

RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, the BIA has implemented a continuing program of burning logging and thinning slash on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS, Tribal Council permission granted by Resolution No. 83-293 and 83-233 to the BIA for a burning program was premised upon the understanding that such burning would be in compliance with Tribal Council resolutions on the subject, allowing only burning of lopped slash and thinned trees; and
- WHEREAS, it is patently obvious that the BIA's implementation of the burning program constitutes complete violation of and total disregard for said resolutions, resulting in negligent and uncontrolled burning of residual forest trees; and
- WHEREAS, such negligence can and will not be tolerated by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, the BIA plans to burn 97,149 acres during the 1989-1990 period; and
- WHEREAS, each year there are many complaints by members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe concerning the effects of the fires and the attendant smoke on their health and welfare, particularly of infants and the elderly; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that greater consideration of the effects of burning by the BIA is needed.
- BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe directs the Tribal Forester to review and recommend changes to the BIA Burning Plan guidelines and prescriptions which will reduce the damage and mitigate the impact caused by the fires, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these changes be submitted to the Tribal Council for approval before being submitted to the BIA for implementation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all future burning plans be approved by the Tribal Forester and adopted by the Tribal Council prior to implementation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until the Tribal Forester reviews said BIA burning plan guidelines and until further specific action by the Tribal Council to adopt a new or revised program, the BIA is directed to 'cease and desist any and all burning immediately, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BIA is directed to divert the financial resources associated with the burning program to an intensive study of the effects of the burning program on all the resources of the White Mountain Apache Tribe including but not limited to the watershed, soil, trees, wildlife, forage for grazing and wildlife, etc.; said study shall be undertaken in close cooperation and with the approval of the Tribal Forester through an impartial third party contractor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that absent immediate compliance with this resolution by the BIA the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe directs the Chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe to take all necessary and appropriate actions to stop the burning forthwith.

The foregoing resolution was on November 14, 1989, duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 (i) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

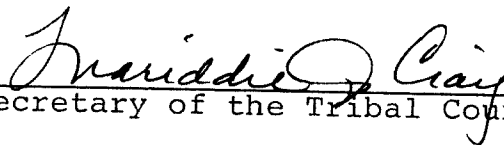


Chairman of the Tribal Council

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**Fort Apache Indian Agency
Whiteriver, Arizona**



Secretary of the Tribal Council