



Biography

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MICHAEL R. ODLE



Michael Odle is the Director of Public Affairs for the National Indian Gaming Commission, an independent federal regulatory agency established within the Department of the Interior. In this position, Odle is responsible for national policy, planning, management and evaluation of communication programs encompassing media engagement, internal information, external relations and legislative affairs.

Prior to joining the NIGC, Odle served as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Under Secretary for the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources and Environment. His work focused on issues and activities related to the U.S. Forest Service, encompassing 155 National Forests and 20 Grasslands of the National Forest System; State and Private Forestry and Forest Research and Development.

Odle began his career with the U.S. Forest Service in 2003, serving as the Public Affairs Officer for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and the Northern California Joint Fire Operations Center in Redding, Calif. He joined the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, a federal water and hydropower management agency, in August 2008. As the Regional Public Affairs Chief for Reclamation, he managed the region's strategic communication and congressional affairs efforts across nine states. Odle rejoined the U.S. Forest Service in January 2010 as a Legislative Affairs Specialist overseeing legislative and congressional issues for the agency involving aviation, water and air resources, international programs, conservation education, partnerships, climate change and Alaska and Alaska Native issues.

Prior to joining the federal government, Odle worked in sales and marketing for Marriott Hotels and Resorts, working in Washington, Oregon and South Dakota. Odle is a commissioned military officer in the Air National Guard with twelve years of service. He is currently assigned to the 113th Wing, Joint Base Andrews, District of Columbia Air National Guard, where he serves as the Chief of Public Affairs.

In 2009 Odle was named one of 15 top young public relations professionals by PR News Magazine. He is a recipient of the Colonel Robert 'Bud' V. Payton National Public Affairs Officer of the Year award, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Meritorious Service Medal for public affairs excellence and the California Governor's Commendation Medal for crisis communication.

A native of Seattle, Odle received his bachelor's degree in tourism and hospitality with an emphasis in marketing and planning from Black Hills State University, S.D. He earned his master's degree in international management from the University of Western Sydney, Australia.

The [National Indian Gaming Commission](http://www.nigc.gov) is committed to the prompt and efficient regulation of the Indian gaming industry, which spans more than 450 gaming establishments, associated with nearly 242 tribes across 28 states. The Commission's dedication to compliance with the [Indian Gaming Regulatory Act](#) ensures the integrity of the \$28.5 billion Indian gaming industry. For more information, visit www.nigc.gov.