

**To:** kmastrof@blm.gov[kmastrof@blm.gov]  
**From:** Kristi Mastrofini  
**Sent:** 2017-06-02T09:32:42-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Received:** 2017-06-02T09:32:53-04:00

Purpose: provide an update on current actions and plans related to the Sundance Ceremony that will be taking place in the Monument late July-Early August. Start by stating the we had hoped to be further along with working through resolution of issues associated with this ceremony, but these things take time.....work on timing of this statement.....

According to the accounts of the ceremony organizers the Sundance Ceremony has taken place on BLM lands in its current location since the early to mid 1980s; BLM has records of issuing land use authorizations since 1991.

In 2000, the the ceremony site became part of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument; after the Monument designation the BLM became concerned about the impacts the large group gathering may be having on the the objects of biological diversity for which the monument was established.

Large group gathering, 150 to 500 people; motor homes, pitching tents, etc.

The BLM negotiated with the Society in 2004 to relocate the event outside of the Monument by 2006; in 2006 Klamath Tribes Cultural Officer made a verbal declaration that the ceremony site is sacred land. A 2006 letter from the Klamath Tribe supported this declaration and indicated the Soda Mountain Area to be a place of ceremony for the Klamath Tribes for at least 30 years.

In 2008 BLM issued the Monument Resource Management Plan and the use of the area by 150 to 500 people annually for this ceremony was not addressed. Group size is limited to 25 but larger groups may be considered and authorized for administrative purposes.

Government to government consultation with Klamath, Cow Creek, Siletz, and Grand Ronde initiated in 2014.

2014/15 Legal Guidance sought; conclusion that the ceremony not consistent with RMP and therefore not consistent with the Proclamation. Recommended working with the Tribes to determine the type of access that could meet Tribal Access for practicing religious ceremony while protecting monument objects.

In 2015 BLM entered discussions with the society concerning the possibility the BLM would not allow the ceremony in 2015 due to RMP guidance and fire safety concerns.

Of course the Society pushed back on the BLM and the BLM sought to heighten dialogue with the Klamath Tribe to find resolution to the concerns of the Society and the BLM. The Klamath Tribe designated the Tribes Cultural Officer, Perry Choctoot, as the Tribal Contact.

One of the questions that has been difficult to answer is what are the actual effects of the event on Monument Objects. We know there is disturbance from the large group size, trampling vegetation, leveling tent sites; however, the BLM has not established a solid inventory of monument objects in that particular location that may be impacted. Our new Monument ecologist has developed a preliminary inventory and

monitoring strategy to begin to get a better handle on resources that may be impacted and the overall effects of these impacts on protecting the Monuments objects. As far as we know to date there are no T\$E or unique plant communities at this site that are impacted. Upon my review it appears to be the site of old timber sale landing areas and roads.

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**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

**SCHEDULE PROPOSAL**

**For the President**

Please submit the completed form to [Scheduling@who.eop.gov](mailto:Scheduling@who.eop.gov).

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TODAY'S DATE: Friday, October 20, 2017

PROJECT OFFICER: Mike Catanzaro

\*Assistant to the President

WORKING CONTACT FOR PROJECT OFFICER:

EVENT TITLE: Announce King Cove Land Exchange

DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

TIME: 30 minutes

TYPE OF EVENT: Press Conference

PURPOSE:

For the President to announce the DOI-King Cove land exchange in Alaska during the White House Tribal Leaders Summit.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Interior is ready to announce the exchange of a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation. This will eventually lead to an exchange with the State of Alaska for the construction of a road connecting the fishing community of King Cove with an airport. This will improve the health, safety, and quality of life for residents. Announcing the exchange during the White House Tribal Leaders Summit the week of November 13 is an ideal opportunity for the President to show continued commitment to the tribes and also deliver a high profile win for Alaska natives and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan as well as Congressman Don Young. Interior plans to

LOCATION: White House Complex

IF AT WHITE HOUSE COMPLEX, PLEASE SPECIFY:

*Please refer to the scheduling proposal memo for guidance and required approvals for event locations.*

West Wing: ☐ State Floor: ☐ EEOB: ☐ Other: ☒ 4 WH Tribal Summit Location

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LENGTH OF PARTICIPATION: 30 minutes

PRE – BRIEF REQUIRED: How Long:

FIRST LADY’S ATTENDANCE:

Requested: ☐ Not Requested: ☒ 4 TBD: ☐

OTHER PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS:

Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Dan Sullivan  
Congressman Don Young

DESCRIPTION OF ATTENDEES:

EVENT FORMAT/PROGRAM:

President will announce the King Cove land exchange during the WH Tribal Leaders Summit.

REMARKS TO BE PREPARED BY SPEECHWRITING:

PRESS (Check One): OPEN: ☒ CLOSED: ☐ PRESS POOL: ☐  
OTHER: ☐

BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:

The Department of Interior is ready to announce the exchange of a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation. This will eventually lead to an exchange with the State of Alaska for the  
FUNDING SOURCE:

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**APPROVAL:**

ACCEPT: REGRET: PENDING:

NOTES:

**APA SENT:**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**