



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Alaska Regional Office
3601 C Street, Suite 1200
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

IN REPLY REFER TO
Regional Director – MC 100

JAN 31 2025

Ben Welsh
263 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Dear Mr. Walsh:

The FOIA Department received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated June 6, 2023, on June 6, 2023 and assigned it control number **DOI-BIA-2023-004945**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

In your request you have requested the following:

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records: I am requesting images, video, digital orthophotos and 3D models created in drone flyovers for the "Aerial Imagery of Archaeological Sites near Igiugig" project on Sept. 10 and 11, 2019.

This mission was disclosed in a log of drone missions released via a previous FOIA request. The remote pilots in command is listed as Sean Mack.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Ben Welsh

We are writing today to respond to your request on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

We have withheld in full pages of which are withheld under Exemption 3. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3). Exemption 3 allows the withholding of information protected by a nondisclosure provision in a federal statute other than FOIA.

We at the BIA, Alaska Region, Archeology Program received your FOIA related to Archeological activities around the community of Igiugig, Alaska. On reviewing the requested materials and documents, we have determined this information falls under an exemption 3 to FOIA requests related to cultural resources: "Information pertaining to the nature and location of certain archaeological resources" 16 U.S.C. § 470hh of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. Due to the concerns related to any cultural materials in the area around Igiugig, we cannot release the requested materials.

We do not bill requesters for FOIA processing fees when their fees are less than \$50.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See 43 C.F.R. § 2.37(g). Therefore, there is no billable fee for the processing of this request {and there is no need for us to address your request for a fee waiver}.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://www.archives.gov/ogis>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you have any questions about our response to your request, you may contact Elizabeth Lozano by phone at 907-271-1734, by fax at 907-271-1349, by email at elizabeth.lozano@bia.gov, or by mail at 3601 C Street, Suite 1200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

Contact information for the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, who you may also seek dispute resolution services from, is available at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters>.

Sincerely,

LYNN POLACCA

Digitally signed by LYNN
POLACCA
Date: 2025.01.31 11:13:33 -0900' **ACTING**

Jolene N. John
Regional Director