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National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MARCH 12, 2006
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Two Members Appointed to Native American Graves Protection And Repatriation Review Committee

(WASHINGTON, DC) – National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar announced the appointments of Dr. Alan Goodman and Dr. Rosita Worl to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee. The seven-member advisory committee monitors, reviews, and assists in the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Goodman has been appointed to a four year term. He is the Distinguished Service Professor of Biological Anthropology at Hampshire College and Associate Director of the New York African Burial Ground Project. Goodman has been extensively involved in NAGPRA compliance by several institutions in the Southwestern United States. He currently serves as President of the American Anthropological Association.

Worl has been reappointed to a two year term. Worl is the Director of the Sealaska Heritage Institute and is on the board of directors of the National Museum of the American Indian, Alaska Federation of Natives, and Sealaska Corporation. She earned her doctorate in cultural anthropology at Harvard University and is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast. She was elected chair of the Review Committee in 2004.

"I am pleased with the willingness and commitment of Dr. Goodman and Dr. Worl to take on this important challenge," said Bomar. "The review committee is a dynamic group committed to ensuring that the goals of NAGPRA are implemented."

Goodman and Worl join Donna Augustine, Colin Kippen, Willie Jones, Dan L. Monroe, and Vincas P. Steponaitis, PhD on the seven-member review committee.

NAGPRA was congressionally enacted in 1990 to address the rights of lineal descendants, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony with which they are affiliated. The law requires federal agencies and museums to consult with tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, provide summaries and inventories of their collections, and upon receipt of a valid claim, repatriate cultural items to the appropriate parties. More information on the NAGPRA program is available at www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra.

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