

Alaska Native Raina Thiele reflects on the President's historic and unprecedented three-day trip to Alaska.

阿拉斯加原住民雷纳蒂勒回忆总统历史性和前所未有的三天阿拉斯加之行

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Getting help to his feet after a group photo with the performers. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)
和表演者合影后接受大家帮忙起身

My ancestors have occupied the lands known as Alaska for over 10,000 years. Our traditions are steeped in history and intimately connected with the land and its natural resources. One month ago, President Obama made a historic and unprecedented three-day trip to Alaska and I had the honor and privilege to accompany him. Looking back, I'm blown away by the fact that this was the first time a sitting President has ever visited rural Alaska and traveled above the Arctic Circle. As an Alaska Native who was born and raised in the state, the President's trip was uniquely moving for me. I was fortunate enough to witness a moment in history. A moment that we may never see again in our lifetimes.

我的祖先在这块阿拉斯加的土地上生活了一万多年。我们的传统历史悠久，并和这边土地和它的自然资源紧密相连。一个月前，奥巴马总统对阿拉斯加进行了为期三天的、前所未有的历史性访问。而我本人有幸陪同他。

现在想起来，我很诧异这竟然是一位在任的总统第一次访问阿拉斯加农村地区，来到北极圈以上。作为一名在美国出生、长大的阿拉斯加原住民，总统的访问让我特别感动。我也很有幸见证了这历史性的一刻。也许我们有生之年再也不会会有机会经历这样一刻。

I grew up in a pretty uniquely “Alaskan” way. My summers were spent subsistence and commercial fishing for wild salmon, salmon that depended on the health of the environment to flourish. In my mother’s small Dena’ina Athabascan village, I’d help her and my grandmother filet and smoke salmon for the winter in the traditional Dena’ina way. Other summers I spent commercial fishing in Bristol Bay with my Dad on a salmon gillnet boat. Whether for subsistence or economic reasons, salmon and other natural resources were the lifeblood of my family, and the same stands true for many of Alaska’s people.

我以很独特的“阿拉斯加”方式长大。夏天，我为了生计和商业捕捞野生鲑鱼。这些鲑鱼依靠健康的环境才能蓬勃生长。在我妈妈小小的 Dena’ina Athabascan 部族村庄，我会帮她 and 祖母用 Dena’ina Athabascan 部族的传统方式切分、熏制鲑鱼以备冬天。有的夏天，我会和父亲一起到布里斯托湾的一个鲑鱼刺网船上商业捕鱼。不管是自己食用还是为了经济原因，鲑鱼和其他自然资源是我们家赖以生存的。对很多阿拉斯加人都是如此。

Reflecting on my life thus far, it was Alaska’s land and natural resources, coupled with the strong Dena’ina and Yup’ik cultural values instilled in me by my parents and grandparents—humility, hard work, generosity—that have allowed me to make it as far as I have in life. I often joke that I was fortified by a diet of moose, salmon, and berries, and that I would probably survive a zombie apocalypse with my Bear Grylls-style survival skills. But these natural resources do more than just fortify the body, they fortify the spirit, and they are essential to cultures that have thrived for millennia. My connection to my Athabascan and Yup’ik roots is the well from which I draw strength when faced with obstacles that would be otherwise insurmountable. And it’s this grounding, along with the guidance of my parents and grandparents, which has allowed me to make the journey from rural Alaska, as a first generation college kid, to the Ivy League and, most recently, to the White House.

回顾我这一路走来，是阿拉斯加的土地和自然资源，以及父母和祖父母灌输给我的强大的 Dena’ina 部族和 Yup’ik 部族文化价值观---谦卑、努力工作和慷慨—使我一路走了这么远。我经常开玩笑说，驼鹿、鲑鱼和浆果的饮食结构使我十分强壮，即使是有僵尸末日袭击，我可能也能凭借我贝尔·格里尔斯般的求生技能逃生。这些自然资源不仅强壮了我的体格，也强壮了我的意志。它们对于繁荣了千年的原著文化不可或缺。我的 Athabascan 和 Yup’ik 的根是我面临看似不可克服的障碍时的力量之源。正是这一文化根源和父母、祖父母的指引一起，使我作为家族里第一个上大学的，一路从阿拉斯加农村到了常青藤高校，到了白宫。

This is why accompanying my boss, my President, Barack Obama, to Alaska was the proudest moment of my life. Hands down. And why it was such a privilege to be part of the White House team that helped orchestrate the trip from A to Z. The fact that President Obama cared to see a piece of Alaska that is typically shrouded from view by remoteness and a lack of accessibility, and that he was able to witness first-hand why Alaska’s natural resources are worth protecting, filled me with hope. And it filled Alaskans with hope. Hope that our futures, our cultures, our lifeways, have been noticed and are valued as an essential part of the intricate and majestic tapestry that is America. For that, I would like to say thank you. Thank you to Alaskans for giving our President the warmest

welcome imaginable. And thank you to my President, Barack Obama, for prioritizing the preservation of our way of life.

这也是为什么陪同我的老板，我的总统奥巴马来阿拉斯加是我人生中最骄傲的时刻。毫无疑问。这也是为什么能够成为白宫团队的一员从头帮助策划安排这次行程我感到无比幸运。奥巴马总统关心这块因路途遥远、交通不便而常被忽视的地区，并亲眼见证为什么阿拉斯加的自然资源是值得保护的。这让我充满希望，也让阿拉斯加充满希望。我们希望我们的未来，我们的文化，我们的生活方式被注意到，被重视，并成为美国文化绚丽织毯不可或缺的一部分。为此，我要说声谢谢。谢谢阿拉斯加对总统访问给与的能够想象到的最热情的招待。感谢我的总统奥巴马把保护我们的生活方式放在优先考量。

Raina Thiele is Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement and works as the liaison for tribes and the American Indian and Alaska Native community. Raina earned her B.A. from Yale College and her Master in Public Policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Born and raised in Alaska, her family hails from the rural communities of Pedro Bay Native Village on Lake Iliamna and Alexander Creek near Mount Susitna. She is Dena'ina Athabascan and Yup'ik.

雷纳蒂勒是政府间事务和公众参与副主任，负责和美国印第安人和阿拉斯加原住民社区部族的联络。雷纳本科毕业于耶鲁大学，并从哈佛大学肯尼迪政府学院获得公共政策硕士。出生并成长于阿拉斯加，她的家族来自位于伊利亚姆纳湖和苏丝提纳山脉附近亚历山大溪的佩德罗湾原著村落社区。她属于 Dena'ina Athabascan 和 Yup'ik 部族。