

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0172-26

**DATE:** July 8, 2026

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; DESIGNATING TOOH AHIDIILÍNÍ, THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SPIRITUAL SITES WITHIN THE BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER AS A SACRED SITE

**PURPOSE:** This legislation, if approved, would formally designate Tooh Ahidiilíní, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and other related cultural, religious, and spiritual sites situated within and adjacent to the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site of the Navajo Nation, recognize that the designated Sacred Site is a cultural resource and Traditional Cultural Property entitled to the protections of the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act, 19 N.N.C. § 1021, and affirm the Navajo Nation's position, as an exercise of its sovereignty and Diné fundamental law, opposing unwanted commercial or industrial development of the Confluence and the Little Colorado River Gorge that would impair the cultural and spiritual qualities of the site and its associated ceremonial practices.

**FINAL AUTHORITY:** Navajo Nation Council

**VOTE REQUIRED:** Simple Majority

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 7-13-26  
Website Posting Time/Date: 1:03 PM, 07-08-26  
Posting End Date: 07-13-26  
Eligible for Action: 07-14-26

Resources & Development Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced By:

Primary Sponsor

Tracking No. 0172-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION  
COUNCIL; DESIGNATING TOOH AHIDIILÍNÍ, THE CONFLUENCE OF  
THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE  
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED  
CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SPIRITUAL SITES WITHIN THE  
BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER AS A SACRED SITE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council that exercises oversight authority over the land, environment, and cultural resources of the Navajo Nation for the purpose, among others, of establishing Navajo Nation policy with respect to the utilization of Navajo Nation resources and protecting the rights, interests, sacred sites, and freedoms of the Navajo Nation and People to such resources, now and for future generations. 2 N.N.C. §§ 500(A), (C) and (C)(1).

1 B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council  
2 with the authority to hear proposed resolutions requiring final action by the Navajo  
3 Nation Council. 2. N.N.C. §§164 (A)(9), 700 (A) and 701 (A)(3).

4 C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §  
5 102 (A). Statements of policy must be reviewed and approved by resolution by the  
6 appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §  
7 164(A).

## 8 9 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

10 A. Diné Natural Law declares and teaches that the rights and freedoms of the people to  
11 the use of land, natural resources, and sacred sites must be accomplished through the  
12 proper protocol of respect and offering, and that these practices must be protected and  
13 preserved, for they are the foundation of Diné spiritual ceremonies and the Diné life  
14 way. 1 N.N.C. § 205(F).

15 B. The Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department is responsible for  
16 the protection, preservation, and management planning of the Navajo Nation's  
17 cultural resources pursuant to the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act,  
18 19 N.N.C. §§ 1001-1061.

19 C. *Tooh Ahidiilini*, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River,  
20 together with the Little Colorado River Gorge and the related cultural, religious, and  
21 spiritual sites situated within and adjacent to the Bodaway/Gap Chapter, is a place of  
22 profound and continuing significance to the *Nihookáá Diné'é Bila'ashdla'ii*, the Five-  
23 Fingered People, and the Diné, Hopi, Zuni, Southern Paiute, and White Mountain and  
24 Cibecue Apache peoples identify this landscape as part of their ancestral homelands.

25 D. The Little Colorado River is known in the Diné language as *Bits'íís Al'tsozí*, the river  
26 with the tiny soul, and Colorado River is known as *Bits'íís Nineez* the river with the  
27 long soul, and the Diné continue to offer prayers and corn pollen at *Tooh Ahidiilini* to  
28 communicate with the rivers, the wind, the sky, and the canyons, and to petition for  
29 protection, prosperity, and health.  
30

- 1 E. The Confluence is central to the Blessing Way, which is the foundation of Navajo  
2 ceremonial life, and to numerous associated ceremonies, and Diné offerings have  
3 been made at the Confluence for the protection of Diné servicemembers during World  
4 War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.
- 5 F. On October 4, 2016, the Navajo Nation *Hataalii* Advisory Council, working through  
6 the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, issued a Position Statement  
7 finding that direct impacts from development to *Tooh Ahidiilini* would diminish the  
8 effectiveness of the Navajo ceremonies practiced to restore health and balance, and  
9 unanimously opposing development of the Confluence, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- 10 G. On September 3, 2021, the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation  
11 Department issued correspondence recognizing *Tooh Ahidiilini* as a sacred place and  
12 Traditional Cultural Property informally recognized by the Navajo Nation, and  
13 affirming that this informal designation affords protection under the Navajo Nation  
14 Cultural Resources Protection Act, 19 N.N.C. § 1021, attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.  
15 The correspondence also indicates that the National Park Service and the Navajo  
16 Nation have developed a draft Traditional Cultural Property nomination to the United  
17 States National Register of Historic Places for the Grand Canyon National Park,  
18 which identifies the Confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers (GCES-  
19 33) as a sacred place and a contributing element to the larger traditional cultural  
20 landscape of the Grand Canyon.
- 21 H. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter, by Resolution No. BA-002-013-18 adopted February 24,  
22 2018 by a vote of 55 in favor, 0 opposed, directed its Chapter Officials and Council  
23 Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence designated as a  
24 Sacred Site, and rescinded Resolution No. BA-09-092-12 relating to the Grand  
25 Canyon Escalade Project, attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.
- 26 I. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency, by Resolution  
27 No. D3GCM 2021-12-03, attached hereto as **Exhibit D**, and the grazing permittees  
28 and land users in the area of the Little Colorado River, by Affidavit of Opposition  
29 dated June 24, 2020, attached hereto as **Exhibit E**, have supported the designation of  
30 the Confluence as a Sacred Site and opposed the proposed Big Canyon Pumped

1 Storage Project and other commercial or industrial development of the Little  
2 Colorado River Gorge.

3 J. The designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site has been supported by resolution  
4 of the Cameron Chapter (CAM-079-286 #4), the Sawmill Chapter (SAW-09-14-23-  
5 03), the To’Nanees’Dizi Local Government (TND-09-12-2023), the Tonalea Chapter  
6 (TN24-10-05), the LeChee Chapter (LC10082023C), the Fort Defiance Chapter  
7 (FDC-2023-OCT-10-02), the Chinle Chapter (CHIN-MAR-24-019), and the  
8 Coppermine Chapter (CO-10-003-24), attached hereto collectively as **Exhibit F**, and  
9 by all five Navajo Nation Agency Councils, namely the Western Navajo Agency  
10 Council (WNAC24-08-NB6), the Fort Defiance Agency Council (FDAC: 07-24-014),  
11 the Central (Chinle) Navajo Agency Council (CAC-SEP-28-05), the Eastern Navajo  
12 Agency Council (ENAC-12-2024-033), and the Northern Navajo Agency Council  
13 (NNAC-219-2024), attached hereto collectively as **Exhibit G**.

14 K. A Navajo Nation legislative designation identifying *Tooh Ahidiilini* as a Sacred Site,  
15 or *hodiwin*, is a strong external expression of the Navajo Nation’s sovereignty in  
16 protecting and cooperatively managing the Confluence with the National Park  
17 Service, and is consistent with the freedom of religion guaranteed under 1 N.N.C. § 4  
18 and the duties declared under Diné Natural Law at 1 N.N.C. § 205.

### 19 20 **SECTION THREE. DEFINITIONS**

21 A. “Confluence” or “*Tooh Ahidiilini*” means the place where the Little Colorado River  
22 joins the Colorado River, together with the Little Colorado River Gorge and the  
23 related cultural, religious, and spiritual sites situated within and adjacent to the  
24 Bodaway/Gap Chapter, as identified in the map and boundary description prepared by  
25 the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department, attached hereto as  
26 **Exhibit H**.

27 B. “Sacred Site” means a place that is sacred to the Diné by virtue of its established  
28 cultural, religious, and spiritual significance, at which the proper protocol of respect  
29 and offering is practiced as a foundation of Diné spiritual ceremonies and the Diné  
30 life way within the meaning of Diné Natural Law, 1 N.N.C. § 205, and that is

1 recognized as *hodiyyin*. A Sacred Site designated under this resolution is also a cultural  
2 resource and a Traditional Cultural Property eligible for protection under the Navajo  
3 Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act, 19 N.N.C. §§ 1001-1061, and a traditional  
4 cultural property within the meaning of National Park Service Bulletin 38.  
5

#### 6 **SECTION FOUR. DESIGNATION**

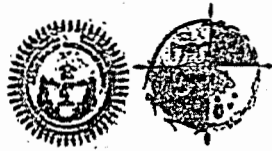
- 7 A. The Navajo Nation hereby designates *Tooh Ahidiilini*, the Confluence of the Little  
8 Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and the  
9 related cultural, religious, and spiritual sites situated within and adjacent to the  
10 Bodaway/Gap Chapter, as a Sacred Site of the Navajo Nation.
- 11 B. The Navajo Nation recognizes that the Sacred Site designated herein is a cultural  
12 resource and Traditional Cultural Property entitled to the protections of the Navajo  
13 Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act, including the requirement under 19 N.N.C.  
14 § 1021 that the sponsor of any undertaking obtain the approval of the Navajo Nation  
15 Historic Preservation Officer prior to implementation or authorization of the  
16 undertaking.
- 17 C. The Navajo Nation opposes commercial or industrial development of the Confluence  
18 and the Little Colorado River Gorge that is unwanted by the local grazing permittees  
19 and land users and that would impair the cultural and spiritual qualities of *Tooh*  
20 *Ahidiilini* and the ceremonial practices associated with it.
- 21 D. The Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department is encouraged to  
22 evaluate *Tooh Ahidiilini* for listing in the Navajo Nation Register of Cultural  
23 Properties pursuant to 19 N.N.C. § 1011, and continue to coordinate with the National  
24 Park Service regarding the cooperative management and protection of the  
25 Confluence.
- 26 E. All appropriate divisions, departments, and officials of the Navajo Nation are  
27 encouraged to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this designation.  
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1       **SECTION FIVE. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

- 2       A. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to alter or affect the valid existing water  
3       rights of any party, including any tribal government or the United States, or to alter or  
4       affect any water rights settlement or adjudication, whether settled or to be settled in  
5       the future.
- 6       B. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to alter or affect the 2006 Navajo-Hopi  
7       Intergovernmental Compact or any jurisdictional matter between the Navajo Nation  
8       and any other tribe or government.
- 9       C. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to alter or affect the boundaries of the  
10      Navajo Nation or of any other tribe or government.
- 11      D. Consistent with 1 N.N.C. § 207(B), the references to Diné Natural Law in this  
12      resolution provide guiding principles and the cultural foundation for this designation  
13      and shall not be construed to create any independent, legally enforceable right,  
14      entitlement, or cause of action.
- 15      E. If any provision of this Action is determined invalid by the Supreme Court of the  
16      Navajo Nation, or by a Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo  
17      Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Action shall remain the law of the  
18      Navajo Nation.

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20       **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

21       This Action shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(A) and (C).  
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**The Navajo Historic Preservation's  
Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC)  
Position Statement Opposing the Escalade Project at  
*To ahidiliih (Confluence)***

October 4, 2016

Pursuant to the CMY-19-88, Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act, 19 N.N.C., the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department (NNHPD) is the Navajo Nation's agency responsible for the protection, preservation and management planning for the Navajo Nation's cultural resources; and pursuant to Navajo Nation Resolution GSCMA05-04, we, the *Hataalii* Advisory Council (HAC) of the NNHPD, have been consulted regarding the proposed Escalade Project in Bodaway/Gap Chapter.

*To ahidiliih (Confluence)* of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River is a vital and significant landscape to all *Nihokáá dine'é bila'ashla'ii* - Five-Fingered People of the Land. *To ahidiliih* is home to Navajo deities such as the Big Snake, the Wind and Lightning; it is central to the Blessing Way, which is the backbone and foundation to all Navajo ceremonies, such as the Water Way, Shooting Way, Mountaintop Way, Night Way, Wind Way, Wildgame Way, Plume Way, Big Snake Way (Beauty Way), and the Enemy Way. Direct impact from development to *To ahidiliih* will decrease the effectiveness of the Navajo ceremonies which are practiced day to day by Navajo People to restore health and balance. Ceremonies refer to the *To ahidiliih* through songs, prayers, and offerings to heal mental, physical, and spiritual illness. The continuing use of the *To ahidiliih* in these ceremonies validates its ongoing sacred character.

Our sacred places, including *To ahidiliih*, within the Four Sacred Mountains known as Diné Bikeyah are all interconnected and need to be respected and protected. Many traditional Navajos show their respect and connection to these sacred landscapes by making offerings to these places on a daily basis.

*To ahidiliih* is a traditional cultural property, which is defined generally as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community (DOI, NPS Bulletin 38, Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties).

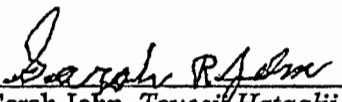
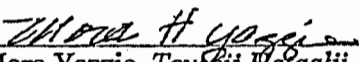
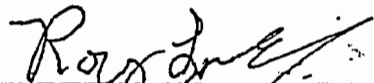
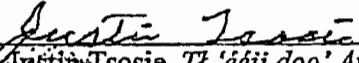
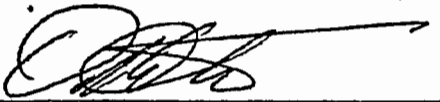
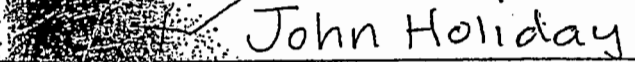
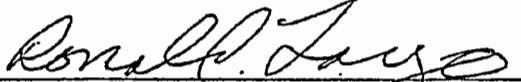
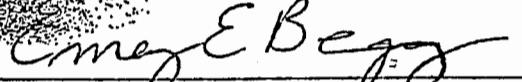
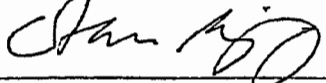
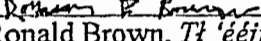
After discussing the project and the sacred character of the *To ahidiliih* of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, we are unanimous in our conclusion that the proposed Escalade Project including the rim top development, tramway and walkway development will:

1. Pose detrimental irreversible harm to the sacred qualities of the *To ahidiliih*;
2. Pose a degraded spiritual experience by Navajos conducting offerings or prayers from overcrowding and reduced visibility by visitors who visit *To ahidiliih* for recreation;
3. Pose harm mentally, physically, and spiritually to the People who visit the *To ahidiliih* without respect and reverence;

5. Threaten to destroy a significant cultural resource, and set precedent for future opportunities to protect our cultural resources as a Navajo Nation.

Furthermore, both Navajo Nation law and U.S. federal law provide legal protection to sacred places such as the Confluence. Navajo Nation Code, Section 205: *Nashasdzáán dóó Yádlíhíł Bits'ááddéé Beehaz'áanii*—Diné Natural Law. Several U.S. federal laws additionally provide protection for sacred places and traditional religious practice, including the Antiquities Act of 1906, Archaeological Resources Protection Act., the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. These laws and others protect, in various ways, the rights of tribal religious practitioners to access and use sacred sites, and protect religious and cultural items and human remains in the event that potential development may disrupt or damage them.

For these reasons, we the undersigned, unanimously oppose the Escalade project, both the tramway and walkway, as well as the rim-top resort.

|                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Sarah John, Toyeeji Hataalii                    | <br>Mora Yazzie, Toyeeji Hataalii                     |
| <br>Roy Lester, Tł 'ééji doo' Annajii Hataalii     | <br>Justin Tsosie, Tł 'ééji doo' Annajii Hataalii    |
| <br>Otto Tso, Tł 'ééji Hataalii                   | <br>John Holiday, Hozhoojii Hataalii                |
| <br>Ronald Largo, Dziłk'iji doo' Annajii Hataalii | <br>Emery E. Begay, Hozhoojil doo' Annajii Hataalii |
| <br>Steven Begay, Dziłk'iji doo' Annajii Hataalii | <br>Ronald Brown, Tł 'ééji Hataalii                 |
| <br>Avery Denny, Tł 'ééji Hataalii                | <br>Anderson Hoskie, 'Atsá jii Hataalii             |
| <br>Malcom McCabe, Hozhoojii Hataalii             | <br>Kenneth Belinte, Toyeeji Hataalii               |

# THE NAVAJO NATION

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JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT   MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



September 3, 2021

Charlie Smith, Jr. Chapter President  
Cameron Chapter  
P.O. Box 669  
Cameron, Arizona 86020

***RE: Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers, Tooh Ahidiilini, as a Traditional Cultural Property***

Dear Chapter President Smith:

Currently, the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers, *Tooh Ahidiilini*, (GCES-33) is informally recognized as a sacred place and a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) by the Navajo Nation. TCPs are defined as places that are significant because of their association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history, and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. The goal of this correspondence to the Cameron Chapter is to describe the concept of TCPs, the current status of the confluence as a TCP, and the potential benefits of formalizing its status through legislation or a TCP registry.

TCPs are essentially the same as sacred places or *hodiyyin*, and the term is borrowed from the language of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in order to mirror the US Federal system so that documentation may be consistent internal to the Navajo Nation and externally in National Parks or forests. Because *Tooh Ahidiilini* is a TCP that stretches across Navajo and National Park Service (NPS) lands, it is especially important to coordinate management with the NPS. As a part of this cooperation, the NPS and the Navajo Nation have developed a draft TCP nomination to the US National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for the entire Grand Canyon National Park. The nomination identifies the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers as a sacred place and a contributing element to the larger traditional cultural landscape of the Grand Canyon.

The draft Grand Canyon TCP nomination was developed with information from the 1995 publication *Bits'lis Ninéézi* (The River of Neverending Life), which documents Navajo connections and histories in the region. The publication was created with a great deal of assistance from the Cameron Chapter and it will be as important to coordinate with your chapter in any further efforts to designate the Confluence as a TCP through Navajo Nation legislation or other means. HHPD would be pleased to share copies of the 1995 document with the chapter if there is an interest, please let us know.

At this time no formal Navajo Nation TCP registry has been created and no site-specific legislation passed within the Navajo Nation, despite this, the informal designation by HHPD still affords the same protection under the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act (CRPA).

NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

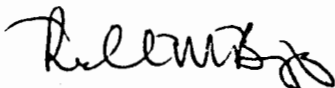
POST OFFICE BOX 7440 · WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515 · PHONE: (928) 871-7000 · FAX: (928) 871-4025

Section 1021 of the CRPA states that the Tribal Preservation Officer must approve undertakings that have the potential to effect TCPs. This approval process establishes a process of review that works with associated communities to ensure TCPs are protected to the greatest extent feasible. There are, however, also benefits to passing site specific legislation and/or finalizing the TCP registry formally. These actions, especially legislation, would be strong expressions of tribal sovereignty externally in protecting and cooperatively managing the site with the NPS. There are also interpretive and public relations benefits to these actions.

We would also like to note that *Tooh Ahidiilini* is monitored each year during Navajo Nation led scientific monitoring trips through the Grand Canyon. These trips are designed to monitor, document and produce recommendations to inform NPS and Navajo co-management of the river systems. The monitoring trips are also an opportunity to stay connected to the land, and Navajo cultural traditions through prayers and offerings at various places in the Grand Canyon corridor as well as the Little Colorado River. We will also look forward to your participation in the trips in the coming years.

Finally, please know that HHPD fully supports the chapter's resolution to designate the *Tooh Ahidiilini* as a sacred site and is happy to offer assistance to the community in pursuing legislation or any chapter supported measures. Please feel free to contact Tim Begay or Erik Stanfield with HHPD at [tbegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:tbegay@navajo-nsn.gov) or [erikstanfield@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:erikstanfield@navajo-nsn.gov) for support in this work. Erik and Tim, will follow up this letter to schedule a site visit to meet and discuss with interested community members. If you have any other questions or feedback, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Begay, Department Manager/THPO  
Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic PResrvation Department  
P.O. Box 4650 Window Rock AZ 86515  
Office: 928-871-7139 Mobile: 928-206-7099  
Email: [r.begay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:r.begay@navajo-nsn.gov)

cc: Erik Stanfield, Anthropologist, NNHHPD-GCDAMP  
Timothy Begay, Navajo Cultural Specialist, NNHHPD



## BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER

*Art Enterprise of the Navajo Nation*

P.O. Box 1546 - The Gap, AZ 86020  
Phone: (928) 283-3493 Fax: (928) 283-3496  
Email: bodaway@navajochapters.org

Raym  
Lee  
Hessie Zahne, owner, The Gap

Lee Zahne, owner, The Gap  
Luchman, owner, The Gap

HACANT, owner, The Gap  
HACANT, owner, The Gap



WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

### RESOLUTION OF THE BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER

*Naaltsoos Bee Ada Nahoditaahii*

Resolution No: BA-002-013-18

#### **RESCINDING RESOLUTION BA-09-092-12 (RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAND CANYON ESCALADE PROJECT) AND AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE AS A SACRED SITE.**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter has been certified by the Transportation and Community Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council pursuant to the Local Governance Act, 26 N.N.C., Section 102 (B) and is vested with the authority and responsibility to address local matters and concerns within its community; and
2. For the last 46 years, many Bodaway/Gap Chapter members and their families have suffered extreme economic hardship and physical dislocation due to the imposed Bennett Freeze by the U.S. Government, which has prevented the Bodaway/Gap Chapter from achieving adequate community and economic development; and
3. On July 23, 2012, the Bodaway/Gap Chapter approved a Resolution directing that all development be stopped from the Confluence (Little Colorado & Colorado Rivers) to Marble Canyon and in the surrounding areas; and
4. On October 03, 2012, the Bodaway/Gap Chapter approved a Resolution entitled "Rescinding All Prior Resolutions Relating to the Development of the Grand Canyon Escalade Project and Confluence Partners, LLC and Approving the withdrawal of up to 420 Acres of Land within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter for the Grand Canyon Escalade Project and subsequently numbered BA-09-092-12" (See Exhibit "A"); and
5. The Chapter members, Grazing Permittees, and Homesite Permittees of the Bodaway/Gap Chapter that live and utilize the subject 420 acres of the proposed Escalade Project are opposed to the project and have never given their consent for use of the affected land; and
6. On October 4, 2016, the Navajo Historic Preservations' Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) have created a Position Statement to oppose the Escalade Project at To ahidiliih (Confluence) (see Exhibit "B"); and
7. The Law and Order Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, Naabik'iyati Committee have all opposed the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "C"); and

8. The Resources and Development Committee tabled the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "D"); and
9. On October 31, 2012, the Navajo Nation Council opposed the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Voting Record of the Navajo Nation Council as Exhibit "E"); and
10. The Office of the President/Vice President of the Navajo Nation also are on record opposing the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "F"); and
11. Neighboring Tribes such as the Hopi, Zuni and others have also expressed their strong opposition to the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "G"); and
12. It is now apparent that there is no support of the Grand Canyon Escalade Project on the Navajo Nation and it is now in the best interest of the Bodaway/Gap Chapter to rescind Resolution BA-09-092-12.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter hereby rescinds, in its entirety, Resolution BA-09-092-12, entitled "Rescinding All Prior Resolutions Relating to the Development of the Grand Canyon Escalade Project and Confluence Partners, LLC and Approving the Withdrawal of up to 420 Acres of Land within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter for the Grand Canyon Escalade Project".
2. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter further hereby declares that the Grand Canyon Escalade Project as a defeated project.
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter hereby directs its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**\*\*\*\*\* CERTIFICATION \*\*\*\*\***

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED AT A DULY CALLED MEETING AT THE BODWAY/GAP CHAPTER HOUSE, (NAVAJO NATION), ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 55 IN FAVOR, 00 OPPOSED, AND 12 ABSTAINED ON THIS 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018.

MOTION: Shirley Tunney

SECOND: Rita Nakaideneh

Raymond D. Yellowman 2/27/18  
Raymond D. Yellowman, President

Leonard Sloan  
Leonard Sloan, Vice President

Bessie Zahne 2/24/18  
Bessie Zahne, Secretary/Treasurer

ABSENT  
Lee Yazzie, Jr., Grazing Official

ABSENT  
Tuchoney Slim, 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegate

# WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY



## District III Grazing Committee Members

James Beard Chairperson  
Steven Arizona Vice-Chairperson

Lee Yazzie, Jr Secretary  
Harry J. Goldtooth Member

### RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT III GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER RESOLUTION NO. D3GCM 2021-12-03

Supporting the Designation of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River Confluence and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.

#### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 3N.N.C. Subparagraph 871-884, the District III Grazing Committee have authority to oversee activities on the Navajo Nation; and
2. The Western Navajo Agency District Three Grazing Committee is vested with authority to review all matters affecting the community, to exercise corrective authority where appropriate, and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other Agencies and Entities; and
3. The Navajo Tribal Resolution CJ-6-53 dated January 13, 1953, recommended that the Advisory Committee initiate the establishment of Grazing Committees; and
4. The District III Grazing Committee Members have been informed and apprised of the utmost importance to designate the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site along with various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by Resolution at a duly called Chapter held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved and authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designator as a Sacred Site."; and
6. The families and Grazing Permittees in the affected area of the Confluence have also requested to have the Confluence designated as a Sacred Site; and
7. Nine(9) Navajo Nation Chapters within the former Bennett Freeze Area are supportive of the Confluence Sacred Site Designation and in their Draft IRMP (Integrated Resource Management Plan), it's the Chapters consensus of the CLUPC's from the nine Chapters within the former Bennett Freeze Area and endorsed by the Navajo Division of Natural Resources and the Navajo Hopi Land Commission as follows:
  - A. Water Resources: The Navajo Nation has severe water infrastructure deficiencies that impact the health, economy, and welfare of the Navajo Nation. The lack of adequate domestic and municipal water is the greatest water resource problem facing the Navajo Nation.
  - B. Recovery from the halted development, housing, transportation, utilities, and business have all been impacted by the ban on development within the FBFA.
  - C. Restriction on Development within Navajo Nation Religious Zones Protection of Navajo Nation cultural practices and areas is critical when considering development within the FBFA. The Navajo-Hopi Intergovernmental Compact recognizes the spiritual heritage of both Tribes and ensures that religious

EXHIBIT

D

tabbies

traditions can continue while ensuring the conservation of eagle nesting areas under federal law. Article 4.1 of the Navajo-Hopi Intergovernmental Compact states that no development will occur within any areas listed under Exhibit C of the Compact.

- D. Respect and Honor for traditional values such as livestock grazing and agriculture while balancing the needs for growth and development within the community; E. Protection of natural and cultural resources, historic properties, sacred sites, and sacred species.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED

1. The District III Grazing Committees Members do hereby support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the District III Grazing Committee at a duly called meeting at Tuba City Public Library, The Tuba City Navajo Nation Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of

3 In favor, ~~00~~ opposed and 01 abstained, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.

Motion: Lee Yazzie Jr

Second: Steven Arizona

James Beard  
James Beard, Chairperson

Steven Arizona  
Steven Arizona, Vice- Chairperson

Lee Yazzie Jr  
Lee Yazzie Jr, Secretary

Harry J. Goldtooth  
Harry J. Goldtooth, Member

District III Grazing Committee



June 24, 2020

TO: The Honorable Jonathan Nez President, The Navajo Nation.  
PO Box 7440; Window Rock, Arizona 86515

**AFFIDAVIT OF OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED  
BIG CANYON PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT AND ANY OTHER  
COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE**

We, the undersigned, without any undue influence and coercion, hereby oppose the Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project as proposed by Pumped Hydro Storage LLC of Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, we oppose any kind of commercial or industrial development inside the gorge of the Little Colorado River from where it joins with the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon (the Confluence) to where the LCR Gorge ends near Cameron.

Whereas, we are the actual Land Owners who have legal instruments established through Grazing Permits, Homesite Leases and Land Use Permits that have passed to us through generations of family usage, and to date, we still utilize the land being proposed by the proposed Project.

Whereas, the proposed Project will:

- have a tremendous negative impact on ourselves and our families (present and future generations); and
- adversely impact our basic livelihood, our water and our land use, our livestock, our homes, our Navajo Traditional Sacred Religious Sites, our traditional medicinal sites, among others.

Whereas, in a resolution passed by a 55-0 vote on Feb. 24, 2018, the Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site."

And whereas, we hold this land very Sacred and Spiritual to our Natural Environment, the Water, Air, Fire and Mother Earth.

Therefore, we—the undersigned—respectfully request that our Navajo Nation Leaders, Chapter/Community Leaders, Grazing Officials, all levels of Government, and other affected individuals oppose (1) the proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project; and oppose (2) any future commercial or industrial development inside the Little Colorado River Gorge and (3) that the Confluence be designated as Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation.

Nellie D. White  
Signature

Census No.

3-3  
Grazing Lease No.

\* Colina Wilson  
Signature

Census No.

3-3  
Grazing Lease No.

David Ben A. Nestence  
Signature

Census No.

3-1735  
Grazing Lease No.

Evelyn Reid  
Signature

Census No.

3-2129  
Grazing Lease No.

Wilson O. Wilson  
Signature

Census No.

3-1756  
Grazing Lease No.

L. M. S.  
Signature

Census No.

3-1548  
Grazing Lease No.

Rose A. Iversie  
Signature

Census No.

3-1757  
Grazing Lease No.

Marie Pickett  
Signature

Census No.

Penning  
Grazing Lease No. at BIA

Therefore, we—the undersigned—respectfully request that our Navajo Nation Leaders, Chapter/Community Leaders, Grazing Officials, all levels of Government, and other affected individuals oppose (1) the proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project; and oppose (2) any future commercial or industrial development inside the Little Colorado River Gorge and (3) that the Confluence be designated as Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation.

Lucille Daniel  
Signature

Census No.

3-2084  
Grazing Lease No.

[Signature]  
Signature

Census No.

3-1506  
Grazing Lease No.

Franklin W. Martin  
Signature

Census No.

3-1710  
Grazing Lease No.

Alma Daganiter  
Signature

Census No.

Grazing Lease No.

Tommy Samitsa  
Signature

Census No.

Grazing Lease No.

Signature

Census No.

Grazing Lease No.

Signature

Census No.

Grazing Lease No.

Signature

Census No.

Grazing Lease No.

JONATHAN NEZ  
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT

MYRON LIZER  
NAVAJO NATION VICE PRESIDENT

THOMAS WALKER JR.  
COUNCIL DELEGATE



CHARLIE S  
CHAPTER PR

CANDIS YAZZIE  
CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

LOUISE KERLEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER



### CAMERON CHAPTER

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### CAMERON CHAPTER THE RESOLUTION OF CAMERON CHAPTER NAVAJO NATION, COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA

Cameron Chapter Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

### RESOLUTION NO. CAM-079-286 #4

#### **Whereas:**

1. Pursuant of 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Cameron Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and;
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section I(B) Cameron Chapter is vested with the authority to Review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate Correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other Local agencies for appropriate actions, and;
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approve and support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and

NA' NÍ'Á HASÁNÍ

PO BOX 669 CAMERON, ARIZONA 86020  
<http://www.navajochapters.org>

PHONE NUMBER (928)679-2323  
FAX NUMBER (928)679-2297

JONATHAN NEZ  
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT

MYRON LIZER  
NAVAJO NATION VICE PRESIDENT

THOMAS WALKER JR.  
COUNCIL DELEGATE



CHARLIE SMITH JR  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

CANDIS YAZZIE  
CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

LOUISE KERLEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

### CAMERON CHAPTER

6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D".

#### Now Therefore Be It Resolved that:

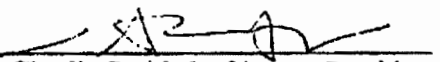
1. The Cameron Chapter of the Navajo Nation hereby support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Cameron Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

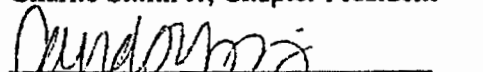
WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITY OF CAMERON AT A DULY CALLED CHAPTER MEETING IN CAMERON, (NAVAJO NATION) ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 8 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 3 ABSTAINED ON THIS SUNDAY OF March 20, 2022.

Motioned by: Marilyn Reed

Seconded by: Marie Goldtooth

  
Charlie Smith Jr, Chapter President

Thomas Walker Jr, Council Delegate

  
Candis Yazzie, Chapter Vice President

Dermayne Cody, Grazing Official

  
Louise Kerley, Chapter Secretary/Treasure

NA' NÍ'Á HASÁNÍ

PO BOX 669 CAMERON, ARIZONA 86020

[charlie@navajonations.org](mailto:charlie@navajonations.org)

PHONE NUMBER (928)679-2323

FAX NUMBER (928)679-2297

Woodie Bennett, President  
Lewis Shirley, Vice President  
Tonieka Tsosie, Sec/Treasurer  
Dr. Andy Nez, Council Delegate  
Patrick Martinez, Grazing Representv

# Sawmill Chapter

P.O. Box 1786  
Fort Defiance, AZ 86504  
(928) 729-4433 / 4432  
(928) 729-4435 FAX

Ronald Deschinny, Comm Services Coordinator  
VACANT, Accounts Maint. Specialist  
Pearlyn Paul, CHW  
Louise Mark, Senior Center Spv.

SAW-09-14-23-03

## SAWMILL CHAPTER THE RESOLUTION OF SAWMILL CHAPTER NAVAJO NATION

Sawmill Chapter Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

### Whereas:

1. Pursuant of 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Sawmill Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and;
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section 1(B) Sawmill Chapter is vested with the authority to Review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate Corrections when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other Local agencies for appropriate actions, and;
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approve and support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D"; and

7. The Cameron Chapter by Resolution on March 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and
8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023 supports to the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F".

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved that:**

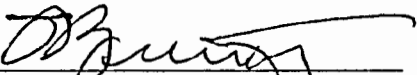
1. The Sawmill Chapter of the Navajo Nation hereby support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Sawmill Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITY OF SAWMILL AT A DULY CALLED CHAPTER MEETING IN SAWMILL, (NAVAJO NATION) ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 33 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 1 ABSTAINED ON THIS SEPTEMBER 14, 2023.

Motioned by: Larry Foster

Seconded by: Orlando Manuelito

  
Woodie Bennett, Chapter President



**TO'NANEES'DIZI LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

*"An Enterprise of the Navajo Nation"*

P.O. Box 727, Tuba City, Arizona 86045  
Telephone: 928-283-3284 Fax: 928-283-3288  
<http://www.tubacity.nndes.org>  
Email: [tonaneesdizi@navajochapters.org](mailto:tonaneesdizi@navajochapters.org)

Gerald Keetso, President  
Myra Begay, Vice-President  
Helen Webster, Secretary/Treasurer  
Steven Arizana, Council Member  
Angelita Williams, Council Member  
Durann Begay, Executive Manager  
Daniel Williams, Grazing Official  
Otto Tso, Council Delegate

Aniidi Legislation #TND-09-~~12~~2023

**ANIIDI LEGISLATION OF TONANEESDIZI LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The To'Nanees'Dizi Council of Naat'aanii pursuant to Resolution No. TCDC# TCDC-18-04, is a certified and recognized Chapter by the Navajo Nation Council, vested with the authority and responsibility to provide and address local planning within its community, and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 1 (B) is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions, and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approve and support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C";
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D"; and
7. The Cameron Chapter by Resolution on March 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and
8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023 supports to the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F".

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government of the Navajo Nation hereby supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government further hereby directs Navajo Nation Government Officials, Council Delegates, and Grazing Committee Representatives to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this Legislation.

\*\*\*\*\* CERTIFICATION \*\*\*\*\*

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government, at a duly called meeting at the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government of Tuba City (Navajo Nation), Arizona; at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained on this 6th day of September, 2023.

Motioned By: Steven Arzan

Seconded By: Angie Williams

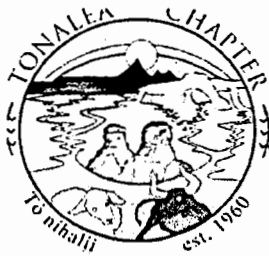
Gerald Keetso  
Gerald Keetso, Chapter President

Steven Arzan  
Steven Arzana, Council Member

Myra Begay  
Myra Begay, Vice President

Angelita Williams  
Angelita Williams, Council Member

Helen Webster  
Helen Webster, Secretary/Treasurer



# TO' NIHALII'

President: Darryl Jim

Vice President: Leslie Dele

Secretary/Treasurer: Marlinda Whiterock

Phone: (928) 283.3430

District One - Western Navajo Agency

Tonalea Chapter

P.O. Box 207

Tonalea, Arizona 86044-0207

Email: [tonalea@navajochapters.org](mailto:tonalea@navajochapters.org)

Council Delegate: Helena Nez Begay

Grazing Official: Bruce Daw

Fax: (928) 283.4332

## **RESOLUTION OF THE TONALEA CHAPTER WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY RESOLUTION NO: TN24-10-05**

### **TONALEA CHAPTER SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The Tonalea Chapter is a duly reorganized and vested the governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo law, including custom and traditions Certified (LGA) Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Part I, Section 10; and
2. The Tonalea Chapter recognized that pursuant to Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA), 26 N.N.C., § 2003, all Navajo Nation Chapters including LGA certified Chapters, are required to follow the Navajo Nation budget instructions when formulating the annual chapter and when appropriations are coming from the Navajo Nations fund; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation, by resolution at a duly called meeting held on February 24, 2018, by a vote of 55-0, approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River") to be designated as a Sacred Site. " Attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC), working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department, has designated To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency, by Resolution, approved and supported the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religious Sites to be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navaj Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado river Gorge also request that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Natin attached as "Exhibit "D"; and
7. The Cameron Chapter, by Resolution on March 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and

8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

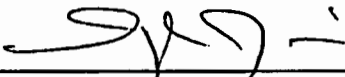
1. The Tonalea Chapter of the Navajo Nation hereby supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River Gorge, and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Tonalea Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

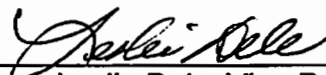
**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Tonalea Chapter, at a duly called meeting in Tonalea, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which is quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of **24** in favor, **0** opposed and **5** abstained, on this **23rd** Day of **October 2023**.

Motioned By: **Virgil Scott**

Seconded By: **Cindy S. Covey**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darryl Jim, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Dele, Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marlinda Whiterock, Secretary/Treasurer



## RESOLUTION: #LC10082023C

### RESOLUTION OF THE LECHEE CHAPTER OF THE NAVAJO NATION SUPPORTS THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.

#### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C Section 3(A) the LeChee Chapter is a duly recognized certified chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, as listed at 11N.N.C, part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C Section 1 (B) LeChee Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community; and
3. LeChee Chapter is vested with the authority to make appropriate decisions on behalf of the community and to make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other agencies for appropriate actions; and
4. The Bodaway/Gap of the Navajo Nation, by Resolution at a duly called Chapter held on February 24, 2018, by a vote of 55-0, approved, authorized, and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as Sacred Site." attached as Exhibit "A"; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hattaaah Advisory Council (HAC), working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department, has designated to: Ahidihih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached a Exhibit "B"; and
6. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency, by Resolution, approved and supported the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religious Sites to be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and
7. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the: Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D"; and
8. The Cameron Chapter, by Resolution on March 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and
9. The Leupp Chapter, by Resolution on December 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F".

**JoAnn  
Yazzie-Pioche**  
Chapter President

**Cassie Scott**  
Chapter Vice-President

**Sharla Hunt**  
Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

**Tyler Manson**  
Grazing Officer

**Helena Nez  
Begay**  
Council Delegate



File No: 17-01 LeChee-AZ-50000    File No: 17-01 LeChee-AZ-50000    File No: 17-01 LeChee-AZ-50000    File No: 17-01 LeChee-AZ-50000    File No: 17-01 LeChee-AZ-50000

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT;**

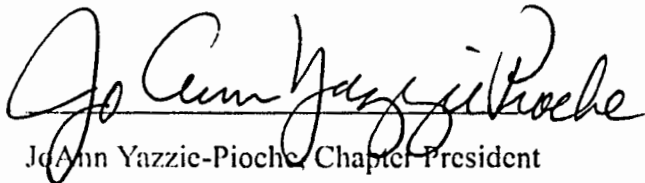
1. The LeChee Chapter of the Navajo Nation; hereby, supports the designation of the Confluence of the: Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The LeChee Chapter further; hereby, directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

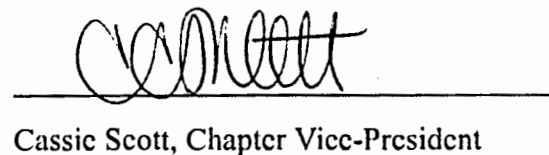
**CERTIFICATION**

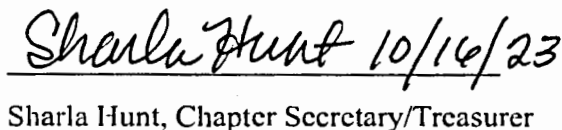
We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered at a duly called authorized meeting held at LeChee Chapter (Navajo Nation), Arizona at which a quorum was present, and that same day was passed by a vote of **29** in favor, **00** opposed and **01** abstained on this 08th day of October, 2023.

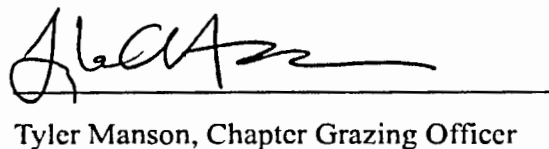
**Motion by:** Irene Whitekiller

**Seconded by:** Betty Thompson

  
JoAnn Yazzie-Pioche, Chapter President

  
Cassie Scott, Chapter Vice-President

  
Sharla Hunt, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

  
Tyler Manson, Chapter Grazing Officer

Helena Nez Begay, Council Delegate

JoAnn  
Yazzie-Pioche  
Chapter President

Cassie Scott  
Chapter Vice-President

Sharla Hunt  
Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

Tyler Manson  
Grazing Officer

Helena Nez  
Begay  
Council Delegate



**THE NAVAJO NATION  
FORT DEFIANCE CHAPTER**

P.O. Box 366, Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504  
Phone: (928) 729-4352 Fax: (928) 729-4353  
Email: [ftdefiance@navajochapters.org](mailto:ftdefiance@navajochapters.org)

Aaron D. Sam, President  
Genevieve Jackson, Vice President  
Grace Tracy, Secretary/Treasurer  
Herman Billie, Grazing Official  
Dr. Andy Nez, 25<sup>th</sup> Council Delegate

Dr. Buu Nygren  
Navajo Nation President

Richelle Montoya  
Navajo Nation Vice President

**RESOLUTION OF FORT DEFIANCE CHAPTER**

**Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites** **FDC-2023-OCT-10-02**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Fort Defiance Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section 1(B) Fort Defiance Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate corrections when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions, and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A," and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisor Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B," and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approved and supported the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C," and
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the confluence be designated as Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D," and
7. The Cameron Chapter by Resolution on March 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E," and
8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F."

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Fort Defiance Chapter of the Navajo Nation supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, and Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Fort Defiance Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITY OF FORT DEFIANCE AT A DULY CALLED CHAPTER MEETING IN FORT DEFIANCE, (NAVAJO NATION) ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 21 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 4 ABSTAINED, ON THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2023.

MOTIONED

Dr. Andy Nez  
Aaron Sam  
Aaron Sam, Chapter President

SECONDED:

Wilson Stewart, Jr.

TYPED:LN

# Chinle Chapter Government

THE NAVAJO NATION

Dr. Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch

PRESIDENT

Cynthia Hunter

VICE PRESIDENT

RoAnn Burbank

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Shawna Ann Claw

COUNCIL DELEGATE

Oscar Bia Sr.

GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER

## RESOLUTION OF THE CHINLE CHAPTER NAVAJO NATION CHIN-MAR-24-019

### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.

#### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant of 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Chinle Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., Part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section 1(B) Chinle Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community, to make appropriate corrections when necessary and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other Local agencies for appropriate actions; and
3. Navajo Historic Preservation informally recognizes the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers, To ahidiiliih, as a sacred place and a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) because of the community's history and is very important in maintaining the cultural identity of the community (Exhibit "B"); and
4. The Proposed Project will adversely impact the basic livelihood of community members, the water, land use, livestock, homes, the Navajo Traditional Sacred Religious Sites, and traditional medicinal sites, among others (Exhibit "D"); and
5. Attached as Exhibits are Resolutions in Support of the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites:
  - Exhibit "A" BA-002-013-18, Resolution of the Bodaway/Gap Chapter
  - Exhibit "C" D3GCM 2021-12-03, District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency Resolution
  - Exhibit "E" CAM-079-286 #4, Resolution of the Cameron Chapter
  - Exhibit "F" Resolution of the Leupp Chapter
  - Exhibit "G" FDC-2023-OCT-10-02, Resolution of the Fort Defiance Chapter
  - Exhibit "H" SAW-09-14-23-03, Resolution of the Sawmill Chapter

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Chinle Chapter hereby supports the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.

#### CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the forgoing resolution was considered by the community of Chinle at a duly called chapter meeting in Chinle, (Navajo Nation) Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstained on this 22<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Motioned by: Sharon Yazzie

Seconded by: Patricia Bia

# Chinle Chapter Government

THE NAVAJO NATION

**Dr. Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch**

PRESIDENT

**Cynthia Hunter**

VICE PRESIDENT

**RoAnn Burbank**

SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Shawna Ann Claw**

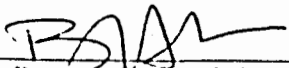
COUNCIL DELEGATE

**Oscar Bia Sr.**

GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER

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PAGE 2; CHIN-MAR-24-019

  
Dr. Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch, Chapter President

  
Cynthia Hunter, Chapter Vice President

  
RoAnn Burbank, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

**Chapter President**  
*Allen Fowler Jr.*

## **COPPERMINE CHAPTER**



**Council Delegate**  
*Helena Nez Begay*

**Chapter Vice President**  
*Lola Smith*

**Grazing Committee**  
*Stanford Fowler*

**The Navajo Nation**

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
*Valerie Fowler*

**Western Navajo Agency - District One**  
**P.O. Box 1323 Page, Arizona 86040**  
**Telephone No: (928) 691-1109**

**Community  
Service Coordinator**  
*Minnette Roundstone*

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CO-10-003-24

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COPPERMINE CHAPTER**

**SUPPORTING AND RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE (TOOH AHIDILII) OF THE LITTLE COLORADO AND THE COLORADO RIVERS; AND THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AS TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY THROUGH THE U.S. NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP); AND OPPOSING ANY LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR ACTIONS WHICH MAY NEGATE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE AREA.**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The Coppermine Chapter is a duly-recognized and certified chapter of the Navajo Nation Government pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 3; 11 N.N.C., Part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to Title 26, N.N.C. Section 1 (B), The Coppermine Chapter is vested with governmental authority to review all matters affecting the community; to take appropriate corrective action as necessary; and to make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other governmental agencies; and
3. The Western Navajo Agency chapters of Bodaway/Gap, Cameron, Leupp, and Tuba City, through their respective resolutions, support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers; the Little Colorado River Gorge and other culturally and spiritually related significant areas as sacred (Hodiyin) sites; and
4. The District #3 Grazing Committee, Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) and local land users and residents through petition and position statements, are opposed to the Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project which will adversely impact the natural, cultural, economic, historical and recreational value of the areas; and
5. The Coppermine Chapter recognizes that the Confluence as a significant contributing element to the larger Grand Canyon National Park landscape and is worthy of the nomination as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) to the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places; and
6. The Coppermine Chapter opposes the proposed Western Pumped Storage Project #2 located in both chapters along the Echo Cliffs; and
7. Coppermine Chapter furthermore, opposes both the Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and the Western Pumped Storage Project #2 as it will negatively impact scarce groundwater pumping, land and watershed health scenic outdoor recreation, historic and cultural preservation, and threatened and endangered species protection.

8. The Coppermine Chapter also welcomes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's denial of preliminary permit applications due to lack of consultation, project reviews, and the addressing of concerns and consent of local communities and the Navajo Nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Coppermine Chapter hereby supports and recommends the designation of the Confluence (Tooh Ahidilii) of the Little Colorado and the Colorado Rivers and the Little Colorado River Gorge as traditional cultural property through the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP); and opposing any large scale development plans or actions which may negate the positive aspects of the area.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, hereby certify, that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting at Coppermine Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 10 abstained on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

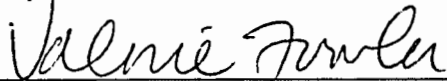
Motioned by: Paul Begay      Seconded by: Linda Long



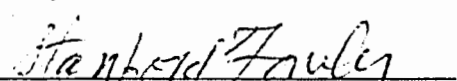
Chapter President- Allen Fowler Jr.



Chapter Vice-President- Lola Smith



Chapter Secretary/Treasurer- Valerie Fowler



Chapter Grazing Official- Stanford Fowler

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Delegate- Helena Nez Begay



# WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

GERALD KEETSO    ROLAND SMALLCANYON    CANDIS YAZZIE



## RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: WNAC24-08-NB6

### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Western Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing Eighteen (18) Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Western Navajo Agency; and
2. The Western Navajo Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Western Navajo Agency; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties; and
4. The Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Tonalea, LeChee and Coppermine Chapters have also voted by Chapter Resolutions to support the designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties Protection; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
6. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
7. It would be in the best interest of the Western Navajo Agency Council that Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Birdsprings ~ Bodaway/Gap ~ Cameron ~ Chilchinbeto ~ Coalmine ~ Coppermine ~ Dennehotso ~  
Kaibeto ~ Kayenta ~ LeChee ~ Leupp ~ Navajo Mountain ~ Oljato ~ Shonto ~ Tolani Lake  
~Tónaneesdizi ~Tonalea ~ Ts'ah Bii' Kin



# WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

GERALD KEETSO

ROLAND SMALLCANYON

CANDIS YAZZIE



1. The Western Navajo Agency Council hereby support the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Western Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

## CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Western Agency Council at a duly called meeting in Kaibeto, Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which time a quorum was present. A motion was made by Joann Yazzie Pioche and seconded by Angela Cody and the same was passed by a vote of 15 in favor, 2 opposed, and 9 abstained, this 8th day of June 2024.

Gerald Keetso, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roland Smallcanyon, Vice President

Candis Yazzie, Secretary

Birdsprings ~ Bodaway/Gap ~ Cameron ~ Chilchinbeto ~ Coalmine ~ Coppermine ~ Dennehotso ~  
Kaibeto ~ Kayenta ~ LeChee ~ Leupp ~ Navajo Mountain ~ Oljato ~ Shonto ~ Tolani Lake  
~Tónaneesdizi ~Tonalea ~ Ts'ah Bii' Kin

**RESOLUTION OF THE FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL**

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.**

**Whereas:**

1. The Fort Defiance Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing 26 Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Fort Defiance Agency; and
2. The Fort Defiance Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Fort Defiance Agency; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is; and
4. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
6. The Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Resolutions being approved by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
7. The District 18 Council of Fort Defiance Agency on June 08, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site, as well as Sawmill and Fort Defiance Chapters; and
8. It would be in the best interest of the Fort Defiance Agency Council that Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Fort Defiance Agency Council hereby supports the designation of the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other cultural/spiritual sites as sacred sites.

2. The Fort Defiance Agency Council hereby further requests that the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related cultural/spiritual sites as sacred sites.

**CERTIFICATION**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL AT A DULY CALLED MEETING AT FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZONA AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 17 IN FAVOR AND 3 OPPOSED AND 2 ABSTAINED, ON THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2024.

**MOTIONED BY: Sharon Smith**

**SECONDED BY: Timothy Begay**

**LaVonne Tsosie**

**LaVonne Tsosie, President**



**CHINLE AGENCY COUNCIL  
THE NAVAJO NATION**

*Dr. Buu Nygren, President*

*Richelle Montoya, Vice-President*

Joseph Dedman  
President

Paul Jim  
Vice-President

Elliot K Bryant  
Secretary

**RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL (CHINLE)  
NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO: CAC-SEP-28-05**

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE  
COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO  
RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS  
SACRED SITES.**

**Whereas:**

1. The Central Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing Eighteen (18) Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Central Navajo Agency; and
2. The Central Navajo Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Central Navajo Agency; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is; and
4. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
6. The Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Resolutions being approved by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
7. The Fort Defiance Agency Council on July 13, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site; and
8. The Chinle Chapter on March 22, 2024 Voted to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site (see attached Exhibit "A"); and

9. It would be in the best interest of the Central Navajo Agency Council that it support Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Central (Chinle) Navajo Agency Council hereby support the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Central (Chinle) Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

**CERTIFICATION**

**WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE CENTRAL (CHINLE) NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL AT A DULY CALLED MEETING IN ROUGH ROCK (ARIZONA) NAVAJO NATION AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 14 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED AND 3 ABSTAINED ON THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.**

**MOTIONED BY:** Ramona Nalwood

**SECONDED BY:** Paula S. Begay

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Joseph Dedman, Jr., President**  
**Central Navajo Agency Council**

"Absent"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Paul Jim, Vice-President**  
**Central Navajo Agency Council**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Elliot K. Bryant, Secretary**  
**Central Navajo Agency Council**



**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL  
THE NAVAJO NATION**

**No. ENAC-12-2024-033**

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND  
THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED  
CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing twenty-seven (27) Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Eastern Navajo Agency; and
2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Eastern Navajo Agency; and
3. Pursuant 2 N.N.C SECTION: 4028; the Eastern Navajo Agency Council is vested with government authority to review all matters affecting the community to make most appropriate recommendations when necessary to the Navajo Nation, County, State, Federal and other local agencies; and
4. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 - 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is; and
5. Whereas the District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
6. Whereas the Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
7. Whereas the Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Other Resolutions approved are by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
8. Whereas the Fort Defiance Agency Council on July 13, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site; and
9. Whereas the Central Navajo Agency Council on September 28, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site; and
10. Whereas it would be in the best interest of the Eastern Navajo Agency Council that it support Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

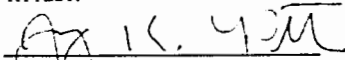
1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby supports the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

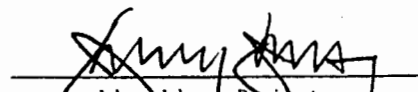
**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved by the Eastern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting at Tsayatoh, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 56 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained, this 7th day of December 2024.

Motion: Milton Davidson, Manuelito Chapter  
Second: Jay DeGroat, Marlano Lake Chapter

ATTEST:

  
Judy Platero, Secretary

  
Johnny Johnson, President



# NORTHERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL THE NAVAJO NATION

Dr. J. Kaibah Begay  
President

Daron Yellowhorse  
Vice-President

Matthew D. Tso  
Secretary

NNAC-219-2024

## Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and Other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites

### WHEREAS:

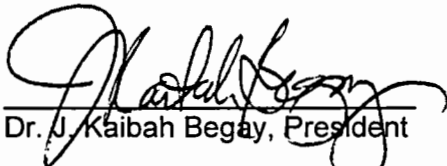
1. Pursuant to IGRD-269-05, the Northern Navajo Agency Council is a recognized political subdivision of the Navajo Nation and has the authority to advocate and make appropriate recommendations on behalf of the nineteen (19) Northern Agency Chapters to the Navajo Nation Government, Federal, State, and Local entities for appropriate action.
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. § 103 (D) (4), the Northern Navajo Agency Council, a consortium of elected Chapter Officials representing nineteen (19) Navajo Nation Chapters, agree to address and undertake common goals and interests for the benefit of the Northern Navajo Agency Chapters.
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is.
4. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties.
6. The Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Other Resolutions approved are by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
7. 8. The Fort Defiance Agency Council on July 13, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site.
8. The Central Navajo Agency Council on September 28, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site.
9. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council (Comprising of 31 Chapters) on December 07, 2024 of TseYaToh Chapter approved a Supporting Resolution for the Designation of Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.
10. Whereas it would be in the best interest of the Northern Navajo Agency Council that it supports Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

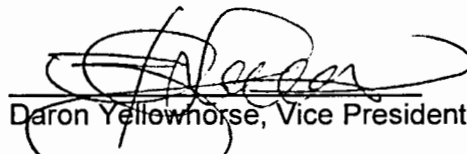
1. The Northern Navajo Agency Council supports and approves hereby Support the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Northern Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Northern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting at Upper Fruitland Chapter, Upper Fruitland, New Mexico (Navajo Nation) which a quorum was present. A motion was made by James Benally and seconded by Nevina Kinlicheeny and the same was passed by a vote of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 6 abstained, this 21st day of December 2024.



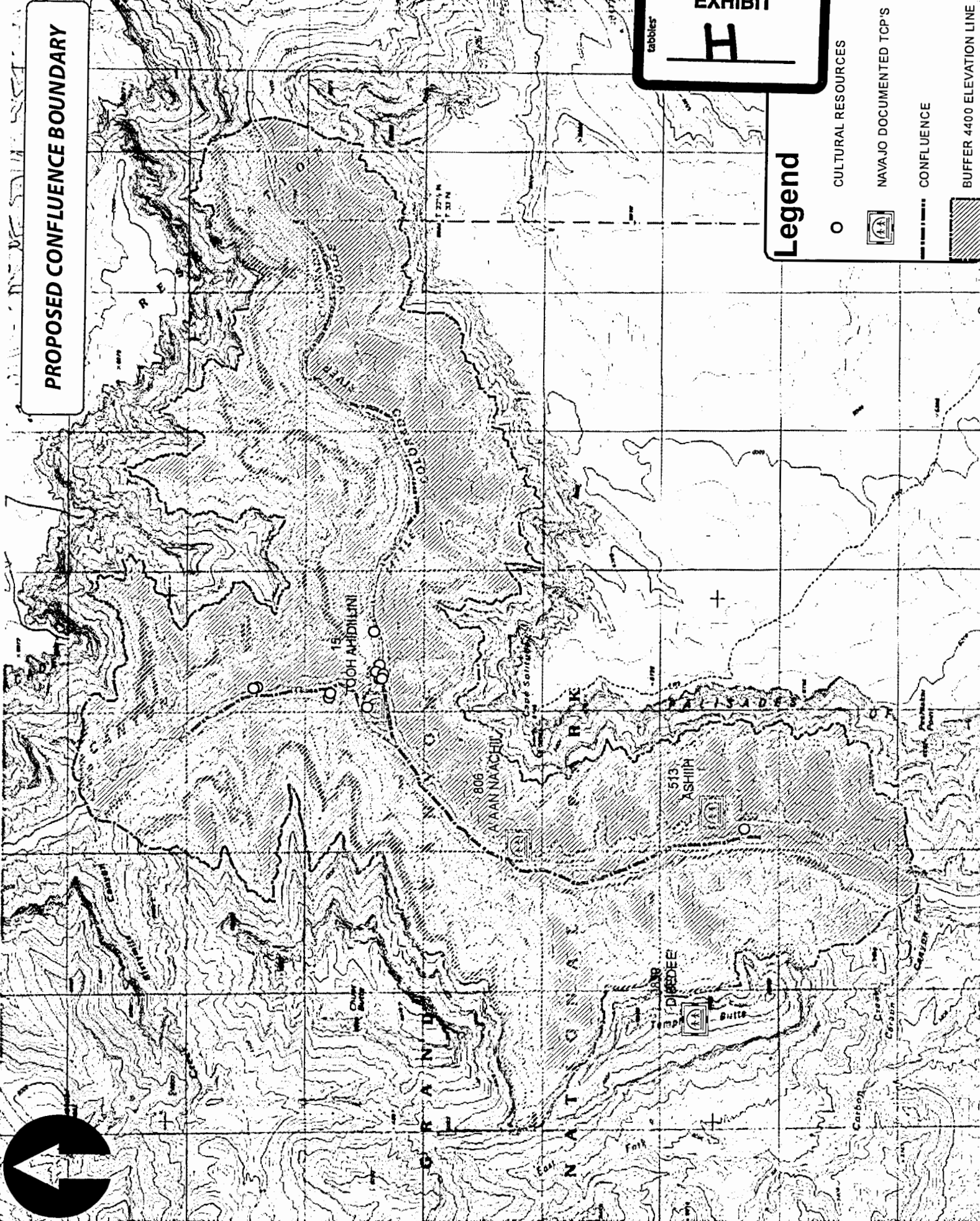
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, President



Daron Yellowhorse, Vice President



Matthew D. Tso, Secretary



PROPOSED CONFLUENCE BOUNDARY

tabbles

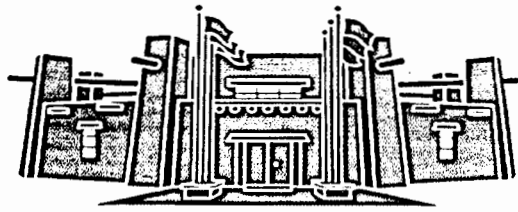
**EXHIBIT**

**Legend**

- CULTURAL RESOURCES
- NAVAJO DOCUMENTED TCP'S
- CONFLUENCE
- BUFFER 4400 ELEVATION LINE

Copyright

Office of Legislative Counsel  
Telephone: (928) 871-7166  
Fax No. (928) 871-7576

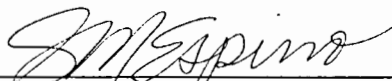


Honorable Crystalyne Curley  
Speaker  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Curtis Yanito, *Council Delegate*  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM:

  
G. Michelle Espino, *Chief Legislative Counsel*  
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: July 8, 2026

SUBJECT: **AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; DESIGNATING TOOH AHIDIILÍNÍ, THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SPIRITUAL SITES WITHIN THE BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER AS A SACRED SITE**

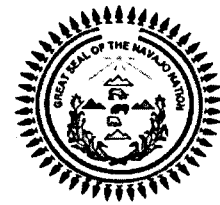
As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

**Please ensure that this resolution request is precisely what you want.** You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees' powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like to make to the proposed resolution.

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0172-26\_

SPONSOR: Curtis Yanito

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíní, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site**

***Date posted: July 08, 2026 at 1:03PM***

**Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)**

**Written comments may be mailed to:**

**Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586**

**Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.**

**Please note:** This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0172-26

SPONSOR: Honorable Curtis Yanito

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíní, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site**

Posted: July 08, 2026, at 1:03 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 13, 2026

Digital Comments received:

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Comments Supporting      | 1. Delores Wilson-Aguirre |
| Comments Opposing        | <i>None</i>               |
| Comments/Recommendations | <i>None</i>               |

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legislative Secretary II  
Office of Legislative Services

July 14, 2026; 8:15 AM  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time

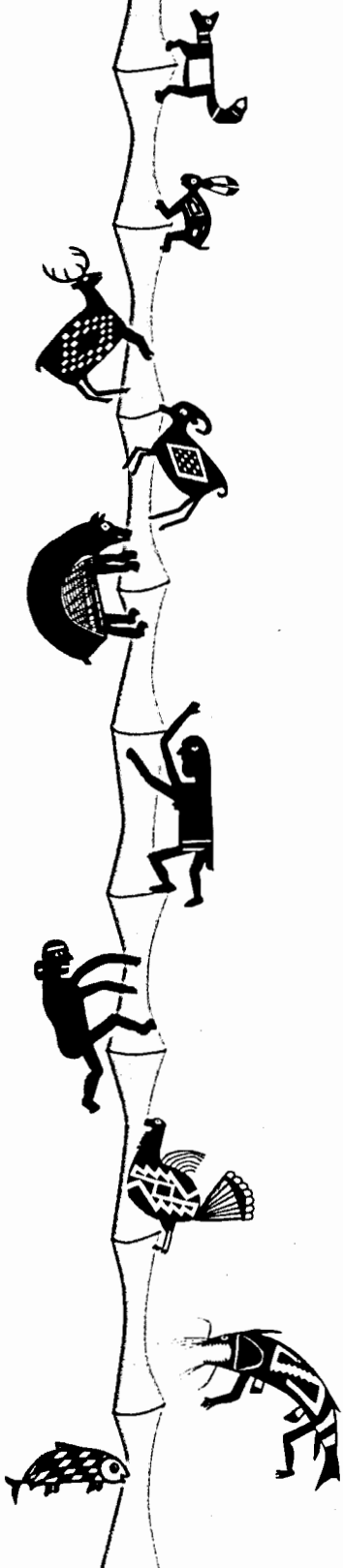
# Save The Confluence

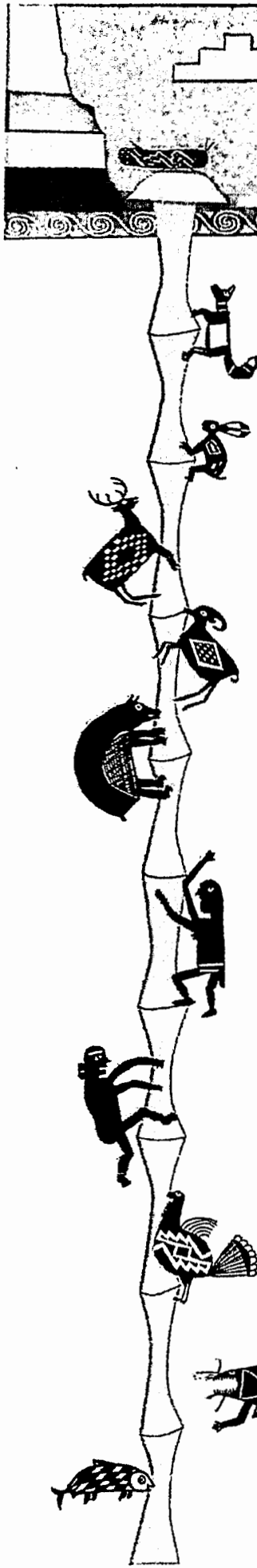
[www.savetheconfluence.com](http://www.savetheconfluence.com) email: [getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com](mailto:getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com)

Draft Legislation

&

Exhibits of Support for  
Sacred Site Designation  
May 2025





# Save The Confluence

www.savetheconfluence.com email: [getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com](mailto:getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com)

January 27, 2025

Attn: 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Re: Sacred Site Legislation at the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River

I am reaching out to all the Council Delegates regarding the Save the Confluence family's proposed sacred site legislation at the Confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers, situated at the western end of the Navajo Nation. We have been extending invitations to our leadership through various channels, including email, in-person notifications, community gatherings, and mail, all focused on our mission. We value your input and suggestions on the profound implications of our proposed sacred site legislation at the Confluence of the Little Colorado River, a site of immense cultural importance to the Navajo Nation and other Arizona tribes. We plan to present this proposed legislation to the esteemed Navajo Nation Council for consideration during the Spring Session 2025.

As a testament to our unwavering commitment, Save the Confluence has been actively advocating for the designation of the Confluence as a sacred site since 2012, where spiritual practices, including praying with our corn pollen, are performed, and it is revered as a place of worship. The Little Colorado is referred to as Bi'tiis Al'tsozi, meaning the river with the tiny soul, and Bi'tiis Ni'Nez, signifying the River with the long soul. We continue to offer prayers with our corn pollen at this site, seeking to communicate with the mighty rivers, wind, sky, and sacred-banded rock canyons, and petitioning for prosperity, from harm and optimal health.

In 2009, an outside self-proclaimed developer pushed himself onto the Navajo Nation to build the Grand Canyon Escalade and presented legislation before the Navajo Nation Council, which the Council rejected in 2017. The bill proposed to build a tourist resort/gondola site on 420 acres of Navajoland on the rim of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers. The escalade is similar to an elevator; the idea was to take tourists to the

# Save The Confluence

www.savetheconfluence.com email: getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com

bottom of the Canyon, the Confluence. We, Save the Confluence families fought for eight years opposing the escalade project. Many of these outside developers encroach on our land to make money, and commission of their own, it is not for the Navajo people. They also want the Navajo Nation government to pay for the projects.

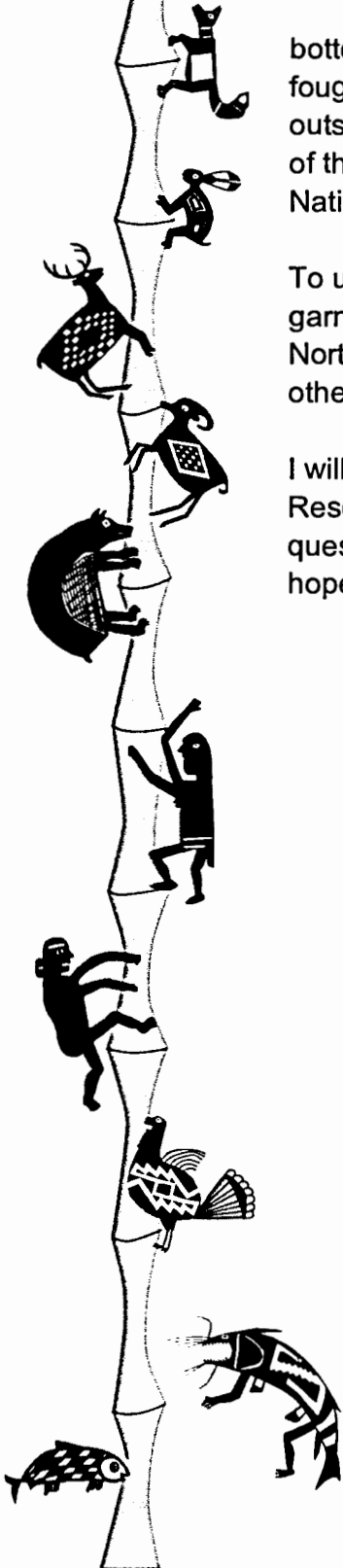
To underscore the support for protecting the Confluence, we have now garnered resolutions of support from all five agency councils (Central, Northern, Fort Defiance, Eastern, and Western) along with fourteen (14) other resolutions from across Navajo Nation.

I will continue to reach out to all the Council Delegates and specifically the Resource & Development Committee members. If you should have any questions, you may contact me directly at 928-660-3958 or by email. I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Delores Wilson-Aguirre  
Save the Confluence Chair

Attachment: Sacred Site Legislation & supporting resolutions



AN ACT OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – SECOND YEAR, 2024

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF *TOOH AHIDIILÍNÍ*, THE  
CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER,  
AND OTHER VARIOUS CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SACRED SITES AS SACRED  
SITES

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. Authority

- A. *We need to confirm the authority. We are not proposing a land withdrawal (if we were, the Resources and Development Committee, which is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council, has oversight authority for environmental and cultural resource protection and has the enumerated power of granting approval for all land withdrawals (Navajo Nation Code Title II, Article 3, § 501, p. 38)).*
- B. The Resolution “Rescinding Resolution BA-09-092-12 (Related to the Development of the Grand Canyon Escalade Project) and Authorizing the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site” directs the Bodaway-Gap Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site.
- C. *Add 1970s Navajo Natopm law that lists some sites.*

SECTION TWO. Findings

The Navajo Nation Council finds that:

- A. The Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River is vital and significant to all Nihokáá dine’ é bila’ashdla’ii - Five-Fingered People. The Diné, Hopi, Zuni, Southern Paiute, and Cibecue and White Mountain Apache people identify this area as ancestral homelands.
- B. Diné offerings are made to the river for protection. During World War I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, offerings were made to the river at the Confluence for the protection of our soldiers.
- C. The Navajo Historic Preservation’s Hataa’ii Advisory Council, working through the Navajo Nation Department of Heritage and Historic Preservation Department, has designated *Tooh ahidiilini* (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Property under the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act (Navajo Nation Code, Title 19, Chapter 11–§ 1001-1061), meaning it is deemed to be important enough to warrant future listing in a Navajo Nation Register of Cultural Properties.
- D. The National Park Service and the Navajo Nation have developed a draft Traditional Cultural Property nomination to the US National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for the entire Grand Canyon National Park. The nomination identifies the Confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers (GCES-33) as a sacred place and a contributing element to the larger traditional cultural landscape of the Grand Canyon. Because of this

draft nomination for the NRHP, *Tooh ahidiilini* is now managed informally as a Traditional Cultural Property. (DOI, NPS Bulletin 38, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*).

- E. Recent commercial and energy development proposals in and near the lower Little Colorado River Gorge and Confluence indicate increased pressure on cultural resources and water supply.
- F. On October 4, 2016, the Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataali Advisory Council stated that direct impacts from development to *Tooh ahidiilini* will decrease the effectiveness of the Navajo ceremonies which are practiced day to day by Navajo People to restore health and balance.
- G. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency, the Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River, Bodaway-Gap Chapter, Cameron Chapter, Chinle Chapter, Coppermine Chapter, Fort Defiance Chapter, LeChee Chapter, Leupp Chapter, To'Nanees'Dizi Chapter, Tonalea Chapter, and Sawmill Chapter have passed resolutions supporting the designation of the Confluence as a sacred site.
- H. On September 3, 2021, the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department issued a letter supporting the designation of *Tooh ahidiilini* as a sacred site.
- I. A Navajo Nation legislative designation that identifies the area as a sacred site, or *hodiin*, is a strong external expression of tribal sovereignty in protecting and cooperatively managing *Tooh ahidiilini* with the National Park Service.

#### SECTION THREE. Definitions

- A. NAVAJO NATION CULTURAL PROPERTY means any cultural resource deemed to be important enough to warrant listing in the Navajo Register as defined by Navajo Nation Code, Title 19, Chapter 11–§ 1003 (C).
- B. TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY means one that is eligible for inclusion in the US National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community as defined by the National Park Service Bulletin 38.
- C. SACRED SITE means (this needs to be defined either by pointing to an existing authority or by using a novel definition)

#### SECTION FOUR. Designation of *Tooh ahidiilini*-- the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and other related cultural/spiritual sites as sacred sites.

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby designates *Tooh ahidiilini*-- the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and other various cultural, religious, and sacred sites as sacred sites.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby discourages development that is unwanted by the local Grazing permittees that would impact the cultural and spiritual sites of *Tooh ahidiilini* and their associated cultural practices.
- C. Nothing in this legislation shall be construed to alter or affect the valid existing water rights of any party, including any tribal government or the United States, or to alter or affect any water right settlements or adjudications, whether settled or to be settled in the future. Nothing in this legislation shall be construed to alter or affect the 2006 Navajo-

Confluence Sacred Site Legislation Draft – Update 4/8/2024

Hopi Intergovernmental Compact or any jurisdictional disputes between the Navajo Nation and any other tribe or government.

- D. Nothing in the legislation shall be construed to alter or affect the boundaries of the Navajo Nation or any other tribe or government.

SECTION FIVE. Map

- A. See Exhibit B. to be determined by the Hataali

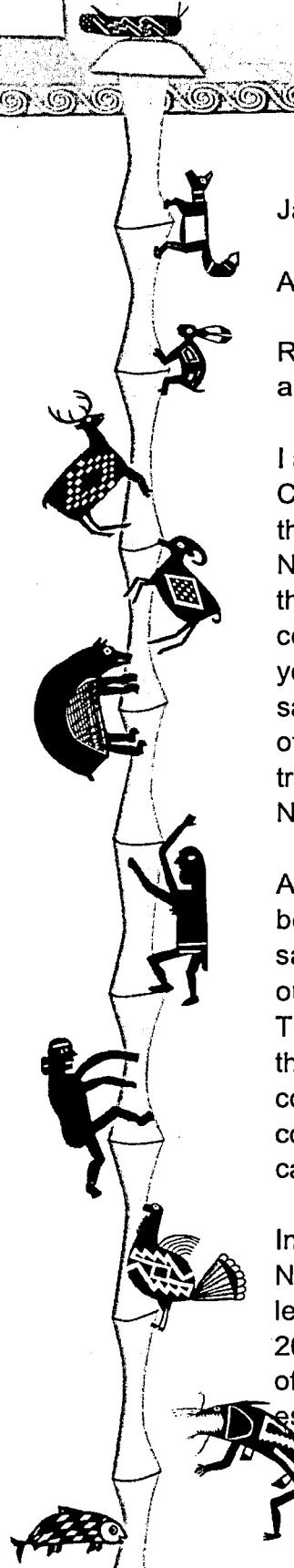
CERTIFICATION.

## **Table of Contents**

1. Letter of Endorsement from Save the Confluence for Sacred Site Legislation
2. Draft Sacred Site Legislation

## **Exhibits**

- A. Bodaway-Gap 2018 Resolution of Support – Passed February 2018
- B. Resolution of Support for Sacred Site Designation for Cameron Chapter – Passed March 2022
- C. Leupp Chapter Resolution of Support – Passed December 2022
- D. Bodaway/Gap and Cameron Chapter Grazing Permittees who support the Sacred Site Designation
- E. Letter from Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department re: Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers, Tooh Ahidiilini, as a Traditional Cultural Property
- F. Navajo Nation Hataalii Advisory Council Position Statement
- G. District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency supporting the Sacred Site Designation
- H. Sawmill Chapter Resolution of Support
- I. To’Nannes’Nizi Chapter Resolution of Support
- J. Tonalea Chapter Resolution of Support
- K. LeChee Chapter Resolution of Support
- L. Fort Defiance Chapter Resolution of Support
- M. Chinle Chapter Resolution of Support
- N. Coppermine Chapter Resolution of Support
- O. Chinle Agency Council Resolution of Support
- P. Western Navajo Agency Council Resolution of Support
- Q. Fort Defiance Agency Council Resolution of Support
- R. Eastern Navajo Agency Council Resolution of Support
- S. Northern Navajo Agency Council Resolution of Support
- T. Letter of Support from Navajo Nation Parks & Recreation Department
- U. Diné Hataalii Association Support Resolution
- V. Western Navajo Agency Veterans Support Resolution
- W. Renewed Support Letter Historic Preservation Department
- X. Support Letter from Grand Canyon National Park
- Y. Support Letters from Local Veterans/Families/Support Groups
- Z. Support Resolution from Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission



# Save The Confluence

www.savetheconfluence.com email: [getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com](mailto:getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com)

January 27, 2025

Attn: 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

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# **BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER**

*An Enterprise of the Navajo Nation*

P.O. Box 1346 - The Gap, AZ 86020  
Phone: (928) 283-3493 Fax: (928) 283-3196  
Email: bodaway@navajochapters.org

*Raymond Yellowman, President  
Leonard Shon, Vice President  
Beverly Zahne, Secretary*

*Lee Yazzie, Clerk of the Chapter  
Tuchoney Slim, Counsel*

*VACANT, Chapter Attorney  
VACANT, Chapter Auditor*

WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

## **RESOLUTION OF THE BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER**

*Naaltsoos Bee Ada Nahoditaahli*

Resolution No: BA-002-013-18

### **RESCINDING RESOLUTION BA-09-092-12 (RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAND CANYON ESCALADE PROJECT) AND AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE AS A SACRED SITE.**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter has been certified by the Transportation and Community Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council pursuant to the Local Governance Act, 26 N.N.C., Section 102 (B) and is vested with the authority and responsibility to address local matters and concerns within its community; and
2. For the last 46 years, many Bodaway/Gap Chapter members and their families have suffered extreme economic hardship and physical dislocation due to the imposed Bennett Freeze by the U.S. Government, which has prevented the Bodaway/Gap Chapter from achieving adequate community and economic development; and
3. On July 23, 2012, the Bodaway/Gap Chapter approved a Resolution directing that all development be stopped from the Confluence (Little Colorado & Colorado Rivers) to Marble Canyon and in the surrounding areas; and
4. On October 03, 2012, the Bodaway/Gap Chapter approved a Resolution entitled "Rescinding All Prior Resolutions Relating to the Development of the Grand Canyon Escalade Project and Confluence Partners, LLC and Approving the withdrawal of up to 420 Acres of Land within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter for the Grand Canyon Escalade Project and subsequently numbered BA-09-092-12" (See Exhibit "A"); and
5. The Chapter members, Grazing Permittees, and Homesite Permittees of the Bodaway/Gap Chapter that live and utilize the subject 420 acres of the proposed Escalade Project are opposed to the project and have never given their consent for use of the affected land; and
6. On October 4, 2016, the Navajo Historic Preservations' Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) have created a Position Statement to oppose the Escalade Project at To ahidiliih (Confluence) (see Exhibit "B"); and
7. The Law and Order Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, Naabik'iyati Committee have all opposed the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "C"); and

8. The Resources and Development Committee tabled the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "D"); and
9. On October 31, 2012, the Navajo Nation Council opposed the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Voting Record of the Navajo Nation Council as Exhibit "E"); and
10. The Office of the President/Vice President of the Navajo Nation also are on record opposing the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "F"); and
11. Neighboring Tribes such as the Hopi, Zuni and others have also expressed their strong opposition to the Grand Canyon Escalade Project (see Exhibit "G"); and
12. It is now apparent that there is no support of the Grand Canyon Escalade Project on the Navajo Nation and it is now in the best interest of the Bodaway/Gap Chapter to rescind Resolution BA-09-092-12.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter hereby rescinds, in its entirety, Resolution BA-09-092-12, entitled "Rescinding All Prior Resolutions Relating to the Development of the Grand Canyon Escalade Project and Confluence Partners, LLC and Approving the Withdrawal of up to 420 Acres of Land within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter for the Grand Canyon Escalade Project".
2. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter further hereby declares that the Grand Canyon Escalade Project as a defeated project.
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter hereby directs its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**\*\*\*\*\* CERTIFICATION \*\*\*\*\***

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED AT A DULY CALLED MEETING AT THE BODWAY/GAP CHAPTER HOUSE, (NAVAJO NATION), ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 55 IN FAVOR, 00 OPPOSED, AND 12 ABSTAINED ON THIS 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018.

MOTION: Shirley Tunney

SECOND: Rita Nakaideneh

Raymond D. Yellowman 2/27/18  
Raymond D. Yellowman, President

Leonard Sloan  
Leonard Sloan, Vice President

Bessie Zahne 2/24/18  
Bessie Zahne, Secretary/Treasurer

ABSENT  
Lee Yazzie, Jr., Grazing Official

ABSENT  
Tuchoney Slim, 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegate

Exhibit "F"

JONATHAN NEZ  
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT

MYRON LIZER  
NAVAJO NATION VICE PRESIDENT

THOMAS WALKER JR.  
COUNCIL DELEGATE



CHARLIE SMITH JR  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

CANDIS YAZZIE  
CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

LOUISE KERLEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

## CAMERON CHAPTER

---

### CAMERON CHAPTER THE RESOLUTION OF CAMERON CHAPTER NAVAJO NATION, COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA

Cameron Chapter Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

#### RESOLUTION NO. CAM-079-286 #4

#### Whereas:

1. Pursuant of 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Cameron Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and;
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section 1(B) Cameron Chapter is vested with the authority to Review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate Correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other Local agencies for appropriate actions, and;
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approve and support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and

NA' NÍ'Á HASÁNÍ

PO BOX 669 CAMERON, ARIZONA 86020  
[www.navajochapters.org](http://www.navajochapters.org)

PHONE NUMBER (928)679-2323  
FAX NUMBER (928)679-2297

JONATHAN NEZ  
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT

MYRON LIZER  
NAVAJO NATION VICE PRESIDENT

THOMAS WALKER JR.  
COUNCIL DELEGATE



CHARLIE SMITH JR  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

CANDIS YAZZIE  
CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

LOUISE KERLEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

### CAMERON CHAPTER

6. The Grazing Permittces and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D".

#### Now Therefore Be It Resolved that:

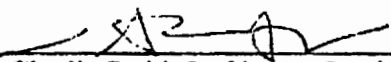
1. The Cameron Chapter of the Navajo Nation hereby support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Cameron Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

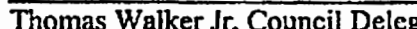
### CERTIFICATION

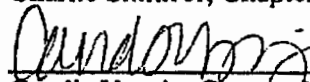
WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITY OF CAMERON AT A DULY CALLED CHAPTER MEETING IN CAMERON, (NAVAJO NATION) ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 8 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 3 ABSTAINED ON THIS SUNDAY OF March 20, 2022.

Motioned by: Marilyn Reed

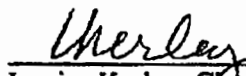
Seconded by: Marie Goldtooth

  
Charlie Smith Jr, Chapter President

  
Thomas Walker Jr, Council Delegate

  
Candis Yazzie, Chapter Vice President

  
Dermayne Cody, Grazing Official

  
Louise Kerley, Chapter Secretary/Treasure

NA' NÍ'Á HASÁNÍ

PO BOX 669 CAMERON, ARIZONA 86020  
[cameron@navajochapters.org](mailto:cameron@navajochapters.org)

PHONE NUMBER (928)679-2323  
FAX NUMBER (928)679-2297

June 24, 2020

TO: The Honorable Jonathan Nez President, The Navajo Nation.  
PO Box 7440; Window Rock, Arizona 86515

**AFFIDAVIT OF OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED  
BIG CANYON PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT AND ANY OTHER  
COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE**

We, the undersigned, without any undue influence and coercion, hereby oppose the Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project as proposed by Pumped Hydro Storage LLC of Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, we oppose any kind of commercial or industrial development inside the gorge of the Little Colorado River from where it joins with the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon (the Confluence) to where the LCR Gorge ends near Cameron.

Whereas, we are the actual Land Owners who have legal instruments established through Grazing Permits, Homesite Leases and Land Use Permits that have passed to us through generations of family usage, and to date, we still utilize the land being proposed by the proposed Project.

Whereas, the proposed Project will:

- have a tremendous negative impact on ourselves and our families (present and future generations); and
- adversely impact our basic livelihood, our water and our land use, our livestock, our homes, our Navajo Traditional Sacred Religious Sites, our traditional medicinal sites, among others.

Whereas, in a resolution passed by a 55-0 vote on Feb. 24, 2018, the Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site."

And whereas, we hold this land very Sacred and Spiritual to our Natural Environment, the Water, Air, Fire and Mother Earth.

Therefore, we—the undersigned—respectfully request that our Navajo Nation Leaders, Chapter/Community Leaders, Grazing Officials, all levels of Government, and other affected individuals oppose (1) the proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project; and oppose (2) any future commercial or industrial development inside the Little Colorado River Gorge and (3) that, the Confluence be designated as Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation.

Nellie Bluehouse  
Signature

Census No.

3-3  
Grazing Lease No.

Elaine Wilson  
Signature

Census No.

3-3  
Grazing Lease No.

David  
Bernie A. Nestor  
Signature

Census No.

3-1735  
Grazing Lease No.

Earlene Reid  
Signature

Census No.

3-2129  
Grazing Lease No.

Wilson O. Wilson  
Signature

Census No.

3-1756  
Grazing Lease No.

L. M. S.  
Signature

Census No.

3-1548  
Grazing Lease No.

Rose A. Ivers  
Signature

Census No.

3-1757  
Grazing Lease No.

Marie Pefter  
Signature

Census No.

Pending  
Grazing Lease No. at BIA

Therefore, we—the undersigned—respectfully request that our Navajo Nation Leaders, Chapter/Community Leaders, Grazing Officials, all levels of Government, and other affected individuals oppose (1) the proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project; and oppose (2) any future commercial or industrial development inside the Little Colorado River Gorge and (3) that the Confluence be designated as Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation.

Lucille Daniel 3-2084  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

Charles D. ... 3-1806  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

Franklin Martin 3-1740  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

Alvina Dagonite  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

Tommy Smith  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Census No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing Lease No. \_\_\_\_\_

# THE NAVAJO NATION

---

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT   MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



September 3, 2021

Charlie Smith, Jr. Chapter President  
Cameron Chapter  
P.O. Box 669  
Cameron, Arizona 86020

***RE: Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers, Tooh Ahidiilini, as a Traditional Cultural Property***

Dear Chapter President Smith:

Currently, the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers, *Tooh Ahidiilini*, (GCES-33) is informally recognized as a sacred place and a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) by the Navajo Nation. TCPs are defined as places that are significant because of their association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history, and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. The goal of this correspondence to the Cameron Chapter is to describe the concept of TCPs, the current status of the confluence as a TCP, and the potential benefits of formalizing its status through legislation or a TCP registry.

TCPs are essentially the same as sacred places or *hodiyyin*, and the term is borrowed from the language of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in order to mirror the US Federal system so that documentation may be consistent internal to the Navajo Nation and externally in National Parks or forests. Because *Tooh Ahidiilini* is a TCP that stretches across Navajo and National Park Service (NPS) lands, it is especially important to coordinate management with the NPS. As a part of this cooperation, the NPS and the Navajo Nation have developed a draft TCP nomination to the US National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for the entire Grand Canyon National Park. The nomination identifies the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers as a sacred place and a contributing element to the larger traditional cultural landscape of the Grand Canyon.

The draft Grand Canyon TCP nomination was developed with information from the 1995 publication *Bits'íis Ninéézi* (The River of Neverending Life), which documents Navajo connections and histories in the region. The publication was created with a great deal of assistance from the Cameron Chapter and it will be as important to coordinate with your chapter in any further efforts to designate the Confluence as a TCP through Navajo Nation legislation or other means. HHPD would be pleased to share copies of the 1995 document with the chapter if there is an interest, please let us know.

At this time no formal Navajo Nation TCP registry has been created and no site-specific legislation passed within the Navajo Nation, despite this, the informal designation by HHPD still affords the same protection under the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act (CRPA).

NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT  
POST OFFICE BOX 7440 • WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515 • PHONE: (928) 871-7000 • FAX: (928) 871-4025

Section 1021 of the CRPA states that the Tribal Preservation Officer must approve undertakings that have the potential to effect TCPs. This approval process establishes a process of review that works with associated communities to ensure TCPs are protected to the greatest extent feasible. There are, however, also benefits to passing site specific legislation and/or finalizing the TCP registry formally. These actions, especially legislation, would be strong expressions of tribal sovereignty externally in protecting and cooperatively managing the site with the NPS. There are also interpretive and public relations benefits to these actions.

We would also like to note that *Tooh Ahidiilini* is monitored each year during Navajo Nation led scientific monitoring trips through the Grand Canyon. These trips are designed to monitor, document and produce recommendations to inform NPS and Navajo co-management of the river systems. The monitoring trips are also an opportunity to stay connected to the land, and Navajo cultural traditions through prayers and offerings at various places in the Grand Canyon corridor as well as the Little Colorado River. We will also look forward to your participation in the trips in the coming years.

Finally, please know that HHPD fully supports the chapter's resolution to designate the *Tooh Ahidiilini* as a sacred site and is happy to offer assistance to the community in pursuing legislation or any chapter supported measures. Please feel free to contact Tim Begay or Erik Stanfield with HHPD at [tbegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:tbegay@navajo-nsn.gov) or [erikstanfield@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:erikstanfield@navajo-nsn.gov) for support in this work. Erik and Tim, will follow up this letter to schedule a site visit to meet and discuss with interested community members. If you have any other questions or feedback, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Begay, Department Manager/THPO  
Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department  
P.O. Box 4650 Window Rock AZ 86515  
Office: 928-871-7139 Mobile: 928-206-7099  
Email: [r.begay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:r.begay@navajo-nsn.gov)

cc: Erik Stanfield, Anthropologist, NNHHPD-GCDAMP  
Timothy Begay, Navajo Cultural Specialist, NNHHPD



Exhibit "B"

**The Navajo Historic Preservation's  
Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC)  
Position Statement Opposing the Escalade Project at  
*To ahidiliih (Confluence)***

October 4, 2016

Pursuant to the CMY-19-88, Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act, 19 N.N.C., the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department (NNHPD) is the Navajo Nation's agency responsible for the protection, preservation and management planning for the Navajo Nation's cultural resources; and pursuant to Navajo Nation Resolution GSCMA05-04, we, the *Hataalii* Advisory Council (HAC) of the NNHPD, have been consulted regarding the proposed Escalade Project in Bodaway/Gap Chapter.

*To ahidiliih (Confluence)* of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River is a vital and significant landscape to all *Nihokáá dine'é bila'ashdla'it* - Five-Fingered People of the Land. *To ahidiliih* is home to Navajo deities such as the Big Snake, the Wind and Lightning; it is central to the Blessing Way, which is the backbone and foundation to all Navajo ceremonies, such as the Water Way, Shooting Way, Mountaintop Way, Night Way, Wind Way, Wildgame Way, Plume Way, Big Snake Way (Beauty Way), and the Enemy Way. Direct impact from development to *To ahidiliih* will decrease the effectiveness of the Navajo ceremonies which are practiced day to day by Navajo People to restore health and balance. Ceremonies refer to the *To ahidiliih* through songs, prayers, and offerings to heal mental, physical, and spiritual illness. The continuing use of the *To ahidiliih* in these ceremonies validates its ongoing sacred character.

Our sacred places, including *To ahidiliih*, within the Four Sacred Mountains known as Diné Bikeyah are all interconnected and need to be respected and protected. Many traditional Navajos show their respect and connection to these sacred landscapes by making offerings to these places on a daily basis.

*To ahidiliih* is a traditional cultural property, which is defined generally as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community (DOI, NPS Bulletin 38, Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties).

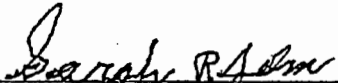
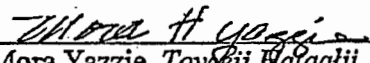
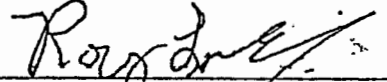
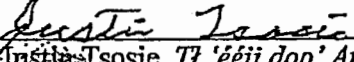
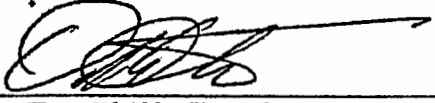
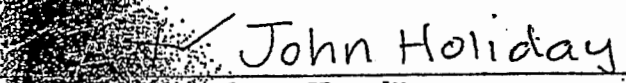
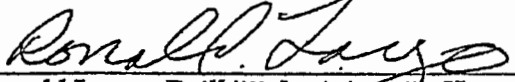
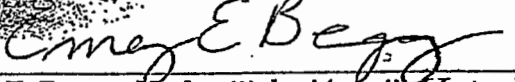
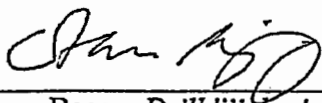
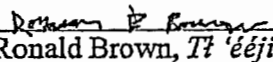
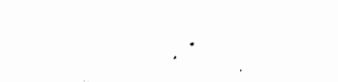
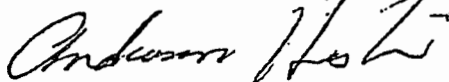
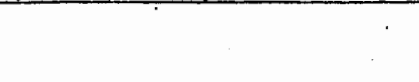
After discussing the project and the sacred character of the *To ahidiliih* of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, we are unanimous in our conclusion that the proposed Escalade Project including the rim top development, tramway and walkway development will:

1. Pose detrimental irreversible harm to the sacred qualities of the *To ahidiliih*;
2. Pose a degraded spiritual experience by Navajos conducting offerings or prayers from overcrowding and reduced visibility by visitors who visit *To ahidiliih* for recreation;
3. Pose harm mentally, physically, and spiritually to the People who visit the *To ahidiliih* without respect and reverence;

5. Threaten to destroy a significant cultural resource, and set precedent for future opportunities to protect our cultural resources as a Navajo Nation.

Furthermore, both Navajo Nation law and U.S. federal law provide legal protection to sacred places such as the Confluence. Navajo Nation Code, Section 205: *Nashasdzáán dóó Yááíhííł Bits'áádéé Beeháaz'áanii*—Diné Natural Law. Several U.S. federal laws additionally provide protection for sacred places and traditional religious practice, including the Antiquities Act of 1906, Archaeological Resources Protection Act., the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. These laws and others protect, in various ways, the rights of tribal religious practitioners to access and use sacred sites, and protect religious and cultural items and human remains in the event that potential development may disrupt or damage them.

For these reasons, we the undersigned, unanimously oppose the Escalade project, both the tramway and walkway, as well as the rim-top resort.

|                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Sarah John, Toyeeji Hataalii                    | <br>Mora Yazzie, Toyeeji Hataalii                     |
| <br>Roy Lester, Tł 'ééji doo' Annajii Hataalii     | <br>Justin Tsosie, Tł 'ééji doo' Annajii Hataalii    |
| <br>Otto Tso, Tł 'ééji Hataalii                   | <br>John Holiday, Hozhoojii Hataalii                |
| <br>Ronald Largo, Dziłk'iji doo' Annajii Hataalii | <br>Emery E. Begay, Hozhoojii doo' Annajii Hataalii |
| <br>Steven Begay, Dziłk'iji doo' Annajii Hataalii | <br>Ronald Brown, Tł 'ééji Hataalii                 |
| <br>Avery Denny, Tł 'ééji Hataalii                | <br>Anderson Hoskie, 'Atsá jii Hataalii             |
| <br>Malcom McCabe, Hozhoojii Hataalii             | <br>Kenneth Belinte, Toyeeji Hataalii               |

# WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

Exhibit "C"



## District III Grazing Committee Members

**James Beard Chairperson**  
**Steven Arizana Vice-Chairperson**

**Lee Yazzie, Jr Secretary**  
**Harry J. Goldtooth Member**

### RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT III GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER RESOLUTION NO. D3GCM 2021-12-03

Supporting the Designation of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River Confluence and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.

#### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 3N.N.C. Subparagraph 871-884, the District III Grazing Committee have authority to oversee activities on the Navajo Nation; and
2. The Western Navajo Agency District Three Grazing Committee is vested with authority to review all matters affecting the community, to exercise corrective authority where appropriate, and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other Agencies and Entities; and
3. The Navajo Tribal Resolution CJ-6-53 dated January 13, 1953, recommended that the Advisory Committee initiate the establishment of Grazing Committees; and
4. The District III Grazing Committee Members have been informed and apprised of the utmost importance to designate the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site along with various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by Resolution at a duly called Chapter held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved and authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence (Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site."; and
6. The families and Grazing Permittees in the affected area of the Confluence have also requested to have the Confluence designated as a Sacred Site; and
7. Nine(9) Navajo Nation Chapters within the former Bennett Freeze Area are supportive of the Confluence Sacred Site Designation and in their Draft IRMP (Integrated Resource Management Plan), it's the Chapters consensus of the CLUPC's from the nine Chapters within the former Bennett Freeze Area and endorsed by the Navajo Division of Natural Resources and the Navajo Hopi Land Commission as follows:
  - A. Water Resources: The Navajo Nation has severe water infrastructure deficiencies that impact the health, economy, and welfare of the Navajo Nation. The lack of adequate domestic and municipal water is the greatest water resource problem facing the Navajo Nation.
  - B. Recovery from the halted development, housing, transportation, utilities, and business have all been impacted by the ban on development within the FBFA.
  - C. Restriction on Development within Navajo Nation Religious Zones Protection of Navajo Nation cultural practices and areas is critical when considering development within the FBFA. The Navajo-Hopi Intergovernmental Compact recognizes the spiritual heritage of both Tribes and ensures that religious

traditions can continue while ensuring the conservation of eagle nesting areas under federal law. Article 4.1 of the Navajo-Hopi Intergovernmental Compact states that no development will occur within any areas listed under Exhibit C of the Compact.

- D. Respect and Honor for traditional values such as livestock grazing and agriculture while balancing the needs for growth and development within the community; E. Protection of natural and cultural resources, historic properties, sacred sites, and sacred species.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED

1. The District III Grazing Committees Members do hereby support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the District III Grazing Committee at a duly called meeting at Tuba City Public Library, The Tuba City Navajo Nation Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of

3 In favor, opposed and 01 abstained, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.

Motion: Lee Yazzie Jr

Second: Steven Arizona

James Beard  
James Beard, Chairperson

Steven Arizona  
Steven Arizona, Vice- Chairperson

Lee Yazzie Jr  
Lee Yazzie Jr, Secretary

Harry J. Goldtooth  
Harry J. Goldtooth, Member

District III Grazing Committee

Woodie Bennett, President  
Lewis Shirley, Vice President  
Tonteka Tsosie, Sec/Treasurer  
Dr. Andy Nez, Council Delegate  
Patrick Martinez, Grazing Representv

# Sawmill Chapter

P.O. Box 1786  
Fort Defiance, AZ 86504  
(928) 729-4433 / 4432  
(928) 729-4435 FAX

Ronald Deschinny, Comm Services Coordinator  
VACANT, Accounts Maint. Specialist  
Pearlyn Paul, CHW  
Louise Mark, Senior Center Spv.

SAW-09-14-23-03

## SAWMILL CHAPTER THE RESOLUTION OF SAWMILL CHAPTER NAVAJO NATION

### Sawmill Chapter Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

#### Whereas:

1. Pursuant of 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Sawmill Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and;
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section 1(B) Sawmill Chapter is vested with the authority to Review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate Corrections when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other Local agencies for appropriate actions, and;
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahidiłiih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approve and support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D"; and

7. The Cameron Chapter by Resolution on March 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and
8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023 supports to the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F".

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved that:**

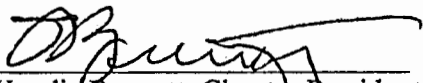
1. The Sawmill Chapter of the Navajo Nation hereby support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Sawmill Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITY OF SAWMILL AT A DULY CALLED CHAPTER MEETING IN SAWMILL, (NAVAJO NATION) ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 33 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 1 ABSTAINED ON THIS SEPTEMBER 14, 2023.

Motioned by: Larry Foster

Seconded by: Orlando Manuelito

  
Woodie Bennett, Chapter President

\*\*\*\*\* CERTIFICATION \*\*\*\*\*

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government, at a duly called meeting at the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government of Tuba City (Navajo Nation), Arizona; at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained on this 6th day of September, 2023.

Motioned By: Steven Arzar

Seconded By: Angie Williams

Gerald Keetso  
Gerald Keetso, Chapter President

Steven Arizana  
Steven Arizana, Council Member

Myra Begay  
Myra Begay, Vice President

Angelita Williams  
Angelita Williams, Council Member

Helen Webster  
Helen Webster, Secretary/Treasurer



**TO'NANEES'DIZI LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

*"An Enterprise of the Navajo Nation"*

P.O. Box 727, Tuba City, Arizona 86045  
Telephone: 928-283-3284 Fax: 928-283-3288  
<http://www.tubacity.ndes.org>  
Email: [tonaneesdizi@navajochapters.org](mailto:tonaneesdizi@navajochapters.org)

Gerald Keetso, President  
Myra Begay, Vice-President  
Helen Webster, Secretary/Treasurer  
Steven Arizana, Council Member  
Angelita Williams, Council Member  
Durann Begay, Executive Manager  
Daniel Williams, Grazing Official  
Otto Tso, Council Delegate

Aniidi Legislation #TND-09- 12 2023

**ANIIDI LEGISLATION OF TONANEESDIZI LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

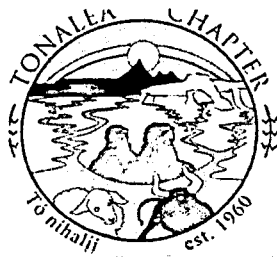
**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The To'Nanees'Dizi Council of Naat'aanii pursuant to Resolution No. TCDC# TCDC-18-04, is a certified and recognized Chapter by the Navajo Nation Council, vested with the authority and responsibility to provide and address local planning within its community, and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 1 (B) is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions, and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahiditiih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approve and support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C";
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D"; and
7. The Cameron Chapter by Resolution on March 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and
8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023 supports to the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F".

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government of the Navajo Nation hereby supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government further hereby directs Navajo Nation Government Officials, Council Delegates, and Grazing Committee Representatives to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this Legislation.



# TO' NIHALII'

President: Darryl Jim  
Vice President: Leslie Dele  
Secretary/Treasurer: Marlinda Whiterock

District One - Western Navajo Agency  
Tonalea Chapter  
P.O. Box 207  
Tonalea, Arizona 86044-0207  
Email: [tonalea@navajochapters.org](mailto:tonalea@navajochapters.org)

Council Delegate: Helena Nez Begay  
Grazing Official: Bruce Daw

Phone: (928) 283.3430

Fax: (928) 283.4332

## RESOLUTION OF THE TONALEA CHAPTER WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY RESOLUTION NO: TN24-10-05

**TONALEA CHAPTER SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.**

### WHEREAS:

1. The Tonalea Chapter is a duly reorganized and vested the governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo law, including custom and traditions Certified (LGA) Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Part I, Section 10; and
2. The Tonalea Chapter recognized that pursuant to Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA), 26 N.N.C., § 2003, all Navajo Nation Chapters including LGA certified Chapters, are required to follow the Navajo Nation budget instructions when formulating the annual chapter and when appropriations are coming from the Navajo Nations fund; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation, by resolution at s duly called meeting held on February 24, 2018, by a vote of 55-0, approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River") to e designated as a Sacred Site. " Attached as Exhibit "A"; and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC), working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department, has designed To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B"; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency, by Resolution, approved and supported the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religious Sites to be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navaj Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado river Gorge also request that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the Navajo Natin attached as "Exhibit "D"; and
7. The Cameron Chapter, by Resolution on March 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and

8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

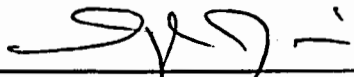
1. The Tonalea Chapter of the Navajo Nation hereby supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River Gorge, and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Tonalea Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

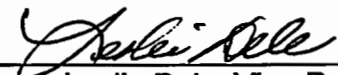
**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Tonalea Chapter, at a duly called meeting in Tonalea, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which is quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of **24** in favor, **0** opposed and **5** abstained, on this **23rd** Day of **October 2023**.

Motioned By: **Virgil Scott**

Seconded By: **Cindy S. Covey**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darryl Jim, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Dele, Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marlinda Whiterock, Secretary/Treasurer



P.O. Box 4720 LeChee, AZ, 86040 P: (928) 638-2805 F: (928) 638-2803 E: lechee@navajochapters.org W: lechee.navajochapters.org

## RESOLUTION: #LC10082023C

### RESOLUTION OF THE LECHEE CHAPTER OF THE NAVAJO NATION SUPPORTS THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.

#### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C Section 3(A) the LeChee Chapter is a duly recognized certified chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, as listed at 11N.N.C, part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C Section 1 (B) LeChee Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community; and
3. LeChee Chapter is vested with the authority to make appropriate decisions on behalf of the community and to make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other agencies for appropriate actions; and
4. The Bodaway/Gap of the Navajo Nation, by Resolution at a duly called Chapter held on February 24, 2018, by a vote of 55-0, approved, authorized, and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as Sacred Site." attached as Exhibit "A"; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hattaaahii Advisory Council (HAC), working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department, has designated to: Ahidihih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached a Exhibit "B"; and
6. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency, by Resolution, approved and supported the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religious Sites to be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C"; and
7. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge also requests that the Confluence be designated as a Sacred Site by the: Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D"; and
8. The Cameron Chapter, by Resolution on March 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E"; and
9. The Leupp Chapter, by Resolution on December 20, 2023, supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F".

JoAnn  
Yazzie-Pioche  
Chapter President

Cassie Scott  
Chapter Vice-President

Sharla Hunt  
Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

Tyler Manson  
Grazing Officer

Helena Nez  
Begay  
Council Delegate



P.O. Box 4720 LeChee AZ 86010 P: (928) 698-2805 F: (928) 698-2803 E: lechee@navajochapters.org W: lechee@navajochapters.org

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT;**

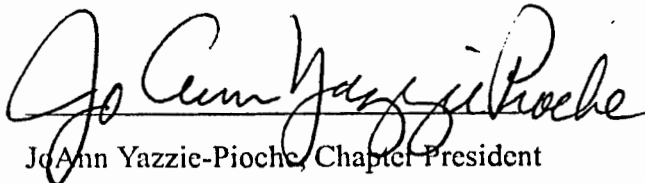
1. The LeChee Chapter of the Navajo Nation; hereby, supports the designation of the Confluence of the: Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The LeChee Chapter further; hereby, directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

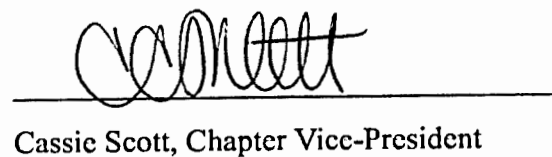
**CERTIFICATION**

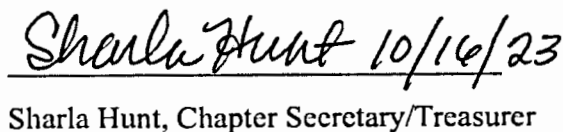
We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered at a duly called authorized meeting held at LeChee Chapter (Navajo Nation), Arizona at which a quorum was present, and that same day was passed by a vote of **29** in favor, **00** opposed and **01** abstained on this 08th day of October, 2023.

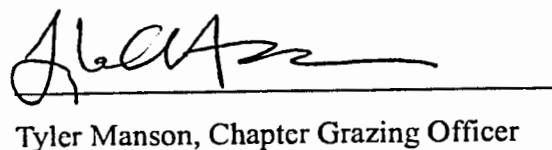
**Motion by:** Irene Whitekiller

**Seconded by:** Betty Thompson

  
JoAnn Yazzie-Pioche, Chapter President

  
Cassie Scott, Chapter Vice-President

  
Sharla Hunt, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

  
Tyler Manson, Chapter Grazing Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Helena Nez Begay, Council Delegate

JoAnn  
Yazzie-Pioche  
Chapter President

Cassie Scott  
Chapter Vice-President

Sharla Hunt  
Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

Tyler Manson  
Grazing Officer

Helena Nez  
Begay  
Council Delegate



**THE NAVAJO NATION  
FORT DEFIANCE CHAPTER**

P.O. Box 366, Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504  
Phone: (928) 729-4352 Fax: (928) 729-4353  
Email: [ftdefiance@navajochapters.org](mailto:ftdefiance@navajochapters.org)

Aaron D. Sam, President  
Genevieve Jackson, Vice President  
Grace Tracy, Secretary/Treasurer  
Herman Billie, Grazing Official  
Dr. Andy Nez, 25<sup>th</sup> Council Delegate

Dr. Buu Nygren  
Navajo Nation President

Richelle Montoya  
Navajo Nation Vice President

**RESOLUTION OF FORT DEFIANCE CHAPTER**

**Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites** **FDC-2023-OCT-10-02**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Fort Defiance Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section 1(B) Fort Defiance Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate corrections when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions, and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo by resolution at a duly called Chapter meeting held on February 24, 2018 by a vote of 55-0 approved, authorized and directed "its Chapter Officials/Council Delegate to do all things necessary and proper to have the Confluence ("Little Colorado River and Colorado River) be designated as a Sacred Site" attached as Exhibit "A," and
4. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisor Council (HAC) working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department have designated To ahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties attached as Exhibit "B," and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution approved and supported the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual and Religious Sites be designated as a Sacred Site(s) of the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "C," and
6. The Grazing Permittees and Land Users in the Area of the Little Colorado River have stated their opposition to the Proposed Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and any other Commercial or Industrial Development of the Little Colorado River Gorge, also requests that the confluence be designated as Sacred Site by the Navajo Nation attached as Exhibit "D," and
7. The Cameron Chapter by Resolution on March 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "E," and
8. The Leupp Chapter by Resolution on December 20, 2023 supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a Sacred Site attached as Exhibit "F."

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Fort Defiance Chapter of the Navajo Nation supports the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, and Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.
2. The Fort Defiance Chapter further hereby directs its Chapter Officials, Council Delegate, and Grazing Committee Representative to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITY OF FORT DEFIANCE AT A DULY CALLED CHAPTER MEETING IN FORT DEFIANCE, (NAVAJO NATION) ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 21 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 4 ABSTAINED, ON THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2023.

MOTIONED: Dr. Andy Nez  
Aaron Sam  
Aaron Sam, Chapter President

SECONDED: Wilson Stewart, Jr.

TYPED:LN

# Chinle Chapter Government

THE NAVAJO NATION

Dr. Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch  
PRESIDENT

Cynthia Hunter  
VICE PRESIDENT

RoAnn Burbank  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Shawna Ann Claw  
COUNCIL DELEGATE

Oscar Bia Sr.  
GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER

## RESOLUTION OF THE CHINLE CHAPTER NAVAJO NATION CHIN-MAR-24-019

### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.

#### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant of 26 N.N.C., 3(a) the Chinle Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., Part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to N.N.C., Section 1(B) Chinle Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community, to make appropriate corrections when necessary and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other Local agencies for appropriate actions; and
3. Navajo Historic Preservation informally recognizes the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers, To ahidiiliih, as a sacred place and a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) because of the community's history and is very important in maintaining the cultural identity of the community (Exhibit "B"); and
4. The Proposed Project will adversely impact the basic livelihood of community members, the water, land use, livestock, homes, the Navajo Traditional Sacred Religious Sites, and traditional medicinal sites, among others (Exhibit "D"); and
5. Attached as Exhibits are Resolutions in Support of the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites:
  - Exhibit "A" BA-002-013-18, Resolution of the Bodaway/Gap Chapter
  - Exhibit "C" D3GCM 2021-12-03, District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency Resolution
  - Exhibit "E" CAM-079-286 #4, Resolution of the Cameron Chapter
  - Exhibit "F" Resolution of the Leupp Chapter
  - Exhibit "G" FDC-2023-OCT-10-02, Resolution of the Fort Defiance Chapter
  - Exhibit "H" SAW-09-14-23-03, Resolution of the Sawmill Chapter

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Chinle Chapter hereby supports the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites of the Navajo Nation.

#### CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the forgoing resolution was considered by the community of Chinle at a duly called chapter meeting in Chinle, (Navajo Nation) Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstained on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2024.

Motioned by: Sharon Yazzie      Seconded by: Pamela Bia

# Chinle Chapter Government

THE NAVAJO NATION

**Dr. Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch**

PRESIDENT

**Shawna Ann Claw**

COUNCIL DELEGATE

**Cynthia Hunter**

VICE PRESIDENT

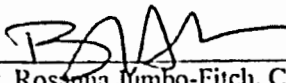
**Oscar Bia Sr.**

GRAZING COMMITTEE MEMBER

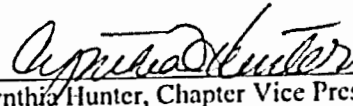
**RoAnn Burbank**

SECRETARY/TREASURER

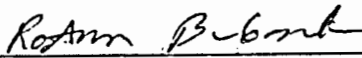
PAGE 2; CHIN-MAR-24-019



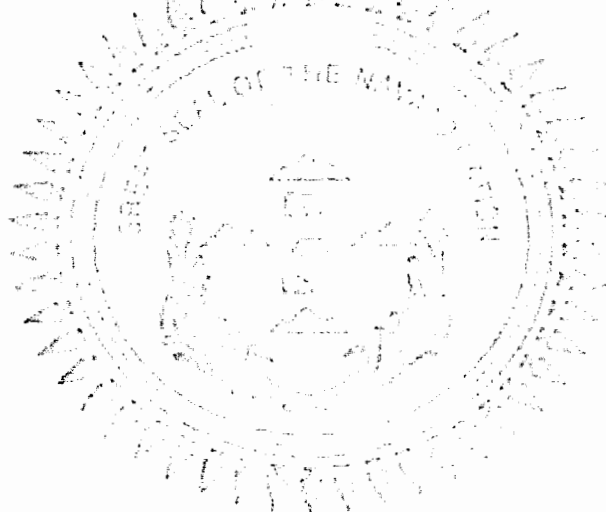
Dr. Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch, Chapter President



Cynthia Hunter, Chapter Vice President



RoAnn Burbank, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer



**Chapter President**  
*Allen Fowler Jr.*

## **COPPERMINE CHAPTER**



**Council Delegate**  
*Helena Nez Begay*

**Chapter Vice President**  
*Lola Smith*

**Grazing Committee**  
*Stanford Fowler*

**The Navajo Nation**

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
*Valerie Fowler*

**Western Navajo Agency - District One**  
**P.O. Box 1323 Page, Arizona 86040**  
**Telephone No: (928) 691-1109**

**Community  
Service Coordinator**  
*Minnette Roundstone*

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CO-10-003-24

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COPPERMINE CHAPTER**

**SUPPORTING AND RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE (TOOH AHIDILII) OF THE LITTLE COLORADO AND THE COLORADO RIVERS; AND THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AS TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY THROUGH THE U.S. NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP); AND OPPOSING ANY LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR ACTIONS WHICH MAY NEGATE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE AREA.**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The Coppermine Chapter is a duly-recognized and certified chapter of the Navajo Nation Government pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 3; 11 N.N.C., Part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to Title 26, N.N.C. Section 1 (B), The Coppermine Chapter is vested with governmental authority to review all matters affecting the community; to take appropriate corrective action as necessary; and to make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other governmental agencies; and
3. The Western Navajo Agency chapters of Bodaway/Gap, Cameron, Leupp, and Tuba City, through their respective resolutions, support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers; the Little Colorado River Gorge and other culturally and spiritually related significant areas as sacred (Hodiyin) sites; and
4. The District #3 Grazing Committee, Hataalii Advisory Council (HAC) and local land users and residents through petition and position statements, are opposed to the Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project which will adversely impact the natural, cultural, economic, historical and recreational value of the areas; and
5. The Coppermine Chapter recognizes that the Confluence as a significant contributing element to the larger Grand Canyon National Park landscape and is worthy of the nomination as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) to the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places; and
6. The Coppermine Chapter opposes the proposed Western Pumped Storage Project #2 located in both chapters along the Echo Cliffs; and
7. Coppermine Chapter furthermore, opposes both the Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project and the Western Pumped Storage Project #2 as it will negatively impact scarce groundwater pumping, land and watershed health scenic outdoor recreation, historic and cultural preservation, and threatened and endangered species protection.

8. The Coppermine Chapter also welcomes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's denial of preliminary permit applications due to lack of consultation, project reviews, and the addressing of concerns and consent of local communities and the Navajo Nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Coppermine Chapter hereby supports and recommends the designation of the Confluence (Tooh Ahidilii) of the Little Colorado and the Colorado Rivers and the Little Colorado River Gorge as traditional cultural property through the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP); and opposing any large scale development plans or actions which may negate the positive aspects of the area.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, hereby certify, that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting at Coppermine Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 10 abstained on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Motioned by: Paul Begay      Seconded by: Linda Long



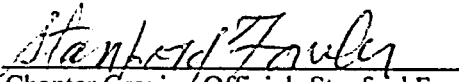
Chapter President- Allen Fowler Jr.



Chapter Vice-President- Lola Smith



Chapter Secretary/Treasurer- Valerie Fowler



Chapter Grazing Official- Stanford Fowler

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Delegate- Helena Nez Begay



# WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

GERALD KEETSO    ROLAND SMALLCANYON    CANDIS YAZZIE



## RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: WNAC24-08-NB6

### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Western Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing Eighteen (18) Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Western Navajo Agency; and
2. The Western Navajo Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Western Navajo Agency; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties; and
4. The Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Tonalea, LeChee and Coppermine Chapters have also voted by Chapter Resolutions to support the designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties Protection; and
5. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
6. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
7. It would be in the best interest of the Western Navajo Agency Council that Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Birdsprings ~ Bodaway/Gap ~ Cameron ~ Chilchinbeto ~ Coalmine ~ Coppermine ~ Dennehotso ~  
Kaibeto ~ Kayenta ~ LeChee ~ Leupp ~ Navajo Mountain ~ Oljato ~ Shonto ~ Tolani Lake  
~TóNaneesdizí ~Tonalea ~ Ts'ah Bii' Kin



# WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

GERALD KEETSO

ROLAND SMALLCANYON

CANDIS YAZZIE



1. The Western Navajo Agency Council hereby support the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Western Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

## CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Western Agency Council at a duly called meeting in Kaibeto, Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which time a quorum was present. A motion was made by Joann Yazzie Pioche and seconded by Angela Cody and the same was passed by a vote of 15 in favor, 2 opposed, and 9 abstained, this 8th day of June 2024.

Gerald Keetso, President

Roland Smallcanyon, Vice President

Candis Yazzie, Secretary

Birdsprings ~ Bodaway/Gap ~ Cameron ~ Chilchinbeto ~ Coalmine ~ Coppermine ~ Dennehotso ~  
Kaibeto ~ Kayenta ~ LeChee ~ Leupp ~ Navajo Mountain ~ Oljato ~ Shonto ~ Tolani Lake  
~Tónaneesdizí ~Tonalea ~ Ts'ah Bii' Kin



**CHINLE AGENCY COUNCIL  
THE NAVAJO NATION**

*Dr. Buu Nygren, President*

*Richelle Montoya, Vice-President*

Joseph Dedman  
President

Paul Jim  
Vice-President

Elliot K Bryant  
Secretary

**RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL (CHINLE)  
NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO: CAC-SEP-28-05**

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE  
COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO  
RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS  
SACRED SITES.**

**Whereas:**

1. The Central Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing Eighteen (18) Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Central Navajo Agency; and
2. The Central Navajo Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Central Navajo Agency; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is; and
4. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
6. The Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Resolutions being approved by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChée, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
7. The Fort Defiance Agency Council on July 13, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site; and
8. The Chinle Chapter on March 22, 2024 Voted to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site (see attached Exhibit "A"); and

9. It would be in the best interest of the Central Navajo Agency Council that it support Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Central (Chinle) Navajo Agency Council hereby support the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Central (Chinle) Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

**CERTIFICATION**

**WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE CENTRAL (CHINLE) NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL AT A DULY CALLED MEETING IN ROUGH ROCK (ARIZONA) NAVAJO NATION AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 14 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED AND 3 ABSTAINED ON THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.**

**MOTIONED BY:** Ramona Nalwood

**SECONDED BY:** Paula S. Begay



**Joseph Dedman, Jr., President  
Central Navajo Agency Council**

"Absent"

**Paul Jim, Vice-President  
Central Navajo Agency Council**



**Elliot K. Bryant, Secretary  
Central Navajo Agency Council**

**RESOLUTION OF THE FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL****SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES.****Whereas:**

1. The Fort Defiance Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing 26 Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Fort Defiance Agency; and
2. The Fort Defiance Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Fort Defiance Agency; and
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is; and
4. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
6. The Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Resolutions being approved by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
7. The District 18 Council of Fort Defiance Agency on June 08, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site, as well as Sawmill and Fort Defiance Chapters; and
8. It would be in the best interest of the Fort Defiance Agency Council that Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Fort Defiance Agency Council hereby supports the designation of the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other cultural/spiritual sites as sacred sites.

2. The Fort Defiance Agency Council hereby further requests that the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related cultural/spiritual sites as sacred sites.

**CERTIFICATION**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL AT A DULY CALLED MEETING AT FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZONA AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 17 IN FAVOR AND 3 OPPOSED AND 2 ABSTAINED, ON THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2024.

**MOTIONED BY:** Sharon Smith  
**SECONDED BY:** Timothy Begay

**LaVonne Tsosie**

**LaVonne Tsosie, President**



**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL  
THE NAVAJO NATION**

**No. ENAC-12-2024-033**

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND  
THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE AND OTHER RELATED  
CULTURAL/SPIRITUAL SITES AS SACRED SITES**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials representing twenty-seven (27) Navajo Nation Chapters and Local Governments in Eastern Navajo Agency; and
2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council is vested with authority to address and represent matters affecting Chapters and Communities in the Eastern Navajo Agency; and
3. Pursuant 2 N.N.C SECTION: 4028; the Eastern Navajo Agency Council is vested with government authority to review all matters affecting the community to make most appropriate recommendations when necessary to the Navajo Nation, County, State, Federal and other local agencies; and
4. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is; and
5. Whereas the District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
6. Whereas the Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties; and
7. Whereas the Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Other Resolutions approved are by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
8. Whereas the Fort Defiance Agency Council on July 13, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site; and
9. Whereas the Central Navajo Agency Council on September 28, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site; and
10. Whereas it would be in the best interest of the Eastern Navajo Agency Council that it support Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

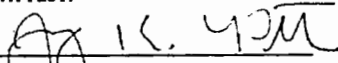
1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby supports the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

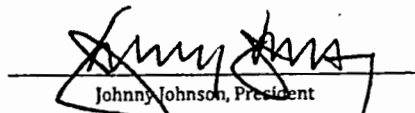
**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved by the Eastern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting at Tsayatoh, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 56 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained, this 7th day of December 2024.

Motion: Milton Davidson, Manuelito Chapter  
Second: Jay DeGroat, Mariano Lake Chapter

ATTEST:

  
Judy Platero, Secretary

  
Johnny Johnson, President



# NORTHERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL THE NAVAJO NATION

Dr. J. Kaibah Begay  
President

Daron Yellowhorse  
Vice-President

Matthew D. Tso  
Secretary

**NNAC-219-2024**

## **Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and Other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites**

### **WHEREAS:**

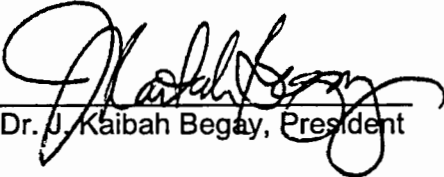
1. Pursuant to IGRD-269-05, the Northern Navajo Agency Council is a recognized political subdivision of the Navajo Nation and has the authority to advocate and make appropriate recommendations on behalf of the nineteen (19) Northern Agency Chapters to the Navajo Nation Government, Federal, State, and Local entities for appropriate action.
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. § 103 (D) (4), the Northern Navajo Agency Council, a consortium of elected Chapter Officials representing nineteen (19) Navajo Nation Chapters, agree to address and undertake common goals and interests for the benefit of the Northern Navajo Agency Chapters.
3. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55 – 0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is).
4. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; and
5. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataalii Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties.
6. The Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Other Resolutions approved are by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; and
7. 8. The Fort Defiance Agency Council on July 13, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site.
8. The Central Navajo Agency Council on September 28, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site.
9. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council (Comprising of 31 Chapters) on December 07, 2024 of TseYaToh Chapter approved a Supporting Resolution for the Designation of Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.
10. Whereas it would be in the best interest of the Northern Navajo Agency Council that it supports Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

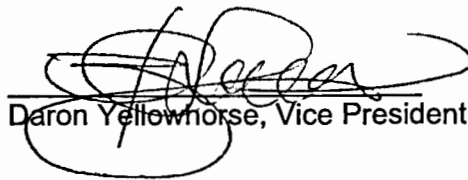
1. The Northern Navajo Agency Council supports and approves hereby Support the Designation of (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.
2. The Northern Navajo Agency Council hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation to approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Northern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting at Upper Fruitland Chapter, Upper Fruitland, New Mexico (Navajo Nation) which a quorum was present. A motion was made by James Benally and seconded by Nevina Kinlicheeny and the same was passed by a vote of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 6 abstained, this 21st day of December 2024.



Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, President



Daron Yellowhorse, Vice President



Matthew D. Tso, Secretary



**The Navajo Nation DR. BUU NYGREN PRESIDENT**

**Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees | *Think for the Future***

April 24, 2025

TO WHOM CONCERNED

SUBJECT: CONFLUENCE OF THE COLORADO AND LITTLE COLORADO  
RIVERS IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

The Little Colorado River Gorge Tribal Park was established in 1962 by the Advisory Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council. The purpose of the establishment was to protect the 360,000 acre designated tribal park lands from damage and uncontrolled development and to preserve the park values and resources for the future generations.

The Navajo Parks and Recreation Department was established in 1962 as the tribal program to be responsible for the management of tribal parks, monuments and recreation areas on the Navajo reservation. As such, the department has a responsibility to oversee and manage the Little Colorado River Gorge Tribal Park. The park includes the Confluence area adjoining the Grand Canyon National Park.

The Navajo Parks and Recreation Department does support the designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site important in Diné cultural heritage and beliefs.

Martin L. Begaye, Department Manager  
Navajo Parks and Recreation Department



**The Navajo Nation DR. BUU NYGREN PRESIDENT**

**Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees | Think for the Future**

April 24, 2025

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The Navajo Parks and Recreation Department does support the designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site important in Diné cultural heritage and beliefs.

Martin L. Begaye, Department Manager  
Navajo Parks and Recreation Department

Dr. Avery Denny, DHALH, President  
Dr. Marilyn Begay, DHALD, Secretary  
Ernest Harry Begay, DHALC, Board Member



Anson Etcity, DHALH, Vice President  
Daniel Johnson, DHALC, Treasurer  
Adrian Lerma, DHALC, Liaison/IT Tech

**Resolution: Dine Hataalii Association, Inc.**

**Supporting the Designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and Other Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites**

**Whereas:**

1. The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization comprised of Dine (Navajo) medicine man and women who work to maintain balance and harmony with the natural world, both within and beyond the four cardinal sacred mountains; AND
2. The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc. is regarded by the Dine people as qualified to speak with authority on matters of cultural protocol, ceremonial ethics, medicine man/women ethics, philosophy, language, ceremonies, history, customs, and concerns; AND
3. The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc., is a unique, authentic, and distinguished "grassroots" Dine-based organization comprised of elected medicine men and medicine women who serves as board of directors on behalf of the Dine (Navajo People); AND
4. The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc., is responsible for protecting, promoting, perpetuating, maintaining and sustaining the integrity of the Dine way of life, ceremonies and sacred holdings stipulated in its missions, philosophy, and vision statements; AND
5. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Western Navajo Agency by Official Chapter Resolution voted 55-0 to authorize the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, Tooahidiliih (be designated as a Sacred Site and Cultural Protected Properties and where the site is)
6. The District III Grazing Committee of the Western Navajo Agency by Resolution also support the designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Little Colorado River and various Cultural, Spiritual, and Religion Site be designated as Sacred Sites; AND
7. The Navajo Historic Preservation's Hataali Advisory Council working through the Navajo Nation Department of Historic Preservation Department support the designation Tooahidiliih (Confluence) as a Sacred Site and Cultural Properties.
8. The Western Navajo Agency Council on June 08, 2024 approved by Resolution to Support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site following Chapter-Other Resolutions approved are by Cameron, Leupp, Tuba City, LeChee, Coppermine, Tonalea Chapters; AND
9. The Fort Defiance Agency Council on July 13, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the Designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site.

10. The Central Navajo Agency Council on September 28, 2024 approved by Resolution to support the designation of the Confluence as a Sacred Site
11. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council (Comprising of 31 Chapters) on December 07, 2024 at TseYahToh Chapter approved a Supporting Resolution for the Designation of Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.
12. The Northern Navajo Agency (Comprising of 19 Chapters) on December 21, 2024 approved a Supporting Resolution for the Designation of Tooahidiliih (Confluence) be designated as a Sacred Site.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT;**

1 The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc. hereby supports and approves the Designation of f (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other Cultural / Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

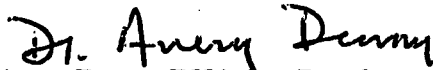
2 The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc., hereby further request that the Navajo Nation Council and Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation t o approve the (Tooahidiliih) Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge and other related Cultural/Spiritual Sites as Sacred Sites.

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc. at a duly called Dine Hataalii Association meeting which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2025.

MOTION :Ernest Harry Begay

SECOND :Daniel Johnson

  
Dr. Avery Denny, DHA, Inc. President

4/5/25  
Date:



## WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION



**BILLY GOODMAN, JR.**  
Commander

**LATANYA M. WILLIAMS**  
Vice-Commander

**DELPHINA C. GOODMAN**  
Secretary

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION OF THE NAVAJO NATION RESOLUTION: WNAVO-25-267-03**

**THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE MATTER  
CONCERNING THE CONFLUENCE OF THE MAIN COLORADO AND LITTLE COLORADO  
RIVERS; IN SUPPORTING THE AREA AS A TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY (TCP),  
THROUGH THE U.S. NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRIHP)**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) along with the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation has established the Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization (WNAVO); and
2. The Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization (WNAVO) is established to advocate for eighteen (18) Chapter Veteran Organizations (CVO) within the Western Navajo Agency, of the Navajo Nation; and
3. The WNAVO is entrusted to advocate, represent, and to serve within the best interest of the Navajo Veterans immediate concerns and needs. The WNAVO responsibilities are not limited to Navajo Veterans but also includes the surviving spouses, Gold Star Parents, and dependents; and
4. The WNAVO recognizes and acknowledges that it is entrusted to strive toward unification of all Navajo Nation Veterans and local leadership to provide leadership and coordinate with the needs of the Navajo Veterans; and
5. The Confluence is a significant contributing element to the larger Grand Canyon National Park landscape and worthy of protection as a Traditional Cultural Property and the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places; and
6. Navajo Medicine men hold ceremonies through songs, prayers, and offerings at various places for Navajo Service men and women for safe travels, and protection for overseas tours of duty and a safe return to their homelands; and
7. Through this designation, oppose any large scale development plans or actions; which will adversely impact the natural, cultural, economical, historical and recreational value of the area; and
8. Recommending the designation of the Little Colorado River Gorge and other culturally and spiritually related significant areas as sacred Ho'diyin sites; and

*Birdsprings - Cameron - Coalmine - Chilchinbeto - Coppermine - Dennehotso - Gap-Bodaway Inscription  
House - Kaibeto - Kayenta - LeChee - Leupp - Navajo Mountain - Oljato - Shonto  
Tolani Lake - Tonalea - Tuba City*



## WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION



BILLY GOODMAN, JR.  
Commander

LATANYA M. WILLIAMS  
Vice-Commander

DELPHINA C. GOODMAN  
Secretary

9. The Western Navajo Agency Chapters: Gap/Bodaway, Cameron, Coppermine, LeChee, Leupp, Tonalca and Tuba City have passed supporting resolutions to recommend and approve the Confluence designation as a sacred site; and
10. All five Navajo Agency Councils of the Navajo Nation have passed resolutions in support of the designation of the Confluence; and
11. Various organizations and interest groups have passed through petitions and position statements; and
12. With apparent strong support, further efforts to designate the Confluence through Navajo Nation Legislation should be pursued.

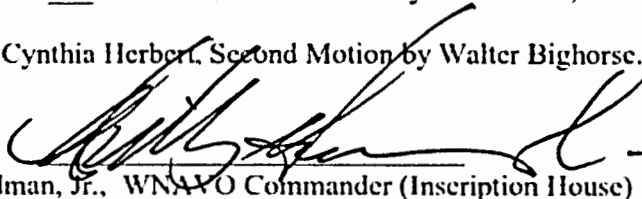
### NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

The Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization supports and recommends the Confluence of the Colorado River and Little Colorado River area as a Traditional Cultural Property through the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places.

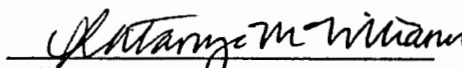
### CERTIFICATION

The Western Navajo Agency Veteran Organization (WNAVO) hereby certifies the forgoing resolution was considered at a duly called meeting of the Western Navajo Agency Veteran Organization, at LeChee Chapter House (Navajo Nation), LeChee, Arizona, at which a quorum was present, and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, on this 23rd day of October, 2025.

Motion by: Cynthia Herbert, Second Motion by Walter Bighorse.



Billy Goodman, Jr., WNAVO Commander (Inscription House)



Latanya M. Williams, WNAVO Vice-Commander (Tonalca)



Delphina Clitso-Goodman, WNAVO Secretary (Inscription House)

Birdsprings - Cameron - Coalmine - Chilchinbeto - Coppermine - Dennehotso - Gap-Bodaway Inscription House - Kaibeto - Kayenta - LeChee - Leupp - Navajo Mountain - Oljato - Shonto Tolani Lake - Tonalca - Tuba City



# The Navajo Nation DR. BUU NYGREN PRESIDENT

Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees | *Think for the Future*

May 5, 2025

Honorable Curtis Yanito  
Navajo Nation Council Delegate  
PO Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

**Subject:** Support for Designation of *Tooh Ahidiilini* and Associated Places as Sacred Sites

Dear Delegate Yanito,

The Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (HHPD) writes in full support of the legislative initiative to designate *Tooh Ahidiilini*—the Confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers—and associated cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, and traditional gathering and offering places as sacred sites of the Navajo Nation. This designation reflects the enduring cultural and ceremonial importance of *Tooh Ahidiilini*, which has been affirmed through resolutions by chapters, grazing committees, and traditional practitioners across the Navajo Nation. These places have been used for protection ceremonies, pilgrimages, offering rituals, and the collection of culturally important materials for generations.

Importantly, we recognize that *Tooh Ahidiilini* lies primarily outside of formal Navajo Nation land holdings. For this reason, HHPD affirms its intent to work directly and collaboratively with the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park to ensure the long-term protection and respectful stewardship of these sacred places. This aligns with previous co-management dialogues and reflects the Nation's commitment to safeguarding its cultural heritage beyond reservation boundaries.

We also offer a clarification regarding the term "sacred site." While the term *hooliyin* holds great significance within Diné belief, its legal and administrative counterpart is found in the concept of the *Traditional Cultural Property* (TCP). A TCP, as defined under National Park Service Bulletin 38 and the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act, refers to places associated with cultural practices or beliefs that are rooted in a community's history and vital to its continuing identity. The sacred places referenced in this legislation meet these criteria and are already treated as TCPs in both federal and tribal contexts. To ensure clarity and consistency, we recommend the following definition be included or adopted for interpretive purposes:

"Places, whether natural or modified by human activity, that hold traditional, ceremonial, spiritual, or cultural significance to the Navajo People, and that may be eligible for designation or treatment as Traditional Cultural Properties under Navajo Nation and federal preservation standards."

To support the implementation of this designation, HHPD recommends that all sacred sites covered under the legislation be documented using a streamlined process aligned with our internal TCP protocols. This documentation ensures these sites are protected in the long term while avoiding unnecessary burden on traditional practitioners and staff. We thank you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation and offer our continued support as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Begay, Department Manager/THPO  
Heritage and Historic Preservation Department  
PO Box 4950 Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7198 [r.begay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:r.begay@navajo-nsn.gov)



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK  
P.O. Box 129  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
10.D (GRCA 8211)

September 26, 2025

RE: Traditional Cultural Property Nomination  
Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department  
PO Box 3366, 418 Cedar St.  
Page, AZ 86040

To whom it may concern,

Grand Canyon National Park and the Navajo Nation share a goal – stewardship and conservation of the land and histories of the greater Grand Canyon region. Given this shared responsibility, the Park would like to acknowledge the Navajo Nation's efforts regarding the stewardship and protection of the confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River. The Traditional Cultural Property nomination by the Navajo Nation to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is consistent with the goals of Grand Canyon National Park in preservation and conservation efforts.

This nomination also aligns with the clause in the Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act of 1975 (the Act) which encourages Grand Canyon National Park to enter into agreements with Tribes for the greater interpretation and protection of Grand Canyon. The Act focuses on protecting the scenic, natural, and scientific values of Grand Canyon, similar to the Navajo Nation's goals for stewardship and protection of the confluence. Specific information regarding this Act can be found at [Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act | Library of Congress](#).

Please take into consideration the shared commitment between Grand Canyon National Park and the Navajo Nation to protect the cultural and environmental landscape, ensuring it can be appreciated by future generations. Thank you for considering this topic.

Sincerely,

EDWARD  
KEABLE

Digitally signed by  
EDWARD KEABLE  
Date: 2025.09.26  
16:00:23 -0700

Edward T. Keable  
Superintendent  
Grand Canyon National Park

This account relates to my brother Clyde Wilson, who served in the Vietnam War around the late 1960s and early 1970s, growing up in a large family with six brothers and two sisters. As the youngest child, I remained at home with my sister and our mother, while our siblings pursued education or employment elsewhere. Although I do not have a distinct recollection of my brother's departure in 1970 for Vietnam upon being drafted into the military, I am aware that he resided in California and lived with my eldest brother before his deployment. I had always assumed that he was living in California, but I do remember Clyde coming home from Vietnam.

Our family dwelled above the confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers at the Grand Canyon's east rim, in Tsah Tah (Amongst the Sage), where we cared for our sheep. Every morning, I also remember my mother stepping outside early with her corn pollen to recite her prayers to the east. I also recall tailing behind my mother at times to the edge of the canyon, the confluence where the two rivers meet, and my mother would offer a prayer for her relatives, children and especially my brother Clyde. I was seven years old and I followed my mother almost everywhere. I do not recall ever inquiring about my brother Clyde's whereabouts, but I was aware that he was engaged in combat somewhere as my family would talk about him.

About two years later, my brother was honorably discharged from the Vietnam War due to a combat-related leg injury. Upon his return, my mother and family members arranged a traditional Navajo ceremony to welcome Clyde home. My brother has only discussed his time in Vietnam with us only a few times since his return, and he tends to avoid discussing it further.

Currently, my brother continues to visit the canyon where his trailer is parked and fenced near the confluence. I appreciate that the Navajo prayers offered on his behalf ensured his safe return, and these prayers forever exist in the canyon. We regard the confluence as a sacred site, where our family continues to offer prayers from above the canyon.

---

- Delores Wilson-Aguirre, January 14, 2026

March 20, 2026

To: Navajo Nation Council

Please accept this letter supporting the Save the Confluence initiative of the Sacred Site Legislation. As a Marine of the United States, having served with the 3rd MAW, MAG-39 Headquarters, I was honorably discharged in June 2023.

I originate from the Shadow Mountain Community in the Western Navajo Agency. My family and kin have homesteads along the eastern edge of the Little Colorado River that extends into the Grand Canyon. Throughout my time in the Marine Corp, my connection to the Grand Canyon, the Little Colorado River and the canyons of our homelands kept me grounded.

These connections were established through spiritual offerings by my family through ceremonies in the sacred spaces surrounding my homeland.

Being away from home, often in preparation for hostilities and among many who do not understand our culture, can be quite lonely. The regimen of military life is constricting and demanding, very unlike existing in our vast and open spaces among our plant and animal medicines. Every visit to our prayer spaces are necessary to continue the work required of us as Marines.

It is with confidence and respect that I request your approval of the Sacred Site Legislation that is presented by the Save the Confluence and its alliances. It is our duty to protect our sacred sites from those with intent to exploit and capitalize. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keyan Huskie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keyan Huskie

May 11, 2026

The Honorable 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
and the Honorable Dr. Buu Nygren, President Navajo Nation  
Window Rock. Arizona 86515

Dear Honorable Leaders:

I humbly write this letter to you as Honorable Leaders of the Navajo Nation to support and Approve Legislation to designate the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as a sacred site along with the other Spiritual Offering Sites in the area. I fully support the Resolution of the Bodaway/Gap Chapter (Resolution NO: BA-002-013-18) That approved such a Designation on February 24, 2018, passed by a vote of 55 in Favor 00 Opposed and 12 abstaining. The Save the Confluence families have endured much work and commitment to have the Confluence designated and protected as a sacred site.

Our Medicine men and Medicine woman have long expressed the significance of the Confluence which has spiritual ties to our Dine Peoples homecoming from Hweeldi (Fort Sumner), Our dine Language utilized during World War II with our Navajo Code Talkers and our Dine Veterans who have who have utilize the confluence in protection and Blessing Ceremonies as told by our Elders though generations.

Many of us still utilize the Confluence and its related spiritual offering points today in remembrance of our Dine Elders and Prayers for our future Dine Generations.

I am from the Bodaway/Gap chapter, a registered voter there and respectfully request of you as our Leaders to approve the legislation to have the Confluence designated and Protected as a sacred site. Should you have any questions, I can be contacted at , , , ,

Adrian Salliego  
Bodaway/Gap Chapter

Ray Lee Dugi  
Voter at LeChce Chapter  
Originating from Shadow Mountain, AZ

June 25, 2026

**Re: Support for Legislation Designating Western Agency, Confluence area as a Sacred Site**

TO: The Honorable 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

I am writing as a military veteran to express my strong support for legislation that would designate areas surrounding the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers as protected sacred sites.

I chose to serve in the US Navy because it reinforced the values of duty, honor, respect, and the protection of what is most important to our Nation's people. Those values compel me to support efforts that preserve and protect lands that hold deep spiritual, cultural, and historical significance for Indigenous families. Sacred sites are not merely parcels of land, they are places where traditions are practiced, ancestors are honored, and cultural identity is maintained across generations. Protecting these sites demonstrates respect for Tribal sovereignty, religious freedom, and the unique heritage of Dine clans and relatives whose connection to these lands extends back thousands of years. Designating the areas surrounding the Confluence as sacred sites helps ensure that our families can continue to exercise their spiritual traditions and preserve irreplaceable cultural resources without the threat of unnecessary development, destruction, or desecration.

Protecting our lands as sacred sites also benefits future generations by safeguarding important historical landscapes and promoting greater understanding of the rich cultural heritage that contributes to our nation's identity. Respect for these lands reflects the respect we owe our elders and ancestors and honors commitments that have too often been overlooked.

I respectfully urge you to support and advance this legislation. Doing so would be a meaningful step toward preserving sacred places, honoring our Dine Nation, and upholding the values of respect, service, and stewardship that many Dine veterans and Americans share.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our community. I appreciate your leadership on this important matter.

Respectfully,



Ray Lee Dugi  
US Navy

June 01, 2026

Navajo Nation  
Navajo Nation Council  
Navajo Nation President  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear Honorable Naataaniis

This letter serves as a recommendation that the Navajo Nation Council and Navajo Nation President to formally Adopt and Approve legislation that will recognize and protect the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River and other related sites as sacred sites of the Navajo Nation as requested by the Local Land Users, Land Use Permittees and Chapters by Resolutions based on the following information.

In May, 1992 at the request and direction of then Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah, as a Staff Assistant I was tasked to arrange for coordination and planning of a Traditional Ceremony to assist some members of Navajo Code Talkers/Dine Veterans in the Grand Canyon Area known as the Confluence/Tooh ahidiilini of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River in the Bodaway/Gap and Cameron Chapters. That was the few times I heard of the Confluence. Coming from a long tradition of service in our family with veterans and knowing that my Grandfathers and Uncles were Navajo Code Talkers, I was very interested and readily agreed to follow through with President Zah's directive, I traveled with another staff assistant, Larry Etcitty to find a Dine Hataalthii. We located Hataalthi AshiiBegay and Apprentice Samuel Begay in Tolani Lake at his home discussing the ceremony to be held which was at the Confluence area in the Grand Canyon.

All necessary planning and arrangements were made with Mr Etcitty and we began making the necessary arrangements for the ceremony, We then met at President Zah's office along with the Navajo Code Talkers who were Anson Damon Sr, John Brown Jr, Keith Little and Sam Billison who were also related to me as Uncles and Grandfathers. The Traditional Ceremony that took place was called "Sacred Footprints" which is utilized from time in memorial for protection from Foreign Adversaries in this case Japan when they bombed Pearl Harbor on December 07, 1941. This Sacred Ceremony has two(2) parts, the first to prepare oneself for Warfare and Protection. After one returns from Warfare, there is a second ceremony where the returning veteran has the ceremony to reverse the traditional Dine Properties, Values and Spirits back to harmony utilizing the Sacred Dine Mountain Bundle.

As told to me the original ceremony was done after Pearl Harbor was bombed and the United States Marine Corps developed the Navajo Code utilizing our Navajo Language/Dine Bizaad. Which was never broken and remained highly classified. This Sacred Ceremony was performed at the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and Colorado River as I was told by my grandfathers and uncles. In 1942, the original ceremony was performed and at that time our Code Talkers were very young men (some said they were still boys) who were able to hike down into the Confluence in the canyon for the ceremony and provide offerings to the Confluence. In 1992 fifty years later, Samuel Begay, the apprentice and I hiked down into the Canyon to the

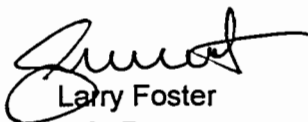
Confluence to make these offerings on behalf of our CODE TALKERS AND veterans who served in World War II to complete the second important part of the final ceremony, to bring closure to them for their service. The importance of the Confluence was to utilize the Sacredness of the Little Colorado River (Female) and Colorado River (Male) at the Confluence which runs south into the Baja of California into the Pacific Ocean where Pearl Harbor was located and Japan as it was utilized to help win World War II and was utilized by our Hataathliis and veterans many times prior to World War II and thereafter. To date, I am told of many of our Dine Ceremonies for protection of life and liberty. After the day-long ceremony, we proceeded to Flagstaff, AZ to have the Hataathlii do another related ceremony at the Dook'o'osliid/San Francisco Peaks, for a Mountain Blessing Ceremony along with a Dine Mountain Tobacco Ceremony. I realize the very significance of how the Confluence affected so many lives and as it also brought some "closure and harmony" back into our Code Talkers lives.

During the Mountain ceremony at Dookl'o'osliid, we were also informed by Hataathlii Ashii Begay, whose Grandfather performed the original ceremony in 1942 who he was named after and that Ashii Begay at that time was a very young man learning as an Apprentice to his Grandfather. And other related stories regarding the Confluence.

Hataathlii Ashii Begay also told us at the Mountain Ceremony how a similar sacred ceremony was used during the Hweeldi/Long Walk Fort Sumner Treaty discussions that allowed our Dine Traditional Chefs to successfully negotiate our Treaty of 1868 between the Navajo Tribe of Indians and the United States Federal Government when our Dine people were held as Prisoners of War (POW) and others were Missing in Action (MIA). We were told of how the Sacred footprints and Coyote Way ceremony were instrumental in the Treaty discussions, these Sacred Ceremonies were also held and performed at the same Confluence location. We were told about how Chief Barboncito took part in these Sacred Ceremonies that he took back to Hweeldi and utilized the prayers.

In hearing about these stories as told by the Generations including my grandmother, i am totally convinced of the Sacredness of the Confluence as I am now writing a book on the Long Walk, the World Wars, Korean, Vietnam, Middle East and other conflicts where our brave service men and women stand ready to protect our precious homelands. I also take periodic pilgrimages to the Confluence for ceremonial purposes that can lead to restoration of harmony, balance and serenity to and for our Dine people. Therefore I strongly and respectfully request that the Confluence Legislation be approved and preserved so that the Confluence will be a Sacred Site that is protected.

Sincerely,



Larry Foster  
P.O. Box  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Larry M. Foster  
P.O. Box 215 Window Rock, AZ. 86515

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April 29, 2026

Ms. Darlene Womochil  
Executive Director  
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission  
P.O. Box 129  
St Michaels, Navajo Nation (AZ) 86511

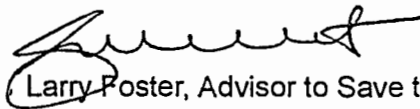
Re: Save the Confluence Sacred Site Legislation

Dear Ms. Womochil;

Attached is the draft legislation that will be presented to the Navajo Nation Council for their consideration of the Summer Session entitled "An Action Related, to the designation of TOOH AHIDIILINI, THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND THE COLORADO RIVER, AND OTHER VARIOUS CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SACRED SITES AS SACRED SITES". Council Delegate Curtis Yanito of Mexican Water Chapter is our primary sponsor and we will have other Delegates as Co-sponsors. Initially, the plan was to present the legislation at the Spring Session in April, 2026 (See letter dated January 13, 2026 from Delegate Yanito). However it was recommended to refer it to the Summer Session in July 2026. Also attached to the draft legislation are other related supporting documents, letters, Resolutions from Chapters, Agency Councils, etc. Would the Navajo Nation vHuman Rights Commission staff draft a Supporting resolution to be considered by the commission for support? Or do we draft one and submit to your office? It is our hope that the Commission would consider this at their next meeting on May 14, 2026?

Should you have any questions, please call me at 928-380-8390. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Larry Foster, Advisor to Save the Confluence Families

XC: Hon. Curtis Yanito, 25th Navajo Nation Council Delegate  
Delores Wilson Aguirre, Save the Confluence

**RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SUPPORTING AND RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CONFLUENCE OF  
THE COLORADO RIVER AND THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AS TRADITIONAL  
CULTURAL PROPERTY UNDER NAVAJO NATION LAW**

**WHEREAS:**

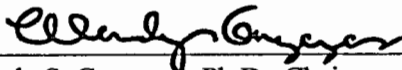
1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C §§ 920, 921, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission ("Commission") is established within the Legislative Branch as an entity of the Navajo Nation government to operate as a clearinghouse to address discriminatory actions against citizens of the Navajo Nation; and to interface with local, state, federal governments and with national and international human rights organizations in accordance with the Commission's plan of operation and applicable laws and regulations of the Navajo Nation; and
2. The Commission is committed to protecting and promoting the human rights of the Navajo Nation, including the right of Navajo people to access, use, preserve, and protect sacred sites and properties such as traditional plants and herbs that grow in and around such places and are used for prayers, ceremonies, healing and other traditional purposes; and
3. The Commission has previously engaged in efforts to protect sacred sites, including matters involving the San Francisco Peaks, which are considered sacred by the Navajo people and the Commission continues to advocate for the preservation of sacred lands and the protection of traditional practices tied to those lands; and
4. The Confluence of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River ("Confluence") is recognized as sacred to the Navajo people, and the waters, canyon, and surrounding landscape are inseparable from Navajo teachings, traditional knowledge, and cultural responsibilities; and
5. The Confluence is associated with traditional origin stories and cultural narratives, and to this day, many Navajo families and traditional practitioners continue to visit and make offerings at and near these sacred places in accordance with Navajo values and responsibilities; and
6. It is vital that federal, state and local agencies, as well as the public understand the significance of the Confluence to the Navajo people and respect the cultural uses of the area; and
7. The designation of the Confluence as a Traditional Cultural Property under Navajo Nation law will advance protection and preservation of the area's cultural and traditional resources for present and future generations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission supports and recommends the designation of the confluence of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River as Traditional Cultural Property under Navajo Nation law.
2. The Commission affirms that protecting sacred sites and culturally significant properties, including the waters, canyon, landscapes, and traditional plants and herbs associated with such sacred places is integral to protecting Navajo human rights and the continued practice of Navajo traditional lifeways.
3. The Commission calls upon federal, state and local agencies, and other decisionmakers with jurisdiction or influence affecting the Confluence area, to recognize and respect the sacred significance of the Confluence to the Navajo people, and to consult with the Navajo Nation and appropriate Navajo cultural authorities to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the area.
4. The Commission encourages education and public awareness efforts regarding the cultural and historical importance of the Confluence, including the continued practice of making offerings and observing traditional responsibilities at and near the site.
5. The Commission calls upon the Navajo Nation Council to support this effort and to take all actions within its authority to advance and affirm the designation of the Confluence as a Traditional Cultural Property and to protect and preserve the Confluence for future generations.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at a duly called meeting at St. Michaels, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and the same was considered by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.



Wendy S. Greyeyes, Ph.D. Chairperson  
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission



## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

Council Delegate Curtis Yanito

Mexican Water | Aneth | Teec Nos Pos | Tólikan | Red Mesa  
Rock Point

May 15, 2026

Ms. Delores Wilson Aguirre  
Save the Confluence Families  
Tuba City, Navajo Nation AZ 86045

Dear Ms. Aguirre:

An immense amount of work and coordination has been conducted by Mr. Larry M. Foster, who has invested time and energy into the efforts in gathering the necessary support for the proposed legislation for the protection of the Confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers. More recently, Mr. Foster has met with the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, the Navajo Codetalkers groups, and the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. As of yesterday, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission voted to give their support. He has continued his efforts with the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department whose technical expertise is foundational to the proposed legislation. We have discussed the strategy he has developed and agree that the legislation will be introduced for the Summer Session of the Navajo Nation Council for the week of July 20-24, 2026.

Mr. Foster has also coordinated his efforts with the Office of the Legislative Counsel, the attorneys, who will draft the proposed legislation. All of the work that has been accomplished by Mr. Foster will be the accompanying exhibits to be attached to the legislation.

We will keep you informed of key dates as this legislation is scheduled to the assigned Committees of the Navajo Nation Council.

Sincerely,

Curtis Yanito, Council Delegate

cc: Mr. Larry M. Foster

# FACT SHEET

SUPPORTING NAVAJO NATION SACRED SITE LEGISLATION TO PERMANENTLY PROTECT THE  
CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER AND COLORADO RIVER

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**To'ahidiidlii**—the sacred confluence of the **Little Colorado River** and the **Colorado River** within the Grand Canyon is among the most culturally and spiritually significant landscapes in Diné history.

For Diné families from Bodaway/Gap and neighboring communities, it is not simply a scenic destination, but a living sacred landscape where generations have come to pray, conduct ceremonies, and pass on teachings about water, stewardship, and our communal responsibilities to one another.

The confluence also holds deep spiritual significance for the Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, Havasupai Tribe, Southern Paiute communities, and other Tribal Nations.

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In 2017, after years of public debate, the Navajo Nation Council voted 16–2 to reject the proposed Grand Canyon Escalade, a large-scale resort and tramway project proposed near the confluence.

That vote protected the confluence from one immediate threat.

However:

The 2017 vote did not permanently withdraw the land from future development proposals.

Without permanent protection:

- Similar tourism or industrial proposals may be reintroduced.
- Future administrations may face repeated development pressures.
- Sacred landscapes remain vulnerable to incompatible commercial uses.

This legislation seeks to move from temporary political protection to permanent legal protection.

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This proposed Navajo Nation legislation would **Designate the Confluence as a Permanently Protected Sacred Cultural Landscape**.

For the first time in Navajo Nation law, the sacred confluence area would receive direct legislative recognition as a Diné sacred place and prevent incompatible large-scale development on Navajo Nation trust land.

## THE LEGISLATION WOULD DISCOURAGE OR PROHIBIT:

☐

- Large-scale tourism resorts
- Commercial complexes
- Industrial infrastructure

☐

## WHILE AFFIRMING:

☐

- Prayer/Pilgrimage
- Grazing Traditions
- Family Stewardship
- Cultural Education
- Respectful Visitation
- Little Colorado River Tribal Park ☐

## AND PROTECTING:

- ☐

- Archeological Sites
- Traditional Cultural landscapes
- Wildlife habitat

- Water Resources



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**This is an important question.** A Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) under the National Historic Preservation Act provides federal recognition of cultural significance. However, a TCP is procedural, not permanent.

**A TCP:**

- requires consultation when federal actions are involved

**BUT A TCP:**

- does not automatically prohibit development
- does not permanently withdraw land from development
- generally applies *only* when a federal permit, funding, or approval is involved

**BY CONTRAST:**

**Sacred Site Legislation** is an exercise of Navajo sovereignty. It allows the Navajo Nation itself, not outside agencies, to define what must be protected and how.

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No. This legislation is designed as an unfunded mandate that:

- ☐
- Creates no new department
- Requires no additional staffing
- Requires no new appropriations
- Creates no new regulatory office



The legislation simply establishes a policy framework for protection using existing Navajo Nation governance structures.

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The area surrounding the sacred confluence lies on Navajo Nation trust lands associated with the Little Colorado River Navajo Tribal Park, which is currently administered by Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation.

- This legislation does not transfer land ownership.
- It does not create federal jurisdiction.

Instead, it clarifies how Navajo Nation lands of exceptional spiritual importance should be treated under Navajo law.

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No. This legislation:

- ☐
- does not withdraw land
- does not terminate grazing rights
- does not remove chapter authority
- does not affect homesites
- does not create a federal wilderness designation



Instead, it protects against future incompatible industrial or commercial development. Traditional family use continues.

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**Another important question.** This legislation does not prohibit economic development across the Navajo Nation. Rather, it recognizes that:

Not every sacred place should be treated as commercial real estate.

The Navajo Nation has many opportunities for economic development. The sacred confluence is unique and irreplaceable. Once damaged, its cultural and spiritual integrity cannot be rebuilt.

**WHY THIS MATTERS**

Protecting the confluence protects:

- ☐

- Diné identity
- Traditional teachings
- Family stewardship
- Veterans' spiritual connections
- Sacred waters
- Wildlife and fragile ecosystems
- The sovereign right of the Navajo Nation to define and protect its own sacred places




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Support continues to grow from:

- ☐
- At least 10 Chapter governments
- Community elders
- Veterans
- Cultural leaders
- All Navajo Agency Councils
- Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
- The Navajo Nation Hataalii Advisory Council




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## IF YOU SUPPORT PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE SACRED CONFLUENCE:

Please stand with Save the Confluence and support this legislation.

## IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN, WE RESPECTFULLY ASK:

Please allow the spiritual process to move forward and consider **abstaining** rather than opposing local families, elders, veterans, and chapters seeking permanent protection of this sacred place.

For More Information see:  
[SaveTheConfluence.com](http://SaveTheConfluence.com)

## **Talking points**

### **Save The Confluence history**

- The mission of STC is to protect the natural and cultural heritage of *To'ahidiidlii*, "The place where the Rivers merge" (i.e. the confluence of two rivers: the Colorado and the Little Colorado.)
- STC organized when an outside developer sought land from the Western Navajo Nation to build a mega tourism center called the Grand Canyon Escalade project.
- The Escalade project was rejected by the Navajo Nation Council in October 2017.
- STC embodies the use of *K'e* (kinship: Navajo way of respecting relationships) to advocate, educate, and engage communities in environmental stewardship, conservation and sustainable development.

### **Veterans' ceremonial history of the Confluence**

- The Confluence area is sacred to military veterans, and was where prayers were offered when Navajo military people were leaving for war back in the 1960s. Traditional ceremonies were performed down by the Colorado River and above the canyon for the safe return of Navajo soldiers during war.
- Because of this sacred status, many Diné veterans and service members are among those who are concerned about changes and developments that threaten the land they call home.

### **Big Canyon Dam Threat**

- The Big Canyon Dam Project is a proposed hydropower project planned by Phoenix developer Steve Irwin in an area east of the confluence of the two rivers.
- In 2020, Mr. Irwin applied for a preliminary permit with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission without notifying nor consulting with local leaders and residents. He also leaped-frogged the Navajo Nation government.
- Over 87,600 signatures have been collected on a Change.org petition opposing the proposed hydropower plant in Big Canyon.
- 10 chapters have expressed support for the sacred sites

legislation via resolution.

- This March, Navajo Nation DOJ sent a letter to FERC formally opposing Big Canyon.

### **The need for sacred site Legislation**

- Due to the continued threats of developments like the Escalade and hydropower projects which ultimately do not benefit the local land users nor the Navajo Nation, there is a great need to seek long-term protection for the area of the Confluence.
- Additionally, the U.S. Southwest, as well as the Navajo Nation, have been experiencing a megadrought for years.
- The Big Canyon Dam would require 17 billion gallons of precious groundwater to fill the reservoirs.

### **Confluence Sacred Site Designation would be the first of its kind for Navajo Nation**

- STC has drafted legislation to *discourage* development near the Confluence.
- The legislation is declaratory in nature but does not explicitly restrict development.
- The legislation does not propose a land withdrawal.
- It would apply to the Confluence of the Little Colorado River, Colorado River, and other various cultural, religious, and sacred sites nearby.
- The legislation does not impact water rights or boundaries.

### **Asks of the Navajo Nation Council**

- Define borders and the area of effect for the legislation.
- Determine the authority (where the authority for Navajo Nation to do this comes from)

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0172-26

SPONSOR: Honorable Curtis Yanito

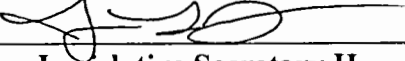
**TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíni, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site**

Posted: July 08, 2026, at 1:03 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 13, 2026

Digital Comments received:

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Comments Supporting      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lesa Skarlot</li> <li>2. Monique Tsosie</li> <li>3. Jake Mannion</li> <li>4. Vangee Nez</li> <li>5. Delores Wilson Aguirre</li> <li>6. Dawn Dyer</li> <li>7. Rita Bilagody</li> <li>8. Wilda Yazzie Lake</li> <li>9. Raylene Acothley</li> <li>10. Renae Yellowhorse</li> <li>11. Nesbah Yellowhorse</li> <li>12. Willie Longreed</li> <li>13. Nelda Huskie</li> </ol> |
| Comments Opposing        | <i>None</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Comments/Recommendations | <i>None</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legislative Secretary II  
 Office of Legislative Services

**July 16, 2026; 11:15 AM**

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**Date/Time**



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Confluence**

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**From** Lesa Skarlot**Date** Thu 7/9/2026 4:16 PM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

To Whom It May Concern,

I absolutely support the request to designate the confluence as a sacred site in the Grand Canyon in order to preserve this area from industrial or commercial development.

Thank you.

Lesa Skarlot



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Comment Legislation No. 0172-26**

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From Monique Tsosie

Date Fri 7/10/2026 3:12 PM

To comments &lt;comments@navajo-nsn.gov&gt;

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

I strongly support Legislation No. 0172-26 Tooh Ahidiilíni, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and related cultural, religious, and spiritual sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site of the Navajo Nation.

This place is deeply personal to my family. My mother was raised in this area, and our family continues to graze our cattle on these lands. For us, this is not simply a beautiful landscape -- it is our homeland. It is where our family history, cultural teachings, and connection to our ancestors continue to live. The land has sustained our family for generations, and it remains an important part of who we are as Diné people.

Tooh Ahidiilíni and the surrounding canyon hold profound cultural and spiritual significance. These places are sacred and deserve to be protected from commercial and industrial development that would permanently alter their character and interfere with traditional cultural practices and ceremonies. Once these sacred places are distributed, they cannot be restored to what they once were.

Supporting this legislation is about honoring our ancestors, protecting our sacred places and persevering our Diné way of life for our child and grandchildren. The Navajo Nation has both the sovereign authority and the sacred responsibility to safeguard these culturally significant places for future generations.

I respectfully urge the Navajo Nation Council to approve Legislation No. 0172-26 and affirm its commitment to protecting Tooh Ahidiilíni and the Little Colorado River Gorge as sacred places that are central to the identity, culture, and spirituality of the Diné people.

Ahéhee.



Outlook

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[EXTERNAL]Big Canyon / LCR

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From Jake Mannion

Date Fri 7/10/2026 11:18 PM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

I support all native peoples and the Little Colorado. I hope you tell the developer to go kick rocks.

Jake Mannion

Oregon



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Save the Confluence**

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From V Nez

Date Sun 7/12/2026 1:39 PM

To comments &lt;comments@navajo-nsn.gov&gt;

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

Dear Navajo Nation Council Members,

It is with the utmost urgency that I write in support of the "Save the Confluence." The Navajo people have been in this region for millions of years and have known regions and places that are important. Important meaning that the medicine people have placed offerings and laid down prayers for the people. These areas are known to be special and hold a significance energy only the Holy People know of. We, the human earthly people, come to these special places for guidance, healing, knowledge, and comfort. Sometimes it's the last place we go when no other can attend to our needs, so I support these special places. I may not be from this region but it is still a part of Dinétah and places our ancestors have established. In the next 500 years, we don't know what our land will look like or what our people would have done to protect our ways of knowing or sell off for profit. We have already seen the devastation and destruction of greedy people who have taken our people, language, culture, land, and resources. Please don't allow this to happen again. I offer my support with diligence and in good faith to this region, to the people, land, animals, and the sacredness of this area. Protect and hold with love and care.

In beauty,  
Vangee Nez

Táchíí'níí nishlǫ́ dóó Ta'neezahníí báshishchíín dóó Nahkaíí diné dashicheíí dóó Bitahníí dáshínááí



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Sacred Site Legislation# 0172-26**

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**From** Delores Wilson-Aguirre**Date** Mon 7/13/2026 8:55 AM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

To: The 25th Navajo Nation Council

Good morning, Shi Na'taaniis

My name is Delores Wilson Aguirre, and I am originally from Bodaway, AZ. I grew up herding sheep in the Bodaway, and lived above the Confluence of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River, where my family and relatives sprinkled our corn pollen above the canyon to the Confluence for prosperity, well-being of the land, for our people, neighbors, plants, animals, and everything around us. Today, we still go there to offer our prayers and consider the Confluence as a church where our belief lies. I have written several letters to the council and invited them to visit the Confluence and the surrounding area. Please consider this letter to designate the Confluence as a sacred site. Thank you.

Sincerely

Delores Wilson Aguirre

P.O. Box

Tuba City, AZ 86045



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]legislation number 0172-26**

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**From** Dawn Dyer**Date** Mon 7/13/2026 9:20 AM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing to express my support of the proposed sacred site legislation, number 0172-26. The site, popularly called "The Confluence," is the point where the Colorado River and Little Colorado River meet. It is situated at the Western end of the Navajo Nation in Bodaway. It is a place of significant beauty found nowhere else and it also holds profound cultural significance. It continues to be threatened by outside interests and is in need of permanent protection. I urge you please to vote and preserve this area as a sacred site.

Thank you,  
Dawn Dyer



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]**

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**From** Rita Bilagody**Date** Mon 7/13/2026 3:43 PM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

Please vote "Yes" on this legislation.

We need to Protect our Sacred sites from irresponsible development. This site is the place of our Origin stories. We are here because our Holy People designated this site for us to continue our very lives. Countless medicine people have conducted our ceremonies for our People to continue our way of Life. Remember that our Navajo Nation is the only Lands we have left. We're not getting any more lands. Our Ancestors came back to our lands from the Long Walk and asked only ONE thing: Protect this Land. Take care of this Land for our future Children and Grandchildren. Protect it for our Animals. Protect our ONLY MOTHER, THE EARTH, who provides for us to live this life.

Thank you,

Rita Bilagody.



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Legislation 0172-26**

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**From** Wilda Yazzie Lake**Date** Mon 7/13/2026 6:30 PM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

**TO:** Navajo Nation Council**FR:** Wilda Yazzie Lake**RE:** Legislation 0172-26**Date:** July 13, 2026

Yá'át'ééh Honorable Council Members,

I, Wilda Yazzie Lake, respectfully urge the Navajo Nation Council to support "An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee and the Naabik'iyáti'; Designating Tooh Ahidiilíní, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapters as a Sacred Site" of Legislation 0172-26

As a Diné mother, I believe we have a responsibility to protect these sacred cultural places for future generations. We should preserve and protect the Colorado River, especially the Confluence, because it is foundational to our ceremonial life, cultural identity, and spiritual well-being.

The designation of the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River as a sacred site and Traditional Cultural Property will help ensure the protection and preservation of these cultural and spiritual places for current and future generations of our Diné people. Protecting these sites also means protecting the sacred offerings left by our ancestors and ensuring that future generations can continue these cultural and spiritual practices. By preserving these places, we honor those who came before us while safeguarding our traditions, beliefs, and way of life for those who will come after us.

Contact Information

Wilda Yazzie Lake

Black Mesa Resident

PO Box Kayenta, Az 86004



Outlook

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[EXTERNAL]Sacred site

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From raylene acothley

Date Tue 7/14/2026 7:19 AM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

**I support the area to be designated as a sacred site where prayers are offered.**

**My name is Raylene Acothley**

**Thank you.**

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Public Comment to Legislation 0172-26 Renae Yellowhorse**

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**From** Renae Yellowhorse**Date** Tue 7/14/2026 8:44 PM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

Public Comment Supporting Navajo Nation Council Legislation 0172-26.

Hello Honorable Navajo Nation Council Delegates,

I am Renae Yellowhorse and reside in Tuba City, Western Agency. My parents and relatives are from the Bodaway/Gap area. I am a registered voter in Bodaway/Gap. My email address is

I support the Sacred Site Designation Legislation 0172-26 as a previous spokesperson for Save the Confluence families and current member of the organization. The Confluence and associated sacred spaces do need the protection and preservation of a sacred sites designation.

My families and relatives in the area still hold and have held ceremonies, prayers and gathered herbs for millennia. The oral history is embedded in our cultural identity. The Confluence overlooks the emergence site and the rivers convergence which gives life. These are the oral histories that are now being shared and knowledge being extended to our children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren.

I first heard of the Bidaa when I was young. My great grandmother and her relatives would often speak with great reverence of Bidaa. At the age of 50, I was finally there at Bidaa, the confluence overlook. During the efforts to defend and protect the area from intrusive development, I learned and remembered more of the oral history and shared this with our leaders.

I wept tears of joy when the 2017 intrusive development bill was voted down. For about 10 minutes, I released all the anxiety and hopelessness of that time. After that 10 minutes, the protection and preservation of the sacred continued and this Sacred Site Legislation is the result. The sacred sites designation will help to continue the work towards preservation and protection for these sacred spaces.

I request the Honorable Council to vote yes to pass Legislation 0172-26.

Thank you.

Renae Yellowhorse



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Public Comment Supporting Navajo Nation Council Legislation 0172-26**

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**From** Nesbah Yellowhorse**Date** Tue 7/14/2026 10:08 PM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

Hello,

My name is Nesbah DeeAnn Yellowhorse. My email address is

I support the Sacred Site Designation Legislation 0172-26 for the following reasons:

\*

\*

\*

I request the Honorable Council to vote yes to pass Legislation 0172-26. Thank you.

Nesbah Yellowhorse



Outlook

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**[EXTERNAL]Sacred Site Legislation #0172-26**

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**From** willie longreed**Date** Wed 7/15/2026 3:38 PM**To** comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

This a comment supporting the about legislation.

Since 1868 when the Navajo people were allowed to return to their homeland, the area where the Colorado and the Little Colorado rivers converge is sacred. It is where the Medicine people, through out the centuries, offered their prayers to the Holy People. The Protection Way and the Beauty Way prayers were given to the Holy People asking for harmony. There is a prayer that ask for the summer rain and the winter snow, in essence, it is life. Every living thing is connected to water. We, members of the Save the Confluence coalition are highly concern about the harm and destruction that the area is subjected to. We are respectfully asking the Navajo leaders to designate the confluence area as sacred.



Outlook

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[EXTERNAL]Legislation 0172-26

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From S Husk

Date Wed 7/15/2026 4:08 PM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

Please support the Legislation 0172-26 to keep our lands sacred by protecting from those who have interests in extractions or corporate development. Thank you very much. Nelda Huskie

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0172-26

SPONSOR: Honorable Curtis Yanito

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíní, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site**

Posted: July 08, 2026, at 1:03 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 13, 2026

Digital Comments received:

|                          |                                                                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Comments Supporting      | 1. Karletta Chief<br>2. Ernest Peyketewa<br>3. Marie Peyketewa |
| Comments Opposing        | <i>None</i>                                                    |
| Comments/Recommendations | <i>None</i>                                                    |



Legislative Secretary II  
Office of Legislative Services

July 27, 2026; 3:22 PM

Date/Time

## comments

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**From:** Karletta Chief <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2026 5:40 PM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]DESIGNATING TOOH AHIDIILINI, THE CONFLUENCE AS A SACRED SITE

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown sources.

Dear Honorable Navajo Nation Council,

I support designating Tooh Ahidilini at the confluences of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers as a sacred site. It is important that the Navajo Nation protect their cultural sites especially along the Colorado River. Not only is it historically important to the Navajo Nation but also that it protects the water rights of the Navajo Nation. With other tribes who have stepped forward to do similar actions, it is only important the Navajo Nation do as well. With Climate Change and the significantly declining water levels in the COlorado River, it is critical that the Navajo Nation define all water uses to the Colorado River including domestic, cultural, livelihood, and traditional among others. Otherwise, it will not be recognized by the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Karletta Chief (Kayenta Chapter)

Letter #1

PAGE 02/

To Whom This Concerns

July 14, 2020

My name is ERNEST PERKETEWS SR of the  
Hopi, Zuni Tribe, maturity, clan BAMBOO  
Paternity, clan Badger, child of a wild Turkey

This is reference to the GRAND CANYON of  
where the Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers  
merge, hereafter known as the confluence here  
after.

The confluence is a very important sacred  
site, used by many for prayers, for wellness,  
prayers for our soldiers going to combat to  
return safely back home with no harm.

To many tribes in Northern Arizona,  
New Mexico, Utah and others western states  
is considered a place of emergence to this  
top where we live now.

There are many traditional medicine men  
prayers sites along the canyon from Cameron  
Arizona, pilgrimages are made to the  
confluence for prayers and to the dieties  
with offerings,

It would be a great wrong to disturb an  
area used for prayer from time immortal.

I support the fight against any constructions near or around this area.

The Zuñi, Hopi, Apache, Piute and many others hold this confluence very sacred and destruction to this area would be the same as destroy a non-native church.

I am a traditional healer and have prayed there and always still do for all the people our men women in uniform to keep harm away for and from our men in uniform.

Prophecies say and disturbance or destruction of this area can causes many unforeseen problems for many kinds.

I strongly support the fight against and disturbance of the confluence and the grand canyon, as our fore fathers held and prayed at the confluence and have passed that on to our generations.

I strongly oppose and disturbance of the confluence and land near and around that area as it is still still being used by the people, Badway for grazing and such. Respect the traditional beliefs of the area for our people for continuous prayer sites. Signed Sweet Paybeto - In

## Letter #2

U

PAGE 041

July 15, 2026

To: Whom this Concerns.

My is Marie Acotley Peyketewa, my clans are  
Tsinaajinnii, Kinyaa'annii, Taboahá, Hanágháannii.

I do strongly support Sacred Site legislation  
# 0172-26, Save the Confluence.

I grew up close to Save the Confluence,  
Sash Blush Hill is close to the Colorado River  
and where the water meets. Where we  
lived is called Pinched up House, it a hogan  
and big stone corral, it was in little canyon.  
That's where my root is at and still go there,  
it so beautiful. I do have a grazing permit.

---

(2)

During my son deployment to Iraq, my prayers were done for his safety, well being, to stay out of harms way and for a safe return home with his fellow soldiers I prayed near the scared site, the confluence, by the canyon while at the ranch and sheep camp daily towards the confluence, as taught by my mother, aunts, grand mothers, women could not be at the point to pray, but near the confluence prayers directed to the confluence and offers being given daily for our son safe return and along with his fellow soldiers, my prayers were answered by the dieties at the Confluence brought my son safely back home with out injuries.

During my up bring I was told that prayers to be done near the confluence on a daily times your prayers would be answered strongly as it was for our son, due to traditional belief.

I very strongly respect the canyon, where the two rivers meet, know as the confluence the scared site, due to the vast history of our people. I very, very strongly opposed any changes, development at this area. Scared site know as the confluence as immortal.

Marie Payketewa  
Marie Payketewa

7-15-2026

**RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**FOURTH YEAR 2026**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Madam Speaker,

The **RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

**Legislation No. 0172-26:** An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíni, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site. *Sponsor: Curtis Yanito, Co-Sponsors: Andy Nez, Crystalayne Curley, Titus J. Nez, Council Delegates*

Has had it under consideration and reports a **DO PASS** with no amendments.  
And thereafter the legislation was referred to Naa'bik'iyati' Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Casey Allen Johnson, *Pro Tem Chairperson*  
Resources and Development Committee of  
the 25th Navajo Nation Council

Date: July 27, 2026 – Regular Meeting (Mentmore, New Mexico and Teleconference)  
Location: Navajo Nation Department of Transportation – Senator John Pinto Conference  
Rm 401 – Mentmore, New Mexico.

**Main Motion:**

**M:** Shawna Ann Claw      **S:** Danny Simpson      **V:** 3-0-3 (PTCNV)  
**In Favor:** Shawna Ann Claw; Brenda Jesus; Danny Simpson  
**Opposition:** None  
**Excused:** Rickie Nez  
**Not Voting:** Casey Allen Johnson, *Pro Tem Chairperson*; Rickie Nez; Otto Tso

(NOTE: VOTE TALLY attached hereto)

**In Favor:** Otto Tso; Brenda Jesus

**Opposition:** Shawna Ann Claw

**Excused:** Rickie Nez

**Not Voting:** Danny Simpson; Casey Allen Johnson, *Protem, Vice-Chairperson*

**Amendment One:**

**M:** Brenda Jesus      **S:** Danny Simpson      **V:** 03-01-01 (VCNV)

**In Favor:** Brenda Jesus; Danny Simpson; Otto Tso

**Opposition:** Shawna Ann Claw

**Excused:** Rickie Nez

**Not Voting:** Casey Allen Johnson, *Protem, Vice Chairperson*

(NOTE: VOTE TALLY attached hereto)

**RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**FOURTH YEAR 2026**

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE TALLY SHEET**

**Legislation No. 0172-26:** An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíni, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site. *Sponsor: Curtis Yanito, Co-Sponsors: Andy Nez, Crystalayne Curley, Titus J. Nez, Council Delegates*

Date: July 27, 2026 – Regular Meeting (Mentmore, New Mexico and Teleconference)  
Location: Navajo Nation Department of Transportation – Senator John Pinto Conference Rm 401 – Mentmore, New Mexico.

**Main Motion:**

**M:** Shawna Ann Claw      **S:** Danny Simpson      **V:** 3-0-3 (PTCNV)

**In Favor:** Shawna Ann Claw; Brenda Jesus; Danny Simpson

**Opposition:** None

**Excused:** Rickie Nez

**Not Voting:** Casey Allen Johnson, *Pro Tem Chairperson*; Rickie Nez; Otto Tso



Casey Allen Johnson, *Pro Tem Chairperson*  
Resources and Development Committee



Leslie M. Tsosie, *Legislative Advisor I*  
Office of Legislative Services

**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0172-26**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Curtis Yanito**

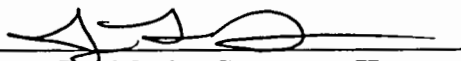
**TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíni, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site**

**Posted: July 08, 2026, at 1:03 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 13, 2026**

**Digital Comments received:**

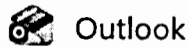
|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Comments Supporting</b>      | <b>1. Renae Yellowhorse</b> |
| <b>Comments Opposing</b>        | <i>None</i>                 |
| <b>Comments/Recommendations</b> | <i>None</i>                 |



**Legislative Secretary II  
Office of Legislative Services**

**August 12, 2026; 10:35 AM**

**Date/Time**



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**[EXTERNAL]Dee Yellowhorse Comment Submission Legislation 0172-26**

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From Renae Yellowhorse

Date Tue 8/11/2026 6:38 PM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>

 1 attachment (4 MB)

20260811\_173510.jpg;

Honorable Navajo Nation Council Delegates:

I am attaching the handwritten comment for my 86 year old mother, Dee Yellowhorse. She is a registered voter in Western Agency and resides currently in Tuba City Chapter. She was born near Graymountain while her family was gathering pinions. She lost her mother at a young age and her grandmother whom she mentions in her statement raised her.

They resided near the Old Airport Mesa which lies West of Tuba City. Her grandmother's extended family lived in the Bodaway area. During the Bennett Freeze time when they were not allowed to build or expand the living spaces, many of the relatives moved near this area and to this day continue to reside there while the ancestral lands were visited constantly and remembered in quiet conversations during family gatherings. Many relatives continued to reside in the areas in Bodaway near the Confluence.

My mother received her high school diploma on a stage in the new Tuba City Community Center along with 5 other graduates. They were the first graduating class of 1960 for Tuba City High School. She married and along with other family sought employment and work at various farms picking produce in Utah. As her family grew, she decided to return home to work at the hospital and then eventually the Boarding School and helped raise a generation of children over 30 years.

She had no choice to retire as she was debilitated physically after surviving a near fatal vehicle accident. She could not work with the children but continued participating in Social Song and Dance attending events all over the Nation and in Las Vegas and Phoenix.

My home is her shelter now after covid took most of her relatives and friends, she remains there most times crocheting and tending to her pets. She read the legislation had come to the Council and here is her statement in support of the Sacred Site designation for the Confluence in Legislation 0172-26.

Thank you.

Renae Yellowhorse

[www.savetheconfluence.com](http://www.savetheconfluence.com) @EastRim #GrandCanyon  
getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com

Yeah — when I was a ~~gt~~ little girl growing up, I have witness why grown people says holy proper to the ~~River~~ Colorado river.

Now I'm aware and finding out why the Colorado ~~exist~~. Conforon river is a sacred site.

~~It~~ Of course I've asked or tried to ask my grandmother Thelma Belagody why to <sup>we</sup> have to say a proper while crossing the Bridge. She's just tells to me don't think about it —

Surprising, surprise, she didn't want to ~~me~~ to see <sup>what</sup> the end of a rainbow exist.

Some where when growing up finding out; some how to find out our soul was guided to exist in the Navajo land open to be existed.

~~It was~~ Listening to medicine man residing the Navajo proper prayer or chanting, and ~~asking~~ ~~types~~ why they sing that way.

It was because; it was a sacred site designation.

Nee Yellowhorse

# **25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT Fourth Year 2026**

The **NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

## **NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL #0172-26**

An Action Relating to Resources and Development and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Designation Tooh Ahidiilíní, the Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River Gorge, and Other Related Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sites within the Bodaway/Gap Chapter as a Sacred Site

*Sponsored by: Honorable Curtis Yanito  
Co-Sponsor: Honorable Crystalyne Curley  
Co-Sponsor: Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.  
Co-Sponsor: Honorable Andy Nez  
Co-Sponsor: Honorable Titus J. Nez*

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, *Speaker*  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

**13 August 2026**

### **MAIN MOTION (CONSENT AGENDA)**

*Motioned by: Honorable Norman M. Begay*

*Seconded by: Honorable Rickie Nez*

*Vote: 20 in Favor, 00 Opposed (Speaker Curley Not Voting)*

# NAVAJO NATION

1016

8/13/2026  
10:50:01 AM

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

|              |                                 |        |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Amd# to Amd# | New Business: Item A. (CONSENT) | PASSED |
| MOT Begay, N | 0172,0173,0181,0182,0185-26     |        |
| SEC Nez, R   | 0187-26                         |        |

**Yeas : 20**

**Nays : 0**

**Excused : 1**

**Not Voting : 2**

**Yea : 20**

|                   |             |             |           |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Begay, H          | James, V    | Nez, R      | Slater, C |
| Begay, N          | Jesus, B    | Nez, T      | Tolth, G  |
| Charles-Newton, E | Johnson, C  | Notah, N    | Yanito, C |
| Claw, S           | Mitchell, A | Simonson, G | Yazzie, C |
| Crotty, A         | Nez, A      | Simpson, D  | Yazzie, L |

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 1**

Daniels, H

**Not Voting : 2**

Tso, O                      Parrish, S

**Presiding Speaker: Curley, C**