

# Western Shoshone National Council



## Reaffirms Sovereignty!

Since the inception of the "Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863," the Western Shoshone government and its representatives have filed with the United States Federal government, grievances and protests with regard to gross violations of the treaty. Additionally, the Western Shoshone government continue diplomatic efforts with the United States government to enforce its own "Supreme Law of the Land" and for confirmation and recognition of Western Shoshone sovereignty, land area, natural resources and basic human rights. Diplomatic efforts to date have not succeeded but these diplomatic channels remain open. In an effort to clarify the position of the National Council, a Charter of Self-Government was presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations on December 15th, 1994. This document reaffirmed Western Shoshone sovereignty to the world. It is to this end that the following is served.

### Proclamation #1-95

## Western Shoshone National Council Western Shoshone National Government and as directed to the United States Federal Government and its Offices and Agencies

#### WHEREAS

the Northwest Ordinance of July 13, 1787, which is part of the organic laws of the United States, declares that the United States will always observe the utmost good faith towards the Indians and their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent and in their property, rights and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed and,

#### WHEREAS

the United States of America in 1863 entered into a treaty at Ruby Valley with the Western Shoshone Nation, a treaty which was ratified by the Western Shoshone Government and by the Congress of the United States and,

#### WHEREAS

the United States Federal Government thereby recognized the Western Shoshones as "a people distinct from others" and therefore recognized them as a nation and,

#### WHEREAS

the Congressional legislation establishing the Territory of Nevada declares that the lands of the Indians constitute no part of the Territory of Nevada without their consent and not to be included within such territorial limits or jurisdiction of any state or territory and,

#### WHEREAS

the Treaty of Ruby Valley was not a treaty of cession, meaning that the Western Shoshones did not thereby cede their lands to the United States of America and,

#### WHEREAS

the Western Shoshones have never knowingly or freely consented to cede or relinquish their lands to the United States nor agreed to allow their lands to constitute any part of the Territory or State of Nevada and,

#### WHEREAS

the Western Shoshone people have lived on their lands for thousands of years in keeping with their laws and theology and,



**WHEREAS**

the Western Shoshone Nation has the sovereign right to determine for itself its own form of government and,

**WHEREAS**

on December 8, 1994, the United Nations declared the beginning of the Decade for the Indigenous Peoples of the World and,

**WHEREAS**

on December 15, 1994, the Western Shoshone National Council reaffirmed its sovereign status to the international community by delivering a resolution to the Secretary General of the United Nations and,

**WHEREAS**

the territory and lands of the Western Shoshone Nation is not a part of the State of Nevada, nor a part of the United States of America, but a separate and independent sovereign nation as recognized by treaty relations with the federal government of the United States,

**THEREFORE**

Western Shoshone Law is the Supreme Law of the Land within the boundaries of the Western Shoshone Nation, in keeping with the laws given to us by our Ah-peh (Father).

Further, according to the United States Constitution, Article VI, Section 2; the judges of the states are bound by the stipulations of treaties made by the United States and,

The Western Shoshone National Council hereby notifies you that you lack jurisdiction within the Territory of the Western Shoshone Nation, and are therefore operating under color of law outside the lawful authority of the Western Shoshone Nation and,

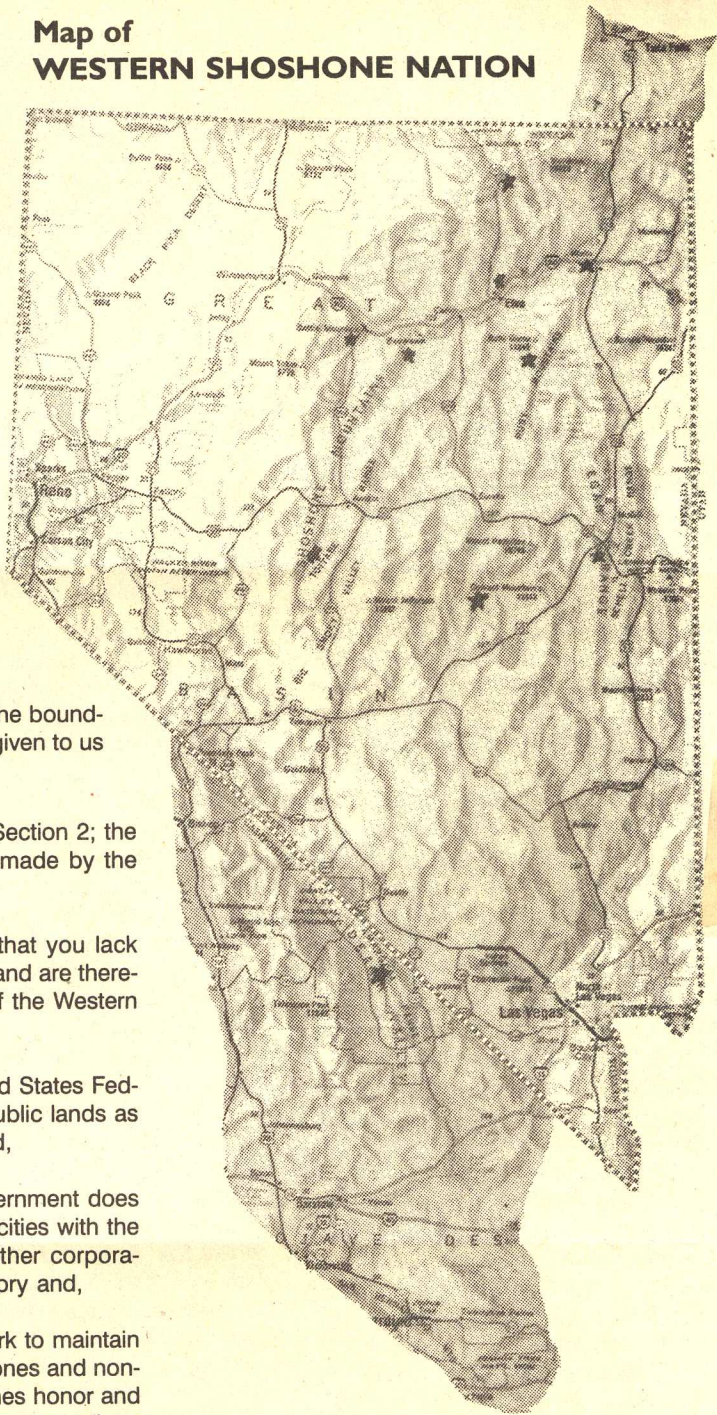
This notice served by Proclamation to inform you that the United States Federal Government lacks legitimate jurisdiction on the so-called public lands as outlined on the enclosed Western Shoshone territorial map and,

However, be advised that the Western Shoshone National Government does not at this time take issue with privately held lands, towns and cities with the exception of lands now being held by certain railroads and other corporations and entities operating within the Western Shoshone Territory and,

It is the policy of the Western Shoshone National Council to work to maintain peaceful and cooperative relations between the Western Shoshones and non-Western Shoshones on the condition that non-Western Shoshones honor and respect the legitimate existence of the Western Shoshone Nation as well as, the rights of the Western Shoshone people.

This day February 6, 1995  
Raymond D. Yowell, Chief  
Western Shoshone National Council  
Western Shoshone Nation

**Map of  
WESTERN SHOSHONE NATION**



Copies of the original Charter of Self-Government can be obtained by contacting the WSNC at P.O. Box 210, Indian Springs, Nevada, 89018-0210, phone/fax(702)879-5203