Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska

Traditional Smokehouse
Operational and Maintenance Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to; regulate the use of the Traditional Smokehouse by numerous users, minimize the attraction of bears, and to ensure its safe use and maintenance.

II. History of the Smokehouse

The Traditional Smokehouse Project was a collaborative effort between the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) and the United States Forest Service's (USFS), Sitka Ranger District. This project was initiated by the USFS in an effort to make amends for its destruction of Native smokehouses on federal lands. The goal of this project is to create a functioning traditional smokehouse (with some conventional aspects) to meet the needs of STA's Traditional Foods Program, Tribal citizens, and provide educational opportunities in the preservation of traditional foods for community youth.

III. Reserving and Using the Smokehouse

A) Eligible Use Criteria and Reserving

Any Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) tribal citizen is eligible to use the smokehouse. Preference will be given to STA's Resource Protection Department (RPD), the Cultural Resources Department for use by the STA Traditional Foods Program and for educational purposes. Any STA tribal citizen or an above-mentioned entity planning on using the traditional smokehouse will need to reserve it at least one week in advance.

B) Use Duration

Due to the potential effect of weather conditions on smoke/cure times the smokehouse will be reserved in five-day intervals. No user will be allowed to reserve the smokehouse for multiple consecutive periods and during peak times for smoking food, understands there may be multiple users smoking their traditional foods.

If at the end of the five-day reservation period, a user is unable to complete the smoking process they will be give **two** additional days of smokehouse use, **providing**

that timeframe has not been reserved by another user. If there is another user, the smokehouse will need to be shared.

IV. Operational Rules

A violation of the following rules could result in a ban on future use of the smokehouse.

A) Allowable Activities

The smoking of traditional foods, such as deer and fish, for personal consumption.

B) Unallowable Activities

To minimize the site's attraction of bears, no primary processing will be allowed on site. All fish must be headed and gutted prior to being brought to the smokehouse. Preferably meat should be brined and ready to smoke before being brought on site. All unused fish parts should be disposed of offsite. Throwing fish scrapes or unused parts on the beach is prohibited.

There will be no smoking of seal or sea lion in the smokehouse. The oils from these marine mammals are difficult to clean up and can leave strong odors that will attract bears.

Users should bring their precut wood to the smokehouse. No cutting of wood is allowed on site. This type of activity would leave large piles of shavings that look unsightly and could result in a fire hazard.

C) Non-Commercial Use

The smokehouse is for the processing/preservation of traditional foods for personal consumption. It is not to be used for preparation/preservation of foods for commercial distribution.

D) Cleaning

Each person using the smokehouse has an obligation to keep the smokehouse clean. RPD staff will verify the user has; (1) thoroughly cleaned the smokehouse and surrounding area, (2) has accounted for all on site equipment, and (3) has returned the key. Users must dispose of their own trash.

IV. Maintenance

Day to Day Maintenance

The RPD will responsible for the day to day maintenance. This includes minor routine maintenance of the smokehouse and ensuring the structure is keep clean.

Major Maintenance

Any major maintenance will be covered by STA compact or grant funds.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly convened meeting of the Tribal Council of Sitka Tribe of Alaska, held on January 16, 2019, and at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 8 IN FAVOR, ___ AGAINST, _____ABSTAIN, and 1 ABSENT.

KathyHope Erickson, Tribal Chairman

Attest:

Nancy Douglas, Tribal Secretary