

THE NATIVE AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY
ANNOUNCES
A
CONFERENCE AND GATHERING

“SACRED LANDS”
(Land Management Issues, History, and Archaeology
Affecting Native Americans of the California Deserts)

May 21 – 22, 2004
Twentynine Palms, California
Caldesertindians.com

The NATIVE AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY, a nonprofit corporation formed for the conservation and preservation of Native American sacred lands is presenting a two-day conference at Twentynine Palms, California. The conference will deal with issues of law, and Native American culture and religion in the management of public lands and resources. A primary purpose of the conference and gathering is to increase effective communication among land managers, Native Americans, and the public.

Co-Sponsors:

Bureau of Land Management, Desert District
Desert Managers Group (A consortium of desert land managers)
Joshua Tree National Park

Supported by National Parks Conservation Association

Conference Hosts:

City of Twentynine Palms and the 29 Palms Inn at the Oasis of Mara

CONFERENCE AND GATHERING PROGRAM

FRIDAY PROGRAM

MAY 21, 2004

Place: Twentynine Palms Community Center
74325 Joe Davis Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

8:30 AM Registration and Coffee

Agenda for the Day:

Archaology at a Sacred Site
(Oasis of Mara and Joshua Tree National Park)
Operation Indian Rocks
(Protection of Artifacts at Sacred Sites)
Quechan Dream Trail
Old Woman Mountains Partnership
(NALC, Private Parties, Federal Grant, Management Agencies)
Horse Canyon Partnership
(NALC, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park)

Walking tour of the Oasis of Mara

Informal dinner gathering at
29 Palms Inn
73950 Inn Avenue
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
www.29palmsinn.com
(760) 367-3505

SATURDAY PROGRAM
MAY 22, 2004

Sunrise Invocation at the Oasis
 At 29 Palms Inn
 Dean Mike (Chemehuevi)
 73950 Inn Avenue
 Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

8:30 AM Registration and Coffee

Agenda for the Day:

Santa Rosa Partnership
(Multiple Agencies and Cahilla)
Indian Partnerships with Local Governments
Death Valley Timbasha Shoshone Partnership
(Timbasha Shoshone, National Park Service, BLM)
Wrap Up – Effective Partnerships and What We Have Learned

3:P M ADJOURN

DIRECTIONS and LODGING

Lodging in Twentynine Palms can be found on the Web at

www.Stay29.com
JoshuaTreeLodging.net

For camping information call Paul Smith (760) 361-8566

Where is the conference being held?

Twentynine Palms Community Center
74325 Joe Davis Rd., Twentynine Palms, California
and

29 Palms Inn at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms

73950 Inn Avenue, Twentynine Palms, California

From Los Angeles, take Interstate #10 to Palm Springs area and turn north on Hwy. #62.
Travel 45 miles to Twentynine Palms.

BACKGROUND

This program will educate and improve communication among Native Americans, public land managers, and the general public regarding sacred lands issues, and the background history, archaeology, and spirituality which affect those issues. For the first time this is being done on a desert-wide basis, drawing on Native American cultural interests from Bishop, California into northern Baja California, southern Nevada and western Arizona.

“During the first half of the nineteenth century the new American nation relentlessly acquired as much territory on the North American continent as it could, as quickly as it could, and by whatever means it could. During the second half it proceeded with equal vigor to do everything possible to transform the newly acquired landscape into economically productive, privately held real estate....

It was an age of tremendous faith in the idea that individuals and corporations freely pursuing their own private interests would collectively define what was in the public interest. Government’s job was to keep the peace and facilitate economic development – nothing less and nothing more.

Seen within this context, the collectivist traditions and communal resource management practices of the First Native tribes represented a serious challenge to the

American nation's economic and political goals.... Just as animal species such as the buffalo were sacred to these tribes, so, too, were many landscapes and landmarks in the unpartitioned public lands of the West. But as the successive federal Indian policies of removal, reservation, and allotment fully took hold, so did a severance of the tribes from contact and connection with places on which the perpetuation of their spiritual traditions depended. This understanding – that their cultural survival depended on maintaining a connection with their surroundings – caused most of the western tribes to resist by every means possible the imposition of allotment-era policies on their reservations. Nevertheless, they still lost more than half their lands during this period.

When at the end of the nineteenth century Congress voted to save the American bison from extinction and the executive branch actually took steps to do so, it signaled a perceptible change in the heedless, headlong rush to exploit natural resources at any environmental cost that had been one of Euro-America's defining characteristics up until that time. It also signaled a shift within the dominant culture's view of itself and what it wanted to become. Along with establishment of the U. S. Forest Service and, soon thereafter, the National Park Service, this move toward the protective retention and management of resources remaining in the federal estate also marked a turning point in American macrocultural identity.

.... Sometimes Congress has been fairly explicit in terms of what management goals it wants achieved and how (as in the Endangered Species Act); at other times and in other statutes Congress has been deliberately vague. Political scientists traditionally offer two explanations for this vagueness. The "high road" explanation is that of deference to technical expertise: the supposedly nonpartisan, apolitical agency staff hired and promoted on the basis of technical expertise should be left alone to exercise their best professional judgment on such matters. The "low road" explanation is that elected political leaders want to deflect the political heat; rather than making difficult value judgments in drafting legislation (thus appeasing some constituents while enraging others), they much prefer to delegate such unenviable decision making to unelected bureaucrats, whom they can later vilify with gusto alongside powerful constituencies whose interests may not have been satisfied in agency decision making.

This political dynamic has been especially true in the newly emerging issue area of spiritual uses of public lands and resources. There is little if any language in any of the dozens of land management statutes through which Congress governs the national commons that either explicitly or impliedly addresses the issue. Until now, federal land managers have been left very much on their own in this area, informed only by an occasional agency memo, executive order, or – increasingly – federal court decision."

Lloyd Burton, "Worship and Wilderness – Culture, Religion, and law in Public Lands Management"

(The University of Wisconsin Press)

Note: Dr. Burton is director of the Program in Environmental Policy, Management and Law in the Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver. He is cofounder of the Spirit Rock Meditation Center in northern California and a member of the National Wildlife Federation's Tribal Lands Conservation Program Advisory Committee.

REGISTRATION AND COST

Registration for this Program is \$100.00 per person
But,
Early Bird Discount of 10% if
Received by May 7, 2004 or \$ 90.00 per person

(Does not include costs for lunches or Friday night dinner and gathering.)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "NALC"

And send with a completed copy of this form to:
Native American Land Conservancy
P. O. Box 1829
Indio, CA 92202

Please accept my reservation for the California Desert Indian Conference and Gathering:

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Email: _____

Fax# _____

A check is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____, payable to NALC

**For additional information about the conference
call (760) 347-0488**

For information about camping availability call Paul Smith (760) 361-8566

COLLEGE CREDIT

This program is eligible for college and post-graduate credit with the University of California at Riverside. Advance arrangements should be made with:

CLIFFORD TRAFZER, Ph.D.
University of California, Riverside
Department of History
900 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92521

Feel free to call him at (909) 787-5401 (ext. 11974), or
Email to CETrafzer@aol.com