
NATIVE AMERICAN LETTERS

Letters Included:

Letter #268 - The Hopi Tribe

Letter #341 - The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Letter #410 - Ute Indian Tribe

Letter
#268



Wayne Taylor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN

Phillip R. Quochytewa, Sr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

January 2, 2002

Mary C. Erickson, Forest Supervisor
Attention: Linda L. Jackson, Public Affairs Officer
Fishlake National Forest
115 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701

Jerry Meredith, Acting Field Manager
Attention: Kay Erickson, Realty Specialist
Bureau of Land Management, Richfield Field Office
150 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701

Dear Ms. Erickson, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Erickson, and Mr. Meredith,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated December 3, 2001, with an enclosed Draft Environmental Impact Statement by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Richfield Field Office and the Fishlake National Forest, regarding a road construction project proposed by Sevier County and Canyon Fuels, Inc., in Sevier and Emory Counties. As you know from our attached letter dated December 18, 2000, and our March 21, 2001, administrative meeting on this proposal, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the Fremont prehistoric cultural group in Utah, and therefore we appreciate the BLM and U.S. Forest Service's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office understands that there are numerous prehistoric/Fremont archaeological sites located along the route of the Quitchupah Creek Road, several containing rock marking panels, and that many of these sites are significant in terms of their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. In our December 18, 2000, letter on this proposal, we stated that because the Water Hollow alternative would avoid archaeological sites in that right-of-way by virtue of re-routes, we supported the Water Hollow alternative to the Quitchupah Creek Road. We also stated that we support site avoidance for this proposal because we oppose the BLM policy that forbids reburial of human remains and funerary objects subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) from BLM lands on BLM lands. We further stated that until this policy is revised, we oppose any BLM proposal involving activities with the potential to disturb the remains of our ancestors on BLM lands.

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P.O. BOX 123 — KYKOTSMOVI, AZ. — 86039 — (520) 734-3000

268-1

Response 268-1
Comments noted.

Letter
#268

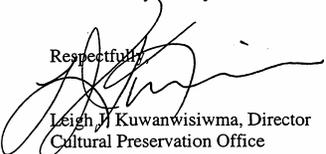
268-2

Mary C. Erickson, Jerry Meredith
January 2, 2002
Page 2

Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has reviewed the *Quitcupah Creek Road Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. We support the right of other Tribes to identify Traditional Cultural Properties, and therefore we support the Paiute opposition to any project along Quitcupah Creek because human activity could impact the sacredness of the canyon. And therefore, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports Alternative A, No Action in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. If any other alternative is selected we request to continue to be consulted on this proposal.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3767. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Cultural Preservation Office

xc: Utah State Historic Preservation Office
Paiute Tribe of Utah

268

Response 268-2

An ethnographic study of the Quitcupah Creek area was conducted with the Paiute Tribe (Stoffle et al. 2004). The Paiute Tribe has identified the Quitcupah Creek canyon as sacred; this is summarized in Section 3.13. Therefore some resolution with the tribes will need to be reached before any action is taken. Consultation with the tribes (Paiute, Hopi, and Ute) has been and will be on-going throughout the EIS process.

Letter
#341



THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH
440 North Paiute Drive • Cedar City, Utah 84720 • (435) 586-1112

February 13, 2001

Re: Quitchupah Creek Road

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, we acknowledge the public comment deadline of February 15, 2002 and wish to express our opinion regarding this proposed project. During the past year I had the opportunity to travel to Quitchupah Creek Road to view the rock art panels and rock shelters which contain prehistoric petroglyphs and pictographs which were done in red ochre.

It is evident that the selected route for the SUFCO trucks would destroy many of the cultural sites we believe to be significant. It would erase the past and make only a statement of profit for SUFCO Coal Mine, ignoring the impact it may have on the cattle and ranchers of that area and most importantly the history which will be lost forever due to this endeavor.

The Paiute Tribe of Utah adamantly objects to the selection of Quitchupah Creek Road for the purpose of providing a route for transporting coal from the SUFCO Coal Mine.

Sincerely,

Lora E. Tom, Chairwoman
Paiute Social Services

LET/mwk

341

341-1

Response 341-1

Comments noted. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regulations require federal agencies to determine whether a federal action will adversely affect cultural resources and consult to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects

An ethnographic study of the Quitchupah Creek area was conducted with the Paiute Tribe (Stoffle et al. 2004) and is summarized in Section 3.13 of the FEIS.

Letter
#410

04/12/2002 14:34 FAX 435 896 1550

BLM RICHFIELD

003

April 11, 2002

Kay Erickson
Bureau of Land Management
Richfield Field Office
150 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701

Dear Ms. Erickson:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Quitchupah Creek Road and I agree with the Alternatives that was suggested by the Ute Tribe Cultural Rights Director, Betsy Chapoose. The only way to protect the petroglyphs in that particular area, would be to eliminate public access to the canyon this would preserve the historic sites in that area. The other alternative would be to use the Water Hollow area.

If you should have any questions please contact me at the Ute Tribe Resource Department 722-3970 or 722-3972.

Thank you.

Jonas Grant Sr., Director
Ute Indian Tribe
Natural Resource Department

cc: Resource file

RECEIVED

APR 12 2002

Bureau of Land
Management SRRA

410-1

Response 410-1

Comments noted. The proposed alignment for Alternative B, Quitchupah Creek Road, and Alternative C, Alternate Junction, was shifted south. This alignment would place the proposed road about 300 feet away and across the creek from the rock art panels which are located north of the creek. The new alignment would also avoid impacting known cultural sites located within the previous alignment. No additional sites would be impacted by the reroute.

The existing road routed between the creek and the panels would be blocked for access. This would tend to limit access for casual visitors.

This modification to Alternatives B&C would avoid the direct impacts of a busy public road next to the rock art

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