



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-036

TITLE: NCAI's Call to President Obama and Federal Agencies to the Buffalo Summit, a Nation to Nation Consultation

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, many North American tribes regard the buffalo (bison) as a sacred species and essential to their cultures and to the Plains ecosystems. The last remnants of the previously vast wild herds remain in Yellowstone National Park; and

WHEREAS, the buffalo herds in Yellowstone National Park are being systematically decimated by agencies of the United States. The Government Accounting Office conducted an investigation, in which its report has been highly critical of costly plans that have destroyed thousands of wild bison in Yellowstone National Park and Montana; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13175, a directive originally issued by President Clinton on November 6, 2000, calls for regular, meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policy. President Obama issued an executive memorandum on November 5, 2009 to the heads of all departmental agencies ordering them to strengthen consultation policies; and

WHEREAS, tribal spiritual leaders and elders are concerned with the decimation of a species that is the core of their belief system and spirituality. Tribal members do not have meaningful opportunity to express their concerns in this Federal policy and practice that are devastating and tragic to their cultures; and

WHEREAS, the tribal delegates in the National Park Service's June 2008 tribal consultation deemed the meeting as meaningless and disrespectful and called for an improved nation-to-nation consultation, in the form of a Buffalo Summit.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby call upon The Administration and federal agencies to convene a Buffalo Summit to initiate a consultation process that is meaningful and adequate to end the decimation of the buffalo herds inn Yellowstone Park; and

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

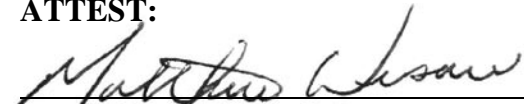
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary