

# MOAPA BAND OF PAIUTES

MOAPA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

BOX 340

MOAPA, NEVADA 89025

TELEPHONE (702) 865-2787

FAX (702) 865-2875

**Tribal Resolution: M-18-03-07**

## RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MOAPA BAND OF PAIUTES

**Subject: Oppose Department of Defense Increased Use and Expansion of the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge**

**WHEREAS**, the Moapa Band of Paiutes are organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, (Stat. 594), as amended to exercise certain rights of home rule and be responsible for the general welfare of its membership and is governed by its Business Council which manages its affairs under Articles III and V of its Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Moapa Business Council is the governing body of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, by authority of the Tribe's Constitution and By-Laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the region encompassing the NTTR and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge remain central to the lives of Native American Tribes. These lands are known to contain traditional and ceremonial use along with traditional gathering and collection locations for Native American people. The region contains abundant ecological resources and special power places that are crucial in the continuity of Native American culture, religion and society; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mountains of Southern Nevada are considered sacred lands to the Southern Paiute Nuwu, where great legends were said to have begun and ended and where our hearts belong to this land. Since time immemorial, our people have lived and traveled across these lands. They carved their stories on the rocks, cooked their food in the now ancient roasting pits, and left artifacts that show how our people thrived in this beautiful desert and mountain environment. These are the objects of antiquity that tell the story of the Nuwu; of how we thrived on the land and of how our homelands were stolen by white colonizers. We cannot forget this history; and

**WHEREAS**, much of the Refuge has not been properly inventoried for cultural resources and 80% of the Sheep Range is designated as the Sheep Mountain Archaeological site on the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, the bighorn sheep are sacred to the Moapa people. Creation stories say that the Paiute people enter the mountains and left as sheep. In essence the sheep are people. It is our duty to protect the mountain sheep for if they all die, then we die too. The Refuge was originally protected for the sheep and the mountains in the Desert Refuge/NTTR and are key habitat for desert bighorn sheep; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense wants to increase training operations in the Desert Refuge/NTTR and increase the size of the NTTR. Expansion would eliminate even more access to the Desert Refuge including denying access to half of the Sheep Range limiting access to cultural sites and

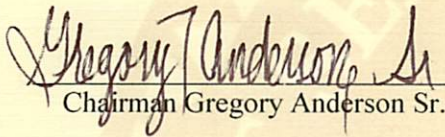
potentially damaging them and negatively impacting sheep in the mountain ranges in the NTTR and the Sheep Range

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Moapa Business Council strongly prefers the Department of Defense Alternative 1 which would maintain the status quo and does not increase the use or size of the NTTR

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Moapa Business Council urges the Department of Defense to increase coordination directly with the Moapa Tribe pertaining to any additional land withdrawal and change in use and provide more access to important cultural sites within the boundaries of the NTTR including, but not limited to, Pintwater Cave.

#### CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Chairman and Secretary of the Business Council of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered and passed at a duly called meeting of the Business Council of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, at which a quorum was present, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018, with (A) For (o) Against (e) Abstaining, and (i) Absent.

  
Chairman Gregory Anderson Sr.

  
Tribal Council Secretary Delaine Bow