



2020 Census Tribal Consultations

with Federally Recognized Tribes

FINAL REPORT

Issued Winter 2020

Connect with us
[@uscensusbureau](https://twitter.com/uscensusbureau)

For more information:
2020CENSUS.GOV

**Shape
our future
START HERE >**





Acknowledgements

We extend our gratitude to the tribal delegates and other tribal participants who attended the tribal consultations with the Census Bureau and whose input is contained in this report.

Census Bureau and Department of Commerce executive leadership who participated in the consultations included Dr. Steven Dillingham, U.S. Census Bureau Director, and Anthony Foti, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The following Census Bureau staff delivered short presentations at the meetings: Michael Hawes, Nicholas Jones, Rachel Marks, and Roberto Ramirez.

Regional office directors who participated in the consultations included Julie Lam, Los Angeles Regional Director and Cathy Lacy, Denver Regional Director.

Dee Alexander (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma), Tribal Affairs Coordinator, had primary responsibility for the tribal consultation meetings and the final report.

Kauffman & Associates, Inc., an American Indian-owned firm, was contracted to provide logistical support for the 2020 Census tribal consultations and develop the final reports.



Table of Contents

Acknowledgementsi

Executive Summary1

The 2020 Census Tribal Consultation Process..... 2

Consultation Logistics and Preparation 2

 Dates and Locations..... 2

 Census Bureau Support..... 3

 Contractor Support 3

 Meeting Agenda and Structure..... 3

 Tribal Consultation Participants..... 3

Tribal Consultation Themes 4

 2020 AIAN Race Question 4

 Data Privacy 5

 Overarching Theme: Enumeration 6



Summary of Recommendations.....	7
Conclusion.....	7
Follow-Up Items.....	8
Completed Action Items.....	8
Appendix A. Meeting Notes: AFN Tribal Consultation.....	9
2020 Census Bureau Tribal Consultation in Fairbanks, AK.....	9
Appendix B. Meeting Notes: NCAI Tribal Consultation.....	22
2020 Census Bureau Tribal Consultation in Albuquerque, NM.....	22



Executive Summary

The Census Bureau strives to build partnerships with tribal nations and engage with tribes individually to ensure accurate counts of tribal citizens. In October 2019, the Census Bureau conducted tribal consultations with member tribes of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in conjunction with each organization's annual conference. The Census Bureau held these consultations to provide updates on the race question and inform tribes about its new data disclosure avoidance methodology. This report summarizes, by topic, the input tribal leaders provided on these topics, as well as other topics that emerged during the dialogue. Major discussion points included:

- ◆ Capturing accurate, detailed race data for tribal citizens, especially for large, multi-family households;
- ◆ Tribal and federal uses of census data about AIAN people, including specific data product requests from some tribes; and
- ◆ Enumeration approaches for tribal communities.

This report summarizes the dialogue between tribal delegates and the Census Bureau on each topic and identifies tribal recommendations. These recommendations include:

- ◆ Allow for the identification of multiple heads of household within one household;
- ◆ Consider approaches for ensuring detailed race data are captured for large households;
- ◆ Provide data products to tribes that include the greatest level of detail possible given the limitations of differential privacy;
- ◆ Provide the following data products to meet the specific tribal data requests—
 - ▶ Citizen Potawatomi Nation—The number of AIAN people living in Oklahoma and the overall AIAN population in southern Texas;
 - ▶ Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community—All tabulations it has received from past censuses;
 - ▶ Inter Tribal Council of Arizona —The number of tribal communities that have a population under 2,500 people, median household income, and average household size; and
 - ▶ Navajo Nation—Chapter-level tabulations; and
- ◆ Hire local, bilingual enumerators.

The report concludes by outlining action items identified during the meeting. Detailed notes from the tribal consultations are attached as appendices.

The 2020 Census Tribal Consultation Process

The Census Bureau prioritizes engaging with tribal nations and building partnerships with tribes to promote an accurate count of tribal citizens in the decennial census. The correct characterization of tribal populations helps tribes justify adequate funding, ensure fair representation, and conduct effective planning.

Led by the Census Bureau’s Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, the agency began holding tribal consultations 5 years in advance of the 2020 Census to incorporate tribal input into its design. In 2015 and 2016, the Census Bureau held 16 tribal consultations and a national webinar with federally recognized tribes. This series of tribal consultations helped the Census Bureau tailor the design of the census to tribal needs, respond to tribal questions and concerns, and strengthen partnerships with tribal nations.

In 2019, the Census Bureau conducted two additional tribal consultations to provide updates on the census race question, inform tribes about its new data disclosure avoidance methodology, and gather feedback about tribal data needs. This report summarizes, by topic, the input tribal leaders provided on data products and disclosure avoidance, as well as other topics that emerged during the dialogue.

Consultation Logistics and Preparation

The Census Bureau coordinated with the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to host tribal consultations in conjunction with each organization’s annual conference.

Dates and Locations

Table 1 lists the tribal consultation locations, dates, and the overarching event.

Location	Date	Event
Fairbanks, AK	October 16, 2019	AFN Tribal Leaders Conference
Albuquerque, NM	October 21, 2019	NCAI Annual Meeting

Table 1. Tribal consultation locations and dates

Census Bureau Support

Staff from the Census Bureau's 2020 American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Program coordinated the tribal consultations and oversaw the development of the final report. Census Bureau Director, Dr. Steven Dillingham, participated in both tribal consultations, along with Census Bureau headquarters staff and leadership and staff from the Los Angeles and Denver Regions.

Contractor Support

The Census Bureau contracted with Kauffman & Associates, Inc., (KAI) an American Indian-owned professional services firm, to support meeting planning and logistics and develop the final report. KAI provided logistic, registration, and note-taking services. Following each tribal consultation, KAI developed summary notes for each meeting and created this final report.

Meeting Agenda and Structure

The meeting agenda was designed with a flexible structure to stimulate discussion and gather tribal input. The tribal consultations opened with introductions, followed by opening remarks from Director Dillingham. Next, the Census Bureau delivered brief presentations to provide updates on the census question on race and the proposed new approach to disclosure avoidance. Open discussions followed the presentations.

Tribal Consultation Participants

Participants at the consultations included tribal leaders and official tribal delegates; representatives of tribes, intertribal groups, and AIAN organizations; and Census Bureau executive leadership, regional leadership, and headquarters and regional staff.

In total, 218 tribal participants attended the two tribal consultations, representing 91 tribes and 16 tribal or intertribal organizations. At the AFN tribal consultation, 138 tribal participants attended, representing 58 tribes, villages, and Alaska Native corporations, as well as 12 tribal organizations. At the NCAI tribal consultation, 70 tribal attendees participated, representing 35 tribes and 4 tribal or intertribal organizations. Additionally, two tribes attended both consultations.

Dr. Steven Dillingham, U.S. Census Bureau Director and Anthony Foti, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the U.S. Department of Commerce, attended both tribal consultations. Julie Lam, Los Angeles Regional Director, participated in the AFN tribal consultation, and Cathy Lacy, Denver Regional Director, participated in the NCAI tribal consultation.

Tribal Consultation Themes

This portion of the report summarizes, by topic, the guidance, suggestions, questions, and comments from tribal delegates.

2020 AIAN Race Question

The Census Bureau has worked to update the census question on race. Per U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, the Census Bureau defines AIAN people as “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.”¹

Based on insights gathered through research, tribal consultation, and focus groups, the Census Bureau has updated the question on race to better capture details of AIAN identity. Updates include having:

- ◆ Added a set of detailed examples for the AIAN option,
- ◆ Expanded the number of characters the write-in space can capture from 30 to 200, and
- ◆ Expanded the number of detailed responses a respondent can write in from two to six.

The AIAN code list is the Census Bureau’s guide for tabulating responses to the race question and turning them into data. Currently, the Census Bureau is updating the list according to feedback. The Census Bureau welcomes additional edits and will work to incorporate all updates prior to the 2020 Census. However, with the 2020 Census approaching soon, some edits may not take effect until after the census. The Census Bureau will follow up with the tribal leaders who requested code list updates at the tribal consultations.

Tribal Input

Several tribal delegates at the NCAI tribal consultation indicated they had edits to the code list that they would share with the Census Bureau.

Ensuring that tribal citizens respond to the race question in such a way that the Census Bureau will code the response toward the appropriate tribe is a challenge that several tribal delegates discussed. This challenge is especially difficult when a citizen of one tribe is living on another tribe’s lands or in an urban area where they may feel somewhat disconnected from their enrolled tribe. Additionally, citizens of Alaska Native Villages may write in their regional corporation, rather than the name of their village. To promote self-identification by tribal citizens in a way that will count toward federally recognized tribes, tribes must conduct outreach to their constituents about how to appropriately respond to the race question.

¹ 62 FR 58782, OMB Standards for Maintaining, Collecting and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, 1997

Capturing accurate, detailed race information for members of large households is another challenge that emerged at both tribal consultations. In tribal communities, multiple families often reside in the same household. The census only permits one person per household to self-identify as the head of household, despite the multiple heads of household who may be present in a multi-family home. Accurate representation of the number of families in each home through the option to identify multiple heads of household would be beneficial information for tribes.

An additional concern for large households is the limitations of the printed census form. The printed census form asks for detailed information on the head of household and offers nine subsequent spaces for the head of household to list additional household members. After the sixth space, the question no longer asks for detailed race information. In cases where a household contains family members or boarders of different races, capturing racial data for the entire household is challenging.

Data Privacy

As technology evolves, the Census Bureau needs to modernize the way it protects the privacy of individual responses to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau plans to transition to differential privacy, which helps avoid revealing the identities of individuals or individual households by adding a predetermined amount of uncertainty to the data. Differential privacy protects the privacy of individual responses while still producing accurate data. This new approach will reshape the data products, to some extent, and some detailed data products from past censuses may not be feasible for the 2020 Census data.

The Census Bureau would like to know which data products tribes use and how they use the data to determine how to implement differential privacy while still meeting tribal data needs. More specifically, the Census Bureau needs to know how tribes use data on people who are AIAN alone, data on people who are AIAN alone and in combination with other races, demographic and housing characteristic data, and data tabulated for different levels of geography. The Census Bureau posed the following questions to tribal consultation participants:

- ◆ Do you use both data on AIAN alone and data on AIAN alone or in combination for detailed data for tribes and villages?
- ◆ What levels of geography do you need for these detailed data (e.g., tribal tract, place)?
- ◆ What programmatic, statutory, or legal uses are there for these detailed data?
- ◆ How much funding is distributed based on these detailed data?
- ◆ Why are decennial census statistics used for this purpose?

The Census Bureau will conduct more tribal consultations in 2020 to notify tribes of which data products it will provide.

Tribal Input

Tribal delegates requested that the Census Bureau provide the greatest level of detail possible in its 2020 Census data products. Several tribes requested specific data products during the tribal consultations, as shown in Table 2.

Tribes or Organization	Data Needs
Citizen Potawatomi Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The number of AIAN people living in Oklahoma◆ The overall AIAN population in southern Texas
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ All tabulations it has received from past censuses
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The number of tribal communities that have a population under 2,500 people, median household income, and average household size
Navajo Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Chapter-level tabulations

Table 2. Specific data products requested

Several tribal delegates described concerns about possible improper federal uses of census data products. One such concern is that federal agencies who use census data to develop funding formulas would base their funding allocations on the smaller dataset for people who are AIAN alone, even though tribes provide services to populations who are AIAN alone and in combination and often to non-tribal members. The Census Bureau is a data collection agency, not a policy agency, and thus cannot dictate how other federal agencies use the data it produces. The Census Bureau recommended that tribes raise this issue in tribal consultation with other agencies to encourage them to use census data in a way that is most fair to tribes.

The participants discussed the importance of submitting updated tribal geographic boundaries to the Census Bureau through the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) if a tribe has purchased new property or changed their boundaries. These updated maps are how the Census Bureau will tabulate 2020 data for each tribal geography. The Census Bureau will conduct one more BAS before the 2020 Census in January 2020.

Overarching Theme: Enumeration

Even though enumeration approaches were not an official agenda item, this topic arose at both tribal consultations. Below is a summary of the dialogue around enumeration of AIAN people and communities.

Tribal delegates emphasized the importance of the Census Bureau hiring local enumerators to count tribal communities. Local knowledge will help locate residences who have no addresses or are disconnected from road systems, ensure enumeration does not occur during ceremonies or observances, and serve as trusted local voices to encourage tribal citizens to respond. Bilingual enumerators who speak the tribal language will be a major asset to a successful census in tribal communities.

Several tribal delegates inquired about how the Census Bureau counts the homeless and those who reside away from home temporarily, such as in college housing, medical care facilities, and detention centers. The Census Bureau works with communities to identify areas where homeless people gather, including shelters, soup kitchens, and camps. Enumerators then visit these locations during times when people are most likely to be present. The Census Bureau conducts a group quarters operation to count people who temporarily reside away from their usual home, such as at a nursing home. Enumerators visit these locations and ask residents where their permanent home is or consult the facility's administrative records if they cannot ask.

Summary of Recommendations

The following recommendations emerged from the 2019 tribal consultations:

- ◆ Allow for the identification of multiple heads of household within one household.
- ◆ Consider approaches for ensuring detailed race data are captured for large households.
- ◆ Provide data products to tribes that include the greatest level of detail possible given the limitations of differential privacy.
- ◆ Provide data products to meet the specific tribal data requests identified in Table 2.
- ◆ Hire local, bilingual enumerators.

Conclusion

The Census Bureau appreciates the robust participation in these meetings and the valuable input tribal delegates provided in preparation for the 2020 Census and subsequent data products. The dialogue helped to clarify the Census Bureau's processes for enumeration and data tabulation, gave tribes a forum to convey additional questions and concerns regarding these processes, informed tribes about the proposed differential privacy approach, and provided the Census Bureau with insights on what data products are most helpful for tribes. The tribal consultations strengthened partnerships between the Census Bureau and tribes, which will serve as a foundation to gather an accurate count of AIAN people in the 2020 Census and provide beneficial data for tribal use.

Follow-Up Items

This section lists follow-up items or commitments made by the Census Bureau during the tribal consultations and indicates the actions the Census Bureau has taken and will take to follow up with tribal questions, comments, and concerns.

Completed Action Items

Mr. Ramirez met with several tribal delegates immediately after the tribal consultation to receive updates and edits for the code list. The Census Bureau followed up with all tribal leaders who requested edits to the code list.

The Census Bureau provided the following response to a tribal delegate's question about what the envelope containing the census questionnaire will look like: The envelope is approximately 10 inches by 6 inches, with a window near the bottom right corner that shows a barcode, an alphanumeric response ID, and a hand-written address of the place where the questionnaire was sent or left. The left side of the envelope will include the Department of Commerce emblem and U.S. Census 2020 logo, the U.S. Census Bureau address (Jeffersonville, IN), an official business notice that states "penalty for private use \$300," and a message within a text box in English and Spanish that reads "Your response is required by law. We have not yet received your response."



An example of the official census questionnaire envelope

The Census Bureau provided the following response regarding whether large households can complete more than one census questionnaire to ensure all household members and heads of household are accurately recorded: The questionnaire collects information on up to 10 household members. The form includes all census questions, including race, for the first six of these 10. The best way to ensure all characteristics of a large household are collected is for the household to self-respond online or call Census Questionnaire Assistance.

Appendix A. Meeting Notes: AFN Tribal Consultation

2020 Census Bureau Tribal Consultation in Fairbanks, AK

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

2019 Alaska Federation of Natives Tribal Leaders Conference

Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center, Fairbanks, AK

Participants

Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Attendees

At the AFN tribal consultation, 138 tribal participants attended, representing 58 tribes, villages, and Alaska Native corporations, as well as 12 tribal organizations.

- ◆ **Tom Andersen**, Tribal Council Vice Chairman, Native Village of Eyak
- ◆ **Michelle Anderson**, President, Ahtna, Inc.
- ◆ **Loren Anderson**, Council Member, Native Village of Afognak
- ◆ **Desiree Andon**, Prevention Coordinator, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- ◆ **Amanda Andraschko**, Native Affairs Liaison, Alaskan Command
- ◆ **Nancy Andrew**, CEO, St. Mary's Native Corporation
- ◆ **Harvey Anelon**, Vice President, Iliamna Natives Limited
- ◆ **Isadore Anthony**, Tribal President, Native Village of Nightmute
- ◆ **Tammy Ashley**, Director, Alaska Native Justice Center
- ◆ **Marty Awalin**, President/CEO, Cully Corporation
- ◆ **Peggy Azuyak**, Board Member, Kodiak Area Native Association
- ◆ **George Beans**, Council President, Yupiit of Andreafski
- ◆ **Linda Belton**, Senior Policy Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs and Tribal Liaison, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- ◆ **Nathan Bergerbest**
- ◆ **Jill Boskofsky**, Board Member, Kodiak Area Native Association
- ◆ **Tara Bourdukofsky**, Director, Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
- ◆ **Richard Bouse**, Sr., Retired
- ◆ **Greg Bringhurst**, Fairbanks Regional Director and Rural Advisor, U.S. Senate
- ◆ **Joanne Bryant**, Tribal Communication & Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ◆ **Gloria Burns**, Tribal Council, Ketchikan Indian Community
- ◆ **Romy Cadiente**, Tribal Relocation Coordinator, Newtok Village Council
- ◆ **Matt Carle**, Director of Community Outreach, Sealaska Corporation
- ◆ **Nikoosh Carlo**, Founder, CNC North Consulting
- ◆ **Wally Carlo**, Director, Doyon, Limited
- ◆ **Tanna Carter**, Executive Coordinator, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- ◆ **Pearl Chanar**, Vice President, Seth-De-Ya-Ah Village Corporation

- ◆ **David Charles**, Tribal Court Administrator, Akiachak Tribal Court
- ◆ **Billy Charles**, Chairman, Emmonak Corporation
- ◆ **Renee Charlie**, Shareholder, Doyon, Limited
- ◆ **Larry Chichenoff**, Board Member, Kodiak Area Native Association
- ◆ **Jaclyn Christensen**, Full Board, Bristol Bay Native Association
- ◆ **Meagan Christiansen**, Chairman, Native Village of Afognak
- ◆ **Alex Cleghorn**, Legal and Policy Director, Alaska Native Justice Center
- ◆ **Maria Coleman**, Tribal Council Vice President, Native Village of Eklutna
- ◆ **Elizabeth Cook**, Native Liaison, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska
- ◆ **Amber Cunningham**, Council Member, Native Village of Unalakleet
- ◆ **Darian Danner**, Government Affairs Associate, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- ◆ **Lorraine David**, Project Director, Fairbanks Native Association Indigenous Language Project
- ◆ **Rita Dayton**, Tribal Citizen, Koyukuk Tribe
- ◆ **Joyce DeCarufel**, Doyon, Limited/ Native Village of Tanacross
- ◆ **Joe Demantle**, Tribal Court Judge, Tulkisarmiut
- ◆ **Agnes Denny**, Tribal Administrator, Cheesh'na Tribal Council
- ◆ **James P. Dunham**, Tribal Council Member, Native Village of Afognak
- ◆ **Colleen Dushkin**, Administrator, Association of Alaska Housing Authorities
- ◆ **Judith Eaton**, Executive Tribal Secretary, Metlakatla Indian Community
- ◆ **Amber Ebarb**, Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
- ◆ **George Edwardson**, President, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
- ◆ **Joaqlin Estus**, Reporter, Indian Country Today
- ◆ **Eileen Ewan**, President, Gulkana Village Council
- ◆ **Felicia Ewan**, Village Council Member, Gulkana Village Council
- ◆ **Maia Fabrizio**, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- ◆ **Adrienne Fleek**, Alaska Native Affairs Liaison, U.S. National Park Service
- ◆ **Crystal Frank**, Graduate Student and Administrative Coordinator of Cross-Cultural Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- ◆ **Margaret Galovin**, Self-Governance Coordinator, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- ◆ **Rick Garcia**, Director of Tribal Justice Department, Association of Village Council Presidents
- ◆ **Audrey George**, CEO, ANC Accounting
- ◆ **Carol Gore**, President/CEO, Cook Inlet Housing Authority
- ◆ **Sara Gray**, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office
- ◆ **Margaret Guidry**, Council President, Pitka's Point Traditional Council
- ◆ **Will Hanbury, Jr.**, Tribal Council, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- ◆ **Kristi Harper**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- ◆ **Darlene Herbert**, Member, Native Village of Fort Yukon
- ◆ **Sharon Hildebrand**, Village Outreach Liaison, Doyon, Limited
- ◆ **Raeanne Holmes**, Communications Coordinator, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- ◆ **Jack Hopkins**, Tribal Council Member, Native Village of Eyak
- ◆ **Eloise Howard**, Tribal Citizen, Eagle Village
- ◆ **Jerry Isaac**, Secretary/Treasurer, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- ◆ **Doug Isaacson**, CEO, Minto Development Corporation
- ◆ **Georgia Jackson**, Council Member/ AmeriCorps Resilient Alaskan Youth Program Member, Native Village of Kluti-Kaah
- ◆ **Theresa John**, Associate Professor, Center for Cross Cultural Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- ◆ **Mary Ann Johnson**, Tribal Administrator, Portage Creek Village Council
- ◆ **Victor Joseph**, Chief/Chairman, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- ◆ **Leilani Kabbaz**, Sugpiaq
- ◆ **Emily Kameroff**, Board Member, Emmonak Tribal Council
- ◆ **Anna May Kasak**, Tribal Citizen, Traditional Council of Togiak
- ◆ **Melanie Kasayulie Alexie**, Tribal Citizen, Akiachak Native Community
- ◆ **Kailyn Kashevarof**, Aleut Corporation
- ◆ **Sarah Katongan**, Council Member, Native Village of Unalakleet
- ◆ **Gayle Kildal**, Transport Manager, Copper River Native Association
- ◆ **Leila Kimbrell**, State Director, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
- ◆ **Jaeleen Kookesh**, Vice President, Policy & Legal Affairs, Sealaska Corporation
- ◆ **Leonard Lampe**, Executive Board Member, Kuukpik Corporation
- ◆ **Doreen Leavitt**, Executive Director, Native Village of Barrow
- ◆ **Aaron Leggett**, President, Native Village of Eklutna
- ◆ **Okalena Patricia Lekanoff Gregory**, Board of Directors, Ounalashka Corporation
- ◆ **Whitney Leonard**, Associate Attorney, Sonosky Chambers Law Firm
- ◆ **MaryJane Litchard**, Instructor, Kawerak, Inc.
- ◆ **Raven Madison**, Tribal Council Member, Native Village of Eyak
- ◆ **Jordan Marshall**, Government Affairs/State Lobbyist, Alaska Regional Coalition
- ◆ **Fred Matsuon**, Tribal Council Treasurer, Ugashik Traditional Village
- ◆ **Kathy Mayo**, Board Member, Northern Taiga Ventures, Inc., Rampart
- ◆ **Connie Mayo**, Tribal Citizen, Tanana Native Council
- ◆ **Chris McNeil**
- ◆ **Angela Michaud**, Senior Director Executive Tribal Services, Southcentral Foundation
- ◆ **Ruth Miller**
- ◆ **Loretta Nelson**, Vice Chairman, Native Village of Afognak
- ◆ **Nancy Nelson**, President, Native Village of Port Lions

- ◆ **Teri Nutter**, President/CEO, Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority
- ◆ **Sarah Obed**, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Doyon, Limited
- ◆ **Darrel Olsen**, Tribal Council Chairman, Native Village of Eyak
- ◆ **JJ Orloff**, Tribal Administrator, Native Village of Afognak
- ◆ **Alexander Ortiz**, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Congressman Don Young
- ◆ **Alex Panamaroff, Jr.**, Board Member, Kodiak Area Native Association
- ◆ **Jacqueline Pata**, Second Vice President, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- ◆ **Kevin Paul**, Senator, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- ◆ **Dalarie Peters**, ICWA Subregional Manager, Association of Village Council Presidents
- ◆ **Eric Petersen**, Graduate Student and Tribal Citizen
- ◆ **Sassa Peterson**, Kenai Peninsula College Adjunct Professor and Tribal Citizen, Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- ◆ **Richard Peterson**, President, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- ◆ **Paula Peterson**, Tribal Administrator/Council Member, Organized Village of Kasaan
- ◆ **Rhonda Pitka**, Chief, Beaver Village Tribal Council
- ◆ **Anastasia Pleasant**, Tribal Citizen and Student, Orutsararmiut Native Council
- ◆ **Karen Pletnikoff**, Environment & Safety Manager, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- ◆ **Emma Roach**, Congressional and State Affairs Liaison, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ◆ **Margaret Roberts**, Vice-President, Tangirnaq Native Village
- ◆ **Paul Rude**, CEO, Copper River Native Association
- ◆ **Robert Sam**, Tribal Council, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- ◆ **Marna Sanford**, Government Relations Coordinator, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- ◆ **Fritz Sharp**, President, Twin Hills Native Corporation
- ◆ **Dorothy Shockley**, President, Bean Ridge Corporation
- ◆ **Speridon M. Simeonoff, Sr.**, Board Member, Kodiak Area Native Association
- ◆ **Christopher Simon**, Chair, Doyon, Limited
- ◆ **Jonathan Simon**, Van Ness Feldman, LLP
- ◆ **Pam Smith**, Tribal Council Secretary-Treasurer, Native Village of Eyak
- ◆ **Dena Sommer-Pedebone**, CEO, Gana-A'Yoo, Limited
- ◆ **Jenna Stevens**, Administrative Assistant, Secretary/Treasurer, Dinyea Corporation
- ◆ **Andy Teuber**, Chairman and President, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- ◆ **Tabetha Toloff**, Chief Administrative Officer, Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- ◆ **Michael Tucker**, President, Knik Tribe
- ◆ **Brenda Tyone**, Village Council Member, Gulkana Village Council

- ◆ **Angela Vermillion**, Gulkana Village Council
- ◆ **Deborah Vo**, Special Assistant for Rural Affairs, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
- ◆ **Sarah Walker**, Tribal Operations Specialist, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ◆ **Eric Watson**, Village Liaison, Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- ◆ **Gary Watson**, Board Member, Kodiak Area Native Association
- ◆ **Martha Whitman-Kassock**, Association of Village Council Presidents
- ◆ **Dolly Wiles**, Tribal Administrator, Qutekcak Native Tribe
- ◆ **Bryan Wilson**, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office

Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Commerce Representatives

- ◆ **Dr. Steven Dillingham**, Director, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Dee Alexander**, Tribal Affairs Coordinator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Donna Bach**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, Los Angeles Regional Office, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Karen Battle**, Division Chief, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Joske Bautista**, Special Assistant, Director's Office, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Jeff Bottorff**, Alaska Area Census Manager, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Melissa Bruce**, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Anthony Foti**, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce
- ◆ **Wendy Hawley**, Geographer; Partnership, Communication, and Outreach Branch; Geography Division
- ◆ **Michael Hawes**, Senior Advisor for Data Access and Privacy, Research and Methodology Directorate; U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Jessica Imotichey**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, Los Angeles Region, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Nicholas Jones**, Director of Race & Ethnic Research and Outreach, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Julie Lam**, Los Angeles Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Van Lawrence**, Branch Chief, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Rachel Marks**, Senior Technical Expert on Population Statistics, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Kimberly Mehlman Orozco**, Special Assistant, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Barbara Miranda**, Partnership/Congressional Specialist, Los Angeles Regional Office, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Vince Osier**, Branch Chief; Geographic Standards, Criteria, and Quality Branch; Geography Division; U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Marc Perry**, Senior Demographic Reviewer, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Meagan Tydings**, Analyst, U.S. Census Bureau

Welcome

Carol Gore, President/CEO, Cook Inlet Housing Authority

Ms. Gore thanked the tribal delegates for attending and emphasized the importance of tribal engagement with the Census Bureau. She explained that the Census Bureau and tribes want the same thing: to count every Alaskan in the 2020 Census. Ms. Gore stated that achieving an accurate count helps ensure fair funding allocations for Alaska communities.

Ms. Gore went on to describe that, in Alaska, many households are difficult to count due to multi-family households and geographic disconnection through a lack of road systems. The Census Bureau has illustrated their investment in Alaska through yearly visits.

According to Ms. Gore, the Census Bureau estimated an 8% undercount in Alaska for the 2010 Census. An undercount means that some Alaska communities did not receive their fair share of federal funding for important services, like housing and health care. She said that Alaska Native Villages are at a high risk of undercounts and have a great need for the funding a full count could justify. The Census Bureau hires locally to help ensure everyone is counted.

Ms. Gore then introduced the concept of differential privacy and explained that the Census Bureau is planning to implement a differential privacy approach for the 2020 Census, which would add noise to census data to protect individual data from being at risk for disclosure. Differential privacy has broad potential impacts for tribes. She noted that some researchers have raised concerns, including whether tribes will have access to summary data tables not altered by differential privacy for their own data needs and whether this approach will affect the funding formulas of other federal agencies.

Ms. Gore asked tribal leaders to consider the following three questions regarding concerns about differential privacy and provide their input to the Census Bureau:

- ◆ Will tribes and tribal organizations have access to summary data tables that are not altered by differential privacy?
- ◆ Has the Census Bureau consulted with other federal departments and agencies that use census data?
- ◆ How will introducing differential privacy impact the ability of federal agencies to run federal allocation formulas for tribal programs?

Dee Alexander, Tribal Affairs Coordinator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau

The purpose of this tribal consultation is to provide program updates regarding the 2020 Census as it approaches. The differential privacy approach to disclosure avoidance will affect tribal data, so the Census Bureau would like to gather tribal leader input on this approach. The Census Bureau conducted a webinar with other federal departments that have tribal programs to discuss how this approach will affect their funding allocations. Currently, these agencies, which include HUD, DOI, and others, are reviewing questions regarding differential privacy and will respond to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau will conduct more tribal consultations in 2020 to update tribes regarding data and differential privacy.

Ms. Alexander introduced the panel of Census Bureau experts, which included:

- ◆ Dr. Steven Dillingham, Director, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ Rachel Marks, Senior Technical Expert on Population Statistics, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ Nicholas Jones, Director of Race & Ethnic Research and Outreach, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ Michael Hawes, Senior Advisor for Data Access and Privacy, Research, and Methodology, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ Anthony Foti, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce

Dr. Steven Dillingham, Director, U.S. Census Bureau

Director Dillingham thanked AFN for inviting the Census Bureau to consult with tribes in conjunction with the annual AFN convention. He noted that he looks forward to discussing mutual goals for the Census Bureau's remote Alaska operation, which will kick off the 2020 Census, starting in Toksook Bay, AK. The Census Bureau has printed 100 million copies of the 2020 Census form to distribute where online responses are not an option.

By working together, tribes and the Census Bureau can ensure an accurate count of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. The Census Bureau understands that Alaska Native communities face unique challenges to conducting an accurate census. To determine how to overcome these challenges, the Census Bureau reached out to tribes and Alaska Native Villages years in advance of 2020 to develop partnerships. Through tribal consultation and strong partnerships, tribes and the Census Bureau have worked together to plan a census that will enumerate everyone in Alaska Native communities. The Census Bureau also worked with a Native-owned advertising firm to conduct outreach to AI/AN populations regarding participation in the 2020 Census.

Since 2015, the Census Bureau has held 17 previous tribal consultations, including a tribal consultation with state-recognized tribes and a national webinar with tribal governments. Through these events, the Census Bureau consulted with more than 400 tribal delegates representing more than 250 tribes, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native corporations. The goal of these consultations is to complete an accurate census in coordination with tribal governments.

The Census Bureau will begin enumerating rural Alaska in January 2020 to ensure they count village residents before the spring thaw when many people leave home to hunt, fish, and engage in other subsistence living activities. Residents of large Alaska cities will have the option to respond online, by phone, or through the mail. People with low connectivity will receive paper copies of the census in the first mailing. Anyone who wishes to complete the census via a paper form can do so, but those in urban areas will not receive paper copies until later mailings.

Tribal liaisons within each community are vital to successful counts in their communities. The Census Bureau depends on its partners to serve as trusted voices within their communities.

Tribal complete count committees and advisory committees are also essential partners in producing an accurate count.

The Census Bureau is on track to complete the largest, most effective census ever. The goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. Overall challenges in conducting the census include a general decline in response rates, increasingly complex households, a highly mobile nation with many people who move frequently, concerns about sharing information, and competing demands for people's attention.

The Census Bureau's Los Angeles Regional Office will continue to elicit feedback from Alaska tribal governments.

Disclosure avoidance remains a top priority for the Census Bureau. Before publishing any statistic, the Census Bureau applies safeguards to ensure that information cannot be traced back to an individual respondent. Federal law protects individual responses to the census.

Julie Lam, Los Angeles Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau

The Los Angeles Region will actively listen to tribal recommendations and concerns. Tribal consultation is one aspect of the continued dialogue and partnership that the region intends to continue having with Alaska tribal governments. She encouraged tribal delegates to continue communicating with the Census Bureau Los Angeles Region's local Alaska staff.

Anthony Foti, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce

Alaska communities differ from the rest of the nation and are unique from each other, so the Census Bureau will need to take community-specific, flexible approaches to enumerating Alaska Native Villages. The collective wisdom of the tribal delegates at the 2019 Fairbanks tribal consultation is the best tool for achieving a complete count in Alaska.

Overview of Agenda and Tribal Consultation Update

Dee Alexander

The goals of this tribal consultation are to receive feedback on tribal data needs and inform tribes about the new data disclosure avoidance measures. So far, the Census Bureau has met with AIAN researchers and federal partners, such as HUD, DOT, DOI, and DOL, who use AIAN data to discuss differential privacy in September 2019. The Census Bureau is in the beginning stages of informing and educating stakeholders and will conduct more tribal consultations in 2020 to further discuss tribal data needs and gather additional information on how to address challenges with publishing detailed statistics on AIAN tribes and villages.

2020 AIAN Race Question

Nicholas Jones

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines the race and ethnicity categories for all federal agencies, including the Census Bureau. Under OMB guidance, AIAN people

are defined as “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.”

Based on insights gathered through research, tribal consultation, and focus groups, the Census Bureau has updated the question on race to better capture details of AIAN identity. Updates include having:

- ◆ Added a set of detailed examples for the AIAN option,
- ◆ Expanded the number of characters the write-in space can capture from 30 to 200, and
- ◆ Expanded the number of detailed responses a respondent can write in from two to six.

The AIAN code list is the Census Bureau’s guide for tabulating responses and turning them into data. In the 2015-2017 tribal consultations, the Census Bureau received feedback from tribal leaders on the AIAN code list. The Census Bureau also requested tribal feedback on the code list via email, mail, and phone in 2018.

Data Stewardship and Privacy

Michael Hawes; Senior Advisor for Data Access and Privacy, Research, and Methodology Directorate; U.S. Census Bureau

The Census Bureau has a deep commitment and a legal obligation to uphold privacy and confidentiality. Census Bureau privacy protection measures have evolved as privacy challenges have risen. The U.S. Census Bureau stopped publishing small area data in 1930 and began whole-table suppression in 1970, followed by data swapping in 1990. Internal research suggests that data swapping is insufficient to protect against modern privacy threats. For the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will implement differential privacy. The Census Bureau’s implementation of differential privacy will help provide mathematical guarantees on privacy while maximizing data accuracy, using a top-down algorithm.

Differential privacy will not change the apportionment counts used for reapportioning the House of Representatives based on the actual enumeration of state populations. The Census Bureau is committed to providing detailed race and ethnicity data, but will need to reevaluate the statistics and data products that they will release to ensure the data products comply with differential privacy while retaining enough detail to be useful for data users. The Census Bureau is seeking tribal feedback on what kind of data tribal governments use, at what levels of detail and geography, and the purposes for which they use it to ensure the Census Bureau produces data products that best meet its data users’ needs.

Discussion of Race Question

Below are questions and comments that tribal delegates raised during the tribal consultation, followed by the Census Bureau staff’s response, where applicable.

- ◆ Maria Coleman, Tribal Council Vice President for Native Village of Eklutna, expressed concern over the counting of people who are more than one race. She noted that a federal count indicated 4,248 AIAN students in the Anchorage school

district. However, when students who are AIAN and another race were included in the count, the number rose to 9,073. Funding must not be based on the number of people who are AIAN alone, but rather, must include those who are multiple races, including AIAN.

- ▶ Response from Nicholas Jones: The Census Bureau follows the federal government's standards for tabulating data. They provide data tables on those who are AIAN alone and separate data tables on both those who are AIAN alone and in combination with other races. The Census Bureau cannot dictate which of these datasets another agency uses for its funding formulas. Mr. Jones indicated he would follow up with the tribal delegate to discuss this issue in greater detail and review the report she mentioned.
- ◆ A tribal delegate from the Native Village of Tanana explained that migration of Tanana people away from the village to find work hurts the village. The village's current population is fewer than 200 people but was previously around a thousand. Many members of Alaska Native Villages primarily affiliate themselves with their regional corporation, rather than the name of their village. For the Native Village of Tanana, this means many village members may self-identify with the Doyon Regional Corporation, rather than writing in the village name (Tanana). To ensure the village receives fair funding for health care, education, and other services, it is crucial to count every village member within the village, not just within the regional corporation.
- ▶ Response from Kimberly Orozco: Ms. Orozco pulled up data on Native Village of Tanana and Doyon, Limited, to illustrate the 10 responses that the Census Bureau would code as Tanana. The Census Bureau cannot tell people how to respond to the race question. Since responses to the race question are gathered through self-identification, tribes must advise their citizens on which terms are tabulated toward their respective tribe.
- ◆ Jacqueline Pata, Second Vice President for Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian tribes of Alaska, expressed concern over her belief that the census does not ask any other racial group to respond at such a granular level of detail regarding racial identity. The amount of detail requested will confuse some respondents, while others may not realize they can write in multiple tribal affiliations. Tribal citizens can have multiple AIAN identities, such as being a member of both an Alaska Native Village and a regional corporation. According to Ms. Pata, tribes count membership where the person resides and are a political subdivision. She also highlighted the need to correctly count tribal people who live in urban areas, since tribes provide services to all their membership, regardless of where members reside. When tribes count their own membership, they typically count members wherever they live. Ms. Pata requested that the Census Bureau collect data from tribal leadership.
- ▶ Response from Nicholas Jones: In the 2020 Census, for the first time, the Census Bureau will collect detailed characteristics for all race groups if the respondent chooses to provide those details. They added this level of detail based on input from communities over the years. The level of detail the Census Bureau collects is based on how people choose to self-identify.
- ◆ A tribal delegate asked: how does the Census Bureau code responses? Do they use the list of federally recognized tribes from the Federal Register? If someone wrote in the name of their tribe or village incorrectly or in a way that doesn't match the Federal Register list, would the Census Bureau throw out that response?

- ▶ Response from Nicholas Jones and Kimberly Orozco: The Census Bureau maintains an extensive list of terms that they would code for each tribe. For example, the code list includes 10 terms that would be coded as Native Village of Tanana, including abbreviations or other terms that members of this village are known to use. The Census Bureau regularly updates the code list based on input from tribes.
- ◆ A tribal delegate noted that the state of Alaska has adopted out many Alaska Native children to non-Native families. Those children are completely disconnected from their identities and communities. The delegate suggested that giving them a BIA number could help. How can they be counted within their traditional communities? She also noted that for the previous census, the Census Bureau did not hire any applicants from her area even though they completed training. She said she wants to ensure that the Census Bureau follows through on the promise of local census jobs for 2020.
 - ▶ Response from Dee Alexander: Census race and tribal affiliation data are based on self-identification. To ensure people self-identify correctly, tribal leadership should conduct outreach to their constituents, including those who live outside of the village or tribal lands, on how to appropriately self-identify to ensure they are counted correctly for their tribe or village.
- ◆ A tribal delegate emphasized the importance of counting tribal people toward their base tribe, rather than the tribe within which they reside. Some people move from one tribe's lands to another's and may think they should list the tribe where they live, when in fact, they need to list the tribe which with they are enrolled. Those living outside the area are still eligible for certain services from their base tribe, so the tribe needs to be counted and funded accordingly.
 - ▶ Response from Dee Alexander: The Census Bureau cannot tell people how to self-identify. Tribal leaders must work with their communities to inform them about how to respond.
- ◆ Another tribal delegate commented on the enumerator job opportunities for tribal members. She stated that from the list of communities that still need local enumerators, it appears that mostly rural communities are in need. Connectivity issues pose a challenge to completing online applications, which may inhibit local candidates from applying for Census Bureau jobs in remote communities. However, it is imperative that local people enumerate Alaska Villages. Since there are often no street addresses, local knowledge is paramount to achieving a count of all households. It is also important for enumerators to speak Alaska Native languages. Regional corporations could be valuable resources to help disseminate information on local Census Bureau jobs, as well as how Alaska Natives should self-identify. The implications of appropriate self-identification are large, since census counts can affect representation in state legislature.
 - ▶ Response from Julie Lam: The Census Bureau provides paper applications for those who face connectivity issues and alerts local Census Bureau offices to areas that may need paper applications. In areas where there is not enough local interest in enumeration jobs, the Census Bureau would hire workers from the nearest hub city, such as Juneau or Fairbanks. The Census Bureau is currently accepting applications at the AFN meeting. Applicants from all communities can submit paper or electronic applications. The process requires fingerprinting and references.

- ◆ Amber Cunningham, Council Member for Native Village of Unalakleet, inquired about how the Census Bureau counts homeless people.
 - ▶ Jeff Bottorff responded that the Census Bureau works with communities to identify areas where homeless people gather, including shelters, soup kitchens, and camps. Enumerators then visit these locations for enumeration during times when people are most likely to be present.
- ◆ A tribal delegate noted that English is not the first language of many people in Alaska Native Villages. Will the Census Bureau hire translators?
 - ▶ Jeff Bottorff responded that the Census Bureau is seeking to hire local, bilingual enumerators.
- ◆ Gloria Burns, Tribal Council Member for Ketchikan Indian Community, expressed concern that if an AIAN respondent selects Hispanic for their ethnicity and AIAN for their race, some federal agencies, including the Department of Education, count those respondents as part of the Hispanic population and not toward the AIAN population.
 - ▶ Dee Alexander and Rachel Marks responded that the Census Bureau tabulates ethnicity in one tabulation and race in another. The Census Bureau cannot dictate how other agencies use this data. Tribal leaders should address this issue during tribal consultation with the respective federal agency, such as the Department of Education.
- ◆ A tribal delegate from Native Village of Eklutna explained that in Alaska Native Villages, there are many multi-generational homes in which several families live under one roof. In past censuses, the Census Bureau has only counted one head of household per housing unit even when multiple households reside in one unit. The Census Bureau must address this approach since many Alaska Native residences contain more than one head of household at a single address.
 - ▶ Dee Alexander responded that the Census Bureau would still count one head of household per housing unit. Everyone reported to the enumerator as living in the household and who self-identifies as a member of the tribe will be tabulated toward the tribe regardless of whether they are the head of household.
- ◆ A tribal delegate asked: if a person self-identifies as being more than two races, how does the Census Bureau tabulate and report that data?
 - ▶ Rachel Marks responded that for each race, the Census Bureau creates a tabulation for people who are that race alone and a tabulation for people who are that race alone or in combination with one or more races.
- ◆ Dorothy Shockley, President for Bean Ridge Corporation, asked: what is the purpose of asking about tribal affiliation on the census questionnaire?
 - ▶ Rachel Marks responded that the purpose of collecting this information is to tabulate detailed data at various levels of geography that tribes and other federal agencies can use for planning, justifying funding, and so on.
- ◆ A tribal delegate asked: does the Census Bureau ensure they count people who are away from home when the census occurs, such as those who are deployed in the military, staying at a medical care facility, or incarcerated?

- ▶ Dee Alexander responded that the Census Bureau will visit the residence several times and take a proxy, if needed, by asking a neighbor about the resident. The Census Bureau also has a group quarters (GQ) operation in which it counts those living the majority of the time in group housing, such as prison, college housing, and long-term medical care facilities.
- ◆ A tribal delegate commented on the practice of fingerprinting candidates for enumerator jobs. She expressed concern about possible uses of fingerprint records. She provided an example of an Alaska Senator allegedly stating that the growing Alaska Native population posed a danger to Alaska. She stated she does not want fingerprints being on file to potentially make Alaska Natives a target. She also asked: Why not have the tribes conduct their own censuses?
- ▶ Julie Lam responded that fingerprints are required by all federal agencies as part of the hiring process.



Appendix B. Meeting Notes: NCAI Tribal Consultation

2020 Census Bureau Tribal Consultation in Albuquerque, NM

Monday, October 21, 2019

National Congress of American Indians Annual Meeting

Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM

Attendees

Tribal and NCAI Participants

At the NCAI tribal consultation, 70 tribal attendees participated, representing 35 tribes and 4 tribal or intertribal organizations.

- ◆ **Sandra Anderson**, Navajo Nation
- ◆ **Suzanne Ankney**, Elections Clerk, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- ◆ **Garfield Apple**, Councilman, Oglala Sioux Tribe
- ◆ **Yodean Armour**, First Vice President, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- ◆ **Kathleen Arviso**, Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
- ◆ **M.C. Baldwin**, Rural Addressing/GIS Coordinator, Navajo Nation Addressing Authority
- ◆ **Marilyn Blaylock**, Navajo Nation
- ◆ **Milton Bluehouse, Jr.**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Navajo Nation
- ◆ **Charmayne Bohanon**, Tribal Administration, Spirit Lake Tribe
- ◆ **Cathy Bremner**, Vice President, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
- ◆ **Roxanne Burt**, Tule River Tribe of California
- ◆ **Alexander Castillo-Núñez**, Assistant Coordinator, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- ◆ **Larry Chavis**, Tribal Council Member, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- ◆ **Avril Cordova**, Taos Pueblo/Oglala Lakota, California Native Vote Project
- ◆ **Melissa Darden**, Chairman, Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
- ◆ **Francine Darton**, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
- ◆ **Katie Draper**, Director of Government Affairs, Mille Lacs Band Ojibwe
- ◆ **Wayne Ducheneaux**, Executive Director, Native Governance Center
- ◆ **Lena Fowler**, District 5 Supervisor, Coconino County Board of Supervisors; Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
- ◆ **Paul Fragua** (Pueblo of Jemez), G&G Advertising
- ◆ **Krista Gomez-Kelley** (Pueblo of Pojoaque) President, Motiva Corporation
- ◆ **Karen Harley**, Council Secretary, Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe
- ◆ **Julie Hubbard**, Executive Director of Communications, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- ◆ **Verna Hudson**, Board Member, Ketchikan Indian Community
- ◆ **Lachelle Ives**, Elections Coordinator, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

- ◆ **Kristen Johnson**, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- ◆ **Kyle Key**, Executive Officer of Self-Governance, Chickasaw Nation
- ◆ **Travis Lane**, Assistant Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- ◆ **Laurie Lawhon**, Tribal Council Secretary, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
- ◆ **Judy Leask Guthrie**, Tribal Council Member, Ketchikan Indian Community
- ◆ **Charlotte Little** (San Felipe/Taos Pueblos), Native American Voters Alliance Education Project
- ◆ **Noreen Lowden**, Enrollment/Census Technician, Pueblo of Acoma
- ◆ **David Mann**, Assistant County Attorney and Native American Voting Rights Supervisor, Sandoval County, NM
- ◆ **Darnell J. Maria**, Acting Executive Director, Ramah Chapter, Navajo Nation
- ◆ **Adam McCreary**, Senior Manager of Government Relations, Cherokee Nation
- ◆ **Dewey McNeill**, Tribal Council Member, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- ◆ **Arbin Mitchell**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, Navajo Nation
- ◆ **Saundra Mitrovich**, Research Fellow, NCAI
- ◆ **Gabriel Montoya**, Councilman, Pueblo of Pojoaque
- ◆ **Jeff Montoya**, Councilman, Pueblo of Pojoaque
- ◆ **Charlotte Nilson**, Council Member, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- ◆ **James Nilson**, Tribal Employment Rights Office Director, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- ◆ **Raquel Pena-Armijo**, Tribal Resource Administrator and Census Liaison, Pueblo of Santa Ana
- ◆ **Gregory Richardson**, Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, Executive Director, North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs
- ◆ **Yvonne Richardson**, Tribal Council Member, Waccamaw Siouan Tribe
- ◆ **Crystal Romo**, Enrollment Supervisor, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- ◆ **Yvette Roubideaux**, Vice President for Research and Director of the Policy Research Center, NCAI
- ◆ **Altrena Santillanes**, Tribal Council Secretary, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- ◆ **Wavalene Saunders**, Vice Chairwoman, Tohono O'odham Nation
- ◆ **John Shije**, Enrollment Census Technician, Pueblo of Santa Ana
- ◆ **June Shorthair**, Communications and Public Affairs Director and Tribal Complete Count Committee Member, Gila River Indian Community
- ◆ **Lorraine Silva**, Tribal Enrollment Manager, Pueblo of Laguna
- ◆ **Lorenza Suke**, Tribal Enrollment Clerk, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- ◆ **Felix Tenorio**, Santo Domingo Pueblo
- ◆ **Marvin A. Trujillo, Jr.**, Pueblo Secretary, Pueblo of Laguna
- ◆ **Reggie Tupponce**, Tribal Administrator, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- ◆ **Bernalyn Via**, Tribal Councilwoman, Mescalero Apache Tribe
- ◆ **Sierra Watt**, Research Fellow, NCAI

- ◆ **Robert Whistler**, Council Member, Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- ◆ **Avery White**, Council Member, Gila River Indian Community
- ◆ **Cody Whitebear**, Federal Government Affairs, Prairie Island Indian Community
- ◆ **Angela Willeford**, Intergovernmental Relations Project Manager, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Commerce Representatives

- ◆ **Dr. Steven Dillingham**, Director, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Dee Alexander**, Tribal Affairs Coordinator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Karen Battle**, Division Chief, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Melissa Bruce**, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Eva Bunnell**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Meshel Butler**, AIAN Program Manager, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Amber Carrillo**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Joshua Coutts**, Geographer; Geographic Standards, Criteria, and Quality Branch; Geography Division; U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Eric Coyle**, Data Dissemination Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Anthony Foti**, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce
- ◆ **Michael Hawes**, Senior Advisor for Data Access and Privacy, Research and Methodology Directorate, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Deborah Hinote**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Cynthia Davis Hollingsworth**, Program Manager for 2020 Census Data Products and Dissemination, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Jessica Imotichey**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Cathy Lacy**, Denver Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Van Lawrence**, Branch Chief, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Kristi Long**, Area Census Office Manager, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Juanita Manister**, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Rachel Marks**, Senior Technical Expert on Population Statistics, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Marilyn Miller**, Tribal Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Kimberly Mehlman Orozco**, Special Assistant, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Vince Osier**, Branch Chief; Geographic Standards, Criteria, and Quality Branch; Geography Division; U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Marc Perry**, Senior Demographic Reviewer, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Roberto Ramirez**, Assistant Division Chief for Special Population Statistics, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Amadeo Shije**, Tribal Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau
- ◆ **Madeline Sovich**, Geographer, Partnership Education and Outreach Branch, Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Welcome and Opening Remarks

U.S. Census Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham thanked the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for hosting the tribal consultation.

By working together, tribes and the Census Bureau can ensure an accurate count of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. The Census Bureau understands that tribal communities face unique challenges to conducting an accurate census, such as multi-family households and geographic isolation. Further, overall challenges in conducting the census include a general decline in response rates, increasingly complex households, a highly mobile nation with many people who move frequently, concerns about sharing information, and competing demands for people's attention.

To determine how to overcome these challenges, the Census Bureau reached out to tribes years in advance of 2020 to develop partnerships. Through tribal consultation and strong, ongoing partnerships with tribes, the Census Bureau is poised to complete the largest, most effective census ever. In 2015 and 2016, the Census Bureau held 17 tribal consultations, including a tribal consultation with state-recognized tribes, plus a national webinar with tribal governments. Through these events, the Census Bureau consulted with more than 400 tribal delegates representing more than 250 tribes, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native corporations. The week prior to this tribal consultation, the Census Bureau held a tribal consultation in conjunction with the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Tribal Leaders Conference to discuss updates and gather tribal input on emerging issues prior to the 2020 Census.

Tribal liaisons within each community are vital to successful counts in their communities. The Census Bureau depends on its partners to serve as trusted voices within their communities. Tribal complete count committees and advisory committees are also essential partners in producing an accurate count.

Cathy Lacy, Denver Regional Director for the Census Bureau, greeted the participants and stated that the Denver Regional Office will work directly with each tribe to ensure the Census Bureau hires locally to promote an accurate count.

Overview of Agenda and Tribal Consultation Update

The goals of this tribal consultation are to receive feedback on tribal data needs and inform tribes about the new data disclosure avoidance measures. The Census Bureau has sent questions to tribes and federal partners who use AIAN data to solicit their feedback. The Census Bureau is requesting feedback on this topic from tribes and AIAN researchers.

2010-2020 AIAN Data Products

As technology evolves, the Census Bureau needs to modernize the way it protects confidentiality. The Census Bureau plans to transition to differential privacy, which helps avoid revealing individuals or individual households by adding a predetermined amount of uncertainty that protects privacy while still producing accurate data. This new approach means that they may not be able to produce as many data products in as much detail as for past censuses.

The Census Bureau would like to know which data products tribes use and how they use the data to ensure it can implement differential privacy while still meeting tribal data needs. More specifically, the Census Bureau needs to know how tribes use data on people who are AIAN alone, data on people who are AIAN alone or in combination with other races, demographic and housing characteristic data, and data tabulated for different levels of geography. The Census Bureau posed the following questions to tribal consultation participants:

- ◆ Do you use both data on AIAN alone and data on AIAN alone or in combination for detailed data for tribes and villages?
- ◆ What levels of geography do you need for these detailed data (e.g., tribal tract, place)?
- ◆ What programmatic, statutory, or legal uses are there for these detailed data?
- ◆ How much funding is distributed based on these detailed data?
- ◆ Why are decennial census statistics used for this purpose?

The Census Bureau will conduct more tribal consultations in 2020 to notify tribes of which data products it will provide.

Gregory Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe), Executive Director for the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs, explained that, given the history of genocide against AIAN people, there are some concerns about how data for AIAN alone or in combination could be used. Many tribal citizens would fall into the combined category, and if the majority of a tribe's population is in combination with other races, that allows for the possibility that the tribe will no longer be seen as a distinctly AIAN entity. Another concern is whether funding agencies would use the smaller of the two numbers (AIAN alone instead of alone or in combination) in their formulas. Mr. Richardson encouraged careful analysis of the pros and cons of how this data product is or could be used.

Dee Alexander, Tribal Affairs Coordinator for the Census Bureau, responded that the Census Bureau is working with federal partners to learn more about the data and funding formulas they use. HUD considers the highest of the two figures. The Census Bureau is a data collection agency, not a policy agency, so it does not dictate how other agencies use the data it produces.

Darnell J. Maria, Acting Executive Director, Ramah Chapter, Navajo Nation, noted that tribal counts of their own citizens are typically more accurate than census counts. For example, in the 2010 Census, several hundred members of the Navajo Nation's Ramah community were included in tabulations for a different Navajo community.

Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief for Special Population Statistics, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, responded that the 2020 Census will not ask individuals about tribal enrollment, nor will they verify responses against tribal enrollment records, as the Census Bureau does not want to infringe on proprietary tribal information or contradict tribes' own enrollment counts. The Census Bureau based this decision on tribal feedback. The Census Bureau counts everyone based on how they self-identify on the census questionnaire. For that reason, it is important for tribes to conduct outreach to their citizens about how to appropriately self-identify.

Robert Whistler, Council Member, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, noted that about 65% of constituents of Citizen Potawatomi Nation live outside of Oklahoma. The tribe needs numbers for its total population as well as its Oklahoma population. It also needs to know the number of all AIAN people living in Oklahoma to justify certain funding allocations. In addition, the tribe needs to know the overall AIAN population for southern Texas to justify the need for an Indian Health Service center to open in that area.

The Census Bureau responded that data dissemination specialists can assist with these types of data requests. Data dissemination specialists will be available at the Census Bureau's NCAI booth. Another tribal delegate added that Census Bureau regional area offices typically can provide specific data upon request.

Wavalene Saunders, Vice Chairwoman, Tohono O'odham Nation, remarked that Tohono O'odham Nation was divided by the U.S.-Mexico border, yet the tribe still provides services to its citizens on the Mexican side. Capturing a count of these Tohono O'odham citizens would be helpful. Ms. Lacy responded that the Census Bureau can only count tribal citizens who reside in the United States.

The participants discussed the importance of submitting updated tribal geographic boundaries to the Census Bureau through the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) if they have purchased new property or had any changes to their boundaries. These updated maps are how the Census Bureau will tabulate 2020 data for each tribal geography. The Census Bureau will conduct one more BAS before the 2020 Census in January 2020. Sandra Anderson, Navajo Nation, asked whether BIA updates their boundaries based on the BAS. Vince Osier, Branch Chief, Geographic Standards, Criteria, and Quality Branch, Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau, responded that, while the Census Bureau makes its updated geographic files public, BIA does not necessarily update their files based on this information. Tribal delegates should check the boundaries shown for their tribe on the BIA website to ensure they are accurate.

Angela Willeford, Intergovernmental Relations Project Manager, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, stated that the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community uses all the data products that the Census Bureau has provided them in the past. They use this information to create education projections, plan for economic development, and justify fair funding. Not receiving the data it is accustomed to receiving would be detrimental. She added tabulating data by city and county is important for tribes, particularly when counting tribal citizens who live off-reservation.

Travis Lane, Assistant Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, said that the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona uses three specific points of information to apply for a training and technical assistance grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture: the number of tribal communities that have a population under 2,500 people, median household income, and household size.

Gabriel Montoya, Councilman, Pueblo of Pojoaque, noted that tribal departments, from law enforcement and wellness courts to child care to education, serve a large number of non-tribal people. Tribes need the greatest level of detail possible in the data products they receive to plan services appropriately.

Marvin Trujillo, Jr., Pueblo Secretary, Pueblo of Laguna, stated that most tribes face challenges with housing, and many tribes are seeing reductions in federal funds for housing. Knowing the exact population is crucial for tribes to justify fair funds for housing. Census Bureau statistics are also critical for justifying health care funding, including Medicaid.

Mr. Richardson added that detailed census data is also important for developing youth, workforce development, and job placement programs. Data that prove tribes have high rates of school dropouts and unemployment help tribes advocate for funding for these programs.

Ms. Anderson explained that, while census tract-level data is helpful, many tribes need data tabulated for smaller areas than that. Navajo Nation needs data at the chapter level also. Census tracts do not align with chapter boundaries and often bisect chapters. Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff, Navajo Nation, explained that, to best understand where to direct resources, Navajo Nation needs education data and data that allow them to compare population centers in relation to transportation hubs. The tribe is seeking to better understand data trends and emerging needs.

Charlotte Nilson, Council Member, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, noted that Coeur d'Alene Tribe uses city data that includes non-tribal members when they apply for grants, since many people use transportation, roads, and other tribal services. They also include their internal tribal counts in grant applications.

Amber Carrillo, Tribal Partnership Specialist for the Census Bureau, suggested implementing a study for tribes that examines how funds are distributed based on census numbers. This study would help verify the assumption that an accurate count of tribal citizens would result in fairer funding. Ms. Alexander responded that the Census Bureau can obtain more information from other federal agencies on how those agencies provide funding to tribes and can report back to tribes on what they learn.

2020 AIAN Race Question

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines the race and ethnicity categories for all federal agencies, including the Census Bureau. Under OMB guidance, AIAN people are defined as “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.” Based on insights gathered through research, tribal consultation, and focus groups, the Census Bureau has updated the question on race to better capture details of AIAN identity. Updates include having:

- ◆ Added a set of detailed examples for the AIAN option,
- ◆ Expanded the number of characters the write-in space can capture from 30 to 200, and
- ◆ Expanded the number of detailed responses a respondent can write in from two to six.

The AIAN code list is the Census Bureau’s guide for tabulating responses and turning them into data. In the 2015-2017 tribal consultations, the Census Bureau received feedback from tribal leaders on the AIAN code list. The Census Bureau also requested tribal feedback on the code list via email, mail, and phone in 2018.

Melissa Darden, Chairman, Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, noted that the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe is listed under the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana grouping on the code list, but it is not part of the tribe. Several other tribal leaders indicated they had corrections or edits for the code list, and Mr. Ramirez offered to meet with them after the tribal consultation to address these edits.

Ms. Alexander responded that the NCAI Indian Country Counts campaign funded some tribal entities to promote the census. NCAI will contact tribes if it obtains additional funding for census outreach grants. Additionally, tribes may be able to receive some funding from the complete count committees for their state. The Census Bureau can provide contact information for state complete count committees for tribal delegates who are interested.

Mr. Richardson observed that some of the entities in the AIAN portion of the Census Bureau code list are not tribally based. Mr. Ramirez indicated he would follow up with Mr. Richardson to discuss the specific list items after the tribal consultation.

Lena Fowler, District 5 Supervisor for the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and Member of the Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission, expressed concern about how the Census Bureau will capture detailed race responses for members of large households. The census form asks for detailed information on the head of household, and offers five subsequent spaces for the head of household to provide detailed information about additional household members. However, the printed forms only contain enough spaces for 10 household members, and after the sixth space, the question no longer drills down to detailed race information. Many tribal households contain extended families with 15 or more people. They may include family members or boarders of other races. In these cases, it will be difficult to accurately capture race data for all members of the household. She encouraged other delegates to instruct their constituents that households with both tribal and non-tribal members should list a tribal member as head of household. That way, for large households completing a printed form, any family members for whom detailed race data is not captured will be tabulated as related to a tribal member, rather than a non-tribal member.

Ms. Lacy clarified that race questions for persons 7 through 10 are abbreviated on the printed forms, but not the online form. The online form can capture as many as 99 people in one household. Since the printed form only has space for 10 household members, Ms. Lacy is looking into whether a single household can complete a second questionnaire. Mr. Ramirez added that some measures are in place to determine the races of persons 7 through 10 on the printed form, such as by evaluating the racial makeup of the surrounding neighborhood and consulting previous census records.

Laurie Lawhon, Tribal Council Secretary, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, expressed concern that tribal members who are not yet enrolled may not list Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians in the write-in space for the race question. Mr. Ramirez responded that the Census Bureau tabulates race data based on how people self-identify, so it is important that tribal leadership inform their constituents about how to appropriately respond to the race question.

Mr. Trujillo asked if the Census Bureau appropriated any funds to assist tribes with outreach regarding the census. Tribes are often undercounted, yet many tribes, especially small tribes, lack personnel and resources to promote the census.

Enumeration

Mr. Whistler asked if the Census Bureau will distribute the long form, short form, or both in 2020. The Census Bureau responded that it will only use the short form.

Mr. Richardson inquired about how the Census Bureau counts homeless people. Ms. Alexander responded that the Census Bureau works with communities to identify areas where homeless people gather, including shelters, soup kitchens, and camps. Enumerators then visit these locations during times when people are most likely to be present. If tribal delegates know of areas of homelessness of which the Census Bureau may not be aware, Ms. Alexander asked them to alert their designated tribal liaison to these areas. If a homeless person is residing in someone else's household on Census Day, they must be counted in that housing unit.

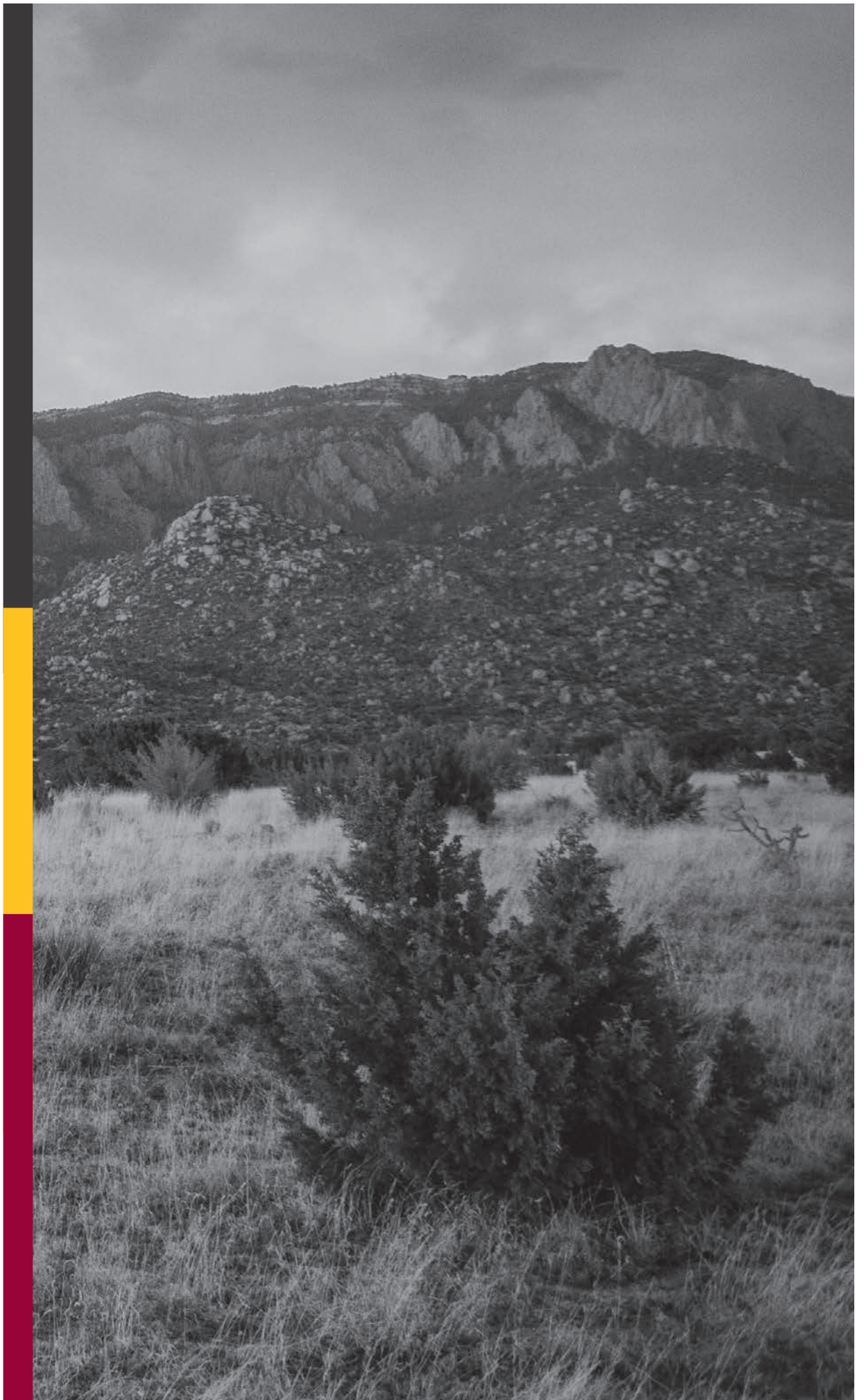
Mr. Bluehouse noted that enumerators need to be aware of ceremonial times and cultural protocols for what to do when communities are not accessible during those times.

Ms. Nilson asked what the envelope looks like that the printed forms will arrive in. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe would like to begin informing people about what to watch for and when to watch for it. The tribe also plans to provide incentives to encourage constituents to respond to the census. Ms. Lacy responded that the envelope will have the Census Bureau logo on it. If the Census Bureau drops off an envelope, it will be larger than the mailed envelopes. Ms. Alexander responded that the Census Bureau will add an image of the envelope to the report it plans to develop from the fall 2019 tribal consultations.

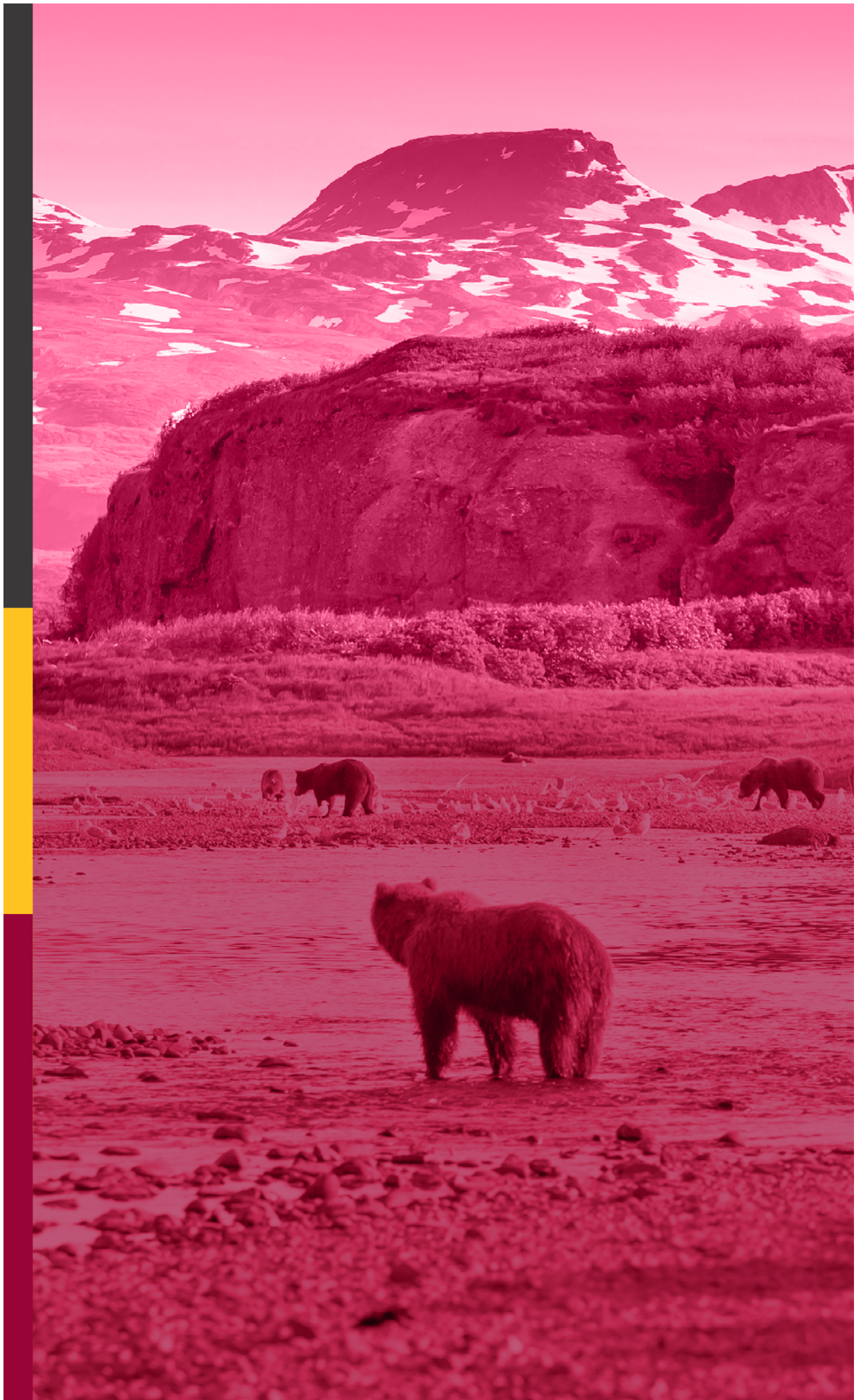
Closing Comments

Ms. Alexander announced that, on the following day of the NCAI conference, the Census Bureau would hold a breakout session during which the subcontractor who is developing 2020 Census ads for Indian Country, G&G Advertising, will present some of the ads. Also during that session, the Census Bureau will discuss enumeration operations.

Director Dillingham thanked all participants for attending the tribal consultation and encouraged tribal delegates to contact the Census Bureau tribal consultation team to request any assistance they may need.







Prepared for the U.S. Census Bureau by:

Kauffman & Associates, Inc.

South 165 Howard St., Suite 200

Spokane, WA 99201

P: 509-747-4994 • F: 509-747-5030

www.kauffmaninc.com

**Shape
our future
START HERE >**

