

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places



# Traditional Cultural Places & the National Register of Historic Places

Alaska TCP Conversation  
March 2018

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# Traditional Cultural Places

## ■ ORIGINS

- 1980 Amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
  - *Preserve, conserve, and encourage the continuation of the diverse traditional prehistoric, historic, ethnic, and folk cultural traditions that underlie and are a living expression of our American heritage.*
  
- 1992 Amendments to the NHPA
  - *Properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or native Hawaiian organization may be determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register. (470a(d)(6)(A))*

# Traditional Cultural Places

■ El  
Tiradito,  
Arizona,  
(NR 1971)



# Traditional Cultural Places



- Soda Rock (Chi'ichu'yam-bam), California (NR 2003)



# Traditional Cultural Places



- **Zuni Salt Lake, New Mexico (NR/DOE 1999)**



# Traditional Cultural Places

- Traditional Cultural Place (Property) [TCP]
  - *Can be defined generally as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.*



# Traditional Cultural Places

- Examples:
  - A location associated with traditional beliefs of a Native American tribe,
  - A rural community with buildings and patterns of land use which reflect long standing cultural traditions,
  - An urban neighborhood representing the traditional home to a group that reflects the distinctive cultural patterns, beliefs or practices of that group,
  - A location of ceremonies of a Native American tribe,
  - A location where a community has traditionally carried out economic, artistic, or other cultural practices important in maintaining historic identity.



# Traditional Cultural Places



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# Traditional Cultural Places

- Oak Flat, AZ



Lily Point, Washington



# Ingredients for a Successful TCP Nomination

- Consultation
- Context
- Multiple Lines of Evidence
- Integrity



# TCP Ingredients

- Consultation
  - Early & Often
  - Government – to – Government
  - With Appropriate/Knowledgeable Individuals



# TCP Ingredients

## ■ Context

- TCPs do not exist in a vacuum
- Context versus Details
- Relative significance



# TCP Ingredients

- Multiple Lines of Evidence
  - Ethnographic
  - Ethnohistory
  - Archeology
  - Oral History

# TCP Ingredients

- Integrity

- Physical
- Associative
- Whose Perspective

# Traditional Cultural Places



- **l'itoi Mo'oo (Montezuma's Head), Arizona (NR 1994)**
- **Mt. Shasta, California (DOE)**
- **White Eagle Park, Oklahoma, (NR 2007)**

# Traditional Cultural Places



- **Sweet Grass Hills,  
Montana (DOE  
1993)**

# Medicine Wheel

(Big Horn Mountains, Wyoming)



Originally individually designated as a 110-acre National Historic Landmark in 1970 without including much of the adjacent, Traditional Cultural Landscape or the directly related but distant Medicine Mountain

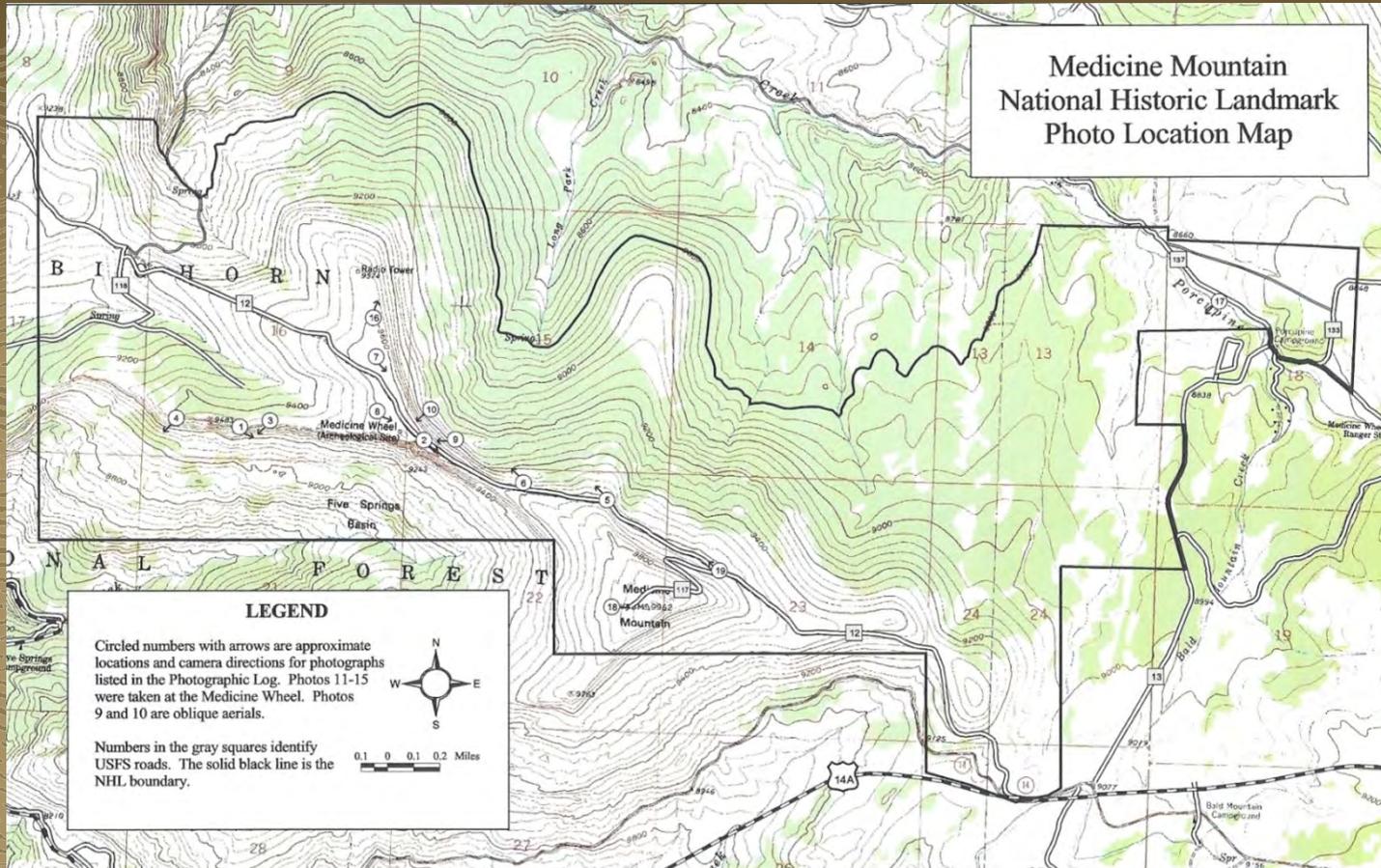


# Medicine Wheel and Medicine Mountain NHL District (Traditional Cultural Property - Big Horn Mountains, Wyoming)



Medicine Wheel (small circle near the center of photo) within the context of the larger, Traditional Cultural Landscape (4080 acres) that includes Medicine Mountain. (top of photo)





Map showing the boundary of the expanded 4080-acres Medicine Wheel and Medicine National Historic Landmark as updated in 2011 to include both the wheel, the mountain, related ceremonial/sacred sites, etc., within a broad Traditional Cultural Landscape.



# Traditional Cultural “Landscape”

- What is a Cultural Landscape?
  - Is not a new NR “property type”
  - Is an alternative/complementary approach to viewing a NR property
    - Inclusive, holistic, broad,
    - Acknowledges natural/ecological aspects in addition to “built” resources,
    - Associated with or in line with traditional perspectives.

***Cultural landscape**—a geographic area, including both natural and cultural resources, including the wildlife or domestic animals therein, that has been influenced by or reflects human activity or was the background for an event or person significant in human history.*



# Traditional Cultural Places Issues

- Not all TCPs are sacred sites
- Not all sacred sites are TCPs
- Sacred Sites often represent an access issue
- Who is an "expert?"
- Sensitivity issues / Section 304 of NHPA
- What constitutes a "traditional" community?
- What constitutes enough consultation?
- Is "continuity of use" by a traditional community essential?
  - Evolving uses of resources by a traditional community; "continuity of association"
- Stronger emphasis on community/group-based knowledge and traditions
- Broad ethnographic landscapes versus narrow sites
- Property boundaries
- Resource integrity

## Reminders:

- \* Currently, a TCP is not, repeat, not a distinct and separate National Register property type...

Rather, it is an overlay of traditional cultural significance that may be associated with a property otherwise listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register = building, structure, district, object, site.

- \* TCP recognition is not limited to properties associated with Native Americans, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians.

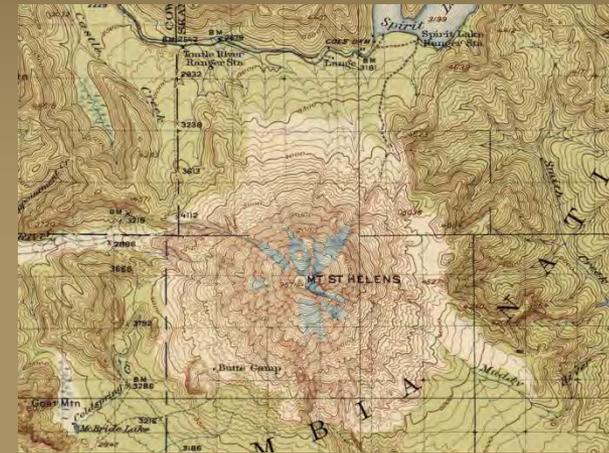




**Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden**  
National Register Traditional Cultural Property,  
Queens, NY

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# Additional Case Studies



- Lawetlat'la (Mount St. Helens, Washington (NR 2013))

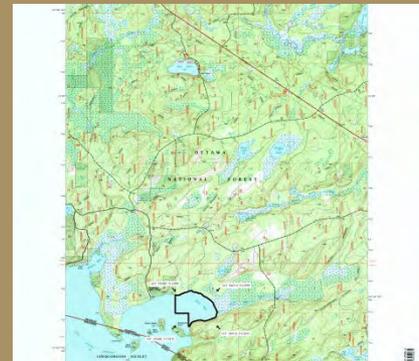


# Integrity ?? From whose perspective?



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# Rice Bay, MI - Traditional Gathering Site



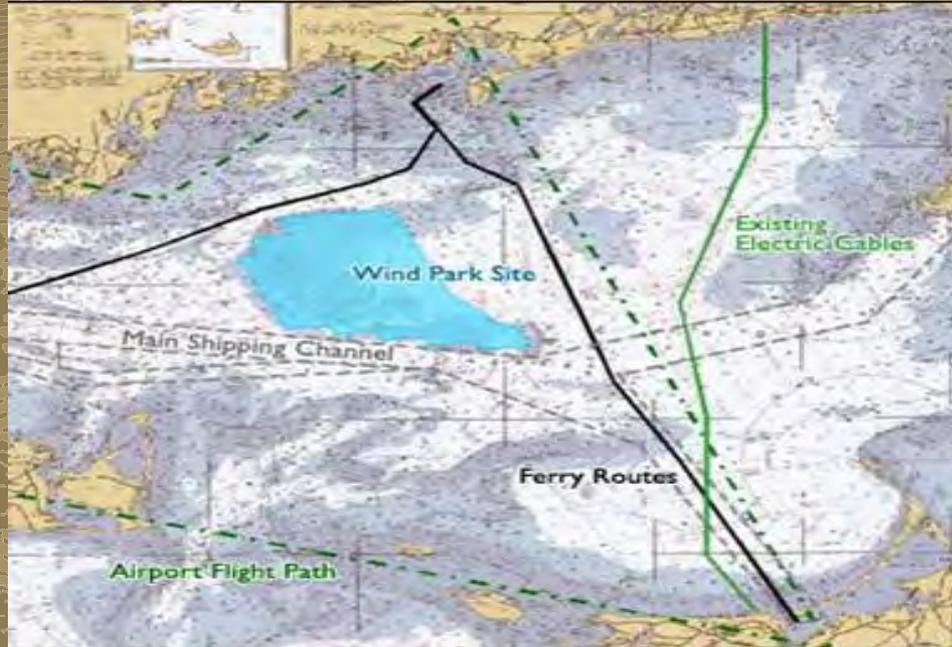
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# Tishawnik, Humboldt County, California.



- Tishawnik, CA (NR 2014)

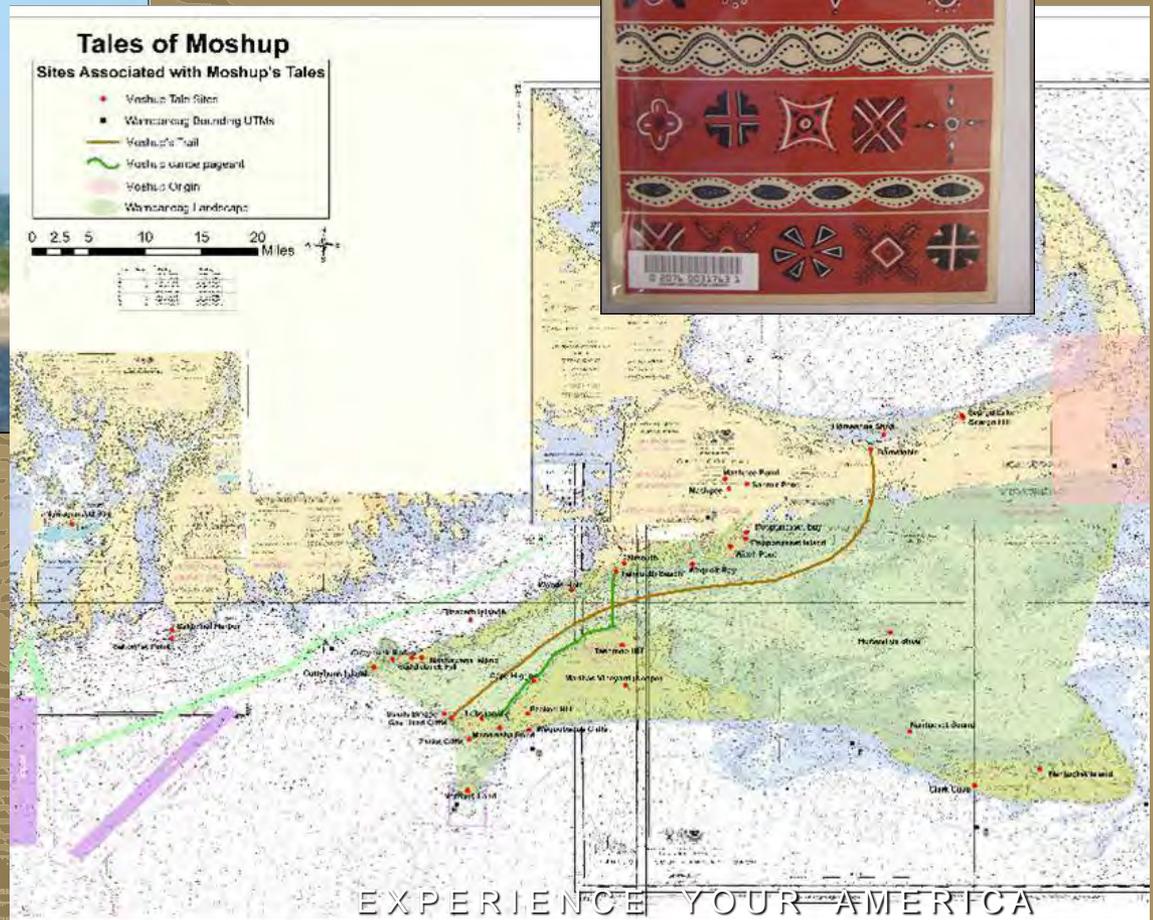
# Nantucket Sound



# Nantucket Sound TCP



- Ethnographic
- Archaeological
- Ceremonial

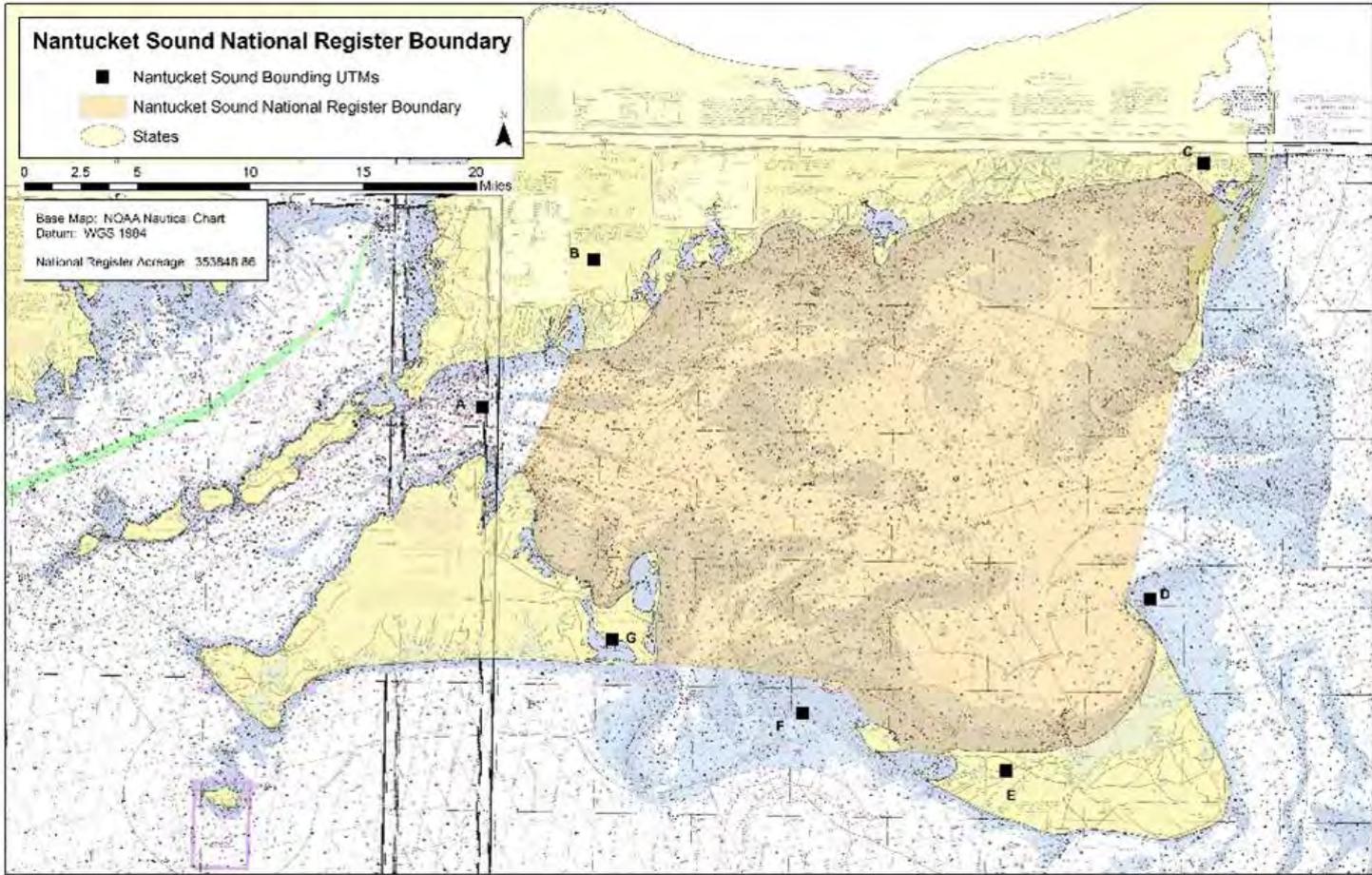


### Nantucket Sound National Register Boundary

- Nantucket Sound Bounding UTM's
- Nantucket Sound National Register Boundary
- States

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

Base Map: NOAA Nautical Chart  
Datum: WGS 1984  
National Register Acreage: 353548.86



# Badger-Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District



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Photo by Tonybynum.com

# National Register of Historic Places

[www.nps.gov/nr](http://www.nps.gov/nr)

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