



Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

Resolution No. 19-005

RESOLUTION OF THE LAS VEGAS PAIUTE TRIBE REJECTING PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO EXPAND ITS USE OF LAND OR EXERCISE JURISDICTION WITHIN THE DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

WHEREAS, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe (the "Tribe") is organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and a Constitution approved by the Tribe on June 24, 1970, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe (the "Las Vegas Paiute Constitution"), the Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Council (the "Council") is the governing body of the Tribe; and,

WHEREAS, the Air Force's preferred alternative for the Nevada Test and Training Range, if approved by Congress, would eliminate wilderness protections from nearly 1 million acres of land within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, which would increase the threats to the survival of the Desert Bighorn Sheep, desert tortoise and other imperiled wildlife, further restricts access to areas of historical, cultural, spiritual and recreational significance to Tribes that regard this area as culturally significant. In addition, this expansion would degrade the ability of future Congresses to exercise meaningful oversight of the Air Force's discharge of its environmental responsibilities within the Refuge; and

WHEREAS, an additional 227,000 acres that the United States Air Force also proposes to add to the Nevada Test and Training Range, and whose incorporation it designates as "Alternative 3C," includes portions of the Sheep Range, which the Nevada Department of Wildlife describes as the "heart of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge" whose importance to "wildlife resources and public access cannot be overstated"; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Department of Wildlife states the Desert National Wildlife Refuge protects irreplaceable habitat for one of the largest populations of desert bighorn sheep in Nevada and the expansion would also reduce their seasonal migration routes that are dependent upon cross valley movements from one mountain range to the other; and

WHEREAS, other wildlife which would be impacted include: 320 bird species (including the Golden Eagle, Roadrunner, and Pygmy Owl), 53 mammal species (including the desert bighorn sheep and kit fox), 35 reptile species (including the desert tortoise), 4 amphibian species, and nearly 500 plant species.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with Nevada State Senate Joint Resolution 3 (SJR3), the Tribe rejects any proposal by the United States Air Force to expand its use of land or exercise of jurisdiction within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge beyond that which it currently possesses and to limit any proposal to extend the Air Force's authority over the Nevada Test and Training Range to not more than 20 years.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Council, governing body of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, composed of seven (7) members of whom six (6) constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly held on the **11th** day of March, **2019**, adopted the foregoing **Resolution of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe Rejecting Proposal By The United States Air Force to Expand Its Use of Land Or Exercise Jurisdiction Within The Desert National Wildlife Refuge** by the affirmative of 5 for, **0** against, pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe.


CHRIS SPOTTED EAGLE
TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



Trudi L Farber
Tribal Secretary