

THE PUEBLO OF ACOMA'S COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO  
ESTABLISH EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENT-LA VENTANA  
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA-CEBOLLA WILDERNESS AREA

Acoma is a much visited community. From Spanish conquistadores to modern times the foreigners have been impressed by the sight of Old Acoma Village. Aho. The name and place of my people. All through the five centuries we have suffered at their intrusion. We have lost culture, language, land and water. This continues today.

On May 20, 1987, the Pueblo of Acoma publicly announced it would hold a press conference and public protest against the actions of the New Mexico Congressional delegation, the Governor of New Mexico, public representatives of State and Local government, and all conservationists who are pushing to turn old Acoma lands into a national monument-wilderness-conservation area.

The Pueblo of Acoma tribe feels that the rights of its people have been violated by unjust land cessions created by the United States government. The rights of our people to retain and regain aboriginal lands, to be able to enjoy and develop the natural resources on traditional tribal lands are now and historically have been violated by the federal government.

The Pueblo of Acoma protested by holding a news conference and public rally against the plenary power of the United States government to do whatever it wishes with native lands. A press conference was held on the site of the lands being impacted by the proposed national monument-wilderness area-conservation area.

The pueblo of Acoma seriously feels that for as long as the non-Indians have established themselves on and around Acoma lands we have not had any justice nor fair and favorable consideration by the State and Federal government. Our land, culture, arts and crafts have all instead been exploited. The Acoma people can not remain passive at this historical mistreatment and robbery of traditional Acoma lands.

*Gilbert Ortiz*

Submitted by Gilbert Ortiz to the Working Group on Indigenous People. Meetings held at the United Nations on August 3-7, 1987.

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