

# News Release



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## California State Park Rangers Arrest Two Suspects for Looting Archaeological Materials on North Coast

California State Park Rangers apprehended two individuals in connection with a suspected looting of sacred archeological items from a tribal village site inside Patrick's Point State Park.

The arrests, which were incidental to a search warrant, occurred on December 16, 2008, in Eureka. State Park Rangers searched the suspect's home early that morning and found numerous sensitive archeological items. Internet footage showed the theft in progress on State Park property and led to the arrest of the individuals involved. The Yurok Tribe worked collaboratively with the State Park archaeological and law enforcement staff to bring this case forward.

"These artifacts remain an important part of Native American culture and history, said State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman. "These arrests made by our Park Rangers are consistent with State Park's mission of protecting California's most precious natural and cultural resources".

Archaeological and historic sites on public lands are protected by law in the State of California, making it illegal to damage or remove artifacts. The Yurok Tribe, a federally recognized tribal nation in Northern California, has cultural and religious ties to the looted area and views the arrests as a step toward seeing justice for crimes against their traditional ways.

"These items likely came from Yurok burial grounds and removing them from this sacred place is disrespectful and a violation of Yurok traditional law," said Tribal Chairwoman Maria Tripp. "We appreciate the dedication and commitment of these park rangers toward protecting Yurok cultural resources."

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