



# National Preservation Institute

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## Claudia Nissley

### Contact Information:

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### Experience:

President, Nissley Environmental Consultants, specializes in cultural heritage laws; promotes resolution for diverse cultural values identified in federally licensed, permitted, or funded projects; and provides expert analysis and testimony. *Previously:* Wyoming state historic preservation officer; American Indian affairs coordinator, director of the Western Office, and historic preservation specialist, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; staff archaeologist, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office; forest archaeologist, Willamette National Forest; staff archaeologist, Museum of Northern Arizona.

### Recent Case Work:

**Fisher House Foundation and Department of Veterans Affairs.** Worked with multiple groups and agencies to develop four agreements for Fisher Houses to be built within a National Historic Landmark and three nationally recognized historic campuses. Occupied within a year of being sited, the projects provided housing for families within walking distance of veterans receiving care at VA treatment centers.

**Grand Canyon Water Management Projects.** In response to tribal objections, negotiated two agreements for the Bureau of Reclamation that incorporate traditional values by requiring high-flow releases for sediment movement beyond the dam and removal of non-native fish to protect native and endangered species. American Indian tribal cultural beliefs were honored and the agency was able to move forward with an uncommon yet practical solution.

**Cape Wind Proposal.** Provided an objective analysis of issues described by indigenous and immigrant communities demonstrating conflicting cultural traditions and values. The analysis of legal requirements and documents for compliance facilitated the Governor of Massachusetts's support of the first offshore wind farm project, other offshore wind energy proposals, and their potential effects on local heritage.

### Teaching:

Training professionals on federal regulations, court decisions, and integration of cultural resources in project development for the National Preservation Institute, continuing legal education corporations, and American Indian tribes.

### Publications:

Co-author with Thomas F. King, *Consultation and Cultural Heritage: Let Us Reason Together*. Contribution to *A Companion to Cultural Resource Management*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. Article on "Cultural Impact Assessments" in the National Association of Environmental Practitioners journal.

### Education:

M.S., environmental law, Vermont Law School, in progress; A.B.D., anthropology and geography, University of Oregon; M.A., anthropology, minor in geology, University of Colorado; B.A., anthropology, California State University