



**Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native
Sisterhood
Grand Camp**



RESOLUTION No. 14-13

Title: Request the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service initiate an investigation to detail and document the burning/destruction of Native smokehouses, campsites, cabins and inholdings conducted in the last century and fund program involving at-risk youth and elders being involved in restoration activities.

WHEREAS, many individual family traditional lands were systematically destroyed by successive administrations of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) in order to eradicate the traditional, customary and continued use of lands used by Southeast Natives; and

WHEREAS, records of contracts, names of employees, names of administrators, memorandums, boat logs were created to oversee administer, pay and to carry out duties to burn and eradicate the burning of smokehouses, cabins and other property of Native Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, the apology and recognition of USFS for these acts is a very good first step, other actions are necessary to give meaning to the apology; and

WHEREAS, many young people (including at-risk individuals) would benefit from being actively involved in restoration and construction activities; and

WHEREAS, traditional supervision from qualified and recognized elders is desirable and available; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp assembled in Petersburg, Alaska between October 8 through October 11, 2014 urges the USFS to fund and launch an extensive investigation to research and document these acts taken against the Native people in Southeast Alaska so that these land holdings and prior areas can be documented for historical and future purposes as well as being systematically rebuilt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of Agriculture issue the findings of this report to progress being made in this regard and include funding a program of utilizing qualified at-risk youth in conjunction with Elder's providing guidance and traditional supervision in the reconstruction activities of these important cultural buildings.



William E. Martin
ANB Grand President



Freda M. Westman
ANS Grand President

ATTEST: I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB/ANS Grand Camp in convention at Petersburg, Alaska, during the week of October 8 through October 11, 2014.



Colette Buchanan
ANB Grand Secretary