



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 33

"OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF CERTIFIED FEDERAL SURVEYORS IN INDIAN COUNTRY"

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 representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, Bureau of Land Management has instituted a training program known as "Certified Federal Surveyors" (CFED's) for civilian Surveyors to conduct federal surveys on Indian Reservations where the only requirement to enter the training is that they are: 1) a state licensed surveyor and 2) must not have received negative disciplinary action in the last five years; and

WHEREAS, using CFED's surveyors could result in state, county, and city elected officials and/or employees conducting surveys to resolve boundary disputes between states, counties or cities and tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has not restricted the requirements to complete the CFED's training to exclude state, county or city elected officials or employees who could face ethical dilemmas when deciding boundary disputes between tribes and states, counties or cities; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has not restricted the requirements to complete the CFED's training to exclude surveyors who are members of organizations who oppose Indian jurisdiction, or any other organizations which are anti-Indian in nature, or who are individually opposed to Indian jurisdiction or are anti-Indian in nature; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has a fiduciary responsibility to direct and control surveys on Indian Land which are accurate and objective; these surveys are integral to realty transactions, resource management activities, litigation support, the federal system of patent, allotment and survey records, as well as management of trust accounts, and distribution of trust assets; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians opposes using already certified CFEDs surveyors until such time as those surveyors who are state, county, and city elected officials and employees, and those surveyors who oppose tribes' jurisdiction or are anti-Indian in nature are removed from the eligible list of federal surveyors; and

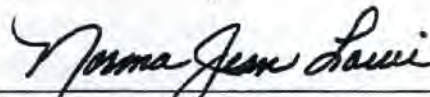
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians urges the Bureau of Land Management to refrain from proceeding with any further CFED's training until the requirements for entering the program restricts those same surveyors who are state, county or city elected officials, and those same surveyors who oppose tribes' jurisdiction or are anti-Indian in nature from receiving training to conduct federal surveys on Indian Reservations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary