

Steps to Repatriation for Cultural Items:

Unassociated Funerary Objects, Sacred
Objects, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony

NAGPRA_info@nps.gov

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The Regulations



<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/section-10.9>

Repatriation of other cultural items



<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/upload/NAGPRA-Repatriation-Steps-2025.pdf>

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Compile a summary.

- Estimated number and general description
- The geographical location (provenience)
- The acquisition history (provenance)
- Other information and presence of hazardous substance treatment

43 CFR 10.9(a)(1)



§ 10.9 Repatriation of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony.

Each museum and Federal agency that has possession or control of a holding or collection that may contain an unassociated funerary object, sacred object, or object of cultural patrimony must follow the steps in this section. The purpose of this section is to provide general information about a holding or collection to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations to facilitate repatriation.



- (a) **Step 1—Compile a summary of a holding or collection.** Based on the information available, a museum or Federal agency must compile a summary describing any holding or collection that may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Depending on the scope of the holding or collection, a museum or Federal agency may organize its summary into sections based on geographical area, accession or catalog name or number, or other defining attributes. A museum or Federal agency must ensure the summary is comprehensive and covers any holding or collection relevant to this section.



- (1) A summary must include:
- (i) The estimated number and a general description of the holding or collection, including any potential cultural items;
 - (ii) The geographical location (provenience) by county or State where the potential cultural items;
 - (iii) The acquisition history (provenance) of the potential cultural items;
 - (iv) Other information relevant for identifying:
 - (A) A lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation, and
 - (B) Any object as an unassociated funerary object, sacred object, or object of cultural patrimony; and
 - (v) The presence of any potentially hazardous substances used to treat any of the unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, if known.

What is a summary?

A general representation of your collection in lieu of an object-by-object inventory

Based on available information held by the museum or Federal agency
Compiled BEFORE Consultation

Deference to Native American traditional knowledge to identify cultural items

What is a cultural item?

Cultural Items

- A Funerary object, sacred object, or object of cultural patrimony according to the Native American traditional knowledge

Funerary Object

- Placed intentionally with or near human remains at the time of death or later to a death rite or ceremony (see 10.2 definitions)
 - Associated funerary object
 - Unassociated funerary object

Step 1: Compile a summary.

Museums/Federal Agencies <u>MUST</u>	Indian Tribes/NHOs <u>MAY</u>
Estimated number and general description	Preferences for organization and level of detail; consent
Geographical location	Geographical locations of interest
Acquisition history	Acquisition history of interest
Other information for identifying objects and cultural affiliation	Information for identifying objects /cultural affiliation, incl. NATK
Hazardous substance treatment	Guidelines/consent to testing

Step 1:
Compile a
summary.

Timelines for completing a Summary

- 6 months after acquiring or locating cultural items
- 6 months after transfer of a holding or collection previously included in a summary

[Use only for a holding or collection that **may** contain **cultural items (unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony)** in order to initiate consultation with lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations (see [43 CFR 10.9\(b\)](#) *Step 2 – Initiate consultation*).

By the appropriate deadline, use this template to compile information available about **cultural items (unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony)** as required by [43 CFR 10.9\(a\)](#) *Step 1 – Compile a summary of a holding or collection*. A museum or Federal agency must ensure the summary is comprehensive and covers all holdings or collections that **may** contain cultural items in its possession or control. Depending on the scope of the holding or collection, the museum or Federal agency may organize its summary into sections based on geographical area, accession or catalog name or number, or other defining attributes. For deadlines to compile a summary, see Table 1 to [43 CFR 10.9\(a\)\(2\)](#).

Based on information available, include the following five pieces of information. This is the MINIMUM information required; additional information may be included as necessary or preferred. The format is only a recommendation and not a requirement.

1. Estimated number and general description of the holding or collection, including any potential cultural items
2. Geographical location (provenience) by county or state
3. Acquisition history (provenance)
4. Other information available, including age, culture, cultural affiliation, or identification of any object as an unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony
5. Presence of any potentially hazardous substances

VERIFY all required information is included. The National NAGPRA Program does not review or validate the content of a summary and is not responsible for the information or errors in the summary.

REMOVE these instructions, highlighting, italics, and {braces} before submission.

Submit the summary to the Manager, National NAGPRA Program, (nagpra_info@nps.gov)

3 Examples of Summary Formats

Example 1: Descriptive style

Using available information, THE MUSEUM records identify approximately 200 items that may be unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony and are identified as being connected to CULTURE GROUP and TRIBE A, TRIBE B, and TRIBE C. Approximately 13 of these items have been identified as potentially funerary objects or sacred objects based on other items from the same location. The items were reportedly collected in STATE, COUNTY, by COLLECTOR (b.1818, d.1904) and donated to THE MUSEUM in 1932. THE MUSEUM records indicate no known hazardous substances.

THE MUSEUM has a collection of fewer than 150 human-created objects that may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. These objects include potsherds, tools, blankets, and carved ivory or bone. These objects are from areas and states now known as New England, the Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, the Pacific Islands, Alabama, Alaska, California, Georgia, and Illinois. THE MUSEUM has approximately 25,000 items from the natural world. These include animal bones, shells, fossils, taxidermy and pelts, feathers, rocks and minerals, and a small number of botanical and insect specimens. The animal remains are largely, but not entirely from the area now known as New England, and the geological and paleontological specimens are from areas across the modern-day United States. Most of these objects were collected by members of our founding institution, the MUSEUM SOCIETY, between 1830-1948, and a small number were donated by private individuals in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The collection has not been exhaustively tested for hazardous materials, but it is assumed many ecological objects contain chemicals used in preparation and preservation including, but not limited to, arsenic, mercury, asbestos, paradichlorobenzene, naphthalene, and dichlorvos.

THE MUSEUM has an ethnographic collection of approximately 10,000 items that may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. These items represent various categories of material cultural, including sea and land hunting, fishing, tools, household equipment, clothing, travel and transportation, personal adornment, smoking, toys, and figurines. The collection includes 13 objects identified in our records as “used in ceremony.” Approximately half of the ethnographic collection was collected by John Doe during his expedition to COUNTY, STATE in 1903 and accessioned by the museum that same year (see Major Museum Publication, no. 65 (1965)). Another approximately 1,000 ethnographic objects were collected by Jane Doe during her expedition to COUNTY, STATE between 1950-1960 and were accessioned by the museum after her death in 1973 (see Major Museum Publication, no. 75 (1975)). Accession information indicates that several of these items were collected from members of the Adams and Baker families. The rest of the ethnographic objects were obtained from various collectors between 1930 and 1980 and no other information is readily available. The collection has not been exhaustively tested for hazardous materials, but it is assumed many ecological objects contain chemicals used in preparation and preservation.

THE MUSEUM has an archeological collection of approximately 2 million items that may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. These collections were recovered from 20 different archeological sites in STATE A, STATE B, and STATE C. We have not identified from the information available any specific cultural items in this collection. The collection was accessioned between 1920 and 1970. THE MUSEUM records indicate no known hazardous substances.

Example 2: Table or spreadsheet

State:	STATE
County (if known):	COUNTY
Collection ID:	Accession 1234.12; Catalog AB123
Potential item type:	Based on other items from the same location, likely contains funerary objects or sacred objects
Estimated number of cultural items	Between 13 and 200
Description:	200 items that may be unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony
Collection history:	Reportedly collected in STATE, COUNTY, by COLLECTOR (b.1818, d.1904). Donated to THE MUSEUM in 1932.
Treatment:	THE MUSEUM records indicate no known hazardous substances.
Comments:	CULTURE GROUP identified; Possibly connected to TRIBE A, TRIBE B, or TRIBE C.

Example 3: Itemized entry

Potential Item Type: Funerary objects or sacred objects

Geographic Location: County, State

Collection History: Reportedly collected by COLLECTOR (b.1818, d.1904). Donated to THE MUSEUM in 1932.

Approximate number of cultural items: 13-200

Description: Based on other items from the same location, likely contains funerary objects or sacred objects as follows: 10 lots of ceramic sherds, 1 clay bowl, 1 lot of metal objects, and 1 lot of beads of miscellaneous materials

Additional information: THE MUSEUM records indicate no known hazardous substances.

Based on other items from the same location, THE MUSEUM believes the items are possibly affiliated with TRIBE A, TRIBE B, or TRIBE C as they are identified as CULTURE GROUP.

Step 2: Initiate consultation.

Museums/Federal Agencies <u>MUST</u>	Indian Tribes/NHOs <u>MAY</u>
Invite lineal descendants and Indian Tribes or NHOs with potential cultural affiliation	Identify museums/Federal agencies with collections of interest
Enclose summary	Preferences for summary and plan for filing/recording/organizing
Identify all consulting parties	Preferences for consulting with others
Propose method for consultation	Preference for timeline and method for consultation

2025 NAGPRA Initiate Consultation Template
CULTURAL ITEMS
Updated 3/28/2025

{Use only for **cultural items (unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony)** in a holding or collection of a museum or Federal agency AFTER compiling a summary (see [43 CFR 10.9\(a\)](#) *Step 1 – Compile a summary of a holding or collection*).

No later than 30 days after compiling a summary, use this template to invite consultation as required by [43 CFR 10.9\(b\)](#) *Step 2 – Initiate consultation*. Consulting parties are any lineal descendant and any Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with potential cultural affiliation. An invitation to consult must be in writing.

Insert the following five pieces of information in the appropriate places in this template, indicated by **{#. Information and additional instructions}**. This is the MINIMUM information required; additional information may be included as necessary or preferred. The format is only a recommendation and not a requirement.

1. Date signed and sent. *Documents are timely based on the date sent* ([43 CFR 10.1\(f\)\(2\)](#)).
2. Consulting party addressee and address. *This includes any lineal descendant(s) and any Indian Tribe(s) or Native Hawaiian organization(s) with potential cultural affiliation. For contact information, see <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/consultation-resources.htm>.*
3. Museum or Federal agency. *Full name can be abbreviated or referred to by initials after the first instance, i.e. Museum of Natural Science (MONS). The authorized representative ([43 CFR 10.8](#)) must be identified by title or individual name.*
4. Consulting parties, individually named or in attached list. *Titles or individual names are optional. Names of lineal descendant may be withheld.*
5. Proposed method for conducting consultation.

REMOVE these instructions, highlighting, italics, and {braces}. **VERIFY** all required information is included.

Send the invitation to consulting parties no later than 30 days after compiling a summary. Written documents must be sent by one of the following: email, with proof of receipt; personal delivery with proof of delivery date; private delivery service with proof of date sent; or certified mail (see [43 CFR 10.1\(e\)\(1\)](#)).

DO NOT send copies to the National NAGPRA Program.

{1. Date}

{2. Consulting party addressee and address}

Dear {2. Consulting party addressee},

The {3. Museum or Federal agency} wishes to consult with {2. Consulting party} on the identification, cultural affiliation, and repatriation of Native American cultural items in our holdings or collections. This effort is being coordinated by {3. Museum or Federal agency point of contact}, who can be reached at {3. contact email} or {3. contact telephone number}.

Attached is a summary of any holding or collection that may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. When known, we have included the county, state, and site where the cultural items were removed.

Other consulting parties who are being invited to consult on these holdings or collections are {4. Choose: Individual named parties or attach a list}. In addition to the attachments, {3. Museum or Federal agency} will supply additional documentation, upon request and if available.

Our preferred method for conducting consultation will include {5. emails, phone calls, video calls, or in person meetings}. If you would like to consult on our holdings or collections, please provide your preferences on a proposed timeline and method for consultation and provide any updated contact information for your authorized representative.

Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful consideration of this invitation to consult. We look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

{3. Museum or Federal agency authorized representative name, title, signature}

Enclosure: Summary

List of consulting parties (if applicable)

Step 3: Consult.

Museums/Federal Agencies <u>MUST</u>	Indian Tribes/NHOs <u>MAY</u>
Respond to any consulting party	Respond to invitation or request to consult
Request preference on timeline/method and participants	Identify preferences and participants
Address lineal descendants, cultural affiliation, types of objects, and duty of care	Protect sensitive information and give consent for access or research
Make a record of consultation	State concurrence or disagreement, or nonresponse
Respond to any requests for additional information	Request additional information

Native American Traditional Knowledge

Not a new concept to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, or NHOs and any difficulty understanding this definition may be resolved through adequate consultation.

The intent in defining this is to ensure that Native American traditional knowledge is considered alongside scientific and historical information.

Congress intended for Native American traditional knowledge to be considered when determining cultural affiliation or identifying cultural items. In cases where there is no other information, Native American traditional knowledge alone may identify a cultural item.

2025 NAGPRA Record of Consultation Template
 CULTURAL ITEMS
 Updated 4/24/2025

Use only for **cultural items (unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony)** in a holding or collection of a museum or Federal agency AFTER inviting consultation (see by [43 CFR 10.9\(b\)](#) Step 2 – *Initiate consultation*).

Use this template to prepare a record of consultation as required by [43 CFR 10.9\(c\)](#) Step 3 – *Consult on cultural items*. Consultation may continue until the museum or Federal agency sends a repatriation statement, and additions to a record of consultation may be necessary as consultation continues.

Insert the following seven pieces of information in the appropriate places in this template, indicated by **{# Information and additional instructions}**. This is the MINIMUM information required; additional information may be included as necessary or preferred. The format is only a recommendation and not a requirement.

1. Museum or Federal agency. *Full name can be abbreviated or referred to by initials after the first instance, i.e. Museum of Natural Science (MONS).*
2. Consulting parties, individually named or in attached list. *This includes any lineal descendant(s) and any Indian Tribe(s) or Native Hawaiian organization(s) with potential cultural affiliation. Titles or individual names are optional. Names of lineal descendant may be withheld.*
3. Initiation of consultation. *Use this section to make a record of written invitations to consult. Note where invitations to consult can be located.*
4. Response to invitation to consult. *Record response, no response, and any deference to other parties. Include information provided by consulting parties for preference on method and timeline for consultation, authorized representative, traditional religious leader and known lineal descendant who may participate in consultation.*
5. Requests for additional information. *Record any requests for additional information made by any consulting party.*
6. Consultation sessions, including date, type, and goals of each session. *Identify participation by {1. Museum or Federal agency representatives by title or name} and representatives of the lineal descendants/Indian Tribes/NHOs: {2. Specific consulting parties involved}.*
7. Results of consultation, including additional topics as necessary or required. *A record of consultation must describe the concurrence, disagreement, or nonresponse of the consulting parties to the topics addressed during consultation.*

REMOVE these instructions, highlighting, italics, and {braces}.

Protect sensitive information, as identified by consulting parties, from disclosure to the general public to the extent consistent with applicable law. Retain a record of consultation.

DO NOT send to the National NAGPRA Program.

Record of consultation between **{1. Museum or Federal agency}** and **{2. Consulting parties}**

Initiation of consultation.

{3. Use this section to make a record of written invitations to consult. Add to this section if additional consulting parties are identified and invited.} Copies of each invitation to consult are on file.

Response to invitation to consult

{4. Use this section to track responses and repeat as needed. Table format is only a suggestion.}

Consulting party	Response	No Response	Deferred
Tribe A	X or Date		
Tribe B		X or Date	
Tribe C	X or Date		X or Date to Tribe A and E
Tribe D		X or Date	
Tribe E	X or Date		
Tribe F	X or Date		

{Include the following information for each consulting party. If not provided, specifically request the following information. Table format is only a suggestion.}

Consulting party	Timeline preference	Method preference	Authorized representative	Traditional religious leader	Lineal descendant	Notes
Tribe A	Before ceremonial date	Zoom or phone only	Person A, phone, email only	None	None	
Tribe C	None	None	Person B, phone, email	None	None	Defers to Tribe A and E
Tribe E	After ceremonial date	In person only	Person C, physical mail only	Person E, name	Person G, name	contact only through Person C
Tribe F	Any	Any	Person D, name, phone, email, address	Person F, name, phone, email, address	Person H, name, phone, email, address	

Requests for additional information

{5. Include any requests from consulting parties for additional information. For Subpart C-Repatriation, this may include records, catalogues, relevant studies, or other pertinent data and must be provided in a reasonable manner and for the limited purpose of determining cultural affiliation, including geographical location or acquisition history.}

Record of Consultation Template Continued

Consultation sessions

Consultation was conducted on the following dates:

{6. Month, Date, Year: Preliminary exchange of information by phone/video/email to discuss how to best facilitate and schedule the consultation process.} Participants included {1. Museum or Federal agency representatives by title or name} and representatives of the lineal descendants/Indian Tribes/NHOs: {2. Specific consulting parties involved}.

{6. Month, Date, Year: In person exchange of information at facility. The goal of the meeting was {physical inspection, collection review, etc.}.} Participants included {1. Museum or Federal agency representatives by title or name} and representatives of the lineal descendants/Indian Tribes/NHOs: {2. Specific consulting parties involved}.

{6. Month, Date, Year: Exchange of information by phone/video/email to discuss cultural affiliation and duty of care accommodations.} Participants included {1. Museum or Federal agency representatives by title or name} and representatives of the lineal descendants/Indian Tribes/NHOs: {2. Specific consulting parties involved}.

In addition to the sessions identified above, consultation was carried out via telephone and email between {1. Museum or Federal agency representatives by title or name} and representatives of the lineal descendants/Indian Tribes/NHOs: {2. Specific consulting parties involved}. Copies of email correspondence are on file.

{Add any additional information as needed and add to this section if additional consulting parties are identified.}

Results of consultation

{7. Suggested table format, but any format that includes the necessary information is sufficient. Add or revise topics as necessary or required.}

{Example results of consultation recorded below. Note Tribe C deferred to two other Tribes in response to the invitation to consult and is therefore included as concurring only in some instances; otherwise recorded as nonresponse when deferring Tribes disagreed.}

Topic	Determination	Concurrence	Disagreement	Nonresponse
Lineal descendants	None identified	Tribe A Tribe C (deferred) Tribe E Tribe F	None	Tribe B Tribe D
Cultural affiliation	Clearly identified to Tribe A, B, C, D, E, and F *as consensus was not reached, museum will proceed with publication of a notice to identify all Indian Tribes with cultural affiliation. After a notice is published, Tribe E may make a competing request for repatriation.	Tribe A Tribe F	Tribe E*	Tribe B Tribe D Tribe C (deferred to Tribe A and E who disagree)
Identification of unassociated funerary objects	All objects from a burial site that are not connected to human remains are unassociated funerary objects *as consensus was not reached, museum will wait for a request for repatriation to identify which objects are requested as unassociated funerary objects	Tribe A Tribe F	Tribe E*	Tribe B Tribe D Tribe C (deferred to Tribe A and E who disagree)
Identification of sacred objects	Certain objects were identified as being	Tribe A Tribe C	None	Tribe B Tribe D

Step 4: Receive and consider a request for repatriation.

Museums/Federal Agencies <u>MUST</u>	Indian Tribes/NHOs <u>MAY</u>
Receive and consider requests Identify the date of the request	Submit written requests showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Object meets definition• Lineal descendant or Indian Tribe/NHO with cultural affiliation• Assert museum or federal agency has no right of possession
Consider joint request as a single request	Develop protocols for making joint requests

Step 5: Respond to a request for repatriation

Museums/Federal Agencies <u>MUST</u>	Indian Tribes/NHOs <u>MAY</u>
Respond in writing to requestor and any other consulting party	Track response due date (90 days after Step 4)
State one of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request meets the criteria. 	Request repatriation statement by a date certain (31 st day)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request does not meet the criteria, explain why, allow more information 	Prepare a response with more information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can prove right of possession 	Prepare to challenge assertion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competing requests received 	Explore joint requests or other resolutions

Right of Possession

Right of Possession: Possession or control obtained with the VOLUNTARY consent

ONLY applies to cultural items NOT human remains and associated funerary objects

Possession or Control: Museum might have possession or control but does not have a right of possession

- When a museum chooses to assert right of possession, they are also asserting that they you are NOT repatriating (cannot assert a right of possession and repatriate)
- Even if a museum is asserting a right of possession the cultural item must be included in the notice

Evaluating Competing Requests for Repatriation

Unassociated Funerary Objects and Sacred Objects

- Lineal descendant, if any; or
- Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with closest cultural affiliation

Objects of Cultural Patrimony

- Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with the closest cultural affiliation

- Within 14 days of receiving a competing request, send written letter to all requestors
- No later than 180 days after informing requestors of competing requests, museum or federal agency must make determination

Step 6: Submit a notice of intended repatriation.

Museums/Federal Agencies <u>MUST</u>	Indian Tribes/NHOs <u>MAY</u>
Abstract of information	Search FR for geographical location or acquisition history
Total number and brief description of cultural items	Plan for filing/recording/organizing summary
Identify requestor(s)	Search FR for one or more names of Indian Tribes or NHOs
Contact information to submit requests for repatriation	Prepare for competing requests and/or request repatriation statement by a date certain (NET 30 days after publication)

2025 NAGPRA Notice of Intended Repatriation Template
CULTURALLY AFFILIATED
Updated 4/24/2025

4312-52

Use only for **unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony** after receiving a request for repatriation **from an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization** (see [43 CFR 10.9\(d\)](#) *Step 4 – Receive and consider requests*) and appropriate response (see [43 CFR 10.9\(e\)](#) *Step 5 – Respond to requests*).

No later than 30 days after responding to a request for repatriation that meets the criteria for a request, use this template to complete [43 CFR 10.9\(f\)](#) *Step 6 – Submit a notice of intended repatriation*. The museum or Federal agency may include in a single notice all cultural items with the same requestors identified in item 6 below.

Insert the following six pieces of information in the appropriate places in this template, indicated by **{# Required information and additional instructions}**. Provide **ONLY** the information requested.

1. Museum or Federal Agency. *Full name can be abbreviated or referred to by initials after the first instance, i.e. Museum of Natural Science (MONS).*
2. Authorized representatives' name and direct contact information.
3. The {number} of cultural items.
4. The {number} of {pick appropriate terms - unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony}.
5. A **BRIEF** abstract of additional information, updated as appropriated, from the summary.
6. *The Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations requesting repatriation.*

DO NOT make any changes to the font (Times New Roman 11pt), line spacing (double), margins, or headings. **DO NOT** change the brackets [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. This instructs the *Federal Register* to calculate the date upon publication. The notice must conform to the mandatory format of the *Federal Register* and include the required information listed above. Deviation from the template may result in the return of the notice for edits and delayed publication.

VERIFY all information, especially any numbers or internal addition. The National NAGPRA Program does not review or validate the content of your notice and is not responsible for the determinations or errors in the notice. **REMOVE** these instructions, highlighting, italics, and {braces} before submission.

Submit a notice by sending it to all requestors, any consulting parties, and to the Manager, National NAGPRA Program, (nagpra_info@nps.gov) for publication in the *Federal Register*. National NAGPRA will verify receipt within one business day. No later than 21 calendar days after receiving a notice, the Manager, National NAGPRA Program, will either:

- Approve it for publication in the *Federal Register*, or
- Return it to the museum or Federal agency. No later than 14 days after the submission is returned, the museum or Federal agency must resubmit the notice to the National NAGPRA Program.

The notice will publish in the Federal Register 5-10 days after it is approved by the Manager, National NAGPRA Program. You will receive an email from the National NAGPRA Program once it is published.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-DTSNUMBER; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: **{1. Museum or Federal Agency, City, State Abbreviation}**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the **{1. Museum or Federal Agency}** intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and/or objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: **{2. Authorized representative's Name, Museum or Federal Agency's Name, telephone (XXX) XXX-XXXX, email XXXX@XXXX.XXX}**.

Individuals who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the **{1. Museum or Federal Agency}**, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this

notice.

Abstract of information available

A total of {3. number} cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The {4. Pick appropriate sentence, repeat as needed: The {4. number} of unassociated funerary objects OR The {4. number} sacred objects OR The {4. number} of objects of cultural patrimony OR The {4. number} sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony} are {list type of each object or group of objects, e.g., pipes, stone projectile points, ceramic beads, and buttons}. {5. Include a BRIEF abstract of additional information, updated as appropriate, from the compiled summary. Include, if available, the geographical location, acquisition history, cultural affiliation, and the presence of any potentially hazardous substances used to treat any of the cultural items.}

Determinations

The {1. Museum or Federal Agency} has determined that:

Use appropriate bullets based on type of cultural item. Delete any not applicable.

- The {4. number} unassociated funerary objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains, and are connected, either at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony of a Native American culture according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. The unassociated funerary objects have been identified by a preponderance of the evidence as related to human remains, specific individuals, or families, or removed from a specific burial site or burial area of an individual or individuals with cultural affiliation to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- The {4. number} sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to

practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.

- The {4. number} objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision), according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- The {4. number} sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice are, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision).
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and {6. list the requesting Indian Tribes in alphabetical order per the most recent Secretary's list of federally recognized Indian Tribes, as published in the *Federal Register*, or list Native Hawaiian organizations}.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who

Step 7: Repatriation.

Museums/Federal Agencies <u>MUST</u>	Indian Tribes/NHOs <u>MAY</u>
Send a written repatriation statement (previously called transfer of control)	Track repatriation statement due date (NLT 90 days after Step 6)
Consult on and document physical transfer or other agreement	Determine guidelines and preference for physical transfer or other agreement
Protect sensitive information	Identify sensitive information requiring protection

2025 NAGPRA Repatriation Statement Template
UNASSOCIATED FUNERARY, SACRED, or CULTURAL PATRIMONY OBJECTS
Updated 4/24/2025

Use only for **unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony** AFTER publication of a notice of intended repatriation (see [43 CFR 10.9\(f\)](#) Step 6 – *Submit a notice of intended repatriation*).

No earlier than 30 days and no later than 90 days after publication of a notice of intended repatriation, use this template to complete [43 CFR 10.9\(g\)](#) Step 7 – *Repatriation of the unassociated funerary object, sacred object, or object of cultural patrimony*. The museum or Federal agency may include in a single statement any cultural items having the same requestor identified in item 3 below.

Insert the following five pieces of information in the appropriate places in this template, indicated by **{# Required information and additional instructions}**. This is the MINIMUM information required. The format is only a recommendation and not a requirement.

1. Museum or Federal Agency. *Full name can be abbreviated or referred to by initials after the first instance, i.e. Museum of Natural Science (MONS).*
2. Date signed and sent. *Documents are timely based on the date sent ([43 CFR 10.1\(f\)\(2\)](#)).*
3. Requesting lineal descendant (whose name may be withheld), Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. *In the case of joint requests for repatriation, a repatriation statement must identify and be sent to all requestors. Countersignature by requesting parties is NOT required or recommended.*
4. The corresponding *Federal Register* notice(s). *For each notice, include information found in the Document Details tab on [Federalregister.gov](#). Include Document Citation, Document Number, and Publication Date. From the image below, as an example, 89 FR 77184, 2024-21541, 9/20/2024. If the repatriation statement only partially covers the cultural items listed in the notice(s), please note the specific paragraphs in the notice that are included in the repatriation statement.*



5. *Optional but recommended:* Statement that information is or is not available about the cultural items being treated with pesticides, preservatives, or other substances that represent a potential hazard to the object(s) or to the person(s) handling the object(s).

REMOVE these instructions, highlighting, italics, and {braces} before submission.

Send a **repatriation statement** to the requestor(s) identified in item 3 above and to the Manager, National NAGPRA Program, (nagpra_info@nps.gov). The National NAGPRA Program will file the statement and enter item 2, Document date, next to the appropriate entry in the Notices database. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagprapublic/Home/Notice>. To prevent delays or errors in recording the statement, please ensure the information in item 4 above is accurate and complete.

{INSERT Letterhead} OR {1. Museum/Federal agency Name, City and State}

{2. DATE}

In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA; 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 10), this statement certifies the following:

- The {1. Museum or Federal Agency} relinquishes possession or control of
- the {unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, or appropriate combination} listed in the attached *Federal Register* notice(s) to
- {3. list the requesting lineal descendant (whose name may be withheld), Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization}.

The unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony were published in the following *Federal Register* notice(s) of intended repatriation: {4. Identify each notice using the Document Details tab on [Federalregister.gov](#).}

- {Document Citation as Vol. FR Page No.}; {Document Number as YYYY-#####}; {Publication Date as MM/DD/YYYY} Repeat as necessary and attach notices.

{OPTIONAL but recommended statement} The {1. Museum or Federal Agency} has {choose as appropriate: 5. Information about OR no information about} the unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony being treated with pesticides, preservatives, or other substances that represent a potential hazard to the object(s) or to person(s) handling the object(s). Any information about these treatments was previously shared with the recipients.

After sending this repatriation statement, {1. Museum or Federal Agency} will:

1. Consult with the parties above on custody and physical transfer,
2. Document any physical transfer, and
3. Protect sensitive information from disclosure to the general public to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Nothing in the Act or this part limits the authority of the {1. Museum or Federal Agency} to enter into any agreement with the requestor concerning the unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony.

The {1. Museum or Federal Agency} will send a copy of this repatriation statement to all parties identified above and the Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

{Museum or Federal agency authorized representative signature block}

Enclosure(s): Federal Register notice(s)
CC: National NAGPRA Program (nagpra_info@nps.gov) and {3. Requesting lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization}

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/upload/Step-7-Repatriation-Statement-Cultural-Items.docx>

Steps to Repatriation	Shorter Timeline (39 days)	Longer Timeline (15 months)
Receive a new collection.	Day 1	Day 1
Step 1: Compile a summary.	Day 2	Day 182 NLT 6 months after Day 1
Step 2: Initiate consultation.	Day 3	Day 212 NLT 30 days after Step 1
Step 3: Consult.	Day 4	Day 213
Step 4: Receive and consider requests.	Day 4	Day 213
Step 5: Respond to requests.	Day 5	Day 303 NLT 90 days after Step 4
Step 6: Submit a notice.	Day 6	Day 333 NLT 30 days after Step 5
Publication of notice in Federal Register.	Day 9 (min. 3 days after submission)	Day 359 (max. 26 days after submission)
Step 7: Repatriation.	Day 39 NET 30 days after publication	Day 449 NLT 90 days after publication