



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe

Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT)

Resolution: 12-09-2023 Resolution #01-2023 (DV-Las Vegas)

Resolution in Support of the Indian Buffalo Management Act and Continued DOI Contracting with Tribal Entities Such as ITBC for Tribally-Driven Buffalo Restoration and Management Efforts

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe, and is Chaired by Hon. Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting Tribes that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners; and

WHEREAS, COLT seeks to educate the United States Congress, the Executive Administration, the public, and other tribes regarding the unique issues impacting tribes that govern large land bases; and

WHEREAS, COLT further advocates for legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms that impact large land base tribes; and

WHEREAS, the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), a federally chartered Indian organization under Section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act, is comprised of 84 federally-recognized Tribes across 21 states for the purpose of restoring buffalo to Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, ITBC, since its inception in 1992, has received limited federal funding from the Department of Interior to support Tribal buffalo restoration largely from discretionary BIA grants for natural resource/wildlife projects; and

WHEREAS, ITBC awards herd development grants to Member Tribes/Nations from the BIA funding and such funding has been stagnant at approximately \$1,400,000 annually despite the



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growth of ITBC member Tribes applying for financial assistance and despite such limited funding ITBC member Tribes manage approximately 25,000 buffalo collectively; and

WHEREAS, ITBC provides technical assistance to Tribes on herd health and management, has assisted with cultural harvest efforts and has initiated efforts to reintroduce buffalo into the diets of Tribal populations to address diet-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, ITBC has long promoted Congressional adoption of the Indian Buffalo Management Act, which would formalize the US Government’s commitment to restoration of Buffalo, a traditional food source for many large land-based Tribes, authorize annual appropriations for sound buffalo management that will, in turn, create jobs and promote a Tribal buffalo industry; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Buffalo Management Act, passed the House of Representatives in the last Congress but was stalled in the United States Senate due to issues raised by the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Buffalo Management Act, H.R 6386, has now been reintroduced in both Houses of the United States Congress and a hearing has been held in the House Natural Resources Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on December 5, 2023; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) supports Congressional adoption of the Indian Buffalo Management Act through the soonest possible hearing at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that COLT supports tribally-driven efforts for tribal buffalo restoration and management versus initiating an internal BIA workforce to duplicate current successful Tribal efforts to pass through funds to Tribes, provide technical assistance; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of COLT until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held in Las Vegas, Nevada within the home state of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation on December 9, 2023 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this December 9, 2023.

Attest:

Marvin Weatherwax, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

Crystalyne Curley, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes