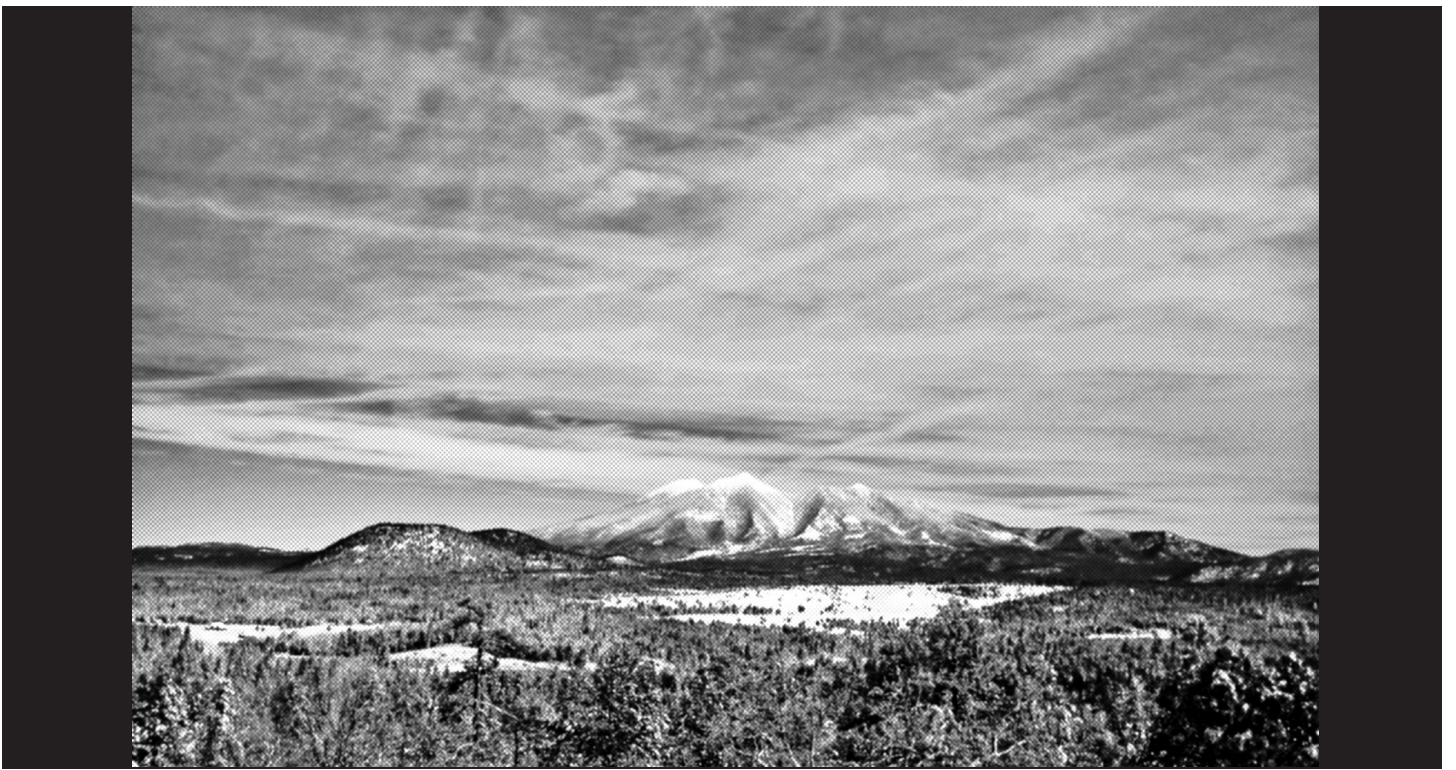


SAVING
THE



SAN FRANCISCO
PEAKS

SUMMER 2010
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS
TRUESNOW.ORG
SAVETHEPEAKS.ORG

SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS

FROM TRUESNOW.ORG

On August 30, the Flagstaff City Council will be meeting at Sinagua High School to determine whether or not they will sell drinking water to Arizona Snowbowl for snowmaking. Please join us for this very important meeting. Sinagua High School is located at 3950 East Butler Avenue Flagstaff, AZ.

Take action now:

Join us in contacting Flagstaff City Council members and urge them *not* to approve a new contract to sell Flagstaff's precious drinking water for (but not limited to) the following reasons:

- Water is Life! Water is scarce in Northern Arizona and it should not be treated as a resource for recreation.
- Water for Flagstaff! Flagstaff's water is needed for its citizens not a private business located outside of Flagstaff's City limits.
- Respect Indigenous Peoples ways of life! Indigenous Nations are opposed to snowmaking with groundwater. The Hopi Tribe has historically and consistently been opposed to snowmaking with any kind of water.

- The Snowbowl controversy has divided the Flagstaff community. City officials have the opportunity to choose to do the right thing and begin to heal the wounds that they are in part responsible for.

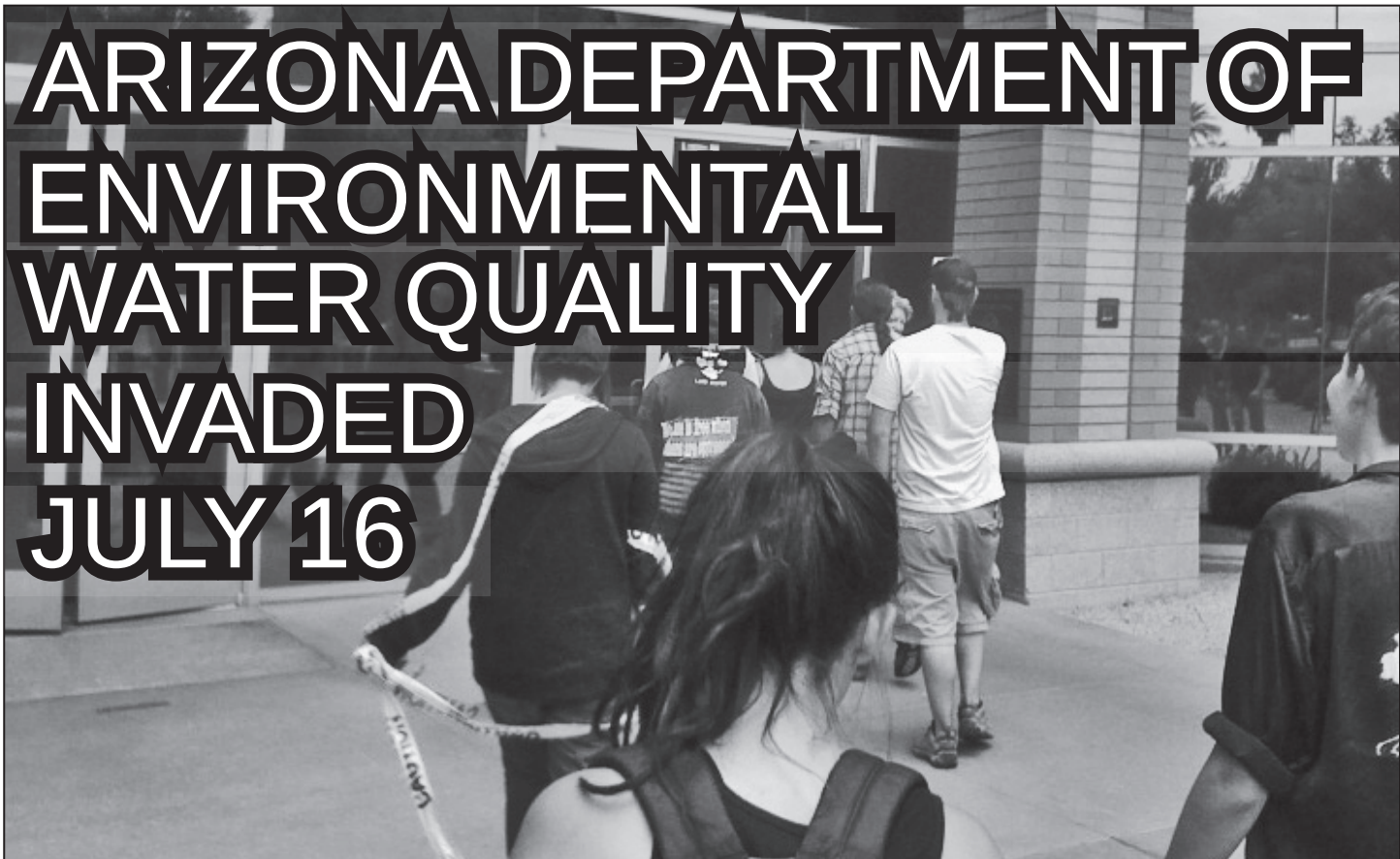
- The USDA is offering federal money to the tune of \$11 million to help pay for this water. That comes out of our pockets.

Don't let them subsidize racism and disrespect. More details and updates are available at: www.truesnow.org. Please contact the Flagstaff City Council immediately and show your dismay for the idea to use our precious drinking water to prop up a ski area in a desert.

All council members: council@flagstaffaz.gov
Mayor Sara Presler: spresler@flagstaffaz.gov
Vice Mayor Celia: cbarotz@flagstaffaz.gov
Art Babbott: ababbott@flagstaffaz.gov
Karla Brewster: kbrewster@flagstaffaz.gov
Coral Evans: cevans@flagstaffaz.gov
Scott Overton: soverton@flagstaffaz.gov
Al White: awhite@flagstaffaz.gov

RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WAYS OF LIFE!

SNOWBOWL = COLONIALISM



On Friday July 16, a group entered the Arizona Department of Environmental Water Quality's (AZDEWQ) phoenix office building to deliver a message. Chanting "Save the Peaks" the group breezed through the main lobby and approached the main office. Once in the office the group made an announcement to the two secretaries at the desk. The group demanded that the AZDEWQ use their role as a tentacle of the capitalist system to intervene with the Snowbowl companies' further desecration of the San Francisco Peaks. The group held it down in the office for a while and then relocated back to the main lobby area chanting and strewing caution tape about. As the groups chants ricocheted off the cold walls of the AZDEWQ building Everyone beside a lonely security guard and the group occupying the lobby the rest of the business building hackers scrambled upstairs, into elevators and their office waiting for the group to leave.

The group stretched out a banner that read "Danger" "Quarantine" "Snowbowl hazardous to public health". Others mingled about the lobby clapping their hands and screaming chants and holding "Danger Health Threat" "Stop Snowbowl" signs.

After the intent of the groups' visit had rung through the ears of everyone present they safely left the building with the rest of their day of resistance ahead of them.





The San Francisco Peaks stand vibrantly 5,000 ft. above the Colorado plateau north of Flagstaff in northern Arizona. The Peaks sit sacredly in the hearts of more than 13 indigenous tribes. They are literally an intricate part of many tribes' creation story. They are also home to more than 200 species of mammals and birds.

From the Save the Peaks webpage:

From many places in northern Arizona, the horizon is dramatically marked by three 12,000-foot volcanic peaks that rise out of the Colorado Plateau south of the Grand Canyon and north of Flagstaff. The San Francisco Peaks are sacred to 13 tribes. For the Navajo, the Peaks are the sacred mountain of the west, Doko'oo'sliid, "Shining On Top," a key boundary marker and a place where medicine men collect herbs for healing ceremonies. To the Hopi, the Peaks are Nuvatukaovi, "The Place of Snow on the Very Top," home for half of the year to the ancestral kachina spirits who live among the clouds around the summit. When properly honored through song and ceremony, the kachinas bring gentle rains to thirsty corn plants. The peaks are one of the "sacred places where the Earth brushes up against the unseen world," in the words of Yavapai-Apache Chairman Vincent Randall.

About Snowbowl the company, also from the Save the Peaks Coalitions webpage:

Arizona Snowbowl Resort Limited Partnership (ASR) is a privately owned entity that holds a special use permit (SUP) to operate a ski area on federal land located on the San Francisco Peaks. The San Francisco Peaks are environmentally sensitive. The Peaks, including the SUP area, are also "extensively documented and widely recognized as a place of extreme cultural importance" to the tribes.

Due to, in large part, inconsistent snowfall and limited demand, the Snowbowl ski area has been experiencing financial difficulties. To help provide ASR with a "consistent/reliable operating season," the Forest Service (FS) agreed to allow ASR to expand the ski area and to introduce snowmaking using non-potable treated sewage effluent. Thousands opposed the project and challenged the adequacy of the FS review, consultation, and approval processes throughout the administrative process. After being rebuffed in the administrative process, a coalition of tribes and environmental groups filed suit challenging FS actions under, in part, NEPA, NFMA, and the NHPA. Plaintiff Tribes also asserted violations of the government's trust responsibility to the tribes, and a violation of RFRA.

The question at hand is not merely the usage of reclaimed sewage water or not. No part of this "resort" should exist. Every discretionary piece of this resort is a visual representation of colonialisms' continuous sprawling of endless cultural genocide. The future of the Peaks is literally at risk for as long as Snowbowl exists.

What does the state have to say about the desecration of the peaks?

The US forest service recognizes that there will be an adverse effect on native American religious beliefs but because of "other benefits" of the lodge The US forest service finds it a substantial and compelling reason for continuance and improvement of the [Snowbowl] development area.

After considering all affects the US forest service prefers development because legal requirements have been met. Public sentiment favors development the environmental affects can be mitigated, it benefits local economy and is consistent with forest services plans and policies.

What does "development" look like in this situation?



**PROTECT SACRED SITES!
SAVE THE PEAKS!**

CURRENTLY APPROVED PLANS TO DESTROY THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS

FROM SAVETHEPEAKS.ORG

The USFS and Snowbowl have hatched a dastardly plan to spread 180,000,000 gallons of treated sewage effluent on the edges of a wilderness area that contains pristine springs that provide Flagstaff with drinking water. This water is so good that Nestlé has been trying to buy it, bottle it, and sell it as natural spring water through Arrowhead water.

They would also like to upgrade their facility and trails by clearcutting trees, stripping topsoil resources, and reshaping the face of the ski area. Their snowmaking guns will be audible for miles around and will operate 24 hours a day when possible. They will also be making trails for ATV access to the mountain.

- 1.5 million gallons of reclaimed wastewater (that has now been found to have organic contaminants such as pharmaceuticals and hormones) a day for snowmaking on 205 acres - Approximately 180,000,000 gallons of wastewater for the entire season!
- 10,000,000 gallon wastewater storage pond (Approximately 3.5 acres surface area)
- 14.8 miles of buried pipeline to transport wastewater from Flagstaff to Snowbowl
- 74 acres “clear-cut” for new trails
- Approximately 50 snowmaking guns audible over 1.5 miles away (that will operate 24 hours a day if conditions allow) Air/water tower guns upper part of the mountain Fan snowmaking guns lower part
- “Approximately 87 acres” are proposed to be “stripped of topsoil resources, reshaped and contoured”, “rocks and stumps protruding from the surface would be pushed into concentration areas and buried or hauled off site”
- 47 acres of “tree thinning”
- 7 acres snowplay tubing area
- 3 acres “teaching area”
- 4 surface lifts
- 10,000 gallon underground water storage tank
- 10,000 gallon underground water storage tank (additional)
- 10,000 sq ft new facility
- 6,000 sq ft hart prairie lodge size increase
- 5,000 sq ft guest service facility with additional water storage tank
- 4,000 sq ft snowmaking control unit
- 3,000 ft new Humphrey’s lift
- 2,500 sq ft Native American Cultural Center
- “Develop approximately 1,110 ft of additional on-mountain access road”
- 640 sq ft club house
- 500 ft Aspen lift re alignment
- 300 ft sunset lift realignment
- 300 ft handle tow
- 150 sq ft surface conveyor lift
- 150 sq ft surface conveyor lift (additional)
- 150 sq ft surface conveyor lift (additional)
- 100 sq ft ski team building
- 100 sq ft ski team building (additional)
- 400 space parking area
- Underpass for skiers
- Traffic circle
- Half pipe “rough-shaped out of dirt”
- Joining 2 existing parking lots by grading and “leveling”
- Hiking trails also accessible to ATV’s and skiers
- Burial of air, water and power lines along edges of ski trails for snowmaking guns
- Additional reclaimed water line to lodges

THE SNOWBOWL DISPUTE: A TIMELINE

FROM SAVETHEPEAKS.ORG

1938: Ski area's original base area is established in Hart Prairie. A rope tow, powered by a car engine, pulls skiers uphill.

1952: The base lodge is destroyed in a fire. 1954: Road leading to ski area is extended to the site of the Agassiz Lodge. Agassiz Lodge is built in 1956. Two more lifts are added in 1958 and 1962, but little else is developed.

1970: Summit Properties purchases the area with plans for a base village, however, a land-use plan issued in 1971 restricts development to the existing permit area.

1977: Northland Recreation purchases the ski area and files a master plan to develop the area.

1979: The U.S. Forest Service approves a commercial ski area with new lifts, trails and facilities. Dick and Jean Wilson, the Navajo Medicinemen's Association, and the Hopi Tribe subsequently sue Interior Secretary John Block.

1982: The Hart Prairie chair lift is built. In November, Fairfield Communities purchases area and begins a plan in 1983 that includes the construction of Hart Prairie Lodge, the Sunset chair lift and transfer of the rope tow back to Hart Prairie.

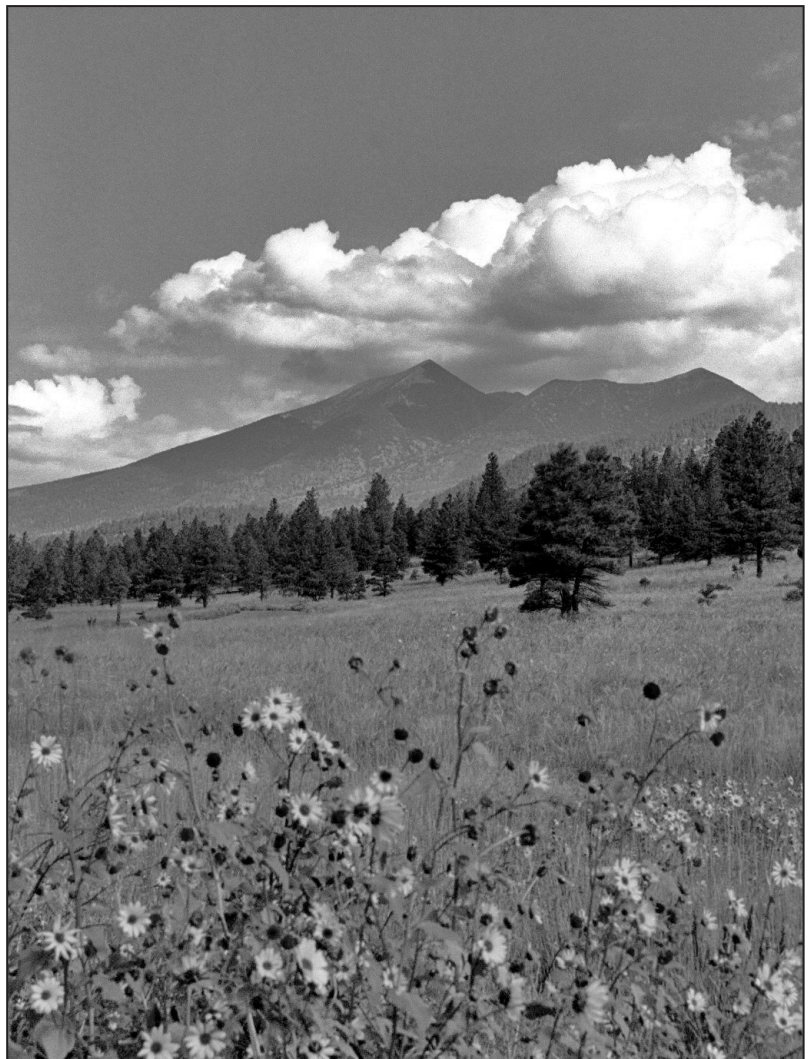
1983: The U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear arguments from Wilson, the medicine men, and the Hopi Tribe. That action affirms the lower courts' decisions and clears the way for more development of the commercial ski area.

1984: Congress creates the Kachina Peaks Wilderness outside the ski area boundaries.

1988: The U.S. Supreme Court hears a case of multiple California tribes objecting to road construction and logging in U.S. Forest Service areas they want left undisturbed. In a 5-3 ruling, the justices say the federal government is not violating the tribes' religious beliefs because it does not coerce the tribal members themselves to do something contrary to their beliefs.

1992: Arizona Snowbowl Limited Partnership buys the ski area, expands Hart Prairie Lodge and adds a guest service office, a rental shop and a children's ski school. Trail improvements are also made.

1993: Congress passes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. It says: Government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion, unless it furthers a compelling government interest, and the action proposed is the least harmful method of proceeding.





ORIGINAL PHOTO BY: CALVIN JOHNSON

1997: The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down a section of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act as it applies to states' rights after an archbishop in Texas attempts to tell local zoning officials it would be infringing on his religion to forbid him to expand his church building. It remains for federal use.

2000: The San Francisco Peaks is designated a Traditional Cultural Property, which allows it to be eligible for consideration as an official National Historic Register site.

2001: Snowbowl files an application for development, snowmaking with the U.S. Forest Service.

2002: Flagstaff City Council agrees to sell 1.5 million gallons of reclaimed wastewater per day during the winter months to Arizona Snowbowl, signing a contract with the business.

2004: The Coconino National Forest releases an environmental study of the proposed changes for public comment. It receives almost 10,000 comments.

2005: Coconino National Forest approves snowmaking with reclaimed wastewater at Arizona Snowbowl. Tribes and environmental groups file suit against the U.S. Forest Service.

2006: A U.S. district judge upholds the Forest Service's decision to allow snowmaking. Plaintiffs subsequently appeal the decision to the 9th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Attorneys for the tribes argue the proposed upgrade desecrates sacred land.

March 2007: A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rules Arizona Snowbowl operators cannot use reclaimed wastewater to make snow.

Oct. 2007: The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decides to rehear the case en banc, or with 11 judges.

Aug. 2008: The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals says Arizona Snowbowl can make snow with reclaimed water, and go ahead with other improvements, despite tribal objections.

Jan. 2009: Tribes ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the 9th Circuit's approval of Snowbowl's development. Tribes argue the further expansion of the ski area is in substantial conflict with religious beliefs.

June 2009: U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear the case. This means the 11-judge decision of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stands, allowing snowmaking to commence.

THE PEAKS ARE ONE OF THE "SACRED PLACES WHERE THE EARTH BRUSHES UP AGAINST THE UNSEEN WORLD," IN THE WORDS OF YAVAPAI-APACHE CHAIRMAN VINCENT RANDALL.

Dear Friends Dear Friends Dear Friends

FROM TRUESNOW.ORG

Dear Friends,

We need your help. On August 30, the Flagstaff City Council will decide whether to allow its original contract to be amended so Snowbowl could use city potable water for snow making on the San Francisco Peaks. Because using reclaimed sewage water is proving legally difficult, Snowbowl is looking for an \$11 dollars federal subsidy to use more expensive and precious potable water

Considering the scarcity of water in Northern Arizona, this is simply an unacceptable prospect. Snowbowl owners and administration has proved again and again that deceiving, bullying, and pushing their weight around is never beyond their strategies to make more profits. It is highly important for the City Council to hear from Flagstaff residents that the original contract between the city and Snowbowl should *not* be amended. Please contact the city council ASAP and let them know that they should not amend the contract to allow the sale of what they refer to as “recovered reclaimed water” (drinking water).

In the first article of this zine you can find the contact information of the city council. Here are a few additional good reasons you may use when contacting them.

Here are some reasons why the contract should not be amended:

1. It defies logic to use portable water for recreation considering we live in a desert state and that despite what Snowbowl claims, in 18 to 20 years the city of Flagstaff will run out of water.
2. This is not an aquifer neutral project. It is an insult to people’s intelligence to even suggest that it is. When reclaimed water is allowed to go into the ground there is no way to know and track where it goes. Also, more than half (probably as much as 70 percent) of the snow that would be made and spread on the mountain will be lost to evaporation. Pumping so much water from the local aquifer will have *dramatic* additive impacts on our precious water supplies.
3. If the contract is amended, what kind of message will the city be sending out to its residents? How can the city justify raising water rates on residents while providing our portable water for snowmaking. What is the logic here? Save water so we can make sure Snowbowl is making enough profits for its greedy owners?
4. The economic and long term benefits of the proposed development and snowmaking are insignificant for the entire community. We need good paying steady and sustainable jobs. We don’t need short term low paying seasonal jobs that offer no benefits or good prospects.
5. The Native American Tribes who comprise a large part of our community and economy have consistently objected snowmaking. Any type of snowmaking on the San Francisco Peaks will tremendously offend this part of our community. This is a very important message for Councilmamber Coral Evans to hear.
6. The \$11 million allocated by the USDA to cover the price difference between reclaimed and portable water constitutes a corporate bailout. This is our tax money and should not be used for these purposes. This is a major point Councilmamber Scott Overton must hear.
7. As the City Council of Flagstaff, it is your responsibility to prevent the use of portable water for snowmaking. Allowing the process to go forward in any way will be a disservice to the community.

NAVAJO NATION URGES FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL TO DISAPPROVE PROPOSED CONTRACT TO SELL POTABLE WATER TO ARIZONA SNOWBOWL

August 17, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. - Come August 30, during the Flagstaff City Council's special meeting, the Navajo Nation will once again adamantly oppose any and all expansion to the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Resort. Currently, a proposal rests before the City Council that, if passed, would allow the city to sell potable water to the ski resort for snowmaking purposes.

On July 21, the 21st Navajo Nation Council overwhelmingly voted in favor of Resolution CJY-34-10 urging "the Flagstaff City Council and Flagstaff Water Commission to disapprove a proposed contract to sell potable water to Arizona Snowbowl for snowmaking on Dook'oslííd (San Francisco Peaks)." Passage of the resolution reaffirmed the Navajo Nation's opposition to the expansion of the Arizona Snowbowl and reaffirmed its opposition to the further desecration of Dook'oslííd by the proposed use of treated wastewater.

A week later on July 29, the Navajo Nation delegation consisting of Council delegates Thomas Walker, Jr. (Birdsprings/Luepp/Tolani Lake) and Raymond Maxx (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi), delivered the official position to city council members. Delegates Walker and Maxx met with City Council members Art Babbott, Celia Barotz, and Karla Brewster to further explain the Nation's official stance and the harm it would cause to the Navajo people.

Later that day, Delegate Raymond Maxx also delivered the official position of the Nation to the Flagstaff City Water Commission, a citizen based body, during their special commission hearing at Sinagua Middle School in Flagstaff. The commission considered various options, including the use of direct reclaimed water (effluent) or indirect recovered reclaimed water (potable). The water commission ultimately voted 5-4 in favor of giving the city of Flagstaff a committed option of either effluent or potable water to the ski resort.

"By asking the Navajo Nation if we prefer potable or effluent water is essentially asking us if we are willing to negotiate our identity as Navajos; Dook'oslííd is inextricably tied to our identity, much like one's family members are part of one's identity," said Delegate Walker. "It is like asking us to turn our back on a family member. As such, this is a matter that we cannot negotiate."

IN CONCLUSION AND TO A NEW BEGINNING

Within these texts a few calls for support are shared with it's readers. We urge you to challenge yourself. Please do not let your location or hesitation stifle your ability to answer this call. Rather than e-mailing the council or attending the meeting or using your creativity.

As the time-line shows Snowbowl has been occupying and desecrating the San Francisco Peaks far too long. To think that the compromising of the peaks sacredness would not pull the heart strings of many would be a cracked notion. To ask readers to hold in their emotions after pouring out all this information on you would be unfair. The August 30, court date rapidly approaches. Please do as your heart and mind guides you. Help hold the peaks sacred. Refuse to let Snowbowl take indigenous ways lightheartedly.

For further information on the San Francisco Peaks please visit these pages on the internet:

www.truesnow.org

www.savethepeaks.org

WE STILL HAVE A CHOICE,
TO TEAR EVERYTHING DOWN



OR BECOME THE RUINS...

LET
THE
WORLD
DIE

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