

YACHAY WASI Sacred Sites Event - Submission 7 – USA - Received 20 April 2006

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PILOT KNOB HILL and COLD WATER SPRING

My name is Jim Anderson, I am the Cultural Co-Chairman for the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community. There is a Sacred Site called Pilot Knob Hill in Mendota Heights, MN. This area is where our Chiefs and relatives are buried. We have fought developers trying to build Condos on this site. We have been able to get protection for 8 1/2 acres. The developers are back trying to scale down the project. There are 18 acres they are now trying to purchase for development. This place is historical, the Treaty of 1851 was signed on this site. Where the Dakota had to give up there Homelands, they now call Minnesota. We request the help of the United Nations to demand that this land be protected from further development and be put in Trust So the Indigenous Peoples of this (Oheyawahi) "Hill Much Visited" may continue to visit our relatives who have gone on before us. This is a Sacred Site for the Indigenous Peoples of this land. We need the support of all Nations of this world to help right this wrong. We will continue to fight to protect this area for our Ceremonies and to bury our relatives on this Sacred Land.

Our community and others fought to protect this Sacred Site in Mpls. MN called Coldwater Spring (Minne owe sni). We spent 17 months protesting the Reroute of Hwy.55 by living on the land which was a Old Ceremonial and Burial Site.

The road went through. We did protect the Spring from damage and got laws passed to protect the flow to and from the spring.

The spring is on 28 acres of land that used to be Bureau of Mines Property now abandoned. We the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community believe this land should be given back to the Indigenous people of this land for our ceremonies and a place of healing for all colors of man. We believe the United States of America needs to return Title of this Sacred Site to the Minnesota Mdewakanton Dakota because this land was taken by the treaty of 1805 for a military Reservation and it is no longer used for this purpose. The land must be returned to the Minnesota Mdewakanton Dakota.

We pray for support of the United Nations to help us to demand that the United States of America honor the treaty and return this Sacred Site to the Indigenous Peoples of this area. There are Water Spirits and they travel through this Sacred Spring to the underworld where our relatives are. This burial place is called (Taku Wakau Tipi) or "the gathering place of the spirits". This site is VERY important to all Indigenous People of this area. We use it for healing ceremonies, sweat lodges and water ceremonies. We need the people of the world to know about this Sacred Site and help us to protect it for our future generations.

Thank you for your support and we ask for your prayers.

mitaku-owasin (All My Relatives)
Jim Anderson
Mahpiyaduta (Redsky)