



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MN-23-012

Supporting the Expansion of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to Include the Area Known as Molok Luyuk, and Encouraging the Federal Agencies to Enter Co-Management Agreements with Nearby Tribal Nations

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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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, the area of Molok Luyuk (“Condor Ridge” in the Patwin language), formerly known as Walker Ridge, straddling Lake and Colusa Counties in California, is an area of significant cultural and historic meaning for the Patwin peoples of California; and

WHEREAS, other northern California peoples, including the *Pomo*, *Huchnom*, *Lake Miwok*, *Wappo*, *Yuki*, and *Nomlaki* also used the area for travel and trade; and

WHEREAS, this area is adjacent to but largely outside the current boundaries of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument and consists almost entirely of lands owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

WHEREAS, tribes connected to Molok Luyuk and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument desire to participate in the management of the monument in order to preserve the cultural and historical landscape; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports the expansion of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to include the entire Molok Luyuk area, located in the Lake and Colusa Counties of California; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports formal renaming of the ridge to Molok Luyuk and further supports Tribal Nations' efforts to reintroduce the California Condor to Molok Luyuk and Tribal Nations' efforts to engage in co-management agreements with relevant federal agencies for areas within the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument; and

BE IT FINALLY 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 unanimously by the Executive Committee on Friday, June 16, 2023, after a positive recommendation from the relevant Committee at the 2023 Mid Year Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 5-8, 2023, in Prior Lake, MN.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Stephen Roe Lewis, Recording Secretary