



# **The battle for the Sacred Medicine Lake Highlands** Protect “Saht Tit Lah” (Obsidian Knife Lake)



We were scheduled for a hearing on October 9, 2013 at 9:30 am in the US District Court for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento, but

The Judge has taken the cost dispute off the calendar and will decide without a hearing!

***A RALLY WILL CONTINUE AT THE COURTS HOUSE!***

***Date: October 9<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday), 2013 Time: 10:00 am***

***Where: US District Court for the Eastern District of California  
501 I Street, Sacramento, California***

## **STRATEGY MEETING TO FOLLOW**

Our Stanford legal team has challenged the \$20,000 cost bill that the government is imposing on citizens and Indigenous plaintiffs, **claims that were never litigated**, as a result of a negative ruling on our case on July 30, 2013 in which the judge agreed with BLM’s and Calpine’s motion that citizens and Indigenous peoples did not have standing to challenge the lease renewals affecting magnificent public lands and a culturally-significant sacred area—a ruling that sets an unacceptable precedent – we have appealed this adverse decision to the Ninth Circuit Court and await that hearing!

**WHATS THE PROBLEM?** The Sacred Medicine Lake Highlands (Northeastern California) continue to face destructive geothermal development. In previous hearings, the court resulted in revoking the lease renewals for the first of two 49-megawatt projects. More recently Calpine withdrew their second power project, however, the underlying leases still stand, and Calpine Energy Corporation is now proposing five new geothermal power plant projects, increasing the extraction to a total of 500 megawatts in the Sacred Medicine Lake Highlands.

Leases in the Medicine Lake Highlands must end in order to stop significant environmental and cultural impacts, such as the release of dangerous chemicals, including arsenic, chromium, and hydrogen sulfide, into the surface and groundwater that Californians and all other living entities in this precious region enjoy and rely upon.

**EDUCATING THE PUBLIC:** A petition will be available during the rally demanding that BLM use their discretion to cancel the geothermal leases. BLM has ample reason to cancel these leases, as Calpine has long been out of compliance with requirements and has not located a viable geothermal resource since the leases were issued in the 1980s.

**The plaintiffs in this case are: Pit River Nation, Native Coalition for Medicine Lake Highlands, Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, Save Medicine Lake Coalition and Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment.**