



Leviathan Mine Superfund Site  
TSFWG – September 19<sup>th</sup> 2023

Cale Pete, Washoe Environ. Protection Dept.

## Presentation Outline

- Washoe Homelands “The Place We Call Home.”
- Washoe Leviathan Team.
- Leviathan Site Location/History
- NPL Listing
- “Challenges We Faced.”
- Washoe Tribe & EPA coordination / Involvement
- In-person site visit / Washoe Tribal Administration involvement.
- Concerns



# The Place We Call Home



Lake Tahoe CA. Sand Harbor



Gardnerville NV. Carson Valley



# New Washoe Leviathan Team



Cale Pete, Washoe  
Environmental Protection  
Department, Environmental  
Manager



Rhiana Jones, Washoe  
Environmental Protection,  
Director



James Gatzke,  
Washoe  
Environmental  
Protection,  
Environmental  
Manager



**September 1969, East Fork Carson River at Bryant Creek**

## Confluence of Leviathan and Mountaineer Creeks 1990s





Tribal Trust Lands  
Tribal Allotted Lands

0 12.5 25 50 Miles N

Agency of various agencies



# Washoe Tribe and Leviathan Mine

- The Tribe gets re-involved back around 2016. Received funding to participate in calls, meetings, store documents.
- Leviathan Mine gets moved back under the Tribe's Environmental Protection Department.
- Learning Process for the Tribe.

Stop Here

# 2000 National Priorities Listing / Washoe Involvement

- Washoe Tribe pushed for EPA to investigate on going concerns about the site in 1997.
- Fall 1997 EPA attempted to install active treatment systems to reduce storage pond volume of AMD. Not successful.
- 1999 the State of California funded the treatment of 4 million gallons of mine drainage in ponds.
- May of 2000, Leviathan placed on NPL list and designated a Superfund Site.

# Challenges with how our Tribe is Structured

- Four (4) Tribal Communities
  - Dresslerville (largest)
  - Woodfords
  - Carson Colony
  - Stewart
- Each community has its own Tribal Council
- Main Tribal Council
- New members on Tribal Council, different perspectives. Bring members up to speed. How do we do that?

# Physical Site Visits / Tribal Council Involvement

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- Washoe Tribe looking forward to have boots on the ground experience.
- Washoe Tribal Council getting the opportunity to see the site.
- Tribal Council being updated on the RI/FS status.





# Washoe Community Involvement

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- Meeting with EPA regarding their Community Involvement Plan.
- Reaching out to community Tribal Councils.
- Presentations to the communities.
- Environmental Department newsletters.
- Social Media
- Looking at historical documents/recordings.
- What are some outreach you are doing with your tribal communities that have been working?



# Ensuring Tribal Perspective is Presented

- Tribal Chairman (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Washoe Environmental Protection Department (WEPD) attending meetings, requesting site visits for our Tribal Council.
- Reality of changes with EPA Remedial Project Managers over the past years. How this effected the Tribe.
- Tribe receiving technical assistance from Skeo.
- Water Quality Program expansion

Cale Pete – Environmental Manager

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