

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUSINESS COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON COLORADO “UTE DAY” ATTENDANCE AND MEETINGS

Ft. Duchesne, UT March 20, 2024

On March 15, 2024, Business Committee Vice Chairman Christopher Tabbee attended “Ute Day” at the Colorado Capitol in Denver, Colorado, at the invitation of Governor Jared Polis and Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera. The day’s events began with Governor Polis reading aloud his proclamation making March 15, 2024 “Ute Day” at the state’s capitol. The Vice Chairman then joined the Chairmen of the Southern Ute Indian and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes in providing welcoming remarks to the gathered audience comprised of Colorado legislators, the Governor, Lt. Governor, and tribal government representatives.



Vice Chairman Tabbee delivering opening remarks during Ute Day at the Colorado Capitol

During his remarks, the Vice Chairman acknowledged the Ute Indian Tribe’s historical presence in Colorado and reiterated for the audience the historical ties to the land and between the three Ute tribes that persist today despite the removal of the Whiteriver and Uncompahgre bands to Utah. The Vice Chairman also met with senior Governor and Lt. Governor staff members to discuss the Tribe’s intent to exercise its off-Reservation treaty hunting rights in the Brunot Area of southwestern Colorado.

This discussion entailed an overview of Tribal treaty history, Supreme Court jurisprudence affirming the enforceability of off-Reservation hunting rights, and a suggestion for next steps in producing a cooperative agreement with the State of Colorado that provides for the Tribe’s exercise of its treaty hunting rights in Colorado.

Speaking about this meeting and the Tribe's participation at Ute Day, Vice Chairman Tabbee remarked that "there was a sense of mutual respect that we don't see too often" and that he was "hopeful that the Tribe and Colorado can come together and produce an agreement concerning hunting in Brunot."

The Tribe is expecting a meeting in the near future with Governor Polis and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to discuss the details of cooperation regarding Tribal hunting in the Brunot Area.

About the Ute Indian Tribe - The Ute Indian Tribe resides on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in northeastern Utah. Three bands of Utes comprise the Ute Indian Tribe: the Whiteriver Band, the Uncompahgre Band and the Uintah Band. The Tribe has a membership of more than three thousand individuals, with over half living on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The Ute Indian Tribe operates its own tribal government and oversees approximately 1.3 million acres of trust land which contains significant oil and gas deposits. The Tribal Business Committee is the governing council of the Tribe.