



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Hopi Tribe • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Mescalero Apache Tribe • Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation Northern Arapaho Tribe • Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • San Carlos Apache Tribe • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Spirit Lake Nation • Spokane Tribe Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

Resolution: 12-10-2025 Resolution # 15-2025 (WR-Las Vegas)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TO REPATRIATE INDIAN TRUST LANDS ESTABLISHED BY TREATY
ON THE WIND RIVER RESERVATION**

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land bases, including the Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Hopi Tribe • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Mescalero Apache Tribe • Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation Northern Arapaho Tribe • Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • San Carlos Apache Tribe • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Spirit Lake Nation • Spokane Tribe Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting tribes that govern large trust bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners. COLT tribes encompass more than 50 million acres of land across their reservations; and

WHEREAS, the 1868 Treaty between the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the United States set aside approximately 3,200,000 acres of land in what is now west-central Wyoming *“for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation of the Shoshonee Indians herein named, and for such other friendly tribes or individual Indians as from time to time they may be willing, with the consent of the United States, to admit amongst them,”* and

WHEREAS, the Brunot Act of 1897 further diminished the Eastern Shoshone Reservation by seven hundred thousand acres to allow mining for the gold in the area south of the Reservation, and

WHEREAS, the Reclamation Act of 1902 was adopted by Congress to provide water and irrigation infrastructure for the arid *public* lands of the West, but tribal lands are not and were never public lands subject to disposal for any purpose other than those outlined in binding Treaties; and



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WHEREAS, through improper actions, the Bureau of Reclamation, violated the Eastern Shoshone Treaty of 1868 by opening up approximately 1,400,000 Treaty trust lands of the Reservation north of the Big Wind River to homesteading and created the Riverton Reclamation Project, and

WHEREAS, in 1919 the Bureau of Reclamation utilized \$77,000,000 of Indian Appropriations to construct Diversion Dam, Wyoming Canal and farmland ditches, headgates, and irrigation infrastructure for the non-Indian irrigators of the Riverton Reclamation Project, and

WHEREAS, through subsequent Acts of Congress, most of the land north of the Big Wind River was restored, along with mineral rights and water rights, to Tribal ownership except for surface rights to approximately 331,000 acres, and

WHEREAS, the wording of the Reclamation Act specifically states that all land deemed excess to the Project shall be restored to Tribal ownership and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, along with the Bureau of Reclamation, have identified about 111,000 acres of “excess” lands in the Project, and

WHEREAS, any disposal of Riverton Reclamation Project lands other than restoration to Tribal ownership would further violate Treaties of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes have never lost sight of the fact that this land is trust land created by Treaty and ratified by Congress.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) requests that the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the General Services Administration hold immediate meetings with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes to accurately update all maps, data, and information to fully identify “excess” lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that COLT calls on that the United States, through the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the General Services Administration all live up to their solemn obligations to abide by the Eastern Shoshone Treaty of 1868, and Reclamation



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Act of 1902 by identifying those parcels deemed “excess” to the Project and begin transfer process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that COLT calls on the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs to undertake a comprehensive effort to determine other lands that are available for repatriation throughout the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, COLT directs, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to:

- Secretary of the Interior Hon. Doug Burgum
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation; and

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

CERTIFICATION

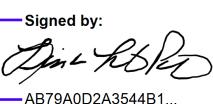
This resolution was enacted at meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held December 10, 2025 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this December 10, 2025.

Attest:


Signed by:
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J. Garret Renville, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes


Signed by:
AB79A0D2A3544B1...

Lisa White Pipe, Secretary / Treasurer, Coalition of Large Tribes