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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Eastern Shoshone Tribe Rejects Risky Arapaho Plan**

*Fort Washakie, WY - September, 29 2014* – Earlier this month the Northern Arapaho Tribe (NAT) announced their resignation from the Shoshone and Arapaho Joint Business Council (JBC), a move that relinquished their management authority of joint resources to the Eastern Shoshone Tribe (EST), and affected the Shoshone Tribe's Sovereign and treaty right to manage Joint resources.

EST received and rejected a proposition from the Northern Arapaho Business Council (NABC) to join NABC in issuing separate Tribal resolutions to approve Joint Business Council actions, without discussion or any communication between the two Tribes. After The Northern Arapaho Tribe abandoned the JBC process over two weeks ago, Eastern Shoshone issued a letter to Northern Arapaho and federal funding partners that EST does not consent to altering the joint-process for JBC actions and doesn't recognize the NAT's proposal for management decisions on joint issues.

“The Shoshone Tribe will decide how and when we make decisions regarding our Sovereignty, Treaty and Reservation interests and we agreed to do that with NAT in the JBC process. Both our predecessors agreed to and operated JBC for over seventy-five years. Now that NAT backed away from their responsibilities, we have no choice but to protect the Eastern Shoshone's interests from waste, fraud, abuse. We will take all necessary steps to preserve our Sovereignty, Treaty Rights, investments, operations and structures,” said Shoshone Business Council Chairman Darwin St. Clair Jr. “Our view is the Joint Business Council never was a Joint Powers Board as referred to by the NABC. There is a history of legislative and Sovereign protection that have benefited all tribal members and upheld land, water and air issues that are important to not only Wind River but Indian Country.”

EST's concern focuses on the absolute absence of productive and thoughtful planning that the Tribes would need to alter their current structure and still effectively manage joint assets and resources because there are implications across the board. The Eastern Shoshone call NAT's actions ill-conceived and ill-timed, but also contradictory in nature. “NABC announced this 'historic' change and then in the same breath said nothing changes at all,” expressed Chairman St. Clair.

Because of the complete lack of communication from NAT and choice to forego government-to-government discussions, EST responds that from what it can gather from NAT's various media releases and the single-page letter SBC received, the Arapaho-proposed changes fail to protect EST's joint resources and interests. “If the Northern Arapaho choose to hire non-

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Indians to make decisions for their Tribal Council, that's an internal issue for their government. However, the Shoshones will only make decisions regarding its mutual resources on a government-to-government basis. If the management group Arapaho hires is authorized to bind the Arapaho Tribe in JBC, that's NABC's decision," says SBC Co-Chairman Clinton Wagon. "This process they talk about is barely a plan and it offers no protection to the Eastern Shoshone Tribe."

Because the two Tribes must agree to change their decision making process, and because the NAT resigned from participating in JBC without any formal change, the Eastern Shoshone will maintain the JBC and provide direction, oversight and control over all JBC programs until the Eastern Shoshone Tribe agrees to make any changes.

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The Eastern Shoshone Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe and Treaty Tribe of the 1868 Fort Bridger Treaty establishing the Wind River Reservation.

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