

A Fight To Protect A Sacred Site

By Laak'os Parsons

My name is Laak'os Parsons, I am a Chiricahua Apache descendent from Arizona. My great great great grandfather and his people were placed among other Apaches on the San Carlos Apache reservation in the late 1800's. My family is originally from the Oak Flat area in Arizona. This explains why I feel more at home when I visit Oak Flat. Right now, there is an issue to save a place I call home. How would you feel if someone came into your house and said, "I'm here to destroy your home and take everything from it." Resolution Copper, a big mining company, is trying to do that to me with Oak Flat.

Oak Flat is located near the town of Superior, Arizona. Oak Flat became public land protected by the U.S. forest service under President Eisenhower in 1955. In 2014, former Arizona Senator McCain secretly attached a paper promising to hand over Oak Flat to the mining company with a military bill that needed to get passed. How is this even right? I am a nine year old and even I can understand how wrong this is.

Resolution Copper will destroy Oak Flat canyons, water, plants, trees, and even make the animals have to move to another place. The mining



Laak'os Parsons shares her 4th grade narrative essay about Oak Flat

company will make a big hole by blasting underneath the land as big as the Eiffel Tower. This will also poison the water that can cause sickness and bad affects to people living near the area.

My grandfather Wendsler Nosie Sr. created awareness by starting The Apache Stronghold organization. I have participated in marches and runs to spread awareness of how important it is to not only me but all people. I love listening to my grandfather speak at big gatherings, he makes me proud of who I

am and where I come from. I also have met many people across the nation that believe in what we are fighting for, that I thank very much. When I listen to my grandfather, he explains it's a holy war and we must stand together and fight to the very end.

I hope to one day find peace and be able to enjoy Oak Flat and its beauty without worrying if it will be taken away from me. To destroy Oak Flat is to take away my identity, a place where I pray and to visit where my relatives once lived free.