

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA UNANIMOUSLY PASSES RESOLUTION OPPOSING BEAR HUNT

Bear is “Sacred Animal” to Nevada Tribes

The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. (ITCN) adopted a Resolution opposing the bear hunt in Nevada at its regular meeting held in Carson City on Thursday, August 16, 2012. Resolution 12-ITCN-09 (Resolution) was adopted unanimously by the fourteen (14) tribal chairmen present at the meeting.

The Resolution acknowledged that a regulation establishing a permanent, legal bear hunt in Nevada had been adopted by the Nevada Wildlife Commission. The Resolution stated two main concerns with the bear hunt:

1. First, the Resolution noted that 12 of the 14 bears killed in the 2011 bear hunt had been killed in the Pine Nut and Sweetwater Mountain Ranges. These mountain ranges are the same areas in which Nevada Native Americans and their families annually engage in cultural and religious activities, i.e. the pine nut harvest, during the very same time as the bear hunt. Bear hunting in these mountain ranges during these times places Native American families in substantial danger; and
2. Second, the Resolution stated that the ITCN member tribes consider the bear as having religious importance in healing ceremonies, and is therefore a “sacred animal” to Native Americans. In support of their opposition to the bear hunt, the ITCN referenced in the Resolution: (1) Article 24 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly, which grants Indigenous People “the right to their traditional medicines,” including “the conservation of their vital animals”; and the (2) American Indian Religious Freedom Act, codified as 42 U.S.C. 1996, which protects the use and possession of objects considered sacred by Native Americans.

During their meeting, the ITCN also expressed great concern and frustration that the Nevada Wildlife Commission never consulted with any one of Nevada’s tribes to give them an opportunity to comment and express concerns about the bear hunt before adopting the bear hunt regulation.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. (ITCN) was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1966. The ITCN has a continuing interest in the health, education, and well-being of the American Indian People. The Governing Body of the ITCN is comprised of 27 elected representatives from each of Nevada's twenty-seven (27) tribes, and meets quarterly.

ITCN PDF file

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