

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
And
the All-Buryat Association for Cultural Development

WHEREAS, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California ("Washoe Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe and the All-Buryat Association for Cultural Development ("Buryats") represents cultural interests of the Buryat people; and

WHEREAS, the Washoe people are the indigenous people from the Lake Tahoe region of the United States and the Buryats are indigenous to the Lake Baikal region of Russia; and

WHEREAS, the Washoe Tribe and the Buryats recognize that a common human right to preserve and develop their own cultures and ways of life and that maintaining cultural diversity is vital in today's global environment; and

WHEREAS, the Washoe people and the Buryat people have survived many common experiences and declare a commonness of heritage and goals; and

WHEREAS, the Washoe Tribe and the Buryats recognize that Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal are crucial elements of their culture, identity and very survival and that as indigenous peoples we have a responsibility to preserve, restore, and sustainably develop these unique environments for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Washoe Tribe and Buryats acknowledge the significance of traditional and customary stewardship for the preservation and development of the Tahoe and Baikal areas;

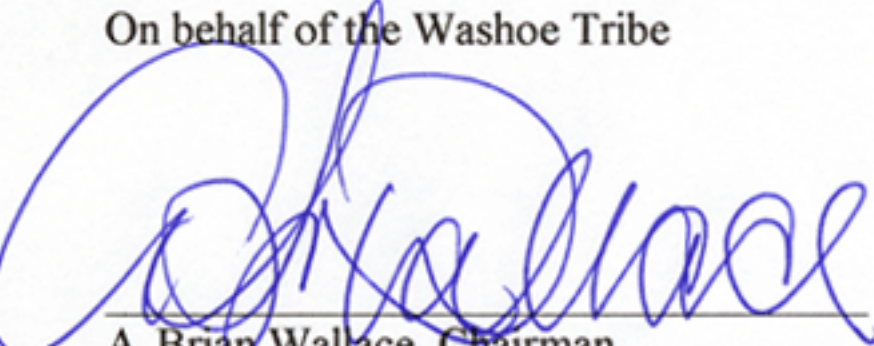
Now Therefore in consideration of the foregoing, the parties hereby declare and affirm the following principles:

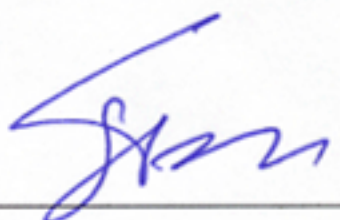
1. that our peoples have the right to preserve and develop our own cultures and ways of life as we determine;
2. that on the basis of our inseparable connection with our homelands we declare ourselves to be brothers and sisters;
3. that we will make every effort to further strengthen the cooperation and assistance between our fraternal nations and in the fields of cultural and environmental restoration to repatriate our culture and homelands;
4. that we will use the opportunities for restoration of natural areas of Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal to promote indigenous knowledge, tools, stewardship, sustainable development;
5. that, in a cooperative effort to preserve our traditional cultures, we will work to create a Washoe-Buryat International Cultural Program as part of the Washoe Tribe's Cultural Center at Lake Tahoe;
6. that we affirm the rights of our sacred sites, particularly including Cave Rock and Shamen Rock, and the obligations of all peoples, organizations, and countries to respect these sites.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, THE PARTIES HAVE CAUSED THIS AGREEMENT TO BE EXECUTED.

On behalf of the Washoe Tribe

On behalf of the Buryat People


A. Brian Wallace, Chairman
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California


P. Azhunov
Pro-tem Ambassador of the
All-Buryat Association for Cultural
Development

2/14/03
Date

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Date