

**HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION NO. 67-2009  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
HUALAPAI TRIBE OF THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION**

**{Position of the Hualapai Tribe's Opposition to Uranium Exploration and Mining}**

- WHEREAS,** the Hualapai Reservation encompasses approximately one-seventh of the aboriginal territory of the Hualapai Tribe, and many places outside our Reservation boundary hold religious, cultural, and historic significance for the Hualapai people; and
- WHEREAS,** many places that hold religious, cultural, and historic significance for the Hualapai people are located on lands that are currently managed by various federal agencies of the federal government, including but not limited to the areas within the Kaibab National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service; and
- WHEREAS,** the Hualapai Tribe considers the entire Grand Canyon from rim to rim to be a culturally significant landscape which includes hundreds of particular places that hold religious and cultural significance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Federal Government has responsibilities, both legal and moral, to manage public lands in a way that shows proper respect for places that hold religious and cultural and historical importance to Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** uranium exploration and mining cause many adverse humanitarian and environmental impacts that are inconsistent with the management of public lands for the preservation of the integrity of places that hold tribal religious, historical and cultural significance; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal law known as the 1872 Mining Law is an anachronism; under this law the federal government gives away valuable natural resources to private companies, with the mining claims of those private companies taking precedence over other public interests, including the public interest in preserving places that hold religious and cultural importance for Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the 1872 Mining Law was enacted during the "robber baron" era of American history; in the historical context of the relations between the Hualapai Tribe and the United States, the 1872 law was enacted at about the same time as two traumatic events in Hualapai history: the war that the U.S. Army fought against the Hualapai people from 1866 to 1868 and the forced removal of many of the Hualapai people to La Paz in 1874; and
- WHEREAS,** during the Administration of President Clinton, the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior issued a legal opinion that federal land managing agencies do have discretion to deny permission to develop mining claims, in effect, if the costs associated with mitigating damage to the environment, cultural resources and ethereal belief of a tribe would render the extraction of the minerals not economically viable (Solicitor, "Regulation of Hardrock Mining," M-36999 (Dec.

27, 1999)), the Bush Administration issued a Solicitor's opinion that reached a contrary conclusion (Solicitor, "Surface Management Provisions for Hardrock Mining," M-37007 (Oct. 23, 2001)); and

**WHEREAS,** the Department of the Interior has proposed the withdrawal of nearly one million acres of federal lands in the Grand Canyon watershed from new mining claims under the 1872 Mining Law, an action that would put these lands off limits for mineral exploration and extraction for twenty years, and which has the immediate effect of putting these lands off limits for two years while the Secretary of the Interior considers whether to make the proposed withdrawal final; and

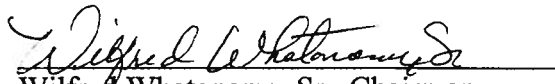
**WHEREAS,** various federal agencies have invited public comment on proposed uranium explorations and uranium mining within areas apparently not covered by the Secretary's proposed withdrawal;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Hualapai Tribe formally declares strong opposition on proposed exploratory drilling and uranium mining;


1. Commends the Secretary of the Interior for the proposed withdrawal of federal lands from claims under the 1872 Mining Law and calls for the Secretary to make a final decision to proceed with the withdrawal;
2. Opposes proposals by uranium mining companies to conduct exploratory drilling for uranium within the jurisdiction of various federal land managing agencies;
3. Calls upon the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a review of Solicitor's opinions on the regulation of hardrock mining;
4. Supports efforts in Congress to repeal or substantially amend the 1872 Mining Law;
5. Opposes exploration for uranium and uranium mining without tribal approval on all Hualapai ancestral lands including lands under the sovereign authority of the Hualapai Tribe.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Chairman of the Hualapai Tribal Council hereby certify that the Hualapai Tribal Council of the Hualapai Tribe is composed of nine (9) members of whom 9 constituting a quorum were present at a **Regular Council Meeting** thereof held on this **3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2009**; and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of **9 - for, 0 - oppose**, pursuant to authority of Article V, Section (a) of the Constitution of the Hualapai Tribe approved March 13, 1991.

  
Wilfred Whatoname, Sr., Chairman  
Hualapai Tribal Council

ATTEST

  
Adeline Crozier, Assist. Secretary  
Hualapai Tribal Council