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DOCUMENT TITLE:

SPIRIT EASEMENT

GRANTOR:

GRANTEE:

**THE PEOPLE OF THE METHOW WHO HAVE
LOST THEIR SPIRIT HOMELAND**

**ABBREVIATED LEGAL
DESCRIPTION:**

Full legal on page Exhibit A of document.

ASSESSOR'S TAX PARCEL NO:

SPIRIT EASEMENT

THIS SPIRIT EASEMENT is made and declared this ____ day of _____, 20____, by
_____ as follows.

WITNESSETH:

Whereas the Methow Valley encompasses the drainage of the Methow River from its, and its tributaries', headwaters to its confluence with the Columbia River;

Whereas the Indigenous people of the Methow ("Methow People") have inhabited the Methow Valley for thousands of years ("Methow Homeland");

Whereas the Methow People historically lived peacefully and sustainably in their Methow Homeland, honoring the natural world and the abundance of salmon, game, roots, and other life necessities, and taking only that which was needed to sustain their well being and culture;

Whereas white European trappers and settlers ("White Settlement") entered the Methow Homeland in the 1700s;

Whereas White Settlement introduced disease, especially small pox, which ultimately led to large-scale loss of life among indigenous people, including the Methow People;

Whereas White Settlement and its governing powers imposed private property laws over settled lands in the Methow Valley that heretofore had never been confined or restricted by such legal boundary;

Whereas White Settlement and its governing powers in the late 1800s ultimately removed the Methow People from their Methow Homeland, assigning most of them allotments of land outside of the Methow Valley or forcing them onto Reservation Land set aside for displaced indigenous people;

Whereas White Settlement and its governing powers attempted to impose new religious and cultural norms onto the Methow People, denying them their own cultural and belief systems;

Whereas White Settlement and its governing powers removed some of the children of the Methow People, and of other indigenous people, and placed them into assimilation boarding schools to rid them of their native culture and language;

Whereas some of the Methow People believe that the spirits of their deceased ancestors have equally lost their homeland (“Spirit Homeland”) as a result of this physical removal of the Methow People and the ensuing injustices they suffered;

Whereas the term ‘Easement’ is a legal construct originating from European Common Law that is generally defined as a right to cross or otherwise use someone else’s land for a specific purpose, and whereas it also has a literary definition as ‘the state or feeling of comfort or peace’;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above recitals, we, as owners of the real property described on Exhibit A attached hereto, hereby acknowledge that our property is open to all spirits of deceased Methow People, and to the spirits of any other deceased people sympathetic to the recitals above, and with a good heart, we welcome those spirits who access, inhabit, or use in any other way this property as part of their Spirit Homeland.

While this Spirit Easement does not grant any rights of use or access in the physical world, it is hereby recognized that such rights of use or access can be permitted in other easement forms, such as a Cultural Easement, and that such physical world easements are an important tool for property owners to consider as a way to reopen to the Methow People their lost Methow Homeland.

GRANTOR:

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF _____) ss.

 This record was acknowledged before me on _____, 20__ by
_____.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Washington

My appointment expires _____

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF _____) ss.

 This record was acknowledged before me on _____, 20__ by
_____.

Name: _____

NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Washington

My appointment expires _____

EXHIBIT A

Legal Description of Property

All that certain real property in the County of Okanogan, State of Washington, described as follows: