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## **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION REFUSES TO APPROVE DESTRUCTIVE OAK FLAT MITIGATION PLAN**

Washington DC – The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation today notified the U.S. Forest Service that it will not approve the Forest Service's proposed Programmatic Agreement on mitigation measures for the proposed destruction of Oak Flat as they "are not sufficient to adequately resolve those adverse effects."

In order to comply with the legal requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act the Forest Service must "seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects" via a Programmatic Agreement. To mitigate turning the sacred Oak Flat into a crater of rubble more than 1000 feet deep and almost two miles across, the Forest Service and Rio Tinto/Resolution Copper are offering an agreement providing for the "reburial of repatriated remains," for the "salvage" of archaeological "resources," to "restore and protect Emory oak groves" elsewhere, and for cash for future "cultural and educational opportunities."

"If the ACHP were to sign the PA, the agreement would be executed. Execution and implementation of the PA would document the USFS' compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations ... [I]t is clear that the proposed undertaking would destroy significant historic properties, including the highly significant Oak Flat, and the measures in the PA are not sufficient to adequately resolve those adverse effects," wrote the Advisory Council. "The ACHP believes that further consultation in this case would be unproductive and therefore, we are hereby terminating consultation."

"It is very significant and important that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Council confirms what we have been saying that Oak Flat or Chi'chil Bildagoteel cannot be replaced, and that its destruction and the destruction of our religion cannot be mitigated," said Apache Stronghold leader and former San Carlos Apache Tribal Chairman Dr. Wendsler Nosie, Sr. "We need Chi'chil Bildagoteel to survive as it is so central to our religion as provided by the Creator."

U.S. District Court Judge Steven Logan has promised to rule on February 12, 2021 whether he will stop Oak Flat from being given away to Rio Tinto/Resolution Copper before a trial.

More information at: <http://apache-stronghold.com/about-us.html>

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