

# November is National Native American/ Alaska Native Heritage Month

2015 Theme: Growing Native Leaders: Enhancing Our Seven Generations

“National American Indian Heritage Month” had its origins in 1986 when Congress passed Pub. L. 99-471 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week of November 23-30, 1986, as “American Indian Week.” In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating the month of November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “National Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1990.

## American Indian PROFILE: CISCO MINTHORN, Dept. of Commerce Senior Advisor for Native American Affairs



Cisco Minthorn serves as both Associate Director of Legislative Affairs and Senior Advisor for Native American Affairs at the DOC. In his role as Associate Director, he oversees the Department’s legislative agenda with regard to economic development in partnership with the Economic Development Administration, the Minority Business Development Agency, and other bureaus within the DOC. In his capacity as Senior Advisor for Native American Affairs, he leads the Department’s government-to-government consultation efforts with American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities, and advises the Secretary on policy matters affecting indigenous communities.

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Mr. Minthorn served as Counsel and Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs to the House Committee on Natural Resources for Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR). Prior to his service in the House, Mr. Minthorn served as Counsel to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources under Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR). While working for Chairman Wyden, Mr. Minthorn managed the coal, hard rock mining, alternative fuel vehicles and Native American Affairs portfolio for the Committee. During his time at Senate Committee on Energy, Mr. Minthorn also served as Senator Wyden’s personal office Indian Affairs advisor. Mr. Minthorn began his Capitol Hill career serving as Counsel to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs under Chairman Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI).

Mr. Minthorn, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, holds both a Juris Doctor and Masters of Urban Planning with a concentration in Economic Development from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

*DOC Native American Affairs:* <https://www.commerce.gov/os/olia/native-american-affairs>

*NOAA Tribal Policy :* <http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs/NOAA%20Tribal%20consultation%20handbook%20111213.pdf>

