Looking within and reaching out: The Growth of GIS in Cultural Resource Management

Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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Introduction

• Who are we?
  - Seminole Tribe of Florida
  - THPO

• Archaeometry
  - GIS Portal
  - ArcPad on Citrix
Seminole Tribe of Florida

• ~ 3,100 tribal members live in South Florida

• 7 Reservations:
  - Big Cypress
  - Brighton
  - Coconut Creek
  - Fort Pierce
  - Hollywood
  - Immokalee
  - Tampa

• ~ 90,000 acres of land held in trust
What is a THPO?

As of January 2010, 87 of these Tribes have established a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) by Memorandum of Agreement with the National Park Service.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has one of the more significant programs in North America, currently employing twenty-seven qualified historic preservation specialists.

Sections
Collections Section
Compliance Review Section
Tribal Archaeology Section
Archaeometry Section
What is a THPO?

- We are charged with
- Preserving, documenting, and promoting the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s cultural heritage, both on and off the modern reservation boundaries.

  - This will ensure:
    - The protection of significant historic and archaeological sites, traditional cultural properties, and important buildings and structures.

  - And:
    - The preservation of these sites will help promote the rich heritage of the Tribe for generations to come.
What may look like nothing to you, is everything to someone else.

TRUE BEAUTY

This billboard was made by Quenton
from Ahşachke Day school
Archaeometry Section

• Provide the latest technology and archaeometric techniques to the Tribal Historic Preservation Office

• Maintain all digital system infrastructure including databases, processes and work flows.

• Utilize GIS in all sections to provide support and efficiency of managing the data in each section

• **Technology**
  • GIS — (Geographic Information Systems)
  • Mobile GIS
  • Total Station
  • Ground Penetrating Radar
  • Thermocoupling Heat Sensor
Archaeometry Section

• Protect and preserve the Tribe’s artifacts and important archaeological sites

• 300 projects a year

• Types of projects:
  Controlled Burns
  Pasture Development
  Exotic Vegetation Removal
  Urban Development
  Palm Harvesting

• Phase I & II Surveys
Archaeometry Section

- Consultation with multiple agencies to ensure compliance with federal/state/tribal laws for project activities that can impact Tribal Heritage

- THPO receives approximately **3,000** requests annually from Florida and across the southeast

- Section 106 of the NHPA grant STOF right to review federal projects outside of STOF reservations
Culture

Decentralizing our data, we are centralizing.
By decentralizing our data we are centralizing our information
Contact Information

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