



BLACK MESA INDIGENOUS SUPPORT

FALL CARAVAN 2011

FROM NOVEMBER 19TH through the 26TH, a caravan of work crews will be converging from all across the United States to participate in the annual *Black Mesa Fall Caravan of Support*. One of these work crews is originating in Santa Cruz.

Black Mesa Indigenous Support is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization whose mission is to support the indigenous peoples of Black Mesa, AZ who are in their fourth decade of protecting their communities, ancestral homelands, and future generations from massive coal mining operations & forced relocation policies.

With the guidance of Black Mesa residents, the aim of the caravan is to honor the elders and bring support to their communities before the arrival of the cold winter months. We are not receiving any institutional funding for these efforts. Instead, we are counting upon the creativity, generosity, and hard work of people in our communities to make it all come together. **This letter is a request for your support. Funds are needed to purchase wood permits, food, tools, gasoline, building materials, medicine, and other supplies.**

Since 1974, under the guise of the “Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute”, the US Government has forced more than 14,000 Diné people to leave their ancestral homelands in the Black Mesa area. This constitutes the largest relocation of indigenous people in this country since the Trail of Tears in 1883, and it is ongoing today.

Under the high desert sagebrush and juniper of Black Mesa lies some 21 billion tons of coal. Peabody Energy, the largest coal company in the world, operates two massive strip-mines in the Black Mesa region. Coal from these mines is sent to nearby generating stations, which export energy to Southwest cities such as Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles. Meanwhile, many families at Black Mesa live with no electricity, no running water, and no plumbing. Their springs have gone dry due to the mines, their air is polluted by generating plants, and they endure frequent harassment and intimidation by tribal and federal agents.

By assisting the communities of Black Mesa with direct, on-land projects, caravan participants will be helping families to remain on their lands and continue their fourth decade of resisting the expansion of coal mining operations. Black Mesa elders have always maintained that their struggle for life, land, and future generations is for our collective survival.

This year's caravan is approaching and we need your help.

Please contact us to arrange making a donation*, or to have any questions answered.

Sincerely,

Santa Cruz Regional Coordinators
Black Mesa Indigenous Support

831-708-8199

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<http://blackmesais.org/>

Black Mesa Indigenous Support is a grassroots, all volunteer run collective dedicated to working with and supporting the indigenous peoples of Black Mesa in their struggle for life and land.

** Donations to Black Mesa Indigenous Support are tax-deductible under our umbrella 501-C3 nonprofit organization.*

** Checks may be addressed to "Black Mesa Indigenous Support"*

2011 CARAVAN NEEDS LIST

Donated supplies will be driven from Santa Cruz to Black Mesa and distributed to families directly.

This is a partial list. For a longer, more detailed list of needs, please contact us or look online at <http://blackmesais.org/>

- Food. Non-perishables. Oats, beans, flour. Organic fruits and veggies.
- Organic coffee and tea.
- Building materials: Lumber, fencing, roofing materials, tar paper, nails, screws, boxes of screws, nails, & chalking, levels, rolls of barbed wire, fence posts, leather gloves, etc.
- Axes and mauls.
- Axe and Maul HANDLES. Wood is preferable over fiberglass.
- Chainsaws.
- Chainsaw files and bar/chain oil.
- Tools of all kinds: Shovels, hoes, rakes, hammers, hand saws, hand shears, picks, mattocks, wire cutters, drills, posthole diggers, and extra tool handles.
- Vehicles to donate to families. Vehicles that are able to drive on rough terrain. Trucks are the best but not necessary.
- Vehicles to use during the week of the caravan.
- Portable generators.
- Work gloves.

- Medicinal herbs. (Teas, dried herbs, fresh extracts, liniments, and salves for stress, colds & flus, digestion, arthritis, diabetes, altitude sickness, back-aches.)
- Portable stove / propane tanks, large pots to use during the caravan.
- Recording equipment (audio or video) for documenting government harassment.
- 55-gallon water barrels, fittings, pumps.
- Solar panels, batteries, generators, wind turbines.
- Food for dogs, cats, and livestock.
- Blankets. Warm, nice clothing.
- Gas money.
- Laptop computers.
- Educational books for both youth and adults.

