corporation, Native Village of Nanwalek, Port Graham Corporation, Native Village of Port Graham, Eyak Corporation, and Native Village of Eyak. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these unassociated funerary objects should contact Linda Finn Yarborough, Forest Archeologist, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503, telephone (907) 743-9511, facsimile (907) 743-9477, before May 10, 2002. Repatriation of these unassociated funerary objects to the Chugach Alaska Corporation may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: February 13, 2002.

Robert Stearns,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 02-8626 Filed 4-9-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Anchorage, AK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Anchorage, AK, that meet the definition of "unassociated funerary objects" under Section 2 of the Act.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

The 33 cultural items are a dehydrated duck head, 2 pieces of damask fabric, 6 pieces of mammal leather, 3 sea mammal bones, and 21 hand-hewn wooden planks.

In 1980, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Department of the Interior,

National Park Service, Cooperative Park Studies Unit archeologists conducted a survey of the Palutat Cave site, Prince William Sound, AK. The human remains that were removed from burials during the survey were reinterred near the original burial location in 1990 through a cooperative effort of the Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Chugach Alaska Corporation. Cultural items that were collected during the survey in 1980 and are associated with these burials, but were not reinterred in 1990, are a dehydrated duck head, 2 pieces of damask fabric, 6 pieces of mammal leather, 3 sea mammal bones, and 21 hand-hewn wooden planks.

Knowledge of Palutat Cave derives from the work of Edmond Meany, who visited the site in 1902, and especially the work of Frederica de Laguna, whose investigations in 1933 are the primary source of archeological information about the site. Based on archeological evidence and on the large number of human remains found there, Palutat Cave is identified as a significant prehistoric Chugach/Sugpiaq site. Chugach National Forest is not in possession or control of human remains from this burial site.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of Chugach National Forest have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(2)(ii), these 33 cultural items are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony and are believed, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been removed from specific burial sites of Native American individuals. Officials of Chugach National Forest also have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can reasonably be traced between these unassociated funerary objects and the Native Village of Chenega and Native Village of Tatitlek, which are represented by Chugach Alaska Corporation.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Chugach Alaska Corporation, Chenega Corporation, Native Village of Chenega, Tatitlek Corporation, Native Village of Tatitlek, English Bay Corporation, Native Village of Nanwalek, Port Graham Corporation, Native Village of Port Graham, Eyak Corporation, and Native Village of Eyak. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these unassociated funerary objects should contact Linda Finn Yarborough, Forest Archeologist, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street,

Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503, telephone (907) 743-9511, facsimile (907) 743-9477, before May 10, 2002. Repatriation of these unassociated funerary objects to the Chugach Alaska Corporation may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: February 21, 2002.

Robert Stearns,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 02-8627 Filed 4-9-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee Findings and Recommendations Regarding Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects from Spirit Cave in Nevada

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee: Findings and Recommendations.

After full and careful consideration of the information and statements submitted by the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, and evidence presented by representatives of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe at the November 17-19, 2001, meeting of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee (review committee), six out of the seven review committee members find that the preponderance of the evidence indicates a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between the present day Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the human remains and associated funerary objects from Spirit Cave in Nevada.

This set of human remains, currently under the control of the Nevada State Office, consists of a mummified skeleton and associated funerary objects identified as "Burial Number 2," excavated by S.M. Wheeler and Georgia N. Wheeler in 1940 from Spirit Cave, Nevada.

During its November 17-19, 2001, meeting, the review committee considered a dispute brought by the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe against the Nevada State Office. The issues leading to the dispute were as follows:

1. On June 26, 2000, the Nevada State Office determined that human remains from Spirit Cave in Nevada (Spirit Cave

remains), were not culturally affiliated with any modern individual, Indian tribe, or other group; and

2. The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe disputed the Nevada State Office's determination, and asked the review committee to review and make findings related to:

a. The cultural affiliation of certain Native American human remains and associated funerary objects removed from Spirit Cave in Nevada (specifically that, despite some gaps in the record, there is compelling evidence to support the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe's claim of cultural affiliation with the early Holocene occupants of the western Great Basin, including the Spirit Cave remains); and

b. The return of such human remains and objects to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.

The review committee reviewed documents provided by the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the Nevada State Office, and heard oral presentations by individuals on behalf of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe regarding the cultural affiliation of Native American human remains from Spirit Cave in Nevada.

After full and careful consideration of the provided information by all review committee members, six out of the seven review committee members find that:

1. The review committee does not believe that the Nevada State Office has given fair and objective consideration and assessment of all the available information and evidence in this case; and

2. The review committee finds that the preponderance of the evidence indicates a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between the present-day Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the human remains and associated funerary objects from Spirit Cave in Nevada.

Based on these findings, the review committee, by a six to one vote, recommends that the Nevada State Office repatriate the Spirit Cave human remains and associated funerary objects to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.

The review committee directed the Designated Federal Official to communicate its findings on this dispute to the representatives of the two affected parties, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the Nevada State Office, as well as other appropriate officials within the Department of the Interior.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish and maintain an advisory committee

composed of seven private citizens nominated by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and national museum organizations and scientific organizations (25 U.S.C. 3006). The responsibilities of the review committee include reviewing and making findings related to the identity or cultural affiliation of Native American human remains or other cultural items, or to the return of human remains or other cultural items; and facilitating the resolution of disputes among Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, or lineal descendants and Federal agencies or museums relating to the return of human remains and other cultural items.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 25 U.S.C. 3006 (g). These findings and recommendations do not necessarily represent the views of the National Park Service or Secretary of the Interior. The National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior have not taken a position on these matters.

Dated: March 13, 2002.

Armand Minthorn,

Chair, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee.

[FR Doc. 02-8577 Filed 4-9-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the Springfield Science Museum, Springfield, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the Springfield Science Museum, Springfield, MA, that meet the definition of "unassociated funerary objects" under Section 2 of the Act.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of these cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.