

National Archives and Records Administration  
REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION AUTHORITY

Records Schedule Number: DAA-0079-2024-0001

Status: APPROVED  
Date Approved: 04/14/2026

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## General Information

Agency or Establishment	National Park Service
Record/Scheduling Group	0079 - Records of the National Park Service
Records Schedule Applies To	Agency-wide
Schedule Subject	Kennewick Man
Additional Schedule Information	<p>Kennewick Man Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* July 28, 1996 – Skull of Native American discovered in shallow water of Columbia River</li><li>* September 4, 1996 – Human remains transferred to control of USACE.</li><li>* September 1996 – The USACE announces plans to repatriate the remains to tribes on the Columbia Plateau in accordance with NAGPRA.</li><li>* October 1996 - 8 scientists (Robson Bonnicksen, C. Loring Brace, George W. Gill, C. Vance Haynes Jr., Richard L. Jantz, Douglas Owsley, Dennis J. Stanford and D. Gentry Steele) filed a lawsuit to block this repatriation.</li><li>* February 1997 - U.S. Magistrate Judge Jelderks, for the District Court of Oregon, refused to dismiss the lawsuits from the scientists</li><li>* March 23, 1997 - USACE rescinded its decision to repatriate the skeletal remains.</li><li>* March 1998 - The Department of the Interior and National Park Service agreed to assist the ACE in resolving some of the issues related to the Federal case.</li><li>* 1998 – 2000 -The Department of the Interior and National Park Service, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, conducted a series of scientific examinations of the remains.</li><li>* September 21, 2000 – Bruce Babbitt, then Secretary of the Interior, sends a letter to Louis Caldera, then Secretary of the Army, informing him, erroneously, that the studies had concluded that the Kennewick Man remains were culturally affiliated with tribes on the Columbia Plateau.</li><li>* Late 2000 - an appeal against the decision by Babbitt, was filed by Bonnicksen et al.</li><li>* August 2002 - Judge Jelderks, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court in Oregon, found in favor of plaintiffs.</li></ul>

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\* November 2002 - an appeal was filed against the judgment by Jelderks by both the US Government Department of the Interior and the 5 Native Americans tribes.  
\* 2004 - final ruling by the 9th Circuit federal court. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld Judge Jelderks' decision in a far more limited opinion.

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Is There a Classified Version of This Schedule?

No

Is consultation and coordination with Tribal Governments required?

Yes - the records covered by this schedule do implicate Tribal interests

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## Item Count

Total number of disposition items: 2

Number of Temporary disposition items: 0

Number of Permanent disposition items: 2

Number of Items with Disposition Not Approved: 0

Number of Inactive disposition items: 0

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Outline of Records Schedule Items for DAA-0079-2024-0001

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
0001	Subject Files	Permanent
0002	Legal Case Files	Permanent

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Records Schedule Items

<b>DAA-0079-2024-0001-0001</b>		<b>STATUS: Active</b>
<b>ITEM GENERAL INFORMATION</b>		
Item Title	Subject Files	
Item Description	Scientific reports: on radiocarbon testing, bone and teeth analysis, DNA analysis, soil sampling, stone projectile point analysis, cultural affiliation studies of indigenous populations, et.al.; legal affidavits and other court filings; correspondence; memoranda; emails; notes; publications	
Is this item media neutral?	Yes	
Is this item a Big Bucket?	No	
<b>SUPERSEDED AGENCY DISPOSITION AUTHORITIES AND GRS DEVIATIONS</b>		
Does this item supersede existing disposition authorities?	No	
Is this item a deviation from the GRS?	No	
<b>DISPOSITION INSTRUCTION</b>		
Final Disposition	Permanent	
Cutoff Instructions	There is no cutoff instruction	
Are there multiple instructions for this item?	No	
Transfer Instruction	Transfer to the National Archives immediately after approval of this schedule	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>		
Legal citation related to record retention (if applicable)	NARA Directive 1441	
Current Records Format	Paper-based textual records:12 cubic feet	
Approximate first year of records covered by this authority	1996	
End year of records covered by this authority	Year: 2016	
Date span of the initial transfer	From: 01/01/1996 To: 12/31/2016	
Frequency of transfer	1	
Are any of the records covered by this item subject to a FOIA exemption?	No	

<b>DAA-0079-2024-0001-0002</b>	<b>STATUS: Active</b>
<b>ITEM GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	

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Item Title	Legal Case Files
Item Description	Exhibits to court case from the Army Corps of Engineers
Is this item media neutral?	Yes
Is this item a Big Bucket?	No
<b>SUPERSEDED AGENCY DISPOSITION AUTHORITIES AND GRS DEVIATIONS</b>	
Does this item supersede existing disposition authorities?	No
Is this item a deviation from the GRS?	No
<b>DISPOSITION INSTRUCTION</b>	
Final Disposition	Permanent
Cutoff Instructions	There is no cutoff instruction
Are there multiple instructions for this item?	No
Transfer Instruction	Transfer to the National Archives immediately after approval of this schedule
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
Current Records Format	Paper-based textual records:5
Approximate first year of records covered by this authority	1996
End year of records covered by this authority	Year: 2016
Date span of the initial transfer	From: 01/01/1996 To: 12/31/2016
Frequency of transfer	1
Are any of the records covered by this item subject to a FOIA exemption?	No

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Signatory Information

Action	User	Date
Approve	Edward Forst (Acting Archivist)	04/14/2026



Office of the Chief  
Records Officer for the  
U.S. Government

This schedule was signed outside of the ERA system using Standard Form 115.

NARA staff updated ERA to reflect this approval, moving the record schedule into an approved status. The approved status allows for generation of a PDF indicating that the schedule has been approved, and allows an agency to use the schedule in ERA to create transfer requests. The approved date in the system and on the PDF version of the records schedule reflects the system actions.