Western Shoshone homeland, Newe Sogobia, has never been for sale! In the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley with the U.S., Western Shoshone (Newe) leaders agreed to settle into a lifestyle of ranching and allow non-Indians to pass through their territory; but did not cede lands.

Over a hundred years later, following the discovery of microscopic gold in Newe Sogobia, the U.S. charged Newe ranchers, Carrie and Mary Dann, with “trespass”. The issue went to the Supreme Court which ruled the Western Shoshone lost the land when the Interior Department, acting as their “trustee,” had accepted money.

In 1979, the Indian Claims Commission (ICC) paid the Interior 15 cents an acre for Western Shoshone lands they said were taken by “gradual encroachment,” a method of taking which has never been found to be legal.

U.S. Indian law and policy is based on the racist Columbus-era “Doctrine of Discovery”, which declared Indians did not have the same rights as Europeans. To this day, the U.S. government has prevented Newe from arguing their title in the U.S. courts. The ICC decision was found in 2003 to be illegal by the Organization of American States (OAS); but the U.S. has refused to respond to the concerns of the OAS and continues to use illegal means to claim title to Newe lands.

### History of Newe Rights

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### WSDP Advisory Board

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### WSDP Staff

Carrie Dann, Executive Director  
Larson Bill, Community Organizer  
M. Lee Dazey, Development Coordinator  
Julie Ann Fishe, Land Recognition Program  
Anrine Smith, Administrative Assistant

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**What can you do?**

The Western Shoshone Defense Project needs your support. Please tear off and send to us:

- **Western Shoshone Defense Project**  
P.O. Box 211308  
Crescent Valley, NV 89821  
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(775) 468-0237, Fax  
Website: [www.wsdp.org](http://www.wsdp.org)  
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**Development Office**  
1675 The Strand  
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(775) 324-3592, Phone and Fax

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