



## **National Policy Agenda**

**Summary:** The purpose of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center's National Policy Agenda is to set out clearly, for both internal and external audiences, the basis of the organization's advocacy efforts.\* In collaboration with coalitions and in support of partners, Crow Canyon often signs on to public policy advocacy efforts that center on the protection of significant cultural resources. This national policy agenda provides a template for determining what issues are within, or outside of, Crow Canyon's stated advocacy goals.

### **1. Introduction**

Crow Canyon is an internationally renowned and respected archaeological research and education institution, contributing significantly to collective knowledge of the human past. The Center adheres to the highest standards of quality, integrity, and accountability in all its endeavors. At its core, Crow Canyon is committed to providing a deeper understanding of the human past, not just in the American Southwest, but throughout the world.

As we celebrate our 28th year of service, Crow Canyon is introducing a national policy agenda for the sharing of new knowledge of the indigenous cultures of the Mesa Verde region, the Four Corners region, and the American Southwest with other archaeologists and the public. This agenda will also help Crow Canyon advocate for public funding and policies that enable us to advance our understanding, not just of the past, but of the broader human experience as well.

### **2. Crow Canyon's Mission**

The mission of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is to advance knowledge of the human experience through archaeological research, education programs, and collaboration with American Indians. Crow Canyon conducts sustained field research in the American Southwest in collaboration with the public; develops and tests archaeological methods and theories; creates and delivers engaging and enriching educational materials and programs; involves American Indians in the development and implementation of its research and education programs; explores past and present cultures worldwide; collaborates with individuals and organizations with common interests; and disseminates its work through multiple media. We strive for excellence in all aspects of our archaeological research and educational programming; undertake our work with a passion for archaeological and American Indian culture; promote stewardship and conservation of cultural resources; seek collaboration with individuals, organizations, and American Indians; and work to achieve stability in our systems to accomplish our mission today and ensure institutional strength in the future, as well as, the safety and security of all aspects of our operations.

\*Crow Canyon does not lobby, but advocates through education. We do not solicit votes for specific candidates or legislation.

### **Our Education Mission**

To achieve our education mission, Crow Canyon engages learners of all ages in an inclusive and dynamic study of the human past. The principles that guide our education work are: that everyone's history matters, that archaeological research and indigenous perspectives are essential to building a more inclusive story of the human past, and that archaeological sites hold the stories of the past and must be preserved for the future. In addition, we believe that experience and reflection form the foundation for meaningful learning, that archaeology is a multidisciplinary field, and that the learning environment should engage students in the learning process and promote respect for culture, the environment, and other people. We also attempt to communicate that archaeological sites are worthy of respect and protection. Crow Canyon attempts to convey these understandings in ways that show respect for traditional American Indian views of the past. Through recruiting efforts and by providing scholarship support, Crow Canyon encourages the participation of American Indian students in its educational programs. We offer students opportunities to explore the ways in which scientific research provides important information about the past. We also provide information about archaeology as a potential career opportunity.

### **Our Research Mission**

Through carefully designed and thoughtfully executed archaeological research we learn about past societies and, therefore, human history. The principles that guide our work are that archaeology is the social science that best allows us to examine the interactions between humans and their environment over long spans of time; long-term research that integrates the work of many disciplines is needed to understand the human past; there are multiple ways of knowing the past; research that combines archaeological knowledge with the traditional knowledge of Pueblo people provides a much richer and more inclusive understanding of long-term Pueblo history; public participation in the study of the past promotes a greater appreciation of archaeology, and our research should contribute to the development of archaeological method and theory that is useful for social science and research worldwide.

### **Our American Indian Initiatives Mission**

Collaboration with American Indians on a wide variety of initiatives of mutual interest constitutes the third of Crow Canyon's mission areas, crosscutting and augmenting the Center's research and education missions. The principles that guide our collaborative work are: that everyone's history matters, that archaeological sites are sacred to contemporary American Indians and must be treated with respect, and that the tens of thousands of Pueblo Indian sites in the Four Corners area are a record of four millennia of history and Pueblo oral histories are invaluable in interpreting these places. American Indian perspectives inform the content and enhance the quality of Crow Canyon's research and education programs, making them meaningful and relevant to students of all ages. Crow Canyon provides a place where researchers, educators, students, and American Indians work together to understand the human past. Understanding and respecting other cultures and world-views enriches us all.

### **3. Crow Canyon Core Beliefs and Principles**

- Archaeological research must be conducted in a collaborative environment, where interdisciplinary teams of researchers work together to address different but related aspects of archaeological research questions.
- This method of research can significantly advance knowledge of the human past through field-based research and by pursuing research questions that are relevant in our modern world and that advance method and theory in archaeology and anthropology.
- Experiential education is the best tool to focus on archaeology and American Indian cultures in the Southwest with the goal of educating adults, elementary and secondary school students, and graduate students to involve them in shaping the agenda for future research in the American Southwest.
- Intellectual collaboration with American Indians marshals the strengths of both scientific and traditional ways of understanding the past.

### **4. Our General Policy Goals**

- Increase support for independent, collaborative archaeological research that advances human understanding of our past and helps guide and inform our future.
- Increase funding for students and adults to participate in experiential learning focused on past and present cultures of the Southwest.
- Increase technical and financial resources available to help American Indian communities participate in archaeological research and the setting of scientific agendas.
- Encourage open, transparent, and inclusive public processes in policy discussions.
- Increase public and private investment in archaeological research and educational outreach to students, adults, and American Indian communities.
- Heighten awareness of the value of archaeological research in informed decision-making regarding current social and environmental challenges.
- Promote and ensure funding for the long-term curation of archaeological data and its access to the public.
- Promote a civic-science approach to archaeological research that respects local and indigenous knowledge and seeks community participation.

#### **Policy Goals for Federal Lands**

The U.S. public lands in the western United States preserve a treasure of archaeological, historical, and traditional cultural sites. These are managed for the public benefit by agencies such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Crow Canyon's regionally oriented research and educational programs depend in part on considering archaeological sites located on these federal lands. The Center will work to maintain access to archaeological sites on the public lands for the benefit of its own and other institutions' research interests and educational programs. It will also work to ensure that groups having a cultural heritage connection to sites and places on the federal lands can maintain access to such locations for their own purposes.

In pursuit of these goals, Crow Canyon may work to have appropriate provisions included 1) in federal resource management plans for particular land-management units; 2) in the language of enabling legislation that establishes special land-use designations such as wilderness areas, national conservation areas, national parks, national wildlife preserves, and so forth; 3) in presidential proclamations establishing national monuments; and 4) in other laws, regulations, or plans governing designation and management of the federal public lands.

The Center is especially concerned with promoting continued access to federal lands for the purpose of “investigator-initiated” research—that is, research that derives from the pursuit of research questions important in gaining a better understanding of the history of past cultures and societies and of the processes that influenced change in those cultures and societies. Investigator-initiated research is central to the dynamism of research in all scientific fields in the U.S. and internationally. The public value of this type of approach to archaeological research is recognized in the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and the National Register criteria for historic significance. Crow Canyon recognizes that for some types of public land designation (such as, wilderness areas) there may be necessary constraints on how research is to be done (for example, limitations on vehicular access). However, we will not support designations that prohibit archaeological research on public lands.

In its archaeological research on federal public lands, Crow Canyon will follow a conservation ethic, using methods of investigation that make only small intrusions on the in situ archaeological record while yielding large amounts of relevant data—methods that preserve the majority of the archaeological record being investigated for future public benefit through research, public education, or cultural heritage uses. The Center is also committed to ensuring that staff and public program participants understand and respect the cultural heritage concerns of groups related to the sites they visit and study, and that they carry out their activities in ways that avoid or minimize physical impacts to archaeological and other public lands resources.

## **5. Annual Policy Goals**

Each year at the annual meeting, the Crow Canyon Government Affairs Committee shall submit a list of specific policy goals for the upcoming year to the Board of Trustees for its approval. The list of specific policy goals will serve to guide Crow Canyon’s public policy advocacy and educational efforts for the year. It is expected that during the year, the list may need to be revisited and modified to take into account new challenges and opportunities. Any such changes will be in keeping with the more general policies articulated in Section 4 of the National Policy Agenda.

## **Specific Policy Goals for 2011**

### **Relating to Historic Preservation Funding:**

Crow Canyon will support a nationwide campaign for full funding for the Historic Preservation Fund and will support maintaining funding levels for State Historic Preservation Offices at \$55 million, Tribal Historic Preservation offices at \$20 million, Save America's Treasures at \$30 million, and Preserve America grants at \$10 million.

### **Relating to Public Lands:**

- Crow Canyon will support the expansion of the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System.
- Crow Canyon will support the creation of the U.S. Forest Service's Chimney Rock National Monument in Archuleta county, Colorado.
- Crow Canyon will support an increase in appropriations in FY2012 for the National Forest Service Heritage Program and support holding the Forest Service accountable for those expenditures and accomplishments.
- Crow Canyon will support securing significantly increased funding for the National Park Service Cultural Resources program through the Cultural Resources Challenge.
- Crow Canyon will support securing significantly increased funding for the Bureau of Land Management's cultural resources program, including more funding for the cultural surveys account as well as an increase to \$100 million in funding for the National Landscape Conservation System.
- Crow Canyon is in support of a more thorough consideration of cultural resource values, in compliance with existing historic preservation law and regulations, in response to economic development projects on the public lands.
- Crow Canyon will work to educate the public about the research, educational, and cultural heritage value of archaeological sites on public lands and the importance of visiting them with respect.
- Crow Canyon will support efforts that hold public lands managers accountable for more effectively curtailing damage to archaeological sites from off-road vehicle use, vandalism, and looting.
- Crow Canyon will serve as a resource for grassroots historic preservation organizations on cultural resources protection, access for research, and inclusion of American Indian voices in decision making.
- Crow Canyon will seek to promote further collaboration with indigenous groups by seeking a meeting with the All Indian Pueblo Council.