



**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

NUCFEB-777-19

**REQUESTING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT
CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE NAVAJO ABORIGINAL
LANDS IN THE MCCRACKEN MESA AREA, INCLUDING ALKALI CANYON, TIN
CUP MESA, MONUMENT CANYON, SQUAW CANYON, CROSS CANYON AND
RECAPTURE CANYON & WITHDRAW THE LEASE PARCELS SLATED FOR
AUCTION IN THE MARCH 2019 LEASE SALE LOCATED IN THE MCCRACKEN
MESA AREA**

Whereas:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission (NUC) is a governmental subdivision of the Navajo Nation and is subject to oversight of the Navajo Nation Council – Naabik'iyá'ti' Committee pursuant to resolution no. NABIAP-21-15; and
2. The Navajo Utah Commission recognizes lands in the McCracken Mesa area, including Alkali Canyon, Tin Cup Mesa, Monument Canyon, Squaw Canyon, Cross Canyon, and Recapture Canyon, as aboriginal land that must be protected from degradation and damages from oil and gas and other mineral exploration and development; and
3. The Navajo Utah Commission is aware that there are numerous undocumented cultural sites in the many canyons, along the canyon rims, and on the mesas near McCracken Mesa, including the areas noted in Paragraph 2, above, including very sensitive sites and very significant traditional and ancient cultural sites, and these sites are at extreme risk of damage and vandalism due to existing and planned oil and gas exploration and development; and
4. The Navajo Utah Commission recognizes there are sensitive plants in and near the canyons and mesas near McCracken Mesa, noted in Paragraph 2 above, that are very important for Navajo traditional and ceremonial uses and Navajo Utah Commission is concerned these plants will be adversely affected by oil and gas exploration and development in this area; and
5. The Navajo Utah Commission's position is that the cultural and natural resources of the McCracken Mesa area, including Alkali Canyon, Tin Cup Mesa, Monument Canyon, Squaw Canyon, Cross Canyon, and Recapture Canyon, should be protected from oil and gas exploration and development impacts; and

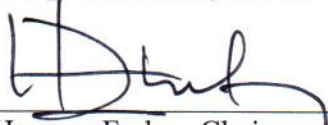
6. The Navajo Utah Commission is aware that the Monticello office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently considering an oil and gas lease sale for the McCracken Mesa area scheduled to take place in March 2019; and
7. The Navajo Utah Commission has previously expressed concerns that the Bureau of Land Management should consult with the Navajo Utah Commission in matters that affect cultural and natural resources on public lands in San Juan County, Utah, before issuing decisions on such matters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission hereby requests Monticello BLM withdraw the lease parcels slated for auction in the March 2019 lease sale that are located in the greater McCracken Mesa area, including in and near Alkali Canyon, Tin Cup Mesa, Monument Canyon, Squaw Canyon, Cross Canyon, and Recapture Canyon; and
2. The Navajo Utah Commission hereby resolves that the BLM should support the Navajo Nation Commission in protecting the natural and cultural resources located on federal public lands in San Juan County. To that end the Commission requests that the BLM not proceed with any future lease sales in the greater McCracken Mesa area, including in and near Alkali Canyon, Tin Cup Mesa, Monument Canyon, Squaw Canyon, Cross Canyon, and Recapture Canyon before initiating and completing consultation with the Commission.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Navajo Utah Commission at a duly called meeting in Red Mesa, Utah at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention, this 12th day of February, 2019.



Herman Farley, Chairperson
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION

MOTION: Henry Steven, Jr.
SECOND: Brenda Brown

Chair not voting