



**ATNI Midyear 2025 Convention  
Airway Heights, Washington**

**RESOLUTION # 2025 – 14**

**“IN SUPPORT OF PERMANENTLY PROTECTING THE OWYHEE  
CANYONLANDS”**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the member Tribes of ATNI hold government-to-government relationships with the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people are members of several Tribes currently located in and around the Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon, Nevada and Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribes located in and around the Owyhee Canyonlands are active members of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people and their Tribes have lived and thrived in their ancestral homelands for thousands of years, and maintained a historic and ongoing relationship to the landscapes, plants, wildlife, fish, and resources of the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding areas in Oregon, Nevada and Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people and their Tribes rely on a healthy intact landscape throughout the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding for sustenance, including foods, medicines, hunting, fishing, and cultural and religious ceremonies central to their lifeways and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of animals, plants, soils, groundwater, springs, rivers, creeks, geographic features, air quality, soundscapes, sacred sites and landscapes are of vital importance to the preservation of the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people and their Tribes' values as well as traditional and spiritual practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people and their Tribes value stewardship and conservation of natural, cultural and spiritual resources, and promote the responsible planning and management of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding areas includes regions currently described as the Upper Owyhee River watershed, Lower Owyhee River watershed, associated tributaries, the Trout Creek and Oregon Canyon Mountains, and other landscapes of importance to the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people and their Tribes who have inhabited the area since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding areas contains thousands of cultural places and objects of vital importance to Tribal history, cultural, spiritual practices and the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the natural and cultural resources of the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding areas are threatened by poor land management, growing pressures from industrial development and other uses incompatible with the long-term need for conservation of natural, cultural and spiritual values and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan, as amended in 2024, and associated Bureau of Land Management plans, provide for interim protections and conservation management of millions of acres of land in the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding areas but do not permanently protect these areas from threats they are facing; and


**WHEREAS**, ATNI, in solidarity with the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people and their Tribes located in and around the Owyhee Canyonlands, find it in the best interest of its members to support protections for this significant cultural and ecological landscape through the permanent protection of the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding areas; now


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the permanent protection of the Owyhee Canyonlands and surrounding areas as a unit of the federal Bureau of Land Management’s National Landscape Conservation System; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, as part of this permanent protective designation for the Owyhee Canyonlands, ATNI requests that the federal government work closely with the Northern Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock people and their Tribes located in and around the Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon, Idaho and Nevada, and other applicable and interested Tribes and Indigenous communities, to establish protections that support conservation of the landscape and ecosystems in their natural state, and inclusive of Tribal interests and needs, potentially including but not limited to, co-stewardship and/or co-management in specific areas, integration of traditional or Indigenous Ecological Knowledge in management planning and conservation management, establishment of natural, cultural and spiritual resource protections, and ongoing government-to-government consultation to ensure that Tribal interests and needs are addressed as part of the long-term conservation and protection of the Owyhee Canyonlands.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Midyear Convention held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Airway Heights Washington on May 11-15, 2025, with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary