

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

- WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to list the Mexican spotted owl as a threatened species under the authority contained in the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended; and
- WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service surveys have shown that Mexican spotted owls occur overwhelmingly in uneven-aged, multi-storied, close-canopy, mixed-conifer forest stands with distinct mature forest characteristics, and secondarily, in ponderosa pine/gambel oak forests; and
- WHEREAS, the Fort Apache Indian Reservation has approximately 200,345 acres of the forest type described above; and
- WHEREAS, this portion of the White Mountain Apache Tribe's forest supplies a very large portion of the Fort Apache Timber Company's raw material, \$7,000,000 of Tribal income and 700 jobs; and
- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has aggressively fought to maintain the forest in a condition favorable for wildlife and fish while also removing wood vital to the Tribe's employment income and their existence; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe is the guardian and owner of this very forest that has been handed down by their ancestors for thousands of years for safe-keeping for generations to come; and
- WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service for national forests located in Arizona has established 2,000 acre territories for each one or pair of Mexican spotted owls in which logging activities are restricted and within which is a 450 acre core area where all logging activity is permanently prohibited; and
- WHEREAS, similar areas may be identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for territorial restrictions and permanent core area prohibitions on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation if the Mexican spotted owl is listed as a threatened species and, by means of surveys, found to exist on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, proposes to conduct surveys for the express purpose of locating Mexican spotted owls; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe does not want federal bureaucrats dictating how their lands should be managed; the Tribe has cared for their lands better than the federal government--the creatures and plants that live on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, the water and air which are part of the Tribe's lives and culture; will be better managed by the Tribe than by bureaucrats who have no connection with this land; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe does not take actions that threaten or endanger the continuing existence of any creature or plant, including the Mexican spotted owl.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation that it hereby requests that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs not conduct any surveys nor impose any regulations concerning the management of fish or wildlife including the Mexican spotted owl, upon the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

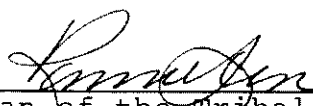
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of Indian Affairs specifically exempt the Fort Apache Indian Reservation from any management controls for the Mexican spotted owl, in recognition of their exemplary management of wildlife and the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act of January 4, 1975 and as amended by the Act of October 5, 1988.

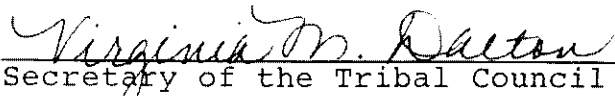
The foregoing resolution was on February 13, 1992, duly adopted by a vote of nine for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 (i) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 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).

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FORT APACHE INDIAN AGENCY  
WHITERIVER, ARIZONA

  
Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
Secretary of the Tribal Council