

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Hall Business Council has the inherent authority to protect and preserve the culture traditions and ceremonies of the Shoshone-Bannock people; and

**WHEREAS**, Article VI, Section. 1 (q) of the Constitution of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes provides that the Fort Hall Business Council has the power to “cultivate and preserve native arts, crafts, culture, and Indian ceremonies”; and

**WHEREAS**, peyote ceremonies, through the Native American Church, have been practiced on the Fort Hall Reservation and Salmon area for over 100 years, following receipt of the sacred peyote from our Comanche Tribal relatives in Oklahoma; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAC of Idaho was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Idaho in 1925, and the use, transportation and possession of peyote is exempted under Idaho law; and

**WHEREAS**, the sacramental use of peyote in the ceremonies of the Native American Church is central to the ceremony. To the NAC members, the sacred peyote contains powers to heal body, mind and spirit. It is a teacher; it teaches the way to spiritual life through living in harmony and balance with the forces of the creation; and

**WHEREAS**, the only place in the world where peyote cactus plants grow naturally is in the desert regions of the Rio Grande Valley in southwestern Texas and Northern Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number, size, extent and density of the peyote population in South Texas. Land development activities in the United States, specifically urban sprawl, ranching, and agriculture, have placed peyote in jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of peyote in Texas would be devastating to cultural beliefs and traditions of the NAC petitioners, and the end of Native American Church religion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Church of North America is advancing administrative and legislative proposals to the Executive branch and Congress to include a Peyote Habitat Conservation project to conserve and protect the productive capacity and environmental integrity of lands for peyote and seeking federal appropriations for a demonstration project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Church of North America has requested the assistance of the Native American Church of Idaho Board in their effort to protect and preserve the peyote habitat in Texas, and the NAC Board has discussed the matter with them and support their efforts to engage and obtain the support of the Idaho Congressional delegation on the peyote habitat conservation project; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF THE SHOSHONE BANNOCK TRIBES**, that it recognizes the preservation of the peyote sites as well as our Tribal people’s ability to practice their ceremonies and religion is intrinsically related to the survival of tribes as both cultural and self-governing entities; and

**Resolution No. FHBC-2022-0909,**

**Dated 10/25/2022**

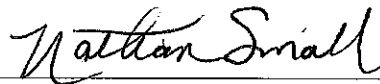
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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Business Council supports the Native American Church of Idaho and the Board's efforts, including the work with the Native American Church of North America, to protect and preserve the sacred peyote grounds in southwestern Texas; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Business Council agrees to communicate and meet with the Idaho Congressional delegates and other federal agencies to urge them to support the necessary administrative and congressional avenues to protect the peyote habitat in Texas.

Authority for the foregoing resolution is found in the Indian Reorganization Act of July 18, 1934 (48 Stat., 984), as amended, and in the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Constitution and Bylaws of the Fort Hall Reservation, as amended, including but not limited to the authority found in the Constitution, Article VI.

Dated this 25th day of October 2022.

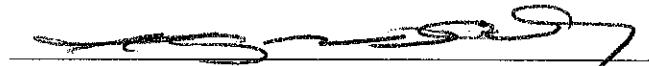


Nathan Small, Tribal Chairman  
Fort Hall Business Council

**S E A L**

**CERTIFICATION**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY**, that the foregoing resolution was passed while a quorum of the Business Council was present by a vote of 5 in favor, 1 absent (NS), and 1 not voting (DKT) on the date this bears.



Claudia J. Washakie, Tribal Secretary  
Fort Hall Business Council

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