Cultural Resources Department

Priorities

ENCOURAGE understanding and reverence for our traditional and customary Way of Life

PROTECT our pristine freshwater streams, rivers, and lakes

COLLECT baseline environmental information to identify and respond to potential issues

PROMOTE maintenance of healthy forest ecosystems and natural resources

IMPROVE the health of the marine and coastal environments

CO-MANAGE natural resources with both federal and state

“Purpose: To maintain and enhance the tribal cultures through the protection of subsistence and cultural resources and tribal member access to those resources.”

(2016 Tribal Council Strategic Direction)
Newest KIC Department

KIC initiated an “Environmental Program” in 2005, under the Housing Department, addressing indoor air quality, water quality, household hazardous waste, pollution, underuse of recycling program, and lack of environmental education in Ketchikan.

Many of these original environmental program goals continue to varying degrees but have been expanded to additional program areas in the now stand-alone Cultural Resources Department.

In 2013, during an administrative reorganization period the Cultural Resources Department was formed to create the best structure to accommodate the Native Language Program and to assist the “Our Way of Life” Committee. In fall of 2014, the first Director for the program was hired to begin building-out the program. The Cultural Resources Department now consists of two staff members, a Cultural Resources Director and an Environmental Specialist, supported by BIA and IGAP funds respectively. With this base team the capacity to carry out projects and collect data will continue to expand and improve.

Departmental Goals

To steward, conserve, preserve, enhance, and protect those places and customs that are of significant historical, cultural, and environmental importance; using traditional ecological and cultural knowledge and science.

Why We Do This

Native Alaskans in southeast Alaska have always had a close and unique relationship with their surroundings. The deep connection to natural resources which are integral components of the social, cultural, and spiritual life of Ketchikan Indian Community members.

The Cultural Resources Department exists to assist the Tribal Council and the members they represent continue and enhance their access to and stewardship of the land, waters, and living things that indigenous people have enjoyed and depended upon since time immemorial.

Department’s Three Key Program Areas

Cultural Resources Protection
Natural Resources Stewardship
Environmental Health

Drop In or Contact Us

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Community environmental specialist Nicole Forbes explain poisoning Feb. 17 at Settlers Cove.