



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

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

Resolution: March-9-2024-Resolution #02-2024 (Las Vegas, NV)

Resolution in Support of the InterTribal Buffalo Council Obtaining Acreage at Medano-Zapata Ranch to Establish an Intertribal Buffalo Herd

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 Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Nation; 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 ITBC is an Associate Member of COLT; and

WHEREAS, ITBC has been collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and other philanthropic organizations to acquire land that will facilitate enhanced Tribal buffalo restoration efforts for Tribes that have limited land resources; and

WHEREAS, ITBC has historically provided 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



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WHEREAS, ITBC has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for collaboration on buffalo restoration efforts and has recently successfully negotiated the acquisition of acreage in central South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, ITBC has now engaged in negotiations to acquire 3000 acres of the Medano-Zapata Ranches in Alamosa County, Colorado for establishment of an intertribal buffalo herd.

WHEREAS, ITBC is also engaged in negotiations to transition the existing TNC buffalo herd into an Intertribal herd to be managed by ITBC on behalf of area Tribes; and

WHEREAS, This land borders the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Baca National Wildlife Refuge which opens up co-management and co-stewardship opportunities of these federal lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) supports the transfer of the buffalo and the remaining Medano-Zapata buffalo pastures from TNC to ITBC; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that COLT supports tribally driven efforts for tribal buffalo restoration and management through a Co-management agreement of the adjoining Federal land; and

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

Attest:

Marvin Weatherwax, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

Crystalyne Curley, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes



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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 Reservation on March 9, 2024 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this March 9, 2024.