



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • 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 • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT)

Resolution: 06-02-2023-Resolution #02-2022 (WR-Las Vegas)

Resolution Calling for Withdrawal of Public Land Order 7923 and Deference to Navajo Nation Sovereignty in the Greater Chaco Area

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 • 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 • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by Councilman Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council: and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting tribes that govern large trust land bases; and

WHEREAS, COLT tribes consist of tribes that have a land base of 100,000 acres of land or more, of which, of the 574 Federally recognized Tribes, more than 50 tribes meet this criteria; and these tribes control 95 percent of tribal lands and consist of one half of the Native population; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is a COLT member tribe and requested a COLT resolution to oppose Public Land Order No. 7923 signed by Secretary Haaland on June 2, 2023 on grounds that the Department of the Interior had not conducted meaningful consultation with the Navajo Nation or its citizens and that the PLO disrespects the Navajo Nation’s rights as a territorial sovereign to determine whether and how natural resources development occurs on Navajo lands; and

WHEREAS, The [Chaco Withdrawal Public Land Order](#) (PLO) was officially published in the Federal Register on June 6, 2023 and that is its effective date; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation explained that PLO No. 7923 has dire consequences for more than 20,000 Navajo citizens. In the last three and a half years alone Navajo Allottees have received more than \$80,000,000 in oil and gas lease income. In many cases, this is those Allottees’ only income in an extremely impoverished area. And yet, the Department of the Interior has withdrawn a 10-mile buffer over those same Allottees, withdrawing more than 336,000 acres of federal lands for a period of 20 years, at a loss of more than \$1 billion in royalty income to the United States and Allottees. The Public Land Order strands the Navajo Allottees and their minerals, making ANY new development impossible. The



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area the Allottees were promised was their permanent homeland is heavily checkerboarded. You cannot reach the Tribal and Allottee minerals in the area around Chaco Canyon without the federal minerals. This is an obvious fact of oil and gas production well known to large land base tribes who are very familiar with the difficulty of developing only part of checkerboarded lands. The buffer is a significant taking of hundreds of millions of dollars of property from the Navajo Allottees; and

Whereas, on April 27, 2023, the Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyatí Committee approved Resolution NABIAP-11-23, which opposes the withdrawal of public lands surrounding Chaco Canyon. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and Resolution NABIAP-11-23 represents the official position of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation is in the best position to determine the best interests of its citizens; and

Whereas, Chaco Canyon has been home to the Navajo people since time immemorial and the Navajo Nation fully understands the need to protect the Chaco Culture National Historic Park, but also wants the voices of Navajo Allottees to be heard and to work toward a viable solution that respects all stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, COLT calls for the withdrawal of Public Land Order 7923 in order to allow the more fulsome consultation requested by the Navajo Nation and to protect the Navajo Nation's sovereign right to protect its land and citizens and fulfill its proper role as the primary territorial sovereign decision-maker about whether and how resource development takes place on Navajo lands; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, COLT supports the Navajo Nation's request for the House Natural Resources Committee to hold a Congressional field hearing in the community of Nageezi, New Mexico, to hear directly from Navajo people who are directly impacted by Public Lands Order 7923.

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



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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 Walker River Paiute Tribe on June 2, 2023 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this June 2, 2023

Attest:

Nathan Small, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes

Marvin Weatherwax, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes