

For Immediate Release – Feb. 4, 2010

YOCHA DEHE
WINTUN NATION



Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation provides \$100,000 in emergency relief to Cheyenne River Sioux reservation in South Dakota

Brooks, Calif. – Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation today provided \$100,000 to assist the Cheyenne River Sioux with disaster relief efforts. Severe winter storms have caused critical damage on the Northern Plains reservation, leaving Cheyenne River tribal members without electricity, heat and running water for more than a week in some cases.

“This is a time for our nation to come to the assistance of another tribe in desperate need. Our Tribal Council was deeply moved by the profound damage the Cheyenne River Sioux people are suffering in these winter storms,” said Yocha Dehe Tribal Chairman Marshall McKay. “We took immediate action after receiving the press release declaring disaster on the South Dakota reservation, and we hope that further government assistance will reach them with speed and efficiency.”

Among the harsh winter storms, the Jan. 22 ice storm that hit the Dakotas hit the Cheyenne River reservation especially hard, knocking down nearly 3,000 power lines that provided electricity to the tribe. Thousands of already impoverished residents have been without electricity or heat for nearly a week, with wind chill factors well below zero, and the loss of electricity has crippled the aging water system, knocking out all running water on the reservation.

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is committed to standing together with other tribal and non-tribal governments to face challenges that impact Native people everywhere. “We stand in kinship with the San Manual Band of Mission Indians and the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations in our commitment to help our Cheyenne River brothers and sisters come out of this crisis swiftly and safely,” said Chairman McKay. The Yocha Dehe Tribal Council called Cheyenne River Chairman Joe Brings Plenty directly to notify him that their support was on its way.

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has a longstanding culture of giving. Over the past decade, the Yocha Dehe Community Fund has provided nearly \$18 million in financial support to nonprofit organizations and service providers in Sacramento and Yolo Counties of California, as well as \$500,000 each to Katrina and Tsunami relief efforts. The Yocha Dehe Community Fund was one of the first to be established by a Native American tribe in California and is a recognized leader in local charitable giving.

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Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is an independent, self-governed nation that supports our people and the community by strengthening our culture, stewarding our land and creating economic independence for future generations. Visit us at www.yochadehe.org.

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