

# Task 4-Vision Plan

## Washoe Tribe Historical Presence

(Tie back to Project efforts/Washoe historical presence; Washoe Tribe historical territorial affiliation with the Sierra/Long Valley Landscape)

For thousands of years the Washoe people have lived in harmony with the Sierra Valley and its surrounding lands. These lands are not just a part of their ancestral home, they are a living testament to the deep cultural, spiritual, and ecological knowledge that has been passed down through generations of Washoe people. However, the Washoe, like so many other indigenous communities, were violently and forceably removed from their lands, a history that continues to echo through the generations into their living present and that of their homelands. The consequences of this dispossession are evident in the social and economic challenges faced by the Washoe people but also in the environmental degradation that has occurred in their absence.

Our work here, is more than a conservation project; it is a historic return of the Washoe people to their rightful role as stewards of the lands. It is an acknowledgement that indigenous wisdom and leadership are not just valuable, but essential to the health and wellbeing of our natural environments. The Washoe's traditional knowledge, honed over millennia, offers us invaluable insights into sustainable land management practices that can help mitigate the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

By reclaiming our role as guardians of Sierra Valley, the Washoe people can once again engage in practices and traditions that are vital to our identity and way of life. This return is not just symbolic, it is a living, breathing manifestation of our sovereignty and resilience, and serves as a powerful model of how we can heal deep generational wounds that have been sown by centuries of colonization. It reminds us that true reconciliation is not just about words or apologies, it is about action. It is about returning what has been taken, it's about co-existence and creating true pathways for indigenous communities to thrive in their ancestral lands and sacred ecologies.

The benefits of establishing Indigenous (Washoe) Protected and Conserved Area's are manifold. Ecologically, it will preserve and restore the rich biodiversity of the Sierra Valley, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the natural beauty and resources that have defined this region for centuries. Economically, it will create opportunities for sustainable development, including ecotourism, traditional life-way's and regenerative healing, that aligns with the values and needs of the Washoe community. It will provide a space for the Washoe people to reconnect with their hermitage and pass on their knowledge and traditions to future generations.

This "Partnership", this collaboration, is taking a vital step forward, writing a new future, one defined by reconciliation, stewardship, and shared responsibility for the land and our more than human relatives with whom we share this land we call home. We are investing in our nation... we are making a statement of who we are and who we want to be...a society that values justice, sustainability, and the deep wisdom of those who have walked this land long before us. By doing this, we can pave the way for a future where reconciliation and sustainability are not just ideals, but realities.