

American Indians and the Nevada National Security Site

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Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations

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Why Involve Tribes?



Archaeology



More Than 10,000 years ago...

Program Drivers

- National Historic Preservation Act
 - Section 101 (d) (6)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)
- Executive Order 13007 - Indian Sacred Sites
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
- Presidential Memoranda – Affirming tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relations
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order 144.1 DOE American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy (January 2009)

Cultural Affiliation

- In 1987, DOE Nevada Field Office conducted a Cultural Affiliation Study
- 16 Southern Paiute, Western Shoshone and Owens Valley Paiute and Shoshone Tribes and one (1) Indian organization from Nevada, California, Utah and Arizona with cultural and historic ties
- Tribes were apprehensive about their involvement with DOE and the condition of their traditional homelands

Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations

- 1994 Tribes formed the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations (CGTO) to interact with DOE
- Each Tribal Government Appointed two (2) culturally knowledgeable representatives to participate
- Representative responsibilities:
 - Report back to tribes
 - Interact with agencies
 - Coordinate with other tribes
 - Expanding cultural insight of DOE personnel



Speaking Through One Voice

- Appointed a CGTO Spokesperson
- Established three (3) Subgroups
 - American Indian Writers
 - American Indian Museum Planning
 - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Engagement in DOE Initiatives
 - Traditional Blessing of Mixed Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Cell
 - Re-vegetation Projects
 - Maintaining a Cultural and Ecological Balance

Tribal Focus

- Define cultural landscape and interconnectedness of the Indian People, land and resources
- Share complex cultural perspectives
 - Angry Rock
 - Dead Air
 - Living Landscape
- Educate federal agencies understand tribal interests go far beyond reservation boundaries and onto the Nevada National Security Site

American Indian Landscape



Scrugham Peak and
Buckboard Mesa

Yucca Flat – location of
annual rabbit drives



...into the 1940s, American Indians lived on the Nevada National Security Site

Jim Wilson Camp
Rock Structure



Cached
Tools



American Indian Engagement



Field Visits Building Trust

- Tribes had not been permitted to enter restricted areas since the 1940s – “People were forced Out of the Area”
- DOE Nevada Field Office now invites tribal representatives to selected areas on the Nevada National Security Site
- Share insight and perceptions about the area
- Field trips and traditional knowledge helped identify areas of interest for subsequent visits

Tribal Elders Camping at the Nevada National Security Site



Sharing Traditional Stories



CGTO Representation

- Nevada National Security Site – Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
- DOE/Environmental Management State Tribal Government Working Group
- DOE/Nuclear Energy – Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group
- DOE/Nuclear Energy – Nuclear Energy Transportation Core Group
- DOE/Environmental Management/Nuclear Energy – National Transportation Stakeholders Forum

Accomplishments

- Tribal text for the Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS)
- American Indian Resource Document (Separate Appendix) for SWEIS
- Review and develop text for Nevada National Security Site NEPA Documents – Nevada National Security Site Model
- Engaged in Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Repatriation Ceremonies on the Nevada National Security Site
- Published book: American Indians & the Nevada Test Site – A model for consultation
- Special studies
 - Rock Art Study
 - Ethnobotany Study
- Conducted traditional blessing of Mixed Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Cell site at the Nevada National Security Site
- CGTO is represented as a Liaison to the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

Future

- Sustain program and expand tribal engagement
- Continue study of Wunjiakuda for designation as a Traditional Cultural Property
- Expand Nevada Field Office model of American Indian participation in Departmental National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents
- Publish an Indian history book to capture the words and wisdom of the elders and their stories for future generations

