

Notice of Intended Disposition

Notice is here given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 43 CFR 10.6 (c) of the intent to transfer custody of Native American human remains in the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Region (USFWS).

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by USFWS officials in consultation with representatives of the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico.

On January 25, 1992, human remains were removed by the Texas Archeological Research Labs (TARL) from the Horse Island Site (41CF29), Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge, Cameron County, TX. On August 12, 2022, the USFWS confirmed that the human remains were in the physical custody of TARL. No known individual was identified.

Officials of USFWS have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(1), the human remains described above represent the physical remains of one individual of Native American ancestry.

Lastly, officials of USFWS have determined that pursuant to 43 CFR 10.6 (a), a relationship of shared group identity can be reasonably traced between the human remains and the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation.

Representatives of any other Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that wishes to claim ownership or control of the human remains should contact George MacDonell, Regional Historic Preservation Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region, 500 Gold Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, (505) 312-3683, george_macdonell@fws.gov before October 16, 2023. Disposition of the human remains to the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico may proceed after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

The USFWS is responsible for notifying the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico that this notice has been published.