

WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL



Thomas L. Cody
President

Yvonne Bigman
Vice-President

Louise Kerley
Secretary

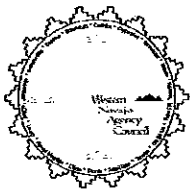
RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

IN SUPPORT OF THE GRAND CANYON WATERSHEDS PROTECTION ACT, H.R. 644 AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR'S PROPOSED 20-YEAR MINERAL WITHDRAWAL TO PROHIBIT NEW MINING CLAIMS ON NEARLY ONE MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS SURROUNDING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK.

WACS Resolution No.: 352-13-4

WHEREAS:

1. The Western Navajo Agency Council is a consortium of duly elected Chapter Officials of eighteen (18) certified Navajo Nation Chapters that advocate, promote and support common goals and interests of the respective Chapters; AND
2. The Western Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials from eighteen (18) Navajo Nation Chapters in the Western Navajo Agency and has the responsibility and authority to address matters and projects that will benefit the 18 chapters of the Western Navajo Agency of the Navajo Nation; AND
3. The Navajo Nation enacted the Diné Natural Resource Protection Act of 2005 to ensure that no further damage to the culture, society, and economy of the Navajo Nation occurs because of uranium mining and uranium processing within the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Indian Country until all adverse economic, environmental and human health effects from past uranium mining and processing have been eliminated or substantially reduced to the satisfaction of the Navajo Nation Council; and
4. Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. testified in support of the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on March 28, 2008; and
5. A variety of places, plants and animals that possess cultural, religious, spiritual and historical importance for Navajo people are situated on lands managed by the federal government and its executive agencies, including but not limited to areas under the authority of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and
6. The Federal Government has trust responsibilities and as such has a legal requirement to manage the public lands in a manner that is respectful to the health, welfare, cultural integrity of Native American tribes; and
7. The exploration and mining of uranium is known to cause serious, detrimental irreversible human health and environmental impacts that directly conflicts with the Federal Government's duty to manage the public lands for the protection and preservation of the places that possess cultural, religious and historical importance to Native people; and
8. The federal law known as the 1872 Mining Law is an outdated piece of legislation that enables private mining companies to freely take invaluable natural resources, effectively subverting the rights of the public, including Indian tribes to which such places within the public lands possess sacred value and which requires protection and preservation from such invasive practices; and
9. Uranium ore mined from public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon are likely to be transported by truck on U.S. Highway 89, 160, and 163 and State Highway 98 through Navajo Chapters of Cameron, Tuba City, Tonalea, LeChee, Kaibeto, Shonto, Kayenta, Dennehotso, and Mexican Water; and



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10. Congressman Raul Grijalva has requested that the Department of the Interior withdraw lands from future mining claims due to the threat of uranium mining to human health, water quality, nearby Indian tribes, and the integrity of the Grand Canyon National Park; and
11. Congressman Raul Grijalva introduced H.R. 644, known as the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009, in the 111th Congress, to withdraw approximately 1, 068,908 acres of federal land surrounding the Grand Canyon from future mining claims; and
12. On July 20, 2009, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar issued a two-year segregation order limiting new mining claims on nearly one million acres of federal public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park; and
13. Since issuing the segregation order in 2009, the Department of the Interior has been evaluating whether to withdraw the lands from mining for an additional 20 years.

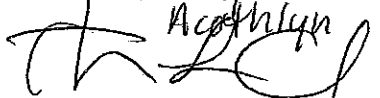
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

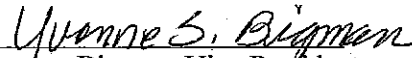
1. The Western Navajo Agency Council does hereby supports, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation, H.R. 644 Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act to withdraw more than one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon from future mining claims, to prevent exploration and mining of uranium.

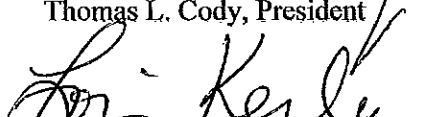
CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was properly presented at a duly called Western Navajo Agency Council Meeting at Sinagua Middle School, 3950 E. Butler Ave., Flagstaff, Arizona, where a quorum was presented and passed with a vote of 48 In Favor; 0 Opposed; and 2 Abstained on this 18 day of December, 2010.

Motion by: Evelyn Acapahlyn Second By: Irene White Miller


Thomas L. Cody, President


Yvonne Bigman, Vice-President


Louise Kerley, Secretary