



AIANTA

American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

Introducing America's First Nations to the World

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Albuquerque, New Mexico) The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) just returned from the land of the Apsáalooke (Crow) country where they co-hosted the 14th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) in Billings, Montana.

In what proved to be a historic event, AIANTA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of the Interior: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS).

Ed Hall, AIANTA Founder and advocate within the BIA Department of Transportation says, "I am so appreciative that the Secretary Salazar has recognized the importance of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association as the voice of Indian Country tourism. This MOU is a historic step forward in developing a solid partnership with the Department of Interior creating an avenue for Indian Country to build tourism capacity at home and provide authentic interpretation to public lands and waters. I especially want to recognize the good work of Gail Adams, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs and Vicki Dixon for moving this document through the system."

The purpose of the MOU is to establish a general framework of organization for cooperation between American Indian and Alaska Native tourism, travel and recreation interests represented by AIANTA and the Department of the Interior regarding opportunities to mutually enhance tourism, travel and recreation on federal and tribal lands to provide public awareness and encourage travel and tourism on tribal lands, support educational meetings and conferences and provide regional training, support authentic representation and interpretation of Native people in collateral produced for general public use and to support mutually beneficial projects.

This historic cooperation and coordination will enhance the visitor experience in Indian country as well as create opportunities for sustainable travel and tourism business development in tribal communities and create collaborative planning opportunities for tribes and federal agencies.

AIANTA is a not for profit 501 (c) 3 association of Native American tribes and tribal businesses whose mission is to serve as the voice and resource for constituents in advancing tourism in tribal homelands and communities by providing education, training and technical assistance and to serve as the liaison between Indian country and governmental and private entities for the development, growth and sustenance of Indian country tourism to strengthen cultural legacies.
