

# Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

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## RESOLUTION 2021-10

### **Authorizing Yakutat Tlingit Tribe to act in protection of our Tribe's historic sites and sacred places for our people and our grandchildren**

**WHEREAS**, The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (“the Tribe”) is a federally recognized sovereign Tribe with the power to take actions which further the best interests of tribal members, whose members are living on Tribal Land as defined by the Alaska Land Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in the community of the Tribe;

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council of the Tribe (“the Council”) is the governing body of the Tribe authorized by its Constitution to conduct business, including taking all actions which they believe to be in the best interests of their membership;

**WHEREAS**, since time immemorial, Athabascan, Eyak, Ahtna and Tlingit Peoples migrated to and have been living in the area between Icy Bay, Alaska and Dry Bay, Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, these People are known today as Yakutat Tlingit People; and,

**WHEREAS**, our Ancestors’ life on this land left many village sites, hunting camps, fort sites, ancient travel corridors and many other types of significant “historic and traditional sacred places”; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout time, Elders have shared knowledge of Tlingit sacred places through oral tradition; and

**WHEREAS**, from Frederika de Laguna, Wilsey & Hamm and current researchers, information regarding Yakutat Tlingit historic and traditional sacred places has been written and documented; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving and protecting our historic and traditional sacred places honors our ancestors and strengthens connection with our Tlingit way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving and protecting historic and traditional sacred places helps grow cultural understanding; and

**WHEREFORE**, To preserve, maintain and protect the unique culture, land & resources of Yakutat Tlingit people;  
to maximize our social, health & well-being while creating economic development benefits to all tribal members.



**WHEREAS**, said preservation and protection helps current and future generations keep alive Tlingit traditions and way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, strengthening connection to our culture is shown to better the mental health of our youth, uplift Tlingit pride and resilience, and positively impact us all; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1993, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the welfare of the Tribe includes protecting important cultural objects, evidence, and historic and traditional sacred places; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council finds that it is in the best interests of the Tribe to protect culturally significant, sacred places including village sites, burial grounds, hunting sites, fort sites, ancient travel corridors and other sacred or significant cultural sites; and

**WHEREAS**, Yak Timber, a logging subsidiary of Yak-tat Kwaan, Yakutat's village corporation, is actively clear-cut logging hundreds of acres in the Yakutat Forelands; and

**WHEREAS**, new detailed plan of operations (DPO) show a plan currently in review to log across Humpy Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, Humpy Creek is known to have been home to the first, large Kwaashkikwaan village site with adjacent burial grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, other historic and traditional sacred places are likely in the path of future clear-cut logging; and

**WHEREAS**, logging activities and equipment will destroy remaining evidence of sacred places and desecrate future inquiry and archeology or anthropological research; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe Council declares all likely and known historic and traditional sacred places to be off limits to logging activity or other development that might destroy or desecrate such places; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe now states its intention to identify, locate, preserve, and protect sacred places between Icy Bay, Alaska and Dry Bay, Alaska; and

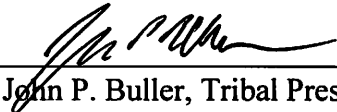
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe hereby authorizes immediate release of a letter, requesting a cease to logging activities on or near culturally significant, historic and traditional

sacred places, including village sites and associated burial grounds, hunting sites, fort sites and ancient transportation corridors and all other likely and known sacred or significant cultural sites; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, by the Tribal Council that it hereby authorizes the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, to sign all documents needed to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was, on Aug 27, 2021, duly adopted by a vote of 4 for and 0 against by the Tribal Council of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

  
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John P. Buller, Tribal President

  
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Victoria Demmert, Tribal Secretary