

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee has been empowered to act for and in behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe, pursuant to the Revised Constitution and By-Laws, adopted by the General Council of the Nez Perce Tribe, on May 6, 1961, and approved by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs on June 27, 1961; and

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) recognizes the global scientific consensus that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by human activities are having a profound effect on the Earth's climate, resulting in changes to the seasonal rhythms and cycles of plant-insect-animal interactions which are integral to the Tribe's culture; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe further recognizes that the scale and rapidity of the climate crisis, requires an adaptive and innovative combination of restoration actions spanning the Tribe's ancestral territory across all contemporary legal jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe's Climate Vulnerability Assessment concludes that regional cooperation to protect, maintain, and restore Treaty-protected resources, intact ecosystems, ecological connectivity, and climate refugia is mandatory to ensure cultural survival in light of these threats; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe wishes to work with like-minded, local and regional partners as part of an integrated, regional, cross-cultural and cross-jurisdictional effort to protect and improve ecological connectivity and social-ecological resilience; and

WHEREAS, the the Tribe's goals and aspirations are compatible with the partners within the Blues to Bitterroots Coalition (B2B), specifically Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands, Greater Hells Canyon Council, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland, Northwest Youth Corps, and Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe shares the B2B vision of a homeland where the time-tested Indigenous relationship with the land is honored as a model of resilience; where land protection is restitution for past harm; where land restoration is an arena for eco-cultural healing and a foundation of the regional economy; and where stewardship priorities shape land management that is responsive, holistic, and just; and

WHEREAS, the B2B partners understand that Treaty Reserved rights are integral to cultural survival, and these Treaty Reserved rights require unencumbered access to lands and resources within the Tribes historic areas; and

WHEREAS, this cooperative relationship does not interfere with or substitute for the government to government consultation requirements or the trust relationship between the United States and the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the B2B partners share a strong interest in cross-jurisdictional restoration and conservation efforts that protect our relationships with the land, waters, and wildlife of the Nez Perce homeland, and the restoration of indigenous land management practices that increase resiliency of ecosystems to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the B2B partners will work collaboratively with free prior and informed consent with one another to best address mutual goals and objectives that utilizes all partners' knowledge, skills, and relationships to best determine how to support, evaluate, prioritize, implement, and adaptively manage conservation and education efforts on behalf of climate resilience.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC) hereby authorizes tribal staff and elected leaders to work with and support local and regional partners as part of the Blues to Bitterroots Coalition to pursue mutually beneficial programs and projects to implement climate-smart solutions designed to build and maintain ecological integrity within the tribal homeland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cooperation and coordination of the B2B shall not bind the Tribe in any way, unless a project or proposal is approved by NPTEC; nor shall the Tribe's sovereignty be waived or diminished by agreeing to coordinate on any mutually-beneficial project; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NPTEC Chairman and Secretary are hereby authorized to sign all necessary correspondence and the NPTEC Treasurer is hereby authorized to distribute funds accordingly.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee meeting in Regular Session, October 12, 2021 in the Richard A. Halfmoon Council Chambers, Lapwai, Idaho, a quorum of its Members being present and voting.

BY: 
Shirley J. Allman, Secretary

ATTEST:


Samuel N. Penney, Chairman