



Herman G. Honanie
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquahu Jr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

September 30, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Senator Orin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Rob Bishop
123 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Jim Matheson
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Mike Lee
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Jason Chaffetz
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Chris Stewart
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President, Senators and Congressmen,

On behalf of Hopi people, Hopisenom, I have the honor of providing the Hopi Tribe's support for the designation of the greater Cedar Mesa area including Alkali Ridge and Montezuma Canyon in southeastern Utah as a National Conservation Area or National Monument.

Pursuant to the enclosed Hopi Tribal Council Resolution H-70-94, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to ancestral puebloan cultural groups in the greater Cedar Mesa area. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate your solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

Hopi migration is intimately associated with a sacred Covenant between the Hopi people and *M̐aasaw*, the Earth Guardian, in which the Hopi people made a solemn promise to protect the land by serving as stewards of the Earth. In accordance with this Covenant, ancestral Hopi clans

traveled through and settled on the lands in and around southeastern Utah during their long migration to *Tuwanasavi*, the Earth Center on the Hopi Mesas.

The land is a testament of Hopi stewardship through thousands of years, manifested by the "footprints" of ancient villages, sacred springs, migration routes, pilgrimage trails, artifacts, petroglyphs, and the physical remains of buried *Hisatsinom*, the "People of Long Ago," all of which were intentionally left to mark the land as proof that the Hopi people have fulfilled their Covenant. The Hopi ancestors buried in the area continue to inhabit the land, and they are intimately associated with the clouds that travel out across the countryside to release the moisture that sustains all life.

The Hopi footprints and clouds are part of a living, sacred landscape that nourishes and sustains Hopi identity. This landscape is steeped in cultural values and maintained through oral traditions, songs, ceremonial dances, pilgrimages, and stewardship. As a cultural landscape, the archaeological sites and physical terrain situates the Hopi people in time and space, providing a geographical conception of history and religion that connects the past, present and future. These lands are part of our ancestral lands. Hopi history and cultural values associated with ancestral sites and landscapes are deep and abiding.

We are fully aware that over the last few decades the archaeological, natural and geographic resources in the region have been severely impacted by looting, federal management inadequacies, industrial development, and rampant visitation including increased motorized and recreational access and inappropriate all terrain vehicle use. We have encouraged the BLM to enforce the laws protecting cultural and natural resources on public land in San Juan County and not to acquiesce to local political and illegal actions by proposing to make illegal motorized trails into legal motorized roads on public lands that contain irreplaceable cultural resources that have been looted for over a Century and continue to be looted today.

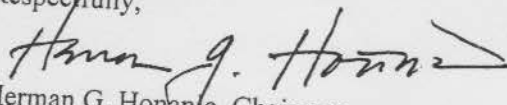
We appreciate the Friends of Cedar Mesa and National Trust for Historic Preservation for working with the Hopi Tribe and other tribes culturally associated to the area to develop proposals that will enhance the protection of cultural landscapes and the sites within them in San Juan County.

And therefore, the Hopi Tribe and Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports Congressional action to designate the greater Cedar Mesa area as a National Conservation Area. Based on over century of looting and grave robbing, we also support a provision in the designation that provides for protection and preservation and avoidance of our ancestor's human remains. Such a designation could accomplish the goal of prioritizing protection of cultural resources while also allowing flexibility in management of traditional Native American uses.

However, if Congress fails to act quickly to protect this landscape, we urge the President to be ready to preserve this imperiled resource as a National Monument before the end of this term.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director, Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at kuwanwisiwma@hopi.nsn.us or 928-734-3611. Thank again you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Herman G. Honanle, Chairman
THE HOPI TRIBE