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Washakie, born c. 1864, Montana—died February 20, 1900, Fort Washakie, Wyoming, U.S.), Shoshone chief who performed extraordinary acts of heroism for white settlers while exhibiting tremendous prowess as a warrior against his people's tribal enemies.

The son of a Umatilla father and Shoshone mother, Washakie left the Umatilla while an adolescent to join his mother's tribe. By the 1860s he was chief of the Eastern Band (sometimes called Washakie's Band) of Wyoming Shoshone.

Although quite vain—he loved to be the center of elaborate ceremonies—Washakie was kind and gentle to women, putting through Shoshone territory under his control and his people assisted emigrants crossing dangerous rivers and recovering stray animals. Nine thousand grateful settlers signed a document commending Washakie and his Shoshone Band for their exemplary treatment. Even when Washakie's belonging to warriors destroyed his people's root and hunting grounds, Washakie made sure no violent repercussions occurred.

In the fall of 1862, however, Washakie was unable to prevent a large number of his followers from joining the Bannocks in attacking and plundering white settlements. He took legal measures of his band with him to Fort Bridger in Wyoming and then reunited with the surviving Shoshone hostiles after the Bannocks were crushed at Bear River on January 29, 1863.

Washakie served as a representive for both the Shoshone and the Bannocks at the 1868 Fort Bridger negotiations. As a result of these negotiations, Washakie's people surrendered the Green River Valley of eastern Utah and southern Wyoming to provide the right of way for the Union Pacific Railroad. During the Sioux War of 1876, Washakie sent many of his warriors to fight alongside U.S. government troops against the traditional enemies of the Shoshone. In fact, he himself frequently served as a scout during the U.S. Army's campaigns against the Cheyenne, Sioux, Arapaho, Ute, and other tribes hostile to the United States.

Washakie spent his last years on the Shoshone reservation where he continued to rule as absolute despot. When younger successors sought to dispose him, the 78-year-old chief disappeared for two months. Then, just as the tribal council met to select a new leader, in stride Washakie walked into the councilhouse with six scalp envelopes as proof of his undiminished prowess.
Chief Washakie (c. 1809 – February 25, 1900) was a renowned Shoshone leader who played a vital role in advocating for the rights of his people. He was a key figure in the negotiations during the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, which provided significant rights and protections for the Shoshone people.

Washakie was known for his efforts to protect the lands and resources that were vital to the Shoshone people. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the Shoshone were not displaced from their traditional homelands and that their way of life was preserved. He was a strong advocate for the rights of Native American tribes and worked to ensure that these rights were respected and upheld.

Washakie's leadership and dedication to his people earned him the respect and admiration of many, including President Ulysses S. Grant, who recognized his contributions to the United States.

In conclusion, Chief Washakie was a remarkable leader who played a crucial role in shaping the future of the Shoshone people. His legacy continues to inspire and encourage those who are committed to protecting the rights of indigenous communities.