

Sacred Sites, Shared Waters, Common Future

THIS IS OUR TREATY HOMELAND - YOUR SUPPORT UPHOLDS THE LAW

Under the 1858 Yankton Sioux Treaty, we retain constitutional rights to our sacred pipestone quarries. This isn't ancient history - it's active federal law that protects both our spiritual practices and the landscape that sustains all who live here. When you support our treaty rights, you strengthen democracy for everyone. Corporations trying to bypass tribal consultation are weakening the rule of law that protects all communities.

WHEN OUR SACRED STONE DIES, YOUR WATER DIES TOO

Catlinite exists nowhere else on Earth with ceremonial quality. Its porous structure means that oil contamination is permanent - no technology can restore the sacred stone once it has been poisoned. But this watershed connects us all. The same groundwater that flows through our sacred quarries fills your wells. Pipeline spills happen every 2-3 years. When our ceremonies end forever, your children lose clean water forever.

ONE WATERSHED, ONE DESTINY

Our ancestors understood what science now proves - water connects all life. The streams flowing from our sacred sites feed every well, every farm, every family downstream. Agricultural communities know that contamination anywhere becomes contamination everywhere. The proposed pipeline route crosses within 1/4 mile of Pipestone's municipal water supply. Our sacred waters and your drinking water are the same.

WITNESSING THE FIFTH WAVE OF DESTRUCTION

Our elders recall a time when this landscape supported thousands of species within the great web of relationships. Since 1850, we've witnessed four waves of systematic destruction:

- **Predator elimination** broke the natural balance
- **Buffalo extermination** destroyed ecosystem engineering
- **Final habitat fragmentation** severed migration corridors
- **Prairie conversion** eliminated 99% of the original habitat

Result: 90% of all species lost in 150 years. Today's surviving relatives – the Dakota Skipper butterfly, prairie orchids, and clean-water fish - carry the genetic memory for restoration. This pipeline represents the fifth wave that would complete the destruction our ancestors witnessed.

WIZIPAN WAKAN - SACRED BUNDLE OF LIFE

We refer to this landscape as Wizipan Wakan—a sacred bundle where spiritual and ecological relationships form a single, living system. This understanding offers hope for everyone. When

we protect sacred sites, we protect the water, soil, air, and wildlife that sustain all communities. Our ceremonial relationship with this land has kept it healthy for thousands of years.

RESTORATION BUILDS COMMUNITY WEALTH

Our traditional knowledge combined with community investment in restoration creates lasting prosperity:

- **Stream buffers protect every family's water and property**
- **Prairie restoration generates carbon credits and sustainable jobs**
- **Hunting and fishing tourism supports local businesses**
- **Clean air and water reduce healthcare costs for everyone**
- **Cultural tourism celebrates our shared heritage**

Healthy ecosystems mean healthy communities. The same restoration that honors our sacred relationships benefits the long-term prosperity of every family.

STANDING TOGETHER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

We're not asking you to choose between economic development and environmental protection. We're offering a different vision - one where respecting indigenous rights leads to community prosperity, where protecting sacred sites protects everyone's water, and where traditional ecological knowledge guides sustainable development.

Our ancestors signed treaties believing in a shared future. Our children deserve that promise fulfilled.

Indigenous communities worldwide face similar threats from extractive industries. Supporting our treaty rights sets a precedent for indigenous sovereignty everywhere. Climate change demands we listen to traditional ecological knowledge and protect the landscapes that sustain life.

The sacred sites we've protected for millennia hold keys to restoration that benefits everyone.

Mitakuye Oyasin – For all my relations