

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

- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe represents and reflects the cumulative historical experience and cultural wisdom of countless generations of Apache people who have occupied and controlled expansive territories that include portions of present-day Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe has joined with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Camp Verde Yavapai Apache Tribe, the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, the Fort McDowell Mohave Apache Tribe, and the Payson Tonto Apache Tribe in signing the *Inter-Apache Policy on Repatriation and the Protection of Apache Cultures* and in fostering respect for and tribal control over all aspects of Apache culture and history; and
- WHEREAS,** the effort to reassert the inherent Apache interest in Apache culture and history extends to and embraces all collections of photographs, documents, arts, artifacts, and cultural items, as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 -- objects and materials hereafter referred to as Apache Heritage Items and Heritage Property; and
- WHEREAS,** several repositories and institutions, notably the Arizona State Museum (ASM), have acted in good faith with and on behalf of the Apache people to repatriate and control researcher access to Apache Heritage Items and Heritage Property; and
- WHEREAS,** Heritage Items and Heritage Property divorced from appropriate Apache Cultural contexts detract from tribal sovereignty, diminish Apache control over Apache culture and history, and can be dangerous and harmful to Apache and non-Apache persons; lacking necessary knowledge and respect; and
- WHEREAS,** information contained or associated with collections of Apache Heritage Items and Heritage Property has often been found to be incomplete or erroneous; and

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- WHEREAS,** Apache people must take responsibility for reconciling non-Indian misinformation and stereotypes with the beautiful and compelling truths of Apache culture and history; and
- WHEREAS,** an interim agreement was reached between the ASM and the White Mountain Apache, the Payson Tonto Apache, and the San Carlos Apache Tribes in 1994 that required a letter of approval from each of the three Tribal Leaders in order for any researcher to obtain access to Apache Heritage Items and Heritage Property under the control of the ASM; and
- WHEREAS,** this interim agreement expires on December 31, 1996; and
- WHEREAS,** the Arizona Apache Tribes have come together in the spirit of mutual cooperation and protection to form *Nohwiki'i Nohwanane'*, the Western Apache Repatriation Working Group; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Cultural Resources Director Ramon Riley is the Tribe's designated repatriation coordinator, and delegate to both the All-Apache Culture Committee, and *Nohwiki'i Nohwanane'*; and
- WHEREAS,** it is crucial that decisions regarding repatriation and researcher access to and use of Apache Heritage Items and Heritage Property be made by cultural leaders on the basis of tried-and-true Apache knowledge and wisdom.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby supports the development of an agreement to endorse a renewed agreement between the ASM and the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and such other Arizona Indian Tribes which may wish to enter into such an agreement, to require prospective users of Apache Heritage Items and Heritage Property in the ASM to obtain the guidance and support of the Tribe's cultural and heritage resource program leaders prior to obtaining access to same.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Council recognizes that members of Apache Tribes wishing to make use of Apache Heritage Items and Heritage Property in the ASM deserve preferential treatment in obtaining access to ASM collections.

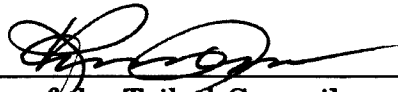
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe deserve preferential treatment in obtaining access to and use of White Mountain Heritage Items and Heritage property.

The foregoing resolution was on December 16, 1996, duly adopted by a vote of seven for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (g), (i), (j), (s), (t), and (u), of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

RECEIVED

FEB 04 1997

**RT APACHE INDIAN AGEN
WHITERIVER, ARIZONA**



Chairman of the Tribal Council



Secretary of the Tribal Council