

Western Shoshone Defense Project
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Western Shoshone Defense Project



Mission:

To affirm Neve (Western Shoshone) jurisdiction within Neve Sogobia (Western Shoshone homelands) by protecting, preserving, and restoring Neve rights and lands for present and future generations based on Neve cultural and spiritual traditions.

The WSDP is an affiliate of the **Seventh Generation Fund**, a **501c3 non-profit organization** dedicated to promoting and maintaining the uniqueness of Native Peoples and Nations.

Neve Sogobia is the Western Shoshone land base that spans 60 million acres in Southern Idaho, Eastern/Central Nevada and Death Valley, California.

“Our land has never been ceded or deeded to the U.S., so it’s not possible for them to just take it and determine that our title to the land has been extinguished.”
- Mary and Carrie Dann



The **Western Shoshone Defense Project (WSDP)** was established in 1992 by the Western Shoshone National Council to provide support to Mary and Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone grandmothers, faced with the confiscation of their livestock which they graze on Western Shoshone homelands. While we started off as an organization of volunteers, with the support of thousands of individuals and foundations, we have grown into an organization with paid staff and three programs.

Since the 1950s, the U.S. government has used Western Shoshone lands to test hundreds of nuclear weapons, to dispose of thousands of metric tons of radioactive waste, and has spent billions of dollars to study Yucca Mountain as a national dump site for the deadly waste product of the nuclear industry.

In addition, modern corporate gold mining is gauging the heart of Western Shoshone homelands. Neve Sogobia ranks second in world gold production behind South Africa. Using a method that involves grinding up whole mountains to extract minute particles of gold, this heap leach gold mining is causing tremendous impacts to the Western Shoshone, including: spiritual and economic dislocation, the destruction of Neve cultural sites, and the desecration of land and water.

As an indigenous grassroots organization, we are taking the lead to educate and organize for the protection of Neve Sogobia by defending Neve rights. We are guided by Western Shoshone traditional and tribal leaders, Western Shoshone Advisory Board, and the Western Shoshone National Council, the traditional Western Shoshone government.

Cultural Program hosts events in the **Western Shoshone communities and on the land to share traditional knowledge and build unity for the defense of Neve Sogobia.**

Community Organizing & Leadership Development

Training and Tools in Neve Communities

Annual Gathering & Field Trips

Cultural Mapping

Mining & Environment Program promotes sustainability and the long term health of Neve Sogobia.

Research

Public participation & Networking

Direct Action

Legal Strategies

Land Recognition Program promotes Neve jurisdiction within Neve Sogobia and reform of U.S. Indian law and policy.

International Human Rights Advocacy

Legal Strategies

Corporate Engagement

Outreach & Education