

NAGPRA PLAN OF ACTION
DELAWARE WATER GAP
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Archeological Investigation and Stabilization of the Manna Site (36 Pi 004)

May 27, 2003

This Plan of Action describes the procedures for the treatment and disposition of Native American human skeletal remains, associated funerary objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and sacred objects that may be discovered during planned excavations at the Manna Site, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. This Plan of Action shall comply with the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), *25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.*, its implementing regulations as set forth in *43 CFR Part 10 (specifically §10.5[e])*, and the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), *16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.*, with its implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 7).

1. The Manna Site (36 Pi 004) is located at the mouth of Raymondskill Creek on the second terrace to the Delaware River. It is one of seven contributing sites to the Minisink Historic District. This district received National Landmark status on April 19, 1993. The Minisink Historic District consists of 1,320 acres of land within the northern portion of the park, in Pike County, Pennsylvania, and Sussex County, New Jersey. The landmark consists of seven contributing, 12 non-contributing archeological properties, and one contributing standing structure.
2. The Manna Site was originally excavated circa 1960 by David Werner, about which no field notes or published information is available (Wall et al 1993:125). The NPS sponsored an archeological investigation of the site in 1992. A series of shovel test pits were excavated on the terrace to determine locations for block excavations for deep testing. Test Unit 1 was excavated in the open meadow south of the access road. The unit was excavated to a depth of 16.4 ft. (4.9 m) below surface. Three cultural features were identified at the base of the plowzone. A radiocarbon date of 970 ± 120 B.P. (Beta-62433) was obtained from one of these features. Lithic artifacts were recovered at a total depth of 11.6 ft. (3.5 m) below surface (Wall et al 1993:127-135).
3. The natural process of erosion of the stream bank at this site is expected to damage the Manna Site and expose Native American human remains and artifacts. In order to protect the site and prevent the exposure of Native American remains and objects, the NPS is carrying out a stream bank stabilization project that involves the archaeological excavation of a portion of the bank.
4. This plan focuses on the high probability of encountering Native American human skeletal remains and associated funerary objects as a result of the archeological investigation of the Raymondskill Creek bank. The kinds of objects to be considered as associated funerary objects as defined in 43 CFR Part 10.2(d) are the following:

- a. Objects placed intentionally at the time of death or later with or near the human remains or within the burial pit. Historically, these items are projectile points, broken pottery sherds, entire pottery vessels, and various European trade items (i.e. metal objects, glass and shell beads).
- b. Sacred objects are specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Objects falling under this definition have not yet been determined. Consultation will occur to determine whether or not objects recovered fall within this definition.
- c. Objects of Cultural Patrimony are items having ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Indian tribe rather than property owned by an individual. No objects have been determined under this definition. Consultation will occur to determine whether or not objects recovered fall within this definition.

4. The preponderance of geographical, archeological, linguistic, folklore, oral tradition, and historical evidence for the determination of custody for these cultural items identifies contemporary American Indian tribes as traditionally associated with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area: the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Bartlesville Oklahoma; Delaware Nation, Anadarko, Oklahoma and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Mohican Indians of Wisconsin. These tribes are most likely to have a shared group identity, to be culturally affiliated, with an earlier group who occupied and used this unit of the national park system in past centuries.

5. When Native American human skeletal remains are discovered as a result of the current archeological investigation, the NPS will cease activity in the immediate area of the human remains and objects, protect them from further disturbance, and provide immediate telephone notification of the discovery to the aforementioned tribal representatives. The telephone notification shall be followed by written notification. This notification shall include information about the kinds and condition of human remains and cultural items.

6. Traditional treatment of the burial while in situ, will consist of placing a white (unbleached) muslin (cotton) cloth over the internment, offer a prayer, and a small tobacco offering shall be placed near the remains.

7. Following consultations, exposed remains and associated cultural items will be subject to preliminary archaeological recordation. Identification of the burial outline will be documented by taking dimensions, noting orientation and shape, and noting soil colour. The soil surrounding the skeletal remains will be removed to expose the burial, and screened for artifacts. A sufficient number of measurements will be taken of the outline to permit reconstruction of the shape and dimensions of the pit after excavation. When the burial is completely exposed, sketches and diagrams will be drawn. Location, deposition, position, orientation, and depth will be recorded and complete measurement of the bones, artifacts, and pit will be noted while in situ. Any pathological conditions observed while in situ will be described in detail. No soil samples of the burial pit will be taken. No photographs of human remains will be taken. Estimation of sex, stature, and age will be documented while in situ. Additional non-destructive documentation of the remains and cultural items will be carried out in consultation with the Tribes.

8. Upon consultation with tribal representatives, the human remains and any associated funerary objects will be exhumed and reinterred at a safe, undisturbed location adjacent to the portion of the site investigated, and the requirements of NAGPRA Section 3 will be carried out by the park in consultation with the tribes.

9. A comprehensive report on the results of the archaeological investigation, inadvertent discoveries, the nearby soils, any other related forms of documentation, and a record of consultation with the culturally affiliated tribes shall be prepared and kept on file.

Doyle Nelson, Acting Superintendent
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Date

Delaware Tribe of Indians

Date

Delaware Nation

Date

Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Mohican Indians
Of Wisconsin

Date