



# WESTERN SHOSHONE NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

MAY 1986

## Our First Issue

We are happy to present the first issue of the Western Shoshone National Council Newsletter. The National Council understands the need for the people to be informed about the Council's work. The newsletter will give you information on monthly WSNC meetings, negotiations developments, committee activities, and other topics relating to the Western Shoshone Nation.

As Shoshone people, we face problems and circumstances unlike any we have known in all of our history. Our survival as free and distinct People is possible through unity and coordination of our communities' efforts to determine our own future as Shoshone People.

We have all heard various rumors and stories about money settlements and land claims. When rumors and misinformation spread through our communities it can be a problem because it only creates confusion and hard feelings amongst our people. We wish to make it clear that the effort of the WSNC is not limited to seeking only land or only money. The WSNC is working to retain the land as well as obtain the money due to us by the United States for the use and destruction of our land and resources.

All of our People need information about this effort since the outcome will effect all Western Shoshones. While we will work to provide you with accurate and up to

date information, space and production expenses limit the extent of coverage we can give all topics each month. For in-depth information, contact and talk with your community representative (a list of names and addresses are provided on page 8); or attend the monthly general meetings.

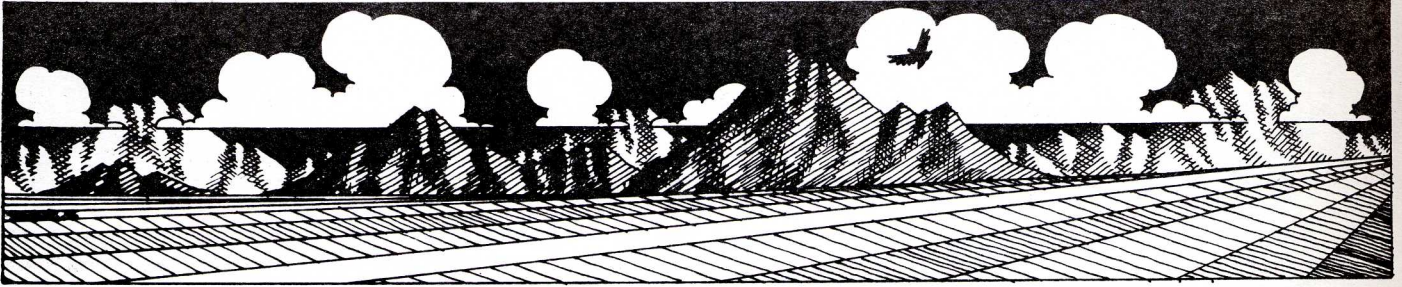
We hope the newsletter is informative and helpful to you in keeping abreast of the Western Shoshone effort. We invite your comments and suggestions. Presently, we have a small mailing list so please pass this copy on to relatives and friends that did not receive one. Also, if you would like your name added to our mailing list please fill out the coupon on the back page and send it to us.

### INSIDE:

COUNCIL REPORT .....	P.2
THE STRONG ONES .....	P.3
SHOSHONE STRUGGLE .....	P.4
WSNC'S ORIGIN .....	P.5
REPRESENTATIVES .....	P.8
TERRITORY MAP .....	P.9
ENVIRONMENTAL .....	P.10
Nuke waste .....	P.10
Wilderness .....	P.13



# COUNCIL REPORT



In each issue, we will be carrying a brief summary of items discussed at the regular council meetings. The WSNC normally meets the first Saturday of every month unless otherwise indicated.

The April meeting was held on both Saturday and Sunday in order to give the representatives opportunity to discuss upcoming negotiation strategy.

-There was discussion on the draft response to a letter written by Thornton W. Field, Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Lands and Mines, Division of Indian Affairs. This is ongoing communication between the Western Shoshone and the United States pertaining to negotiations.

-The representatives present were asked to share their thoughts on the purpose of the WSNC. All reaffirmed the need for unity.

-A large, detailed map of the Western Shoshone territory was given to each representative. (We have provided a smaller version in this issue).

-A prison site near Ely is presently under consideration by the state of Nevada. The council discussed the fact that the proposed site lies within Western Shoshone territory. For this reason the council has chosen to oppose this land disposal.

-The "Militarization of the West" was the focus of a presentation given by Marla Painter of the Rural Coalition to the council. The U.S. military is taking control of more and

more land and air space in our territory and all through the western U.S. Low-level military test flight paths are right over some of our communities. Besides being annoying, health problems can be created by the sonic booms of the fighter jets. Shoshone people are asked to report any disruptive or peculiar flight practices by test flights over our territory, noting time and area where it occurred, to the newsletter or your National Council rep.

---

For more information on WSNC meetings, contact your community representative.

---



**THE WESTERN SHOSHONE NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER** is published by the Publication Committee of the Western Shoshone National Council. The WSNC NEWSLETTER provides information on the activities of the National Council, the Western Shoshone Nation, and issues relating to our continuation as an indigenous people. Correspondence should be sent to: WSNC NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 68, Duckwater, NV 89314.



# THE STRONG ONES

As Newuh, we have lived in our lands since the time of our creation.

The father carried a basket filled with humans. After having crossed great waters, the father opened the basket as he travelled across this continent. Humans left the basket along the way. The land that each entered after they left the basket became their home. Because the Newuh were deep inside the basket they were among the last to leave it. When the father brought us to the place which is our homeland, and it came time for us to leave the basket, the father looked at us and said, "Although you may appear to be a people who are small in number and without great strength, **you will be the strong ones.** Your way of life will be known forever. In whatever you do, do it for the good of all. Respect every living thing on earth for this is the way of creation."

The Newuh still believe in and acknowledge the Eagle, our great guardian, spirit helper, and guide. The eagle continues to guide our way.

The old ones say, "Prepare yourself and pray to be shown the way. You must have a strong heart, a strong will, and a clear mind. You will then walk through life the right way."

These things make us who we are, Newuh. With all these truths the Newuh, Western Shoshone People, will continue to live our way in our homelands.

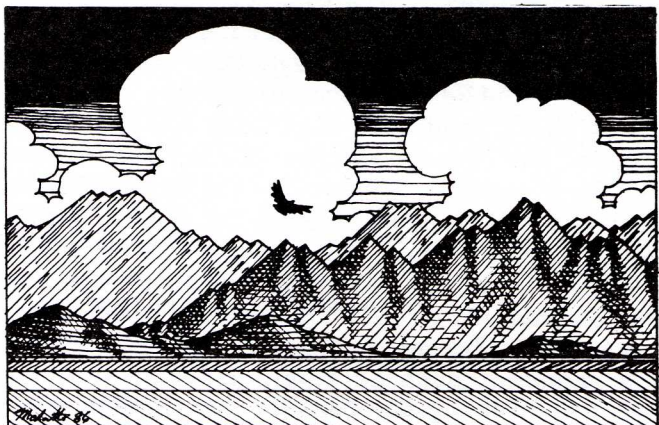
Our rights as Western Shoshone have existed since our beginning. Our rights existed long before the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the writings of the U.S. Constitution. Our rights existed before the Magna Carta, and before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

We will continue to maintain and protect our Western Shoshone Rights. It is our right as Newuh to govern ourselves, to develop and control our economic self-reliance, to maintain and control our land and natural resources, to control and maintain the education of our people, and to continue in our own spiritual ways. Our rights are not derived from any external governments or from treaties made with them. The Treaty of Ruby Valley is an agreement made between the U.S. Government and ourselves ensuring that the U.S. will respect our rights; rights which have existed since our time of creation.

We hold great reverence and respect for our homelands. Our People have continued here for many thousands of years without destruction to the surrounding environment. The earth always provided us with what we needed to continue our life. The People took only what they needed while treating all life with respect. Our history, the stories of our life as Newuh, is rooted in the mountains, rivers, valleys, springs, rocks, animals, and plants. **The People and the land are inseparable.**

As Western Shoshone People, our work is to ensure our survival as a distinct people of the world. Our effort is for the reemergence of the Western Shoshone Nation in which we are recreating caring communities, developing alternatives based on Newuh principles and values,

cont. on P. 15





# SHOSHONE STRUGGLE,

By Thomas E. Leubben, WSNC Attorney

## a summary

### The Treaty of Ruby Valley

In 1863 the United States signed the Treaty of Ruby Valley with the northern bands of the Western Shoshone Nation. The U.S. was having a civil war at the time, and the Union government was interested in obtaining safe passage through Shoshone country to California. Consequently, the Treaty is a treaty of peace and friendship; it does not give Western Shoshone land to the United States. It gives the U.S. rights-of-way through Shoshone country for roads, railroads, and telegraph lines. Since the U.S. was interested in getting whatever gold and silver it could to help finance the civil war, the treaty allows for mining and the establishment of towns and ranches needed to support the mining operations. Article VI of the Treaty provides that whenever the president of the U.S. thinks it is necessary for the Shoshones to "abandon the roaming life", he may set aside a reservation within Shoshone country and they agree to move onto it. The President has never done this and so the Shoshones have never been legally required to abandon their lands and move onto any reservations.

### The Indian Claims Commission and the Western Shoshone

In 1946 the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Claims Commission Act. This created the Indians Claims Commission (ICC). The purpose of the ICC was to provide a place for tribes to file claims against the U.S. for money damages for a wide variety of wrongs done to tribes. This included the taking of Indian lands without payment. In 1947 the BIA told the Western Shoshones that the U.S. took their lands and that they should file a claim for money in the ICC. The Temoak Tribe accepted this advice and hired the law firm of Wilkinson, Cragun and Baker to file a claim. There was always a lot of confusion among the Shoshones about what the claim was for. Many understood the claim was for "wrongs done to the Western Shoshones"; such as rape, driving away the game and taking the beaver; not compensation for the Shoshone land itself. Many Shoshones opposed the claim altogether

because they were afraid it meant selling land they still owned and used.

The claims attorneys filed a claim in 1951. The claim said the Western Shoshone lands were taken by the United States and the Shoshones wanted money for it. Actually, the land was never legally taken by the United States. Some land was legally occupied by white ranchers and miners under the Treaty, but this amounted to less than four million acres out of more than 24 million acres of original Shoshone land.

Throughout the lawsuit many Shoshones protested because they knew their lands were never taken by the U.S. and the treaty is still in effect. The claims attorneys and the BIA confused some Shoshones, however, by telling them that their lands were taken in the nineteenth century and that the lawsuit would not affect their land title.

## wsnc's

The National Council grew out of the strength and spirit that has kept our people alive in our lands for thousands of generations. It has been four or five generations since the invasion of our homelands. It is true that since then it hasn't been simple or easy for us to continue as a People. We've faced a multitude of new hardships in those few generations. The list of hardships is long and many very horrible. But despite the hardships, we have survived. Our strength and spirit as Shoshone people pulled us through. Today, with our people working together, that same spirit and strength can enable us to build our future as Shoshone people.

The following is a brief overview of recent events leading up to the creation of the National





In 1962 the ICC decided that all Western Shoshone lands were taken by "gradual encroachment of white settlers". This decision does not make sense because settlement of land by individual U.S. citizens does not give the U.S. title and because the U.S. is not responsible for wrongs done to Native people by its individual citizens. Besides, there were actually very few white settlers on Shoshone lands, and the ones who were there had a right to be there under the terms of the Treaty.

The ICC did not decide when the Western Shoshone land was taken because the U.S. never did anything to legally take it. The U.S. government literally forgot to steal it. Since the ICC did not decide when the land was taken, the claims attorneys and the ICC attorneys got together and agreed to set a value on the land as of July 1, 1872. This was called the "valuation date". Nothing actually happened on July 1, 1872. It was just a hot summer day in Shoshone country and there were hardly any white people around.

In fact, the United States Supreme Court has held that Indians can lose title to their land in only three ways. These are 1)

by an Act of Congress which clearly says Congress is taking specific land from the Indians, 2) by official Indian abandonment (the Indians ask for and receive a reservation) and 3) by conquest by the U.S. in a "just and lawful war". None of these things ever happened to the Western Shoshones.

In 1974 the Western Shoshone Legal Defense and Education Association, a group who believes the Shoshones still own their ancestral lands, attempted to intervene in the ICC lawsuit to show that the Western Shoshone Nation still owns its lands. The Commission refused to let the WSLDEA participate.

In 1976 the Temoak Bands Council realized that something was wrong with the claim and that the Western Shoshone Nation probably still owns its land. They fired the claims attorney and asked the Interior Department to advise them whether the Shoshones still own the land. The Council also asked the ICC to delay the case until they could get an answer. The Interior Department never answered and, after a short delay, the case continued even though the Temoak Bands fired the attorneys.

Despite the efforts of the Temoak Council to stop the claim and negotiate over land, on December 6, 1979, the Court of Claims gave a final judgment in the land case of only \$26 million. This included \$9 million for the land itself, \$12.5 million for mineral rights and \$4.6 for minerals removed by miners before July 1, 1872, the date of valuation. It did not include any interest which the money would have earned for the Shoshones if it had actually been paid in 1872.

The U.S. Interior Secretary established an account under his control to hold the money. It is managed as a trust account and earns interest. Although the U.S. claims the Shoshones have been "paid" for their lands because the Secretary placed the money in a trust account, nothing can be done with it until the U.S. Congress passes a legislative plan to do so. The Western Shoshone Nation, like the Lakota (Sioux) Nation, has refused to accept the money until there is a comprehensive legislative agreement between the Shoshones and the U.S. which ensures an adequate land base for all Western Shoshone people.

#### The U.S. Sues Shoshone Women

Mary and Carrie Dann are Western  
cont. on P. 6

## origin

Council. Future issues of the newsletter will cover events prior to October of 1982 and continue the chronology from where this one leaves off.

**October 1982:** The Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs published a report stating the Department of the Interior has identified that special legislation is necessary in the case of the Western Shoshone and the U.S.'s effort to pay them the Indian Claims Commission Award. This will help create an opportunity for negotiations leading to the legislation on the agreement between the Western Shoshone and the U.S. A legislative plan must be created that will go before Congress.

cont. on P. 7



---

Close out sale on WSNC TEE-SHIRTS.

Now, only \$5.00!!

Grey tee-shirts with the National Council Logo and the words, "Western Shoshone Nation", silk-screened on front. This is the last of the batch, so get yours now, before they're gone. (Only small and medium sizes available.)  
Send \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for postage to:

WSNC Newsletter  
ATTN: Tee-shirts  
P.O. Box 68  
Duckwater, NV 89314

**SPECIAL  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

\*Update on the National Council\*  
\*Time for discussion with Reps\*

May 17, 1986  
10:00am

Duckwater Gymnasium  
Duckwater, NV

**OPEN TO ALL SHOSHONES**



---

SUIT  
cont. from P. 5

Shoshones who raise livestock on ancestral lands in Crescent Valley, Nevada. In 1974 the U.S. sued to stop them from grazing cattle on Shoshone land claimed by the Bureau of Land Management. The Danns defended on the grounds Shoshone title has never been extinguished, and the 1863 Treaty protects their land rights. The case has been decided twice by the U.S. District Court in Reno, twice by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, and once by the U.S. Supreme Court. In its most recent decision, the 9th Circuit decided that 1) Western Shoshone title was never taken and 2) the Shoshones were not "paid" for their land when the Interior Secretary set up an account to hold the judgment fund.

When the U.S. government appealed to their Supreme Court, it did not ask the Court to decide whether Western Shoshone title was extinguished. Instead, the Court was asked to determine only whether the Shoshones were "paid" for the land by the Claims Commission. Although the Court decided that the Shoshones have been "paid", it sent the case back to the District

Court for further proceedings. Despite twelve years of litigation, the U.S. still has not won the case, and the Danns are still raising cattle on the Shoshone ancestral lands without paying the U.S. grazing fees.

At first the United States claimed it owned the Shoshone's land. However, when the 9th Circuit held that title was never extinguished it changed its position. It now claims that the Danns simply can't use the land because the Shoshones have been "paid". The question arises when following the U.S.'s logic: does this mean the Shoshones lost their land rights in 1979 when the U.S. says they were "paid"? The U.S., however, does not want the court to say, "Yes, that is what happened". If the court did it might mean the government owes the Shoshones the value of the land in 1979, instead of 1872, plus all the grazing fees, mineral royalties, and other income the U.S. collected from the land since 1872. This could amount to \$3 billion or more.

Since 1980, the Yomba, Duckwater, and South Fork Shoshone communities have refused, along with the Dann Band, to pay grazing fees to the BLM. Despite the U.S.'s

cont. on P. 15



---



DEVELOPMENT

cont. from P. 5

**December 11:** In Elko the day long informational workshop on the status of the land rights marked a turning point in relations amongst the various Shoshone interests. A resolution was passed by the Western Shoshone tribal councils and organizations to agree to work together in seeking a negotiated legislative agreement with the U.S. regarding Western Shoshone land rights.

**1983:** Community informational meetings begin to establish a unifying effort within the Western Shoshone Nation. A unified Shoshone position is necessary for a negotiated agreement to be made that will not jepordize the land and rights of the Shoshones. Shoshones were educating themselves, the BIA/Dept of Interior, Nevada congressional representatives, and various state citizen's groups to the fact that the title question was not resolved. As a result of the "unification" meetings conducted in the various Shoshone communities and the federal court's decision on the Dann Case in the spring of the year, the movement towards unity becomes real.

**January:** The Shoshone tribal groups and organizations begin correspondence to the Nevada congressional delegates, particularly Senator Paul Laxalt, calling on them to encourage the Interior Department to take part in negotiating with the Western Shoshone Nation to reach agreement on a legislative package.

**May 19th:** A victory came to the Shoshone land rights effort through a federal court ruling on Western Shoshone title to the land. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rejected major arguments advanced by U.S. Department of Justice lawyers claiming that Western Shoshone had

lost title to our homelands.

On the 24th, Nevada State Senator Laxalt makes a public announcement that he has asked Interior Secretary James Watt to negotiate with the Western Shoshones.

**September 8:** Letter sent to Reagan from the Western Shoshone Lands Federation stating that the Shoshones still possess title to 24 million acres of land and asking for the creation of a U.S. negotiating team.

**October 29:** Unification meeting held in Austin. The leaders and representatives of the organizations and tribal councils agree to jointly conduct monthly meetings in Austin, a relatively centralized and politically neutral point within the Western Shoshone homelands, to continue development of the unified Shoshone movement, to hammer out a mutually acceptable position for negotiations, and to facilitate the reemergence of the Western Shoshone Nation.

The Western Shoshone people's concerns and needs give rise to the Western Shoshone National Council (WSNC). Founding tribes and organizations included Yomba, Temoke, Western Shoshone Sacred Lands Association, Wells, Battle Mountain, and Duckwater.

**1984**

**January 7:** WSNC meeting is held in Austin. At this meeting an organizational statement is approved by consensus. The statement says: "The Western Shoshone people hereby organize for the purpose of uniting all Western Shoshone interests into

cont. on P. 14





## WSNC REPRESENTATIVES

**Battle Mountain Band Council**  
Clarence Anddreoizzi  
P.O. Box 1313  
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

**Dann Band**  
Carrie Dann  
P.O. Box 56  
Beowawe, NV 89821

**Duckwater Shoshone Tribe**  
Jerry Millet  
P.O. Box 68  
Duckwater, NV 89314

**Elko Band Council**  
Paula Brady  
1967 Circle Way  
Elko, NV 89801

**Ely Shoshone Colony**  
Ron Apadaca  
HCR 5, Box 2, Unit 10  
Ely, NV 89301

**Great Basin Western Shoshone  
Descendents Organization**  
Virginia Antunovich  
2262 Glen Vista Drive  
Sparks, NV 89431

**Te-Moak Bands Council**  
Felix Ike  
1949 Circle Way  
Elko, NV 89801

**Timbisha Shoshone Tribe**  
Pauline Esteves  
P.O. Box 108  
Death Valley, CA 92329

**Wells Band Council**  
Gracey Begay  
P.O. Box 835  
Wells, NV 89835

**Western Shoshone of  
the Duck Valley Reservation**  
Owyhee, NV 89314

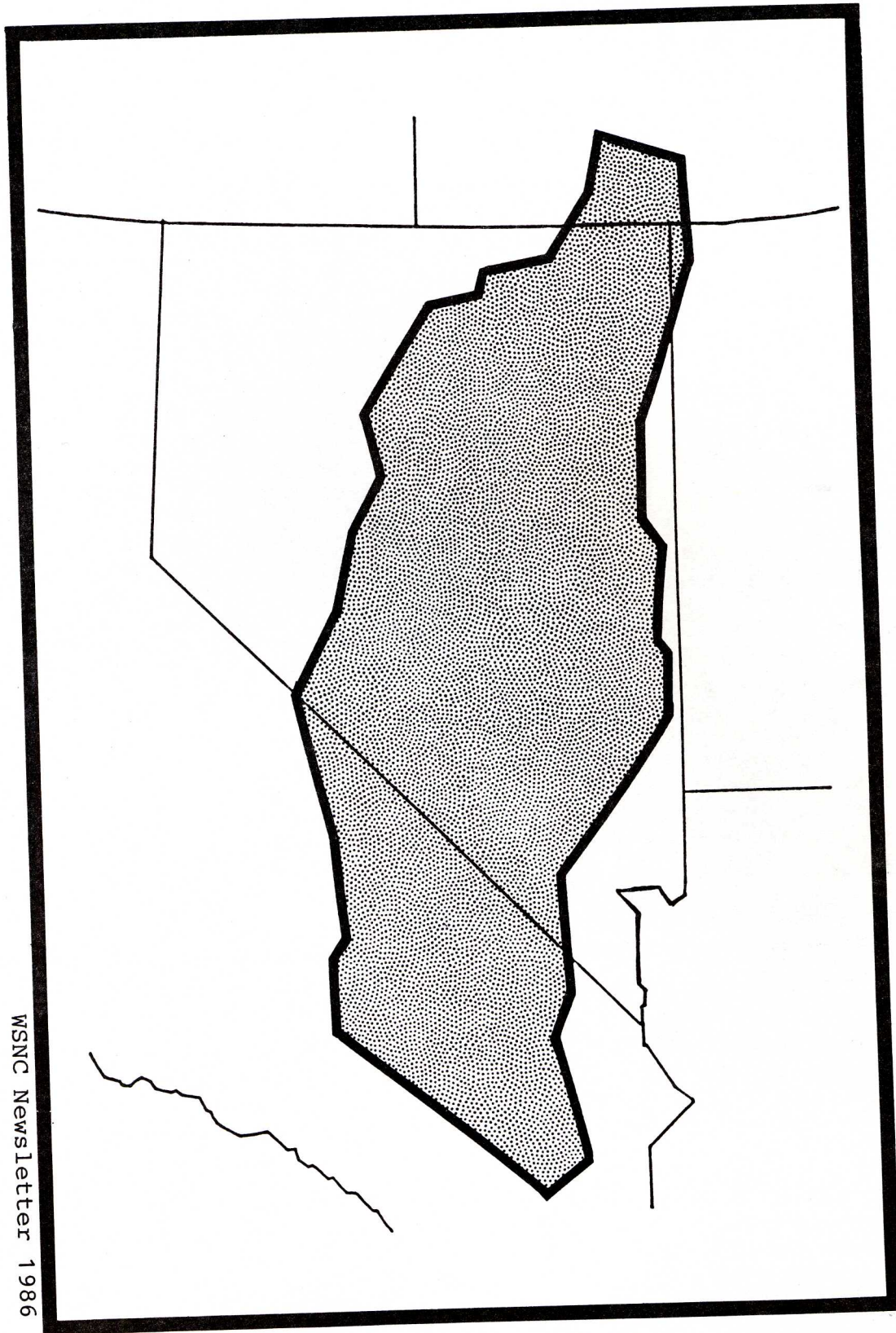
**Western Shoshone Sacred Lands  
Association**  
Glenn Holly  
P.O. Box 185  
Battle Mountain, NV 89821

**Yomba Shoshone Tribe**  
William Rosse, Sr.  
Route 1, Box 24-A  
Austin, NV 89310

**South Fork Band Council**  
Dale Mallote  
Waysack  
Lee, NV 89829



# WESTERN SHOSHONE



MSNC Newsletter 1986

# TERRITORY



# environment= NUCLEAR

Most Nevadans are aware of the federal government's plan to find a permanent dump site for high-level nuclear waste. The federal Department of Energy (DOE) is recommending the Yucca Mountain area of southern Nevada as one of the possible sites.

Based on preliminary evaluation, the DOE will recommend to the president of the U.S., sites found suitable for further testing and evaluation -characterization- as possible locations for the first dump. The president will then approve or disapprove these recommendations.

Characterization of the approved sites are expected to begin this year. The DOE timetable calls for designation of one of the characterized sites in 1991. Once chosen, the site will be licensed, constructed, and begin receiving wastes by 1998.

Site selection, waste transportation, and safe storage of the highly radioactive waste poses extremely difficult problems regardless of what site is selected. The long range implications of Yucca Mountain being chosen as a permanent storage place for the deadly waste needs to be understood by Nevada area residents.

An estimated 70,000 metric tons of radioactive waste are planned to be stored at the first site. The waste will travel from areas all across the U.S. by truck or possibly by rail to be buried at the dumpsite. This means approximately 140,000 truckloads will arrive around-the-clock over a period of 20 to 30 years. Just the fact that large amounts of nuclear waste will be travelling across the U.S. should in itself be cause for concern. The people to be affected by potential release of radiation include not only those who live near the dumpsite but millions of others living along the transportation routes. Truck accidents in the U.S. occur daily. Should the dump be located in the state of Nevada, the numerous shipments needed, coupled with the vast distances the waste would have to travel, makes the possibility of accidents (and accident related release of radiation) inevitable.

The dumpsite, wherever it is located, must be able to safely contain the nuclear waste for an estimated 10,000 years. The possibility of seismic disturbances at Yucca Mountain could seriously jepordize the site's ability to do so.

cont. on P. 13

## WHAT IS NUCLEAR WASTE?

Nuclear waste is the deadly material that results from the production of nuclear power or weapons. It has been piling up over the past 40 years with no known safe method of disposal.

Nuclear power and weapons production turn uranium fuel into about 200 different kinds of poisonous wastes. Radioactive waste is produced at every stage of the process, from uranium ore mining and processing until the uranium has lost its usefulness and must be disposed. These "radionuclides" are radioactive and unstable, which means that their atoms are spontaneously ejecting or "radiating" particles and energy waves. This process is called radioactive decay.

Some radionuclides decay quickly. Others, such as plutonium, remain dangerously radioactive for as long as 240,000 years.

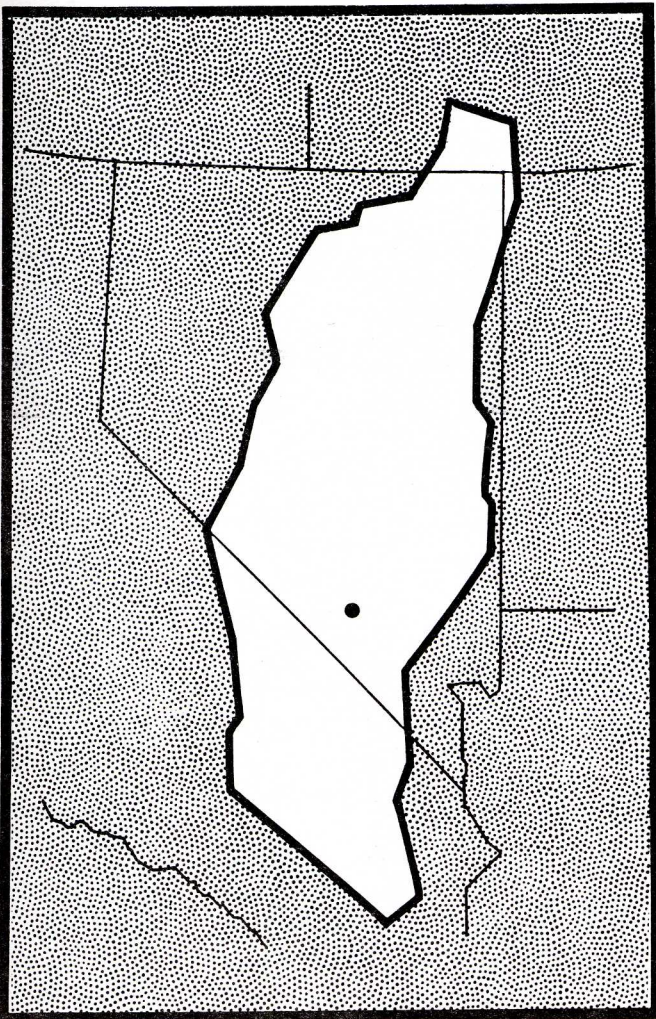
-Citizen Alert



# WASTE DUMP

THE CREATION OF A HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE SITE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN WOULD MEAN:

- \* 50,000 acres of land withdrawn to be controlled by the federal government.
- \* 70,000 tons of highly radioactive waste buried above the water table.
- \* Round-the-clock shipments of waste arriving by truck and train from nuclear plants across the U.S.
- \* The constant risk of immediate high-level radioactive contamination from:
  - a) accidents in transporting and handling;
  - b) possible fracturing and leakage due to seismic disturbances or the underground explosions from the Nevada Test Site; and
  - c) possible contamination of groundwater supplies.
- \* A possible threat to the local economy (tourism, gaming, & ranching) and a drop in land values.



## WHY SHOULD SHOSHONES BE CONCERNED ABOUT RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN?

- \* The nuclear waste would be transported through our land. A number of the U.S. highways in our territory are potential routes. The danger of a transport truck spilling the radioactive poison is real. Any soil and water it comes in contact with becomes poisoned. This can happen anywhere along the transportation routes.
- \* The area being considered for the dumpsite is our land!

• yucca  
mountain



# TYPES OF NUCLEAR WASTE

Nuclear wastes are hazardous because they are radioactive. Since radiation is a form of energy, much of the energy released is trapped in the waste material, generating heat. Radioactive wastes are classified according to how "hot" the waste material is, its origin, and its potential hazard. There are five types of nuclear waste and each pose different storage problems.

**Mill tailings** are the rock and soil that remain after the uranium mining and milling. Tailings are produced in large quantities and contain small concentrations of radium. As radium decays it emits radon, a radioactive gas which is potentially deadly if inhaled.

**Low level wastes** are generated by facilities such as hospitals, laboratories, and nuclear reactor plants that use radioactive materials. Everything that comes into contact with the radioactive material becomes contaminated; everything

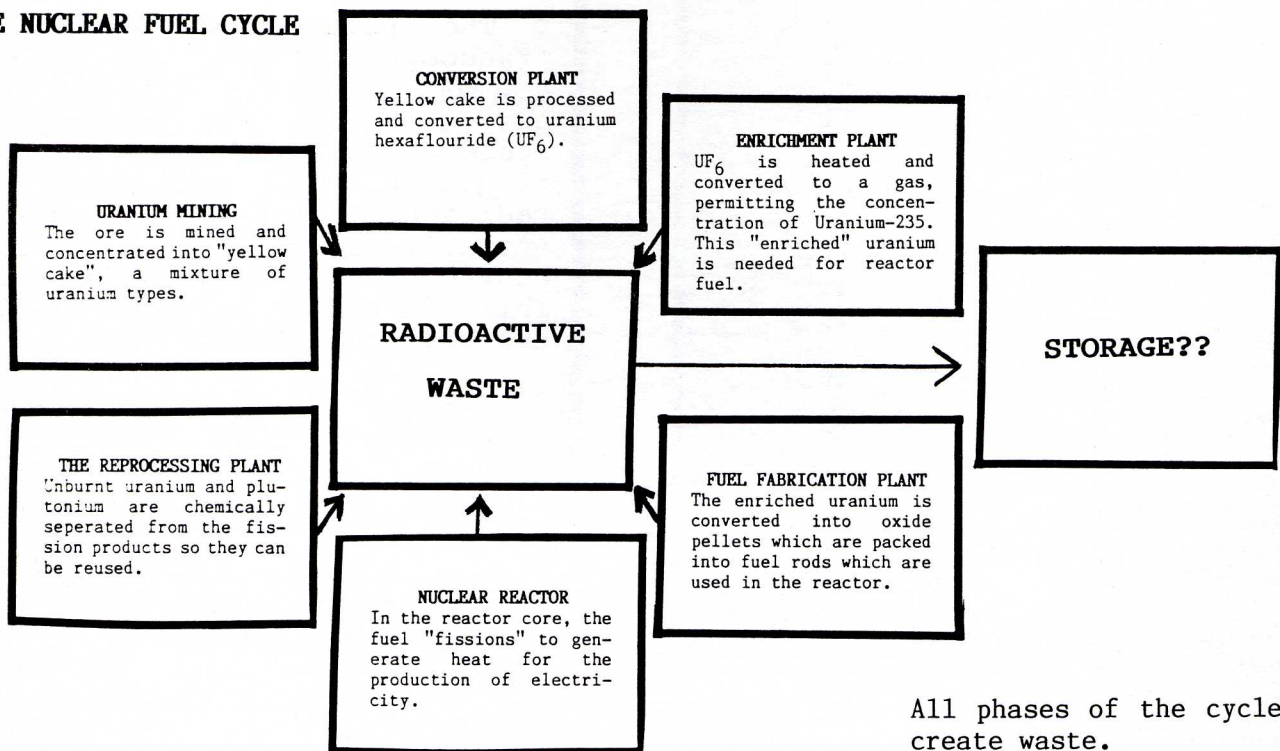
from cleaning rags and protective clothing to hand tools and equipment.

**Transuranic waste (TRU)** mainly results from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel rods and plutonium in the making of nuclear weapons. TRU is less radioactive than high level waste but requires similar handling since it decays very slowly.

**High-level waste** is the "hottest" of all the nuclear wastes. It is the liquid substance generated from reprocessing nuclear fuel rods. High-level wastes require the most careful storage and heaviest shielding due to its intense radioactivity.

**Spent fuel** consists of burnt fuel from nuclear reactors. It is very hot and extremely radioactive, as it contains unused uranium, fission products, and transuranic elements. Spent fuel must be treated in the same manner as high-level waste.

## THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE



All phases of the cycle create waste.



# NEVADA WILDERNESS BILL

---

On February 1, 1986, the WSNC stated its opposition to the U.S. government's plan to designate wilderness areas in the state of Nevada, specifically in Shoshone territory. Large portions of the lands being considered by the U.S. government for wilderness status are lands the Western Shoshone Nation have never relinquished title to. In opposing the federal government on this issue, the WSNC has found itself in the middle of an ongoing tug-of-war between pro-developers and pro-wilderness groups.

In 1964, the U.S. government passed the Wilderness Act. The intention was to protect "pristine" areas under Forest Service control. Later, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 was passed to include BLM lands. Both agencies were to conduct studies of suitable sites to be recommended to the U.S. Congress for official Wilderness Areas. Once land has been designated as wilderness, no development can take place. This means no roads, buildings, machinery, or vehicles of any kind in those areas. The potential restrictions of the designation has the pro-developers up in arms. Mining groups claim that wilderness designation will block access to resources they wish to develop. Ranchers are concerned over the possibility of losing grazing lands. The pro-wilderness groups on the other hand, are concerned that the federal government will not designate all the untouched areas in Nevada they feel need to be preserved for present and future enjoyment.

There has been some concern that the WSNC's position is anti-wilderness and pro-development. This is not true. The protection of our land for the use and enjoyment of future generations is a major priority to the WSNC. However, the WSNC's concern is that the U.S. government ignores the Western Shoshone as the rightful owners and caretakers of the land. The WSNC's position is based solely on the issue of ownership of the land in question. At a public meeting held in Ely concerning the wilderness bill, Chief Millet stated, "It is our position that the federal government of the United States has been obstructing and depriving the Shoshone people of

cont. on P. 14

---

## YUCCA MT.

cont. from P. 10

The mountain range is in a "tectonically active" area (tectonics refers to the changes in the structure of the earth's crust). The mountains were formed, mainly, through an activity known as "block-faulting". Simplified, block-faulting is when a piece of the earth's crust is uplifted along fault lines, creating a mountain range. Although the DOE's draft environmental assessment of the site states that no seismic activity has occurred in the area within the last 40,000 years, that does not mean the area is stable. Geological indicators sug-

cont. on P. 14





---

---

# thanks!

to those who helped to make this newsletter possible: Virginia Antunovich, Jack Mallotte, Tom Luebben, & Seventh Generation Fund.

---

---

**YUCCA MT.**  
cont. from P. 13

gest that the faults that originally created the mountain range may still be active and capable of an earthquake within the life of the dump.

Natural ground movement is not all there is to be concerned about. The area is already subject to man-made earthquakes. Explosions of underground nuclear bombs at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) only 30 miles northeast have been impacting the site for over two decades. At the NTS, the testing has already caused the collapse of overlying earth.

Added to this list of dangers is the possibility of ground water contamination. The dumpsite, if allowed to be built and utilized, would be located 400 to 1,000 feet above the water table. Were a leak to occur and the extremely radioactive poison to enter the groundwater it could flow into the populated areas of southern Nevada and the Death Valley area.

The problem of where to store nuclear waste must be resolved. According to an article printed in the Nevada Nuclear Newsletter, there is presently an estimated 10,000 metric tons of high-level nuclear waste in temporary storage in the U.S. The amount is expected to rise to some 130,000 metric tons by the year 2020. The selected dump site must be able to isolate the highly radioactive waste for thousands of years, while at the same time, protect the health and safety of the public. Studies thus far have shown that Yucca Mountain cannot effectively meet these requirements.

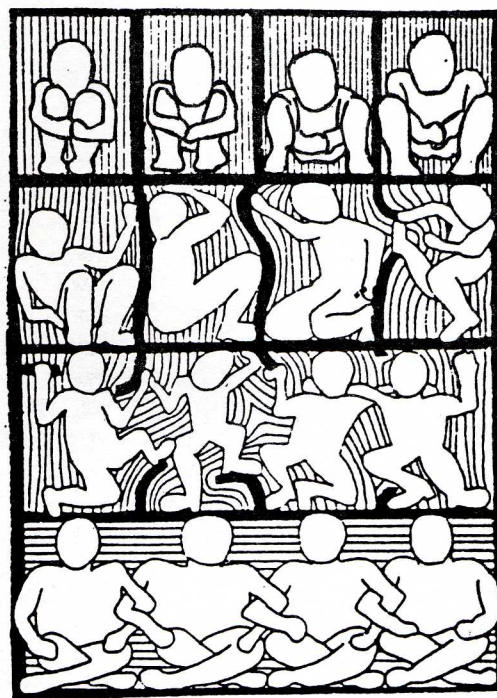
**DEVELOPMENT**  
cont. from P. 7

one entity, to promote the formation of a Western Shoshone Nation negotiating team to undertake negotiations with the United States for a legislative agreement confirming Western Shoshone ownership of lands within the western Shoshone ancestral territory and to foster and promote the establishment of a formal Western Shoshone National Government exercising the full scope of governmental sovereignty, powers, and jurisdiction available to the Western Shoshone Nation."

**April:** All Western Shoshone tribal councils, communities, and all but one organization have become part of the National Council.

(to be continued next month)

---



---

---

**WILDERNESS**  
cont. from P. 13

their sacred rights. Wilderness is simply another means for the federal government to subjugate our people by additional unnecessary and unproductive restrictions."



## AGREEMENT

cont. from P. 6

claim of victory in the Dann case, the Western Shoshone are grazing approximately 3,500 head of cattle on about 3,000,000 acres of Shoshone land that is claimed by the American government, and are continuing their traditional gathering and hunting activities throughout the Shoshone homeland.

### Working for a Negotiated Agreement

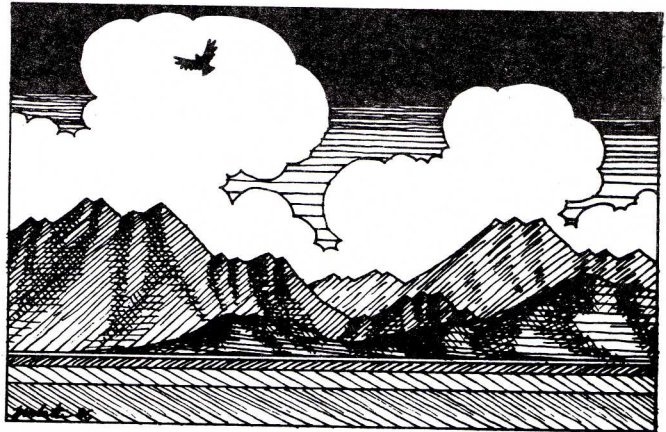
The Western Shoshone maintain that something like a new treaty with the U.S. must be negotiated. The incentive for the U.S. government to do so is its failure to conclusively resolve the tangled web of Western Shoshone litigation, and a degree of embarrassment about its shameless efforts to defraud the Shoshone people and leave them landless and dependent. With the encouragement of the Nevada Congressional Delegation and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, the Interior Department has



agreed to negotiate. The Western Shoshone National Council, consisting of representatives of all the Western Shoshone communities, tribal governments, and political organizations, was formed to coordinate the effort and conduct negotiations. Four formal negotiations sessions have taken place.

The negotiations objectives of the National Council have been stated as follows:

- 1) To maximize the Western Shoshone land base, including mineral rights.
- 2) To obtain confirmation of water rights adequate to serve Western Shoshone Lands.
- 3) To confirm aboriginal hunting, fishing, and gathering rights throughout Western Shoshone territory.
- 4) To obtain equitable compensation for trespass damages to Western Shoshone lands, including an accounting of moneys collected by the U.S. from leasing, grazing, and other activities on Western Shoshone lands.



STRONG  
cont. from P. 3

reestablishing a healthy relationship between humans and the environment, and by continuing our cultural/spiritual ways. We are working to create a world in which our children can grow as a distinct People. A world in which they will know who they are as Newuh.

We will continue to protect the rights and basic principles upon which Western Shoshone life is based. We will work to ensure the survival of our people. We are reclaiming the responsibility for our communities' well-being. This is, in effect, directing our Nation towards true sovereignty.

## next issue

### Council Report

#### Shoshone Grazing Rights:

\*Does it affect you?

#### Nuclear Waste continued:

\*Radiation and Its Health Effects

\*The proposed waste dump's effects on Western Shoshones

#### Supersonic Operations Areas:

\*Military in our backyard

WSNC Chronology continued

PLUS MORE!!