



BLACK MESA INDIGENOUS SUPPORT

FALL CARAVAN 2009

From November 21st through the 29th, a caravan of work crews will be converging from all across the country to participate in the annual *Black Mesa Fall Wood & Supply Run*. One of these work crews is originating in Santa Cruz. The caravan is a grassroots effort to support Diné (Navajo) people living in the Big Mountain region of Black Mesa (in Northeastern Arizona), who continue to resist forced relocation and the expansion of mining operations on behalf of their people, their sacred ancestral lands, and future generations.

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. Transplanted in to reservation border towns and sterile “relocation housing”, and unable to practice their traditional ways of sustaining themselves materially and spiritually, the relocated Diné face a life of poverty and alienation.

Under the high desert sagebrush and juniper of Black Mesa lies some 21 billion tons of coal-- the largest of such deposits in the United States. 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, the remaining Diné people at Big Mountain 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 Big Mountain with direct, on-land projects, caravan participants will be helping families to stay on their lands and continue their third decade of resisting forced relocation. The enduring resistance of Black Mesa families serves as the very blockade to expanded coal mining.

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

Please contact us by email or at 831-419-4825 to arrange making a donation*, or to have any questions answered.

Sincerely,

Santa Cruz Regional Coordinators
Black Mesa Indigenous Support

831-419-4825
sheepandsagebrush@riseup.net
<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.*

2009 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/>

- Axes and mauls.
- Axe and Maul HANDLES. Wood is preferable over fiberglass.
- 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.
- 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.
- Portable stove / propane tanks, large pots to use during the caravan.
- Recording equipment (audio or video) for documenting government harassment.

- Food. Non-perishables. Oats, beans, flour. Organic fruits and veggies.
- Organic coffee and tea.
- Water barrels, fittings, pumps.
- Solar panels, solar parts (batteries), wind turbines.
- Medicinal herbs. (Teas, dried herbs, fresh extracts, liniments, and salves for stress, colds & flus, digestion, arthritis, diabetes, altitude sickness, back-aches.)
- Food for dogs, cats, and livestock.
- Blankets. Warm, nice clothing.
- Gas money.
- Laptop computers.
- Educational books for both youth and adults.

