

Request Name: Bear River Massacre Permanent Interpretive Center

Description: It is necessary that the massacre against the Shoshone Nation at Bear River be memorialized for the benefit of both the tribe and the greater community. This will be accomplished through the construction of a permanent location for annual commemoration, construction of structures for self-conducted tours around the site, construction of a place to house tribal artifacts, placing of interpretive displays and learning areas in mentioned structures, organization of programs to foster understanding, and designation of a conference site for tribal leaders and landowners to research and learn.

Agency: Heritage and Arts

Purpose: By establishing a permanent center at the massacre site there will be increased reverence for the sanctity of the land, a better sense of the lands importance to those whose culture is tied to it, and a deeper understanding of historical values to preserve as well as those to reject. Utahns will be given the opportunity to better understand the complex history of a tribe native to Utah. It will benefit tourism in Utah.

Funding for: \$1,000,000

Government

Government Not-for-Profit

## Land acquisition, planning support, and collaboration for a center at the Bear River Massacre site

February 1, 2019

### Organization Name and Contact Information

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation (NWBSN)

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### Brief Description of Proposed Project and Rationale

**The site.** The area around Franklin and Preston, Idaho, known to Shoshone as Moso Kahni (“Home of the Lungs,” after the spongy rock shapes), was an ancestral wintering ground for the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. The So-so-goi (“those who travel on foot”) believed all things came from Mother Earth, and felt all land to be sacred—this area especially so due to the annual ceremonies held there from time before memory. The best preserved of these is the U-whaa neka (“Warm dance”), conducted around the winter solstice for all living things, a prayer for good health, food, and life-giving plants from the melting snow.

On January 29, 1863, an all-volunteer regiment of Californians rode down the frozen bluff and massacred some 350 Northwestern Shoshone Indians wintering at the site—the largest slaughter of Native Americans in the history of the country. The unimaginable death and suffering that resulted, as well as the human remains in the area, both interred and unrecovered, make this traditional ceremonial ground all the more sacred among the Shoshone. The Shoshone tribe now holds an annual commemoration in a dirt parking lot near the site, many descendants of massacre survivors in attendance.

**The Vision.** We, the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation (NWBSN), are working with several supportive agencies and groups to establish a permanent center near the massacre site with an ongoing outreach program on the grounds. Through this center we seek to instill in all a reverence for the sanctity of the land, a better sense of its importance to those whose culture is tied to it, and a deeper understanding of historical values to preserve as well as those to question.

**The project.** Over the last year the Tribe has acquired more than 500 acres of land where the Bear River Massacre occurred. On that site we plan to erect facilities and conduct programs addressing the following goals: site research, preservation, and protection; public and tribal awareness; and support for cultural and spiritual aspects of the land. We also expect the site to be a natural gathering place, case study, and instructional venue for both tribal members and the general public.

Site acquisition and planning for facilities and programs are both underway. With the help of the Trust for Public Land (TPL) Tribal Lands Program and the American West Heritage Center (AWHC), 26 acres of the Bear River Massacre site were donated back to our tribe. In the past year, the Tribe acquired more than 500 acres of the site.

AWHC also worked with our tribal leadership to draft initial plans for a cultural and interpretive center. Possibilities for such a center include the following:

The Tribe has secured the Architect firm of GSBS out of Salt Lake City and they have developed plans for the future interpretive center. Possibilities for such a center include the following:

- Permanent location for annual commemoration ceremonies on the site of the massacre.
- Commemorative structures, markers, and instructional guides for self-conducted tours around the site.
- Location to house tribal artifacts. The tribe owns historical and cultural artifacts that it cannot make available due to lack of space. Many other organizations have indicated a willingness to provide additional artifacts if there were a suitable location for preserving, curating, and displaying them.
- Interpretive displays and learning areas for students and the general public.
- Programs to foster understanding of tribal history and to keep traditional practices alive. We would like to expand current events and classes such as flute classes, pine nut gathering field trips, moccasin making, ceremonial observances, drum and dance activities, language preservation and propagation, and storytelling. Ours is an oral tradition; the importance and authenticity of communicating history verbally cannot be overstated.
- Education/conference site for Indian tribal leaders and landowners to research and learn about land tenure issues.

### **Discussions with Tribal Leaders, Broad Interest and Support**

Close ties with TPL and AWHC have already been mentioned. We have good relationships with a number of other organizations as well, including the Smithsonian, the LDS church, the States of Utah and Idaho, Utah State University, and many others. Regarding the Bear River site specifically, we are working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs transportation department on roads and infrastructure support. We are also working with the National Park Service on an American Battlefield Protection Program grant.

Tribal leaders are frequently requested to speak and present at elementary schools, middle schools, universities, local religious congregations, organizations, and clubs each year to tell the story of our people. Over fifty different presentation venues last year included thirteen different elementary schools, Orbital ATK, Utah State University, the U.S. Fish and Game District Office, Weber State University, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Sons of Utah pioneers, State of Utah

Indigenous day, State of Utah Natural History Museum, and others. A cultural and interpretive center serving as a base for a more clearly identified outreach/presentation program would greatly enhance our ability to address the demand for a deeper understanding of Indian culture and issues.

### **The Invitation**

We are asking for an appropriation from the State of Utah in order to help cover the costs of the interpretive center.

| Public Space - Interior |                        |                      |    |          |       |  |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----|----------|-------|--|
| Pu.S                    | Lobby/information desk |                      |    | 1013     |       | Includes fire place/pit, Requires (1) staff member |
| Pu.S                    | Book Store             |                      |    | 182      |       | Requires (1) staff member                          |
| Pu.S                    | Exhibit                | Display              | 30 | 2098     |       | Staff  |
| Pu.S                    | Multipurpose Room      | Open gathering space | 30 | 763      |       | Classroom, meeting room, experiential video room   |
| Pu.S                    |                        | Furniture Storage    |    | 356      |       |  |
| Pu.S                    | Restrooms              | Mens                 | 3  | 315      |       | Inside and outside                                 |
| Pu.S                    |                        | Womens               | 3  | 296      |       | Inside and outside                                 |
| Pu.S                    |                        |                      |    | Subtotal | 4,010 |  |

| Private Space - Interior |                               |  |   |          |                            |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|----------|----------------------------|--|
| Pr.S                     | Artifact Archive/Conservation |  |   | 262      |                            | Most of the articles will stay in the Tribal Headquarters in Brigham City. This space is for Temporary Exhibit Preparation |
| Pr.S                     | Admin Office                  |  | 2 | 234      | File cabinets, desk, chair |  |
| Pr.S                     | Kitchen/Break Room            |  | 3 | 200      |                            |  |
| Pr.S                     | Staff Restroom                |  | 1 | 60       |                            |  |
| Pr.S                     | Staff Shower                  |  | 1 | 60       |                            |  |
| Pr.S                     |                               |  |   | Subtotal | 816                        |  |

| Support Space - Interior |                  |  |  |          |     |  |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|--|----------|-----|--|
| SS                       | Mechanical Room  |  |  | 151      |     |  |
| SS                       | Electrical Room  |  |  | 153      |     |  |
| SS                       | Maintenance Room |  |  | 100      |     |  |
| SS                       |                  |  |  | Subtotal | 404 |  |

|  |  |  |  |                   |       |    |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|-------|----|
|  |  |  |  | Subtotal          | 5,230 |    |
|  |  |  |  | Unassigned (@25%) | 800   |    |
|  |  |  |  |                   | 6,030 | SF |

| Exterior Spaces |                            |        |          |      |         |   |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|------|---------|---|
|                 |                            |        | quantity | area |         |   |
| ES              | Information Kiosks         |        | 10       |      |         | At entrance to building and along walking trail             |
| ES              | Large gathering space      |        | 500+     | 3500 | seating | Medicine wheel design surface and center fire pit           |
| ES              | Restrooms                  | Mens   | 1        | 60   |         | Inside and outside  |
| ES              |                            | Womens | 1        | 60   |         | Inside and outside  |
| ES              | Re-created Teepee camp     |        |          | 600  |         | 4 or 5 complete Teepees and 10-12 lodgepole structures only |
| ES              | Tensile Structure          |        | 1        | 600  |         | Propane tanks & grills and sink                             |
|                 | Exterior furniture Storage |        | 1        | 200  |         |   |

| Site Improvements - Exterior |                          |                         |       |               |  |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|---------------|--|--|
| SI                           | Parking                  | Main                    |       | 45 car, 4 bus |  |  |
| SI                           | Lives Lost marker stones | Local boulders 3'x3'x6' |       | 500           |  |  |
| SI                           | Site Trail Exhibits      |                         |       | 6             |  |  |
|                              | Site Area                |                         | 19.74 | 859,800       |  |  |

| Summary - Project   |                           |                      |  |  |        |                           |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--------|---------------------------|
| Statement of Probable Cost based on comparable square foot costs of similar projects, adjusted for the location of the project, escalated to a construction start in 2018 with 4% inflation compounded annually |                           |                      |  |  |        |                           |
| SU  |                           |                      |  |  |        |                           |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Cultural Interpretation Center sqft                          | 6030   | \$400                     |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Exterior Public Spaces 1 Construction Site improvements sqft | 61250  | \$9.00                    |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Exterior Public Spaces 2 Site Experience Improvements sqft   | 412500 | \$0.75                    |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Exterior Public Spaces 3 Historic Site Restoration sqft      | 380000 | \$0.50                    |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Lives Lost markers   | 500    | \$300                     |
| SU  | <b>Net Total</b>          | <b>Probable</b>      |  |  |        | <b>\$150,000</b>          |
| SU  | <b>Construction Costs</b> |                      |  |  |        | <b>\$3,612,625</b>        |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Soft Costs (design, permits, O/H, General Conditions)        | 20%    | <u>\$722,525</u>          |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Design Contingency*  | 15%    | <u>\$541,894</u>          |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Construction Contingency**                                   | 3%     | <u>\$108,379</u>          |
| SU  |                           |                      |  | Owner Contingency***   | 2%     | <u>\$99,708</u>           |
| SU  | <b>Gross Total</b>        | <b>Project Costs</b> |  |  |        | <b><u>\$5,085,131</u></b> |

\* This percentage will gradually be absorbed until the project is bid. It is variable based on the development of design information during each phase of design.

\*\* This is what the contractor will hold and control through the construction period, allocated for construction related changes or issues.

\*\*\* The Owner Contingency is controlled by the Owner and will cover scope changes and unknown elements of the project.