



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Native Lands & Resources Department • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Contract Archaeologists

Issue Date: May 24, 2018 • **RFP Deadline:** June 24, 2018

I. INTRODUCTION

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida), a federally-recognized Indian tribal government, is soliciting proposals from qualified archaeologists to conduct fieldwork and evaluate sites in furtherance of the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) ANCSA Office mission to substantiate and certify historical places and cemetery sites claimed under Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA, 1971, as amended).

In 2014, the US Congress passed legislation authorizing Sealaska Corporation to select 76 additional historical places and cemetery sites in order to fulfill its remaining land entitlement under ANCSA. The new site selections all derive from the 1974-1975 inventory of heritage resources conducted by Sealaska consultants Wilsey & Ham, Inc. (1975). Although there are some site clusters, the claims have a wide distribution throughout Southeast Alaska. During the original surveys, Wilsey & Ham crews identified sites with good to fair precision based on literature reviews, consultations with local Native elders, and on-site reconnaissance surveys. For various reasons, however, many of the sites must be revisited to more accurately describe their locations and sizes, and to determine final site boundaries.

The specific fieldwork tasks to be performed at the sites—as well as the associated reporting requirements—will be determined by the BIA ANCSA Office, which also is responsible for reviewing the vendor's work. The critical objective of this contract is to substantiate the location and character of cultural resources at 30-40 of the Wilsey-Ham localities and to construct/recommend land polygons to adequately enclose each of the subject sites.

For the duration of the field project, the contract archaeologists will be transported to the site localities by a charter vessel—which also will provide all lodging and meals.

This request for proposal contains background information on Tlingit & Haida and specific information that must be included in the proposals submitted. The proposals must be submitted by no later than **5:00 PM (Alaska Time), June 24, 2018**, via PDF electronic copy, directly to our office at the following address:

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
ATTN: Desiree Duncan, Native Lands & Resources Manager
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, AK 99801
Email: dduncan@ccthita-nsn.gov • Phone: 907.463.7183
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II. BACKGROUND

Tlingit & Haida is a federally-recognized Indian tribe and tribal government, not subject to federal or state taxation. Tlingit & Haida has over 30,000 tribal citizens. Tlingit & Haida provides governmental programs and services to eligible tribal citizens in its service area. Tlingit & Haida is funded primarily from federal and state governmental grants and agreements which Tlingit & Haida administers. Tlingit & Haida's mission is to

preserve our sovereignty, enhance our economic and cultural resources, and promote self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens through collaboration, service, and advocacy. The mission of Tlingit & Haida's Native Lands & Resources department is to manage and provide services that enhance and protect land, environment, and cultural artifacts.

III. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Provide two (2) professional archaeologists, at least one of whom holds a minimum of a Master's Degree in Anthropology or Archaeology. Both individuals must be familiar with the cultural history, lifeways, traditions and technology of the indigenous peoples of Southeast Alaska and should have prior archaeological field experience in the region (or, alternatively, in the adjacent Northwest Coast of North America).
- B. Provide transportation for the two archaeologists to Ketchikan, Alaska, and their return transportation from Ketchikan or another Southeast Alaska community (e.g., Kake, Juneau). Vendor must formally identify one of these individuals as its "Project Leader" and ensure that he/she has the temperament, ability and professionalism required to work closely and cooperatively with other project personnel (to include the Captain and crew of a contract vessel) in a remote field setting over a period of 35 days.
- C. Ensure the project archaeologists meet with BIA ANCSA staff in Anchorage, Alaska, prior to the start of the field project (date and time to be determined in cooperation with BIA ANCSA). This meeting is essential to giving the archaeologists a clear understanding of ANCSA 14(h)(1) Program processes, guidelines and methodologies.
- D. The contracting organization (Tlingit & Haida) will provide two (2) Tribal members who will serve as field assistants for the contract archaeologists, who must work closely and cooperatively with these assistants. All wages, transportation, lodging and meal costs for the field assistants will be paid by Tlingit & Haida.
- E. Coordinate closely with the vessel Captain to plan daily logistics for a four-person field crew. Provide all field equipment necessary to conduct archaeological surveys, site mapping, photography, and feature documentation at the selected localities.

Perform and complete fieldwork at the selected sites that more or less conforms to the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Identification of Historic Properties protocols (at 36 CFR 800.4; i.e., Phase I survey). By analogy with Section 106, the 1975 Wilsey-Ham localities and terrain in close proximity are to be considered "the areas of potential effect." At each site, the vendor must document and map all surface cultural features and any midden deposits encountered. Documentation will include narrative feature descriptions, recording feature dimensions, photography of features and the site, and a site plan/map to scale.

- F. No excavations will be performed. There should be no need for subsurface testing at about 75% of the sites; and testing must never occur at reported cemeteries. Limited testing may be necessary at reported site localities where no surface cultural features can be found. When testing is done it should be for the purpose of confirming the presence or absence of buried cultural deposits. If an exposed cultural midden is present at a site consideration should be given to collecting an appropriate sample for radiocarbon dating. Any artifacts or radiocarbon samples recovered in the course of the fieldwork will be properly catalogued and transferred to the BIA ANCSA Office as soon as possible following the end of the field project.

- G. Make good faith efforts to relocate and record new coordinates for “Point of Beginning” (POB) markers previously placed at sites by Wilsey & Ham field crews in the mid-1970s. When such a marker cannot be found at a site a new POB must be established and marked, and coordinates obtained for same.
- H. For each investigated site, develop suggested boundaries to the site that (a) adequately enclose all identified cultural features and areas of past cultural activity, and (b) serve to retain site integrity.
- I. Within five (5) months after conclusion of the field project, report the findings of each site investigation to the BIA ANCSA Office. The vendor will satisfy this requirement by completing detailed ANCSA 14(h)(1) site survey forms developed by the BIA ANCSA Office that will ensure the critical information necessary to support subsequent ANCSA 14(h)(1) site certifications is received. The survey form is intended to provide a summary of historical, anthropological and archaeological data concerning the site. (The survey form template will be provided to the vendor prior to the start of the field project.)

NOTE: on at least one occasion during the field project, BIA ANCSA will send two (2) staff members to the field to check on the progress of the work and assist as needed while there. No such visit will exceed three days in duration.

IV. SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMING

We will review all proposals based on the criteria outlined above. The proposals that are selected for further consideration may be asked to make a personal presentation to us and/or answer questions in advance of our final selection.

Responses to this RFP are requested to be received at this office by no later than **5:00 PM (Alaska Time) on June 24, 2018** in PDF electronic format. A selection will be made no later than June 28, 2018.

V. CONTACT INFORMATION

All inquiries should be directed to the following:

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