

Beringia Days Meeting 2023



Establishment

- Started in 1991 by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev to expand cooperation in international conservation
 - advance local, national, and international understanding and conservation of the region's natural and cultural resources
 - support efforts to sustain the cultural vitality of indigenous peoples in the region
- Focus on international cooperation
 - Natural and Cultural Resource research in the Beringia region
 - Cultural exchanges and familial reunions

The purpose of the SBHP is to advance local, national, and international understanding and preservation of the region's resources and to sustain the cultural vitality of its indigenous people. Specific programmatic goals are to:

- Improve conservation, sustainability, and knowledge of the region's natural and cultural resources.
- Preserve subsistence opportunities and other historic traditions and practices.
- Interpret and communicate about the region's unique and internationally significant resources and values.
- Provide opportunities for cultural connections and knowledge exchange.

Mission and Vision Statement

- To connect people and promote collaboration for thriving cultures and ecosystems and to celebrate the Beringian Region.
- Through strong community connections across Beringia, we are an international and transcultural model of friendship and collaboration.

Goals and Actions

Keystone Goal: Projects and programs reflect meaningful engagement with Beringian partners and Indigenous communities.

Goal 1: Develop a strategic workplan to guide community engagement.

Goal 2: Reinvent the proposal process to ensure strong connections with local communities and Indigenous cultures and highly impactful and lasting results.

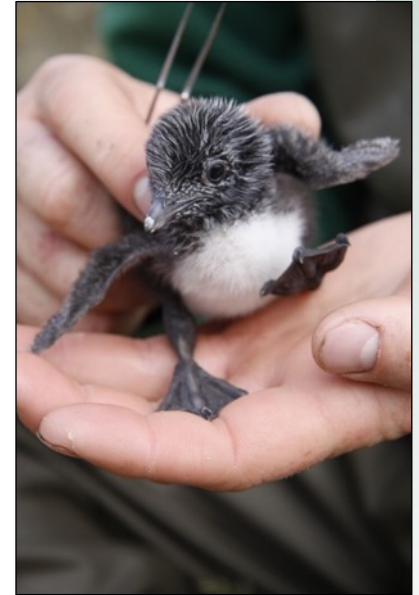
Goal 3: Increase awareness of the program among communities and stakeholders throughout Beringia and within the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior.

Project Funding

- Focal Areas: Natural Resources, Cultural Heritage, Subsistence
- Active cooperative agreements: 23
- Newly funded agreements: 4 (2023)
- Total Agreements since 1991: 153 (>\$12M)
- Who is eligible to apply

U.S. Based:

- Academic Institutions
- State and Local Government
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Federally recognized tribes, tribal non-profits



2021-22 Funded Projects

- Indigenous Engagement in 2021 U.S. – Russia Polar Bear Commission Meeting – Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council
- ROW: Skin Boat of the Bering Strait – GoNorth! Adventure Learning and Native Village of Savoonga
- Collaborative research to investigate and communicate distribution, toxicity, and connectivity, and human health risks of harmful algal blooms in Beringia – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- Translation from Russian to English of Three Works Related to the Beringian Area – University of Oregon
- Preserving and Sharing Cultural Knowledge: Bering Strait Stories and Experiences – Kawerak, Inc.
- Restoring our Heritage: Preparing a Catalog of the Tlingit Collection in Kunstkamera for Publication into English- SeaAlaska Heritage Institute (agreement with Sitka National Historical Park)

2023 Funded Projects

- Youth and Elders' Workshop: "Sharing Knowledge of Food Life-History and Underground for Storage Practices in Beringian Communities."- University of Alaska Fairbanks, Center for Cross Cultural Studies
- Developing a Co-Production of Knowledge-Status of Coastal Biodiversity with a Focus on Food Security: Aleut International Assoc. and Inuit Circumpolar Conference (funded by Beringia but the agreements managed by the Alaska Regional Office)
- International Indigenous Arctic Fellowship- University of Alaska Fairbanks, Museum of the North
- Documenting Climate Change and Traditional Knowledge Resource Observations and Tribal Youth Internship.- Kawerak, Inc.

Shared Beringian Heritage Program





