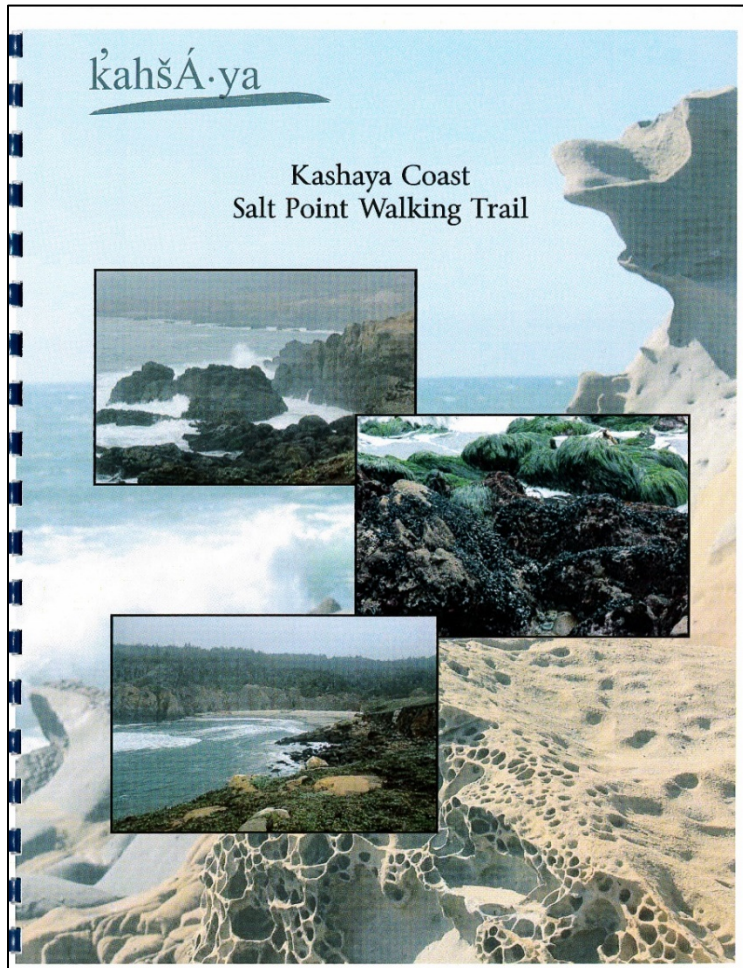


2016 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Kashaya Pomo Cultural Landscape Project



Initiated in 2008 and completed in 2015, the Kashaya Pomo Cultural Landscape Project (KPCLP) was a multi-year community based tribal cultural landscape study conducted by Caltrans, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, California State Parks, and Sonoma State University. With Transportation Enhancement funding, the KPCLP documented the Kashaya Pomo tribal cultural landscape as a living heritage and identified ways to incorporate Kashaya values and stewardship practices into heritage management practices by state agencies.

Using more than 100 years of previously documented indigenous and academic scholarship, a collaboratively-developed heritage survey, family narratives, and oral history interviews with tribal scholars, tribal relationships with the landscape at the scale of the community, family, and the individual were documented. Further, understanding of how the Kashaya landscape is maintained as a living heritage at these three different scales became the basis for a culturally appropriate heritage management plan to be used for programmatic consultation between Caltrans, the Kashaya Pomo Tribe, and California State Parks on projects within the Kashaya Pomo tribal cultural landscape.

Additionally, data from the KPCLP was used to develop a Kashaya heritage driving tour and walking trail for the enrichment of all those who visit the Sonoma coast.

All aspects of this study were created in an explicitly collaborative way, making the KPCLP an example of an emerging category of heritage management practice based strongly on community engagement. Local community participation was central to recognizing significant elements of cultural heritage in this landscape. In the case of the Kashaya, their surrounding cultural landscape served as a critical, key component of a sophisticated social, political, and economic system that they and other groups of indigenous Californians had developed over centuries of increasing social and cultural complexity in the region. Recognizing the cultural significance of this landscape will help shape decisions on how best to conserve, preserve, or manage its heritage elements.

The Kashaya Pomo Cultural Landscape project represents an exemplary approach to heritage management that emphasizes living heritage, and the need to maintain traditional places for present and future generations.