



NEWS RELEASE

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Gains Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Status from US Dept. of Interior

Tribe Receives New Authority to Manage its Own Cultural Resources

Brooks, CA (Jan. 11, 2011) – The US Department of Interior has formally approved the Tribal Historic Preservation Plan (THPP) of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, allowing the Tribe to designate a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). In designating a THPO, the Tribe assumes many of the functions of a State Historic Preservation Officer, giving it more authority than ever before to manage its own historic and cultural resources.

“Protecting and preserving our history, culture and language are among the most important things we do as we build our Nation for the future,” said Leland Kinter, Tribal Council Secretary and Chairman of the Cultural Committee. “THPO status increases by an enormous measure Yocha Dehe’s ability to protect its own resources and will allow us to increase our work with others on preservation and site review. This is an incredible development for us.”

Cultural Resources Director Reno Franklin has been designated the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer by Yocha Dehe. As THPO, Mr. Franklin will work with government agencies to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act; assist building and development planners in protecting sites; help plan and implement language, cultural and historic preservation programs; and promote education about the protection of cultural and natural resources. Mr. Franklin is also Chairman of the National Association of THPOs.

“The Tribal Council and the Cultural Committee of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation have worked long and hard for this designation for very good reason,” added Mr. Franklin. “The artifacts and sites we can now work more effectively to protect—before they are disturbed—will provide us irreplaceable opportunities to connect with our history and long heritage in this region. For the Tribe, these artifacts and sites are the most direct connection we have with our ancestors. We cannot afford to lose even one.”

Yocha Dehe is the 113th of the 560 federally registered tribes to earn THPO designation. THPO designation gives tribes signatory authority over their own cultural resources and can lead to much earlier notification of the discovery of possible cultural sites. The THPO program is managed by the National Park Service (www.nps.gov/history/hps/tribal/thpo.htm).

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Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is an independent, self-governed nation that supports our people and the Capay Valley, CA community by strengthening our culture, stewarding our land and creating economic independence for future generations.

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Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

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