



Montana & Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council

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Resolution # _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MONTANA-WYOMING TRIBAL LEADERS COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF THE BADGER TWO MEDICINE AREA THROUGH THE OPPOSITION OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council (TLC) has been created for the express purpose of providing its member Tribes with a unified voice and a collective organization to address issues of concern to the Tribes and Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the TLC consists of duly elected Tribal Chairs, Presidents, and Council members who are fully authorized to represent their respective Tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Badger Two Medicine is within the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people, and was set aside as part of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation by the Lame Bull Treaty of October 17, 1855; and

WHEREAS: The location of the Badger Two Medicine in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem between Glacier National Park and the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas, with its isolated and dramatic mountain features, and its richness in rare and sensitive plant and wildlife, have long made it a critical part of the oral history, creation stories and ceremonies of the Blackfoot people; and

WHEREAS: The Badger Two Medicine was included within the area ceded by the Blackfeet Tribe in 1895, but the cession was not intended to be permanent, and the Blackfeet Tribe continues to assert its ownership to the area; and

WHEREAS: In 1982, the U.S. Forest Service, without consultation with the Blackfeet Tribe, granted 47 oil and gas leases in the Badger Two Medicine, said leases are a threat to the pristine condition of the Badger Two Medicine and to the cultural and religious values of the Blackfoot people; and

WHEREAS: The Blackfeet Tribe firmly believes the oil and gas leases in the Badger Two Medicine were let in error due to the agency process of not conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) nor addressing the Endangered Species Act as the law intended; and

WHEREAS: The entire area of the Badger Two Medicine has been designated a Traditional Cultural District (TCD) by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS: Energy development in the Badger Two Medicine would be considered "adverse effects" and irrevocably change the character of the Badger Two Medicine and would impact and interfere with the pristine and isolated nature of the area and the Blackfoot people's use of it for cultural, historical and religious purposes and would also interfere with the hunting, fishing and timbering reserved rights of the Blackfeet Tribe.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council hereby joins with the Blackfeet Tribe to declare that they will not consent and will not approve any energy development within the Badger Two Medicine and vigorously oppose any proposals for such development; and

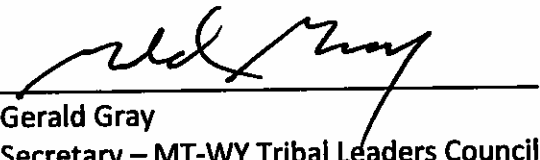
The Tribes of the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council supports all efforts by the Montana Congressional Delegation to provide a means for energy company leases in the Badger Two Medicine to be canceled for violating the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act and projected "adverse effects" to the Blackfeet culture; and

The Tribes of the Montana Tribal Leaders Council encourage the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, to cancel the remaining oil & gas leases in the Badger Two Medicine and to meet directly with the Blackfeet Tribal Business council to ensure compliance with Federal law and policy and plan future co-management strategies.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as the Chair and Secretary of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and approved unanimously at an official Board meeting held on the 15th day of October, 2014, with 9 member Tribes present to constitute a full quorum.


Ivan Posey
Chairman – MT-WY Tribal Leaders Council


Gerald Gray
Secretary – MT-WY Tribal Leaders Council