

Delaine Spilsbury
P.O. Box 1055,
McGill, NV 89318
775-235-7557 or 866-212-7774
mssquaw@hotmail.com

**CLARK, LINCOLN and WHITE PINE COUNTIES Groundwater Development Project
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Great Basin Native Tribes, "Newe" have been using Nevada's springs, ponds and streams for around 10,000 years. "First in use, first in right" is the mantra of Nevada water law. Are not the Tribes "First in Use"?

The Winter's Doctrine of 1908 states: "an Indian Reservation may reserve water for future use in an amount necessary to fulfill the purpose of the reservation." It is ignored by both the State of Nevada and Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Crass disregard for Tribal Rights was super-evident when SNWA sent their Washington DC lawyer to Ely to convince Tribal folks to sign the Programmatic Agreement. Following the Agreement presentation, we were *told* to sign a prepared document that totally excluded Tribes from the decision making process.

History tell us that Newe who weren't eradicated were denied their traditional lifestyle on their traditional homelands. In order to just survive, my parents, even as small children, performed "sweatshop" labor where they could find it. Even I was born into extreme poverty.

Unfortunately, the oppression isn't over! Sacred springs, streams, and Spring Valley Swamp Cedars - three Newe massacres occurred there, are also ignored. Without surface water at the Cedars, the Sacred Plants - symbolic of our murdered ancestors, will cease to exist.

Only two little girls survived the final Swamp Cedars Massacre. My Grandmother, Mamie was one them.

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Barely 2 generations later - in this 21st Century, Nevada Tribal Lands were sold at auction for some very high prices. In turn, a major portion of the auction funds *from the Tribal lands sale*, were allotted to SNWA for the construction of a pipeline that will drain our traditional homelands.

Were my homelands stolen just so they could be destroyed?

I ask the Nevada State Engineer to please be the one to stop this systematic exploitation of Nevada's Native Tribes. I ask you to respect your own rule: "First in use, first in right" - recognize Tribal Water Rights.

Deny the many SNWA Water Rights Applications for this boondoggle project.

Thank You.



(Ref. - BLM Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Ethnographic study).

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