



The Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, Switzerland

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The desecration of sacred places, specifically the San Francisco Peaks is a direct violation of indigenous American Indian Religious rights and freedom. The Navajo Life Way entails no separation of the sacred and secular. The land, earth mother, has certain special places to which the Diné – Navajo are intricately connected. The ceremonial “religious” rites underpinning are the firmament of the sacred mountains.

These sacred entities are the cosmographic boundaries of the Diné Life Way. Each mountain has its inner form. The Peaks have a feminine inner form that animates all Diné and other life forms: flora and fauna. The Diné are matrilineal and matrilocal so when the female inner form of the Peaks are desecrated/defiled by the clear cutting of the flora, the installment of man-made structures, and cutting into the peaks to lay pipe for wastewater to make artificial snow for recreational purposes, is the molestation and rape of our mother. The deliberate profit motive is cast against the indigenous rights to religion.

No skier is required to obtain a permit to ski on the Peaks. However, an indigenous person is required to secure a special permit from the U.S. Government to pray on the ski resort portion of the Peaks. Moreover, indigenous persons are also required to have a special use permit from the U.S. Government to collect medicinal herbs and other plants for ceremonial use.