

**ADDRESSES:** Send written claims for disposition of the human remains or cultural items in this notice to Bethany A. Ihle, Dakota Prairie Grasslands, 2000 Miriam Circle, Bismarck, ND 58501, email [bethany.ihle@usda.gov](mailto:bethany.ihle@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Dakota Prairie National Grasslands, and additional information on the human remains or cultural items in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the identifications in this notice.

#### Abstract of Information Available

Based on the information available, human remains representing two individuals have been reasonably identified from two different locations. One associated funerary object has been identified.

On July 31, 2022, a single cranial bone was discovered on a sand bar in the Little Missouri River in Billings County, North Dakota. This was exposed by a significant flooding event and reported to the Billings County Sheriff's Department, who transferred custody to the Billings County Medical Examiner on August 3, 2022. The medical examiner determined the remains to be the parietal bone of an adult human predating the present time. No associated funerary objects were identified.

On October 19, 2024, a human cranium was discovered along a deep, heavily eroded ravine in McKenzie County, North Dakota. This was reported to the McKenzie County Sheriff's Department and was originally thought to be a modern forensics case. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) took custody of the remains and determined that the cranium belonged to a Native American, likely female, that predates the present time and is not a forensic matter. The one associated funerary object is a bone awl.

#### Determinations

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of two individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The one object described in this notice is reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.

- The Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota have priority for disposition of the human remains or cultural item described in this notice.

#### Claims for Disposition

Written claims for disposition of the human remains or cultural items in this notice must be sent to the appropriate official identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. If no claim for disposition is received by December 21, 2026, the human remains or cultural items in this notice will become unclaimed human remains or cultural items. Claims for disposition may be submitted by:

1. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization identified in this notice.

2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows that they have priority for disposition.

Disposition of the human remains or cultural items in this notice may occur on or after January 20, 2026. If competing claims for disposition are received, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands must determine the most appropriate claimant prior to disposition. Claims for joint disposition of the human remains or cultural items are considered a single claim and not competing claims. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

*Authority:* Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3002, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.7.

Dated: December 11, 2025.

**Melanie O'Brien,**

*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

[FR Doc. 2025-23387 Filed 12-18-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4312-52-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[N6770; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041537; PPWOCRADNO-PCU00RP14.R50000]

#### Notice of Intended Repatriation: Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, Santa Cruz, CA

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and

Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred object and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

**DATES:** Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after January 20, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Kathleen Aston, Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, 1305 E Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz 95060, email [collections@santacruzmuseum.org](mailto:collections@santacruzmuseum.org).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

#### Abstract of Information Available

A total of three cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The three sacred objects are a makau (fishhook), kapa (bark cloth), and a moena lauhala (mat). The makau was collected by Dr. Alex H. Bailey around 1900, and then given to Laura Hecox of Santa Cruz, CA. The records for the kapa indicate that it was also collected about 1900 in Hawaii, and was at some point prior to 1905 given to Laura Hecox. The records for the moena lauhala indicate that it was collected in the "South Sea Islands" in the late 19th or early 20th century, and has subsequently been identified as Hawaiian in consultation with Hui Iwi Kuamo'o. The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History has no records that indicate that any of these cultural items were treated with potentially hazardous substances.

#### Determinations

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History has determined that:

- The three sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.

• There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Hui Iwi Kuamo'o.

#### Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after January 20, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

*Authority:* Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: December 4, 2025.

**Melanie O'Brien,**

*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

[FR Doc. 2025-23343 Filed 12-18-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4312-52-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[N6777; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041542; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

#### Notice of Inventory Completion: The University of Tennessee, Department of Anthropology, Knoxville, TN

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Department of Anthropology (UTK) has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human

remains and associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

**DATES:** Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after January 20, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Dr. Ellen Lofaro, University of Tennessee, Office of Repatriation, 5723 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37996, email [nagpra@utk.edu](mailto:nagpra@utk.edu).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of UTK, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

#### Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. This individual was removed from the Curry Farm site (14GR301) between 1963 and 1964. The Curry Farm site is located along the Verdigris River in Greenwood County, KS and dates to the Middle Woodland Greenwood Phase (c. 120-600 CE), with unspecified earlier Archaic components. The site was identified by the landowner in 1963, H.C. Curry, who exposed human remains while digging on the property. Curry notified Tom Witty, Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS), who led salvage excavations between 1963 and 1964. The individual housed at UTK was removed during these salvage excavations and sent by Witty to William Bass for examination in October of 1965 at University of Kansas (KU). Records indicate that Bass likely retained this individual and brought them to UTK in 1971.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. The three lots of associated funerary objects are ceramics, lithics, and other objects placed with or near human remains. This individual and the associated funerary objects were likely removed from unnamed archaeological site in Riley County, KS (14RY302) by a local collector and donated to KSHS in 1961. The 14RY302 site is multicomponent, and reports suggest these remains and objects likely date to the Late Archaic component of the site (c. 1000 BCE). The remains were sent to

William Bass by Tom Witty for examination at KU in 1964. A note from Tom Witty, dated August 10th, 1961, was present with the human remains and identified 14RY301, Strafuss, as the location the human remains and objects were removed from. Review of records from KSHS and UTK by KSHS staff indicates 14RY302 is the correct site location. It is likely this individual and the associated objects were retained by Bass and brought with him to UTK in 1971.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. This individual was removed from an unknown location in Butler County, KS on an unknown date. Records indicate this individual was sent to William Bass at KU by the Butler County Sheriff for examination after they were confiscated by law enforcement. Bass sent his determination to the Butler County Sheriff in a memo dated July 29th, 1969. This individual was likely retained by Bass and transported with him when he came to UTK in 1971. A preservative was applied to some of the remains at some point after Bass retained them.

Human remains representing, at least, two individuals, have been identified. The three lots of associated funerary objects are ceramics, lithics, and other objects placed with or near human remains. These remains were removed from an unknown location in Morris County, KS on an unknown date by an unknown individual. Based on patterns of past practice, it is likely that these individuals were retained by Bass in Kansas and brought with him to UTK in 1971.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual, have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. This individual was removed from an unknown location in Kansas by an unknown individual on an unknown date. UTK has no records related to this individual, but based on past patterns of practice, it is likely they came to UTK through Bass.

Information regarding the presence of potentially hazardous substances has previously been shared with consulting parties.

#### Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice.

#### Determinations

UTK has determined that: