Affiliated Ute Citizens of Utah Indians

(Also Known as the Uinta Valley Shoshone Tribe)
Ute Indian Tribe Corporation a federally recognized entity
UINTA & OURAY AGENCY
P.O. Box 836
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The Office of Governor Spencer J. Cox
350 N. State Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 142220
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

March 20, 2024

Subject: Petition for a change of placement and verbiage of Reservation signs along Highway 40

TO: The State of Utah, County Commissioners and County Public Works Departments of the following Counties: Wasatch, Uintah, Daggett, Carbon, Utah, Emery, Summit, Grand, Sanpete, Duchesne, Sevier and Juab

Governor Cox,

The signs along Highway 40 are not in the correct placement and have the wrong verbiage on them. We are requesting that these errors be corrected and have included the map of our 1861 Executive Order for the Uinta Valley Reservation boundaries, which is the legal name of the Reservation from the early Federal records. The term "Uintah & Ouray Reservation" is incorrect, only the Indian Agencies were combined in 1887, the Uinta Agency being the main headquarters for the Indian Affairs on our Reservation since 1861. The legal name of our Reservation has never changed.

The signs should read as follows: "You are Entering the Uinta Valley Reservation"

The Ute Indian Tribe nor their emblem should be on the sign, they are not indigenous to the area and do not have any ownership, title or jurisdiction on our Reservation lands. Their legal name is the Confederated Utes of Colorado, they were disbanded and made regular citizens in 1880 and were never to enroll anyone after the 1880 Agreement was ratified that same year. The current Ute organization is trespassing on our lands as all other non-Indian State Citizens within our boundaries.

All the counties located partially or within our boundaries must display the Federal Reservation boundaries correctly. We are requesting the State of Utah to stop encroaching on our lands, taking our resources and remove all State entities including their illegal counties from our Reservation lands. Our original boundaries are still intact and held in Trust by the United States Government.

This misinformation has been a detriment to Utah history, its State citizens and has created a false history of the true allodial owners of the Uinta Valley Reservation. Please have this corrected as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dora Van, Tribal Chairwoman

Tressa Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman

cc: The Honorable Debra Haaland, Secretary - DOI
The Honorable Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary – BIA
Anthony Morgan Rodman - DOI
Robert Anderson, Solicitor - DOI
Sean Reyes, Utah Attorney General
County Commissioners and the Public Works Departments for the following counties: Wasatch, Uintah, Daggett, Carbon, Utah, Emery, Summit, Grand, Sanpete, Duchesne, Sevier and Juab

Encl: Confederated Ute 1880 Agreement
1861 Executive Order for the Uinta Valley Reservation
Uinta Valley Reservation boundaries map