



INDIGENOUS PEYOTE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Position Statement on the Decriminalize Nature Movement; Peyote Conservation; Funding Sources; the Potential Use of Peyote or Mescaline by Pharmaceutical Companies

From generation to generation, prayers have always nurtured Indigenous leadership and their responsibilities. The leadership of the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative (IPCI) continues to nurture our peyote conservation responsibilities with prayer. We embrace our predecessors and all their prayerful sacrifices for us to freely practice our way of life today. Our actions are to reconnect our prayerful movements to the Peyote Gardens of South Texas.

In October of 2017 - The National Council of Native American Churches gathered in Laredo, Texas and with support from the Riverstyx Foundation, purchased 605 acres in the medicine gardens to establish a Peyote preserve and spiritual homesite. In June of 2018 - The Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative officially became a 501c (3) non-profit conservation organization in Texas, serving all native Peyote lands and peoples, from Mexico, the U.S., and Canada. Recently, IPCI received its federal 501c (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

IPCI's goals are to restore the native Peyote habitat, provide youth education and engagement, Peyote tending, and ensure access to healthy Medicine for generations to come through a system of harvest and distribution that is regenerative and spiritually sound which restores the balance and health of the sacred lands where it grows. The ecological, cultural, and financial realities of taking responsibility for the Peyote sacrament are complex and not always easy. In light of Peyote conservation IPCI has established a purposeful working relationship with the DEA whom has some oversight of Peyote. With IPCI, we engage in strategies that reconnect our Peyote way of life with direct land access and stewardship in the native habitat of our Medicine. We aspire to serve all and work in harmony and unity with all other important efforts to preserve our way of life. www.IPCILife

The IPCI Ranch has a teepee onsite that can be used, as well as a simple kitchen and bathhouses. These facilities are designed to support families and Chapters when they are carrying out their own spiritual pilgrimages and harvests. Several more spiritual pilgrimages by NAC and ABNDN organizations on ranch lands leased to IPCI are scheduled for 2023.

We are not a church. We are not competing with any NAC or ABNDN church organizations, rather we believe our efforts can support the goals of all our organizations. We are not trying to create a monopoly on the peyote plant. We are an international collaborative for peyote conservation. We, the Board of Directors are each a member of ABNDN or NAC Chapters and live in Indigenous Peyote communities. We focus the best of our prayer and thinking and action on the sustainability and Indigenous sovereignty of Peyote across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

IPCI does not take funding from any philanthropist or any entity that threatens, our sacred medicine Peyote, as it is found growing on the ranch lands in south Texas or in Mexico. Philanthropists who want to donate must assure their intent is to empower Indigenous peyote communities rather than hinder. We have never taken money from the pharmaceutical companies working with Mescaline. IPCI intends to work in harmony, and cooperatively, within our Indigenous ethical perspectives to protect the unique status under federal law reflected in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 and the AIRFA amendments of 1994. IPCI opposes any federal, state or local government policy initiative that proposes to decriminalize the possession or use of Peyote. Likewise, we support all NAC and ABNDN organizations who oppose. Although there is no current federal legislation to protect the alkaloid mescaline from these companies; IPCI pledges to oppose any effort by any pharmaceutical or other corporate entity to use Peyote in the synthesizing of mescaline in any form, as well as any related efforts to patent processes that utilize Peyote in the manufacture of synthetic mescaline.

In solidarity with all concerned Indigenous voices, we encourage unity in keeping what is Sacred, Sacred.

With Gratitude,

Andrew Tso, *Dine Nation*

Arlen Lightfoot, *Otoe-Missouria Tribe*

Cedric Black Eagle, *Crow Nation*

Joseph Daniels, *Potawatami Nation*

Steven Benally, *Dine Nation*

Sandor Iron Rope, *Lakota Oyate*