



HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 10 • Supai, Arizona 86435
(928) 448-2731 • Fax (928) 448-2551

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Sent via email to: Secretary_interior@ios.doi.gov

Regarding: Proposed Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Honorable Secretary Jewell:

The Havasupai, the Havsuw B'aaja, are the people of the blue-green waters that flow through our homeland on the Coconino Plateau in Arizona. We once exclusively occupied the area in northern Arizona that is bounded by the Little Colorado River on the east, the Colorado River on the north, the Aubrey Cliffs on the west, and what is roughly I-40 on the south. The federal land within our historic homeland that is not within Grand Canyon National Park or within our reservation is to be included in the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as proposed by Representative Raul Grijalva. The Havasupai support this proposal and urge you to support a Presidential Proclamation to establish this National Monument.

We have always opposed uranium mining in this area and have long fought in the courts against the Canyon Uranium Mine. The Canyon Uranium Mine is in a meadow north of Red Butte that is a very sacred place for us. It was designated by the Forest Service to be a Traditional Cultural Property for the Havasupai and other affiliated Tribes.

The Havsuw B'aaja are permanent residents of this area and will always live on this land that is said to be rich in uranium. Our world famous waterfalls are supplied by the springs that emit from the aquifer underlying the uranium formations. The springs are our only water source. We will be the recipients of contamination from mining on the south rim whether directly from mining operations or in years to come because mines open the pathways for radioactive particles to leach into our water supply.

We are also a landowner in the proposed National Monument. We own the Bucklar Ranch, an inholding that will be included in the National Monument and are working on our application to take this land into trust. We are negotiating grazing leases with the Kaibab National Forest and hope to establish a tribal grazing enterprise on the Rain Tank Allotment. We are working with all state and federal resource managers in northern Arizona on this effort.

We also run a commercial hunting enterprise on the west side of our reservation and hope to offer guided hunts from the Bucklar Ranch in the future.

Representative Grijalva and his staff worked extensively with us, the Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai, Kaibab Paiute Tribes and other Native people connected to this landscape to develop language to protect the cultural and religious sites, trails and environment within the proposed Heritage National Monument. They also worked with us to protect our private property interests, our grazing interests, our hunting interests and our continuing use of this land for gathering of plants and animals.

We ask you to strongly urge President Obama to establish the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as proposed in the legislation drafted by Representative Raul Grijalva.

Very respectfully yours,



Don E. Watahomigie
Tribal Chairman

Cc: Honorable Raul Grijalva in care of glenn.miller@mail.house.gov



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Resolution No. 54-15 Support for Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

- WHEREAS; the Havasuw 'Baaja, the People of the Blue Green Water, are the original inhabitants of the Coconino Plateau on the south rim of Grand Canyon; and
- WHEREAS; we give our full and strong support for designation of the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as drafted by Representative Raul Grijalva; and
- WHEREAS; members of the Havasupai Tribe now reside primarily in the Village of Supai that is located in a side canyon to Grand Canyon; and
- WHEREAS; members maintain a presence and connection to the Plateau lands including regular visits to numerous religious and cultural sites including the Red Butte Traditional Cultural Property that includes the site of the Canyon Uranium Mine; and
- WHEREAS; the Havasupai Tribe owns private property within the area to be designated a National Monument; and
- WHEREAS; the Havasupai Tribe has grazing interests and rights to use lands in the National Monument for traditional purposes including hunting and gathering; and
- WHEREAS; the Village of Supai is downstream from any surface contamination on the plateau and down gradient from any groundwater contamination; and
- WHEREAS; we have been denied access to the sacred meadow north of Red Butte for over 25 years because of the Canyon Uranium mine and there is not a known time when the meadow will be reclaimed so that we will again have access; and
- WHEREAS; we have worked cooperatively with Representative Grijalva's staff to draft the legislation to designate the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to withdraw the lands within the National Monument from mining; and

WHEREAS; we have determined that this National Monument will protect our multiple interests in the lands being withdrawn including protection of our sacred sites and areas of cultural significance, our private property interests, our grazing interests, our traditional uses, our water resources and it recognizes our sovereignty as a government capable of participating in the management of these lands that are our homelands and aboriginal territory; and


WHEREAS; the legislation establishes a government-to-government process for active and meaningful participation by the Havasupai Tribe in the management of the resources in the National Monument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Havasupai Tribe supports the designation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as represented in the legislation drafted by Representative Raul Grijalva.

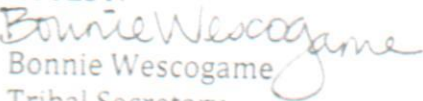
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution is adopted pursuant to the authority of Article V, Section 1 of the Amended Constitution of the Havasupai Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe and Article II of the Bylaws of the Havasupai Tribe at the Special Council Meeting of the Tribal Council on the 1st day of October, 2015 by a vote of 4 for; 0 opposed and 0 abstained.

HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL


Matthew Pufesoy Sr.
Acting Tribal Chairman

ATTEST:


Bonnie Wescogame
Tribal Secretary