

REN-19-024: Staying Mineral Leasing and Paleontological Use Permitting in Areas of Tribal Interest, such as the Buffalo Strip and Ball Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Where Tribal Nations Do Not Consent

Sponsor: Pueblo of San Felipe

Summary:

- The BLM issues paleontological research permits in areas with tribal cultural resources despite tribal opposition.
- REN-19-024 opposes issuance of these permits without tribal consent.

Issue:

In 2017, the BLM rejected the Pueblo of San Felipe's challenge to the agency's issuance of a permit for fossil excavations on public lands known as the Ball Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). As part of their challenge, the Pueblo stated objects of cultural patrimony were in the area. According to the DOI record of decision, the Pueblo stated that the "fossils themselves are in fact cultural items and cultural patrimony" and for that reason were protected under federal law.

Action:

REN-19-024 directs NCAI to oppose mineral leasing and paleontological permitting activities on tribal ancestral lands where tribal nations have not given their free, prior, and informed consent to such activities. The resolution also supports a stay on mineral leasing in the Buffalo Strip and paleontological use permitting in the Ball Ranch Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) until tribal concerns are addressed.

For additional information, please contact Jacob Schellinger at jschellinger@ncai.org or Darren Modzelewski at dmodzelewski@ncai.org.

Resolution Action Plan: REN-19-024

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Action Plan:

- 30 Days:
 - Research and familiarize oneself with resolution subject area.
 - Evaluate legislative and executive branch advocacy opportunities.
 - Contact resolution sponsor to coordinate requested assistance.
- 60 Days:
 - Assess opportunities for cross-coordination with other tribal organizations on the issue identified in the resolution.
 - Request meeting with BLM, if appropriate.
 - Revise plan as appropriate.
- 90 Days:
 - Continue implementation of identified advocacy.
- 120 Days:
 - Continue implementation of identified advocacy.
 - Prepare update on advocacy for NCAI Mid Year Conference.